Straight Truth

WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 500,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 47th year | No. 15465 | Thursday | November 5, 2026 | Aban 14, 1405 | Jumada al-Awwal 25, 1448

After the midterms, Republicans face a choice: Trump, or a future beyond him?

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN -- The political earthquake of November 3 has changed the balance of power in Washington and exposed the growing costs of Donald Trump's political and foreign-policy choices. For Republicans, the defeat is more than the loss of congressional seats. It raises a question that the party has spent years avoiding: can it have a political future beyond Trump, his policies and an increasingly contentious relationship with Israel? ▸ **Page 3**

Iranian officials link Republican election defeat to US war against Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian officials have described the Republican Party's projected defeat in the US midterm elections as a rejection of President Donald Trump's policies, particularly his war against Iran, saying the outcome reflects growing public opposition to Washington's military adventurism and its economic consequences.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said the American people had sent a clear message against war, adding that Iran welcomed their position. ▸ **Page 2**

Iran's scientists develop 'surprise weapons' for possible new war: official

TEHRAN – Iran's Defense Ministry scientists have developed new weapons with surprise capabilities in preparation for any potential future conflict, a senior defense official said on Wednesday.

Hojatoleslam Seyyed Ziaeddin Aghajanpour, head of the Organization for Ideological and Political Affairs of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, made the remarks in Karaj, referring to US attacks during the 12-day war against Iran.

Addressing US President Donald Trump, he said Iran would never submit to American pressure or coercion.

"We will never bow to your bullying," he declared.

Aghajanpour also recalled the final remarks of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, saying that the central demand repeatedly voiced by the US president was for the Iranian nation to obey Washington and surrender. ▸ Page **2**

Mobile library dedicated to Minab school martyrs launched

TEHRAN- A mobile public library named in memory of the students martyred in the Shajareh Tayyebeh school tragedy has been dispatched to Minab, Hormozgan province, to expand access to library and cultural services in areas without public libraries.

Established by the Public Libraries Foundation of Iran, the mobile library was officially inaugurated on Wednesday morning near the cemetery of the student martyrs in Minab, as part of ceremonies commemorating the November 4 National Student Day and the schoolchildren who lost their lives, Mehr reported.

The library has been named the "Shajareh Tayyebeh School Martyrs Memorial" in tribute to the students, with its activities also intended to keep their memory alive through cultural and reading promotion programs. ▸ Page **8**

Leader's message on Students' Day and Fight against Global Arrogance:

US Hegemony Crumbling; Iran Will Never Surrender



© Mehr/ Hamidreza Mehraban

▸ Page **3**

Iran's Students' Day rallies resound with defiance: 'pledge to martyrs, battle against arrogance'

TEHRAN — In a powerful display of national unity, defiance and unwavering resolve, millions of Iranians took to the streets across the country on Wednesday, November 4, marking Students' Day and the National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance. From the capital to cities and towns across the country, the rallies carried a message of remembrance, resistance and national pride, as participants renewed their pledge to the martyrs under the slogan: "Pledge to the Martyrs; Battle Against Arrogance."

The demonstrations, held simultaneously at more than 900 locations, brought together schoolchildren, university students, teachers, families and people from all walks of life. In Tehran, crowds gathered outside the former US Embassy, known in Iran as the Den of Espionage, while similar scenes unfolded in Bojnurd, Hamedan, Semnan, Sari, Yazd, Birjand, Sanandaj and numerous other cities. Iranian flags, portraits of martyrs and banners celebrating independence and resistance filled the streets.

This year's commemoration carried a special resonance. It unfolded against the backdrop of a historic chapter of resistance to American military pressure, particularly in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. The recent confrontations in these strategic waters, and Iran's asserted successes in standing up to US military power, have given the anniversary an added sense of national confidence and defiance. For participants, the message was unmistakable: Iran's determination to defend its sovereignty cannot be broken by threats, pressure or military force.

Yet beneath the chants and the sea of flags was a profound current of grief and remembrance. The rallies also honored the children and students killed in the recent attacks on Iran, particularly those from the Shajareh Tayyebeh elementary school in Minab and the students in Lamerd. Their absence was felt in every tribute and every reference to the empty desks left behind.

Handwritten messages and student tributes conveyed a deeply moving promise: the dreams of the children whose lives were cut short would not be buried with them. Their names and memories, participants said, would remain alive in the hearts of a generation determined to carry their hopes forward. A nationwide campaign, "From Presence in the Streets to a Lasting Frame," also encouraged students to document the rallies and preserve the memory of their fallen peers.

November 4, or the 13th of Aban in the Iranian calendar, brings together three defining moments in Iran's contemporary history. It marks the 1964 exile of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the killing of protesting students by the Pahlavi regime in 1978, and the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran by university students — an event Ayatollah Khomeini described as the "Second Revolution."

Schools across the country marked the occasion by ringing the "Anti-Arrogance Bell." Education Minister Alireza Kazemi, attending a ceremony at Narges Girls' School in Tehran, recalled the legacy of 36,000 students martyred during the 1980–88 Iraqi-imposed war, alongside the children killed in Minab and Lamerd.

For the young people filling Iran's streets, November 4 was more than an anniversary. It was a declaration that the sacrifices of the past remain alive, that the memory of the fallen will endure, and that a new generation stands ready to defend the independence and dignity of its homeland. The empty desks of the martyred children became a reminder of what had been lost — and of the resolve of those who remain.

Senator-elect El-Sayed says US tax dollars should not fund Israel's 'genocidal war'

Progressive Democrat Abdul El-Sayed won a highly coveted Michigan Senate seat on Wednesday, and will become the first Muslim to serve in the upper chamber of Congress in January.

"I am so proud and honored to stand here as your senator-elect," Sayed said in an energized victory speech, where he said he was able to overcome Islamophobic slurs aimed at him by President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance.

"To all the parents who struggled to explain [to their kids] why the president openly mocked someone for their name or how they pray, let them know tomorrow that the bad guys lost," he said to cheers and applause. ▸ **Page 5**

Saudi Arabia in Ansarallah's sights as Trump sees air campaign futility

TEHRAN - Yemen's Ansarallah forces are on the march, and America's ally Saudi Arabia is in their crosshairs.

From their stronghold in Yemen, forces from the Ansarallah movement are raining missiles and drones on Saudi airports, oil facilities, and military installations while blocking Saudi shipping through the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

The kingdom's leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), is urging President Donald Trump to help, including joint air operations over Yemen. But knows that another air campaign against them is futile.

On October 10, a strike killed 13 people and injured more than 300 at Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport. ▸ **Page 5**

Tehran, Baghdad to implement reciprocal scholarship program

TEHRAN – Iran and Iraq are set to begin implementing a memorandum of understanding on granting reciprocal scholarships to students from the two countries, with the aim of expanding educational cooperation.

Under the agreement, Iraq will award 200 scholarships annually to Iranian students, while Iran will provide 100 scholarships each year to Iraqi students, IRNA quoted Iraqi Ambassador to Tehran Yasser Abdul-Zahra Al-Hajjaj as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Saeed Habiba, the head of the Organization of Student Affairs, on Monday.

He also lauded the efforts of the Organization of Student Affairs in addressing the challenges of Iraqi students majoring in Iranian universities. ▸ **Page 7**

Tehran-Muscat trade ties deepen with 23% export growth

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN – Iran's trade relations with its neighbors have taken on heightened importance amid shifting regional dynamics, and few partnerships illustrate this better than the enduring economic ties between Tehran and Muscat. While recent developments have cast a shadow over trade with some Persian Gulf states, Oman has emerged as a notable exception—a reliable and growing market for Iranian goods.

The latest figures from the Iran Trade Promotion Organization reveal a striking 23 percent increase in Iranian exports to the Sultanate during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, underscoring the resilience of bilateral commerce and the potential for further expansion. As the two countries advance ▸ **Page 4**

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The impact of US elections on Iran

Donya-e-Eqtesad discussed the possible impact of American elections on the future of relations between Tehran and Washington. The newspaper argued that even a strong Democratic performance in congressional elections would not necessarily prevent Donald Trump from pursuing a tough policy toward Iran. According to the analysis, the significance of the elections extends beyond determining the balance of power in Congress. Their outcome could also influence calculations regarding future diplomacy and conflict involving Iran. The paper noted that a period remains before a newly elected Congress takes office, providing room for political and strategic decisions. The article suggested that if negotiations fail or regional tensions escalate, Washington could consider stronger measures. At the same time, reports continue to indicate the parallel existence of indirect negotiations and military tensions. As a result, the relationship between the two countries remains shaped by both diplomatic engagement and ongoing pressure.

Arman-e-Melli: The cost of withdrawing from NPT

Arman-e-Melli examined the potential consequences of Iran withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The paper noted that some political voices support changing Iran's nuclear doctrine and leaving the treaty. However, it warned that such a move could create serious diplomatic challenges at a sensitive moment in regional affairs. According to the article, the United States and Israel are attempting to build greater international support against Iran. The newspaper argued that a voluntary withdrawal from the NPT could be portrayed by Iran's opponents as evidence that Tehran seeks nuclear weapons. Such an interpretation could increase pressure from the international community and strengthen efforts to isolate Iran politically. The paper maintained that Iran's foes need a convincing legal and political justification to rally broader international backing. In its view, leaving the treaty could provide exactly such an opportunity. The article concluded that withdrawal from the NPT might help create international consensus against Iran and increase the risk of confrontation.

Sazandegi: The need to connect geopolitics with geoeconomics

Sazandegi focused on the economic consequences of conflict and the steps required to strengthen Iran's long-term resilience. The newspaper argued that wartime economies experience three major shocks simultaneously: disruptions to production, declines in confidence, and weakening connections with regional and global markets. According to the article, these pressures reinforce one another and make economic recovery more difficult. The paper argued that Iran's challenge is not merely war itself but the dominance of a wartime mindset over development planning. The newspaper maintained that Iran should connect geopolitics with geoeconomics and use its strategic location as a source of economic advantage. Instead of only preparing to withstand crises, the country should redesign its economy in a way that prevents future conflicts from determining its development path. The article highlighted the importance of diplomacy, economic corridors, comparative advantages, regional cooperation, and economic security. It concluded that countries able to build networks of shared interests with their neighbors and use diplomacy to promote development are more likely to become influential actors in the regional economy.

Etemad: Negotiating amid distrust

Etemad analyzed recent indirect talks between Iran and the United States. The newspaper argued that new political signals and diplomatic exchanges have created a fresh atmosphere surrounding Iran's nuclear file and relations with Washington. The report stated that granting broader authority to the president has given the government and diplomatic team greater flexibility in handling negotiations. This, it argued, allows officials to respond more effectively to changing diplomatic conditions. Quoting parliamentarian Mehrdad Lahouti, the newspaper said that Iran remains willing to negotiate but continues to distrust the US government, European countries, and some regional states. Nevertheless, he emphasized that Tehran intends to pursue diplomacy while defending the legitimate rights and interests of the Iranian people. The article described the current approach as engagement without trust but with confidence in Iran's negotiating position.

Ettelaat: Iran's role in Persian Gulf security

Ettelaat reviewed remarks by Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi concerning regional security. According to the newspaper, Albusaidi stated that durable security in the Persian Gulf cannot be achieved without Iran's participation. The article argued that these comments are important because they openly acknowledge Iran's central role in regional stability. It also pointed to statements from officials in other Persian Gulf countries supporting greater engagement with Tehran despite continuing disagreements and mistrust. The newspaper highlighted Oman's proposal to host a summit on collective security in the Persian Gulf. Such a gathering would bring together the six members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council alongside Iran and Iraq. According to the article, the initiative could provide an opportunity to strengthen dialogue, reduce tensions, and move toward a lasting framework for collective regional security and cooperation.

Iranian officials link Republican election defeat to US war against Iran

From page 1 ▸ "Conscience or the cost of living, Americans said NO TO WAR, and we endorse this message," Qalibaf wrote in a post on X on Wednesday. He warned that if the US government disregarded public opinion to serve "international paymasters and blackmailers," it would face consequences, adding that Iran's rejection would turn into a "nightmare" for Washington.

His remarks came as projections from the midterm elections indicated that Democrats had secured control of both chambers of Congress, dealing a major political setback to Trump and his Republican Party.

The elections were marked by historically high voter turnout, with economic conditions, rising fuel prices, the war against Iran, and concerns about the state of American democracy among the issues shaping voters' decisions.

Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei also linked Trump's political setback to the consequences of his military campaign against Iran.

"Trump has suffered defeat both on the battlefield and in



the political arena, and we will inflict further defeats on him," he said, adding that November 4 (13 Aban) had always been a day of defeat for the United States.

November 4 holds particular significance in Iran. It marks the anniversary of the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran by Iranian university students and is observed as Students' Day and the National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance.

"The American people have now sent you a clear message," Ministry of Foreign Affair Spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei posted on X, warning that if US officials continued to disregard reality and the lessons of history, the consequences of their grave miscalculation would extend far beyond what they had already experienced.

Hamid Reza Moqaddamfar, an adviser to the commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), also interpreted the Republican setback as a political consequence of the US war against Iran.

Speaking at a ceremony in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Wednesday, Moqaddamfar described the midterm elections as a referendum on Trump's handling of the conflict, arguing that the outcome had exposed the domestic political costs of Washington's military campaign.

He said that, from Iran's perspective, there was no fundamental difference between the Republican and Democratic parties and that changes in the US political landscape would not alter Tehran's policy. Nevertheless, he said, the scale of the Republicans' setback could not be separated from the outcome of the war.

"One cannot overlook the very important fact that the debacle suffered by Trump's party in the US elections was the result of America's heavy defeat in its warmongering against Iran," he said.

Moqaddamfar added that the election outcome reflected both the consequences of the war and the American public's attitude toward it, while also pointing to 'Iran's growing standing internationally.'

Iran's scientists develop 'surprise weapons' for possible new war: official

From page 1 ▸ He said the Iranian nation would never yield to the illegitimate demands of its adversaries.

The defense official said that the only way to resist the bullying of hostile powers was for Iran to become stronger. He cited the late Leader's emphasis on national strength as the key to the country's progress, adding that the Islamic Republic was now a powerful country and its Armed Forces were at the height of their capabilities.

Referring to Iran's previous warnings about retaliating against hostile actions, he said Tehran had declared that continued aggression would result in strikes on the occupied territories (Israel) and US interests across the region. He added that Iran had demonstrated its willingness and ability to carry out those warnings.

Aghajanpour also said missiles developed by Iran could strike targets outside the Middle East as well, adding that the country would exercise this capability if necessary.

Pezeshkian receives credentials of five new ambassadors, calls for stronger ties and regional peace

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday, November 3, received the credentials of the newly appointed ambassadors of Cyprus, Switzerland, Turkey, Nigeria and Portugal in separate ceremonies at the presidential office, calling for stronger bilateral relations and greater diplomatic efforts to promote peace and stability.

Receiving Cyprus's new ambassador, Antonis Mandritis, Pezeshkian said the two countries' longstanding relations had yet to reach their full potential. He called for a concerted effort to expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest and stressed that countries should pursue peaceful coexistence rather than war, aggression and coercion.

Mandritis described his posting to Iran as an honor and said he would work to strengthen ties, which he said date back more than a thousand years. He also pledged to use Cyprus's standing in international forums to support peace, reduce tensions and promote cooperation.

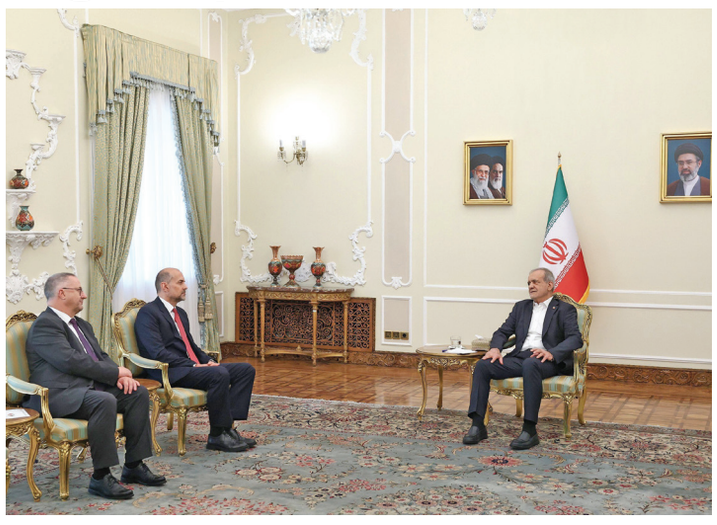
At his meeting with Switzerland's new ambassador, Georg Steiner, Pezeshkian praised the country's positions on humanitarian issues and global peace. He said diplomatic dialogue and exchanges could help correct misconceptions about Iran and foster a more accurate understanding of its people and society. He also said US and Israeli actions had undermined regional stability.

Pezeshkian expressed hope that Steiner would help convey a more accurate picture of Iran's history, culture and society internationally and counter 'false propaganda and unrealistic portrayals of the country.' Steiner, for his part, pledged to work for the restoration of peace and the promotion of constructive diplomacy.

In talks with Türkiye's new ambassador, Ahmed Aydin Dogan, Pezeshkian described relations between the two neighbors as close, historic and based on mutual respect. He noted their extensive cultural, religious and ethnic ties and called for closer cooperation in economic, scientific and cultural fields.

Pezeshkian said the Israeli regime was pursuing its objectives by committing crimes and genocide and seeking to sow division among Muslim countries. He added that its actions were supported by the United States and some European countries, while the international community had largely remained a spectator.

Referring to the military aggression against Iran, the president said its perpetrators had failed to achieve their goal of bringing down the Islamic Republic through force. He said they were now seeking to pressure the Iranian people economically, but such measures would not break their resolve. He called for unity and cooperation among regional and Islamic



countries to protect shared security and interests and prevent further instability.

Dogan said he would prioritize strengthening ties, implementing agreements and advancing joint projects.

Receiving Nigeria's new ambassador, Hamza Mohammed Sallau (Salau), Pezeshkian pointed to the Gas Exporting Countries Forum as one avenue for closer collaboration and urged Muslim countries to work together to safeguard regional peace and security.

Sallau identified the economy, agriculture and health care as promising areas for cooperation and pledged to pursue shared goals during his tenure.

At the ceremony for Portugal's new ambassador, Vítor Matias, Pezeshkian said Iran sought peace and constructive engagement but would not submit to coercion or demands imposed from abroad. He criticized 'misleading portrayals of Iran in Western media' and said ambassadors could help convey a more realistic picture of the country.

"We will not yield to force, and we will defend our rights within the framework of international laws and regulations. No country can impose any demands on the Iranian nation outside this framework," Pezeshkian said. He added that relations grounded in rights, justice and fairness could help prevent conflict.

Matias said relations between Iran and Portugal had a history spanning more than 500 years and described their preservation and development as a shared responsibility. He said Portugal placed a high value on diplomacy and was ready to expand engagement with Iran.

Iran protests IMO's biased reports on maritime security

TEHRAN – Iran has criticized 'biased and incomplete reporting' by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on the maritime security crisis, stressing that the protection of seafarers must be impartial and that the hardships facing Iranian crews should not be overlooked.

Speaking at the IMO Council's 138th session in London, the Iranian delegation called for a balanced, evidence-based assessment of threats to maritime safety and the protection of seafarers.

The delegation said the organization's reports should address the US naval blockade of Iranian ports, as well as military attacks on vessels and on Iran's critical maritime safety infrastructure. It also urged the IMO to reflect Iran's legal positions fairly, citing documents submitted to Council members.

Emphasizing that seafarer protection must not be selective, the delegation called for all crews to receive equal treatment, regardless of nationality or political differences. It raised particular concern about the difficult conditions facing Iranian seafarers near Sri Lanka and called for urgent, non-discriminatory action.

Iran also objected to the repetition of allegations against the country in the IMO secretary-general's report and reiterated its rejection of a resolution adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee in May, describing it as political and legally unfounded.

The delegation called for transparent, comprehensive and impartial reporting on maritime threats, along with urgent protection for affected seafarers, particularly Iranians. It held US and Israeli military actions and the naval blockade of Iran responsible for the current crisis.

The IMO Council's 138th session is being held at the organization's headquarters from November 2 to 6, with in-person attendance and facilities for remote participation.

Baqaei: Attacking Iran brings defeat, not victory

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei has warned US officials that their military aggression against Iran has exposed the failure of Washington's strategic calculations, stressing that further hostility will only bring more serious consequences for the United States.

In a post on X, Baqaei said US officials had acted out of greed and arrogance, dragging their country into an 'unlawful and atrocious war' against Iran in the service of a "deceitful regime (Israel)."

He said Washington's calculations had failed, its assumptions had collapsed, and its strategic misjudgments had become evident because US decision-makers had fundamentally misunderstood Iran and, more importantly, the resilience, determination, and national pride of the Iranian people.

"Attacking Iran does not bring victory. It only results in defeat," he said, emphasizing that Iran was not a nation that could be understood through arrogance, intimidated by threats or brought to its knees through aggression.

Concluding his message, Baqaei noted that "the day was the 13th of Aban," known in Iran as Students' Day and the National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance.

The occasion commemorates the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran by Iranian university students and is observed annually as a symbol of opposition to US interference and domination.

Leader's message on Students' Day and Fight against Global Arrogance:

US hegemony crumbling; Iran will never surrender

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei has said that the United States has suffered an irreversible decline in both its military capabilities and international soft power, stating that recent developments in the Persian Gulf have exposed the limits of American power and accelerated the erosion of its global hegemony.

In a message issued on Wednesday, November 4, marking Iran's National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance and Students' Day, Ayatollah Khamenei said the Iranian nation had reached a clearer understanding than ever of the nature of its confrontation with the United States. He described the occasion as a reminder of key turning points in the "historic struggle between the fronts of truth and falsehood, and between the oppressed and their oppressors."

The Leader traced the roots of US hostility toward Iran to the August 19, 1953, coup, saying Washington orchestrated to secure control over the country's national resources, particularly its oil. He said subsequent decades were marked by American efforts to exploit Iran's wealth, preserve the Pahlavi monarchy and suppress popular opposition, including through support for the establishment of SAVAK, the regime's intelligence and security organization.

He said Washington's hostility continued after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, citing its support for separatist groups and coup plotters, backing for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), assistance to Iraq during the 1980–88 Iraqi-imposed war, the downing of an Iranian civilian airliner, prolonged economic sanctions and interference in Iran's domestic affairs.

Ayatollah Khamenei also cited the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, the seizure of Iranian assets abroad and direct military attacks during the "Second and Third Imposed Wars." Those attacks, he said, claimed the lives of Iranian scientists, commanders, prominent figures and civilians, including infants, children and elderly people, as well as the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

He said Washington's ultimate objective had consistently been to dominate Iran and force its people into submission. In its latest efforts, he said, the United States had openly pursued the fragmentation of the country, the collapse of its political system and the destruction of its ancient civilization. Such ambitions, however, had repeatedly been frustrated by the realities on the ground and the Iranian nation's steadfast determination.



Turning to the Persian Gulf, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, Ayatollah Khamenei said recent developments had shattered the perception of US military invincibility and exposed the vulnerability of governments that depend on foreign powers rather than their own people for security. He also questioned the ability and willingness of major powers to protect their regional partners.

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei described Iran's actions in the Strait of Hormuz and the destruction of US military bases in regional countries as responses to American aggression during the Third Imposed War. He characterized these developments as part of a broader regional struggle against global arrogance, warning that any renewed aggression would be met with a response on a much greater scale.

He also highlighted the role of resistance movements in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen, saying their actions, together with Iran's national unity and military strength, were helping lay the foundations for a new world order. Citing the Quranic verse, "Indeed, falsehood is bound to perish" (17:81), he said that no degree of power or resources could ultimately prevent the forces of falsehood from retreating and suffering defeat.

Ayatollah Khamenei rejected the notion that a change in US administrations, political parties or policies could bring an end to Washington's hostility toward Iran. He said those who believed concessions could persuade the United States to abandon its pressure campaign were gravely mistaken, arguing that Washington sought nothing less than the unconditional surrender of the Iranian nation.

Any inclination toward submission, he warned, would squander the national capital built through the sacrifices of the Iranian people and the blood of the martyrs, while encouraging further demands and aggression.



A stronger Iran as the foundation of deterrence

The Leader said the only path to achieving complete deterrence was to sustain a strategy of building an Iran stronger than ever through comprehensive progress. He identified national unity, solidarity and social cohesion as indispensable conditions for success, calling on both the public and government officials to make these principles the basis of their words and actions.

He stressed that public support for officials must be matched by the latter's commitment to dedicated service, closer engagement with the people and sustained efforts to improve livelihoods, welfare and both the material and spiritual well-being of society, while safeguarding national dignity and independence.

Emphasizing the role of the younger generation, Ayatollah Khamenei described young people, university students and schoolchildren as the vanguard of Iran's future. He urged them to overcome despair and the belief that change is impossible, and instead embrace hope, self-confidence and the conviction that "we can."

He said achieving this vision required exceptional preparedness and the cultivation of knowledge, faith, practical skills, ethical values, determination and sustained effort.

The Leader expressed hope that, through divine grace, Iran would soon witness victory, prosperity and comprehensive progress, while the domination of the "Great Satan" would continue to decline at an accelerating pace.

He concluded by invoking a Quranic verse: "Indeed, they see it as far off, but We see it as near" (70:6–7).

After the midterms, republicans face a choice: Trump, or a future beyond him?

From Page 1 ▸ The verdict delivered by American voters was unmistakable. Democrats have taken control of both chambers of Congress, ending the Republican monopoly over Washington and turning the final two years of Trump's presidency into a period of divided government. The scale of the reversal is striking: Democrats captured seats in states that had appeared safely Republican, including Texas, Iowa, Kansas and South Carolina. What began as a midterm election has become a sweeping rebuke of the president and the party that largely followed his lead.

The war against Iran was not the only reason for the Republican collapse, but it may prove to be one of its most consequential. It exposed the distance between Trump's campaign promises and the reality of his presidency.

Trump had built much of his political identity around rejecting America's costly foreign interventions. His message to voters was that Washington should stop spending American lives and resources on wars abroad and concentrate instead on problems at home. Yet his administration entered an extensive confrontation with Iran, alongside Israel, that lasted far beyond the swift campaign initially anticipated.

The administration's military claims and its assessment of the damage inflicted on Iran did not settle the larger question: what had the United States actually achieved, and at what cost? A campaign presented as a demonstration of American power became a source of strategic uncertainty, economic pressure and political vulnerability.

The consequences reached American households. Energy-market disruptions and rising fuel prices fed into the cost-of-living concerns that dominated the election. According to exit-poll reporting, nearly nine in ten voters regarded the cost of living as a major or crucial factor in their decisions. A majority also believed Trump's policies, including the Iran war and tariffs, had made their economic circumstances worse.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs found that 86 percent of Americans believed the war had been bad for the cost of living. Sixty-eight percent said it had not been worth fighting, compared with 31 percent who considered it worthwhile. Among independent voters, opposition was even stronger: 76 percent said the costs outweighed the benefits.

These figures help explain why the conflict became an electoral liability. The war was not necessarily the issue voters named first when entering the polling booth. Its effects, however, were difficult to separate from the economic problems they were already experiencing.

Even Trump has acknowledged that the conflict played a role in the Republican losses. In an interview following the election, he conceded that the war with Iran had contributed to the party's defeat.

But the political reckoning facing Republicans extends beyond the president's handling of the war. It reaches into the party's relationship with Israel — an issue that has increasingly exposed divisions between its traditional leadership and a younger generation of conservative voters.

For decades, support for Israel has been one of the most firmly established positions in Republican politics. Evangelical voters, older conservatives and influential party figures have regarded the alliance as both a strategic necessity and an ideological commitment. That support remains substantial. The Chicago Council's 2026 survey found that 68 percent of Republicans favored maintaining or increasing US military assistance to Israel.

Yet the same political landscape is changing. The Council found that 56 percent of Americans overall favored reducing or eliminating US military aid to Israel. Favorable views of Israel have also declined among Republicans, falling from an average of 69 points in 2022 to 62 in 2026 on the Council's feeling thermometer. The decline has been particularly pronounced among younger conservatives, whose objections increasingly concern the extent to which US policy should be shaped by the decisions of the Israeli government.



The Iran war has accelerated this debate. Questions that were once confined largely to the margins of conservative politics have moved closer to the Republican mainstream: Should American taxpayers bear the financial burden of another Middle Eastern conflict? Should Washington's military commitments be determined by its own national interests or by the strategic calculations of an ally? And can a party built around the slogan of America First continue to avoid answering those questions?

These are questions about the terms of relationship between the US and Israel, the policies of the Israeli government and the degree to which American interests should remain the guiding principle of Washington's decisions.

Republican candidates had already recognized the political danger. A Reuters review published before the election found that two-thirds of Republicans running in competitive congressional races had either diverged from Trump on policy or played down their association with him. In 12 contests, the disagreements specifically concerned the Iran conflict. Yet most candidates avoided a complete break with the president, illustrating the political trap: distancing themselves from Trump could alienate his loyal supporters, while remaining closely associated with him could cost them independent voters.

The election has made that balancing act considerably more difficult.

Republicans now face two competing political realities. Trump retains considerable influence over the party and a loyal electoral base. But his presidency has also become a burden for candidates who must appeal to voters beyond that base. With Democrats controlling both chambers, the party's divisions are likely to become more visible as Republicans debate how to respond to investigations, legislative confrontations and the next presidential succession.

The Israel question will be particularly difficult. A wholesale break with a longstanding ally would carry political consequences of its own, particularly among evangelical voters and established Republican constituencies. But treating every policy decision of the Israeli government as beyond question risks deepening the generational and ideological divisions already visible within the party.

The challenge, therefore, is not simply whether Republicans should distance themselves from Trump personally. It is whether they can recover an independent political identity — one capable of distinguishing American national interests from the president's personal priorities and from the policies of foreign governments, however close their alliances may be.

The Democrats' victory does not automatically mean the end of Trumpism, nor does it guarantee that the Republican Party will undergo a fundamental transformation. Trump remains president, commander-in-chief and a powerful figure within his party. But the election has demonstrated that loyalty to him is not an unlimited electoral asset.

For Republicans, the next two years will be a test of whether the party can function as something more than an extension of one man's political project. If it cannot find room for internal debate over foreign policy, economic priorities and the relationship with Israel, the divisions exposed at the ballot box may become a defining feature of its future.

The November result was a verdict on the present. The larger question is whether Republicans will recognize it as a warning about the future.

Tehran-Muscat trade ties deepen with 23% export growth

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN – Iran's trade relations with its neighbors have taken on heightened importance amid shifting regional dynamics, and few partnerships illustrate this better than the enduring economic ties between Tehran and Muscat. While recent developments have cast a shadow over trade with some Persian Gulf states, Oman has emerged as a notable exception—a reliable and growing market for Iranian goods.

The latest figures from the Iran Trade Promotion Organization reveal a striking 23 percent increase in Iranian exports to the Sultanate during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, underscoring the resilience of bilateral commerce and the potential for further expansion. As the two countries advance a preferential trade agreement and deepen customs cooperation, the trajectory of Iran-Oman trade offers a promising model for regional economic engagement. The following report examines the details behind this growth, the factors driving it, and the broader diplomatic and commercial framework that supports it.

The Director General of the West Asia and Africa Office of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), describing Iran's trade trend with some West Asian countries as positive, announced a 23 percent growth in Iran's exports to Oman in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–September 21) compared with the same period last year.

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

According to the official, regional developments affected the volume of Iran's trade with some Persian Gulf countries; however, among them, Oman—despite being located in the Persian Gulf region—was less affected by these conditions.

Rabihavi, referring to Iran's exports to Oman, stated: Iran's exports to this country in the first six months of 1405 experienced 23 percent growth compared with the same period in 1404, as the export value increased from $948 million to $1.164 billion.

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

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

In late August, Rabihavi announced that the preferential trade agreement with Oman had been finalized after completing administrative procedures and had been submitted to the Parliament for final review.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA, he referred to the measures taken by the TPO during the 14th administration, and reported significant progress in trade diplomacy and the development of border and port infrastructure with neighboring countries, adding: "With the actions taken over the past two years, the organization is determined to facilitate and increase trade exchanges with regional countries."

In late June, the heads of customs of Iran and Oman, on the sidelines of the World Customs Organization summit, emphasized the operationalization of the provisions of the agreement on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters and proposed the formation of a joint committee regarding the implementation of the agreement's provisions.

Foroud Asgari, Deputy Minister of Economy and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, and Said bin Khamis al-Ghaithi, head of the Royal Customs of Oman, in a bilateral meeting, emphasized increasing and expanding customs cooperation in line with the provisions of the signed agreement in customs fields.

The proposal to conduct study visits to customs offices and ports of destination and origin, as well as holding periodic meetings between the customs administrations of the two countries, were among the topics reviewed in this meeting.

Other topics discussed in this meeting included the development of mutual cooperation and exchange of experiences in the field of combating smuggling and customs violations, and holding continuous joint meetings between customs managers of the two countries for maximum coordination to facilitate trade.

Holding joint meetings to exchange educational experiences, given the establishment of the World Customs Organization Regional Training Center (RTC) in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration, was one of the points raised by Iran's Customs in this meeting.

Iran and Oman signed 18 memoranda of understanding in various fields during the official two-day visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Muscat in May 2025.

The agreements, signed on the sidelines of the Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee meeting, aimed to deepen ties in multiple sectors, including legal, economic, political, cultural, educational, health, defense, media, technology, energy, and mining.

In a symbolic gesture highlighting cultural and historical bonds, officials from both nations also unveiled a commemorative joint postage stamp.

President Pezeshkian arrived in Muscat on May 27 at the official invitation of Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. Following a formal welcoming ceremony at Muscat International Airport, Pezeshkian held a meeting with Oman's Sultan. The visit continued with a joint session between high-ranking delegations from both countries.

During the meeting, Pezeshkian said that Iran is ready to boost cooperation with Oman in all fields, adding that the two countries possess capabilities that can be employed for the well-being and progress of the two nations as well as that of other regional nations.

"We are ready to do whatever is within our capability for the dignity and greatness of Muslims. Each of us has capacities that can be employed for the well-being and progress of one another and of other nations in the region," Pezeshkian said.

Sultan Haitham also welcomed closer ties, saying that he agrees that if the avenues for business activities are opened, the two countries "will witness a significant leap in the bilateral relations."

"The relations between Iranian and Omani ports must be developed, and the rail capacity from northern to southern Iran is of great commercial importance to us," he said, adding that more support is needed for cooperation in the energy sector.

The 23 percent surge in Iran's exports to Oman during the first half of 1405 is more than a statistical highlight; it reflects a deliberate and sustained effort to strengthen bilateral ties through trade diplomacy, infrastructure development, and institutional cooperation. From the finalization of a preferential trade agreement awaiting parliamentary approval to high-level customs talks and the signing of 18 memoranda of understanding during President Pezeshkian's visit to Muscat, the foundation for deeper economic integration is being laid. As both nations look ahead to the second half of the year, the continued positive trend in exports—supported by improved land border access and expanded port relations—offers reason for optimism. With political will on both sides and a shared commitment to overcoming regional challenges, Iran and Oman appear well-positioned to translate these gains into a lasting and mutually beneficial commercial partnership.

Oil ministry, private sector meet to tackle winter gas supply, energy challenges

TEHRAN- The consultative meeting on the importance of sustainable natural gas supply in the cold season, the challenges facing the energy sector, and their effects on the country's economic and industrial activities was held on Tuesday, with the participation of Hamid Bovard, Acting Oil Minister; Saeed Tavakoli, CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company; Mohammad Sadegh Azimifar, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company; and the president and board members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture.



According to SHANA, the meeting focused on how the private sector can help resolve energy-sector challenges, manage demand, strengthen gas supply, and participate in decision-making and regulation.

The Oil Ministry's caretaker welcomed the role of specialized associations and private-sector actors in reviewing policies, drafting future energy plans, and strengthening the country's energy diplomacy. He stressed that private-sector participation is necessary not only in implementation but also in decision-making, vision-building, and drafting regulatory frameworks. He also called for cooperation in strengthening interaction and advancing national goals in energy diplomacy.

Bovard invited private-sector actors to present operational plans in energy consumption management, including software and innovative solutions, and said any proposal for direct use of grid gas in productive and economic projects would be welcomed by the Ministry of Oil. He emphasized that industries should participate through proper planning to reduce fuel consumption, because maintaining the country's energy sustainability requires cooperation from all sectors. He stated that current conditions are not normal and that energy issues cannot be approached with the usual past perspective. Therefore, all pillars of the country must cooperate to manage consumption, increase reserves, and ensure sustainable energy supply.

He also said the Ministry of Oil is pursuing necessary measures around the clock to restore lost gas production capacity so that the country can return to its previous production level as quickly as possible. Compensating for lost capacity requires effort and cooperation from all sectors, and alongside measures within the Ministry of Oil, the cooperation of other bodies, industries, and the private sector is essential to pass through the current conditions. He referred to the need to correct some past decisions in energy management and said all available capacities must be used to reduce consumption, with numerous programs for consumption management and maintaining favorable fuel storage conditions placed on the agenda.

Emphasizing readiness for the cold season, he said owners of major industries, especially in the steel sector and energy-intensive industries, are expected to participate in implementing saving projects and use their capacities to reduce consumption.

The CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company, Saeed Tavakoli, emphasized the private sector's capacity in developing gas trade and said private companies can help diversify supply sources by entering the field of gas imports from neighboring countries. The National Iranian Gas Company is ready to support these companies and issue the necessary permits within relevant rules and mechanisms. He invited private-sector actors to participate in optimization and gas trade projects and said there are suitable legal and economic capacities for the activity of ESCOs and the development of gas imports. These opportunities must be used with the participation of qualified entities and investors to strengthen energy security and the sustainability of the country's gas supply.

Regarding the latest status of gas production and supply, Tavakoli said that before these incidents, during the cold days of the year, the country faced a daily gas imbalance of 250 to 300 million cubic meters. However, during enemy attacks, 230 million cubic meters of the country's gas production capacity was lost. Immediately after the incident, integrated management meetings were held at the Ministry of Oil to restore damaged capacities. With the round-the-clock efforts of colleagues, about 40 percent of the lost capacity has so far returned to operation, and part of the gas condensate production capacity has also been restored. He noted that about 130 million cubic meters of the lost capacity remains out of operation due to damage to equipment and upstream points of the refining process, and restoring it requires time and specialized equipment. Despite the extent of the damage, the stability of the country's gas network was maintained, and even in the first hours after the attack, the country's gas network did not face widespread disruption. This showed the effort and coordination of all actors in the gas supply chain, from upstream to downstream.

He also referred to damage to gas network facilities during the third imposed war, especially at pressure reduction stations and gas distribution facilities, and said the gas network remained stable in various regions, with emergency measures taken in cases such as Marivan and Kamyaran to stabilize the network. Despite a reduction of 130 million cubic meters in production capacity, no restrictions have so far been imposed on gas supply to the country's industrial and production units, an achievement resulting from integrated energy management and cooperation among responsible bodies.

Tavakoli emphasized the need to manage consumption and prioritize gas uses in the coming winter. He said this year presents exceptional conditions in energy supply, and all bodies and stakeholders need to plan to pass the winter with a realistic view based on figures and data. Referring to the approximately 73 percent share of gas in the country's energy mix, he stated that the extensive dependence of various sectors—from industries and power plants to the residential sector and remote areas—has doubled the need to pay attention to network stability. Contrary to public perception, the stability of the gas network is not a fixed issue and is continuously affected by changes in production conditions, consumption, and air temperature. If the cold conditions of 1403 are repeated and long cold spells continue, gas consumption in the residential and commercial sectors could exceed 600 million cubic meters per day. Therefore, planning must begin now for consumption management and maintaining fuel reserves.

He referred to measures taken to develop energy service companies and said implementation of the legal capacities of Article 46 of the Seventh Development Plan Law and the Cabinet resolution in 1404 has provided a suitable opportunity for the private sector to enter consumption optimization and help stabilize gas supply to industries. He also considered the revision of gas tariffs after 14 years to be among other measures. A review of energy intensity in Iran shows that, unlike many countries, energy consumption in the country has followed an upward trend over the past two decades. An important part of this issue is due to the aging of heating and cooling equipment and non-compliance with building optimization standards. He emphasized that high energy consumption is not limited to high-income deciles. In many buildings lacking proper insulation and up-to-date equipment, especially in middle- and lower-income deciles, energy intensity is high, and action must be taken to reduce consumption by upgrading equipment and improving building standards. Referring to the initial results of implementing gas consumption optimization projects, he said that in one project implemented in Isfahan Province, by replacing new technology in brick kilns, gas consumption per ton of brick produced fell from about 300 cubic meters to 27.4 cubic meters. In the livestock and poultry sectors, there are also significant capacities for reducing consumption, and energy service companies can, by upgrading equipment and optimizing processes, both reduce gas consumption and strengthen production stability.

He also referred to measures taken to supply alternative fuel in some areas and said that in Golestan and Mazandaran provinces, the use of secondary fuel has been made possible for some bakeries so that their production and services are not halted in the event of possible gas restrictions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

TPO pledges to resolve banking, currency challenges facing technical-engineering services exporters

TEHRAN- Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, Deputy Minister of Industry and Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), met with the Iranian Association of Technical and Engineering Services Exporters to address sector challenges.

Dehnavi highlighted a 130% growth in these exports under the current government and emphasized the sector's potential to expand target markets and increase non-oil exports.

Addressing exporters' concerns regarding banking and currency issues, bank guarantees, and trade with Iraq, Dehnavi announced that the TPO will coordinate with the Central Bank to resolve these obstacles. He also noted the formation of the Supreme Export Council, established by the President, to help remove barriers and utilize legal capacities.

The meeting concluded with discussions on using the Economic Commission and Article 19 Committee to facilitate specialized meetings with the Central Bank and effectively address the financial challenges faced by exporters.

Auto parts, accessories exhibition running in Shiraz

TEHRAN- The 25th International Exhibition of Auto Parts, Accessories and Assemblies opened on Tuesday afternoon at the permanent venue of Fars International Exhibitions, with the participation of 120 manufacturing and distribution companies across an area of 4,500 square meters, aiming to showcase domestic production capabilities, strengthen the supply chain, and attract investment.

According to IRNA, the opening ceremony was held with the attendance of Karim Mojarrab, Director-General of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Fars Province; Mohsen Nahavandi, CEO of Fars International Exhibitions Company; Hojjat Javanmardi, Head of the Guilds Chamber of the provincial capital; the head of the Auto Parts and Spare Parts Union; and a group of manufacturers and investors.

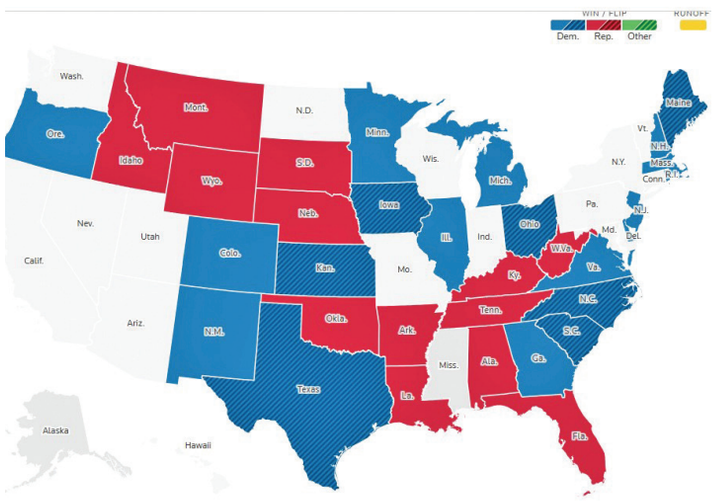
At the ceremony, the Director-General of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Fars Province emphasized the industrial capacities of Fars Province and stated: "The auto parts exhibition is a suitable platform for introducing the province's production and technological capabilities, strengthening communication between manufacturers and automakers, and identifying new opportunities for cooperation and investment."

Karim Mojarrab added: "Developing the supply chain, supporting domestic manufacturers, upgrading technology, increasing competitiveness, and expanding export markets are among the most important axes of this industrial event."

Referring to the province's diverse industrial capacities, he considered the automotive and auto parts industries among the sectors with development potential in Fars' economy and said: "Various complexes in the province operate in the production of passenger and commercial vehicles, vehicle rims, and safety parts, playing an important role in the country's automotive value chain."

The Director-General of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Fars Province, referring to the production capacity of the province's industrial units, stated: "Iran Khodro Fars Company has an annual production capacity of about 35,000 vehicles."

Americans punish Trump over the war on Iran





TEHRAN – U.S. voters on Tuesday handed the Democratic Party control over Congress in a biting rebuke to President Donald Trump and his Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement.

Polls suggest that rising anger about the cost-of-living crisis partly set off by the president's decision to launch war against Iran jointly in cooperation with Israel played a crucial part in the Democrats' historic victory.

Independent analysts view Democrats' resounding victory as a scathing ?rebuke to Trump's unpopular war on Iran.

The war against Iran caused a sharp increase in fuel prices, which subsequently contributed to higher prices for other commodities.

The war on Iran was unprovoked, unlawful, unwarranted, and without any convincing justification.

Voters have shown they are weary of the conflict, which many blame for painfully higher fuel prices. Some Persian Gulf Arab governments now believe Trump has more reason than ever to seek a peace deal and that another full-scale assault on Iran is less likely after the midterms, two sources familiar with Persian Gulf government thinking told Reuters.

The Iran war has choked supplies of crude oil and liquefied natural gas from the Persian Gulf, driving up the cost of crude oil and prices at fuel pumps around the world.

The energy market wagered on Wednesday that the elections could breathe more life into U.S.-Iran peace talks. Oil dropped for a third day, but tight stock levels prevented a larger selloff, analysts said.

"The market increasingly appears to be betting that President Trump wants to put the Middle East war behind him," said Saxo Bank analyst Ole Hansen.

The international media extensively covered the historic victory of Democrats.

Under the title "what we need to know," Reuters said tens of millions of voters delivered a scathing rebuke to Trump in midterm elections; Democrats won a majority in the House after flipping more than two dozen Republican-held seats in states including Kentucky, New Jersey and North Carolina; they also flipped seven Republican-held Senate seats, giving the party a 54-seat majority, with races in Alaska and Mississipi still undecided; the blue wave reflected voters' deep frustration with Trump's handling of the economy and his decision to launch a war against Iran, which sent gasoline prices sharply higher.

"Blue wave heading into tsunami territory"

Many analysts had predicted a "blue wave" would sweep the elections, but that is now "heading into tsunami territory," France 24 said.

Democrats capitalized on Trump's historic unpopularity to win significant power to check his final two years in office.

After his party faced devastating losses, House Speaker Mike Johnson told staff on Wednesday morning he's not running for House Republican leader, sources told CNN.

Trump admits role of Iran war on his party's humiliating defeat

Trump acknowledged that the war on Iran played a role in his party's humiliating defeat.

"I think a part of it was Iran," Trump told Fox News in an interview in which he also praised the Democrats for their campaign.

He affirmed he'll work with the Democratic-controlled Congress and doesn't "want to be just sitting there for two years vetoing everything," even though he has previously said he would become "Mr. Veto."

France 24's International Affairs Editor Philip Turle and Geopolitical analyst Hind Ziane said public disillusionment with the Iran war, mounting economic pressures and dissatisfaction with Trump's leadership has reshaped the American political landscape.

100-day agenda for "dramatic change"

Democrats promised a 100-day agenda starting with efforts to lower the costs of gas, groceries and other goods, as well as bills to reverse cuts to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid healthcare programs.

They're also ready to launch a robust oversight agenda to "hold the crooks accountable", said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, who would make history as the first Black speaker of the House if his colleagues elect him to the job when the new Congress begins on January 3, 2027.

"We hear you," said Jeffries. "We're going to work hard to deliver on the dramatic change that you deserve."

Democrats are also expected to investigate Trump's construction projects; allegations of improper enrichment by Trump and his family members; the war on Iran; immigration enforcement; the effect of DOGE-prompted cutbacks in 2025 on the federal civil service; artificial intelligence; and affordability.

Historic path to Senate victory

Democrats charted a historic path to Senate victory through some of the most conservative states in the nation.

Kansas sent a Democrat to the Senate for the first time since 1932; James Talarico becomes first Democrat to win statewide in Texas since 1994; Democrat Abdul El-Sayed defeats Republican Mike Rogers in Michigan Senate race. Democrat Hakeem Jeffries poised to make history as the first Black speaker of the House.

Trump claimed rival Democrats did "good job"' in the midterms.

With the exception of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his ideological allies, and Trump's sycophants in some parts of the world, leaders elsewhere are welcoming the Democrats' resounding victory in the elections.

Democrats' victory delighted foreign countries, including Washington's European allies.

UK PM: Prices could not be reduced until US war on Iran "is resolved"

UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham said the elections represented an opportunity for the world to "unite" around resolving cost-of-living issues.

"President Trump has accepted the results, and I feel the world has an opportunity now to unite around the issue that is affecting us all, and that's the cost of living," Burnham told reporters. Burnham added that prices could not be reduced until the US war in Iran "is resolved".

France says election results should not distract Europe from safeguarding interests

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said the Republican Party's defeat have shown American democracy is alive but it should not distract Europe from safeguarding its interests.

"We would be making a serious mistake if this result were to distract us, even for a moment, from the vital and urgent need – to guarantee our national independence – to build a stronger, more prosperous and more democratic Europe," Barrot told the French parliament.

Germany hopes for progress in ending conflicts in Mideast after election

Germany's foreign minister expressed hope that the "very clear" Democrat victory in the midterm election might bring new initiatives to end conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

"With their majority in both chambers of Congress, the Democratic Party will likely seek to shift the political course in the United States," Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said.

Through close cooperation between the United States and Europe, "there may be a new opportunity to launch a fresh initiative" to resolve conflicts, he said.

Spanish PM says voters reject hate and elite privilege

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez welcomed the election results, saying voters rejected hate, machismo, climate denialism and privileges for the elite.

In a post on X, he predicted Spain would follow the same political course: "It happened in Brazil. It just happened in the U.S. And it will happen soon in Spain."

Norway: "Powerful political signal"

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store told the Reuters news agency the election results were a "powerful political signal about a change of course among American voters."

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk also said, "Democracy won in America."

Czech PM calls for ending conflict in Hormuz Strait

Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis said he hoped Trump would now focus on ending the war in Ukraine and resolving the conflict in the Strait of Hormuz.

South Africa: 'The people of America have spoken'

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa told reporters the midterms results will "introduce a new era in world relations".

"We have seen that the Democrats have taken control of the Senate and of the House, and the people of America have spoken."

Israeli leaders in panic mode over fallout from US elections

What are the potential consequences for Israel and Netanyahu, as Trump announced on Tuesday that the U.S. will halt $3.8 billion in aid to the country?

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid warned after the election results that Netanyahu's continued leadership would endanger Israel's security and deepen its international isolation.

"Israel cannot afford for him (Netanyahu), to remain prime minister. It endangers security, it endangers democracy, it will crush us in the world," Lapid wrote on X.

"The American election results in the morning have one unexpected outcome: they eliminate any possibility of a unity government led by Netanyahu," he added.

Yair Golan, leader of the Democrats party, also sounded the alarm, warning that Netanyahu's continued rule could push an already internationally isolated Israel towards "international sanctions, international isolation and a collision with the United States".

Jerusalem Post analyst Amichai Stein warned that the results could bring "harsher criticism of Israel, and less willingness to defend the traditional relationship between the two countries."

His analysis warned that the success of candidates critical of Israel could influence the Democratic Party's direction ahead of the 2028 presidential election.

The Jerusalem Post also warned: "The defeat comes amid broader shifts within the Democratic Party regarding Israel, the war with Iran, and the strategic relationship between Jerusalem and Washington."

"One of the clearest takeaways from the election campaign is the political price the war with Iran has exacted on the Republican Party", the analysis said, referring to the war Israel pushed the US into on 28 February.

"The expansion of the camp critical of Israel, and its growing access to positions of influence, represents a shift that Israel cannot afford to ignore," it added.

Israel's Channel 14 framed the Republican defeat as a direct setback for Israel, declaring in its headline: "A severe blow to Trump and Israel: Democrats won the midterm elections."

A Haaretz analysis said Abdul El-Sayed's victory over pro-Israel candidate Mike Rogers demonstrated "that even strident opposition to Israel is no barrier to winning competitive federal races."

"El-Sayed won despite AIPAC spending more than $30 million to defeat him in the Democratic primary and another reported $9 million on behalf of Rogers in the general election," it added.

Senator-elect El-Sayed says US tax dollars should not fund Israel's 'genocidal war'



Democratic Senator-elect Abdul El-Sayed speaks onstage after declaring victory in Michigan's US Senate race during an election night party at The Department at Hudson's in Detroit, Michigan, early on 4 November 2026 (Jeff Kowalsky/AFP)

From page 1 ▶ Sayed, smiling and responding to lively applause, specifically called out Vance and Trump.

"JD, habibi, there is this delicious irony in the fact that you're constitutionally obligated to swear me in in January," he said, Middle East Eye reported.

To Trump he said: "Donald, I know you struggle with my name, so after JD swears me in in January, you can just go on and call me Senator".

Sayed's victory marks a watershed moment in US political history.

A progressive who shocked the party establishment when he narrowly defeated Haley Stevens, who was backed by pro-Israel lobbying groups, in the August Democratic primary, Sayed was endorsed early by the Senate's leading voice on progressive issues, Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Sayed specifically challenged the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and other pro-Israel lobbying groups that spent tens of millions of dollars against him.

"To AIPAC who spent $42 million against us. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to beat you twice," he said.

"They try to call you hateful if you believe that Palestinian kids should get to grow up in the land of their forefathers without being murdered by our tax dollars," he said. "If you believe in equal rights for peace, diginity and self-determination that's not hate, it's love," he said.

"We want our taxes spent here...we don't want our money sent to do apartheid or genocidal war," he said.

That race proved so pivotal that half a million more Democratic voters showed up to the polls than in previous primary races, which typically see low turnouts, Michigan Democratic Party Chair Curtis Hertel said at the time.

In the later stages of his campaign, Sayed received the backing of former President Barack Obama, who remains one of the most popular figures among the party establishment.

Who is Abdul El-Sayed?

The 42-year-old's full name is Abdulrahman Mohammed El-Sayed. He is married to an Indian-American doctor and has two daughters. When he graduated from the University of Michigan and gave the commencement address in 2007, the event's keynote speaker, former President Bill Clinton, praised his oratory skills at the podium.

The Michigan native then earned a medical degree from Columbia University and led the public health departments in Detroit and Wayne County before launching what was seen as a long-shot bid for the U.S. Senate in 2025.

But it wasn't his first time.

In 2018, Sayed unsuccessfully sought the governorship of Michigan, but he managed to lay the foundations for his vision for Medicare-For-All: the establishment of a national health insurance program in the U.S.

As private insurance premiums have skyrocketed in the U.S. since then, that policy proposal grew increasingly popular among those on the left and the right, as did Sayed's criticism of the closeness of the U.S.-Israel relationship - an approach that was very similar to that of the highly popular New York City mayor, Zohran Mamdani.

Sayed has repeatedly said that he has never met with corporate lobbyists, and in both his campaigns, he raised money only from individual donors rather than corporations.

Saudi Arabia in Ansarallah's sights as Trump sees air campaign futility

From page 1 ▶ Ansarallah's attacks are shaking confidence in Saudi Arabia's security and denting MBS's ambitious economic plans.

For now, the United States and other Saudi partners are supporting the kingdom while avoiding direct action in Yemen. They are right to be cautious. Renewed U.S. airstrikes would almost certainly break the bilateral truce with Ansarallah that has been in place since 2025. Doing so would invite attacks on American personnel and assets in the region.

With the Iran war deeply unpopular, the Trump administration has strong incentives to avoid broadening the war or being drawn into a costly, open-ended fight in Yemen, The National Interest said in a commentary published on November 2.

Nor is it clear that the US airstrikes that MBS wants would turn the tide. Air campaigns against Ansarallah have limits. Saudi Arabia, the United States, and Israel have all tried, with limited success—including Operation Rough Rider, a major, 52-day US bombing campaign in 2025 that failed to stop Ansarallah from harassing Red Sea shipping.

Airstrikes won't fundamentally threaten Ansarallah's control of a chunk of Yemen or change their behavior. In fact, past bombing campaigns backfired when they killed Yemeni civilians and served as a rallying cry against foreign intervention.

Washington can create the conditions for an eventual political settlement that will need to include Ansarallah.

The immediate trigger for the renewed fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Ansarallah movement was a Saudi airstrike on Sana'a International Airport in July 2026. Ansarallah responded by declaring a naval blockade against Saudi shipping and attacked Saudi energy facilities and vessels.

The Ansarallah movement has demanded the lifting of restrictions on Yemen's airports and seaports, saying that they have deepened the humanitarian and economic crisis in areas under its control.

The deteriorating economic situation in northern Yemen and the lack of progress on economic relief increased Ansarallah's willingness to confront Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia's MBS launched war against Ansarallah in March 2015, vowing to crush them in few weeks. However, the war lasted for about eight years. The war only humiliated Saudi Arabia that was backed militarily and logistically by its allies, including the UAE and the United States.

Not taking lessons from that scandalous and protracted war, Saudi Arabia reopened the doors of hell.

SPORTS

Iran's Alipour snatches bronze at 2026 World Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's Ali Alipour secured a bronze medal at the 2026 World Weightlifting Championships on Wednesday, earning a place on the podium in the men's 95kg category.

Alipour posted a combined total of 396kg, lifting 181kg in the snatch and 215kg in the clean and jerk to finish third overall.

Bulgaria's Karlos Nasar claimed the gold medal with a total of 415kg (185kg snatch and 230kg clean and jerk), while Kazakhstan's Nurgissa Adiletuly took silver with 399kg (182kg and 217kg, respectively).

The 2026 World Weightlifting Championships are being held in Ningbo, China, from Oct. 27 to Nov. 8.

Esteghlal coach Bakhtiarizadeh happy with win over Al Shamal

TEHRAN - Head coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh praised Esteghlal's second half performance after Jasir Asani struck in stoppage time to seal a 1-0 win over Al Shamal SC in the AFC Champions League Elite 2026/27 on Tuesday.

The victory saw Esteghlal bounce back from last week's defeat to Shabab Al Ahli, while Al Shamal were unable to build on their Matchday Three win over Al Hilal SFC.

"I'm happy that we were able to end this game with a victory," said Bakhtiarizadeh. "We played great football in the second half and I'm proud of my players because they spared no effort to make the fans happy."- Bakhtiarizadeh felt Esteghlal took control after an evenly contested first half and was pleased by the chances his side created before Asani found the breakthrough.

"We witnessed a close game in the first half but in the second half, we had the pulse of the game and were the better team on the field.

"We must be able to create opportunities against any opponent and at the same time not allow the opponent to gain any opportunities. Not scoring goals is also part of football."

The victory meant the Iran side rebounded in style from last week's defeat to Shabab Al Ahli while there was disappointment for Qatar's Al Shamal, who had gone into the tie buoyant after defeating Al Hilal SFC on Matchday Three.

Al Shamal made just one change from the starting lineup that had stunned Al Hilal SFC 3-1 on Matchday Three, while Esteghlal opted for two changes following their 2-0 defeat to Shabab Al Ahli.

The Iranian side adopted a deep defensive approach from the outset to keep Kim Kyong Yong and Ri Myong Gum at bay with timely interceptions inside the box.

Naegohyang took the lead in the 26th minute following a set-piece situation when Pak Ye Gyong teed the ball to Kim Song Ok, who struck a powerful drive from inside the box into the top left corner. Bam Khatoon conceded again 11 minutes later off a corner, Ri Kum Hyang seeing her glancing header deflected into the back of the net by Roujin Tamrian.

Any hope of a Bam Khatoon fightback in the second half was quickly extinguished in the 52nd minute as a pressing Naegohyang extended their advantage with Ye Gyong volleying home Jong Kum's cross from just above the six-yard-box. Choe Yon A made it 4-0 two minutes later, finishing from inside the box after Jong Kum threaded a neat pass through the defense before Jong Kum got on the scoresheet in the 59th minute, heading home Choe's cross from close range.

Bam Khatoon pulled a goal back in the 67th minute when Roujin Tamrian set up Fatemeh Shaban, who finished into the bottom left corner. Naegohyang then closed their account in the 88th minute when Mona Hamoudi turned Ri Myong Gum's shot into her own net.

Iran's girls' futsal secure historic berth at Youth Olympics semis

TEHRAN - Iran's U18 women's futsal team have booked their place in the semi-finals of the 2026 Youth Olympic Games after producing a remarkable comeback to defeat Cameroon 5-3 in their second group-stage match.

The encounter was a must-win fixture for Cameroon, who had suffered defeat in their opening match. The African side made an impressive start, using their physical advantage and quick attacking transitions to capitalize on lapses in Iran's concentration and race into a two-goal lead in the opening stages.

However, Fatemeh Sharif's side showed tremendous character and fighting spirit to turn the game around and secure all three points with an emphatic 5-3 victory.

Narges Amirmahseni led the way with a brace, while Tanaz Bagherinia, Nafiseh Mohammadi and Setayesh Rezaei-Salehi also found the net for Iran.

"I dedicate this victory to the people of Iran, especially the great futsal family, and congratulate everyone on reaching the semi-finals. It was an extremely difficult match. Cameroon came out with everything they had, knowing they needed a result to keep their hopes alive. They had a physical advantage over us," Sharif said.

"We conceded twice, but my players truly fought for every ball and showed tremendous character to come back into the game."

With the three points against Cameroon, Iran have reached six points and mathematically secured their place among the tournament's final four.

However, Sharif stressed that her team would quickly turn their attention to their final group-stage encounter against Italy, with top spot in the group firmly in their sights.

"Our qualification is secured, but the Cameroon match is now behind us. The entire coaching staff and the players are focused on Thursday's clash against Italy. Our main objective is to win and finish top of the group, giving ourselves a better position heading into the semi-finals," she added.

Sharif also praised her players and acknowledged the support of the coaching staff, the Football Federation and the Women's Committee, describing the achievement as a historic milestone for women's futsal in Iran.

"Reaching the semi-finals is a historic achievement for women's futsal in our country, and its positive impact will be seen in the years to come. The players in this squad are invaluable assets with a bright future ahead of them. They can achieve great things for many years and will provide a strong foundation for Iran's senior national team."

AFC Women's Champions League: Naegohyang beat Bam Khatoon

TEHRAN - Defending champions Naegohyang Women's FC closed in on the quarter-finals after cruising 6-1 past Bam Khatoon in their AFC Women's Champions League 2026/27 Group A tie on Wednesday.

Kim Song Ok and Ri Kum Hyang set the early tone going into the break as the DPR Korea side powered through the second half with further goals to seal the convincing victory.

Naegohyang came into the tie buoyed by their 7-0 win over Ayeyawady FC - Women of Myanmar on opening day, while Bam Khatoon had suffered a 4-1 defeat to Japanese side INAC Kobe Leonessa.

Alborz province: A blend of mountain landscapes, ancient heritage and cultural diversity



TEHRAN - Although Alborz is one of Iran's youngest provinces in terms of administrative division, its history, cultural heritage and natural landscapes extend far beyond its modern boundaries.

Located west of Tehran, the province brings together ancient archaeological remains, historic villages, mountain scenery, traditional customs and a culturally diverse population. Its combination of urban attractions and rural destinations makes it an appealing place for travelers seeking to explore a different side of Iran.

Established in 2010, Alborz province was formed from western parts of Tehran province, with Karaj designated as its capital. The city is widely regarded as one of Iran's most diverse urban centers, having attracted residents from different parts of the country over several decades. This diversity has sometimes contributed to its reputation as "Little Iran," reflecting the coexistence of various regional cultures, traditions and lifestyles.

The province takes its name from the Alborz Mountain Range, a substantial section of which extends across its northern territory. Despite its relatively recent administrative establishment, the region has a long historical background. References to Karaj in ancient Iranian literature, including the Avesta and Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, alongside archaeological remains and historical artifacts, point to the area's enduring significance.

Geography and climate

Alborz province occupies a strategic position in north-central Iran, bordering Tehran to the east, Qazvin to the west and Markazi province to the south. Its northern reaches connect to Mazandaran through the celebrated Karaj-Chalus Road, one of the country's most scenic mountain routes.

The province encompasses a varied geographical landscape, ranging from high mountains and fertile valleys to plains and relatively arid southern areas. Approximately two-thirds of its territory is mountainous, contributing to its diverse climate and natural attractions. Northern areas generally experience humid or semi-humid conditions, while the southern parts have a drier, more desert-like climate.

The provincial territory includes Karaj, Taleqan, Savojbolagh, Nazarabad, Eshtehard, Meshkin Dasht, Mahdasht, Hashtgerd, Kamalshahr, Mohammadshahr, Garmdarreh and Fardis. Each area offers distinct geographical and cultural characteristics.

Summer is generally considered a favorable season for exploring the province's highlands and mountain villages, where temperatures are comparatively moderate. Taleqan, in particular, is known for its colder climate, while Eshtehard experiences warmer conditions. Autumn and winter bring lower temperatures to mountainous areas, often accompanied by snowfall that transforms the landscape and attracts winter sports enthusiasts.

Karaj: The provincial capital

Karaj, the provincial capital, serves as the main gateway to Alborz's natural and cultural attractions. While its contemporary urban character reflects decades of expansion and migration, the city and its surroundings preserve several historical landmarks and recreational sites.

Jahan Nama Park, Chamran Park and its flower garden, Iranzamin Park, Fateh Garden and Bam-e Karaj are among the city's popular recreational destinations. The flower garden at Chamran Park is particularly attractive during the spring, when seasonal blooms provide a colorful setting for visitors.

Morvarid Palace, situated in Mehrshahr, is one of Karaj's notable architectural landmarks. Its distinctive design and historical association with the area have made it a popular attraction. The nearby Mehrshahr apple orchard, traditionally associated with the palace grounds, is another feature of local interest.

Other attractions include Soleymanieh Palace, located within the Faculty of Agriculture; the Zoroastrian fire temple in Kalak; Shah Abbas Bridge; Mesbah Bathhouse; and Shah Abbas Caravanserai in Tohid Square. Religious and cultural sites such as Imamzadeh Taher and Imamzadeh Hasan also contribute to the city's heritage landscape.

Visitors interested in specialized collections can explore the Iran Historical Car Museum on Makhsus Road, while the Four Gardens Bird Garden offers an opportunity to observe a variety of bird species.

Karaj-Chalus road: A scenic gateway to the highlands

Among Alborz's most celebrated attractions is the Karaj-Chalus road, a winding route that passes through mountain valleys, forests, rivers and picturesque villages before reaching the Caspian region. Its dramatic scenery, roadside gardens and numerous restaurants make it a destination in its own right.

One of the major landmarks along the route is Amir Kabir Dam, also known as Karaj Dam, located about 25 kilometers from the beginning of the Chalus Road. The reservoir, surrounded by mountainous terrain, offers striking views, particularly during periods when its water levels are high.

Further along the route, the roads leading to Dizin and Gajereh provide access to popular winter sports destinations. Dizin Ski Resort is among Iran's best-known ski centers, attracting visitors during the snowy months. Khor Ski Resort is another destination for winter sports and mountain recreation.

Gachsar, a village along the road, is particularly known for its tulip garden, which typically reaches its peak bloom in Ordibehesht, corresponding to April and May. Other attractions in the area include Rezashahi Palace, a historic stone bridge and Yakh Morad Cave. The cave is renowned for its ice formations, which are especially appealing during colder months.

Shahrestanak, situated farther along the road, is home to the remains of a summer palace associated with Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar and Dozdband Castle. The nearby Goleh Gileh spring adds to the village's natural appeal.

Waterfalls and mountain villages

The province is distinguished by its numerous waterfalls, many of which are located in mountainous areas accessible through the Karaj-Chalus road. Khor Waterfall is among the region's notable natural attractions. During winter, freezing temperatures can transform the waterfall into an impressive ice formation.

Other waterfalls include Nashe-Rud, Nojan, Kondor, Haft Cheshmeh, Sepahsalari and Charan. Their surrounding landscapes provide opportunities for hiking, nature photography and seasonal excursions.

The highlands around Karaj also contain several traditional villages. Baraghan, accessible through the Kordan exit of the Tehran-Qazvin highway, is known for its historic bridge, orchards, old trees and traditional rural atmosphere. Its famous walnut tree is among the village's distinctive features.

Atashgah, another well-known village, is associated with a history extending back to the Parthian period. The area has historical connections with Zoroastrian communities and is now popular for its pleasant climate and numerous restaurants.

Kordan, with its river, lush vegetation and mature trees, is another favored destination for those seeking a rural retreat close to Karaj.

Cultural heritage, cuisine and local traditions

Alborz province's cultural identity is shaped by its long-standing rural traditions and the diverse communities that have settled in the region. Its handicrafts include carpet weaving, pottery, ceramics, needlework, stone cutting, glassblowing and wood carving. Sculpture made from reinforced concrete is also among the crafts practiced in the province.

Agriculture remains an important part of the local economy and cultural life. Taleqan is known for its walnuts, apples, pears, rhubarb, savory, mountain chives and mountain barberries. Baraghan is particularly famous for its Baraghani apricots, as well as honey, mulberries, walnuts and locally produced dairy products.

Other agricultural products include pomegranates, loquats, jujubes, plums and grapes. Roadside shops along the Karaj-Chalus route offer regional specialties such as honey, dairy products and Qare-ghoroot, a traditional fermented dairy food.

The province's cuisine reflects its rural heritage. Marjoo Khoresht, Ash-e Joo, Valak Polo, Khoresht-e Lubia Pileh, Torshi Ash and lamb-based halim are among its traditional dishes. Local restaurants in Karaj, Taleqan, Hashtgerd and along the Chalus Road provide opportunities to sample regional food.

Traditional customs also remain an important part of community life. During the final days of the Iranian year, families prepare for Nowruz through house cleaning, cooking Samanu, reading Hafez poetry and visiting the graves of relatives. In Taleqan, Shal Andazi and Doraji Sareh are associated with Yalda Night celebrations. Preparing Ash-e Posht-e Pa and Ash-e Baran is also part of the province's culinary and cultural traditions.

Alborz's proximity to Tehran makes it accessible for short trips, while its highlands, waterfalls, ski resorts and rural communities provide opportunities for longer stays.

Iran returns 151 historical artifacts from China



TEHRAN – Iran has received 151 historical artifacts that had been loaned to China for a series of exhibitions, with all items returned in good condition after nearly two years, Tehran province's cultural heritage chief said on Tuesday.

Ali Tolouei, director general of Tehran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said the artifacts arrived in Iran on Tuesday, following the conclusion of their exhibition tour in China, which included a final display in Dalian.

The collection was transferred to secure storage after customs procedures and inter-agency coordination, with officials and experts ensuring compliance with conservation and security requirements, ISNA reported.

The artifacts had been loaned by Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in 2025 for an exhibition titled "Land of Love," which opened at the Sichuan University Museum in January, 2025.

The collection included items from several prominent Tehran museums, namely the Reza Abbasi Museum, the Glassware and Ceramic Museum, the Carpet Museum, the Museum of National Arts and the Moghadam Museum.

The objects span a broad historical period, from the third millennium BC to the Islamic era, and comprise metal, ceramic and glass objects, textiles and carpets, highlighting the diversity of Iran's cultural heritage.

The exhibition was initially scheduled to run for six months under a government-approved arrangement.

Leila Khosravi, head of the country's museums department, previously said the exhibition had ended in June 2025, but the return of the artifacts was delayed for several months due to the 12-day war [with the Israeli regime]. China subsequently requested an extension, which was approved by Iran's government.

Tolouei said the successful return of the collection required close coordination among the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, government agencies, airport customs officials and the Cultural Heritage Protection Unit.

He also thanked Chinese authorities for hosting the exhibition and acknowledged the efforts of museum managers, specialists and experts involved in organizing and supporting the cultural event.

Iran, a vital wintering destination for millions of migratory birds

By Mehdi Garshasbi

TEHRAN - Every year, as temperatures begin to fall across northern Eurasia, millions of migratory birds embark on long journeys toward warmer regions in search of food, shelter, and suitable wintering grounds. Along this remarkable natural journey, Iran stands out as one of the most important destinations in West Asia, providing a network of wetlands, lakes, coastal habitats, and lagoons for birds traveling from Siberia and other northern regions.



According to statistics, around two million migratory birds arrive in Iran every year to spend the winter in the country's wetlands, making it the most important wintering destination for migratory birds in West Asia. The country also serves as a major stopover along the migration route connecting Siberia to the Nile, with approximately 16 percent of birds traveling along this route choosing Iran as their winter destination.

More than 160 species of aquatic and waterside birds have been identified in the country, highlighting Iran's importance in maintaining regional and international biodiversity. These birds are distributed across approximately 450 wintering sites, particularly along the shores of the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

A country along major migration routes

Iran's geographical position, connecting Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Indian subcontinent, has made it an important link in international bird migration routes.

The country's diverse climate and geographical features provide different habitats for migratory species throughout the year. From the wetlands and lagoons of the Caspian coast in the north to the marshlands of Khuzestan and the coastal ecosystems of the Persian Gulf in the south, these natural areas offer essential feeding and resting grounds for birds undertaking long-distance journeys.

The Caspian Sea coastline is particularly significant during autumn and winter, when large flocks of waterbirds arrive in the northern provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan.

Anzali Wetland, Miankaleh Peninsula, Gomishan, and the wetlands around Fereydunkenar and Sorkhrud are among the country's best-known destinations for migratory birds.

These habitats attract a wide variety of species, including flamingos, pelicans, ducks, geese, swans, and coots. Their shallow waters, reed beds, and surrounding vegetation provide suitable conditions for feeding, resting, and, in some cases, breeding.

Reports estimate that the midwinter population along the southern Caspian coastline could exceed one million birds, underlining the ecological importance of this region.

Wetlands: essential habitats for migratory species

Among Iran's internationally recognized wetlands, Miankaleh holds a particularly important position.

Located in Mazandaran Province along the southeastern Caspian Sea, the Miankaleh Peninsula is a major wintering ground for numerous waterbird species. Its diverse habitats support flamingos, pelicans, geese, ducks, and other migratory birds.

The area was designated a Ramsar site in 1975 and later recognized as a UNESCO biosphere reserve in 1976, reflecting its international ecological significance.

Further west, Anzali Wetland in Gilan Province provides another important refuge for migratory waterbirds. Its extensive reed beds, freshwater habitats, and rich food resources make it an important destination for birds arriving from northern regions.

In central Iran, Miqan Wetland near Arak is also an important seasonal habitat. According to information published in May 2026, the wetland receives around 12,000 migratory birds annually, including species arriving from Siberia.

The southern wetlands are equally significant. Hoor al-Azim in Khuzestan, Shadegan Wetland, and the Hamoun wetlands in southeastern Iran provide habitats for numerous migratory species, particularly those following routes toward the Persian Gulf and the Indian subcontinent.

Counting every bird, protecting every habitat

Monitoring migratory bird populations is an essential part of conservation efforts. Reliable data on species diversity, population size, and migration patterns enable environmental authorities to identify changes in ecosystems and develop more effective protection strategies.

A winter waterbird census conducted in Mazandaran Province in January 2026 recorded 54,889 birds belonging to 112 species across 36 sites. The survey, carried out under the framework of the International Waterbird Census, involved environmental experts, conservation organizations, volunteers, and local communities.

The findings also highlighted the importance of habitat security and the role of human disturbance in determining where birds gather and spend the winter.

Under the theme "Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter!", World Migratory Bird Day highlighted how observations made by citizens, birdwatchers, researchers, and local communities can contribute to monitoring migration routes and population trends.

Such participation is particularly valuable in countries like Iran, where migratory birds use hundreds of different sites during their seasonal journeys.

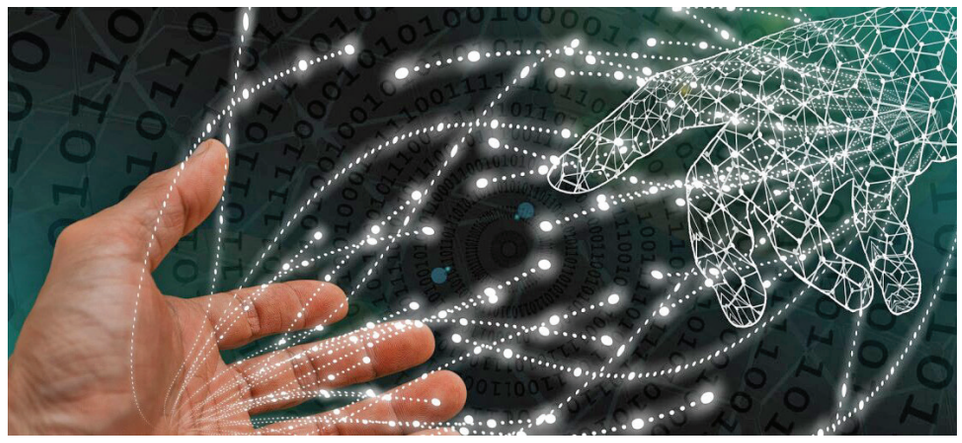
Protecting these natural visitors requires coordinated action, including restoring degraded wetlands, securing environmental water allocations, preventing illegal hunting, reducing habitat disturbance, and strengthening scientific monitoring.

Local communities can also play a significant role through public awareness initiatives, responsible ecotourism, and participation in conservation programs.

Ultimately, the annual arrival of millions of migratory birds is more than a seasonal natural phenomenon. It is an indication of the ecological importance of Iran's wetlands and their connection to ecosystems far beyond the country's borders.

Ensuring that these birds continue to find safe places to rest, feed, and spend the winter depends on protecting the wetlands that sustain them. Their future is closely tied to the health of these ecosystems and the commitment to preserving them for generations to come.

Mustafa Foundation unveils initiatives for International Week of Science and Peace



TEHRAN – The Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation has organized a series of programs and educational and media productions to mark the International Week of Science and Peace (November 9–15) and World Science Day for Peace and Development (November 10).

The initiatives aim to familiarize the public with scientists' achievements and scientific advances, explain various scientific phenomena, and promote scientific thinking through different media formats.

One of the foundation's productions is the release of the 10th episode of its Observatory podcast, titled "Building the Missing Piece of the Body." The episode explores the importance and need for organ transplantation and introduces tissue engineering, a major branch of bioengineering.

The foundation will also release the fourth issue of its Observatory magazine, featuring articles on some of the latest advances in science and technology, including aerospace, cosmology, mathematics, cancer treatment, and bioprinting.

Another program is the publication of an exclusive interview with Pike See Cheah, a Malaysian scientist and former laureate of the foundation's KANS Scientific Competition. Cheah studied biomedical sciences at Universiti Putra Malaysia, earned a PhD in anatomy from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and completed postdoctoral studies in molecular neurogenetics at the University of Adelaide in Australia.

As part of the week's activities, the foundation has also arranged a two-day educational program in Tehran for 40 top students from across the country participating in the sixth edition of its student competition.

International Week of Science and Peace

The International Week of Science and Peace and World Science Day for Peace and Development are two global observances that highlight the role of science in improving people's lives, strengthening international cooperation, and contributing to a more peaceful and sustainable world.

The International Week of Science and Peace was first held in 1986 as a non-governmental initiative during the International Year of Peace. Following the continuation of the initiative, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 43/61 in 1988, designating the week in which November 11 falls as the International Week of Science and Peace. The observance aims to raise public awareness of the links between scientific and technological progress, peace, and security, while encouraging cooperation among scientists. It is marked annually from November 9 to 15.

World Science Day for Peace and Development, meanwhile, originated from the World Conference on Science, held in Budapest in 1999 in cooperation with UNESCO and the International Council for Science. The conference emphasized the importance of strengthening ties between science and society, paving the way for the establishment of the observance. In 2001, UNESCO's General Conference proclaimed November 10 as World Science Day for Peace and Development, and the first global celebration took place in 2002.

Strengthening the relationship between science and society, encouraging public participation in discussions on scientific issues, raising awareness of science's role in everyday life, and highlighting scientists' social responsibilities are among the main objectives of the day. It also provides an opportunity for governments, scientific institutions, the media, teachers, and students to work together to harness science for peace and development.

Tehran, Baghdad to implement reciprocal scholarship program

TEHRAN – Iran and Iraq are set to begin implementing a memorandum of understanding on granting reciprocal scholarships to students from the two countries, with the aim of expanding educational cooperation.

Under the agreement, Iraq will award 200 scholarships annually to Iranian students, while Iran will provide 100 scholarships each year to Iraqi students, IRNA quoted Iraqi Ambassador to Tehran Yasser Abdul-Zahra Al-Hajjaj as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Saeed Habiba, the head of the Organization of Student Affairs, on Monday.

He also lauded the efforts of the Organization of Student Affairs in addressing the challenges of Iraqi students majoring in Iranian universities.

For his part, Habiba highlighted the prominent academic standing of Iran's higher education, ranking 15th-16th globally, saying that the Iraqi students with the highest scores at high school diploma examinations (like mathematics and geometry for engineering fields) will receive scholarships.

Should the initial year prove successful, the number of scholarships will be expanded in subsequent years. The selected students will have the chance to study in top-tier Iranian universities.

The official underlined the need for Persian language proficiency in attracting international students, saying that Iraq can benefit from Iranian Persian language professors to hold training courses for Iraqi students and facilitate their presence in Iranian academic institutions.

Referring to the challenges faced by international students, including those from Iraq, the official said they have until December 2 to upload their documents in order to resolve their outstanding issues.

Fostering academic ties

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, and 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-solving capabilities, enhancement of organizational productivity, and the provision of service to 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 the scientific achievements of universities in major research projects, and emphasized the need to boost synergy among the higher education system, the requirements of the labor market, and the country's development priorities.

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

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 the 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.

Over 428,000 births registered in 6 months



TEHRAN – A total of 428,664 births were registered in the country in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year that started on March 21, the Civil Registration Organization has announced.

For every 100 girls born in the country, 108 boys are born. However, the number of births has declined compared to 460,000 cases registered last year, ISNA reported.

Sistan-Baluchestan province, with a crude birth rate of 22.1 births per 1,000 inhabitants, had the highest number of births in the first six months of the year, followed by South Khorasan (15.1), Khuzestan (14.3), Hormozgan (13.7), and Yazd (12.6) provinces.

During the same period, some 225,804 deaths were registered in the country, about 131 men for every 100 women.

Moreover, a total of 159,320 marriages and 69,447 divorces were registered across the country in the first five months of the current Iranian year. Of the total number of marriages registered, the most are related to the provinces of Khuzestan and Kordestan, with a crude rate of 6 marriages per 1,000 population, followed by West Azarbaijan (5.9), South Khorasan (5.9), and North Khorasan (5.8). The provinces of Gilan (with a crude rate of 7.9 per 1,000 population), East Azarbajijan (6.6), Ardabil (6.6), and Kermanshah (6.5) recorded the highest death rates.

According to the Statistical Center of Iran, the current population of the country has surpassed 87 million, and the number is expected to rise to 87.134 million by the end of the current Iranian year, March 2027.

Urban and rural populations will account for around 67 million and 20 million, respectively, IRNA reported.

Furthermore, the average household size is less than 3.2 (3.19) members per household, the lowest level recorded since the 1950s.

A total of 892,227 births and 459,984 deaths were registered in the country in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2025 – March 2026). The majority of births and deaths were recorded in summer and spring, respectively.

The life expectancy in Iran has increased, but the birth rate has lowered. The rate of aging in Iran is growing faster than the global average, so that the country will be among the oldest countries in the world in 25 years.

TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430

Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran **P.o. Box:** 14155-4843 **Zip Code:** 1599814713

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Accustom your ear to listen effectively, and do not listen to anything that will not benefit your progress.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:24 Dawn: 5:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:31 (tomorrow)

Mobile library dedicated to Minab school martyrs launched

TEHRAN- A mobile public library named in memory of the students martyred in the Shajareh Tayyebeh school tragedy has been dispatched to Minab, Hormozgan province, to expand access to library and cultural services in areas without public libraries.

Established by the Public Libraries Foundation of Iran, the mobile library was officially inaugurated on Wednesday morning near the cemetery of the student martyrs in Minab, as part of ceremonies commemorating the November 4 National Student Day and the schoolchildren who lost their lives, Mehr reported.

The library has been named the "Shajareh Tayyebeh School Martyrs Memorial" in tribute to the students, with its activities also intended to keep their memory alive through cultural and reading promotion programs.

The mobile facility will serve neighborhoods and communities in Minab that lack access to public libraries, providing residents with reading materials and library services. It will also organize cultural and literary activities for children, teenagers and other members of the community.

The initiative is part of efforts to make library services more accessible and promote a culture of reading beyond areas with established library facilities.

On February 28, the Shajareh Tayyebeh elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a devastating massacre as the United States and Israel initiated their strikes against Iran.

While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a missile strike that caused the building to collapse, trapping children and teachers beneath the rubble. Iranian authorities confirmed a final death toll of 168 people, with at least 95 others wounded, marking one of the most harrowing incidents of the conflict's opening day.

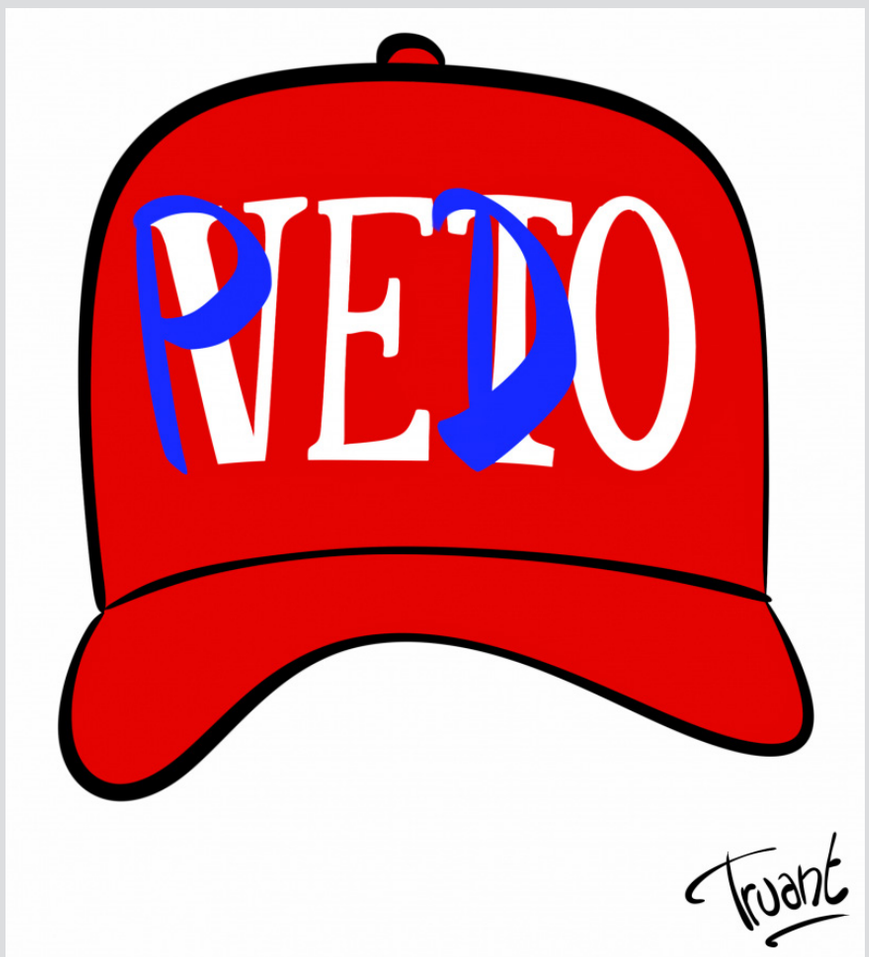
Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations have painted a starkly different picture.

An analysis by Al Jazeera's digital investigations unit, utilizing over a decade of satellite imagery and recent video clips, revealed that the school was a clearly distinct civilian facility, separated from any adjacent military sites for at least ten years. Furthermore, witness accounts and satellite-based analyses confirmed that the school was triple tapped by three separate, deliberate strikes, leaving no doubt about the nature of the attack.

The international community has faced mounting evidence regarding the responsibility for this atrocity, with investigations from major global outlets including The New York Times, BBC Verify, CBC, and NPR all concluding that the United States was responsible for the strike.

These findings have raised fundamental questions about the intelligence used to justify the bombing, as the patterns of the strike suggest a direct targeting of a civilian educational institution. The Minab school tragedy now stands as a somber testament to the immense human cost of the aggression and a focal point for those demanding international accountability.

Cartoon of Day



New Maga Cap

Cartoonist: Truant from France

Majid Majidi to chair jury of Bosphorus Film Festival



TEHRAN – Renowned Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi has been selected as the head of the international jury at the 14th Bosphorus Film Festival, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from November 8 to 15.

The members of the jury will evaluate the films competing for the Golden Dolphin in the festival's International Feature Film Competition, ISNA reported.

The jury also includes Christophe Leparc, Director of Quinzaine des Cinéastes (Directors' Fortnight) at the Cannes Film Festival; director and producer Isabel Fernández; Seattle International Film Festival programmer and producer Justine Barda; and Atilla Klinçe, who has over 40 years of experience in theater, film, television, and academia.

Majidi is also set to hold a masterclass with film enthusiasts on November 9. In the masterclass titled "The Art of Telling Human Stories: On Cinema with Majid Majidi," Majidi will share his approach to storytelling, the formation of his unique cinematic language, and the intricacies of his directing practice.

The meeting will offer a close look at the creative world of Majidi, who tells the story of daily human struggles, hope, and solidarity with a simple yet powerful cinematic language.

Last month, Majidi received the Best Film Award at the 31st Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) for his latest film "Midday Meal".

Majidi's films often feature child or adolescent protagonists, explore themes such as childhood innocence, family bonds, poverty, social issues, and solidarity, and are characterized by a humanistic sensibility.

His important films include "Children of Heaven" (1997), "The Color of Paradise" (1999), "Baran" (2001), and "The Song of Sparrows" (2008). "Children of Heaven" was nominated for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film

His film "Children of Heaven" was among the five final nominees for the Best Foreign Language Film award at the 1998 Academy Awards, making him the first Iranian filmmaker to receive an Oscar nomination.

Majidi holds the record for the most Best Director Crystal Simorgh awards at the Fajr International Film Festival, with four wins.

According to reports, eight feature-length and short films by Iranian filmmakers will also be screened at this year's edition of the Bosphorus Film Festival.

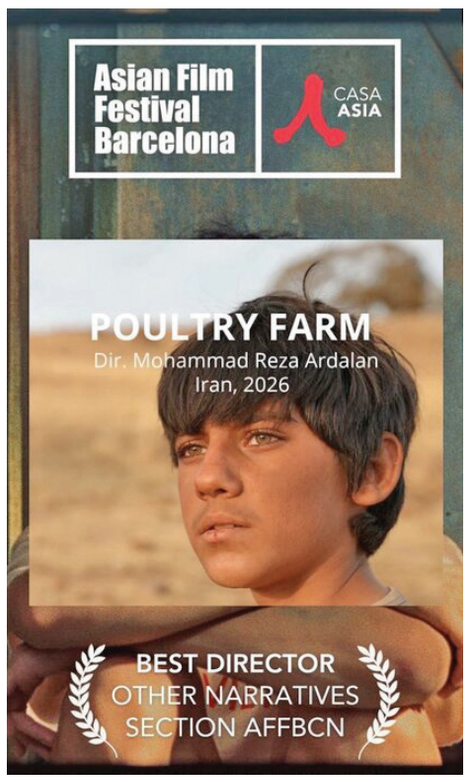
The Iranian films scheduled for screening include "Sun Children," directed by Majid Majidi; "The Orange Forest," by Arman Khansarian; "In the Arms of a Tree," by Babak Khajehpasha; and "Wolf's Hair," by Fereydoun Najafi, all in the Special Screenings section.

The documentary "32 Meters," by Morteza Atabaki and co-produced by Turkey, Iran, and Qatar, will compete in the National Turkish Documentary Competition.

Three short films will also be screened: "Solo," by Amirhossein Ajali; "Lost and Found," by Reza Rasouli and produced in Austria; and "Shell," by Hamed Soleimanzadeh and Hakan Unal.

The Bosphorus Film Festival, organized by the Bosphorus Culture & Arts Foundation (BKSV) aims at providing contribution to the development of ethics, aesthetics, and technical cohesive aspects of movies, funding, and motivation in the creation to young producers and directors for producing new films, and promoting the country's cinema in homeland and abroad.

Iranian director wins at 14th Asian Film Festival Barcelona



TEHRAN – The Iranian film "Poultry Farm" written and directed by Mohammad Reza Ardalan won the Best Director award at the Other Narratives section of the 14th Asian Film Festival Barcelona, which was held in Barcelona, Spain, from October 22 to November 1.

The jury presented the award to the film for its ability to create an atmosphere of tension and maintain suspense until the end, IRNA reported.

"The film particularly stands out for the evolution of the young protagonist and the way the director uses the isolation of the farm and the relationships between the characters to show the consequences of war, the vulnerability of refugees and undocumented people, as well as exploitation, discrimination, and abuses of power," the jury statement read.

A production of 2026, the 97-minute film depicts Hawar, a homeless, undocumented Kurdish young boy, who crosses the border between Iraq and Iran illegally in search of work. He eventually finds employment at a remote poultry farm on the outskirts of Tehran. When the only worker with whom he befriends disappears without a trace, Hawar begins an investigation that leads him into a world marked by exploitation, fear and violence.

Combining the mystery thriller with social drama, "Poultry Farm" uses an isolated and oppressive setting to portray the vulnerability of invisible migrants and the brutality of power structures. It is a tense and humanist film, where the terror lies in the cruelty of the real world.

Mohammad Reza Ardalan is a Kurdish-Iranian filmmaker and screenwriter. He studied cinema and screenwriting at Tehran's Art University and Soore University, and has worked as an assistant director on several short films. His directing credits include the short film "Quarantine" (2020), which won Best Director at the Kobani International Film Festival.

The Asian Film Festival Barcelona is organized by Casa Asia. True to its commitment to promoting contemporary Asian cinema, the festival presents more than one hundred films representing the latest independent, experimental, and auteur cinema from across the continent.

This edition paid particular attention to emerging film industries in countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Cambodia, as well as established industries with a long history at the festival, including Iran, India, China, South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines.

The program also included films from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as productions from Australia and New Zealand.

'Insidious: Out of the Further' screened, discussed in Tehran



TEHRAN- The supernatural horror film "Insidious: Out of the Further," written and directed by Jacob Chase, was screened at Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Wednesday, followed by a discussion session attended by film enthusiasts.

The 2026 American-Australian production was shown with Persian subtitles and six-channel Dolby sound.

The film centers on Gemma, played by Amelia Eve, a young mother raising her daughter, Maya, in the same house where she spent her childhood. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she discovers that she possesses an unusual ability to travel into the Further, a mysterious purgatorial dimension inhabited by lost souls and supernatural entities. What initially appears to be an extraordinary experience gradually develops into a dangerous encounter with forces beyond her understanding.

Gemma soon realizes that her ability is far more unusual and potentially destructive than she had imagined. She is not only capable of entering the Further but can also bring its inhabitants and other elements back into the physical world. This discovery changes the nature of the threat facing her and her daughter, as the supernatural realm is no longer separated from their everyday surroundings by an impenetrable boundary.

As malevolent entities become aware of Gemma's power, they begin to see her as a means of reaching the living world. The distinction between the two dimensions consequently grows increasingly fragile, allowing the forces lurking in the Further to threaten the safety of ordinary people. The story builds on the franchise's established themes of supernatural possession, the afterlife and the vulnerability of families confronted with unexplained phenomena, while introducing a new central character and a different dimension to its mythology.

The film also brings back Lin Shaye as Elise Rainier, the psychic medium whose character has been a central figure throughout the franchise. Her return provides a connection to the earlier installments, while Gemma's unusual ability introduces a new direction for the series. The cast also includes Brandon Perea, Maisie Richardson-Sellers, Sam Spruell, Laura Gordon and Island Austin, who plays Maya.

"Insidious: Out of the Further" is the sixth installment in the horror franchise created by James Wan and Leigh Whannell. Since the release of the original "Insidious" in 2010, the series has developed a distinctive supernatural universe built around the Further, astral projection and encounters with demonic forces. The new installment shifts the focus away from the Lambert family, whose experiences shaped several previous chapters, and introduces a new family whose connection to the mysterious realm creates fresh possibilities for the storyline.

Chase, known for directing the supernatural thriller "Come Play" (2020), also wrote the screenplay. The film's story was developed by Chase and David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick. Jason Blum, Oren Peli, James Wan and Leigh Whannell served as producers, bringing together filmmakers associated with some of the best-known contemporary horror productions.

Following the screening, a film analysis and review session was held with Kourosh Jahed, a cinema instructor and critic, who discussed the production with attendees.

Arasbaran Cultural Center is located on Jolfar Street, off Shariati Street, north of Seyyed Khandan Bridge.