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TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 500,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 47th year | No. 15467 | Sunday | November 8, 2026 | Aban 17, 1405 | Jumada al-Awwal 28, 1448

Bahrain's Shia leader urges peaceful defense of tortured defendants facing mass trial

TEHRAN — Sheikh Isa Qassim, the senior Shia cleric whom Bahrain's rulers stripped of his citizenship in 2016, urged the public on Friday to stand peacefully behind 60 clerics awaiting a court verdict on November 8, and warned the monarchy that a case built on "fabricated and defamatory accusations" could carry grave consequences.

Qassim, 89, told Bahrainis in a statement on Friday that defending the scholars is a duty falling on "every single individual," and that the nation owes them the loyalty they have always shown it. ▸ Page 5

Trump answers midterm defeat by elevating the 'extremist' architect of his rejected agenda

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Just days after Republicans lost control of Congress in Tuesday's elections, President Donald Trump appointed Stephen Miller as White House Chief of Staff on Friday.

Miller, key architect of the administration's immigration and deportation strategy, replaces Susie Wiles and officially begins his duties on Monday.

Democrats took both chambers in what was described as the most decisive political rout in half a century. ▸ Page 5

Iran pavilion opens at China International Import Expo in Shanghai

TEHRAN- The Assistant to the Head of the Organization and Director-General of the East and Subcontinent Office of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization announced the establishment of the national and commercial pavilion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the authorization of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, Abdolsadeh Nisi, referring to the importance of the China International Import Expo, said: "This event is considered one of China's important trade and international events, and this year it was held with the participation of more than 162 countries in an area of more than 440,000 square meters." ▸ Page 4

Mehr Media Group CEO proposes international cooperation on AI in journalism at Beijing summit

TEHRAN- Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati, CEO of Mehr Media Group, has proposed the establishment of an international working group for cooperation and knowledge-sharing on artificial intelligence in journalism, as well as joint investment in developing an open-source AI-powered editorial management system, during the 7th World Media Summit in Beijing.

Speaking on Saturday at the international gathering, Rahmati highlighted the opportunities and challenges artificial intelligence presents to the media industry, stressing the need for international cooperation to ensure that intelligent technologies contribute to shared development, credible journalism and a fairer global information environment. ▸ Page 8



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Washington and Tel Aviv: a Rift, Not a Rupture

A bipartisan revolt against unconditional support for Tel Aviv is emerging in Washington, as the Iran war and the midterm elections expose the political costs of the US-Israeli alliance.

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN - A bipartisan revolt against unconditional support for Tel Aviv is emerging in Washington, as the Iran war and the midterm elections expose the political costs of the US-Israeli alliance.

For decades, Israel enjoyed a position in Washington that few American allies could imagine: support from both major political parties, billions of dollars in military assistance, diplomatic protection at the United Nations and a political establishment that treated the alliance as virtually untouchable. Criticism was almost possible, but challenging the fundamentals of the relationship often came at a considerable political price.

The results of the November 3 midterm elections suggest that this era may be approaching a turning point.

The sweeping Democratic victories have not simply weakened President Donald Trump and his Republican Party. They have also exposed a growing political backlash against Washington's relationship with Israel, one that is increasingly visible on both sides of the American political divide.

What makes this moment particularly significant is that the questioning is no longer coming exclusively from progressive Democrats, pro-Palestinian activists or younger voters. It is also emerging from within the Republican Party and, remarkably, from the highest levels of the Trump administration itself.

The political earthquake has placed Israel in an increasingly uncomfortable position: an ally whose policies are becoming a domestic political liability for the very country that has traditionally provided it with its strongest international backing. ▸ Page 3



IRGC to unveil new underground missile city, vows uninterrupted weapons production

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has announced plans to unveil a new underground missile production complex and several other military achievements, while stressing that the country's weapons manufacturing and development programs will continue uninterrupted, even under enemy bombardment.

Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi made the announcement on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at a press conference marking IRGC Aerospace Week in Tehran. He outlined the force's advances in indigenous aerospace technology, ▸ Page 2

Iran will not let Trump leave region without paying a price: MP

TEHRAN – Ebrahim Azizi, chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has vowed that Iran will not allow US President Donald Trump to leave the region without bearing the consequences of the actions taken against the country.

In a post on social media, Azizi wrote: "We will not allow Trump to flee the region without paying a price or compensation."

He added that Iran's response to any hostile move or miscalculation would be a decisive blow, saying the objective was to liberate Zionist Regime — America's largest military base — once and for all.

UN special rapporteur describes Minab school attack as war crime: Iranian official

TEHRAN – A United Nations special rapporteur has characterized the February 28 US-Israeli attack on the Shajareh Tayyebeh school in Minab, southern Iran, as a war crime and a crime of aggression, according to an Iranian judicial official.

Askar Jalalian, deputy justice minister for human rights and international affairs, said the attack on the school, which killed 168 children and teachers, constituted a deliberate and unjustifiable violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Article 38, which requires the protection of children during armed conflicts. ▸ Page 2

Strait of Hormuz will stay closed until US accepts its terms: Iran

TEHRAN- Iran's Armed Forces have control over the Strait of Hormuz, which will remain closed until the United States accepts Tehran's conditions, Army spokesperson Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia has said.

Speaking Friday evening at a ceremony in Pishva County, Tehran Province, he said Iran's Army, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and Law Enforcement Command were better prepared after confrontation with the United States and the Israeli regime.

He said public support had boosted military morale. Before the war, about 130 ships crossed the strait daily, carrying 20 percent of global oil, plus jet fuel and chemical fertilizers.

Akraminia warned that renewed US aggression would prompt an immediate response. American bases and interests in the Persian Gulf and beyond West Asia, he said, were within range of Iranian drones and missiles. Forces would follow the order of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Sayyid Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, to respond swiftly, effectively and without geographic limits.

Citing US officials, Akraminia put Washington's direct war costs at more than $48 billion, with indirect losses potentially lasting years. The military official cited Republican election setbacks and protests in European countries.

The Iran war signals a tectonic shift toward a non-polar world order: global affairs scholar

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, Professor of Global Thought and Comparative Philosophies at SOAS University of London, is a leading scholar of international politics, Iranian studies and comparative philosophy. He co-directs the university's Centre for AI Futures and Centre for Iranian Studies. His latest book, The Myth of Good AI: ▸ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Trump at a crossroads

Ettelaat argued that the consequences of the Republican Party's defeat in the US midterm elections may be even more significant for the conflict involving Iran than the election result itself. According to the paper, Trump now faces two options: he can use the setback as justification for escalating the confrontation and projecting strength, or he can seek a path toward ending the conflict through a deal or another political arrangement. The first option could serve as a final effort to reassert authority before the new congressional balance takes effect, but it also risks turning the conflict into a larger and more costly crisis. The second option would require acknowledging that continuing the war could impose increasing political costs on both Trump and the Republican Party. The midterm elections have not only reshaped Congress but may also influence whether the conflict with Iran continues or moves toward resolution.

Javan: America in turmoil

Javan described growing tensions within the Trump administration following the election results. According to the paper, Vice President J.D. Vance is attempting to bring together conservatives dissatisfied with Trump and create a "new right" movement. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is reportedly distancing himself from Trump while looking ahead to the 2028 presidential race. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is said to be at risk of losing his position, while Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent faces pressure over earlier predictions regarding Iran's economy. The Republican defeat has intensified disagreements among key figures around the president. Although Trump continues to downplay the significance of the setback, speculation about the departure or dismissal of prominent officials has gained momentum. The paper also pointed to signs of division over policy toward Iran, claiming that differences among senior Republican figures reveal a gap between Trump's approach and the views of some members of his political circle. According to Javan, the administration is now dealing with the political consequences of the election outcome, with debates surrounding Iran and the future of the conflict emerging as a central issue.

Iran: Markets awaiting Washington's decisions

The Iran newspaper focused on the possible economic impact of the changing balance of power in Washington. It argued that Democratic gains in the midterm elections and control of both chambers of Congress could influence global financial and economic expectations. Oil prices fluctuated, gold prices declined, and cryptocurrency markets experienced turbulence in the immediate aftermath of the election. These reactions were presented as evidence of investors reassessing risks and future policy directions in the United States. According to the analysis, the decline in oil prices highlighted how closely investors are watching prospects for reduced tensions in the Middle East and greater stability in global energy supply routes. If congressional pressure encourages the Trump administration to move toward de-escalation, negotiations, or a ceasefire, some of the geopolitical risk currently reflected in market prices could ease. The election marks the beginning of a new phase of uncertainty in US policymaking, one that could affect energy markets, precious metals, currencies, bonds, and digital assets for the foreseeable future.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Middle East is not Washington's backyard

Vatan-e-Emrooz examined the deployment of the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt to the US Central Command area of operations. The United States is once again attempting to demonstrate military power in the region through the presence of its aircraft carriers. Tehran has repeatedly shown that the deployment of American naval forces does not alter Iran's positions or guarantee the success of Washington's military objectives. The paper maintained that any military action against Iran could impose high costs on US forces operating in the region. It further argued that despite the aircraft carrier's size, advanced technology, and complement of modern fighter jets, it should not be considered invulnerable to Iran's defensive capabilities. The article concluded that displays of military power cannot determine the political future of the region.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Trade corridors' capacity should not remain on paper

Arman-e Emrooz, in an interview with economic analyst Ata Bahrami, examined ways to strengthen economic resilience amid sanctions and geopolitical uncertainty. Bahrami argued that Iran's geographical location offers substantial opportunities through the development of regional transit and trade corridors. He noted that Iran sits at the crossroads of several important economic regions, creating opportunities to connect trade routes involving Russia, China, and neighboring countries. Such connections could expand transportation services, logistics activities, and foreign-currency revenues. However, he emphasized that transit corridors can only become a genuine advantage if the required rail, road, port, and customs infrastructure is fully developed. Efficient transport systems, predictable regulations, and coordinated transit procedures are essential. Otherwise, competing routes may attract a greater share of regional trade and reduce Iran's potential role as a transportation and logistics hub.

IRGC to unveil new underground missile city, vows uninterrupted weapons production

From page 1 ▸ missile production, air defense, electronic warfare and military self-sufficiency, warning that Iran would not allow its adversaries to disrupt its defense capabilities.

"We will not allow the enemy to halt the country's weapons production and development process, even for a moment," he said.

Underground missile production and military self-sufficiency

Mohebbi said the IRGC Aerospace Force had developed flexible production capabilities, enabling it to transfer missile and drone manufacturing from surface facilities to underground installations and sustain production even during intense bombardment.

He said the force had moved beyond underground complexes used for storing and preparing missiles to establishing underground production facilities, describing them as "missile production cities."

The general stressed that Iran's extensive territory, indigenous technical expertise and decentralized production infrastructure would make it difficult for adversaries to disrupt its defense manufacturing capabilities. He said the enemy had underestimated Iran's ability to replenish its missile and drone stocks, assuming that the number of weapons launched would indicate how long the country's military capabilities could be sustained.

Mohebbi identified the development of indigenous aerospace technology as the foundation of the force's progress, saying it had transformed Iran from a country largely dependent on imported military equipment into a producer and exporter of defense systems.

He cited the Shahed-136 drone as an example, saying its design had attracted international attention and been replicated by several countries, including the United States. He also named the Arman missile, the 358 drone and the Khordad-3 air defense system among the products developed and exported by the force.



He added that Iran's military self-sufficiency extended to the production of weapons, equipment and components, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers.

Air defense and electronic warfare capabilities

The IRGC spokesman also highlighted advances in air defense and electronic warfare, saying indigenous technologies had enabled Iranian forces to counter some of the adversary's advanced military systems.

He reported that Iranian forces had taken control of, destroyed or forced to land seven enemy MQM-180 reconnaissance drones over the preceding two weeks.

Referring to the IRGC Aerospace Force's performance during the 'Third Sacred Defense, or the Ramadan War,' Mohebbi said the force had intercepted and destroyed more than 260 enemy aircraft and aerial vehicles.

He said the figure included F-35, F-16, F-5 and F-18 fighter jets, as well as MQ-1 and RQ-4 drones, Orbiter and Lucas unmanned aerial vehicles, and other aerial systems. He stressed that the figure covered the IRGC Aerospace Force's achievements alone and did not include the Iranian Army's air defense operations, which would be announced separately.

Mohebbi also pointed to improvements in the radar-evading capabilities of Iranian missiles and drones, saying reductions in their radar cross-section had enhanced their ability to penetrate multiple layers of enemy air defense systems and strike designated targets.

He said advanced enemy defense systems, including THAAD, had proved ineffective against some Iranian attacks, while Patriot systems had also experienced failures.

Missile range restrictions lifted

Addressing Iran's military doctrine, Mohebbi said restrictions on the range of Iranian missiles had been lifted, following directives by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei calling for an immediate and effective response to threats without geographical limitations.

"This restriction has been lifted for us," he said, adding that Iran's expanded capabilities should be demonstrated in practice rather than merely discussed.

Describing Iran's approach as asymmetric warfare, the IRGC spokesman said the country could exploit vulnerabilities in its adversaries' military and non-military assets and strike at unexpected locations.

He said the IRGC Aerospace Force was prepared to defend Iran's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national identity and Iranian-Islamic civilization, without imposing geographical limitations on its defensive mission.

Deterrence and future military capabilities

Mohebbi said Iran's retaliatory operations against enemy military and strategic infrastructure, including artificial intelligence and data-processing facilities, had demonstrated the country's deterrent capabilities and forced the adversary to reconsider its military actions.

He also highlighted cooperation between the IRGC Aerospace Force and Iran's universities, research institutions, scientific centers and industrial sector, describing these links as an important part of the country's defense development.

Looking ahead, Mohebbi announced that the force had developed new military capabilities that could be unveiled and deployed if a third wave of confrontation with the enemy began. He described them as significant new capabilities that could surprise the international community, adding that some might be revealed earlier if circumstances and strategic considerations permitted.

The spokesman further said Iran had managed to withstand pressure from a coalition of major powers despite 47 years of sanctions, emphasizing the importance of documenting and presenting the country's scientific and military achievements to the international community.

The unveiling of the underground missile production complex and other defense achievements is expected to be among the highlights of this year's IRGC Aerospace Week.

The Iran war signals a tectonic shift toward a non-polar world order: gobal affairs scholar

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam examines how global resistance is challenging powerful states and redefining international legitimacy.

From page 1 ▸ A Manifesto for Critical Artificial Intelligence, examines critical perspectives on artificial intelligence.

Adib-Moghaddam was among the intellectuals and cultural figures who signed a collective appeal published in Le Monde, calling for the protection of Iranian civilians and rejecting the use of political and military objectives to justify their suffering. In an interview with the Tehran Times, he discusses AI-driven warfare, civilian casualties, Iran's national identity and the implications of the war for the international order.

Below is the full text of the interview:

You recently signed a collective appeal published in Le Monde stating that the Iranian people must not pay the price of political and military objectives. What prompted you to sign this letter, and why did you feel it was important to speak out at this particular moment?

For me personally, there has been a sense that this war will flare up every now and then and that the decision-makers in charge are not equipped to end it. The threshold for military conflict has been kept incredibly low. Certainly, there will be ongoing pressure to resume the attacks on Iran by the Israeli state and its global lobbies. So the threat of conflict lingers and it creates a constant sense of anxiety for Iranians and the peoples of the region. The only sensible way is to continue to call for peace, to protect the civilians and to demonstrate that humanity stands united against these so called "forever" wars. People are demonstrating all over the world. They want justice and social emancipation and they reject this danegrous AI-driven disorder that we are living in.



The appeal brings together intellectuals, writers, and cultural figures from different backgrounds. What do you think made this collective intervention possible, and what significance does it carry?

The declaration is in many ways historical, as it brought together a wide spectrum of voices, from Nobel Prize winners and film-directors to intellectuals and artists. Like all the other declarations that I have signed, it primarily condemns civilian sufferings. So to my mind the declaration appeals to human sentiments. I believe this human-centric approach has been lost for a long time, now. In the "identity wars" that are algorithmically fostered on social media, we are constantly asked to side with one "team" against the "other". "We are the civilised ones and they are the barbarians." The more extreme the viewpoint, the larger the algorithmic reward as more and more followers and likes are generated. However, there is something singular and almost divine about the truth. I think this is the main reason why the truth can never really be buried. It is always there in the "Akashic record" of humanity, even when we are living during an era of perfectly manufactured untruths. In this environment our human intelligence with all its sentient imperfections, translates into the only truthful resource to push-back against the lies, manipulations and deceptions that we are exposed to daily.

The conflict has generated intense political reactions, but what has been the nature of intellectual debate surrounding it? Do you see a meaningful debate emerging, or has it been largely absent?

There are meaningful debates on every university campus, critical social media site and community centre in the world. The so called Generation Z is demonstrating for their rights as we speak. At the same time, we are living through a period of intense censorship and not only in the obvious places that you know of better than I do. I think it is a mixture of defeatism and self-censorship when many of my colleagues shy away from controversy or the big questions of war and peace or the future of humanity in general.

In your view, why have certain intellectual circles been more vocal about some international conflicts than others? What might explain the differences in their responses to the war against Iran?

As indicated, I see a lot of self-censorship these days as the political pressures on speaking truth to power has increased immensely.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

UN special rapporteur describes Minab school attack as war crime: Iranian official

From page 1 ▸ He added that the strike also violated fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, including the provisions of the Geneva Conventions governing the protection of civilians.

The attack took place on February 28, 2026, the first day of the US-Israeli military campaign against Iran. The Shajareh Tayyebeh school, located in Minab in Hormozgan Province, was struck while classes were in session.

The United Nations has separately documented the scale of the attack. UN human rights experts initially reported that at least 165 schoolgirls had been killed. Subsequent UN communications cited information indicating that at least 168 people, almost all women and girls, had died in the bombing. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk also referred to 168 reported victims, including pupils, teachers and school staff.

Jalalian said Iran had submitted documentation concerning violations of children's rights to UN officials and pursued the case through international mechanisms, including the UN Human Rights Council.

He stressed that legal and diplomatic efforts must continue to establish accountability for the attack and ensure that those responsible are held to account.

The attack on the Minab school has drawn international attention. In March, UN experts called for an independent investigation, emphasizing that schools are civilian objects protected under international humanitarian law and that children must be safeguarded during armed conflict.

Human Rights Watch also called for the strike to be investigated as a possible war crime, citing evidence that the school was physically separated from a nearby military compound and had its own entrance.

Washington and Tel Aviv: A rift, not a rupture

From Page 1 ▸

An alliance no longer beyond criticism

The most striking indication of this shift came from Vice President JD Vance, who, in the aftermath of the Republican defeat, openly called for a reconsideration of the American relationship with Israel.

In a lengthy social media statement, Vance identified four steps he believed Republicans needed to take to regain voters' confidence: end the war against Iran, concentrate on inflation and the cost of living, put America first, and change the relationship with Israel.

The statement was remarkable not merely because of its content, but because of who delivered it. For decades, criticism of the strategic relationship with Israel was rarely heard from senior Republican figures. Vance's intervention suggested that the debate had moved well beyond the traditional boundaries of American conservative politics.

Trump himself appeared to endorse the vice president's remarks, describing them as acceptable and good. Even more significantly, the president announced that the United States intended to end approximately $4 billion in annual military assistance to Israel, reportedly beginning in 2027.

Although the practical and legal details of such a decision remain uncertain, the announcement alone represents a remarkable departure from the traditional political consensus in Washington.

For Israel, the message is difficult to ignore: even the most closely aligned Republican administration in recent memory is no longer treating military assistance as an issue immune to domestic political calculations.

The Iran war changes the equation

The immediate catalyst for this political reassessment has been the war against Iran.

Trump entered the confrontation alongside Israel with the expectation that American military superiority would produce a swift and decisive outcome. Instead, the conflict developed into an extensive confrontation with economic and strategic consequences that reached far beyond the battlefield.

The war also exposed a contradiction at the heart of Trump's political identity. A president who had repeatedly promised to end America's costly foreign entanglements had become involved in a major war in the West Asia, with American taxpayers and households bearing part of its consequences.

Rising energy costs, economic uncertainty and the perception that Washington had been drawn into another prolonged conflict became important liabilities for Republicans during the midterm campaign.

Trump has acknowledged that the war contributed to the party's electoral defeat. Vance was even more direct, identifying the conflict and the relationship with Israel as among the reasons Republican voters turned away from their own party.

The implications are considerable. If an alliance that has traditionally been defended as an essential component of American national security begins to be perceived by significant sections of the electorate as a source of military and economic burdens, the political foundations of that alliance inevitably come under pressure.

The issue is no longer simply whether Washington supports Israel. It is increasingly about the price of that support, the policies it enables and whether those policies serve American interests.

Democrats are also changing

The shift is not confined to the Republican camp.

Democratic control of both chambers of Congress following the midterms has brought a number of politicians into positions of influence who have openly challenged American military assistance to Israel and called for a fundamental change in Washington's approach to the Palestinian issue.

One of the most notable victories was that of Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan, who became the first Muslim elected to the US Senate. An outspoken critic of Israeli policies, El-Sayed campaigned on restricting military assistance and holding Israel accountable for its actions in Gaza.

His victory, despite substantial efforts by pro-Israel political interests to defeat him, illustrates how much the political environment has changed.

Other successful Democratic candidates also campaigned on limiting arms transfers, questioning the relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and challenging the traditional assumption that support for Israel should transcend domestic political divisions.

The significance of these victories should not be overstated. Democrats remain divided over Israel, and many continue to support the traditional security partnership. But the political space for openly challenging Israeli government policies has expanded considerably.

A particularly important distinction is emerging between support for Israel's security and unconditional support for the decisions of its government. More American politicians are arguing that the two should not be treated as interchangeable.

Netanyahu's political problem is bigger than Netanyahu

In Israel, the immediate reaction has focused heavily on Benjamin Netanyahu and his increasingly strained relationship with Washington.

Critics of the prime minister argue that his close association with Trump, his conduct of the war in Gaza, settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank and the confrontation with Iran have damaged Israel's standing among American voters.

Replacing Netanyahu, however, may not be enough to reverse the trend.

The objections being raised in Washington increasingly concern policies rather than personalities: military operations, civilian casualties, settlement expansion, treatment of Palestinians and the extent to which American military and diplomatic support should remain unconditional.

Even a different Israeli government would face pressure to address these issues if it hoped to restore confidence in the relationship.

The distinction matters because it suggests that the problem is no longer simply a disagreement between two political leaders. It is a deeper reassessment of the terms on which the United States is willing to maintain its relationship with Israel.

The end of a political blank cheque?

For Israel, the American relationship remains indispensable. Military cooperation, intelligence sharing, diplomatic protection and access to advanced American weapons have been central to its regional position for decades.

But the political environment sustaining these arrangements is changing.

The Republican Party is experiencing an increasingly visible divide between its traditional pro-Israel establishment and a growing America First constituency that questions the wisdom of committing American resources to foreign conflicts. Among Democrats, meanwhile, opposition to unconditional military assistance has become more prominent and politically consequential.

These developments do not mean that the United States is about to abandon Israel. The military, intelligence and institutional dimensions of the relationship remain substantial. Nor does a change in congressional control automatically translate into an immediate transformation of American foreign policy. Trump retains significant executive authority, including the power to veto legislation, while Congress continues to exercise considerable influence over funding and oversight.

Nevertheless, the political consensus that once protected the relationship from serious scrutiny is visibly weakening.

For decades, Israel could rely on Washington's support regardless of which party controlled the White House or Congress. Today, that assumption is increasingly difficult to sustain.

The November elections may ultimately be remembered not only as a major defeat for Trump and the Republicans, but also as a moment when the American political establishment began confronting a question it had long avoided: whether an alliance, however historically significant, should remain exempt from scrutiny when its costs are increasingly felt by American citizens.

Israel's traditional shield in Washington has not disappeared. But for the first time in many years, cracks are visible on both sides of the political aisle.

And the question confronting Israeli leaders is no longer simply how to preserve their relationship with the next American administration. It is how to respond to an American public and political class that are increasingly unwilling to accept that the relationship must remain unchanged.

Yet from Tehran's perspective, the emerging tensions between Washington and Tel Aviv should not be mistaken for a fundamental rupture. Iran may recognize that the relationship is under unprecedented political pressure, that disagreements are becoming more visible and that unconditional American support for the Israeli government can no longer be taken for granted. But it remains fully aware that the United States and the Israeli regime are deeply intertwined in strategic, military, intelligence and political terms. Their interests may not coincide on every issue, and their leaders may disagree over tactics or the timing of particular decisions, but the two cannot be entirely separated in any serious assessment of the regional balance of power.

For Iran, therefore, the deterioration of relations between the two should be understood for what it is: a meaningful political development, but not evidence that Washington has ceased to be a central pillar of Israel's regional position. The cracks in Israel's American shield may be widening, but Tehran is unlikely to confuse those cracks with the disappearance of the shield itself.

The long road to peace runs through a wall of distrust



By Ranjan Solomon

Goa, India – Washington wants a settlement on its terms, while Tehran refuses to negotiate under the shadow of military coercion. Between these irreconcilable positions lies the danger of another prolonged conflict in West Asia.

The United States and Iran remain caught in a dangerous confrontation in which diplomacy continues, military threats persist and the prospect of a lasting settlement grows increasingly distant. Despite efforts by countries such as Qatar and Pakistan to bring the two sides closer to an understanding, the fundamental differences between Washington and Tehran remain unresolved. There have been proposals, negotiations and diplomatic exchanges, but none has managed to bridge the enormous political and strategic divide separating the two countries.

The problem is not simply a disagreement over Iran's nuclear programme or the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. It is a much deeper confrontation over sovereignty, regional power, security and the future political order of West Asia. Each side believes that conceding ground would weaken its strategic position. Consequently, negotiations have become an extension of the conflict rather than an instrument for ending it.

President Donald Trump has approached Iran through a familiar doctrine of coercive diplomacy. His administration appears convinced that sustained military pressure, economic isolation and the threat of further escalation will eventually force Tehran to accept American demands. The underlying assumption is that Iran, confronted with the enormous military superiority of the United States, will have little choice but to yield.

But this calculation overlooks an important dimension of Iranian politics. Tehran does not view the confrontation merely as a contest of military strength. It sees it as a struggle over national sovereignty and the country's right to determine its own security arrangements. For the Iranian leadership, accepting American demands under military pressure would amount to political surrender, with consequences extending far beyond the negotiating table.

Two countries, two very different ideas of peace

The American and Iranian positions reveal why a negotiated settlement remains so elusive.

Washington wants Iran to abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions, accept stringent restrictions on its nuclear capabilities and submit to arrangements that would prevent any future attempt to develop a nuclear arsenal. It also wants the immediate and unconditional reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, an essential artery for international energy supplies and maritime commerce. The Trump administration is equally anxious to avoid an extended military engagement that could draw American forces into another Middle Eastern war.

Iran, however, is demanding a fundamentally different starting point. It wants economic sanctions and restrictions lifted before making major concessions. Tehran argues that it cannot be expected to negotiate meaningful compromises while facing military threats and economic strangulation. It also wants recognition of its legitimate security interests in the Persian Gulf and a fundamental reconsideration of the American military presence and security architecture in the region.

Iran's demands extend beyond its bilateral relationship with Washington. It wants an end to the wider regional conflicts, particularly those involving Gaza and Lebanon, and has raised the question of compensation for the destruction caused by the war.

These positions are difficult to reconcile. The United States wants concessions as a condition for easing pressure; Iran wants the pressure removed before it makes concessions. Both want guarantees, but neither trusts the other sufficiently to offer them.

The collapse of earlier diplomatic initiatives, including the short-lived Islamabad understanding of June 2026, illustrates the fragility of the negotiating process. Pakistan and Qatar may facilitate communication, but mediation cannot succeed unless the principal parties are prepared to recognise that the other side has legitimate concerns that cannot simply be wished away.

The politics of coercion and resistance

One of the greatest obstacles to peace is the belief in Washington that Iran can be brought to its knees through sustained pressure. This approach assumes that economic hardship and military setbacks will eventually compel Tehran to accept American conditions.

Yet Iran has spent decades developing a political and military doctrine built around resistance to external pressure. Its leadership understands that it cannot match American military power conventionally. It has therefore invested in asymmetric capabilities, regional alliances and strategic instruments that can impose costs on a vastly more powerful adversary.

The Strait of Hormuz is central to this calculation. Through this narrow waterway passes a substantial proportion of the world's internationally traded oil. Any disruption has consequences far beyond the immediate region, affecting energy prices, shipping costs, international markets and the economies of countries that depend on imported fuel.

Iran's ability to threaten maritime security gives it leverage that cannot be measured simply by comparing military inventories. It knows that instability in the Persian Gulf carries a global economic cost and that Washington cannot indefinitely ignore the consequences for international energy markets.

This does not mean Iran can defeat the United States militarily. It cannot. But it can make the cost of continuing the confrontation considerably higher than Washington may have anticipated. Its strategy is not necessarily to win a conventional war but to deny the United States a quick and politically presentable victory.

There is an equally important domestic political dimension. Any Iranian government seen as capitulating to American demands after a sustained military confrontation would face serious questions about its legitimacy and its ability to defend national sovereignty. Resistance has become an important part of the political identity of the Islamic Republic. Compromise is possible, but it cannot easily be presented as submission.

The trust deficit is perhaps the greatest obstacle

No serious discussion of the current impasse can ignore the history of American-Iranian relations, particularly the 2018 withdrawal of the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear agreement negotiated during the Obama administration.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian navy says tanker catches fire after striking sea mine in Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN– An oil tanker caught fire and was left immobilized after striking a sea mine in the eastern Strait of Hormuz on Saturday morning, the Iranian Army's Navy said, adding that the vessel had entered a restricted maritime zone despite repeated warnings.



In a statement issued on November 7, the Navy said the tanker had been sailing through an area designated as prohibited and unsafe and had switched off its navigation systems. It said the vessel struck the mine in the early hours of Saturday, triggering a fire and bringing it to a halt.

The Navy warned that vessels disregarding its instructions and entering restricted waters would face similar consequences, reiterating the need for ships to observe maritime restrictions and heed warnings issued by Iranian authorities.

The incident came a day after the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy reported that two oil tankers had caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz after entering restricted waters without coordination with Iranian authorities.

According to the IRGC Navy, the two vessels had attempted to leave the strait through unauthorized routes while their navigation and identification systems were switched off. The force also said they had received support from the "aggressive and terrorist US military."

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned commercial vessels against using routes they have designated as unauthorized or unsafe, emphasizing that ships must comply with maritime coordination requirements when transiting the strategic waterway.

CBI governor emphasizes support for rebuilding gas industry



TEHRAN- The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) during a visit to South Pars, emphasized financing the reconstruction of damaged facilities and restoring one-third of the country's gas production.

According to Mehr News Agency, citing the Public Relations Office of the Central Bank, the Governor of the Central Bank, while visiting the Fourth Refinery of the South Pars Gas Complex, stressed the Central Bank and banking network's all-out support for renovating and repairing the damaged infrastructure in this region and noted that securing the necessary funding to revive these facilities is on the agenda; centers that, following the enemies' hostile actions, have put a percentage of the country's gas production capacity out of reach.

Hemmati, stating that nearly one-third of the country's gas production volume has been cut off as a result of the enemies' attacks, stressed that the technical efforts of domestic experts and personnel to repair these sections deserve appreciation, and that the activities are proceeding without reliance on foreign equipment.

Recalling the banking system's support for these projects, this official added: "Financial and credit institutions have so far completed the necessary support, and the Central Bank and the country's banking system will also pursue any support and provision of liquidity needed to revive these facilities in the future."

He expressed hope that with the acceleration of repair operations and the reconnection of production capacities to the national grid, the country's gas supply challenges will be reduced in the coming months.

In addition, Hemmati, appreciating the follow-ups by the Governor of Bushehr and the Head of the Energy Committee of the parliament regarding the reconstruction of these vital facilities, counted the efforts of experts and personnel in the gas sector as one of the components of strengthening the country's economic resilience and emphasized that the steadfastness and determination of the Iranian nation and economic actors will prevent foreigners from bringing the country to its knees.

Country's dam reserves up 57%

TEHRAN- The water volume in the country's dam reservoirs reached 22.58 billion cubic meters, indicating a 30 percent growth compared with last year.

According to the Mehr News Agency, citing the Iran Water Resources Company, based on the latest statistics of this company, the amount of water stored in dam reservoirs across the country reached 22.58 billion cubic meters. Compared with the same period last year, this indicates an increase of 30 percent.

Despite the growth in reserves compared with last year, an assessment of current conditions compared with the 10-year average shows that the volume of water in the reservoirs stands only five percent above the long-term average.

In addition, the fill percentage of the country's dam reservoirs has reached about 43 percent, and more than 57 percent of the dams' capacity remains empty.

Industry, mining, trade minister visits, inaugurates industrial units in Ardabil province

TEHRAN- The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade traveled to Ardabil province on Saturday to visit several production projects and also inaugurate an industrial unit.

According to IRNA, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak was welcomed upon arrival at Ardabil Airport by the Governor, several representatives of the province's people in Parliament, and officials of executive bodies.

During his one-day trip to Ardabil province, the Minister visited three production units in Ardabil Industrial Estate and inaugurated Arta Casting Company.

The Arta Precision Casting Factory, with private-sector investment, was put into operation in Ardabil in the presence of the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade and local officials, and the groundwork was laid for the development of the country's first private serum production factory in this province.

The inauguration ceremony of the Arta Precision Casting Factory was held on Saturday in the Ardabil Steel Industrial Complex with the presence of Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, the Governor of Ardabil, a group of people's representatives, and officials.

Also, the ArtaPharma serum production factory in Ardabil Industrial Estate No. 2 was visited; in addition to supplying part of the human serum needed by the country's healthcare system, this production unit exports its products to neighboring countries.

The development phase of this complex includes four factories with 6 pharmaceutical production lines and will provide employment for 1,500 people.

With the operation of the ArtaPharma development phase, more than 800 items of medicine needed by the country will be produced, and it can help reduce dependence on medicine imports.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade also visited the Ardabil Textile Factory. With employment of more than 1,000 people, this factory is recognized as the largest textile factory in the country and the West Asia and covers the production chain from cotton to clothing, producing various types of fabric and clothing needed by different age groups.

During his visit to industrial and production units in Ardabil, the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade said: "Some factories and industrial units in Ardabil province are facing a shortage of foreign currency, and to meet their needs, we will make decisions so that they do not face problems."

Mohammad Atabak stated: "Fortunately, good projects have been defined and implemented for the province, and the projects are compatible with the province's conditions; many of them have smooth and good physical progress, and many projects are being completed and can be launched."

He added: "Some shortcomings were observed in the foreign currency supplied for the factories, and today we will make decisions about them; for some projects that are incomplete, we must help complete them by taking scheduling plans into account so that they reach operation in less time."

He continued: "Large factories in Ardabil province, such as sponge iron, must enter the operation and production circuit as soon as possible so that they create added value for the province, and in this regard we will use all capacities."

More than 1,140 production units with employment of over 40,000 people are active in various parts of Ardabil province, including 21 government and private-sector industrial estates and zones, and most of them are located in the provincial center.

Ardabil province, with 12 counties and a population of more than 1,300,000 people, is located in northwestern Iran, bordering East Azarbaijan, Gilan, and Zanjan provinces and neighboring the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Iran pavilion opens at China International Import Expo in Shanghai



TEHRAN- The Assistant to the Head of the Organization and Director-General of the East and Subcontinent Office of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization announced the establishment of the national and commercial pavilion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the authorization of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, Abdolsadeh Nisi, referring to the importance of the China International Import Expo, said: "This event is considered one of China's important trade and international events, and this year it was held with the participation of more than 162 countries in an area of more than 440,000 square meters."

According to statements by this official at the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, in this edition, 4,142 foreign companies are present in the commercial section, and representatives of 69 countries and international organizations are present in the national pavilions section. Also, among the world's top 500 companies, 300 companies have participated in this event.

Referring to the details of setting up the I.R. Iran pavilion under the aegis of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, he stated: "Iran's commercial pavilion began its activities with the participation of more than 50 companies and in an area of 3,600 square meters; some of the participating companies are resident in China, and others have joined the exhibition from Iran. Iranian companies have presented their products and capabilities in the fields of food and consumer industries, handicrafts, petrochemicals, mining, technology, and knowledge-based companies."

Nisi, emphasizing the supportive role of the Tehran and Birjand Chambers of Commerce, said: "The presence of small and medium-sized companies has been made possible with the support of the Tehran and Birjand Chambers of Commerce; it is expected that large petrochemical and mining companies and other capable enterprises will also, by supporting small and medium-sized companies, provide the ground for their broader presence in reputable international exhibitions."

In conclusion, the Assistant to the Head of the Organization and Director-General of the East and Subcontinent Office of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization announced that the supply of export products with advanced technology and attention to the future trends of China's economy, especially the digital economy, energy transition, and environmental protection, are among the other important axes of presence at this exhibition, and added: "The use of online sales platforms has also been considered as one of the tools for developing exports and accessing the Chinese market."

It is worth noting that the opening ceremony of Iran's national pavilion was held with the presence of the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beijing, the Assistant to the Head of the Organization and Director-General of the East and Subcontinent Office of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, Iran's commercial counselors in China, the Director-General of China's Ministry of Commerce, and a number of officials.

TCCIMA pavilion starts operation at CIIE 2026

The pavilion of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) at the ninth edition of the China Import Expo (CIIE 2026) was officially opened on Friday, with the presence of the President and Secretary-General of the Tehran Chamber. After the experience of two consecutive editions of participation in this exhibition, the Tehran Chamber has participated in the China Import Expo for the third consecutive year and has provided a platform for identifying opportunities for cooperation with Chinese economic actors as well as introducing the capabilities of Iranian companies.

Mahmoud Najafi Arab, President of the Tehran Chamber, coinciding with the opening of the Chamber's dedicated pavilion at the Ninth China International Import Expo (CIIE 2026), emphasized the necessity of the effective presence of Iran's private sector in global markets and considered the role of chambers of commerce important and influential in organizing the presence of economic enterprises, introducing the country's production and export capabilities, and facilitating communication between Iranian economic actors and target markets.

Referring to the long-standing relations between Iran and China, the President of the Tehran Chamber described participation in major exhibitions such as the China Import Expo as an opportunity to introduce and examine the trade capacities of the two countries in areas such as energy, petrochemicals, mining and mineral industries, food industries, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, technical and engineering services, and human resources, and said: "Iran's market and our country's geographical position have provided unique opportunities for Chinese companies and can create mutual and sustainable cooperation."

Najafi Arab, referring to the Tehran Chamber's approach to expanding trade interactions between Iranian and Chinese companies and moving beyond the traditional buyer-seller relationship model, emphasized the necessity of developing joint cooperation, technology and technical know-how transfer, and strengthening the production capacity of enterprises in both countries.

As in previous years, with the aim of supporting economic associations and developing exports of Iranian manufactured products, the Tehran Chamber has provided the ground for the presence of five active private-sector companies at this exhibition.

The Tehran Chamber pavilion has been set up in Hall 7.1 of the China Import Expo with the presence of representatives of economic enterprises active in the fields of food and agriculture, dates, dairy products, saffron, and sweets and chocolate.

Joint meeting held between Tehran Chamber delegation, Iranian traders residing in East China

In the joint meeting of the President and Secretary-General of the Tehran Chamber with Iranian traders residing in East China, held with the presence of Iran's Ambassador to China and the Head of Iran's Consulate in Shanghai and on the eve of the opening of the Ninth China International Import Expo (CIIE2026), while identifying obstacles to the development of Iran-China trade, solutions were proposed for strengthening trade relations between the two countries in the areas of investment, identifying high value-added products for entry into export target markets, and empowering economic actors.

The Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beijing and the country's Consulate in Shanghai, held a meeting with the presence of Iranians residing in East China and a group of businessmen. At this meeting, which was held with the presence of the Governor of South Khorasan, the Head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, the President of the Birjand Chamber, and representatives of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization as well as the Iranian Chamber of Commerce of Iranians residing in East China, the capacities and facilities of the Tehran Chamber for serving economic actors residing in East China were explained.

During this joint meeting, Mehdi Farazi, Head of Iran's Consulate in Shanghai, reported the presence of 20 private-sector actors at the meeting, representing Iranian merchants and business owners in East China.

According to him, the meeting was held with the aim of examining target markets, raising the concerns of economic actors, and resolving challenges related to monetary and banking transfers, logistics, achieving sustainable sales, and strengthening investment.

Tehran Chamber's readiness to develop alternative trade routes

At this gathering, Mahmoud Najafi Arab, President of the Tehran Chamber, while referring to the presence of representatives from South Khorasan Province, such as the Governor, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and producers of agricultural products and food industries from that province at the meeting, as well as the capacities of this region for export development, addressed the challenges created by restrictions on trade routes and economic sanctions.

He further spoke of the Tehran Chamber's research cooperation with the Strategic Deputy of the Presidency to deconcentrate the southern ports and strengthen alternative transportation and logistics routes with the aim of facilitating the country's trade exchanges.

Najafi Arab, stating that "China is among Iran's main trade partners and exchanges with this country can be expanded through investment and the transfer of knowledge and technology," added: "The Tehran Chamber is establishing representative offices in some Chinese cities to make economic interactions simpler for private-sector actors. With the same approach, the representative office of the Khorgos International Chamber of Commerce has been established at the Tehran Chamber, and the Tehran Chamber has also stationed a representative in this region."

In another part of his remarks, the President of the Tehran Chamber spoke of the necessity of continuous interaction between the government and the private sector for developing exports of Iranian products, joint production, and increasing investment with the aim of controlling the country's energy imbalance.

Stating that "many raw materials for factories, pharmaceutical machinery, and medical equipment are imported into the country from China," he said that measures need to be taken to support economic actors and facilitate the foreign trade process.

The President of the Tehran Chamber also asked merchants and experts to take steps toward turning threats into opportunities and developing the country's economic exchanges by providing practical opinions and proposals.

Private sector's efforts to preserve export market of saffron value chain

Continuing the meeting, Mohammad Ali Rezaei Kamal Abad, President of the Iranian Union of Medicinal Plants, Saffron and Food Products, announced the launch of a factory in the Khorgos region to enter the Chinese market and said: "According to a report published in 2023, the turnover of medicinal plants in the world was about 120 billion dollars and is still increasing. It is also predicted that the turnover of these products will soon reach 200 billion dollars."

Rezaei, expressing regret over Iran's small share of saffron exports, stated: "Despite cultural promotion for the use of saffron in non-medicinal uses, imports of this product into China via Iran have been less than 30 tons, and this country supplies its saffron through intermediary countries such as the UAE and Afghanistan."

He further, while thanking the Tehran Chamber for creating mechanisms to facilitate the transportation of goods in connection with China, asked Iran's Ambassador to that country to envisage methods for developing saffron exports given its high value added.

In another part of this gathering, economic actors residing in East China raised challenges such as restrictions in monetary and banking exchanges, Iran's small share of trade with China compared with other countries, low product prices and the lack of a reliable export market, the lengthy order registration process, high logistics costs, and restrictions on transportation routes.

The non-acceptance of Iranian students by some Chinese universities was another issue raised at this meeting. According to economic actors, this measure hinders the empowerment of the private sector, and it was further proposed that infrastructural activities in interaction with Chinese universities be carried out by various organizations and institutions.

The board members of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce of Iranians residing in East China also announced the institution's readiness to start joint cooperation projects with the Tehran Chamber in various production and trade sectors.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Trump answers midterm defeat by elevating the 'extremist' architect of his rejected agenda

From page 1 ▶ For a few days Trump sounded almost conciliatory and said he could strike an immigration deal with the opposition.

Then he announced the swap on Truth Social. "I wanted to make a change," he told reporters before flying to Florida. Asked what Miller should do differently, he answered in four words: "Just run things well."

Miller is a 41-year-old pro-Israel Jewish hardliner who has served as deputy chief of staff for policy since January 2025.

He has reportedly drafted or edited nearly every executive order Trump has signed, runs a daily 10 a.m. call with agencies to collect new ideas for the crackdown, and has had some agency posts report directly to him, around cabinet secretaries. After the election, he ran that call as usual and never acknowledged the result, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Some ICE officials now reportedly fear their work will get more dangerous. Polls suggest the enforcement tactics he designed turned off many voters and helped cause the losses.

Wiles takes the fall

Trump has accepted no blame. He reportedly berated Wiles in front of guests at the East Room watch party on election night, and has turned on James Blair, who ran his outside political operation.

Wiles and other advisers had told him until last weekend that Republicans could keep the Senate. Steve Bannon demanded her removal publicly on Friday. Her allies say she is paying for a strategy Trump largely wrote himself.

Wiles previously worked as a consultant on Benjamin Netanyahu's 2020 election campaign



in Israel and reportedly helped advance pro-Israel interests within the White House during her tenure as chief of staff.

Katie Miller, the new chief of staff's wife, spent weeks lobbying for him, Politico reported, urging people to call the president and phoning about half a dozen of them after the vote, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent among them.

Other names discussed included Bill Pulte, Lee Zeldin and Sergio Gor, and the thought of Pulte in charge alarmed many inside the administration.

'A dangerous xenophobe and reckless extremist'

Wiles made clear she did not see her job as protecting the country from the president. Miller is far more willing to push legal boundaries.

In June, Will Scharf, the White House staff secretary, warned in memos against Miller's proposals to suspend detainees' right to challenge their detention in court and to invoke the Insurrection Act.

In an April 29, 2025 memo to Wiles, he reportedly wrote that only Congress can suspend habeas corpus, and only in cases of rebellion or invasion, which was Miller's proposed route for stripping detainees of the right to challenge their detention in court.

Furthermore, with budget director Russ Vought, Miller is charting a second-term agenda of executive actions that need no approval from Congress, and he is helping plan the response to the investigations Democrats have promised.

He has seen this before. Miller is one of two top West Wing staffers who were there in 2018, when the House flipped, and the subpoenas arrived.

Associates say his first test will be Trump's demand to punish perceived enemies. The president has fumed that the Justice Department is too slow against alleged leakers, reporters who publish classified material and political opponents.

Schumer, who is expected to lead the Senate, said Trump "learned nothing from his historic defeat." Jeffries, headed for the speakership, called Miller "a dangerous xenophobe and reckless extremist" and demanded he be fired.

Republican praise came mostly from the cabinet and from allies such as Sens. Eric Schmitt and Mike Lee. Rep. Marlin Stutzman of Indiana called the move a "horrible decision."

Exiting Rep. Don Bacon said the president's inner circle is "living in a bubble" and that when he and colleagues warned Miller's staff the approach would cost the midterms, "he didn't believe it."

Miller's answer on X was to vow to "Fight with all of our soul to support our President." Rep. Robert Garcia, set to chair the Oversight Committee, had an answer ready: "Stephen Miller should lawyer up."

'The reason we lost is the war'

"The reason we lost is the war," Vice President JD Vance wrote on X the morning after the Midterms results came in. Trump, asked about it, called that "largely true" because the war "drove gasoline up a little bit short-term," then added that he would launch it again.

Only days earlier he had called it "a very soft war," and in late October he promised fuel prices would "drop like a rock" once it ended. At one point oil topped $100 a barrel, and the national gasoline average jumped nearly 50 cents in a week.

Vance's four-point fix for the party starts with ending the war and ends with a call to "change our relationship to Israel."

A report carried by Fox News said Vance has privately called Netanyahu "wrong on everything" about Iran, and that Netanyahu pressed Trump to resume the war before Trump held off.

Miller has defended the war in public, but the New York Times reported that his pitch for the job was to wind it down, a campaign of aggression that core supporters see as a betrayal. Some Republicans are already demanding "War" Secretary Pete Hegseth's ouster.

US-Israel military aid: End of dependence, or a new chapter?

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – On November 3, President Trump said the U.S. would end what he described as approximately $4 billion in annual aid to Israel by the end of the year.

Trump claimed he had reached an understanding with Benjamin Netanyahu on the move, adding that Netanyahu himself had proposed the idea several months earlier. However, the U.S. announcement came as a surprise, both in its timing and the speed with which it was presented.

In January 2026, Netanyahu had expressed his desire to phase out U.S. military aid over ten years, a position he reaffirmed in May.

The existing agreement between the two sides runs until the end of 2028, meaning Trump's announcement represents a political direction that still requires administrative arrangements on both sides, rather than a fully implemented executive decision. Details concerning which forms of funding are covered by the announcement, and how the termination would be carried out, remain unclear.

Why does Netanyahu want to end U.S. aid?

Netanyahu's proposal was not made without reason, nor can it be understood simply as an attempt to ease Washington's financial burden. The genocidal war on Gaza demonstrated to the regime that, however vital the U.S. military umbrella may be, it remains vulnerable to shifts in American public opinion.

Arms shipments and military assistance can become sources of anger among voters who made their position clear in the U.S. midterms. Voters punished Biden at the Presidential election for supporting a genocidal war, and now they have punished Trump by voting against his Republican Party.

Against this rising anti-Israeli sentiment, Netanyahu is seeking to reduce the regime's security dependence on fluctuations in U.S. domestic politics, particularly as support for the regime has declined among segments of both the Democratic and Republican parties, while opposition to continued funding from American taxpayers has grown.

He recognizes that military aid, long regarded as a central pillar of bipartisan U.S. support for the regime, has become increasingly vulnerable to partisan divisions and electoral pressures.

Yet avoiding political pressure is not the only motivation. Netanyahu wants to redefine the regime's military relationship with the U.S., moving away from receiving financial grants towards a partnership based on arms purchases, technological cooperation, and joint research and development. The Israelis summarized this approach as a transition "from aid to partnership."

Netanyahu has also proposed establishing a joint U.S.-Israeli fund to finance the development of new weapons systems, alongside efforts to strengthen the regime's domestic war industry.

There is also a domestic political benefit. His proposal allows the regime to present itself as a mature economic and military power that no longer needs American grants and can finance a larger share of its own military requirements.

More importantly, this strategy reflects a broader regime ambition to build a more independent military and industrial base, reduce reliance on foreign suppliers for weapons production and development, and give it greater freedom in making military decisions.

That ambition, however, does not mean abandoning U.S. technology or the strategic partnership with Washington.

Financial grants or a strategic relationship?

The current framework for U.S. military aid dates back to a 2016 MOU. It covers fiscal years 2019 through 2028 and is worth a total of $38 billion: $33 billion in foreign military financing, equivalent to $3.3 billion annually, and $5 billion for missile programs, amounting to $500 million per year. Under the agreement, annual assistance totals $3.8 billion, rather than the $4 billion cited in Trump's remarks.

This funding is not simply transferred into the Israeli treasury. Most of the military financing is earmarked for purchasing U.S. weapons and equipment, reinforcing the regime's military ties to the U.S. military industry complex while providing U.S. companies with ongoing contracts and commercial interests.



Cooperation on missile systems, research, and development also extends well beyond the value of the annual grant itself.

It is important to distinguish between ending military aid and ending military cooperation. Trump's own statement referred to the continuation of arms sales, suggesting that the proposed scenario does not involve dismantling military ties.

Rather, it would change the funding arrangement: The regime would pay from its own budget for equipment it previously purchased, at least in part, with U.S. funds, while cooperation in weapons procurement, technology, and joint defense continues.

Another relevant factor is that the current MOU already provides for the gradual elimination of the provision allowing the regime to spend part of its U.S. aid on domestic purchases, known as Offshore Procurement (OSP).

This arrangement is scheduled to end entirely in 2028. In other words, the regime was already moving towards restructuring how it uses U.S. assistance, even before Trump's latest announcement.

Reshaping the alliance, not ending it

Washington continues to regard the regime as its strategic partner in the region, while Israelis remain dependent on U.S. support in areas such as arms procurement, technology, intelligence, and military coordination.

Continued arms sales and cooperation on defense systems would allow both sides to preserve their shared interests, even if the funding arrangement changes.

Nevertheless, this shift carries political significance that extends beyond its financial value. U.S. military aid has never been simply a contribution to the regime's war budget. It has also served as an institutional expression of Washington's commitment to Israeli security and reflected the importance of the relationship within U.S. politics.

When such assistance becomes a subject of partisan and electoral disputes, it reveals that the traditional consensus surrounding it is no longer as firmly established as it once was.

Ending military aid does not mean Washington is abandoning the regime or withdrawing its support for maintaining its military superiority.

Trump reaffirmed that the U.S. would assist Tel Aviv whenever necessary and explicitly stated that arms sales would continue. What is changing, however, is the distribution of financial burdens and the nature of the two sides' dependence on one another.

The regime is seeking to develop a more independent military and industrial capacity that reduces its need for external funding without relinquishing its strategic partnership with America.

This is where the paradox lies: The regime wants to become more independent in building its military strength without losing the U.S. umbrella that helps sustain its superiority.

Can it strike this balance, or will the limits of its military independence continue to be shaped by two factors: its economic capacity and the scale of the security threats it faces, on the one hand, and the extent of the support Washington is willing and able to provide, on the other?

Bahrain's Shia leader urges peaceful defense of tortured defendants facing mass trial

From page 1 ▶ He cast the hearing as a test. The government could honor the clerics' service to the country, or keep treating them as enemies. He gave the public two tasks: use every lawful means to protect the scholars' health, dignity and standing, and stay peaceful, as the scholars themselves always have.

Protests have spread through Shia towns and villages against the detention of clerics and young men and the heavy security around them. Activists reportedly want rallies on the day of the ruling.

Sermons as evidence

On Sunday, the so-called High Criminal Court will rule on 69 defendants: 60 clerics and nine affiliates, among them reciters known as "radoods." 56 are in custody. 13 clerics are tried in absentia.

Prosecutors claim the group sought to "overthrow the constitutional order" and "promote wilayat al-faqih," Iran's doctrine of clerical guardianship, by "controlling" mosques and local gatherings. According to rights groups, the so-called evidence includes religious teaching, books, khums (the Shia religious tax), charitable funds and contacts with scholars abroad.

Among the accused are Sheikh Mohammed Sanqour and Sheikh Ali Al-Sadadi, who led Friday prayers at the Imam Al-Sadiq Grand Mosque in Duraz, home to the country's largest Shia Friday congregation.

Confessions without recordings

Detainees held at the Criminal Investigation Directorate told the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD) of forced standing, prolonged blindfolding and handcuffing, sleep deprivation, and threats of sexual violence against them and their families.

Some were warned of "the same fate as Sayed Mohamed Al-Mousawi," who died in custody in April, a death rights groups attribute to torture.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel continues demolitions and bombardment in southern Lebanon

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israeli engineering units detonated structures in the southern town of Bani Hayyan on Saturday, while artillery crews shelled the outskirts of Wadi al-Hujair, capping another day of heavy military operations across southern Lebanon that lay bare the vacuity of Washington's diplomatic posturing.

Negotiated under intense American pressure, the June 26 framework agreement promised a structured, phased withdrawal of Israeli forces to restore Lebanese sovereignty. Five months later, that pledge has evaporated into an open-ended occupation.

Tel Aviv continuously redraws the boundaries of its military footprint, backed by the implicit guarantee of U.S. political protection and weapons flows.

On the ground, military operations proceed without regard for U.S.-backed diplomatic texts. Overnight artillery barrages battered the peripheries of Baraachit in the Bint Jbeil district and swept into Wadi Zibqin.

On Friday evening, Israeli shells slammed into al-Arayesh between Haris and Hadatha. Farther west along the coast, heavy machine-gun fire rattled near Mansouri and Bayut al-Sayyad, south of Tyre, accompanied by sustained artillery rounds.

In border communities such as Deir Mimas, Israeli soldiers routinely enforce an unwritten military frontier. On Friday, an armed patrol advanced from Kfar Kila, firing directly near Lebanese civilians attempting to harvest their olive trees. Troops forced the farmers off their land and detained a resident, taking him to an undisclosed location.

Mayor Tania Barnaba noted that more than half of Deir Mimas's agricultural land is now completely inaccessible.

Lebanese security sources report that Israeli forces enforce an arbitrary, shifting "yellow line," a mobile security zone



whose coordinates move day by day. Local families attempting to collect their seasonal crops face direct gunfire or abduction by border patrols.

This tactical creep reflects the core structural flaw of the U.S.-brokered deal. Washington designed the framework around conditional clauses that allow Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and War Minister Israel Katz to tie any troop withdrawal to their own unilateral assessment of Lebanese security conditions.

By requiring the complete disarmament of Hezbollah prior to a full Israeli pullback, the agreement effectively grants Tel Aviv a perpetual veto over Lebanese state authority.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Diwali celebration in Tehran puts spotlight on Iran-India ties

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – The Indian Embassy in Tehran celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, on Friday evening with an outdoor gathering at the ambassador's residence, bringing together guests from different countries to mark one of India's most cherished festivals.

Addressing guests and colleagues at the event, Ambassador Vishwesh Negi described Diwali as a celebration of the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair, saying its values offered a broader message of understanding and cooperation in a world facing conflict, uncertainty and division.

"The small clay lamp that is lit in homes and public spaces is modest, yet its light is shared freely. In that simple act lies a lesson: the effect of illumination grows when it is offered to others, not kept to oneself," he said.

Drawing a parallel between Diwali and international relations, Negi described diplomacy as a patient effort to find common ground, replace mistrust with dialogue and build partnerships capable of enduring beyond crises.

He stressed the importance of keeping communication channels open despite disagreements, saying lasting relations require trust, kindness and a willingness to regard other nations as partners in a shared human story.

Negi also highlighted India's longstanding civilizational connections with the countries represented at the gathering, noting that historical exchanges of ideas, goods, languages and religious beliefs had extended beyond commercial relations.

"These ties were never merely commercial; they were civilizational," he said, adding that Diwali offered an opportunity to renew traditions of mutual benefit and shared growth.



Indian Ambassador Vishwesh Negi(center) lights a candle during a Diwali celebration in Tehran on November 6, 2026.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the ambassador called for collective efforts to promote peace, inclusive prosperity and diplomacy that measures success not only through agreements but also through the hope and confidence they generate.

Speaking to the Tehran Times on the sidelines of the event, Negi expressed optimism about the prospects for expanding tourism between Iran and India, citing their shared historical and cultural heritage as a foundation for closer people-to-people connections.

Asked why the number of Iranian and Indian tourists traveling between the two countries remains below its potential, despite their cultural affinities, the ambassador said the common heritage provided significant opportunities for developing cultural and tourism cooperation.

Negi said he had recently visited Tehran's Milad Tower and become acquainted with an example of modern Iran's attractions.

He said he intended, as far as possible, to introduce both Iran's ancient heritage and its contemporary attractions to Indian audiences.

The ambassador also said he saw a promising outlook for bilateral tourism and would explore possible ways to facilitate travel for Iranian visitors to India.

His remarks underscored the potential for tourism to complement broader cultural and diplomatic engagement between Tehran and New Delhi, particularly through greater awareness of each country's historical landmarks and contemporary destinations.

Heavy rain does not disrupt festivities

The Diwali celebration was held in the open-air grounds of the Indian ambassador's residence in Tehran.

Organizers had arranged large tents and gas-powered heaters in anticipation of rainfall, following weather forecasts predicting precipitation.

Heavy rain began during the event but did not disrupt the gathering, as the preparations enabled participants to continue the festivities comfortably.

The celebration concluded on a festive note, with a brief but striking fireworks display adding to the evening's atmosphere.

Although Diwali officially falls on November 8, the Indian Embassy in Tehran held its celebration two days earlier, on Friday, November 6. The choice of date was likely intended to take advantage of the public holiday in Tehran, when lighter traffic and less congestion make it more convenient for guests to attend.

SPORTS

Alireza Nasiri wins silver at 2026 World Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN - Iran's Alireza Nasiri claimed the silver medal in the men's 110kg category at the 2026 World Weightlifting Championships on Friday.

Nasiri finished second overall with a total lift of 418kg, recording 180kg in the snatch and 235kg in the clean and jerk.

Uzbekistan's Akbar Djuraev captured the gold medal, lifting 198kg in the snatch and 234kg in the clean and jerk.

Turkmenistan's ?ahzadbek Matýakubow secured the bronze medal with a combined total of 417kg, comprising 187kg in the snatch and 230kg in the clean and jerk.

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

Iran announce 12-man squad for AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup

TEHRAN - Ali Naderi, head coach of Iran's national beach soccer team, has announced his final 12-man squad for the 2026 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup, which will be hosted by Thailand.

The 12 players selected to represent Iran are: Mohammad Dastan, Mohammadali Mokhtari, Ali Mirshekari, Mehdi Shirmohammadi, Mohammad Masoumizadeh, Mehdi Mirjalili, Ali Nazem, Movahhed Mohammadpour, Saeed Piramoon, Sobhan Faleh, Davoud Shokri and Reza Diri.

Iran have been drawn in Group B alongside Afghanistan, Lebanon and Vietnam.

Team Melli will kick off their campaign against Afghanistan on Nov. 19.

Bam Khatoon out of AFC Women's Champions League 2026/27

TEHRAN - Ayeyawady FC - Women ended their AFC Women's Champions League 2026/27 Group A campaign in style after cruising 3-0 past Bam Khatoon FC at the Thuwunna Football Stadium.

Nwe Than Than scored in each half with Hinari Miyamoto adding a third just after the hour-mark to seal the win for the Myanmar side, who finished third in the standings with three points ahead of winless Bam Khatoon.

Both sides came into the tie after suffering back to back defeats but it was the Myanmar side who capitalized on a shaky start from Bam Khatoon.

Ayeyawady's high press forced Bam Khatoon's Melika Motevalli into an error as early as the second minute allowing Nwe Than Than to pounce on the loose ball and release Phyu Phyu Win, whose effort from distance looped over goalkeeper Raha Yazdani and settled in the net, the-afc.com reported.

Bam Khatoon tried to respond, but Mona Hamoudi's effort was blocked before Fatemeh Shaban sent a long-range free-kick over the bar in the fifth minute.

Ayeyawady continued to create the better chances, with Min Htone May Zitar firing wide in the 14th minute before Yazdani denied Naw Htet Htet Wai's low effort two minutes later.

The Myanmar side threatened again in the 27th minute when Kurumi Iwashita met Phyu Phyu Win's cross following a corner but sent her effort high, while Shaban's strike sailed narrowly over the bar in the 32nd minute.

Ayeyawady picked up where they left off after the break, with Yazdani denying Nwe Than Than from close range in the 48th minute after she was set up by Naw Htet Htet Wai.

Nwe Than Than made no mistake 10 minutes later, however, when Win Win's through ball released Phyu Phyu Win, who surged into the box before squaring for her teammate to fire into the top left corner.

The Iranian side conceded again in the 63rd minute after Kana Ueda lofted the ball into the box for Hinari Miyamoto, who beat the advancing Yazdani with a deft chip.

Despite their best efforts, Bam Khaton fell short, with Shahnaz Jafari seeing her headed attempt from inside the box in the 80th minute sail over the bar, before Roujin Tamrian was sent off two minutes later after picking up a second yellow card.

Iran U17 team arrive in Laos for AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran's U17 national football team arrived in Laos on Saturday ahead of their participation in the AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027 qualifiers.

The Young Persians have been drawn in Group D alongside hosts Laos, Jordan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Coached by Armaghan Ahmadi, Iran will open their campaign against Pakistan on Nov. 11 at the New Laos National Stadium in Vientiane. They will then face Sri Lanka on Nov. 14 before taking on Jordan and Laos on Nov. 17 and 20, respectively.

Only the group winners will secure qualification for the AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027.

The qualification campaign gets underway on Nov. 8, with 35 teams competing in the 22nd edition of the qualifiers.

The teams have been divided into seven groups, with each group competing in a centralized single round-robin format. The qualifiers will run until November 20, with only the seven group winners advancing to the final tournament, scheduled for May 2027.

They will join nine AFC representatives who have automatically qualified through their participation in the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2026: Australia, China, Japan, Korea Republic, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, 13 nations will be aiming to qualify for the tournament for the first time: Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chinese Taipei, Guam, Lebanon, Macau, Maldives, Mongolia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palestine, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Tractor beat Kheybar in 2026/27 PGPL

TEHRAN - In the 12th week of the Iranian Pro League, Tractor Tabriz faced Kheybar Khorramabad in an important match and secured a 2–0 victory.

The match featured several physical challenges, goal-scoring opportunities, and disciplinary incidents. However, Tractor ultimately came away with all three points.

Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh was the star of the match, scoring both goals to secure the victory for his team.

With this win, Tractor moved up to 23 points, placing third in the league table, despite having played one game fewer than some of their rivals.

Kheybar Khorramabad, meanwhile, suffered a defeat despite their efforts to earn points. They remain in 10th place with 14 points.

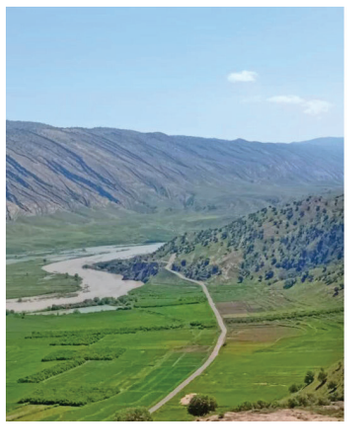
Esteghlal also drew 2-2 against Esteghlal Khuzestan in Ahvaz, despite taking the lead in the first half through a goal by Adel Hardani.

The home side staged a late comeback, with Mehdi Mousavi equalizing in the 87th minute before Aref Rostami scored in stoppage time to secure all three points for Esteghlal Khuzestan.

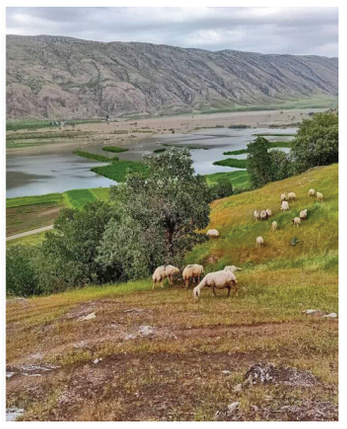
Esteghlal's difficulties were compounded by two red cards, with Aref Aghasi and Jasir Asani both sent off during the match. But at the dying moments of the match, Hardani completed his brace and earned a point for Esteghlal.

Esteghlal remain fifth in the Persian Gulf Pro League standings with 22 points.

Cham-Jangal, a hidden natural retreat along the Seymareh river







TEHRAN – Tucked between oak-covered mountains and the scenic Seymareh River in western Iran, the village of Cham-Jangal offers a glimpse of a landscape where rugged mountains, lush woodlands and traditional rural life come together.

With its panoramic river views, agricultural heritage and a remarkable natural attraction that releases cool air even during the hottest months, the village has considerable potential to become a destination for nature lovers, although the loss of some of its historic pomegranate orchards to the rising waters of the Seymareh Dam reservoir has cast a shadow over its agricultural landscape.

Located in the Rudbar rural district of central Sirvan county, Ilam province, Cham-Jangal lies about 11 kilometers from Loomar, the county's main town. The village sits near the Seymareh River, surrounded by the mountains of Zoreh, Taghtuq and Lavala, whose slopes are covered in native oak forests.

Its elevated position provides sweeping views of the river and the surrounding countryside, making the village particularly appealing in spring, when the mountains turn green and the oak woodlands create a striking natural backdrop.

Speaking to ISNA news agency, Lida Mirzaei, the village head, the combination of mountainous terrain, woodland and proximity to the river gives Cham-Jangal distinctive potential for nature-based tourism.

Spring is among the best times to experience the area, when vegetation flourishes and the surrounding hills offer attractive landscapes for walking, photography and outdoor exploration.

A natural refuge from summer heat

Among the village's most distinctive attractions is a natural formation tucked inside a mountain. Resembling a small cave, the site releases remarkably cool air during summer, creating a natural refuge from the surrounding heat.

The unusual phenomenon has made the formation a popular gathering place for local residents and an attraction for visitors seeking cooler surroundings during the warmer months.

Together with the nearby oak forests and mountain scenery, the site could provide a foundation for developing small-scale nature tourism, particularly activities centered on hiking, landscape appreciation and visits to rural communities.

The surrounding mountains of Zoreh, Taghtuq and Lavala also offer opportunities for exploring the area's natural environment. Their woodland cover and elevated viewpoints provide a variety of landscapes within a relatively compact rural setting.

However, turning these natural assets into a sustainable tourism destination would require improvements to basic infrastructure and careful management of the surrounding environment.

Rural life shaped by farming and livestock

Despite its tourism potential, Cham-Jangal remains primarily an agricultural community.

According to the 2016 national census, the village had a population of 203 people living in 120 households. Of these, 71 households were permanent residents, while the remainder lived there seasonally.

Wheat, barley and rice are among its main agricultural products, while livestock raising has long been an important part of the local economy.

The village's agricultural land and access to water have traditionally supported farming and animal husbandry, shaping both the livelihoods and daily routines of its residents.

Pomegranate orchards were also once an important feature of the local agricultural landscape, contributing to household incomes and the village's rural character.

That agricultural heritage, however, has been affected by the Seymareh Dam project.

The cost of a rising reservoir

One of the most significant challenges facing Cham-Jangal is the impact of the rising water level in the Seymareh Dam reservoir, which has affected parts of the village's agricultural land.

Farzad Sharifi, director-general of Ilam's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said some of the village's pomegranate orchards had suffered damage after becoming exposed to flooding as the reservoir level rose.

The losses have affected not only farmers' incomes but also part of the village's agricultural capacity and natural landscape.

The situation highlights a challenge facing communities around major water infrastructure projects: balancing the benefits of development with the economic and environmental interests of people whose livelihoods depend on the land.

For Cham-Jangal, protecting the remaining agricultural resources and addressing the consequences of the reservoir's rising waters are important considerations in any long-term development strategy.

Infrastructure still needs attention

Basic infrastructure is another issue that needs to be addressed if the village is to attract more visitors.

Mirzaei said some of the village's streets have been asphalted, while others still require groundwork and paving. Certain roads also need their curbs and drainage arrangements completed.

She also pointed to the need for environmental improvements, including better-organized streets, green spaces, tree planting and the installation of appropriate urban and recreational furniture.

Such improvements, she said, could enhance the village's appearance, improve residents' quality of life and make it more attractive to visitors.

Iran proposes regional educational cooperation network within ECO

TEHRAN – Iran has proposed the establishment of an educational cooperation network by the Economic Cooperation Organization to promote the exchange of experience, joint research, and scientific and academic collaboration among member states, making use of existing capacities at minimum cost.

The proposal was put forward by Education Minister Alireza Kazemi at the fifth meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Educational Institute, held on Friday with the participation of education ministers from member countries.

Speaking at the meeting, Kazemi emphasized the shared historical, civilizational, and cultural heritage of the peoples of the region, saying the ECO region is more than a common geographical area; it is a land of shared history, civilization, culture, knowledge, and aspirations.

He said the responsibility of today's generation is to turn this valuable heritage into an asset for building a future based on knowledge, education, and solidarity among nations.

The minister described education as more than an instrument of development, calling it an investment in peace, resilience, and the shared future of nations.

He also pointed to rapid technological developments, artificial intelligence, the digital economy, and changes in labor markets, stressing the need to transform educational approaches. Education today, he said, should go beyond the transfer of knowledge and focus on nurturing capable, creative, responsible individuals equipped with critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



Education Minister Alireza Kazemi

Highlighting the ECO Educational Institute's potential to become an active platform for regional cooperation, Kazemi outlined three proposals by Iran to expand educational ties among member states.

The first was the establishment of an ECO educational cooperation network involving universities, teacher-training institutions, and research centers across the region. Such a network, he said, could facilitate the exchange of experience, joint research projects, and broader academic cooperation by making use of existing capacities and requiring minimal additional costs.

The second proposal focused on expanding cooperation in emerging technologies and artificial intelligence in education. Countries in the region, Kazemi said, should work together not merely as consumers of technology, but as partners in producing knowledge and developing innovative educational solutions.

He identified strengthening technical and vocational education, equipping young people with practical skills, and safeguarding children's and adolescents' right to education during crises as the third priority. No child, he stressed, should become a victim of war or crisis.

Kazemi also described exchanges of students, teachers, experts, and educational experience among member states as important opportunities for regional cooperation. Such interactions, he said, go beyond academic collaboration and constitute a form of educational diplomacy that can foster mutual understanding, unity, solidarity, and friendship among the peoples of the region.

Expressing Iran's readiness to share its educational experience and capacities with other ECO member states, the minister called for turning joint decisions and agreements into practical cooperation.

The ECO Educational Institute, he noted, can become a genuine community of educational cooperation only when its decisions lead to the creation of effective networks connecting teachers, schools, teacher-training centers, and educational institutions across member countries.

Emphasizing the role of knowledge and education in shaping the region's future, Kazemi said that the future of the ECO region would be determined not by wars and conflicts, but by knowledge, education, creativity, cooperation, and the will of its peoples.

He called on member states to strengthen educational cooperation and turn the ECO Educational Institute into a symbol of the region's collective determination to achieve progress, peace, and development.

Sustainable peace, he concluded, must first be established in the minds and thoughts of future generations before it can take shape along geographical borders, and education is the most important means of achieving this goal.

Iranian, Iraqi officials explore avenues for developing academic ties

TEHRAN - Iranian and Iraqi academic officials have discussed ways to expand scientific cooperation and strengthen academic ties between universities in the two countries.

Iran's scientific counselor in Iraq, Mohammad-Javad Najafi, and president of Iraq's Northern Technical University, Jasim Fathi Ali Al-Maadidi, held talks on opportunities for broader collaboration between the two countries' higher education institutions.

The officials met in Baghdad on Saturday, discussing the potential to benefit from the capacities of the two sides to enhance joint scientific efforts.

They also highlighted the need to boost cooperation between the Northern Technical University and Iranian universities based on the educational needs and priorities of both parties.

The meeting focused on organizing collaborative training courses, exchanging professors and students, conducting joint research projects, utilizing laboratory and research center facilities, and cooperating in emerging technologies and skill-based training.

The development of collaborations between growth centers, science and technology parks, and benefiting from the expertise of Iranian universities to facilitate industry connections were among the other discussed issues.

The Northern Technical University is an engineering technical college located in Mosul, Iraq. It was founded in 2014 with the aims to develop students' scientific productive skills. Since 2014, the university has seen thousands of graduates progress through its programs, which include agriculture, engineering, and administration.

The university offers technical diplomas, as well as bachelor's and master's degrees, focusing on both theory and practice to ensure the highest standard of teaching. There is a relatively high number of faculty at the university, meaning that there is a high staff-to-student ratio.

Tehran, Baghdad to implement reciprocal scholarship program

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 November 2.

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 to upload their documents until December 2 in order to resolve their outstanding issues.

During an academic session titled "Horizons of Scientific and Professional Development," Iranian and Iraqi officials 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 meeting was organized by the Association of Iraqi Graduates of Iranian Universities in Baghdad.

Najafi, the head of Iraq's Center for Strategic Affairs, Salah Boushi, and a number of Iraqi graduates of Iranian universities attended the meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Semnan: a natural treasure trove of plant and animal diversity

TEHRAN – Semnan Province in north-central Iran is home to a remarkable diversity of plant and animal species, supported by a wide range of natural habitats stretching from forests and mountains to wetlands and vast desert landscapes.

Although often characterized as a land of desert and wilderness, the province's climatic and natural diversity has made it a valuable reservoir of botanical and faunal biodiversity.

Semnan is home to 254 bird species, 69 reptile species, 67 mammal species, 10 fish species, and four amphibian species.

One of Semnan's most remarkable ecological features is that it is home to all eight species of felids found in Iran: the Asiatic cheetah, Persian leopard, Eurasian lynx, caracal, jungle cat, Pallas's cat, sand cat, and wildcat.

The province also provides habitat for a wide range of other wildlife, including the maral (Persian red deer), roe deer, gazelles, Persian gazelle, wild sheep, wild goats, Persian ground jay, and bustard.

Safeguarding this rich natural heritage depends on protecting wildlife habitats, conserving ecosystems, and ensuring the continued survival of species in their natural environments.

To protect this natural asset, a vast expanse of the province—covering an area of 2.8 million hectares—is under the management of the provincial Department of Environment (DOE). The protection network also encompasses national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, no-hunting zones, and privately or collaboratively protected areas.

Data-driven strategies to strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts

Iran ranks among the top 20 countries in the world for biodiversity and is home to a variety of plant and animal species. However, in recent years, certain actions have destroyed habitats and pushed many species to the brink of extinction.

So far, more than two million plant and animal species have been identified in the world, of which 43,000 exist in Iran. In fact, there are 11 types of ecosystems in the world, including aquatic, terrestrial, natural, and artificial ecosystems. Iran has 9 of these 11 ecosystems. Also, out of the 42 types of wetlands in the world, 41 types have been identified in Iran.

According to the DOE, some 2,000 animal species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and inland fish, and about 1,200 fish species have been identified in the country's ecosystems. Of these species, 210 mammal species, 640 bird species, 300 reptile species, 23 amphibian species, and 350 inland fish species can be mentioned. However, Iran's biodiversity, like the rest of the world, faces many challenges such as habitat destruction, overhunting, drought, and climate change.

To strengthen the protection of wildlife species and habitats across the country based on a targeted and strategic approach, the DOE is implementing a comprehensive range of conservation, scientific, legal and operational initiatives, with priorities guided by data and scientific research.

The DOE focuses on a more scientific approach to develop and implement conservation efforts tailored to specific needs of each species and habitat, IRNA quoted Peyman Valizadeh, an official with the DOE, as saying.

It has so far prepared plans for the preservation of 25 endangered species, with thirteen more plans being developed. The plans provide a clear framework for species conservation by delineating the species' status, major threats, conservation priorities, necessary actions, and assessment indicators, he noted.



However, the DOE faces some challenges to implement these measures at national and provincial levels. One of the biggest challenges is securing funding to implement the plans. Developing specialized capacity to preserve species is the other problem. Lack of trained, specialized forces has made it difficult to implement the conservation action plans effectively. Therefore, training specialized personnel, developing experts' capacities in provinces, and strengthening scientific and technical capabilities of the headquarters are put on the agenda, the official highlighted.

Referring to adopted measures to combat wildlife trafficking, Valizadeh said to foster greater coordination among the responsible agencies, the DOE has established a national committee on combating wildlife trafficking; the committee has held three expert meetings so far. Furthermore, the drafting of a comprehensive plan to combat and prevent wildlife trafficking is nearing completion. Furthermore, a comprehensive program to combat and prevent wildlife trafficking is being drafted.

To manage human-wildlife conflicts, efforts have been made to shift the approach from a reactive posture to the identification of critical hotspots, understanding the drivers of conflict, and implementing preventive measures. The DOE has identified some conflict hotspots for species like leopard, black bear, and herbivores; collecting data on black bear in Hormozgan and Kerman provinces is underway.

Moreover, the DOE has signed an agreement with the National Environment Fund and the Agricultural Products Insurance Fund to support local communities and compensate their losses, Valizadeh further noted.

Accurate information on species distribution, habitats, movement paths, and ecological corridor make conservation efforts more effective, he added.

In this regard, the DOE in cooperation with Shiraz University has carried out research to prepare comprehensive distribution maps to identify migration and movement corridors for herbivores and carnivores.

The maps will serve as a management tool for habitat conservation, prevention and management of human-wildlife conflicts, development of conservation priorities, and proper use of smart monitoring and conservation programs, thereby providing a more accurate basis for conservation decision-making, Valizadeh said.

The official went on to say that the DOE will secure funds, train skilled human forces, and foster intersectoral cooperation to establish an integrated system that benefits from scientific information, field data, capacities of local communities, and the capabilities of executive agencies to develop and implement conservation plans for each species and habitat.



© IRNA / Bahman Zarei

Date harvest underway in Qasr-e Shirin

Farmers in Qasr-e Shirin, western Kermanshah Province, are busy harvesting dates as the region's date-palm groves reach their annual harvest season. Thanks to its favorable climate, the area is one of the country's date-producing regions.

Iran is among the world's major date producers, with its diverse varieties enjoying strong demand in domestic and international markets. Date cultivation plays an important role in supporting local livelihoods, creating jobs, and contributing to the country's agricultural economy.

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 8, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Blessed is the man who always kept the life after death in his view, who remembered the Day of Judgment through all his deeds, who led a contented life and who was happy with the lot that Allah had destined for him.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:22 Dawn: 5:08 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:34 (tomorrow)

Photo exhibition of 19th Mehr Muharram contest opens in Semnan

TEHRAN – The photo exhibition for the 19th International Digital Media Contest of Mehr Muharram, featuring works by photographers from Iran and 12 other countries, launched in Semnan on Saturday, November 7.

Organized at the Kumesh Cultural and Arts Complex, the exhibition showcases 50 selected frames, including 10 single photos from the special provincial section, 24 national single photos, 12 international single photos, and 4 photo series, IRNA reported.

The works for the international section were judged by 35 photographers from Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, and the United Kingdom.

These photos were selected by the judges from among 5,294 submissions sent to the secretariat of the 19th edition of the Mehr Muharram contest from 33 provinces across the country and 12 countries.

The submitted works focus on themes including mourning rituals of the months of Muharram and Safar, Arbaeen, home-based mourning gatherings (Rowzeh), and the Martyr Leader.

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and one of the four sacred months in Islam. It is particularly significant in Shia Islam because it commemorates the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE, during which Imam Hussein (AS) was brutally killed along with many members of his



family and companions by the Umayyad caliph Yazid.

The battle took place on Muharram 10, known as Ashura, and became one of the defining events in religious memory. For Shia Muslims, the first ten days of Muharram are a period of mourning and remembrance for Imam Hussein and the other martyrs of Karbala.

Safar is the second month of the Islamic calendar. Arbaeen falls on Safar 20, forty days after the Day of Ashura, which is observed by Muslims as the traditional period of mourning in Islamic culture is forty days.

The photos will remain on display for enthusiasts until November 11, at the Kumesh Cultural and Arts Complex in Semnan.

The closing ceremony of the 19th International Digital Media Contest of Mehr Muharram will be held on Wednesday, November 11.

Cartoon of Day



Freedom Executed
Cartoonist: Jose Alberto Rodriguez Avila from Cuba

Mehr Media Group CEO proposes international cooperation on AI in journalism at Beijing summit



TEHRAN- Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati, CEO of Mehr Media Group, has proposed the establishment of an international working group for cooperation and knowledge-sharing on artificial intelligence in journalism, as well as joint investment in developing an open-source AI-powered editorial management system, during the 7th World Media Summit in Beijing.

Speaking on Saturday at the international gathering, Rahmati highlighted the opportunities and challenges artificial intelligence presents to the media industry, stressing the need for international cooperation to ensure that intelligent technologies contribute to shared development, credible journalism and a fairer global information environment.

The 7th World Media Summit, which is being held in Beijing from November 5 to 9, has brought together nearly 500 representatives from close to 330 mainstream media outlets, think tanks, government bodies, the United Nations and other international organizations across 112 countries and regions.

Held under the theme "Media in the Intelligent Age: From Consensus to Action," the summit is jointly organized by Xinhua News Agency and the Beijing Municipal People's Government. It addresses the growing impact of artificial intelligence on the production, distribution and interpretation of information, as well as the challenges facing media credibility in an era of increasingly sophisticated digital technologies.

Rahmati, who heads Mehr Media Group, comprising Mehr News Agency and the English-language daily Tehran Times, drew on Iran's recent experience of war to illustrate the dual role of AI in contemporary conflicts, both in military decision-making and in reporting their human consequences.

Referring to the Minab school tragedy, in which 168 children and teachers were martyred, he said investigations had indicated that inaccurate analysis by an AI system used by the US military was the most likely cause of the incident, while AI had also helped media outlets document the event and convey the suffering caused by the loss of the children.

He argued that such experiences underline the responsibility of media organizations to safeguard truth and human values when intelligent technologies increasingly influence both critical decisions and public understanding of events.

Rahmati also called for a shift away from restrictive approaches to technological development, emphasizing that no society should be excluded from shaping the future of the media industry.

Below is the full text of his speech:

Esteemed Colleagues and Dear Friends,

Good day.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Fu, his colleagues at Xinhua News Agency, and everyone involved in organizing this summit for providing us with a valuable opportunity to discuss the future of media in the age of artificial intelligence.

The theme of this summit raises a fundamental question: In a world where AI is rapidly changing the way information is produced, distributed, and interpreted, how can we ensure that this new system for producing and processing knowledge serves all of humanity? And what kind of future do we want for the world's media?

I come from a country that has faced two wars over the past two years, wars in which AI has been used for both beneficial and harmful purposes.

Leaving aside the possibility of a deliberate US attack on the Minab school, for which there is also evidence, in which 168 children lost their lives, investigations indicate that inaccurate analysis by the AI system used by the US military was the most likely cause of this crime. At the same time, AI also helped the media tell the story of what happened and describe the suffering caused by the loss of these children.

This raises a second question: When intelligent technologies play a role both in making critical decisions and in shaping the public account of events, what is the responsibility of the media toward the truth, human beings, and public opinion?

This experience draws our attention to a broader issue: the relationship between knowledge, power, and responsibility in the age of intelligent technology. Access to AI, by itself, does not mean better understanding or fairer dialogue. We must work to better understand how the media can turn the power that comes from knowledge into an opportunity for cooperation and shared development.

We need to build a fair world through shared development. To build such a world, we need more bridges of cooperation and less of the mindset of "small yard, high fence," so that no society is denied the right to help shape the future.

On this basis, I would like to put forward two proposals to strengthen the media's capacity to use and provide AI.

First Proposal: Establishing a Working Group for Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing on AI in the Media

This proposal involves bringing together interested and active media organizations to strengthen their knowledge and expertise in AI.

The working group could take the lead in identifying key topics for exploring the future of AI. It could assess how media organizations use AI, examine changes in audience behavior and media consumption patterns, share knowledge and experience about the practical uses of AI, and work with international organizations to propose a desirable future for the media and ways to achieve it.

Second Proposal: Joint Investment in the Design and Development of an Open-Source, AI-Powered Editorial Management System

This system could provide a set of adaptable tools to support journalistic work, from searching and organizing documents and data to speech transcription, translation, preliminary fact-checking, keyword suggestions, support for producing multilingual content, and information verification.

As a first step, we could establish a joint group of media organizations, AI specialists, universities, and research centers to identify the actual needs of newsrooms, design the system's initial structure, and develop a pilot version with the participation of several media organizations.

Distinguished Guests,

Through cooperation, joint investment, and respect for the diversity of civilizations, we can choose a shared path. The question is not only what AI makes possible for us. The question is what kind of future we, as media organizations, will build with its help.

Thank you.

The proposals reflect a broader call for media organizations to move beyond competition and work together in developing accessible technological resources, sharing expertise and ensuring that artificial intelligence serves journalism and the public interest. The summit provides an international platform for such discussions, bringing together media professionals and policymakers to explore practical responses to the opportunities and challenges of the intelligent age.

TMoCA cinematheque to show French documentary about Iran

TEHRAN – Concurrent with the exhibition "In Search of Iran: In the Collection of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art," a program titled "In Search of Iran in Cinema" will be held at the museum's cinematheque.

Films in which Iran plays a prominent role will be screened at the event, which will run for five weeks at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) in Tehran, IRNA reported.

Under this approach, the documentary "The Lover's Wind," directed by Albert Lamorisse, will be screened on Sunday, November 8. After the screening of the 1978 movie, Mehrzad Danesh, a film critic, will speak about it.

"The Lovers' Wind" is a dreamlike documentary film that scans Iran's stunningly variegated landscape of both natural and manmade wonders.

The documentary beautifully depicts landscapes of Iran from an aerial view, showing waters of the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf in the south, palm trees in the west, central deserts and eastern meadows, ruins of ancient historical sites like the city of Susa and Persepolis, as well as people in different locations.

About 85 percent of the film was shot from a helicopter. Although it shows real images of the country, there is a fictional (and funny at times) narration by the acclaimed Iranian veteran filmmaker, writer, editor, translator, and voice artist Manouchehr Anvar.

Iranian traditional and ethnic music also accompanies the picture and narration. The composition by Master Hossein Dehlavi includes several pieces with Persian instruments tar, tonbak, santur, ney, and violin, greatly contributing to each scene.

In Persian, the title of the movie is translated as "Saba Wind," coming from the northwest, symbolizing the message of love. The film is lyrically narrated by the voice of the wind.

Born in Tehran, Anvar, 98, graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and started his artistic career in 1958 after returning to Iran.

Lamorisse (1922-1970) was a French filmmaker, film producer, and writer of short films, which he began making in the late 1940s. He also invented the strategic board game Risk in 1957.

In the filmmaking sphere, he invented a steady-camera mounting system for helicopters, called "helivison," which helped support his lifelong fascination for filming aerial subjects, as well as for filming ground-level subjects from the air.

Thanks to his unique aerial documentary capabilities, Lamorisse was commissioned in 1968 by the Iranian Ministry of Art and Culture to make a film celebrating Iran's magnificent culture, from ancient times up to the present, that would feature his patented aerial photography.

Lamorisse completed much of the shooting for the film in 1969, most of which (about 85 percent) featured aerial cinematography, in accordance with his own poetic view of what the film should be about. He came back in 1970 to shoot more material featuring modern industrial developments, but was killed in a helicopter crash while filming the Karaj (Amir Kabir) Dam 63 km northwest of Tehran.

His widow and son, both of whom had been working as assistants on this film's production, completed the film, based on his production notes, and released it eight years later in 1978. It was nominated for a posthumous Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 1979.

There is also a postscript to the story, in the form of a six-minute film. After the accident at Karaj, Lamorisse's camera was retrieved from the wreckage, and its film was developed in the lab of the Ministry of Art and Culture. The footage was then edited together by Iranian members of his original crew to create a tribute to the director and a memorial of his death.

The "In Search of Iran in Cinema" program will continue, in the coming weeks, with films including "O Iran" by Nasser Taqvai, "Ferdowsi" by Abdolhossein Sepanta, "Iran Is My Land" by Parviz Kimiavi, and "Bashu, the Little Stranger" by Bahram Beyzai.

The program is organized in collaboration with the National Film Archive of Iran and the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon). Admission is free and open to the public.