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Massie's 'kissed The Wall' jab lands hard after GOP's historic defeat over Israel

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Thomas Massie needed nine words. "Republicans hit a wall because they kissed The Wall," the Kentucky Republican wrote on X on November 7, just days after his party lost Congress.

The post quietly racked up over 6 million views not long after, the sort of number that makes you raise an eyebrow.

Massie was ousted in May by a primary that AIPAC-linked groups helped make the costliest in House history. He has said that every Republican, but him, has an "AIPAC babysitter." ▸ Page **5**

Yemen hits Aramco tower in Riyadh in response to Saudi attacks on civilians

TEHRAN – An attack on Sunday in the capital of Saudi Arabia damaged an office tower belonging to the state oil company, Saudi Aramco, amid an escalating war between the kingdom and the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF).

The attack came in response to the Saudi air raids on a marketplace and residential buildings on Saturday that left over 120 civilians dead or injured.

The Saudi energy ministry said that no one was injured but that the building in the capital, Riyadh, sustained "minor damage" from "falling shrapnel." The ministry did not say who had launched the attack, but the Saudi authorities said earlier in the day that they had intercepted three missiles fired at Riyadh by YAF, also called Ansarallah. ▸ Page **5**

The war Americans never wanted

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – There is no poll that shows a majority of Americans supporting the illegal U.S. war on Iran. There never was one.

From the moment the first strikes were launched on February 28, the American public was already against it. More than eight months later, in November, the opposition has only hardened.

An analysis of 153 public opinion surveys across seven major U.S. conflicts confirms what the streets have been saying since day one. The illegal U.S. war on Iran is the most unpopular conflict in modern American history, and it is not particularly close. ▸ Page **5**

Macklemore refuses to stay silent on Palestine

TEHRAN - After being dropped from Ed Sheeran's US tour and facing rejection from nine major American arenas, the Grammy-winning rapper is turning his concerts into a platform for Palestinian solidarity.

For many musicians, a successful career means sold-out concerts, international tours and a growing audience. For American rapper Macklemore, however, the past few months have brought a different kind of challenge: how much is an artist willing to risk for something he believes in?

The Grammy-winning rapper, whose real name is Benjamin Hammond Haggerty, has become one of the most recognizable voices in the American music industry supporting Palestinian rights. His outspoken criticism of Israel's military campaign in Gaza has now had direct consequences for his career. He was removed from British singer Ed Sheeran's US tour after calling for a free Palestine during a stadium performance. More recently, he announced that nine major American arenas had refused to host his planned benefit concerts for Palestine. ▸ Page **8**



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The Strait Is Under Maintenance!

Despite repeated statements by US officials claiming that Iran only periodically interferes with shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, the reality on the water tells a different story.

By Mahmoud Mahmoudian

TEHRAN – The Strait of Hormuz remains at the center of the confrontation between Iran and the United States, with Tehran maintaining its restrictions on maritime passage after the US and Israel launched their war against the Islamic Republic on February 28.

What is unfolding in the strategic waterway is not simply occasional disruption to commercial shipping or isolated security incidents. It is a sustained closure of normal commercial passage, imposed by Iran as part of its defensive response to a war initiated by Washington and Tel Aviv. The distinction is important: describing the situation as intermittent interference with otherwise normal navigation obscures the reality of the maritime standoff.

Despite repeated statements by US officials suggesting that the strait remains open and that Iran only periodically interferes with shipping, the reality on the water tells a different story. Normal commercial navigation has not resumed, and vessels seeking passage must contend with Iranian restrictions, security requirements and the consequences of attempting to use unauthorized routes.

The latest developments have further highlighted Tehran's determination to enforce its regulations.

IRGC Navy reports tanker explosions

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy announced that three oil tankers had suffered explosions and caught fire in unauthorized shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz since the early hours of Sunday, with thick smoke from the burning vessels spreading across the sky above the strategic waterway.

The statement said the tankers were ablaze after switching off their navigation and identification systems and as a result of the "malicious actions of the US military's smuggling and aggressor force." ▸ Page **3**



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Storm floods 70,000 tents in Gaza as Israel keeps shelter supplies out

TEHRAN — Rain that began late Friday had flooded about 70,000 tents across the Gaza Strip by Saturday, leaving tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians with sodden bedding, no dry ground, and almost no one able to help.

In al-Mina camp, Rana Adnan Hmeida, 29, was awake from midnight, trying to keep her two-month-old daughter warm as water soaked the blankets.

"What am I supposed to do? Hold my children or try to stop the water?" she told Al Jazeera. Olfat Magdoub, another displaced resident, said she had already spent four days on blankets spread over the floor after an earlier downpour. Now her mattresses are wet again. ▸ Page **5**

Iran dismisses US 'Iron Gate' task force as another failed bid to force economic collapse

TEHRAN – Iran has dismissed a newly announced US military initiative targeting its land-based trade and transit routes as another unsuccessful attempt to cripple the country's economy, arguing that Washington's strategy of economic coercion will not achieve its ultimate objective of weakening or dismantling the Islamic Republic.

Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi said the so-called "Iron Gate" plan was little more than a play on words, stressing that the United States would not succeed in bringing about Iran's economic collapse or disintegration through such measures. ▸ Page **2**

Iran's SNSC ratifies agreement with Russia on Rasht–Astara railway

TEHRAN – Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) has ratified the agreement with Russia on the construction of the Rasht–Astara railway, clearing the way for accelerated implementation of the strategic infrastructure project, a senior Iranian official announced.

Hooshang Bazvand, deputy minister of roads and urban development, told Tasnim News Agency on Sunday that the agreement required approval either by the Iranian Parliament or the SNSC. ▸ Page **2**

Oil storages damaged in war 80% rebuilt, official says

TEHRAN – Reconstruction of oil depots and facilities damaged during the war has reached 80 percent, with all infrastructure expected to return to normal operating conditions by the end of November, the head of the National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company said.

Mohammad Meshkinfam said the reconstruction project was unprecedented in terms of the scale of operations and speed of implementation, setting new records for the oil industry during its planning and execution.

Despite wartime conditions and operational constraints, the project contractor was selected and deployed to the site within just three days, allowing reconstruction work to begin immediately. Around 60,000 inches of welding were completed over approximately two months, including during wartime conditions and the Nowruz holidays, he added.

Meshkinfam attributed the progress to close cooperation among the National Iranian Oil Products Refining and Distribution Company, the National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company and the project implementation teams. ▸ Page **4**

QS Asia University Ranking includes more Iranian universities

TEHRAN – The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings has included 50 Iranian universities in the list of top universities in 2027, up from 48 universities in 2026.

University of Tehran with a global ranking of 114 ranks first among Iranian universities, Mehr news agency reported.

Sharif University of Technology (ranking 130 globally) and Amirkabir University of Technology (ranking 191 globally), Iran University of Science and Technology (192), Shahid Beheshti University (232), Isfahan University of Technology (244), University of Tabriz (254), Shiraz University (303), K.N. Toosi University of Technology (343), Babol Noshirvani University of Technology (355), and Shiraz University of Technology (359) are ranked second to tenth. ▸ Page **7**

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Tehran will not back down from its positions

Kayhan examined remarks by Robert Pape, a prominent American political scientist. Pape argued that NATO has moved away from its previous operational role and that the attack on Iran has exposed growing rifts between the United States and its European allies. His comments came amid renewed warnings from the US president about the possibility of resuming military action against Iran after the country's midterm elections. According to the report, Tehran has stressed that it is prepared to respond immediately and effectively to any aggression or complicity with such actions. Iranian officials say the country has broadened its response options and warned regional states hosting US military facilities that involvement in American escalation could have consequences. Tehran has also insisted that the conflict cannot be considered over unless its seven stated conditions are implemented. Iranian authorities argue that written commitments from Washington are not enough and that any future negotiations would require practical guarantees from the Trump administration. The report says Iran continues to emphasize deterrence and remains unwilling to rely solely on diplomatic assurances.

Shargh: Hope for an end to war lifts oil market

In a commentary, Shargh discussed oil-price movements linked to changing expectations about the conflict. Crude prices had remained above $100 per barrel for nearly a month as fears of war weighed on markets. Following the US midterm elections and what it described as a significant Republican defeat, prices fell below that level once again. Analysts cited by the newspaper said hopes for an eventual end to the conflict have strengthened in energy markets. Traders who had previously expected a wider regional confrontation have begun withdrawing from those positions. The main factor behind the fall in prices is the expectation of lower tensions between Iran and the United States after Democratic gains in Congress. Experts also pointed to weaker oil demand, which has helped bring greater balance to the market. Concerns over supply shortages that dominated the early stages of the conflict have eased, reducing pressure on prices. As a result, investors have become less focused on immediate geopolitical risks while continuing to monitor developments in the region.

Khorasan: A new world map on the shoulders of Hormuz

Khorasan examined regional developments and Iran's strategic geographical position. The paper argued that the intersection of three major international corridors could significantly enhance Iran's economic and geopolitical influence. According to the article, Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz and its strategic connection to the Bab al-Mandab route are helping shape a new geopolitical landscape. In this vision, Iran becomes a major crossroads linking regional and global trade networks. The first pillar is the Hormuz energy corridor, which strengthens Iran's role in global energy transit while connecting developments in the Persian Gulf to security dynamics around Bab al-Mandab. The second is China's Belt and Road Initiative, which seeks to revive historic trade routes and improve links between Asian and European markets. Iran is well positioned to benefit from this project because of its geography. The third pillar is the North-South Transport Corridor, linking Russia and northern Eurasia to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean through Iran. According to the article, the combination of these three routes could transform the country into an important hub for trade, transit, and energy. The newspaper concluded that Iran's location is increasingly becoming a source of economic, political, and security influence rather than merely a geographic advantage.

Sobh-e-No: The Iran war is Trump's Achilles' heel

Sobh-e-No analyzed Donald Trump's acknowledgment of the reasons behind his party's electoral defeat. According to the paper, many American media outlets have identified the conflict with Iran as a major factor influencing both public opinion and economic conditions in the United States. The article noted that Trump returned to office promising to end "endless wars" and focus on domestic economic priorities. However, the conflict with Iran created a challenge to that promise. Rising energy prices, pressure on financial markets, and growing concerns about the economy became important issues for many voters. These developments also generated uncertainty among some Republican supporters. Reports cited by the newspaper said dissatisfaction with the war, concerns about the rising cost of living, and frustration with economic conditions were among the main reasons voters shifted toward Democrats. The paper highlighted Trump's reported admission after the election that the conflict with Iran had contributed to Republicans' defeat. According to the analysis, the election demonstrated how foreign-policy decisions can directly affect domestic politics. Economic concerns linked to military conflicts can influence voter attitudes, shape campaign debates, and alter electoral outcomes. The newspaper argued that the results served as another reminder that international crises often have significant political consequences at home, particularly when economic pressures become a central concern for voters.

Iran dismisses US 'Iron Gate' task force as another failed bid to force economic collapse

From page 1 ▸ He recalled that Washington had previously predicted that Iran's economy would collapse within two weeks, but the forecast had failed to materialize.

The remarks came after US Central Command (CENTCOM) announced on November 7 the establishment of Task Force Iron Gate, an initiative designed to extend Washington's maritime blockade of Iran to its land borders and the Caspian Sea.



CENTCOM Commander Admiral Brad Cooper ordered the formation of the approximately 20-member unit, comprising military and civilian personnel based in Tampa, Florida. The task force is expected to coordinate with other US government agencies to prevent the movement of advanced weapons systems, dual-use technologies, sanctioned materials and what Washington describes as illicit revenue streams across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea.

Cooper described the initiative as reinforcing what he called the success of the US naval blockade, claiming that Washington had prevented Iran from exporting more than $25 billion worth of crude oil in recent months.

He said the new mechanism would further restrict Iran's ability to finance military activities, rebuild weapons factories and replenish its armed forces.

Iranian political analyst Seyed Mohammad Marandi, however, ridiculed the initiative, describing it as evidence of the failure of Washington's previous economic pressure campaigns.

In a post on X, Marandi wrote that CENTCOM's so-called Iron Gate blockade was an admission that US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's "Operation Economic Outcast" had failed completely.

In a sarcastic reference to the successive US initiatives targeting Iran, he suggested that the American administration should simply call all its operations "Operation Epic Failure."

The new initiative signals Washington's intention to expand economic and military pressure beyond maritime restrictions, targeting Iran's alternative commercial and logistical connections, particularly those involving neighboring countries and the Caspian region.

However, the move also raises questions about the practical limits of Washington's ability to disrupt Iran's extensive land-based trade networks and regional economic partnerships. Tehran has repeatedly emphasized its capacity to maintain economic and strategic relations with neighboring countries despite US sanctions and military pressure.

Iran's SNSC ratifies agreement with Russia on Rasht–Astara railway

From page 1 ▸ He said Russia had initially requested that Iran obtain parliamentary approval for the agreement, in line with the procedure followed in Russia. However, following consultations and subsequent efforts, the SNSC approved the agreement last week.

Bazvand said the council's approval would allow the project to move forward at a faster pace.

He added that the remaining 37 kilometers of land along the railway route had been handed over to the Russian contractor last Wednesday, bringing the entire 162-kilometer route under the project's disposal for the necessary surveys, technical studies and field assessments.

The Rasht–Astara railway is a key missing link in completing the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a major multimodal network designed to connect Russia and other countries in northern Eurasia with Iran and markets further south.

Once completed, the railway is expected to strengthen regional connectivity, facilitate freight transit, reduce transportation costs and expand trade between Iran, Russia and other countries along the corridor.

Bazvand described the project as a vital component of international cooperation aimed at developing transport infrastructure in Iran and across the wider region.

Iran holds trial in lawsuit filed by 100 victims of US-Israeli aggression

TEHRAN – An Iranian court has held a hearing in a lawsuit filed by 100 victims of the US-Israeli wars of aggression against Iran, seeking compensation for material, moral and punitive damages arising from crimes committed against the Iranian people.

Hassan Abdolianpour, head of the Judiciary's Center for Lawyers, Official Experts and Family Counselors, announced the proceedings on Sunday, saying the lawsuit seeks to hold the US government, American officials and Israeli authorities accountable for the consequences of their actions.

He said 100 individuals affected by the two wars had initially joined the case as plaintiffs, adding that the number of claimants was continuing to increase.

According to Abdolianpour, the complaint names the US government and American and Israeli officials as defendants and has been filed under Iranian laws concerning the protection of Iranian nationals and the principle of reciprocity.

He stressed that the proceedings would continue in subsequent court sessions, with the Judiciary's Center for Lawyers representing the victims and pursuing their legal claims to secure justice and compensation.

Abdolianpour said that, in coordination with Iran's diplomatic missions, formal notice of the lawsuit had been served on the defendants. Those named include the White House, the US Treasury Department, the US Department of War, American arms manufacturers Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, as well as several Arab states in the Persian Gulf region.



The legal action comes amid broader efforts by Iran's Judiciary to pursue accountability for the consequences of US and Israeli military operations. In a separate case, the Judiciary has issued indictments against 159 American and Israeli officials over the assassination of Iran's Leader and senior military commanders.

The United States and Israel launched their first war of aggression against Iran in June 2025, in a conflict that lasted 12 days. A second round of military aggression began on February 28, 2026, and continued for 40 days before a ceasefire took effect in early April.

Iran makes Trump pay the price

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The Republican Party suffered a crushing defeat in the U.S. midterm elections.

The Democrats won the Senate and the House of Representatives, taking control of Congress for the remainder of Donald Trump's presidency. Trump emerges weakened from what has clearly been a referendum on his presidency, no matter how insistently he denies the connection.

The central question in these elections was whether voters across the country would hold Republicans to account for the president's foreign policy agenda, including the tariffs and the war against Iran, two factors that have driven up the price of both the weekly shop and fuel.

It is evident that they have.

In 1992, Bill Clinton's campaign team coined the phrase "it's the economy, stupid" as its campaign motto. Campaign experts note that voters do not usually rank foreign policy among their principal concerns; but in these elections, the economy and foreign policy, specifically, the disastrous war against Iran, have become one and the same.

In this sense, the key date of Trump's second term was the attacks on Iran of June 2025, which laid bare the errors that have punished his party and, in general, the American people.

Trump promised to lower energy prices. Instead, the war against Iran produced the opposite result, and has continued to do so. The price of a barrel of oil has remained above $100 since June, and this has fed through into prices across the board. Diesel at $6.39 a gallon, for instance, carries an enormous cost: by some estimates, $3,500 a year for the average household.

Exit polls captured that economic cost early on: 62% of voters said the decision to take military action against Iran was wrong. According to several Western outlets, including NBC, 95% of those who voted for Democratic candidates said it was the wrong decision, against 22% of Republican voters; the remainder backed it in similar proportion (77%).

Overall, 74% of voters said the war was either a "crucial" issue or an "Important factor" in deciding how to vote.

Trump himself, in an interview with Fox News on election night, acknowledged that the war against Iran and its economic consequences, among them the rise in petrol prices, had contributed to the Republicans' defeat.

The war against Iran has become a political boomerang that ended up striking those who had been cheering it on from the start. The link between the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, rising world oil prices and costlier petrol for American consumers is hard to ignore. What began as a military confrontation thousands of kilometers from U.S. shores has become a domestic economic and political problem. Americans pay more every time they fill up, and the administration is paying a political price for it.

This is what Iran set out to achieve: to show the Trump administration that the colonial illusion of waging a war without economic and political consequences was not possible. The election results have proved it right.

Now, in any rational scenario, all of the above would mean the end of American adventurism in Iran and the region. Trump and his administration would grasp that the war has exposed American vulnerability to supply disruptions in the Persian Gulf, and the sensible course for Washington would be to leave the region for good and never return.

But the problem is that the United States is not a rational political formation. All signs point to the "lame duck", the leader who keeps the office but loses influence as the end approaches, not materialising this time. With no political future ahead of him, Trump could opt for all-out military escalation against Iran in a bid to reverse the defeat.

But what would he achieve by it, beyond inflicting more suffering, economic turmoil and, potentially, an open rebellion within his own party?

The absence of rationality in American politics is not the exclusive property of the Trump administration. The same was true of Biden and his unwavering support for Israel in the genocide in Palestine.

American voters have delivered an unequivocal verdict: the war against Iran has been a disaster, economic, political and reputational. The question is whether politicians will be capable of understanding the message.

Iran condemns Saudi airstrikes on Yemen, calls for immediate end to military ops.

TEHRAN – Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly condemned Saudi military airstrikes on Yemen, particularly attacks on civilian infrastructure and residential areas that killed dozens of people, including children, describing the operations as violations of international law and humanitarian principles.

In a statement issued on November 8, the ministry reaffirmed Iran's position in support of Yemen's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, condemning military aggression against the country as well as its economic and aerial blockade.

The statement specifically denounced airstrikes carried out on November 6 against a public market in the al-Wazi'iyah area of Taiz Province, which resulted in the killing of 33 Yemenis, including 13 children, and injured dozens of others.

It also condemned an airstrike on al-Shariya village in Bani Hashish District, east of Sana'a Governorate, which killed 33 people, including several women and children.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry further denounced an attack targeting the media team of Yemen's Al-Masirah television network while its members were performing journalistic duties.

It said the attacks constituted a flagrant violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, as well as a breach of fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. The ministry described the attacks as war crimes.

Reaffirming the need for a political solution, Tehran stressed that the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Yemen must be brought to an end as soon as possible through dialogue between the parties, based on the roadmap agreed upon by them.

The ministry said achieving a lasting resolution required an immediate cessation of military operations, the complete lifting of the blockade, and respect for the Yemeni people's right to self-determination.

The Strait is under maintenance!

From Page 1 ▶ The IRGC Navy stressed that Iran's regulations governing navigation through the Strait of Hormuz had been repeatedly communicated to all vessels, warning that ships which defy these rules and cooperate with the US military in attempting to use unauthorized routes would face the same fate.

IRGC Navy also urged commercial shipping operators not to rely on the "fanciful statements of the CENTCOM commander," stressing that compliance with Iranian navigation requirements was essential for safe passage.

The incidents underscore the risks facing shipping companies attempting to navigate the waterway outside the arrangements established by Iranian authorities. The IRGC Navy has repeatedly instructed vessels to coordinate their passage through authorized channels and comply with the regulations governing maritime traffic.

Reality of Hormuz cannot be ignored

IRGC spokesperson Major General Hossein Mohebbi has urged observers to assess the situation in the Strait of Hormuz through developments on the ground rather than statements issued by American military officials.

"Look at the reality of the Strait of Hormuz through the events unfolding there," he said, reiterating that the strategic waterway remains under Iran's control.

His remarks reflect Tehran's position that the situation cannot be understood through Washington's declarations about freedom of navigation or the occasional movement of individual vessels. The decisive issue is whether normal commercial shipping can operate without restrictions and whether the United States can impose its preferred maritime arrangements on Iran.

For Tehran, the answer remains no. The closure has also demonstrated that military superiority alone does not necessarily translate into the ability to guarantee maritime access through a strategically vital chokepoint, particularly when the defending country possesses geographic advantages and asymmetric naval capabilities.

Western analysts acknowledge Hormuz as Iran's strategic asset

The strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz has also been acknowledged in Western policy and security circles, where analysts have increasingly described it as one of Iran's most consequential instruments of leverage in the confrontation with Washington.

A March 23 analysis by Noam Raydan of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, titled Iran's Force Multiplier: Tracking the War's Maritime and Energy Effects, described Iran as having established itself as the principal traffic controller in the strait following the outbreak of the war.

Raydan argued that Tehran's ability to maintain the maritime standoff had become its strongest source of leverage, with the consequences extending far beyond the Persian Gulf to international energy markets.

A separate analysis published by Chatham House in September, titled "How Will the Iran War Reshape the Persian Gulf?" was even more explicit about the strategic implications.

The analysis argued that the war had demonstrated that the Strait of Hormuz offered Iran greater strategic leverage than its missile arsenal, highlighting the waterway's importance as an instrument of economic and geopolitical pressure.

It also noted that Tehran would seek to preserve and institutionalize the leverage acquired during the conflict rather than simply restore the pre-war maritime status quo.

"The US-Israel air strike convinced Washington that victory was imminent, prompting Trump to demand Iran's surrender and to threaten to take the country 'back to the Stone Age', as he put it. Instead, Tehran treated the war as existential, closed the Strait of Hormuz and struck US bases and Persian Gulf energy infra-



structure," Chatham House reported.

Similarly, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), in a recently published assessment of the war's maritime and geopolitical dimensions, described the closure of Hormuz as a potent strategic lever for Iran.

The analysis highlighted the difficulties facing even powerful naval forces attempting to reopen the waterway, particularly given the risks posed by asymmetric maritime capabilities, including naval mines, missiles and drones.

These assessments reinforce a central point: Hormuz is not merely a geographical passage through which a substantial share of the world's energy supplies normally travels. In the context of the war, it has become a strategic instrument through which Iran can impose substantial costs on its adversaries and influence the calculations of Washington and its regional partners.

US strategy has backfired

Iranian military officials have also portrayed the maritime confrontation as part of a broader failure of Washington's strategy against the Islamic Republic.

Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, spokesperson for the Iranian Armed Forces, said the hostile policies pursued by the United States had backfired, leading to Washington's political setbacks, domestic divisions and declining international standing.

He said the US doctrines of aggression, assassination and maximum pressure, alongside its military strategies, had failed to overcome Iran's national will and defensive capabilities.

Shekarchi said the confrontation had exposed the limitations of American military power, particularly in West Asia, and undermined the image of invincibility that Washington had sought to project through its military deployments and equipment.

He added that the United States and its allies had entered the confrontation seeking to destroy Iran but had instead become entangled in a costly strategic contest.

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei, delivered a similar warning in a message on X, mocking the political and military fallout of the war and the Republicans' poor performance in the US midterm elections.

Addressing US Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, War Secretary Pete Hegseth and the CENTCOM commander, Rezaei wrote: "You lost the war and the election. Vance has conceded, Rubio is heading for the exit, Hegseth is about to be fired, and the CENTCOM commander is now a podcaster!"

He then warned Washington against another military confrontation with Iran, saying: "Start a war, and you'll face a devastating response."

Hormuz and Iran's long-term maritime strategy

The strategic importance of the waterway has also been emphasized by Iranian policymakers.

Abbas-Ali Kadkhodaei, caretaker chief of the Expediency Council's secretariat, said developments in the Strait of Hormuz had demonstrated the waterway's importance as an instrument of national influence and financial security.

Speaking at a meeting in Tehran on maritime development policies, he said the latest developments had made the consequences of US policymakers' decisions evident to the American public.

Kadkhodaei stressed that Iran needed to make greater use of its extensive coastline, maritime resources and geographical position, arguing that the country's maritime development policies reflected a long-term strategic vision.

His remarks point to a broader Iranian strategic perspective in which control over maritime access, coastal infrastructure and regional shipping routes is increasingly regarded as an integral component of national security and economic resilience.

Washington faces a difficult strategic choice

The political repercussions of the war have also become a subject of debate among Western political figures.

In an article published by The Times on November 8, British Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy discussed JD Vance's political future following the Republican setbacks in the midterm elections, comparing the vice president's political adaptability with that of former US president Richard Nixon.

Lammy argued that Vance would be better served by pursuing peace if he intended to build a successful presidential campaign for 2028, while warning against a rushed diplomatic settlement that could end the wrong war.

The article reflects growing questions in Western political circles about the domestic political costs of the confrontation with Iran and the possibility that Washington's continued military engagement could further undermine the administration's political position.

For Washington, the challenge is no longer limited to its ability to deploy naval forces or issue declarations about freedom of navigation. It also concerns the political, economic and military costs of sustaining a confrontation in which Iran retains the ability to prevent a return to normal maritime traffic.

The IISS assessment similarly underscores the difficulty of resolving the Hormuz standoff through military means alone. Even where naval forces can facilitate some vessel movements, establishing reliable and unrestricted commercial navigation remains a considerably more complicated undertaking.

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Another important consideration is the ability to negotiate. The current US administration lacks the capacity to engage meaningfully at the negotiating table. However, as British Foreign Secretary David Lammy has suggested, it remains to be seen whether the politically adaptable JD Vance could emerge as the next Nixon.

Who is behind Iran's most influential opposition accounts?

TEHRAN - A former MEK member testifies that prominent social media accounts, protest groups and opposition channels are operated from the organization's headquarters in Albania, using concealed identities to portray their content as coming from inside Iran.

Iranian opposition accounts on social media, particularly on Twitter, now known as X, have long been among the most active and influential accounts during periods of unrest in Iran.

These accounts circulate narratives about what they claim is happening inside the country, publish purported firsthand reports, announce alleged casualties, make claims of revelations and release videos that have not previously appeared online. Their content often receives extensive exposure, with posts attracting hundreds of thousands or even millions of likes and sometimes trending among the platform's most prominent topics.

They can generate waves of online activity, amplify particular narratives and shape public perceptions of events in Iran.

At first glance, audiences may assume that the individuals behind these accounts are Iranian citizens operating from inside the country. However, revelations have occasionally exposed a reality markedly different from what their online profiles suggest.

Previous reports have raised questions about the role of social media platforms, particularly American companies, in amplifying Iranian opposition accounts, as well as alleged cooperation between platform executives and US security and intelligence agencies.

Critics have also pointed to the removal of accounts supporting the Iranian government or opposing broader US policies. Allegations concerning the Pentagon's and Israel's involvement in social media operations have likewise been the subject of previous reports and disclosures.

More recently, fresh revelations concerning several prominent accounts have shed further light on the alleged organization behind such activities.

The People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK), also known as the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MKO), is a longstanding armed opposition organization that was previously designated as a terrorist organization by the United States and European countries. It now operates as an opposition group against the Iranian government.

According to figures cited in reports, the organization has been responsible for the killing of more than 17,000 people in Iran.

Alongside its assassinations of government officials and ordinary citizens, the MEK has a history of intelligence cooperation with the United States and Israel, with numerous examples cited in accounts of its activities.

Former members reveal media operations in Albania

Former members of the organization have recently revealed, for the first time, that media operations rooms exist at its Ashraf 3 compound in Albania, where extensive anti-Iranian content is produced in cooperation with American social media platforms and presented as material generated by individuals inside Iran.

The revelations emerged as proceedings are underway in Iran concerning allegations against the MEK leaders.



During one of the hearings, a former member of the organization appeared as a witness and provided details about its media operations.

The organization's media structure

In his testimony, Mostafa Beheshti, referring to his brief period working in the organization's advertising and midday news department, identified Fahimeh Arvani as the department's principal official.

He said individuals including Asadollah Motanna, Ali Khodaei-Sefat and Saeed Khodaei-Sefat also worked under the department.

Beheshti stressed that no independent decisions were made in Iraq, at Ashraf 3 or at other organizational headquarters.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Londoners condemn US-Israeli threats against Iran

TEHRAN – Anti-war activists, civil society campaigners and Iranian expatriates staged a demonstration outside the US Embassy in London on Saturday, condemning Washington's military threats against Iran and demanding an end to US and Israeli aggression across the region.

The demonstrators gathered in the Nine Elms area, carrying Iranian flags and placards bearing slogans such as "Hands Off Iran" and "No to War." They denounced the hostile policies of Washington and the Israeli regime, warning that further military action would only deepen regional instability and increase the risk of a wider conflict.

The rally was organized by the Stop the War Coalition and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), with the participation of dozens of Iranians living in Britain.

In its appeal for the demonstration, CND pointed to a recent US attack on Iran's Qeshm Island and renewed threats by US President Donald Trump against the Islamic Republic, calling for an immediate end to the war pursued by Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The campaign also drew attention



to the political and international repercussions of the US-Israeli war against Iran, linking the Republican Party's poor performance in the US midterm elections to growing public opposition to the military aggression. It called on the British government to withdraw its support for the war.

Protesters further urged British Prime Minister Andy Burnham to explicitly rule out the use of UK military bases, including RAF Fairford and Diego Garcia, as launchpads for any further attacks against Iran.

They also demanded an end to Western military support for Israel, citing its ongoing genocide in Gaza and military operations across the region as reasons for growing international condemnation.

The demonstration came amid mounting debate in Britain over the country's role in the conflict and the use of its military facilities in support of US operations.

On Wednesday, the British prime minister said the Republican Party's setbacks in the US congressional midterm elections had opened a new opportunity to bring the war against Iran to an end, stressing the need to de-escalate tensions in West Asia.

CBI provides nearly $30b in foreign currency for imports by early October



TEHRAN – The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has provided nearly $30 billion in foreign currency to finance imports of essential goods and other required products from the beginning of the current Iranian year (late March) through October 7, Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati said.

Speaking at a meeting of the Bushehr Province government-private sector dialogue council, Hemmati said the central bank had supplied the funds over a period of seven months and 15 days despite the country's foreign currency constraints.

He stressed the need to carefully manage foreign exchange resources, saying that despite revenue limitations and difficult conditions for oil and non-oil exports, the central bank had prioritized imports of essential goods by anticipating domestic needs and managing available resources.

There had been no shortages of essential goods in the domestic market so far, while the supply of production inputs and medicines would continue, he added.

Hemmati identified inflation management, monetary discipline, securing foreign currency for imports and supporting domestic production as key priorities, stressing the need to balance support for businesses with liquidity management and inflation control.

Abandoning monetary discipline could fuel inflation and further erode household purchasing power, he warned.

He also said the country's banking network had extended more than 9,000 trillion rials in credit since the beginning of the year, with more than 75 percent allocated to businesses. Most of the financing had been directed toward meeting companies' working capital needs.

Referring to the economic objectives of the recent war, Hemmati said the enemy had sought to trigger economic collapse and hyperinflation, cut off foreign currency revenues from exports and halt domestic production. However, these objectives had not been achieved, he added.

The central bank governor said measures taken over the past 40 days to counter pressure on the foreign exchange market had produced positive results, with exchange rates declining during that period.

He said financing production and preventing damage to business activities under difficult economic conditions remained central bank priorities, while emphasizing that credit allocation must reflect available resources and national priorities rather than attempting to meet every financing request.

Hemmati also said the central bank was prepared to help finance the reconstruction of businesses damaged in Asaluyeh, following visits to affected economic units. He added that the bank would pursue concerns raised by business representatives and provincial officials through specialized meetings.

Steel production falls 10.6% in H1

TEHRAN - Iran's steel production declined by 10.6 percent in the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22), mainly due to energy imbalances and the impact of the war, a senior industry official said.

Vahid Yaghoubi, executive deputy head of the Iranian Steel Producers Association, said output declined across all steel product categories, with semi-finished steel production also falling by 10.6 percent.

Speaking at a meeting of the Iran Steel and Mining Industries Think Tank reviewing the industry's six-month performance, Yaghoubi said the production decline had stood at 25 percent at the beginning of the year but had gradually eased month by month to 10.6 percent.

Semi-finished steel production exceeded 13 million tons during the period, he added.

Yaghoubi said that even excluding the effects of the war, steel production had continued to decline, with output of flat steel products down 25 percent and slab production falling 37.5 percent.

The decline in slab production had previously reached 75 percent but was reduced to 37.5 percent following the reconstruction of damaged production facilities, he said.

Overall production of steel products fell by 7.4 percent to 9.903 million tons in the first half of the year.

Yaghoubi added that the steel industry's export value had dropped to $6.5 billion, its lowest level since 2016.

He also pointed to a sharp rise in energy costs, saying natural gas prices had increased 53-fold over the past seven years, while steel product prices had risen only 14-fold. Gas costs for Iranian steelmakers are now about twice the regional average, he said.

Iran authorizes duty-free imports of 4.5m tons of wheat, barley from Eurasia

TEHRAN – Iran has authorized the duty-free import of three million tons of wheat and 1.5 million tons of barley from member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) for 2026, according to a customs directive issued to relevant provincial authorities.

The directive, issued following a letter from the Agriculture Ministry's deputy for trade development and in line with free trade agreements, allocates the import quotas to customs offices in Mazandaran, Gilan, Razavi Khorasan and Golestan provinces.

Of the total wheat quota, Russia accounts for 2.25 million tons, Kazakhstan for 700,000 tons and Belarus for 50,000 tons.

The barley import quota has been set at 1.5 million tons.

The directive also specifies provincial allocations for wheat imports from Russia and Kazakhstan. Mazandaran and Gilan have been allocated 700,000 tons and 200,000 tons, respectively, while Golestan and Razavi Khorasan have been assigned quotas of 100,000 tons and 500,000 tons, respectively.

Under the directive, the zero-tariff exemption will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis according to the priority of import order registration. The exemption will be applicable at all customs offices across the country for wheat and barley originating in EAEU member states.

Investment opportunities worth $300b presented to Chinese investors

TEHRAN – Iran has presented a portfolio of investment opportunities worth approximately $300 billion to Chinese investors, as officials from both countries seek to expand trade and investment ties.

The Iran-China Investment and Trade Forum was held on the sidelines of the ninth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, bringing together economic and diplomatic officials, executives of major Iranian companies and Chinese business representatives.

Around 300 businesspeople, trade association representatives, chambers of commerce and Chinese officials attended the event, which focused on cooperation opportunities in the Iran-China trade supply chain.

Iranian Ambassador to China Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, addressing the forum, highlighted the 55th anniversary of the establishment of modern diplomatic relations between the two countries and the 10th anniversary of their comprehensive strategic partnership. He called for greater use of existing capacities to expand economic and technological cooperation.

He said Iranian companies participating in the expo represented sectors including energy, petrochemicals, mining, agriculture, food processing and emerging technologies. Iran's national pavilion was showcasing not only traditional products but also the country's scientific and technological capabilities.

Medical diagnostic equipment, nanomedicine, biopharmaceuticals and medicinal plants were among the products and capabilities on display, offering opportunities to develop joint value chains with Chinese companies, the ambassador said.



He also identified joint research, emerging industries, clean production, technical standards, infrastructure, renewable energy, smart transportation and the green economy as promising areas for bilateral cooperation.

Investment opportunities across 11 sectors

Mehdi Heydari, deputy economy minister, said Iran had prepared a portfolio of around 150 projects across 11 strategic sectors, with a combined estimated value of $300 billion.

He put the investment needed to modernize and expand the country's energy and infrastructure sectors over the next five years at approximately $250 billion.

Around 30 of the projects presented to foreign investors are in the petrochemical sector and require more than $45 billion in investment, he added.

Abdol-Sadeh Nisi, an adviser to the head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO) and director general of its East Asia and Oceania Department, identified expanding exports of higher-value-added goods and strengthening trade corridors as the two main areas for economic cooperation between Iran and China.

He called for a shift away from exports of raw and semi-processed materials toward processed products in sectors such as food, agriculture, petrochemicals, mining, construction materials and manufacturing.

South Khorasan Governor Seyed Mohammad Reza Hashemi also outlined his province's economic potential and invited Chinese businesspeople and investors to visit and explore its investment opportunities.

He cited the province's more than 58 active mineral types, over 300 sunny days a year and potential for solar and wind power generation as key investment advantages.

South Khorasan produces around 98 percent of the world's seedless barberries, ranks first in Iran in jujube production and second in saffron production, and is home to about 80 species of medicinal plants, Hashemi said. These resources offer opportunities for investment in agricultural processing and exports.

Hossein Roozbeh, head of the Organization for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation Development, called for moving beyond traditional trade exchanges toward technological and industrial partnerships and joint investment.

Mehrdad Rahimi, deputy for international affairs at the National Petrochemical Company, highlighted the importance of the Chinese market to Iran's petrochemical industry and called for expanded cooperation in investment, financing, transportation and completion of the industry's value chain.

Cooperation with Chinese companies to increase production capacity, complete petrochemical projects and expand markets for higher-value-added products were among the priorities discussed.

Representatives of Iranian and Chinese companies and institutions also exchanged views on project opportunities, industrial cooperation, financing arrangements, investment guarantees and participation in supply and production chains.

The forum provided an opportunity to present Iran's economic potential to Chinese businesses and establish direct links between companies from the two countries. Iranian officials said they were ready to pursue long-term partnerships with Chinese investors, which could help boost non-oil exports, complete value chains, facilitate technology transfer and strengthen economic ties.

26th Iran International Electricity Exhibition opens with 420 companies



TEHRAN – Iran's 26th International Electricity Exhibition opened in Tehran on Saturday, bringing together 420 domestic and foreign companies in the presence of Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi.

The exhibition, supported by the Energy Ministry and professional electricity industry associations, is being held at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds from Nov. 7 to 10 under the slogan "The Electricity Industry: The Foundation of Resilience."

A total of 420 companies are participating in this year's event, including 350 Iranian and 70 foreign firms, showcasing their latest achievements, advanced technologies, products and technical capabilities across various segments of the electricity industry.

Recognized as the country's largest specialized event in the power sector, the exhibition provides a platform for manufacturers, experts, knowledge-based companies and international industry players to exchange technical expertise, facilitate technology transfer and explore opportunities for expanded cooperation and greater synergy across the sector.

CBI allocates $800m in new loans to SMEs

TEHRAN – Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has pledged to provide an additional 400 trillion rials ($800 million) in loans to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak said on Saturday.

Speaking at a meeting with entrepreneurs and business representatives in Ardabil Province, Atabak said a support package introduced in December 2025 had initially been designed to assist SMEs. However, assessments showed that a significant portion of the loans had instead gone to large companies.

As a result, the Central Bank of Iran has committed to allocating an additional 400 trillion rials specifically to small and medium-sized businesses, he said.

Atabak also pointed to the country's foreign currency constraints, saying they had affected some trade policies. Encouraging producers to expand exports and introducing appropriate incentives would help generate more foreign currency earnings, while restrictive export regulations could undermine shipments and foreign currency revenues, he added.

The minister stressed the importance of repatriating export earnings, noting that some exporters had failed to return their foreign currency proceeds to the country.

Addressing rising production costs, Atabak said the gap between consumer and producer inflation had widened, with consumer inflation standing at 83 percent and producer inflation at 117 percent, according to figures presented at the meeting.

He warned that continued increases in production costs could erode the competitiveness of domestic manufacturing, leading to lower output and job losses, while further inflationary pressures could eventually be passed on to consumers.

Oil storages damaged in war 80% rebuilt, official says

TEHRAN – Reconstruction of oil depots and facilities damaged during the war has reached 80 percent, with all infrastructure expected to return to normal operating conditions by the end of November, the head of the National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company said.

Mohammad Meshkinfam said the reconstruction project was unprecedented in terms of the scale of operations and speed of implementation, setting new records for the oil industry during its planning and execution.

Despite wartime conditions and operational constraints, the project contractor was selected and deployed to the site within just three days, allowing reconstruction work to begin immediately. Around 60,000 inches of welding were completed over approximately two months, including during wartime conditions and the Nowruz holidays, he added.

Meshkinfam attributed the progress to close cooperation among the National Iranian Oil Products Refining and Distribution Company, the National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company and the project implementation teams.

Referring to damage sustained by the Shahr-e Rey oil depots and other storage facilities in Tehran Province, he said fuel distribution operations in the capital were restored within about two weeks through round-the-clock efforts by technical and operational teams.

Petroleum product distribution in Tehran is now stable and has even exceeded its previous capacity, he added.

Meshkinfam said the reconstruction contract comprises two main components: restoring fuel product distribution and transmission operations, and constructing storage tanks and completing the project's remaining commitments.

He put progress on petroleum product transmission facilities at around 60 percent, while overall reconstruction of damaged depots and facilities had reached approximately 80 percent.

One of the project's main challenges was the absence of completed initial designs on the first day, he said, adding that engineering design and construction were therefore carried out simultaneously to avoid delays.

The parallel implementation of design and construction, combined with the mobilization of resources and sustained efforts by project teams, enabled the rapid restoration of fuel distribution infrastructure, Meshkinfam said.

Massie's 'kissed The Wall' jab lands hard after GOP's historic defeat over Israel

From page 1 ▶

The ritual

The Wall is the Western Wall in al-Quds (Jerusalem), a near-mandatory stop for American delegations. Donald Trump became the first sitting president to visit in 2017, laying a hand on the stones and wedging in a note.

Mike Pence, Marco Rubio and Speaker Mike Johnson followed, and Kristi Noem wrote in the guest book that "Israel is the chosen nation."

David Friedman, Trump's first ambassador, was photographed kissing the stones, as were NYC's Eric Adams and Argentina's Javier Milei.

JD Vance was photographed there in a white kippah in 2022, then skipped it as vice president in October 2025 during his trip to Israel, taking Mass at the Holy Sepulchre instead.

The bill

Voters sent it. Democrats took the Senate with at least 54 seats, flipping Maine, Ohio, Iowa, and Texas, and the House with roughly 254, a gain of 42.

Vance posted that "the reason we lost is the war," listing four causes: Iran, living costs, failure to put America first, and the Israel relationship.

Trump called that "largely true," then said he would do it again. ABC's voter poll put the war as crucial for 34 percent, behind corruption at 55 and prices at 49, so Vance's certainty outruns the data.

The war's tab does not: more than $47 billion, at least 21



Americans dead, nearly $2,000 per household by Moody's estimate. The war on Iraq cost Republicans both chambers in 2006.

On election day, Trump claimed Washington would wind down roughly $4 billion in annual military aid to Israel by year's end.

Massie called it "a desperate election day lie" and "pennies on the dollar" against more than $50 billion spent on the war "on behalf of Israel," a figure above the Pentagon's own $47 billion.

The revolt on the right

Tucker Carlson, who calls it "Israel's war," apologized in April for having "misled" voters into backing Trump. Marjorie Taylor Greene said Vance and Trump should have listened to her and Carlson.

Nick Fuentes, the white nationalist that Carlson hosted in October 2025, told his loyal base of followers ("groypers") in March: "Do not vote in the midterms, and if you do, vote Democrat." On election day, he posted: "Get out and vote Democrat today."

The two have turned on each other. Carlson implied Fuentes is a "fed," while Fuentes calls Carlson "most likely some form of intelligence asset," citing his father's government career.

The reactions to Massie's post have been ugly. Rep. Randy Fine quote-posted Massie with a meme stamped "LOSER." John Podhoretz wrote, "He's like openly a Nazi."

James Fishback, who has embraced the groypers, questioned Fine's loyalty to America. Fine has called Carlson "the most dangerous antisemite in America."

What the polls say

The Chicago Council's July survey put American favorability toward Israel at 44 out of 100, down from 58 in 2022, the lowest since 1978. 56 percent want aid cut or stopped. Republicans still score Israel at 62, but Gen Z and Millennial Republicans sit at 48 against 65 for older ones.

Gallup found Americans sympathizing more with Palestinians than Israelis, 41 to 36, for the first time since 2001. Only 28 percent of Republicans under 35 view Israel's government favorably, Pew found.

AIPAC has claimed that being pro-Israel is "good policy and good politics."

Storm floods 70,000 tents in Gaza as Israel keeps shelter supplies out

From page 1 ▶ Medical sources told Anadolu that five people were injured when two walls weakened by earlier Israeli strikes collapsed, and a sheet of corrugated metal fell. Civil defense logged 1,500 distress calls.

Gaza City took 60 millimeters of rain in 12 hours, about 15 percent of its annual total, according to municipal spokesman Hosni Muhanna.

About 15 kilometers of stormwater lines and 212 kilometers of sewage network are damaged, eight pumping stations and three collection basins are out of service, and what remains handles at most 20 percent of the flow.

Water rose 30 to 40 centimeters in several camps. Muhanna says 270 camps and shelter sites in the city remain exposed.

Nobody has the equipment to fix it. Officials say the war destroyed hundreds of municipal vehicles, bulldozers, and pumps among them. Civil defense can still pull people from danger but cannot house them.

Authorities say at least 300,000 tents are needed, and more than 2,000 buildings could collapse. "We stand helpless before this tragic and difficult reality in Gaza," said public relations director Abdullah al-Majdalawi.

The shortage predates the storm. UNRWA says 1.98 million people, about 94 percent of Gaza's population, need shelter and basic supplies, and 58 percent are in critical or catastrophic need.

The UN humanitarian office warned in October that 950,000 people lived in sites at moderate or high flood risk, more than 400,000 of them at high risk. One assessment found 294,250 families needing shelter help before winter, with available supplies covering 18 percent of it.

Palestinian authorities and aid groups blame Israel's restrictions on tents, tarpaulins, mobile homes, fuel and building materials.

The U.S.-backed "ceasefire" that took effect on October 10, 2025 promised reconstruction. Talks are now deadlocked, and Israeli forces hold about two-thirds of the territory.

The killing never stopped. Gaza's Health Ministry says Israeli fire has killed at least 1,610 Palestinians since the truce, including single days with 23 and 30 deaths, and wounded 5,819.

Strikes have intensified in recent weeks. Last Sunday, Israeli attacks killed eight people in Khan Younis and Gaza City, five of them police officers. On Tuesday, a drone struck a tent camp in central Gaza City and killed a 17-year-old girl. Israel says Hamas is rearming and violating the truce, and that four of its soldiers have been killed.

More than 74,640 Palestinians have been killed since the war began. A UN commission of inquiry concluded in 2025 that Israel committed genocide in Gaza.

"We have no resources, no tarpaulins, no tents, and no one is checking on us," displaced Gaza resident Rafiq Ghattas told Reuters, standing barefoot in a pool of rainwater.

Yemen hits Aramco tower in Riyadh in response to Saudi attacks on civilians

From page 1 ▶ At least one floor appeared to be severely damaged, leaving a hole in the building, the New York Times reported.

For weeks, Saudi Arabia and YAF have been exchanging attacks, including strikes on energy facilities and airports, that have killed and injured civilians. The two sides returned to full-blown war last month, after a four-year truce unraveled after Saudi Arabia bombarded Sanaa airport on July 13 forcing an airplane carrying Yemen's officials to land in the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah.

The Aramco tower is in Riyadh's financial district — where dozens of skyscrapers house banks, international companies and the offices of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund.

It was not clear whether anyone was inside the Aramco building when it was struck. Many employees in the financial district have been working from home in recent weeks, since the war reignited.

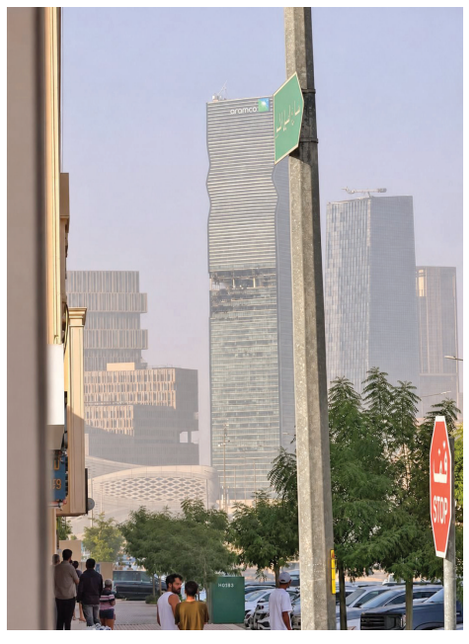
YAF issued a statement on Sunday afternoon stating, "In response to the Saudi aggression against our country and people, and as part of our response to its brutal massacres, the latest of which were the massacres at the Al-Hadara Market in Al-Wazi'iyah and at residential buildings in Bani Hushaysh, which left more than 120 people martyred and wounded, most of them women and children, the Yemeni Armed Forces... carried out four high-quality military operations using a number of ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)."

It said, "The first operation targeted King Khalid International Airport, Aramco's oil storage facilities, and the Financial District in the Saudi enemy's capital, Riyadh. The strikes were direct and precise..., causing extensive damage to the targeted sites."

YAF also carried out operations targeting Aramco's facilities in Abqaiq, Saudi forces in the Madghal district of Marib Governorate and the Al-Mudharaba area of Lahij Governorate.

The statement added, "The Yemeni Armed Forces will continue their military operations deep inside Saudi territory to avenge the blood of our people and deter the Saudi aggressor."

YAF reiterated that it will not waver in responding to every move Saudi move accordingly.



"We will continue to enforce the equation of blockade for blockade, escalation for escalation, and target the military concentrations of the Saudi enemy and its officers until the aggression against our country ceases and the siege on our beloved nation is lifted."

The war Americans never wanted



From page 1 ▶

Three ways it is unprecedented

The analysis of the 153 polls comes from Stephen Semler, a policy analyst and data journalist who writes the Polygraph newsletter and co-founded the Security Policy Reform Institute. His review, adapted by Responsible Statecraft, measures net support. That is the share of Americans backing a war minus the share opposing it.

At the outset of the conflict, 13 percent more Americans opposed it than supported it. In other words, the war began with more people against it than for it.

On that measure, the illegal U.S. war on Iran is historically alone in three distinct ways.

First, it is the only major U.S. war to begin with negative net support. That was a first in the modern polling era. World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq all began with the public on their side. Iran did not.

Second, it is the least popular war on record. By June, net support had sunk to minus 32 percent. That fell below the minus 31 percent recorded in the final poll of the Vietnam War, a conflict that divided the U.S. for a decade.

Third, it is the first U.S. war to remain unpopular for its entire duration so far. As Semler writes, at no point have more Americans supported the illegal U.S. war on Iran than opposed it. There was no rally-around-the-flag moment. There was no brief window of national unity. The opposition was the baseline from the very beginning.

The speed is what separates Iran from every war that came before it. It took Americans nearly four years after the 2003 Iraq war to conclude it was a major mistake. It took more than six years for Vietnam to reach that same verdict. For Iran, it took less than two months. By late April, 61 percent of Americans already called the U.S. attacks a mistake.

The political reckoning is already here

The unprovoked war that killed 168 school children and staff on the first day and its unpopularity have already reshaped American politics in real time.

The day after Republicans lost control of both chambers of Congress in the November midterms, Vice President JD Vance wrote that the reason Republicans lost is Iran. He challenged anyone who disagreed to say so plainly. If you would like to argue it was worth it, he wrote, that losing the Senate for the next six years was worth it, then do so.

Trump himself was more equivocal. Asked after the midterms whether it contributed to Republican losses, he conceded that Iran was a piece of it. But he insisted he would do it again. The contrast between the two men captures the difficulty the administration faces. The war is toxic enough that the vice president blames it for a historic defeat.

Even Trump's most loyal supporters have been peeling away over the course of the war. In May, half of Republican voters believed it was worth its economic costs, according to polling cited by Politico. By July, that number had collapsed to 37 percent. By the fall, nearly one in five Republicans said the U.S. should end its involvement regardless of the economic consequences. The base that once cheered the strikes is now split and looking for an exit.

A nation that said no from the start

In late March, millions of Americans participated in more than 3,200 marches across all 50 states and several European countries. They were protesting the illegal war and the economic pain it has inflicted. They carried signs with messages like "No Kings" and "Trump Has to Go".

They were angry about the war as well as what it was doing to their daily lives. Gas prices climbed toward four dollars a gallon. The cost of fuel and food became inseparable from the cost of the conflict.

The opposition was not confined to civilians. In April, roughly 60 military veterans were arrested protesting inside the Cannon House Office Building. That is a congressional office building steps from the U.S. Capitol. Some of the veterans were visibly disabled. They unfurled banners reading End the War on Iran. They also held a flag-folding ceremony for service members killed in the conflict.

Mike Prysner, the executive director of the Center on Conscience and War, was among those arrested. The center supports service members who refuse to fight on moral or religious grounds. Speaking before his arrest, Prysner said the illegal war is already deeply unpopular. He added that more than 100 service members had already begun filing as conscientious objectors. These are troops refusing to serve in what they consider an immoral war.

The economic pain was not abstract. By late May, the national average for a gallon of gas had reached $4.55, according to AAA data. That was a roughly 50 percent rise since the war began.

Lower-income households cut gas consumption by about 7 percent. Even so, they still spent 12 percent more on fuel, according to research from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

That explains why the backlash was so durable. When Politico asked Trump voters in July what they thought, 57 percent of Republicans and 63 percent of non-Republican Trump voters said the conflict was to blame for rising fuel costs.

The verdict is in

Every war eventually becomes unpopular. The U.S. war on Iran arrived there before it even began.

It is the only one that opposition has fallen deeper than it did at the end of the Vietnam War. The polls have been consistent from the first day. The protests have been nationwide. Veterans have refused to fight. And the political consequences are already being counted in lost seats and fractured coalitions.

This is an illegal and unprovoked war that lost public support before it was even launched. It is not a war that has lost public support over time. It is a war that never had it.

Iran, South Korea explore cooperation in sustainable ecotourism

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Iran and South Korea have explored ways to expand cooperation in community-based tourism and sustainable ecotourism, with officials proposing a joint initiative involving around 20 accommodation facilities in the two countries.

The proposal was discussed at the Iran-South Korea Ecotourism Seminar, held at the Gran Miras Rashidieh Hotel in Tehran, with the participation of Mostafa Fatemi, director general of domestic tourism at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts; Yavar Abiri, head of the Iranian Ecolodge Association; and South Korean Ambassador Kim Junpyo.

The event focused on exchanging experiences in community-based tourism, connecting ecotourism accommodations in the two countries and promoting sustainable development.

Fatemi said Iran had sought to develop a tourism model that introduces the country's cultural heritage and traditions of hospitality while encouraging visitors to engage with local communities.

He described Iranian ecotourism accommodations as a distinctive model of hospitality in which travelers are welcomed into hosts' homes and introduced to local culture, daily activities and traditions.

Fatemi also highlighted the role of Iranian music and cultural traditions in fostering connections with Korean visitors, describing community-based tourism as an increasingly important approach to tourism development worldwide.

He praised the South Korean ambassador's interest in ecotourism, referring to him as an "ambassador of ecotourism" among foreign diplomats based in Iran.

Abiri said Iran has more than 4,000 ecotourism accommodations across the country, reflecting its diverse architecture, ethnic traditions, cultures and music. Most are located in rural areas and are operated by local families, he added.



South Korean Ambassador to Iran Kim Junpyo speaks at the Iran-South Korea Ecotourism Seminar at the Gran Miras Rashidieh Hotel in Tehran on November 6, 2026.

According to Abiri, these facilities help generate income for local communities and support networks of small businesses, contributing to sustainable development.

He also highlighted initiatives involving solar panels and greywater management, saying a green tourism program had been launched this year to introduce a green label for ecotourism accommodations that meet sustainability criteria.

Abiri expressed Iran's readiness to host South Korean rural tourism operators and facilitate exchanges of experience between the two countries. He also announced the presentation of an ecotourism distinction to Kim, naming him an "ambassador of ecotourism."

The South Korean envoy, for his part, welcomed the meeting, describing it as an important occasion for friendship between the two countries.

Referring to a Korean proverb that "seeing once is better than hearing a hundred times," the ambassador said tourism was rooted in firsthand encounters with people, their lives and their cultures.

He recounted a visit to an ecotourism accommodation in Sangan, near Tehran, where he spoke with its owner, Mr. Amiri, about Iran's tourism potential. Kim said the experience went beyond the natural scenery and traditional architecture, highlighting local residents' introduction of regional food and handicrafts and their efforts to give visitors a closer understanding of local life.

Drawing on South Korea's experience on an island where local residents serve as guides and help visitors understand the natural environment, the ambassador said sustainable ecotourism could protect nature while supporting local economies.

He said the approach shared common ground with the work of Iran's ecotourism accommodation associations.

The ambassador also referred to the UN Tourism's recognition of rural destinations in Iran and South Korea among the world's best tourism villages.

Traditional architecture and cultural links

The seminar also examined similarities between traditional Iranian and Korean architecture, particularly the ways both cultures adapted buildings to their natural surroundings.

Participants discussed Iran's use of underground water systems and windcatchers for cooling, as well as the integration of natural landscapes into Korean urban design.

Traditional materials, including stone, wood and straw, were cited as common features. Speakers also highlighted the use of thick walls to moderate temperature differences between day and night.

They said traditional architecture represented an important part of the cultural identity of both countries and provided a foundation for ecotourism.

The event also highlighted Iran's cultural and culinary diversity, including its more than 2,500 local dishes and the reported presence of over 350 regional dishes in Gilan province. Women's roles in managing family-run accommodations, creating employment and passing on traditional knowledge were also emphasized.

Iranian ecotourism accommodations, speakers said, have evolved over roughly 15 years from traditional hospitality practices to increasingly digitalized services. They offer visitors experiences such as cooking local food, baking bread, participating in rural life, enjoying traditional music and purchasing locally made products.

Proposed joint initiative

Participants proposed that Iran and South Korea launch a joint sustainable tourism project, initially involving around 20 ecotourism accommodations.

The proposed cooperation would include technology transfer, training and experience-sharing by South Korea, alongside participatory and community-based selection of facilities in Iran.

Speakers also stressed the need to strengthen the resilience of ecotourism facilities to climate change, drought, rising temperatures and forest fires, while expanding the use of renewable energy and green tourism practices.

The seminar was presented as an opportunity to deepen tourism cooperation between Iran and South Korea through cultural exchange and sustainable development.

Iran's traditional water wisdom could help address modern challenges: heritage official

TEHRAN – Traditional Iranian knowledge of water management, from historic water-sharing systems to rainwater harvesting and community-maintained reservoirs, could offer valuable lessons for addressing contemporary water challenges, Atousa Momeni, head of the Tehran-based regional research center for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in West and Central Asia, has said.

Speaking in an interview with the Tehran Times ahead of the commemoration of the International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Momeni emphasized that safeguarding living heritage requires more than registering cultural practices on national or international lists. It depends on the active participation of local communities, the transmission of traditional knowledge to younger generations and the preservation of the social and environmental conditions that allow such practices to survive.

The Tehran center has chosen "Living Heritage and Water" as the theme of this year's commemoration, scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2026, and will present its "Living Heritage and Water Award" to three selected initiatives from Semnan, Hormozgan and Fars provinces.

The occasion is intended to highlight how traditional knowledge and community-based practices can complement contemporary approaches to water management, particularly in regions facing drought, climate change and growing pressure on water resources.

"Water is one of the clearest expressions of the relationship between historical knowledge, living culture and the future of our land," Momeni said.

She noted that Iran's heritage of water management extends well beyond its celebrated qanats, reservoirs and historic hydraulic structures. Over centuries, communities developed extensive knowledge of identifying, collecting, storing, distributing and responsibly using water in arid and semi-arid environments.

The annual commemoration, she said, should not be viewed as an isolated ceremonial event. Identifying, documenting and introducing successful experiences in safeguarding traditional water-related knowledge is among the programs approved by the center's governing council.

The initiative also seeks to encourage research, exchange of expertise and regional cooperation among countries in West and Central Asia, where water scarcity, climate change and humanitarian challenges are increasingly shared concerns.

"An award is not the end of the process for us; it is the beginning of a broader effort to introduce valuable knowledge, strengthen community participation and create opportunities for transferring successful experiences," she said.

Explaining a selection of three selected initiatives, Momeni said each illustrates a different dimension of the relationship between intangible heritage and contemporary life.

In Semnan, the selected experience concerns a traditional system of water management and distribution. Its significance lies not only in physical infrastructure but also in the customary rules governing water rights, shared responsibilities and cooperation among users.

"The heritage of water in Semnan is not merely a story of water engineering; it is also a story of social organization and the wisdom of living in a water-scarce environment," she said.

On Qeshm Island in Hormozgan province, the traditional practice known as "Kheyrab" demonstrates how rainwater harvesting in historic reservoirs can be connected with community participation and modern technological capacities. Momeni said the experience could offer useful insights for coastal and island communities, where freshwater supplies are particularly vulnerable.



Atousa Momeni, Director General of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia

The third initiative, in Karmostaj, a village in Fars province's Larestan region, focuses on the restoration of traditional reservoirs and water-storage facilities through the involvement of local residents and charitable contributors.

Together, the three projects demonstrate how indigenous knowledge, collective responsibility and cultural attachment can help sustain traditional practices while addressing present-day needs.

Momeni stressed that local communities must remain at the center of safeguarding efforts, in line with the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which recognizes their central role in identifying and maintaining their heritage.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Women's futsal beat Hong Kong in China tournament

TEHRAN - Iran's women's national futsal team secured an emphatic 9-1 victory over Hong Kong in their third match at the Futsal International Tournament Yinchuan on Sunday.

The Iranian side delivered an impressive attacking performance, scoring nine goals against their opponents.

Zahra Kiani was named Player of the Match following her outstanding display.

Maral Torkaman, Zahra Kiani and Arezou Karimi each scored twice, while Mahtab Banaei and Maryam Seyed also found the net. Iran's ninth goal came following a shot by Torkaman that deflected off a Hong Kong player and into the net.

Iran will face tournament hosts China in their next match on Tuesday.

Iranian beach wrestlers win two medals at 2026 YOG

TEHRAN – Amirali Domirkolaei and Reza Jalilian won a silver and bronze medals in beach wrestling of the 2026 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) on Saturday.

Domirkolaei lost to Venezuela's Wilfredo Grabiel Rodriguez Gonzalez in the men's 60kg final and seized a silver medal.

Also, Jalilian defeated his Greek rival Konstantinos Mourtzilakis 4-2 to win a bronze medal in the men's 80kg.

Iran has competed in the Games with 29 athletes in 14 spots in Dakar, Senegal from Oct. 31 to Nov. 13. This marks Iran's fourth appearance at the Youth Olympics, after making its debut in 2010.

Yousefi claims silver in 2026 World Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN - Iranian weightlifter Alireza Yousefi claimed the silver medal at the 2026 World Weightlifting Championships on Sunday, delivering an impressive performance in the competition.

Yousefi lifted 195kg in the snatch and 263kg in the clean and jerk, finishing with a combined total of 458kg in the men's +110kg. His clean and jerk performance also set a new world record, surpassing the previous mark by two kilograms.

Iraq's Ali Ammar secured the gold medal with a total lift of 466kg, while Armenia's Varazdat Lalayan took bronze with 457kg.

Yousefi's achievement marked a significant success for Iranian weightlifting, as he combined a world-record performance with a podium finish at the prestigious international competition.

Iran girls' futsal miss out on final at 2026 YOG

TEHRAN – Iran's girls' futsal team suffered a heartbreaking 3-2 defeat to Venezuela in the semifinals of the 2026 Youth Olympic Games on Sunday, missing out on a place in the gold medal match.

In a thrilling encounter at the Dakar Games, Iran fought back from behind to level the score at 2-2, with Hadis Yari scoring both goals. However, Venezuela had the final say, finding the decisive goal with just 43 seconds remaining in extra time to secure a dramatic victory.

Both sides delivered an intense performance, battling fiercely until the closing moments in a match filled with excitement and emotion.

The result sends Venezuela through to the final, where they will compete for the gold medal. Iran, meanwhile, will face the loser of the other semifinal between Italy and Ukraine in Tuesday's bronze medal match, hoping to finish the tournament on a high note.

UWW lauds Iran's wrestler Amirhossein Zare's performance

TEHRAN - United World Wrestling has reported that Amirhossein Zare kept his world heavyweight title with a dominant performance, not surrendering even one point.

"Amirhossein Zare dominated the 125kg division in Astana, powering his way to a fourth world title and our freestyle Top Performance of the 2026 World Championships," UWW wrote on its official Instagram page.

"In the semifinals, Zare launched Wyatt Hendrickson for four points before adding a takedown and two turns to finish a 10-0 victory," it added.

"He carried that dominance into the final, beating Abdulla Kurbanov remaining. 11-0 with nearly two minutes," it noted.

"Five first-period stepouts established his lead in the gold medal match before two takedowns and a gut wrench sealed another emphatic finish," the report reads.

"Still unbeaten since the Paris Olympic final, Zare leaves Astana with another world crown, and without surrendering a single point," UWW stated.

Iranian athletes win medals at World Kurash Championships

TEHRAN - Iranian kurash fighters have won six bronze medals on the opening day of the 15th World Kurash Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan.

In the men's events on Saturday, Abolfazl Ashofteh (under-60kg), Hamid Chadorneshin (under-66kg), Sohrab Rakhshan (under-73kg), and Reza Ahmadzadeh (under-81kg) won bronze medals.

In the women's events, Sargol Omidvand (under-70kg) and Samaneh Khojasteh (under-87kg) also claimed bronze medals.

The 15th edition of the World Kurash Championships is underway in Astana, Kazakhstan, with over 250 athletes from 72 countries in attendance.

Iran runners-up at Russian Greco-Roman Wrestling Tournament

TEHRAN - Iran's selected Greco-Roman wrestling team finished second at the international Aksyonov Cup in Russia, winning one gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

The tournament was held in Novosibirsk, where Iran's Ilya Alikhani claimed gold in the 72kg category. Amirmehdi Saeidi- Nava won silver at 82kg, while Amirali Heydari (60kg) and Mohammad Meraj Mohammadi (72kg) secured bronze medals.

The results of Iran's wrestlers were as follows:

* **60kg:** Amirali Heydari – Bronze

* **67kg:** Ali Gharib – Eliminated

* **72kg**: Ilya Alikhani – Gold; Mohammad Meraj Mohammadi – Bronze

* **77kg:** Mohammad Kazemi – Eliminated

* **82kg:** Amirmehdi Saeidi-Nava – Silver

* **87kg:** Alireza Rezaei - fifth

Iran's four-medal haul secured the team second place in the competition.

COMSTECH, Pardis Technology Park hold workshop to promote innovation ecosystems in Islamic countries

TEHRAN – Aiming to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation among Islamic countries, an online training workshop on the management of technology parks has been held under the joint Technology and Innovation Academy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and Pardis Technology Park.

The workshop, which focused on establishing and developing innovation ecosystems, brought together more than 120 participants, including managers of scientific and technological centers from OIC member states, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Professor Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, head of COMSTECH and a laureate of the Mustafa (PBUH) Prize, highlighted the importance of sharing successful experiences in developing innovation ecosystems.

He said that drawing on the experience and achievements of Pardis Technology Park could help scientific and technological centers in Islamic countries improve and develop their national innovation ecosystems.

The workshop was jointly organized by COMSTECH, Pardis Technology Park, and the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) in Türkiye. It represents one of the key practical initiatives undertaken within the framework of the Joint Technology and Innovation Academy.

The academy was inaugurated two years ago at Pardis Technology Park, on the sidelines of the Mustafa (PBUH) International Prize award ceremony, in the presence of officials from several Islamic countries.

Promoting scientific and technological cooperation

COMSTECH, formally known as the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, is a specialized institution of the OIC established in January 1981 following a resolution adopted at the organization's Third Islamic Summit in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.



Headquartered in Islamabad, Pakistan, the committee is mandated to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation among OIC member states and enhance their individual and collective capabilities in these fields. Pakistan chairs the committee.

Its activities focus on developing scientific and technological capacities, promoting joint research, facilitating the exchange of expertise, and supporting the training of researchers and specialists in emerging fields. It also works to identify the scientific and technological needs of member states and develop programs to address them through cooperation and mutual assistance.

The committee seeks to help Islamic countries build stronger indigenous research capabilities and establish effective institutional frameworks for scientific planning, research, development, and innovation. Its broader vision is to make science and technology key drivers of socioeconomic development, industrial growth, and improved quality of life across the Islamic world.

Over the years, COMSTECH has pursued these objectives through scientific training courses, specialized workshops, research support programs, institutional partnerships, and networks connecting universities, research centers, and technology organizations in member states. Its initiatives also cover emerging areas of science and technology, with an emphasis on strengthening human resources and expanding opportunities for young researchers.

In this context, technology parks and innovation hubs have an important role to play in translating scientific knowledge into practical applications, supporting technology-based businesses, and connecting universities and research institutions with industry. The cooperation between COMSTECH and Pardis Technology Park is intended to facilitate the exchange of experience and expertise in developing such ecosystems.

Mustafa Prize: recognizing scientific excellence in the Islamic world

The Mustafa (PBUH) Prize, established in 2012, is an international science and technology award presented biennially to outstanding Muslim scientists and researchers around the world. It is regarded as one of the most prestigious scientific awards in the Islamic world and aims to recognize groundbreaking research, promote scientific excellence, and encourage greater cooperation among Muslim scientists.

The award recognizes scientific achievements that contribute to improving human life, introduce significant and innovative advances at the frontiers of science, or offer new scientific methods. It also seeks to strengthen the international visibility of scientific contributions by Muslim researchers and provide a platform for interaction among leading scientific figures and research institutions.

The prize has traditionally recognized achievements in four major fields: Life and Medical Science and Technology; Nanoscience and Nanotechnology; Information and Communication Science and Technology; and All Areas of Science and Technology. Under the award framework, each laureate receives a cash prize of $500,000, along with a special medal and certificate.

Beyond financial recognition, the prize is designed to promote scientific exchanges across the Islamic world. Its laureates are invited to deliver lectures and participate in scientific exchange programs, creating opportunities for researchers, universities, and scientific institutions to establish new professional and research connections.

Since its establishment, the award has brought international attention to the achievements of scientists from various countries, including Iran, Pakistan, Türkiye, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Malaysia, and other parts of the Islamic world. Its award ceremonies have also provided opportunities for scientific gatherings and discussions on the role of research and innovation in addressing global challenges.

The joint Technology and Innovation Academy is part of this broader approach, seeking to turn scientific and technological cooperation into practical programs that strengthen innovation capacities, promote knowledge sharing, and support the development of technology-driven economies across Islamic countries.

QS Asia University Ranking includes more Iranian universities

TEHRAN – The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings has included 50 Iranian universities in the list of top universities in 2027, up from 48 universities in 2026.

University of Tehran with a global ranking of 114 ranks first among Iranian universities, Mehr news agency reported.

Sharif University of Technology (ranking 130 globally) and Amirkabir University of Technology (ranking 191 globally), Iran University of Science and Technology (192), Shahid Beheshti University (232), Isfahan University of Technology (244), University of Tabriz (254), Shiraz University (303), K.N. Toosi University of Technology (343), Babol Noshirvani University of Technology (355), and Shiraz University of Technology (359) are ranked second to tenth.

Published annually since 2009, the QS Asia University Rankings highlights the top universities in Asia each year. The methodology used to create the ranking is similar to that used for the QS World University Rankings, but with some additional indicators and adapted weightings. This set of criteria, developed in consultation with regional experts and stakeholders, is designed to reflect key priorities for universities in Asia, drawing on as much available data as possible.

The 11 indicators used to compile the QS Asia University Rankings are as follows: Academic reputation (30 percent), Employer reputation (20 percent), Faculty/student ratio (10 percent), International research network (10 percent), Citations per paper (10 percent) and papers per faculty (5 percent), Staff with a PhD (5 percent), Proportion of international faculty (2.5 percent) and proportion of international students (2.5 percent), Proportion of inbound exchange students (2.5 percent) and proportion of outbound exchange students (2.5 percent).

The University of Hong Kong, Peking University, and Tsinghua are the top three universities in Asia in this year's regional ranking, which features a total of 1722 incredible academic institutions.

Recent rankings

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2027 placed 75 Iranian universities among the top institutions.

The 2027 rankings include 2,297 institutions from 118 countries and territories. There are 106 new entries compared with last year.

The key criteria for the World University Rankings 2027 include Teaching (the learning environment), Research environment (volume, income and reputation), Research quality (citation impact, research strength, research excellence and research influence), International outlook (staff, students and research), and Industry (income and patents).

The latest methodology uses 17 carefully calibrated performance indicators to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons, trusted by students, academics, university leaders, industry and governments.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, and Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences are the top universities in the country with a global ranking of 401-450.

Sharif University of Technology and University of Tehran are placed second, ranking 401-500 globally.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (501-550), Shiraz University of Technology (551-600), and Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (651-700) are placed third to fifth.

Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS) has evaluated Iranian institutions across 33 out of 57 academic subjects in the fields of Natural Sciences, Engineering, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Social Sciences.

Iranian universities had a better performance in Engineering and Medical Sciences with 70 and 24 subjects, respectively.

The Round University Ranking (RUR) 2026 has placed 41 Iranian universities among the world's top universities, up from 36 in 2025.

This year's ranking includes 1,313 universities from 99 countries, providing one of the most comprehensive views of institutional performance across the global higher education landscape.

Islamic Azad University, ranked 90 globally (up from 93 in 2025), ranks first in the country.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranks (119), University of Tehran (180), Iran University of Science and Technology (235), Sharif University of Technology (271), Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (323), University of Tabriz (375), Isfahan University of Technology (441), Shahid Beheshti University (457), and K.N. Toosi University of Technology (505), rank second to tenth.

Based on the Teaching Ranking dimension, Islamic Azad University, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, and University of Tehran are placed first to third, with global rankings of 22, 48, and 109, respectively.

In the Research Ranking dimension, Iran University of Science and Technology (146), Sharif University of Technology (151), and Islamic Azad University (189) are the top three universities in the country.

In the International Diversity Ranking dimension, Islamic Azad University, with a global ranking of 313, is placed first, followed by University of Religions and Denomination (579), and Imam Hossein University (608).

In the Financial Sustainability Ranking dimension, Imam Hossein University (161), Iran University of Science and Technology (237), and Baqir al-Olum University rank first to third.

Shanghai University ranking 2026 has placed six Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide, unchanged compared to the past year. In total, more than 2500 universities are ranked, and the best 1000 are published.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and the University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 501-600, are jointly placed first in the country, IRNA reported.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, and Tarbiat Modares University rank third to sixth, respectively.

The 2026-2027 edition of the U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings has included 80 Iranian universities among the world's 2,250 top universities.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 314), Islamic Azad University (460), Sharif University of Technology (578), Tehran University of Medical Sciences (585), University of Tabriz (663), Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (783), Tarbiat Modares University (783), Amirkabir University of Technology (791), and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences (801) ranked first to tenth in the country, respectively, Mehr news agency reported.

The following is the ranking of these universities based on their global subject standings.

University of Tehran: Polymer Science (5), Green and Sustainable Science and Technology (17), Water resources (35), Pharmacology and Toxicology (59), Agricultural Sciences (65), Energy and Fuels (66), Engineering (68), Food Science and Technology (76), Plant and Animal Science (77), Mechanical Engineering (78), Civil Engineering (92), and Artificial Intelligence (104).

Islamic Azad University: Polymer Science (12), Green and Sustainable Science and Technology (26), Energy and Fuels (44), Mathematics (47), Mechanical Engineering (56), Food Science and Technology (59), Civil Engineering (66), Water Resources (69), Engineering (77), Pharmacology and Toxicology (77), Public, Environmental and Occupational Health (102), and Artificial Intelligence (107).

Sharif University of Technology: Mechanical Engineering (73) and Civil Engineering (109).

Tehran University of Medical Sciences: Polymer Science (32), Pharmacology and Toxicology (49), Public, Environmental and Occupational Health (86), and Food Science and Technology (96).

University of Tabriz: Water Resources (55), Polymer Science (66), and Food Science and Technology (69).

Mashhad University Medical Science: Public, Environmental and Occupational Health (77), and Pharmacology and Toxicology (97).

Tarbiat Modares University: Water Resources (90); Amirkabir University of Technology: Polymer Science (49).

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences: Polymer Science (21), and Pharmacology and Toxicology (94).

Families take part in mangrove planting initiative on Qeshm Island

TEHRAN – Families in Soheili village on Qeshm Island have joined hands to plant 2,000 mangrove saplings, taking part in a community-led effort to promote environmental conservation.

Children in the village spent two months nurturing mangrove seedlings at home before planting them in designated areas of the mangrove forest alongside their mothers and other family members, IRNA reported.

The initiative gave the younger generation a valuable opportunity to engage directly in environmental protection, encourage sustainable habits, familiarize children with the island's natural heritage, and raise awareness of the importance of conserving natural resources.

On the sidelines of the event, there were entertainment programs for children, a mother-and-child painting competition, a cooking contest, and a musical performance. Moreover, there was an exhibition showcasing economic capabilities and productive capacities, including traditional and local products of residents in Soheili village.

Mangrove forests in Iran mostly consist of Avicennia marina, known as Hara, named after the 11th-century great Iranian scientist Avicenna, or Abu-Ali-Sina. Hara forest area covers more than 27 thousand hectares.

They are unique ecosystems between land and sea. They support biodiversity, protect coastal communities, enhance food security, and act as natural defenses against storms and erosion. Their soils are also powerful carbon sinks.

Yet mangroves are disappearing three to five times faster than overall global forest losses, with serious ecological and socio-economic impacts. Current estimates indicate that mangrove coverage has been halved in the past 40 years.

Unfortunately, the first global assessment of mangroves by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified mangrove forests in the Persian Gulf as vulnerable (VU) overall.

The mangrove forests are classified as 'vulnerable' in Changes in Geographic Distribution, 'least concern' in Restricted Geographic Distribution, 'least concern' in Abiotic Components, and 'least concern' in Biotic Components of ecosystems, ISNA reported.

The IUCN assessment results can be the basis for national and regional decision-making and intervention. The results indicate that planning, ongoing monitoring, and integrated management of these ecosystems should be prioritized. Otherwise, these ecosystems are likely to move into a more dangerous category.

DOE outlines measures to save, restore mangrove forests

Over the past years, the Department of Environment (DOE) has undertaken extensive measures to protect, monitor, restore, and develop mangrove forests.

These include the implementation of national projects to estimate carbon stocks, the restoration of mangrove forests in suitable areas, the continuous monitoring of mangrove ecosystems, and the active participation in international programs relating to climate change, ISNA reported.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, observed annually on July 26, ISNA reported.

Highlighting the critical role of mangrove forests in preserving marine biodiversity, ensuring coastal stability, supporting local livelihoods, and combating climate change, Shahram Fadakar, an official with the DOE, said mangrove forests are among the world's most important blue carbon ecosystems, storing 10 to 50 times more carbon than terrestrial forests. Hence, their protection, management, and restoration are key priorities of the DOE.

Elaborating on the DOE's most significant achievements over the past year, Fadakar said a comprehensive study was conducted to assess the value of the ecosystem services of the mangrove habitats in Khorkhoran and Qeshm, covering an area of 197,996 hectares; the annual economic value of the services provided by these habitats was estimated at 185 billion rials (about 97,400 dollars).

According to the official, the DOE has conducted mangrove forest restoration and rehabilitation projects along the country's southern coasts, so that approximately 30,000 mangrove saplings have been planted in Khor Soltani, Bushehr Province, covering an area of 20 hectares; some 3,250 saplings have been planted across an area of 500 hectares along the Bahmanshir coast in Khuzestan Province.

The restoration operations have been carried out over approximately 2,400 hectares in Hormozgan province and 100 hectares in Sistan-Baluchestan province, he added.

He also lauded the effective role of local communities and non-governmental organizations in successful restoration and preservation of mangrove forests.

Referring to the future plans of the DOE, Fadakar said a national action plan for the conservation and restoration of mangrove forests is currently being developed; as a strategic document, it will showcase the course for the country's future activities in this sector.

TEHRAN TIMES

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The greatest Jihad is to battle your own soul. To fight the evil within yourself.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:21 Dawn: 5:09 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:35 (tomorrow)

Public Radio of Armenia marks centenary with international media conference

By Seyed Abbas Aghaei Niaraki

YEREVAN — On September 1, 1926, the words "Listen! Listen! This is the Yerevan Broadcasting Station speaking" first resonated across the skies of Armenia, heralding the birth of Public Radio of Armenia.

Although regular daily scheduling officially commenced on June 15, 1927, that initial broadcast launched a century-long media legacy. Over the decades, the institution evolved from a single experimental transmitter into a robust, modern multimedia network. Today, Public Radio operates across multiple channels and digital platforms, broadcasting and publishing in 12 languages—including regional and minority languages such as Persian, Kurdish, and Arabic, alongside English and Russian.

In November 2026, Public Radio of Armenia—a member of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU)—commemorated its centenary by hosting an international media conference titled "The Voice of a Century: From the Past to the Future." The two-day gathering convened 19 international media delegates and experts representing 15 countries. Among the participants, the Tehran Times was the sole honorary media organization attending from outside the European continent and beyond the EBU membership, reflecting long-standing regional and cultural ties.

The opening day took place at the historic Radio House in Yerevan, where guests attended the official inauguration of the station's Museum Corner. Among the primary exhibits on display was the organization's historic "birth certificate"—the original founding regulatory license granting legal authority to broadcast in Armenia. Preserving this cultural memory has relied on an ambitious archival restoration initiative. To



date, Public Radio has digitized 102,422 historical tapes, preserving more than 12,300 hours of rare audio recordings, national folklore, and vintage programming. During his keynote address, Artur Ispiryan, Head of the Archive, reflected on the complexities of this endeavor, explaining that modernizing decades of magnetic tape required bridging vintage engineering with contemporary digital technology, a process made all the more challenging by the rare expertise needed to execute it.

The second day shifted focus to contemporary and emerging media challenges during sessions held at the Ani Grand Hotel. Industry executives, broadcasters, and editors engaged in three distinct panels centered on the pressing issues shaping 21st-century journalism. Topics included the visual evolution of traditional radio and strategies to avoid simply mimicking television, the structural impact of artificial intelligence on newsrooms and voice-driven media, and tactical approaches to combating disinformation and modern hybrid media warfare. The centenary concluded with an anniversary gala concert at the Armenian National Opera and Ballet Theater, honoring a century of service to listeners at home and across the globe.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza's Winter of Grief
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

When music becomes act of resistance

Macklemore refuses to stay silent on Palestine



TEHRAN - After being dropped from Ed Sheeran's US tour and facing rejection from nine major American arenas, the Grammy-winning rapper is turning his concerts into a platform for Palestinian solidarity.

For many musicians, a successful career means sold-out concerts, international tours and a growing audience. For American rapper Macklemore, however, the past few months have brought a different kind of challenge: how much is an artist willing to risk for something he believes in?

The Grammy-winning rapper, whose real name is Benjamin Hammond Haggerty, has become one of the most recognizable voices in the American music industry supporting Palestinian rights. His outspoken criticism of Israel's military campaign in Gaza has now had direct consequences for his career. He was removed from British singer Ed Sheeran's US tour after calling for a free Palestine during a stadium performance. More recently, he announced that nine major American arenas had refused to host his planned benefit concerts for Palestine.

But rather than backing down, Macklemore has taken his message to the stage, organizing a series of fundraising concerts in Europe and promising to continue his campaign.

His story is no longer just about music. It has become a question of artistic freedom, solidarity and the price of speaking out.

Macklemore's most significant musical statement on Palestine came in May 2024, when he released "Hind's Hall," a protest track inspired by the pro-Palestinian student demonstrations taking place at universities across the United States.

The song was named after Hamilton Hall at Columbia University, which student protesters renamed in memory of Hind Rajab, a five-year-old Palestinian girl killed in Gaza in January 2024.

Rather than treating the student demonstrations as a campus controversy, Macklemore placed them within the wider context of the war in Gaza, American military support for Israel, and the growing demands for a ceasefire.

His lyrics challenged the silence of powerful institutions, questioned the treatment of protesters, and called attention to the suffering of Palestinians. He also criticized the music industry for remaining largely silent about the conflict.

Importantly, Macklemore announced that the proceeds from the song would go to UNRWA, the United Nations agency providing assistance to Palestinian refugees.

The track quickly attracted international attention and became an anthem for many supporters of the Palestinian cause. It also demonstrated that Macklemore was prepared to use his commercial success and public visibility for something beyond entertainment.

On September 4, 2026, Macklemore appeared as an opening act for Ed Sheeran at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, and in front of a huge audience, he used his time on stage to deliver a message that had become central to his public identity. "Free Palestine," he told the crowd.

He explained that one of the main reasons he had wanted to join the tour was the opportunity to stand before stadium audiences and make those words heard. He wanted Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank to know that they had not been forgotten.

He also performed "Hind's Hall," accompanied by images connected to the destruction in Gaza and pro-Palestinian demonstrations.

The reaction was immediate. Some pro-Israel organizations criticized his remarks, and the Israeli American Council launched a petition calling for his removal from the tour. Macklemore's supporters, meanwhile, saw the performance as an example of an artist using a major platform to speak about a humanitarian crisis.

On September 14, Macklemore confirmed that he would no longer appear at the remaining US dates of Sheeran's tour.

According to the tour promoter, Messina Touring Group, venue owners had indicated that they would not allow concerts to take place if Macklemore remained on the lineup. The promoter said the decision followed discussions with stakeholders.

Macklemore subsequently explained that the controversy had placed Sheeran in a difficult position, while maintaining that his responsibility to speak about Palestine was more important than preserving professional relationships.

Sheeran later clarified that he had not personally made the decision to remove Macklemore. He said he was appalled by the suffering in Israel and Palestine but wanted to use his platform to bring people together through music.

The incident nevertheless raised an uncomfortable question: if an artist can perform freely until he expresses solidarity with Palestinians, how secure is freedom of expression in the music business?

For Macklemore, leaving Sheeran's tour did not mean abandoning the stage. Instead, he began organizing the "Free Palestine Tour," a series of benefit concerts intended to raise funds and bring artists and supporters together around Palestinian rights.

The European leg included performances in Dublin, Paris, and London in October. The Dublin concert alone attracted around 13,000 people, with tickets selling out within minutes. Palestinian flags, keffiyehs, and solidarity messages were visible throughout the event.

The concerts also featured other musicians, activists and public figures, including artists who had withdrawn from Sheeran's tour following Macklemore's removal.

The response demonstrated that his message had found an audience well beyond his usual fan base.

However, bringing the tour to the United States proved considerably more difficult.

On November 6, Macklemore announced that nine major American arenas had declined to host the benefit concerts. The list included Madison Square Garden in New York, Barclays Center in Brooklyn, the Kia Forum and Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, and Chase Center in San Francisco.

According to Macklemore, his team had initially been offered available dates through the end of the year. He claimed that the situation changed once venue representatives learned that the proposed events were fundraising concerts for Palestine.

He described the experience as an example of intimidation and suppression, arguing that powerful commercial interests should not determine which humanitarian causes artists are permitted to support.

The venues' explanations have not all been made public. MSG Entertainment, for example, cited limited availability and argued that Macklemore was not an arena-level performer. Nevertheless, the rapper's announcement has renewed discussion about the influence of venue owners and commercial organizations over artists' public expression.

For Macklemore, the distinction between having access to a stage and having permission to speak freely on it has become increasingly important.

Of course, his position has attracted criticism, particularly from organizations that consider some of his language offensive or antisemitic. Macklemore has rejected the accusation that criticism of Israel's government and its military actions amounts to hostility towards Jewish people. During his September performances, he specifically addressed Jewish audience members, stressing that his message was about peace, equality, and human dignity for all.

That distinction matters. Opposing the policies of a government is not the same as expressing hatred towards a religious or ethnic community.

His European concerts showed that music can bring together people from different backgrounds, nationalities, and communities around a shared humanitarian concern. They also demonstrated that an artist does not necessarily need the approval of the biggest commercial venues to reach an audience.

There is something particularly meaningful about the contrast between the nine American arenas that reportedly turned down his concerts and the thousands of people who gathered to support the European shows. The buildings may belong to corporations and wealthy owners, but the music ultimately belongs to the people who listen to it.

Macklemore has chosen to use his platform to remind audiences that Palestinians are not simply distant names in a news report. They are people whose lives, families, homes and futures matter.

And as his "Free Palestine Tour" moves beyond the European stage, his message remains unchanged: Palestinian lives matter, solidarity matters, and speaking up should never be treated as an act that an artist must apologize for.

Tehran theater program honors Bahram Beyzaie with six staged readings

TEHRAN- The first day of "Beyzaie Week" opened at the City Theater Complex in Tehran on Sunday with staged readings of two plays by the late Iranian playwright, director and researcher Bahram Beyzaie.

The program, organized in cooperation with the City Theater Complex, runs from November 8 to 12 at the Mashahir Hall of the complex, featuring six plays presented by theater students and members of an independent theater group, Mehr reported.

The opening session featured "The Feast" (Ziafat), directed by Roham Amin. This was followed by "The Chronicle of Bondar Bidakhsh", directed by Zohreh Sadeqian.

The program will continue on Monday, November 9, with "The Shore of Salvation" (Sahel-e Nejat), directed by Mani Nouri, scheduled for 5 p.m. On Tuesday, "Four Boxes" (Chahar Sanduq), directed by Zahra Tat, will be presented at the same time.

On Wednesday, November 11, the series will feature "Azhdahak", directed by Sediqeh Hamrahi. The final session, on Thursday, November 12, will present "Arash", directed by Ardeshir Sheibani. Both readings are scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

"The Feast" is a symbolic play that draws on ancient rituals and mythology to explore violence, sacrifice and the destructive mechanisms of social order. The story centers on a shepherd, who is assigned the role of protecting a flock against a wolf. However, instead of completing the traditional journey of a hero, he becomes a victim of the very forces he is expected to confront. Through the characters of the shepherd and Dehbashi, Beyzaie examines a society that demands heroes but ultimately sacrifices them to preserve its established order. The play also draws on the biblical story of Cain and Abel, blending mythological references with ritualistic theatrical elements to question the recurring cycle of violence and victimization.

"The Chronicle of Bondar Bidakhsh" tells the story of Bondar, a learned man and inventor who creates the legendary world-revealing cup for King Jamshid and serves as his trusted adviser. Bondar shares his knowledge and scientific discoveries with the king, enabling him to rule the world. However, as Jamshid grows increasingly consumed by power, he comes to regard Bondar merely as a means to strengthen his authority.

Fearing that the scholar might one day pass his knowledge on to an enemy, the king imprisons him in Ruineh Dej, an impregnable fortress built through Bondar's own knowledge and expertise. Reflecting on his fate in prison, Bondar regrets his unquestioning trust in the king and his failure to provide himself with a secret escape route. Through this tragic relationship, Beyzaie explores the conflict between knowledge and power, betrayal, and the vulnerability of intellectuals under authoritarian rule.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)