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What is behind Saudi request for Egyptian troops?

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – On October 26th Saudi Arabia requested for Egypt to send troops to Saudi Arabia, and the Egyptian House of Representatives voted by a two-thirds majority to authorize this. The consideration of steps towards establishing an Egyptian military presence on Saudi territory, reflects broader concerns that go beyond the immediate need to strengthen conventional defense.

These concerns may be linked to the possibility of the Yemeni-Saudi confrontation expanding into a ground conflict, or Saudi territory coming under pressure from multiple directions. This includes concerns relating to Ansarallah in Yemen, the Saudi-Iraqi border, and the possibility of movements or instability in the Kingdom's eastern region. ▸ Page 5

Floods have added insult to injury for Gazans

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – Four Palestinians have been killed in Gaza after a sand embankment collapsed onto tents sheltering displaced families.

The Government Media Office announced that two more Palestinians are missing and several others injured following the incident, which occurred in the central region of Deir al-Balah.

In a press statement, the office stated that hundreds of tents had been flooded as the first winter storm arrived, adding that women and children were among those killed or missing. ▸ Page 5

Journalists are silent victims of war

By Hassan Garousi

The killing of journalists in wars has, regrettably, become part and parcel of the grim reality of contemporary armed conflicts. What makes the situation today even more alarming, however, is not simply the growing number of journalists killed, but the fact that, in many cases, those responsible for these killings will never be held accountable.

A UNESCO report on the safety of journalists, published on November 2, 2026, shows that a total of 189 journalists lost their lives worldwide in 2024 and 2025, representing a 20 percent increase compared with the preceding two-year period. Of these, 127 were killed in areas affected by armed conflict. Meanwhile, the global impunity rate in cases involving the murder of journalists has reached 86 percent. In other words, approximately six out of every seven journalist killings worldwide have failed to result in effective judicial accountability. ▸ Page 5



Handala Warns Israelis of 'Life Without Water and Electricity' in New Leaflet Campaign

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN - Handala hacker group claims to have distributed hundreds of thousands of threatening leaflets across Tel Aviv, warning that power plants, oil refineries and desalination facilities could be targeted in retaliation for further attacks on Iran's energy infrastructure.

The self-described pro-Iranian hacking group Handala has taken its latest warning against the Israeli regime beyond cyberspace, claiming to have distributed hundreds of thousands of threatening leaflets in residential neighborhoods across Tel Aviv overnight.

In a statement published on Monday, the group said dozens of its operatives had moved through residential areas under the cover of darkness, placing warning notices in mailboxes and outside residents' homes. The campaign, according to Handala, was intended to deliver a direct message to the Israeli public: any further attack on Iran's energy infrastructure could have consequences extending far beyond the battlefield and into the daily lives of Israelis.

The leaflets, bearing the slogans "No Water" and "No Electricity," reportedly direct residents to the group's official website, where a message described as a final warning has been published.

"If your leaders once again succumb to their foolishness and target the energy infrastructure of the Resistance Front, you must be prepared to pay a heavy price for this aggression not on the battlefield, but in your everyday lives," the message reads.

Handala's warning specifically identifies power plants, oil refineries and desalination facilities across the occupied territories as potential targets.

"Not a single power plant, oil refinery or desalination facility in the occupied territories will remain, from north to south," the statement declares, threatening that the energy and water supply networks would collapse. ▸ Page 3

Pezeshkian: Leader has ordered end to 'neither war nor peace' situation

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian said the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, has ordered officials to bring an end to the current state of "neither war nor peace," stressing that Iran remains ready for negotiations but will not bow to coercion or intimidation. ▸ Page 3

Iran's two-day proposal most logical path to restoring security in Hormuz Strait: official

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei has described Iran's two-day proposal as the most logical and practical roadmap for restoring security in the Strait of Hormuz and the wider Persian Gulf, stressing that lasting security in the strategic waterway is impossible as long as the United States continues its hostile actions against Iran. ▸ Page 2

Aerial photograph of Minab wins top prize at wartime photography festival

TEHRAN- An aerial photograph of Minab by Iranian photographer Morteza Hossein-Akhondi has won first place at the "A Look at Life in Wartime" photography festival.

The jury announced three top-winning photographs following its final assessment of the selected entries, Mehr reported on Monday.

Hossein-Akhondi took first place with his photograph depicting Minab. Hassan Qaedi received second place for a photograph taken in Tehran, while Jamshid Farajvand Farda secured third place with an image from Kordestan.

The first-place photograph had previously earned international recognition, ▸ Page 8

Mount Damavand named among world's top geological heritage sites



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Over 200,000 march in Amsterdam demanding the Netherlands stop arming Israel

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Over 200,000 people, most of them dressed in red, filled Museumplein and the streets circling Vondelpark on Sunday for the fourth Red Line march against Dutch policy toward Israel, organizers said. 13 groups stood behind it, among them Amnesty International, PAX, Oxfam Novib and Save the Children, led by The Rights Forum. They called the march "The Red Line Passed" and gave it a blunt slogan: no money for genocide. ▸ Page 5

Exclusive

Setayesh's unfinished dream: Remembering the nine-year-old killed in Minab

By Akram Hosseini Shabestari

TEHRAN – The story of a mother and father who lost their nine-year-old daughter in the February 28, 2026 attack on Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab. Setayesh used to hold classes for her dolls and dreamed of one day standing in front of a classroom, teaching children of her own.

What follows is a telephone interview with the parents of Setayesh Ali Hosseini, a nine-year-old student at Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab, which was attacked on February 28, 2026.

I first met Setayesh's parents on November 2, 2026, at a ceremony held ahead of Iran's National Student Day, observed annually on November 4 (13 Aban). The occasion is traditionally marked by a gathering of students with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. This year's observance was held in memory of the martyred Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who had traditionally met with students on this occasion. Setayesh's parents had attended hoping to represent their daughter.



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Israel's last opportunity

Ham-Mihan examined the possibility of escalating tensions under Israel's current circumstances. It argued that Western support, particularly from the US, has long been essential to Israel's security. According to the paper, however, this support is weakening during a period of regional transition, and the current window of opportunity may be closing. As a result, the analysis suggested that Israel will seek to maximize what it sees as a final chance to secure strong American backing before the outcome of its confrontation with Iran becomes clearer. Israeli leaders reportedly fear that missing this opportunity could increase uncertainty about the country's future security environment. For this reason, the coming months are described as an especially sensitive period. The paper also linked the issue to domestic politics, arguing that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may attempt to strengthen a security-focused agenda in order to challenge rival Gadi Eisenkot's efforts to form a government and shape the political debate around national security concerns.

Arman-e-Melli: Trump is seeking a display of strength

Arman-e-Melli discussed the possibility of increased tensions following political setbacks for forces aligned with Donald Trump. It argued that while election results alone do not determine the likelihood of conflict, their political consequences should not be overlooked. The paper emphasized the need to distinguish between political motivation, military capability, and expectations regarding the costs of an Iranian response. These factors, it argued, influence decision-making in different ways. According to the analysis, Trump could attempt to project strength through foreign policy after domestic political disappointments. As a leader no longer facing future election campaigns, he may view military decisions differently than politicians focused on electoral considerations. At the same time, any broader conflict involving Iran could create additional political challenges and pressures. The newspaper noted that Iran has focused on pursuing security arrangements that rely primarily on its own capabilities rather than the presence of outside powers in the region.

Etemad: Reaching a lasting agreement is difficult

In an interview with reformist former senior parliament representative Mohsen Mirdamadi, Etemad addressed the prospects for a durable agreement between Iran and the US. Mirdamadi argued that expectations should remain realistic because decades of mistrust continue to shape relations between the two countries. He noted that political groups in both Iran and the US still support confrontational approaches, making rapid progress difficult. According to him, any improvement in relations must proceed gradually. The first essential step is ending the cycle of hostility and creating conditions for sustained dialogue. He referred to earlier efforts that sought to establish such a framework but were ultimately left unfinished. Mirdamadi argued that the strongest guarantee for any agreement would be a shared understanding that maintaining it benefits both sides more than abandoning it. Only under those circumstances, he said, can long-standing patterns of confrontation give way to confidence-building measures and greater cooperation.

Donya-e-Eqtesad: A war of attrition is a costly option

Donya-e-Eqtesad examined Gadi Eisenkot's potential approach to future security challenges. It argued that his effort to form a new Israeli government could reflect broader changes in Israel's political and strategic calculations. According to the paper, the implications extend beyond the political future of Benjamin Netanyahu and may also influence Israel's approach toward Iran. The analysis stressed that tensions involving Iran are now part of a wider regional and international dynamic rather than a purely bilateral dispute. If Eisenkot assumes leadership, he could face pressure to prevent tensions from escalating into a broader conflict because it would be costly. Nevertheless, the paper cautioned against interpreting this as a shift away from viewing Iran as a major security concern. Instead, the likely difference would be in the methods used to address that challenge. Greater emphasis could be placed on intelligence capabilities, operational readiness, deterrence, and rapid-response capacity rather than relying primarily on repeated large-scale military operations.

Jam-e-Jam: US has entered period of relative decline

Jam-e-Jam in an article discussed the reduction of America's power. It argued that developments following recent US congressional elections reflect wider changes in global politics. According to the paper, these events demonstrate that the United States no longer possesses the level of influence it once held. The article argued that Iran's ability to withstand pressure and challenge perceptions of American dominance has contributed to changing views of US power. It further argued that shifts in the regional military balance have reduced America's ability to shape events in West Asia as decisively as before. According to Jam-e Jam, these trends are part of a broader historical transformation taking place in international affairs. The paper concluded that the global order is undergoing significant change and that the United States has entered a period of relative decline compared with its past position.

Iran's two-day proposal most logical path to restoring security in Hormuz Strait: official

From page 1 ▸ Speaking at his weekly press conference on Monday, Baqaei said the Strait of Hormuz had remained open until the outbreak of the US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran on February 28, adding that the insecurity currently affecting the waterway was a direct consequence of the actions of the United States and the Israeli regime.

He stressed that vessels seeking to transit the strait must coordinate with Iran's competent authorities, warning that ships attempting to navigate unsafe routes under US pressure had unfortunately encountered incidents.

"As long as the US continues its actions, we will not see security return to this waterway," he said.

Two-day proposal remains on the table

Explaining the details of Tehran's proposal, Baqaei said it incorporates all the understandings reached by Washington under the Islamabad memorandum of understanding (MoU). He emphasized that Iran's demands, including the lifting of sanctions, were fundamental national interests that no Iranian could relinquish.

He said Washington had previously accepted its commitments but subsequently violated them, adding that Iran could not be held responsible for the United States' failure to honor its obligations.

Describing the two-day proposal as a gesture of goodwill, Baqaei said Tehran could implement it within 48 hours if the other side demonstrated the necessary political will. He stressed that Iran's demands were clear, reasonable and already reflected in the Islamabad understandings.

The spokesman said Iran had previously tested an achievable agreement that the other side had accepted, demonstrating its own commitment by fulfilling its obligations in good faith. However, he stressed that Tehran would accept only commitments consistent with its national interests.



He also expressed appreciation for the efforts of mediators working to resolve the situation, reiterating that Iran's demands were neither unusual nor unreasonable.

Under the proposal, the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened to commercial shipping within 48 hours of Washington meeting Tehran's conditions. These include lifting the naval blockade of Iranian ports, ending the war on all fronts and unfreezing Iranian assets held abroad.

Iran had initially proposed reopening the strategic waterway within one week but subsequently shortened the implementation period to two days as a further demonstration of its goodwill. Both proposals were conveyed through Qatari mediation, with Doha continuing its diplomatic efforts to help resolve the regional conflict.

Reiterating Tehran's position on Sunday night, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the proposal remained on the table and that the White House must choose between accepting Iran's conditions and continuing the war.

He said American voters had already made their choice, and it was now Washington's turn to decide, warning that Iran's alert and battle-hardened Armed Forces were fully prepared to respond if the United States opted for war.

Geopolitical changes in Caucasus

Addressing the Armenian parliament's approval of a project concerning the so-called "Trump Route," Baqaei reiterated Iran's opposition to any initiative that could alter the geopolitical configuration or internationally recognized borders of the region.

"We welcome the unblocking of transportation routes and have stressed that such projects must not lead to changes in the region's geopolitics," he said.

Referring to the record of US involvement in the region, the spokesman warned that the presence of the United States had historically been accompanied by insecurity.

Baqaei said Tehran had conveyed its concerns to Yerevan and had received assurances that the project would not result in any changes to existing borders.

Safeguards cooperation affected by aggression

On Iran's nuclear activities, Baqaei said the country remained committed to its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) but could not fulfill them under the current circumstances in the same manner as under normal conditions.

Responding to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi's demand for access to Iran's nuclear facilities, he said Tehran had not suspended its NPT commitments and had consistently honored its international obligations.

"Those who committed acts of aggression and disrupted the implementation of safeguards arrangements must answer for their actions," Baqaei said, stressing that the circumstances created by the attacks had affected Iran's ability to implement its safeguards obligations as usual.

He noted that an inspection of the Bushehr nuclear power plant had taken place several days earlier, adding that Iran's mission in Vienna remained in professional contact with the IAEA.

Asked about reports that Qatar had presented a separate nuclear proposal, Baqaei said Iran had already submitted its own two-day initiative, which remained available for consideration.

Baqaei questions US claims about Iran's nuclear program

The spokesman also dismissed reports that the United States was offering financial incentives to obtain and leak information about Iran's nuclear program.

He pointed out the contradiction between Washington's previous announcement that it had completely destroyed Iran's nuclear program and its subsequent efforts to spend considerable sums obtaining information about the same program.

Baqaei said the objective was to perpetuate allegations against Iran's peaceful nuclear activities and manufacture the impression that the program continued to pose a major security concern.

He expressed doubt that the international community would be misled by such US tactics.

Concluding his remarks on the Strait of Hormuz, Baqaei again described Iran's two-day initiative as the most reasonable option available for restoring security to the Persian Gulf, asking: "Can a more logical proposal than Iran's be found?"

He said the proposal demonstrated Tehran's utmost goodwill and that the decision now rested with Washington.

Iran shifts towards offensive military doctrine, with no geographical limits on response: Army

TEHRAN – Iran's Armed Forces are transitioning towards an offensive military doctrine that envisages a broader operational reach, revised combat concepts and the development of weapons systems tailored to the new strategic requirements, Army spokesman Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia has said.

Under the emerging doctrine, Iran's response to aggression will no longer be confined by geographical boundaries, with the principles of an "effective response" and "no geographical limitations" being translated into operational concepts and actionable military strategies, Akraminia said on Monday.

He said the transition was being pursued in accordance with the latest directives issued by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei. The directives call for a shift in the Army's doctrinal orientation, the development of corresponding weapons capabilities and changes to established methods of combat, he added.

Explaining the doctrinal shift, Akraminia said Iran's previous military posture had centered on defense and retaliatory or punitive deterrence. Under that framework, the armed forces were tasked with repelling an initial enemy strike before delivering a proportionate counterstrike, with the response geographically confined to the regional theatre and US military bases in the region.

The new directives, however, place particular emphasis on the speed and operational effectiveness of retaliation, as well as the removal of geographical constraints, he said. Akraminia pointed to the response mounted by Iran's Armed Forces at the outset of the recent war as an indication of the importance attached to a rapid response.

He said the new concepts had already been defined in operational terms, with work underway to develop them into executable strategies. These, alongside revised combat principles and operational methods, would form the foundation of the Army's future doctrine.

Akraminia described the emerging doctrine as comprehensive and intelligence-driven, stressing that its development would also draw on the Army's ideological foundations and public support.

Military modernization to follow doctrinal shift

The spokesman said the transition would have implications extending beyond operational planning to force structure, training requirements, tactical concepts and weapons procurement.

The process, he explained, would draw on theoretical and religious foundations as well as operational lessons from the recent conflict and previous wars. These lessons would inform the development of strategies and tactics, which would in turn determine the force composition, training requirements and weapons systems needed to implement the revised doctrine.

Akraminia said the programs to enhance Iran's combat readiness and defensive capabilities would continue irrespective of changes in the political environment or assessments of the likelihood of renewed hostilities.

Although recent political developments affecting the United States and Israel could reduce the immediate prospect of another war, he said they would not alter the military's modernization priorities.

The spokesman stressed that Iran's military planning was based on the fulfilment of operational missions and the implementation of the Commander-in-Chief's directives, rather than assumptions about the intentions or constraints of its adversaries.

He cautioned against interpreting an adversary's failure to launch an attack as an indication that the threat had diminished, arguing that restraint could reflect either Iran's deterrent capabilities or internal political and domestic difficulties facing the opposing side. Both possibilities, he said, had to be factored into Iran's security calculations.

Iran rejects US-backed alternative shipping route in Strait of Hormuz

On maritime security, Akraminia said the United States had sought, following the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to establish an alternative shipping corridor south of the Strait of Hormuz and induce, including through pressure, commercial shipping operators and vessel owners to use it.

He described the initiative as an attempt to circumvent the arrangements envisaged under the memorandum, particularly the provision assigning an Iranian mechanism responsibility for managing affairs related to the strait and conducting the necessary consultations with Oman.

According to Akraminia, the objective was to erode Iran's geopolitical leverage over the strategic waterway and undermine a key element of the Islamabad understanding.

He said Iran had issued warnings in response and that vessels which disregarded the prescribed requirements subsequently encountered security risks.

The Army spokesman also attributed the deterioration in maritime security to US intervention, arguing that vessels pressured into using unsafe routes risked striking naval mines and sustaining damage. Such incidents, he added, had wider implications for commercial shipping operators and the international transport sector.

Akraminia said commercial vessel owners and shipping companies could coordinate directly with Iran's Armed Forces to transit designated secure routes through the Strait of Hormuz, adding that the Iranian military would guarantee the security of these passageways.

Chinese envoy meets senior Iranian officials to discuss bilateral ties, regional developments

TEHRAN – Zhai Jun, the Chinese government's special envoy for Middle East affairs, met with senior Iranian officials during a visit to Tehran on November 8, holding talks on bilateral relations and the latest developments in West Asia.

According to China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zhai met with Ali Bagheri, deputy secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council; Majid Takht-Ravanchi, deputy foreign minister for political affairs; and Ali-Bek, assistant foreign minister and director general for Persian Gulf affairs.

Highlighting the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and China, as well as the 10th anniversary of their comprehensive strategic partnership, Zhai reaffirmed Beijing's readiness to further strengthen and expand ties with Tehran.

He stressed that the use of force cannot resolve regional problems, calling for respect for the sovereignty and security of all countries, restraint to prevent further escalation, and the settlement of regional crises



through political means and dialogue.

The Iranian officials, in turn, underscored the importance Tehran attaches to its relations with Beijing and expressed appreciation for China's constructive role in efforts to promote peace and help bring the war to an end.

They also reaffirmed Iran's determination to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, resolve regional disputes through political dialogue, and oppose foreign interference in regional affairs.

Handala warns Israelis of 'life without water and electricity' in new leaflet campaign

From Page 1 ▶ The message goes on to warn that Israelis could find themselves spending their days and nights in darkness and thirst, eventually being forced to seek shelter in facilities without electricity, water or hope.

"This is the final warning. The choice is yours: rationality, or a descent into catastrophic darkness and blackout," the group says.

Alongside its statement, Handala published photographs purportedly showing mailboxes filled with the leaflets, as well as a video carrying the message: "Tel Aviv, are you ready?"



A message delivered to residents' doorsteps

The campaign appears to have extended well beyond the digital sphere. Dozens of photographs circulated by Handala show residential mailboxes across Tel Aviv containing copies of the warning leaflets, providing visual evidence that the distribution operation took place in multiple locations.

The group has claimed that hundreds of thousands of copies were distributed, although the precise number has not been independently established.

The photographs, alongside a video carrying the message "Tel Aviv, are you ready?", suggest an effort to bring the group's warning directly into residential neighborhoods and make the prospect of infrastructure disruption a tangible concern for ordinary residents.

The physical distribution of the leaflets is significant because it takes the group's messaging beyond online platforms and places it directly in the everyday environment of the population being addressed.

However, the leaflet campaign should not be viewed in isolation from the cyber operations already targeting Israeli infrastructure and public services. Previous incidents attributed to Handala have demonstrated that hackers can penetrate systems connected to essential services and exploit them to produce real-world effects. In one reported case, the group breached a company s systems linked to public-address infrastructure and used them to broadcast sirens and messages; another incident involved the unauthorized transmission of threatening messages through a regional council s systems. Such cases underscore the vulnerability of digitally connected infrastructure and the potential consequences of a coordinated cyberattack. While there is no publicly verified evidence that Handala has gained operational control of power grids, water distribution networks or desalination facilities, the record of intrusions into related systems makes the threat of a wider attack more than a purely hypothetical scenario.

Beyond the battlefield

The campaign represents an attempt to bring the group's psychological and cyberwarfare messaging directly into the residential environment, addressing ordinary Israelis rather than limiting its communications to government institutions, military establishments or corporate targets.

Its central message is that the consequences of another attack on Iranian infrastructure could be felt in the most basic elements of everyday civilian life: electricity, drinking water and access to essential services.

The emphasis on desalination facilities is particularly significant. Desalination plays a major role in supplying drinking water across the occupied territories, making such facilities strategically important to civilian infrastructure.

By explicitly naming power stations, refineries and desalination plants, Handala is seeking to underline the vulnerability of interconnected infrastructure systems and the potential consequences of a wider confrontation.

The campaign also reflects the growing prominence of cyber operations and psychological warfare in the confrontation between Iran and the Israeli regime. Threats involving critical infrastructure are no longer confined to technical warnings exchanged between cybersecurity institutions. They have increasingly become part of public messaging intended to influence perceptions of security and the potential costs of military escalation.

The campaign carries a message that goes beyond the immediate claims of the hackers: in a confrontation involving highly interconnected strategic infrastructure, the potential consequences of escalation may not remain confined to military installations.

By placing its warning in residential mailboxes across Tel Aviv, Handala is attempting to bring that possibility directly to the public's doorstep.

Pezeshkian: Leader has ordered end to 'neither war nor peace' situation

From Page 1 ▶ Speaking on Monday at a ceremony marking the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of Iran Dairy Industries Company, Pezeshkian referred to hostile plots and efforts aimed at undermining the Islamic Republic, saying the Leader had instructed officials to resolve the current situation and put an end to the prolonged state of uncertainty.

The president said Iran was prepared to pursue negotiations and resolve outstanding issues while safeguarding its dignity and national interests.

"We can negotiate with dignity and bring the issue to an end with dignity," he said, reaffirming Tehran's commitment to dialogue and diplomacy.

Pezeshkian emphasized that, from a logical standpoint, war should be avoided if Iran's rights could be secured through negotiations. However, he made clear that diplomacy should never be mistaken for capitulation.

"We will not surrender to force and bullying," he stressed.

Referring to his address to the United Nations General Assembly, the president said he had reiterated Iran's readiness to negotiate on the basis of justice, equality, and mutual respect, while insisting on the country's legitimate rights.

"We seek our rights, but we will not submit to coercion," Pezeshkian underscored.

Araghchi: Americans are tired of Israel dragging the US into 'forever wars'

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said that most Americans are fed up with Israel drawing successive US administrations into prolonged wars, warning that the consequences of Washington's policies have also exhausted the region.

In a post on his X account on Monday, Araghchi said US President Donald Trump seemed to recognize widespread public dissatisfaction with Israel but couldn't understand why.

"The vast majority of Americans are disgusted with Israel. Strikingly, he seems confused about why that's the case," the foreign minister wrote, adding that Americans were tired of Israel drawing successive US administrations into what he called "forever wars."

"They have had enough. So has our region," he added.

In a separate post, Araghchi said American voters had already made their choice and that it was now the White House's turn to decide between accepting Iran's proposal and continuing the war.

He reiterated that Tehran's two-day proposal remained on the table, stressing that meeting Iran's requirements, including ending the war on all fronts, would produce tangible results.

"Or choose war, and see our alert and battle-hardened Warriors rain down hell," he warned.

Setayesh's unfinished dream: Remembering the nine-year-old killed in Minab

Her parents remember their daughter, whose dream of becoming a teacher was cut short in the US-Israeli attack on her school.



From Page 1 ▶ I obtained their contact details at the ceremony, knowing that I wanted to hear their account of the child they had lost. Although I knew the conversation would be difficult, I felt it was important to give them an opportunity to share their memories of Setayesh.

The little teacher and her classroom of dolls

Setayesh was a fourth-grade student at Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab. Her classroom was named after Major General Amir Ali Hajizadeh. But to her mother, Setayesh was much more than a student in a particular classroom or a name on a school register. She was a gentle, kind-hearted girl whose presence had filled their home with life.

Her mother recalled a child whose kindness was reflected in her everyday behavior. Setayesh was devoted to the Ahl al-Bayt, particularly Hazrat Ruqayyah, and spoke enthusiastically about visiting holy sites in Karbala and the Imam Reza shrine. According to her mother, she had been fasting since the age of seven and would go to sleep after performing ablution.

For her mother, these were not simply expressions of her daughter's religious devotion. They were details of an ordinary childhood: a little girl growing up before her eyes, with so many years of life still ahead of her.

But among all the memories her mother shared, one image stood out: Setayesh playing with her dolls. She would arrange them in rows, hold classes for them, and take on the role of their teacher. Sometimes she would teach them lessons, turning her little world into a miniature school.

It was more than just a game. Setayesh wanted to become a teacher.

Still in fourth grade, she imagined her future through these simple childhood games. She may not yet have understood all the responsibilities of being a teacher, but she knew that she wanted to stand in front of a classroom one day, teach children, and help them learn.

She had other dreams, too. She wanted to visit the Imam Reza shrine and see the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in person. Her affection for Hazrat Ruqayyah and other religious figures cherished by her family was reflected in her words and actions.

As her mother recounted these memories, I kept thinking about what each detail must now mean to the family. Playing with dolls, talking about religious pilgrimages, fasting as a young child, and dreaming of becoming a teacher were all ordinary parts of a nine-year-old girl's life. A life that was supposed to continue.

A mother's search for her daughter

When the conversation turned to the day of the attack, her mother's tone changed. The memories were no longer just about Setayesh's interests and games. She returned to the moment she heard the news and realized that the school had been attacked.

She said her whole body began to tremble when she heard what had happened. The school and its students had been caught up in a disaster that no parent could ever prepare for. She rushed toward the school, overwhelmed with fear and anxiety, not yet knowing what awaited her there.

What she encountered was horrifyingly different from the school she had known. She recalled smoke, crowds, and traffic, as well as the destruction and the bodies of children caught in the devastation. She was searching for Setayesh, looking for any sign of her daughter in a place that should have been filled with children's lessons and games.

She later went to the hospital. Her mother spoke about seeing her daughter's clothes and body and the moment she identified her, when any remaining hope of Setayesh returning home disappeared.

Some experiences cannot be adequately conveyed in words, no matter how hard one tries. For a mother, going to a school in search of her child and then reaching a hospital to identify her is not an experience that can ever become an ordinary memory. It remains with a person, even as days and months pass.

The attack took place during the holy month of Ramadan. Setayesh had been fasting that day, her mother recalled. Even in the final hours of her life, she was a child observing the traditions she had grown up with, carrying on with the ordinary routines of her young life.

The embrace she can no longer give

Whenever Setayesh's mother spoke about her daughter, she returned to the affection they had shared and, particularly, to her daughter's hugs. She remembered how Setayesh would wrap her little arms around her neck and seek comfort in her embrace.

For someone who has never experienced such a loss, this may seem like just another tender image of the bond between a mother and her child. But for a mother who has



lost her daughter, these smallest gestures can become the greatest sources of longing.

Grief is not always confined to major memories or special occasions. Sometimes it appears in an ordinary moment: looking at an empty chair, seeing another child of the same age, or encountering a familiar piece of clothing. Sometimes it is simply the longing to feel a daughter's arms around one's neck just once more.

That was the longing Setayesh's mother spoke about: missing a daughter she could no longer hold and the days they were supposed to spend together.

She had even found it difficult to attend the National Students' Day ceremony. Seeing schoolchildren in their uniforms and hearing their voices was painful because every child brought back memories of Setayesh. A school uniform, which for many families signals the beginning of another ordinary day, had become a reminder of her daughter's absence.

Perhaps this is one of the cruellest contradictions faced by bereaved families: the world continues to move forward for everyone else. Children still go to school, classroom bells still ring, and mothers still prepare meals for their children. But in another home, all these ordinary moments have become memories.

A mother's plea: Let schools remain places of learning

Despite the grief that was evident in her voice, the mother's words were not solely about her own daughter. She spoke about the safety of schools and children's right to live and receive an education.

Her message was clear: schools must remain places of learning. Children go there to study. They carry no weapons and should never be exposed to attacks. She called on international organizations and the global community to take action to prevent such tragedies from happening again and to ensure that schools and students are never targeted in wars.

This appeal extends beyond the borders of any one country. Every mother, wherever she lives, wants her child to leave home safely in the morning, reach school, learn something new, and return home in the afternoon. No mother should have to fear that the school where she entrusted her child will become the place where that child's life ends.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Yerevan hosting Iran-Armenia joint economic committee meeting

TEHRAN- The 19th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting began in Yerevan with the formation of eight specialized committees, and the two countries are negotiating the expansion of trade, transportation, and energy cooperation.



According to a Mehr News Agency report citing the Planning and Budget Organization of Iran, Seyyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, Head of the Planning and Budget Organization, who traveled to Yerevan at the head of a high-ranking delegation to participate in the 19th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committer meeting, referring to Armenia's approach toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: "The Republic of Armenia's approach, especially during the Ramadan War and the 12-day war, has been a committed one."

Referring to the holding of the 19th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Cooperation Committee meeting in Yerevan, the Head of the Planning and Budget Organization stated: "At this meeting, eight working committees have been formed with the aim of developing joint cooperation in the areas of infrastructure, customs, trade, culture and art, health and treatment, industry, mining, and technology."

He added: "The work of these committees began today, Monday, and will continue until tomorrow afternoon, and at the end, the joint cooperation document of the two countries will be signed."

Pourmohammadi, referring to the importance of developing transportation infrastructure between the two countries, said: "Currently, the operation to complete the road from Jolfa to Nordooz in Iran is being carried out rapidly, and Iranian contractors have also undertaken the implementation of the Nordooz-Yerevan route on Armenian soil. Also, the construction of a new bridge over the Aras River, the development of border terminals, and increasing the customs capacity of the two countries are among the plans envisioned to facilitate traffic and trade."

The official further cited the facilitation of truck traffic and an increase in the movement of Iranian and Armenian tourists as other important axes of the negotiations and said: "The development of economic and border cooperation can pave the way for increasing trade exchanges and strengthening communication between the two countries."

He also announced the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector and stated: "Iranian contractors are implementing the electricity transmission line from Armenia toward Iran, and we hope this project will be completed as soon as possible. On the other hand, supplying Armenia's needed petroleum products from Iran is another capacity for developing bilateral cooperation in the energy sector."

Referring to Armenia's mining and industrial capacities, the Head of the Planning and Budget Organization said: "Cooperation in the fields of mining, industry, trade, and technology is among other topics examined in the specialized meetings of this commission, and the two countries can provide the ground for expanding cooperation by using mutual capacities."

Pourmohammadi, referring to his planned meeting with Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Armenia, said: "In this meeting, we will discuss important issues of bilateral cooperation, the results of the negotiations of the specialized committees, and solutions for strengthening relations between the two countries. Specialized negotiations with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Armenian head of the joint committee will also be pursued."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran to host 16 countries in intl. metallurgy exhibition

TEHRAN- About 450 domestic and foreign companies from Iran and 16 countries around the world will participate in the 23rd International Exhibition of Steel Industries, Metallurgy, Casting, Forging, Metal Mines, Machinery and Related Industries of Iran (IRAN METAFO 2026), that will be held at the Tehran International Permanent Fairground during November 17-20.

According to an IRNA report from Tehran International Exhibitions, the event will be held with the participation of about 450 domestic and foreign companies from Iran and 16 countries and with a broad presence of knowledge-based companies.

The 23rd IRAN METAFO, as one of the largest specialized events in the steel and metallurgy industry in West Asia, provides a platform for introducing production, industrial, and technological capacities, exchanging specialized knowledge and experience, and developing trade cooperation among actors in this field.

In this edition, about 450 domestic and foreign companies will be present, of which about 420 are domestic companies and 25 are foreign companies, representatives, and brands. Foreign companies present at the exhibition will be from Sweden, Italy, France, Finland, Spain, China, Turkey, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Russia, the Czech Republic, India, and Turkmenistan, and will present their latest products, achievements, technologies, and services.

Abdolkarim Jalali, Head of the Metallurgy Exhibition Organizing Committee, said: "This exhibition covers a wide range of industries and activities related to the metal production and processing chain, including iron and steel, mining industries, non-ferrous metals including copper, aluminum, and zinc, casting, mold-making, machining, forging, heat treatment, raw materials, refractories and refractory products, and related equipment and industries."

He added: "The 23rd International Metallurgy Exhibition is being held with the aim of maximizing the use of the capabilities and capacities of knowledge-based companies and seeks to provide a suitable ground for introducing new technologies, products, and achievements of this industry."

The CEO of Namanegar Company, explaining the composition of participants in this edition, added: "Iron and steel industrial groups are among the main sections of the exhibition, and as in previous years, they will have a broad and impressive presence."

He said: "Also, producers and actors in the field of non-ferrous metals, especially aluminum, producers of raw materials, refractories and refractory products, as well as actors in the casting industry, are among other important and highly participating groups in this event."

The Head of the Organizing Committee of the 23rd IRAN METAFO noted: "Despite the difficult conditions prevailing in the country, this year there has been significant interest in this international event; in such a way that the capacity of the exhibition halls was filled months in advance, and due to limited available space, it was not possible to allocate booths to some applicant companies."

Jalali emphasized: "Concurrent with the holding of this event, numerous conferences, specialized panels, and training workshops will be held with the aim of exchanging knowledge, transferring experience, and examining current issues and challenges of the metallurgy industry."

Document for development of public-private partnership in agriculture sector notified for implementation

TEHRAN- The Ministry of Agriculture announced: The Comprehensive Document for the Development of Public-Private Partnership in the Agriculture Sector was notified for implementation with the aim of utilizing the capacities of the private sector, developing investment, and accelerating the implementation of plans and projects in the agriculture sector.



According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Agriculture, this document was prepared based on the provisions of the Law on the Seventh Five-Year National Development Plan and the Law on Financing Production and Infrastructure, and within the framework of the relevant laws and regulations on the implementation of public-private partnership projects, and has been notified to the relevant units for implementation.

According to this notification, the "Comprehensive Document for the Development of Public-Private Partnership in the Agriculture Sector," considering the special nature of this sector and in order to make maximum use of the investment and participation capacities of the private sector, has been prepared taking into account technical and organizational considerations as well as the views of the Planning and Budget Organization of the country, and its final text has been notified as an attachment.

This notification emphasizes: Deputy ministers, heads of affiliated organizations, CEOs of specialized parent companies and affiliated institutions, heads of provincial agriculture jihad organizations, and directors-general of independent staff offices must take action to implement the provisions of the document precisely within their areas of responsibility.

Also, the responsible units have been required, while observing the relevant laws and regulations, to prepare progress reports on the implementation of the document at specified intervals and send them to the Economic Affairs Office of the Planning and Economic Affairs Deputy of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The implementation of this document can provide the ground for strengthening the role of the private sector in the development of the agriculture sector, supplying the financial resources needed for plans and infrastructure, and making more effective use of investment capacities.

Iran-Tajikistan trade: from growth in exchanges to test of implementing agreements

TEHRAN- Iran-Tajikistan trade entered a new phase in 2026 with growth in exchanges, new agreements, and visa cancellation; however, achieving the $1 billion trade target still depends on removing banking and transportation obstacles.

According to a Mehr News Agency reporter, economic relations between Iran and Tajikistan have entered a new stage in recent years with increased political exchanges, the signing of trade agreements, and efforts to develop transport and energy cooperation. Trade statistics also indicate growth in exchanges between the two countries; nevertheless, Iran's share of the Tajik market and the volume of bilateral trade remain far from existing capacities.

In recent months, consultations between the two countries have focused on trade facilitation, developing transit routes, provincial cooperation, and increasing exports. Implementing new agreements and removing banking and transportation obstacles can provide the basis for realizing the $1 billion trade target—a goal whose achievement depends on practical and continuous action by both sides.

Growth in bilateral trade; distance from the market's real capacity

According to statistics published by Tajik institutions, the country's foreign trade volume with Iran increased from about $377.7 million in 2024 to about $483.9 million in 2025—a growth of nearly 28 percent. Based on the same data, Tajikistan's exports to Iran in 2025 were about $112.8 million, and its imports from Iran were about $371.2 million. Therefore, the structure of bilateral trade still favors Iran's exports, and Iranian goods make up the larger part of exchanges.

Statistics for 2026 also indicate a continued upward trend. The two countries' trade volume reached $119.6 million in the first quarter of the year, 8 percent more than in the same period the previous year. In the first half of the year, it increased to $254.3 million—that is, $32.8 million and 14.8 percent more than in the first six months of 2025.

Iran's export basket to Tajikistan mainly includes industrial and petrochemical products, polymeric raw materials, construction materials, and food goods. According to Tajikistan's customs data, as reflected by the country's International Road Transport Association, petrochemical products, polyethylene, polypropylene, Portland cement, clinker, and food products were among the important items imported by Tajikistan from Iran in 2025.

In contrast, Tajikistan's exports to Iran rely more on raw materials and basic goods, including cotton fiber and yarn and primary aluminum. This pattern shows that trade between the two countries still lacks sufficient diversity, and the capacity to expand exchanges in machinery, industrial equipment, agricultural products and processing industries, medicine and medical equipment, and technical and engineering services remains significant.

According to Amir Fakhrian, Iran's commercial counselor in Tajikistan, the country's foreign trade volume reached about $7.94 billion in the first seven months of 2026. During this period, Tajikistan's exports were about $1.78 billion, and its imports were more than $6.16 billion. In the same period, Iran's exports to Tajikistan were announced at about $249.97 million, equivalent to about 4.1 percent of Tajikistan's total imports.

This share, alongside the growth in bilateral trade, shows that Iran has not yet been able to gain a larger position in the Tajik market in proportion to its industrial and export capacities. Food and agricultural industries, construction materials, machinery and industrial equipment, mineral products, medicine, and technical and engineering services are among the areas where there is potential to increase the presence of Iranian companies. However, developing exports in these sectors requires precise knowledge of standards, distribution networks, import regulations, and payment mechanisms in the destination market.

Cooperation in the energy sector has been one of the important axes of economic negotiations between Tehran and Dushanbe. In the two countries' consultations, the issue of supplying petroleum products and expanding energy cooperation has been considered, and the capacity to increase Iran's exports in this sector has been examined.

According to published statistics, Tajikistan imported about 15,600 tons of oil and petroleum products from Iran between January and September 2026, valued at $14.7 million. These statistics indicate the beginning of imports in this sector, although the current volume of exchanges remains limited.

Meanwhile, figures raised about the possibility of supplying 2.55 million tons of petroleum products annually should not be considered definitive exports or an executive contract; rather, this figure falls within the framework of the capacity and request raised in negotiations. Turning this capacity into actual trade depends on executive agreements, transport infrastructure, and financial mechanisms.

Transit and transportation; Iran's geographic advantage

Due to its access to open waters and its location along regional communication routes, Iran can play an important role in meeting Tajikistan's trade needs. The use of Chabahar Port and Bandar Abbas Port, as well as the capacity of infrastructure such as Aprin Dry Port, are among the options under consideration for facilitating the transport of goods between the two countries.

Developing transit routes from Iran to Afghanistan and Tajikistan and connecting these routes to regional transport networks can reduce the cost and time of goods transfer. This is particularly important for Tajikistan, which is a landlocked country.

However, problems related to transport costs, customs coordination, infrastructure limitations, and difficulties in financial transactions remain among the obstacles to developing cooperation. Resolving these problems can turn Iran's geographic advantage into a larger share of the Tajik market.

New agreements and provincial cooperation

In recent years, the two countries have sought to move economic cooperation from the level of negotiations to the implementation stage by increasing formal agreements. In January 2025, 23 cooperation documents were signed between the two sides, and 13 trade agreements with an announced value of $456 million were put on the agenda.

In April 2026, the 18th Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan was held. Trade development, transportation, energy, and industrial cooperation were among the main axes of this meeting.

In the latest developments, on October 23, after the governor of Khorasan Razavi traveled to Tajikistan, three cooperation documents were signed in the fields of goods exchange in free zones, common standards, and transport guarantees. Also, in meetings between officials of Khorasan Razavi and Khatlon Province, ways to strengthen economic and trade cooperation were examined.

The development of provincial cooperation can create a new path for a more active presence of the private sector in the Tajik market. The geographical proximity and the production and export capacities of Iran's eastern provinces, especially Razavi Khorasan, have provided a suitable opportunity to expand these relations.

The full implementation of visa cancellation for holders of ordinary passports of Iran and Tajikistan from 5 October 2026 is one of the important developments in facilitating communication between the two countries. Under this agreement, citizens of the two countries can stay in the other country without a visa for a maximum of 30 days within each 90-day period.

This measure can facilitate the movement of economic actors, traders, tourists, and investors and increase the ground for direct communication between companies and private-sector actors.

Also, the visit of Mohammad Reza Aref, Iran's First Vice President, to Dushanbe to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting and meet with Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan, provided an opportunity to examine economic cooperation between the two countries. In these meetings, topics such as trade, energy, transportation, industry, agriculture, and joint production were discussed.

In continuation of these consultations, the Tajik ambassador in Tehran also met with the Director General for Central Asia at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this meeting, the expansion of political, economic, trade, and cultural relations between the two countries was examined.

The $1 billion trade goal; conditions for realization

Increasing the volume of Iran-Tajikistan trade to $1 billion is a goal that has been raised in the two countries' negotiations and economic plans in recent years. Realizing this goal, in addition to increasing formal agreements, requires removing existing obstacles in the path of activity of Iranian and Tajik traders and companies.

Problems with money transfers, banking restrictions, transport costs, customs procedures, and the lack of direct and continuous communication between economic actors are among the challenges that can slow the process of trade development. On the other hand, insufficient knowledge of market capacities and the difficulty for small and medium-sized companies in accessing trade partners also prevent full use of existing opportunities.

In such conditions, strengthening cooperation between chambers of commerce, creating reliable financial mechanisms, developing transportation, and following up on the implementation of signed agreements are particularly important. Ultimately, sustainable growth in Iran-Tajikistan trade will be achieved not by increasing the number of cooperation documents, but by turning agreements into executive contracts, increasing actual exchanges, and ensuring the continuous presence of the private sector.

Floods have added insult to injury for Gazans

From page 1 ▶ It emphasized that the announcement comes amid the worsening humanitarian catastrophe across the Gaza Strip, expressing "profound anger and sorrow" and describing the tragedy in Deir al-Balah as a reflection of the scale of "complicity and abandonment" faced by the Palestinian people.

The office stressed that the flooding of displacement camps and the collapse of sand onto defenseless displaced people were "an inevitable consequence of the ongoing genocide, the suffocating blockade" and the arbitrary measures imposed by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF).

It pointed out that the reduction of designated displacement areas and the widening of the IOF's so-called "Yellow Line" had forced Palestinians to seek refuge in extremely hazardous geographical areas, lacking the most basic necessities for survival and safety.

More than 70,000 displacement tents have been flooded since Friday in the first storm of the winter season, with initial losses estimated at $3 million, the office said.

It warned that dozens of damaged buildings are at risk of collapse. These structures had previously sustained damage during the IOF bombardment throughout the three-year genocidal war.

Reporters on the ground reported that rainwater had flooded displacement tents and mixed with sewage, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. Many displaced Palestinians have once again been forced to flee their tents, with families separated and nowhere to seek shelter amid the ongoing Israeli siege.

Reporters also noted that the entire population of the Strip, more than two million people, is displaced and dependent on humanitarian assistance following the U.S.-backed genocidal war and the siege.



Civil defense struggles to respond

The scale of the disaster has overwhelmed emergency response teams across the Gaza Strip. More than 1,500 emergency appeals have been received since Friday from displaced residents whose tents and shelters had been damaged.

The Civil Defense warned that all areas of the Gaza Strip are facing a new humanitarian catastrophe, with dozens of displacement camps, shelters, and entire residential neighborhoods submerged by heavy rainfall. Water levels have reached up to 1.5 meters in some areas.

The General Directorate of Civil Defense says it received 2,166 distress calls from displacement camp administrators, shelter management teams, and families whose homes had previously been damaged by IOF strikes.

However, rescue teams, working alongside municipalities and relevant authorities across the Strip, managed to respond to only 218 of those calls. In the remaining cases, they could only provide guidance to families facing flooding because of the overwhelming number of appeals and the severe shortage of resources.

Calls for urgent international intervention

Gaza's Civil Defense appealed to countries worldwide, stressing that the harsh humanitarian conditions facing residents of the Strip cannot be ignored.

It called for effective international pressure on the Israeli regime to allow the entry of rescue equipment and machinery needed to deal with winter-related emergencies.

The directorate also demanded the immediate entry of tents, plastic tarpaulins, and prefabricated mobile homes, commonly known as caravans, to provide emergency shelter for displaced Palestinians.

Furthermore, it called for the provision of sufficient fuel to support Civil Defense operations and enable emergency teams to respond to humanitarian crises, which become increasingly severe during the winter season.

The directorate urged the countries guaranteeing the Gaza ceasefire agreement, as well as the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, to fulfill their responsibilities and intervene immediately to save the lives of Palestinians who are facing winter without even the most basic means of protection.

Hamas has criticized the positions taken by the so-called "Board of Peace" and its executive director, Nikolay Mladenov, over IOF violations of the ceasefire agreement, emphasizing that these positions provide cover for the continuation of such violations.

The movement called on the board to assume its responsibilities, prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation, and take serious measures to compel the IOF to fulfill its obligations.

It also called on mediators and guarantors to play a more active role in ensuring the full implementation of the humanitarian protocol and the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian assistance, shelter supplies, and relief materials.

Furthermore, Hamas called on mediators and guarantors to pressure the regime to stop blocking the entry of the National Committee into the Gaza Strip and allow it to immediately begin carrying out its responsibilities.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad said the devastating scenes across Gaza following the storm, including flooded displacement tents and the destruction of personal belongings and food supplies, provided further evidence of the profound humanitarian catastrophe facing Palestinians amid destroyed infrastructure and the absence of adequate shelter and drainage systems.

The movement warned that the IOF continues to open fire around displacement areas, posing an additional threat to civilians struggling to protect their families from flooding and the cold.

94% of Gaza's population needs urgent shelter assistance

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) announced that approximately 94% of Gaza's population, equivalent to 1.98 million people, urgently need humanitarian assistance, particularly shelter and non-food items.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Over 200,000 march in Amsterdam demanding the Netherlands stop arming Israel



From page 1 ▶ The demands were concrete. End all direct and indirect arms trade with Israel. Widen the settlement import ban into a ban on any trade or investment that props up the occupation. Impose sanctions for war crimes. Banners read "Stop the Genocide" and "No Dutch Support for Apartheid."

"As far as I'm concerned, they are doing nothing," marcher Mike van Dongen told AP, referring to the government.

The crowd was smaller than last October's 250,000 but still among the biggest in Dutch history. Only the 1981 rally against U.S. cruise missiles is said to have drawn more.

Dutch action on Israel has come in small pieces, usually after a public push. Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp quit in August 2025 after failing to win new sanctions.

The minority coalition of Prime Minister Rob Jetten took office in February and, on Sept. 22, began enforcing a ban on settlement goods. Israel answered within a week by moving to strip Dutch diplomats in Ramallah of their status. Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen cites the ban whenever he is accused of doing too little.

Organizers reply that it covers only settlement products, leaving the rest of Dutch trade untouched, and a Global Echo report this summer named the Netherlands the top EU entry point for settlement produce.

Jetten marched in 2025 as an opposition leader. This time he stayed away, calling attendance "inappropriate" for a prime minister.

Gaza has given the march its urgency. A so-called ceasefire began Oct. 10, 2025, and since then, the Gaza Health Ministry counts more than 1,550 Palestinians killed, bringing the toll past 74,000, about 21,000 of them children.

Over the weekend, rain and flooding wrecked the tents of tens of thousands of displaced people.

Pressure is also building on the venue next door. In The Hague, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants in 2024 for Israel's prime minister and its former war minister.

Washington has answered with a sanctions campaign. After Secretary of State Marco Rubio vowed in July to "dismantle the ICC, brick by brick, if necessary," the U.S. sanctioned the court's president in August.

The ICC said nine of its 18 judges were by then under U.S. sanctions. On Oct. 9, Washington sanctioned the court itself.

What is behind Saudi request for Egyptian troops?

From page 1 ▶ The purpose of a potential Egyptian military presence is not necessarily to enter a war inside Yemen, since a ground intervention there is considered a high-cost option that could exhaust military forces and prolong the confrontation.

Rather, the broader significance lies in the fear that the expansion of the Axis of Resistance and liberation could change the regional balance of power, forcing the countries concerned to reassess their security calculations and seek additional defense arrangements.

Nevertheless, interpreting any military movement or request for defense cooperation requires distinguishing between confirmed information about the nature and objectives of a deployment, and conclusions about the concerns that may be motivating it.

The growing regional defense initiatives, if they continue and expand, could represent one of the signs of a transition away from a period in which the United States dominated the role of security guarantor, towards an era in which multiple centers of power and alliances emerge.

In such a situation, the question will no longer be limited to which country possesses the greatest military strength. Instead, it will concern which party can provide security, energy, trade and stability to its partners, and which can manage crises without imposing costs on others that exceed their capacity to bear them.

This is where the new alliances connect with the wider transformations taking place in the war. The more confidence declines in Washington's ability to protect its allies' interests, the stronger the incentive becomes for those allies to seek alternatives, even if those alternatives are not yet fully developed or cohesive.

Journalists are silent victims of war

US and Israel are not held accountable based on international law for killing journalists

From page 1 ▶ Figures from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) also paint a deeply disturbing picture of the situation in 2025. According to the organization's report, of the 129 journalists and media workers killed worldwide, 86 cases—roughly two-thirds of all recorded fatalities that year—were attributed to Israeli military actions. The overwhelming majority of these victims were Palestinians reporting from Gaza. It should be noted, however, that this figure also includes media workers, and not all the cases can necessarily be classified as deliberate killings or the direct targeting of journalists. In its report, the CPJ placed 47 cases in the category of deliberate killings linked to journalists' professional activities and also found Israel's share of this category to be very high. This distinction is essential to prevent documented statistics from being treated as definitive judicial findings.

These figures raise a serious question for the international community: How is it possible that, in a world where numerous rules have been established to protect civilians and journalists, so many journalists are killed while a substantial proportion of these cases remain without effective accountability?

Answering this question requires looking beyond the conduct of those who directly carry out the attacks. It also requires examining the role of states that contribute to creating and perpetuating this situation through military involvement, arms supplies or political support. In this regard, the Israeli regime, which is responsible for a significant proportion of the recorded journalist fatalities, and the United States, as its foremost military and political supporter, come first.

From Gaza to Tehran: The media in the crosshairs of war

Gaza has become one of the deadliest places for journalists in contemporary history. Despite extremely difficult conditions, the destruction of communications infrastructure and severe restrictions on access for international media, Palestinian journalists have continued to carry out their duty of reporting on developments on the ground.

The CPJ has reported 39 deaths of journalists and media workers in incidents involving drone attacks in 2025, 28 of which were attributed to the Israeli military in Gaza. UNESCO has also reported that 50 journalists were killed in drone attacks in conflict zones during the two-year period of 2024–2025. These figures demonstrate that, alongside the growing operational capabilities of armed forces, new military technologies have created additional dangers for journalists.

It is worth noting that on June 16, 2025, the building of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) in Tehran was also targeted in an Israeli airstrike. According to the CPJ, Nima Rajabpour and Masoumeh Azimi, two IRIB employees, were killed in the attack and attained martyrdom.

The Israeli military made an astonishingly false and implausible claim that the target had been a communications center used by Iran's armed forces. However, neither the state ownership of a media outlet nor its publication of political material, in itself, provides grounds for attacking its premises. Even if the military use of part of a media facility were established, the principles of proportionality and precaution would still have to be observed, and the potential harm to civilians would still have to be taken into account.

Under Articles 48, 51 and 57 of Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, adopted on June 8, 1977, concerning the protection of victims of international armed conflicts, the principles of distinction, the prohibition of direct attacks against civilians and the obligation to take all necessary precautions must be observed in military operations. Journalists, too, enjoy the general protection afforded to civilians as long as they do not directly participate in hostilities. The mere publication of news or political analysis does not deprive them of this protection.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Trump promised an end to Israel aid this year, but the draft deal runs to 2033

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Donald Trump told Fox News on November 3 that U.S. aid to Israel is "cut off at the end of the year." It is not.

Draft terms reported Monday by Yedioth Ahronoth show Washington and Israel negotiating a memorandum that would halve direct military financing and end it only in 2033.

Israeli negotiators were stunned by the remark, the paper said, and could not work out what he meant.

An Israeli official offered a simpler reading to the Hebrew-language newspaper. Trump was trying to help Republican Mike Rogers in Michigan against Democrat Abdul El-Sayed, who campaigned on ending military aid to Israel. It failed. El-Sayed became the first Muslim elected to the Senate, and Democrats took both chambers of Congress.

The 2016 memorandum, which runs through September 2028, pays Israel $3.3 billion a year in Foreign Military Financing, $33 billion over ten years, plus $500 million annually for missile defense.

The draft keeps the yearly figure roughly level but for five years, 2029 through 2033, about $16.5 billion in all. Then it supposedly stops. Money for Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow would rise by an undisclosed amount.

Netanyahu has sought to recast the relationship around arms purchases and joint defense projects rather than direct American grants. In January, he told The Economist that he wanted to taper off American aid within ten years, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican and reliable Israel backer who has since died, replied that "we need not wait ten years."

Netanyahu has since asked for the decline to begin in Trump's last two years. Ambassador Mike Huckabee says the new pact "ends aid & will be based on trade."



Precedent suggests the money will be hard to cut. Washington signed three ten-year pacts in a row, $21.3 billion in 1998, $32 billion in 2008 and $38 billion in 2016, and much of the cash returns to American military-industrial plants.

Aides to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and officials from Israel's War Ministry and embassy reportedly want the text signed before the new Congress is sworn in during January, since lawmakers appropriate the money every year.

Israeli officials reportedly fear Democrats will stall payments. Democrats warn that Israel can forget about aid if Netanyahu remains its face.

Pew finds 60 percent of Americans view Israel unfavorably, up from 53 percent in 2025. Yet the proposed agreement would preserve arms sales and expand joint missile-defense funding, leaving Washington's military backing largely intact despite mounting public opposition.

SPORTS

Taremi, Beiranvand left out of Iran squad for Iraq international tournament

TEHRAN - Iran national team head coach Amir Ghalenoei has announced a 29-player squad for the upcoming international football tournament in Iraq, with star striker Mehdi Taremi and goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand notably missing from the list.

The tournament will take place from Nov. 22 to 26 in the Iraqi city of Basra, featuring four national teams: Iran, Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon.

Team Melli will begin their campaign against Palestine on Nov. 23 before facing hosts Iraq on Nov. 26. The competition provides an opportunity for the coaching staff to assess several players and strengthen the squad ahead of future international commitments.

The absence of Taremi and Beiranvand is one of the most notable aspects of Ghalenoei's selection. Taremi has been one of Iran's key attacking players in recent years, while Beiranvand has been a regular presence between the posts for the national team. Their omission shows that Ghalenoei is going to give the young players opportunity to play.

Iran's 29-man squad:

Ghalenoei has selected 29 players across four positions for the training camp ahead of the tournament.

Goalkeepers:

Payam Niazmand, Habib Farabasi, Mohammad Khalifeh, Adib Zarei

Defenders:

Ali Nemati, Mohammadmehdi Zare, Aref Aghasi, Mohammad Ghorbani, Saman Fallah, Amin Hazbavi, Abolfazl Razzaghpour, Hossein Goudarzi, Jafar Salmani

Midfielders:

Amir Mohammad Razaghinejad, Omid Noorafkan, Javad Hosseinnezhad, Saeid Ezatolahi, Esmail Gholizadeh, Saleh Hardani, Aria Yousefi, Mehdi Limouchi, Afshin Sadeghi

Forwards:

Amirhossein Farsi, Mohammad Mohebi, Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, Mohammadmehdi Mohebi, Sardar Azmoun, Denis Dargahi, Kasra Taheri

The squad includes a combination of experienced internationals and younger players who will be looking to make their mark at international level. The presence of established names such as Sardar Azmoun, Saeid Ezatolahi and Mohammad Mohebi provides experience, while the inclusion of several emerging talents offers Ghalenoei an opportunity to evaluate potential options for the future.

With Taremi and Beiranvand absent, other players will have an opportunity to step forward and demonstrate their value to the national team.

Iran will be aiming to make a strong impression in Basra, particularly against hosts Iraq, in what promises to be a competitive international tournament.

For Ghalenoei, the competition represents more than just an opportunity to secure positive results. It is also a chance to test different combinations, assess squad depth and identify players capable of strengthening Team Melli in upcoming international fixtures.

Iran NOC lauds shooter Hanieh Rostamian for clinching LA28 quota

TEHRAN - Hanieh Rostamian clinched Iran's first quota for the LA28 Olympics with a stellar fourth-place finish in the women's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Shooting Championships in Doha, Qatar.

The milestone was lauded by the National Olympic Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who, in a congratulatory message, praised Rostamian's relentless dedication and the expertise of the coaching staff.

"We congratulate her dedication. This is a vital first step for the nation's sports delegation on the road to Los Angeles 2028, and we express profound gratitude to everyone involved in the federation's rigourous preparation," the Iran NOC noted.

Competing against a world-class field, Rostamian finished fourth. Given that two Chinese rivals were in the top three, she won a historic Olympic quota in shooting for Iran at the Los Angeles Games.

Adding to her remarkable campaign, Rostamian returned to the firing line alongside Vahid Golkhandan in the 10m air pistol mixed team event. The Iranian duo won the silver medal.

This latest podium finish builds on their recent bronze medal success at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games, further cementing Iran's rising prominence and competitive depth in the international shooting stage.

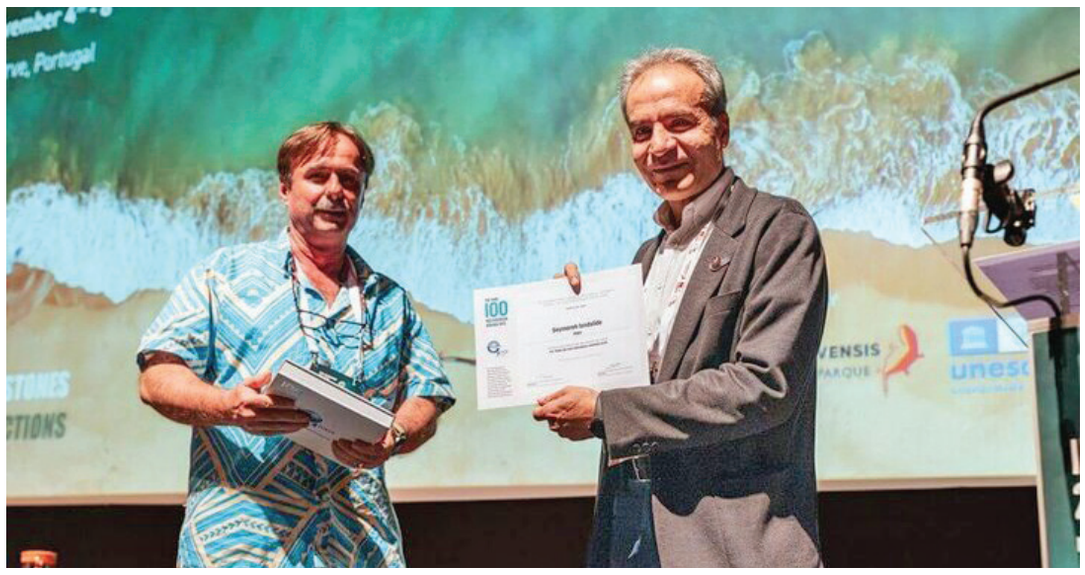
Nourollahi scores as Kalba defeats Al Dhafra

TEHRAN - Ittihad Kalba secured a valuable 3-1 victory away against Al Dhafra in a match held at Hamdan bin Zayed Stadium, marking the opening of the eighth round of the ADNOC Pro League.

Al Dhafra opened the scoring through Souri Kaba. Tetteh leveled from the spot in the 50th minute, and Nourollahi scored again in the 52nd, and Antonio Junior got the third in the 90+5.

Kalba are now on 8 points and in 9th position, Al Dhafra remain on 6 points and in 11th.

Mount Damavand named among world's top geological heritage sites



TEHRAN – Mount Damavand, Iran's highest peak and a prominent volcanic landmark in the Alborz Mountains, has been included in the International Union of Geological Sciences' (IUGS) list of the world's 100 top geological heritage sites.

The designation was announced on Friday, November 6, 2026, during an IUGS Geological Heritage event in Loulé, in Portugal's Algarve region, hosted by the Algarvensis UNESCO Global Geopark.

Alireza Amrikazemi, head of Iran's UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and vice-chairman of the National Committee for Earth Sciences and Geoparks under the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, told ISNA news agency that the nomination was prepared jointly by him and Jamshid Hassanzadeh of Glendale College in California.

The dossier was submitted to the IUGS last year, followed by a period of providing supporting documentation and defending the nomination before the evaluation panel. Amrikazemi presented the case in Algarve on November 6, when Damavand was officially recognized as a selected global geological heritage site, ISNA reported on Sunday.

The mountain has been listed under volcanology as site No. 252.

Amrikazemi said Damavand holds exceptional scientific significance, describing it as the highest peak in West Asia, standing at 5,610 meters, and the largest known stratovolcano formed within a continental setting.

"Volcanic activity in tectonic environments such as the Alborz Mountains is usually short-lived and limited in scale. Damavand, however, has remained active in such an environment for approximately 1.8 million years, with its youngest eruptions dating back around 7,300 years," he said.

The mountain's distinctive geological characteristics have made it a rare subject of international scientific interest, he added.

Damavand spans approximately 25 kilometers in width and preserves a complete sequence of its eruptive history. Another unusual feature is its renewed activity following a dormant period of around 200,000 years, which resulted in the formation of a new volcanic cone slightly southwest of the older crater.

Remnants of the earlier volcano remain visible along the mountain's eastern and northern slopes.

According to Amrikazemi, these characteristics make Damavand a natural laboratory for studying intraplate volcanism and volcanic hazards in active mountain ranges.

Beyond its geological importance, the mountain also holds a prominent place in Iranian cultural heritage.

Amrikazemi noted that Damavand features in several narratives of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, including the legendary imprisonment of Zahhak. The Shahnameh, Iran's celebrated epic poem, is also included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

He said the IUGS's official description of Damavand recognizes the connection between the mountain's geological significance and its place in Iranian culture.

The IUGS Geological Heritage Sites program was launched in 2022. Its first 100 sites were announced that year in Zumaia, Spain, while the second group was unveiled in 2024 in Busan, South Korea.

More than 1,000 experts from 90 countries and 20 international organizations have participated in the identification, evaluation and selection of sites under the program.

The third group of 100 geological heritage sites spans 47 countries, with six sites located in the Middle East. Other selections in this round include Mount Fuji in Japan, the Norwegian fjords, the San Andreas Fault in the United States and Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.

The Grand Canyon, Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Everest were among sites recognized in previous rounds.

Amrikazemi said the designation places Damavand alongside some of the world's most significant geological landmarks, while emphasizing that international recognition alone would not guarantee its preservation.

"The value of this designation lies in drawing greater attention to the protection of the mountain and its educational use. Our responsibility to safeguard Damavand has now increased," he said.

Mount Damavand, extinct volcanic peak of the Alborz Mountains in northern Iran, about 42 68 km northeast of Tehran. Estimates of its height range from about 5,610 meters to 5,670 meters; it dominates the surrounding ranges by 900 to 2,450 meters. Its steep snowcapped cone is formed of lava flows and ash and is crowned by a small crater with sulfuric deposits. Below the crater are two small glaciers; there are also fumaroles (holes for escaping fumes and gases), hot springs, and mineral deposits of travertine.

Damavand became volcanically active at least 1.8 million years ago, and its most-recent eruption was about 7,300 years ago. The mountain is mentioned in several Persian legends, one of which gives it as the resting place of Noah's ark.

Water heritage links ancestral wisdom to Iran's sustainable future: official

TEHRAN – Iran's traditional water-management practices can help address water scarcity, strengthen community resilience and promote regional cooperation, Atousa Momeni, head of the Tehran-based Regional Research Center for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, said at a ceremony marking the World Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Speaking at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Monday, Momeni said Iran's centuries-old water heritage, including qanats, traditional reservoirs, Persian gardens and water-sharing systems, reflects a deep-rooted culture of adapting to water scarcity.

She stressed that safeguarding such heritage requires preserving not only its physical structures but also the knowledge, skills and community practices that sustain it.

"If the qanat is the physical body of heritage, the knowledge of qanat diggers, maintenance skills, water-allocation rules and community participation constitute its soul," she said, warning that the loss of traditional knowledge and its transmission between generations could undermine the vitality of water heritage.

Momeni highlighted several Iranian experiences in water management, including Semnan's historical "Partaqsim" water-sharing system, traditional rainwater storage on Qeshm Island in Hormozgan province, and community-led restoration of water reservoirs in Larestan, Fars province.

She said combining indigenous knowledge with modern technologies could offer practical responses to contemporary water challenges, particularly in communities vulnerable to water shortages and emergencies.

Addressing the vulnerability of water-supply infrastructure during conflicts and crises, especially in Hormozgan, Momeni called for integrating ancestral wisdom with contemporary expertise to improve local resilience.

The ceremony also featured the presentation of the "Living Water Heritage" award, recognizing three initiatives from Semnan, Hormozgan and Fars provinces for their efforts to preserve traditional water-management knowledge and adapt it to present-day needs.

Italian-made facsimile of Shahnameh presented to Iran

TEHRAN – An Italian-made facsimile of a rare and exceptionally complete copy of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh has been presented to Iran's Cultural Heritage Ministry following a joint project involving Italian specialists and Iranian authorities.

Mohammad-Taqi Amini, director general for Europe and the Americas at the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization and Iran's former cultural attaché in Italy, handed over the lavishly produced volume to Ali Darabi, the deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, during a meeting at the ministry on Sunday.

According to the ministry's news outlet, Miras Aria, the facsimile was produced in cooperation with a specialized Italian institution, with support from the ministry's cultural heritage department.

Amini said three specialist teams from the Italian institution had traveled to Tehran to examine the original manuscript, which is preserved at [the UNESCO-registered] Golestan Palace. Their work involved a detailed study of its illustrations, portraits, gilding and other artistic features to ensure the reproduction remained as faithful as possible to the original.

He said Italy had considerable expertise in reproducing and printing valuable historical manuscripts, adding that the project had required substantial time and financial resources and was intended to strengthen cultural cooperation between Iran and Italy.

The original Shahnameh manuscript at Golestan Palace is particularly distinguished for its completeness, Amini said. The 700-page volume contains 22 exceptional miniature paintings and is considered one of the most complete known copies of Ferdowsi's epic. Other Shahnameh manuscripts are held in museums in Italy, France and the United States, but the Golestan Palace copy has a special standing because of its completeness.

Amini also announced plans to publish a collection of scholarly articles related to the project. Under an agreement with the Italian partners, the facsimile will be formally unveiled in Iran before being presented in Italy.

Darabi, for his part, praised Amini's efforts during his tenure as Iran's cultural attaché in Italy, describing the Shahnameh as a lasting masterpiece by the Persian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi and a cultural and historical record of the Iranian people.



He stressed the epic's importance in preserving Iranian identity, noting that the words "Iran" and "wisdom" appear more than 1,200 and 650 times, respectively, in the work. Its opening line, "In the name of the Lord of life and wisdom," also reflects the central place of wisdom in Iranian culture, he said.

Darabi added that historical and cultural works are among the most important foundations of national identity and have played a significant role in the continuity of Iranian cultural heritage.

The newly presented facsimile will be transferred to the World Heritage collection of Golestan Palace and unveiled at a ceremony, he said.

The Shahnameh, or Book of Kings, is an epic poem composed by Ferdowsi between approximately 977 and 1010 CE. With around 50,000 couplets, it is among the longest epic poems in world literature and the longest known epic written by a single poet.

The monumental work recounts the mythical and historical past of Iran, from the creation of the world to the Arab-Muslim conquest in the seventh century. Regarded as a cornerstone of Persian literature, it has played a defining role in preserving the Persian language and shaping the cultural identity of Iran and the wider Persian-speaking world.

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Iranian, Iraqi universities to expand cooperation through joint AI degree

TEHRAN – Amirkabir University of Technology and Iraq's Najaf Al-Ashraf Islamic University have signed an implementation agreement to launch a joint master's degree program in computer engineering, specializing in artificial intelligence, as part of efforts to expand scientific and academic cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement was signed during a visit by a delegation from Najaf Al-Ashraf Islamic University to Amirkabir University of Technology, Mehr News Agency reported on Monday.

The signing ceremony took place at a meeting attended by the presidents of both universities, following the Iraqi delegation's tour of Amirkabir's science and technology park and laboratories at its faculties of biomedical engineering, mechanical engineering, and civil and environmental engineering.

Headed by Ammar Abdul Amir Al-Salami, president of Najaf Al-Ashraf Islamic University, the delegation also visited Amirkabir's science and technology park, where its members became acquainted with the achievements and technological products developed by Iranian knowledge-based companies.

At the concluding meeting, Abbas Soroush, president of Amirkabir University of Technology, and Al-Salami signed the implementation agreement for the joint master's program in computer engineering with a specialization in artificial intelligence.

Expressing hope for the successful implementation of the initiative, Soroush emphasized the need to expand academic ties between the two universities and move toward conducting joint research projects.

He noted that Iran and Iraq face a number of shared issues and challenges whose solutions require research-based approaches, adding that cooperation with Najaf Al-Ashraf Islamic University would bring both scientific and broader benefits to Amirkabir University.



Al-Salami, for his part, highlighted the significance of the agreement, describing it as the first joint master's-level academic program of its kind between two universities in Iraq. He said the initiative could serve as a model for similar partnerships involving other Iraqi universities.

The agreement marks a new step toward strengthening academic exchanges and expanding cooperation in advanced fields of technology, particularly artificial intelligence, while creating opportunities for joint education and research between Iranian and Iraqi higher education institutions.

On August 6, Iraqi officials in a meeting with Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, called for expanding academic, scientific, and technological cooperation with Iran.

The science minister met Iraq's Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Haider Abd-Dahd Al-Rubaie, Iraq's Minister of Health, Abdul-Hussein al-Mousawi, and Acting Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Abdul Hussein Al-Mussawi, in Baghdad, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, the two sides underscored the need to expedite the implementation of the previously signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

Sharing Iran's expertise in higher education development to achieve quantitative and qualitative goals, addressing the needs of Iraq's substantial youth population, as well as attracting genius Iraqi students, and enhancing research collaborations were among the key focuses of the talks.

Simaei-Sarraf also held a meeting with Iraq's National Wisdom Movement leader Sayyed Ammar al-Hakim.

Underlining the extensive scientific and academic capacities of Iran and Iraq, both parties exchanged views on strategies for promoting scientific cooperation, expanding joint research collaborations, and developing academic interactions between the higher education institutions of the two countries.

In April, Simaei-Sarraf and Al-Aboudi underlined the need to boost scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

The officials also discussed ways to develop collaborations on artificial intelligence (AI) utilizing the capacities of the two nations, IRNA reported.

During a meeting held in Tehran on April 18, Al-Aboudi announced that the establishment of a branch of Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iraq has been put on the agenda.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf voiced Iran's readiness to share the country's scientific, research, and educational achievements with Iraq to help enhance bilateral ties.

The official said that Iranian and Iraqi students have conducted a total of 350 joint research projects so far, which needs to be improved considering the available capacities.

Referring to an upcoming Iran-Iraq science week, which is scheduled to be held in Isfahan and Fars provinces, Simaei-Sarraf said the event was delayed because of the [US-Israeli imposed] war, but it will be held at the earliest convenience.

As the two officials agreed, AI and smart education will be among the topics to be discussed during the Iran-Iraq science week. The event is expected to lay the basis for holding a joint conference on AI in the near future.

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

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

The officials also discussed conducting collaborative research projects, supervising joint dissertations for postgraduate degrees, and publishing joint scientific articles in globally reputable magazines.

Addressing the challenges and educational problems faced by the students in reciprocal countries was the other issue raised by the two sides.

Iranian students to compete in 3rd International NanoOlympiad in Taiwan

TEHRAN – An Iranian student team will represent the country at the 3rd International NanoOlympiad (INO 2026), scheduled to take place in Taipei, Taiwan, from December 6 to 12, after being selected through a national competition.

Team BactiQube168 was chosen to represent Iran with its project, an "Intelligent Rapid Bacterial Detection System," following a competition involving 25 student projects submitted under a national call to select Iran's representative for the international event.

The International NanoOlympiad aims to identify and nurture young talent, strengthen students' scientific and practical skills, and provide opportunities for interaction among researchers and professionals in the field.

The competition also offers students a platform to demonstrate their ability to apply nanotechnology to address practical challenges and respond to national needs. Beyond the competitive aspect, the event is expected to encourage research collaboration and foster the development of innovative ideas in nanotechnology.

This year's theme, "Nanobiotechnology and Health," focuses on the application of nanotechnology in healthcare, covering a range of areas, including nanodrug delivery and controlled release, nanosensing and detection technologies, the use of nanomaterials in medical devices and tissue engineering, the contribution of nanobiotechnology to sustainable healthcare, nanobionic technologies in biomedical applications, and the use of artificial intelligence and big data in nanobiomedical research.

With over 430 companies operating in the nanotechnology sector, and more than 1,960 nanotech products receiving nanoscale certificates, the advancement of the nanotechnology sector in the country proves to be more than just a scientific achievement.

Relying on domestic capacity, nanotechnology in Iran is not merely measured by scientific rankings and published articles, but products that have been manufactured and entered the industry and the market, IRNA reported.

The total sale of these products amounts to over 970 trillion rials (about 554 million dollars), indicating that the scientific achievement has become an economic and industrial capacity.

Nanotechnology in the country is a typical example of a successful development of a tech ecosystem. From the very beginning, a long-term roadmap was developed to strengthen all aspects of the technology development chain, from education and research to commercialization and market development.

Over the past years, the role of Nano headquarters has not been limited to macro-policy-making, but has included fostering coordination among universities, research institutes, industries, knowledge-based companies, and supporting institutions.

Establishing a strategic technological laboratory network, developing standards for the evaluation of Nano products, supporting start-up companies, and designing industrial programs are among the factors that help transfer nanotechnology from laboratories to the country's industries.

Despite the 12-day war in June 2025 and the recent 40-day war, 230 products received nanoscale certificates in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2025-March 2026), surpassing the targeted number.

Last year, the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy and the headquarters for nanotechnology planned to obtain nanoscale certificates for 190 products (one product per working day). Still, the figure increased by 40, reaching 230. Currently, the total number of nanotechnology products with a nanoscale certificate has increased to 1965, IRNA reported.

The highest number of products that received nanoscale certificates was recorded respectively in the provinces of Tehran, Fars, and Mazandaran, with 64, 48, and 24 products, respectively.

The provinces of Zanjan (32 products), Qom (17), Markazi (16), Qazvin (11), and Isfahan (7) are placed next.

Out of 230 products, Industrial supplies had the largest share with 72 products. Energy, oil, and related industries accounted for 41, Chemicals for 36, and Pharmaceutical and Health for 26 products.

Iran Nanotechnology Olympiad

Participants from 20 countries attended the first International Nanotechnology Olympiad (INO) for high school students, held online on September 29.

The event attracted students (aged 16 to 19) from different countries like Germany, Bangladesh, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, England, the United States, Venezuela, India, Australia, and Iran.

The results of the Olympiad will be announced in a week, Borna news agency quoted Afshin Ramzi, the secretary of the INO, as saying.

Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council (INIC) launched the first National Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Student Olympiad in the Iranian year 1389 (March 2010-2011). This initiative followed a series of successful nano-education programs held in schools across the country and combined a theoretical exam with a hands-on laboratory project.

(See full text at tehrantimescom)

Science for Peace and Development: building bridges through knowledge

TEHRAN – World Science Day for Peace and Development, observed annually on November 10, highlights the vital role of science in addressing global challenges, promoting international cooperation, and building peaceful and sustainable societies.

Proclaimed by UNESCO in 2001, the observance seeks to strengthen the relationship between science and society, raise public awareness of scientific developments, and encourage citizens to take part in discussions on emerging scientific issues. It also recognizes the contribution of scientists to expanding knowledge, protecting the planet, and improving people's quality of life.

The 2026 theme, "Common Ground Through Science Diplomacy," emphasizes the potential of scientific cooperation to build bridges between countries, foster dialogue, and facilitate collective responses to shared challenges.

The day provides an opportunity for governments, scientific institutions, researchers, the media, educators, and students to promote science as a means of advancing peace and development. It also highlights the importance of keeping the public informed about scientific progress and involving wider society in shaping the future of science.

The observance traces its origins to the World Conference on Science, held in Budapest in 1999 under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Council for Science. The conference emphasized the need to strengthen ties between science and society and highlighted the role of scientific knowledge in addressing global concerns. UNESCO subsequently proclaimed November 10 as World Science Day for Peace and Development, with the first worldwide celebration held in 2002.

The United Nations has further underscored the importance of science for sustainable development. In August 2023, the UN General Assembly declared 2024–2033 the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, recognizing the essential contribution of scientific knowledge, innovation, and international partnerships to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



International Week of Science and Peace

Closely related to World Science Day, the International Week of Science and Peace is observed annually from November 9 to 15, highlighting the contribution of scientific and technological progress to peace, security, and international cooperation.

The initiative was first held in 1986 as a non-governmental activity during the International Year of Peace. In 1988, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 43/61, officially designating the week in which November 11 falls as the International Week of Science and Peace.

The observance aims to raise public awareness of the relationship between scientific advancement and peace, while encouraging cooperation among scientists and greater international engagement in addressing common challenges.

Together, the two observances provide an opportunity to highlight how scientific knowledge, technological innovation, and cross-border collaboration can contribute to a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable world.

World Science Day in Iran

In Iran, universities and scientific institutions are marking World Science Day for Peace and Development and the International Week of Science and Peace with a range of educational, cultural, and public engagement activities.

The University of Tehran, in cooperation with the Iranian Association for the Promotion of Science, is hosting a series of events from November 9 to 18. The program includes a science exhibition, a commemorative ceremony, public science sessions, and science-fiction film screenings, aimed at promoting scientific awareness and strengthening interaction between universities and society.

The Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation is also organizing educational and media initiatives during the week, including new episodes of its Observatory podcast, the release of a science magazine, interviews with distinguished researchers, and a two-day educational program in Tehran for 40 outstanding students from across the country.



IRNA / Vahid Khademi

Faruj leads North Khorasan's saffron harvest

The annual saffron harvest, one of the major agricultural and export products in the northeastern North Khorasan Province, begins in late October, with Faruj County accounting for the largest cultivation area and serving as the province's main saffron-producing hub.

North Khorasan, with approximately 5,400 hectares of saffron cultivation, is expected to produce more than 30 tons of the valuable spice this year, providing employment for over 5,200 farmers and producers.

The province ranks third nationwide in both cultivated area and production volume. Thanks to its favorable climatic conditions, good yields per unit area, and high-quality produce, North Khorasan is considered one of the promising regions for expanding saffron cultivation, a valuable agricultural product that generates foreign currency through exports.

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NOVEMBER 10, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Overlook and forgive the weaknesses of the generous people because if they fall down, Allah will help them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:20 Dawn: 5:10 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:36 (tomorrow)

Eugène Ionesco's 'The Lesson' on stage at Mehregan Theater

TEHRAN – Mehregan Theater in Tehran is hosting "The Lesson," a one-act play by French-Romanian playwright Eugène Ionesco.

Directed by Ali Najimi, the play has Amir Saeed Afshar, Ensieh Shafiee, and Mahboubeh Zarkesh in the cast.

It was first performed in 1951. Since 1957, it has been in permanent showing at Paris' Théâtre de la Huchette, on an Ionesco double-bill with "The Bald Soprano". The play is regarded as an important work in the "Theater of the Absurd".

The play takes place in the office and dining room of a small French flat. The Professor, a man of 50 to 60, is expecting a new Pupil (aged 18). The Professor's Maid, a stout, red-faced woman of 40 to 50, worries about the Professor's health.

As the absurd and nonsensical lesson progresses, the Professor grows more and more angry with what he perceives as the Pupil's ignorance, and the Pupil becomes more and more quiet and meek. Even her health begins to deteriorate, and what starts as a toothache develops into her entire body aching.

At the climax of the play, after a long bout of non sequiturs (which are frequently used in Ionesco's plays), the Professor stabs and murders the Pupil. The play ends with the Maid greeting a new Pupil, taking the play full circle, back to the beginning.

In the text of Ionesco's play, the story ends with the Maid handing the Professor an armband with a swastika on it. She instructs him to put it on, because then no one will ask any questions about all the students he has murdered, asserting that it's "good politics." For many years, however, productions have deleted this detail, claiming that audiences would be too shocked by it, or that it narrows a more universal message of the play. Many scholars, however, argue that this deletion defangs the play and intentionally obscures Ionesco's point.

Eugène Ionesco (1909 – 1994) wrote mostly in French, and was one of the foremost figures of the French avant-garde theater in the 20th century. Ionesco instigated a revolution in ideas and techniques of drama, beginning with his "anti play," "The Bald Soprano," which contributed to the beginnings of what is known as the "Theater of the Absurd".

He wrote a number of plays that, following the ideas of the philosopher Albert Camus, explore concepts of absurdism and surrealism. He was made a member of the Académie française in 1970, and was awarded the 1970 Austrian State Prize for European Literature, and the 1973 Jerusalem Prize.

"The Lesson" will remain on stage until November 21 at Mehregan Theater located at No. 3, Farhangi (Behnam) Alley, Vesal Shirazi St., Enqelab St.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza Underwater

Cartoonist: José Alberto Rodríguez Avila from Cuba

Aerial photograph of Minab wins top prize at wartime photography festival



TEHRAN- An aerial photograph of Minab by Iranian photographer Morteza Hossein-Akhondi has won first place at the "A Look at Life in Wartime" photography festival.

The jury announced three top-winning photographs following its final assessment of the selected entries, Mehr reported on Monday.

Hossein-Akhondi took first place with his photograph depicting Minab. Hassan Qaedi received second place for a photograph taken in Tehran, while Jamshid Farajvand Farda secured third place with an image from Kordestan.

The first-place photograph had previously earned international recognition, winning the Gold Award in the Editorial/Press category at the Golden Shot Photography Awards 2026 in June.

The aerial image, taken by Akhondi, depicts the funeral and burial procession of 168 students and teachers killed in the attack on a school in Minab.

The award-winning photograph provides a bird's-eye view of a historic and tragic moment, documenting the final farewell to the young victims of a widely condemned crime committed by the US and the Zionist regime.

In the small city of Minab, the loss of so many young lives was a heavy burden for the community. To honor the victims, a large area of land was turned into a cemetery, with graves dug in neat, endless rows.

This striking imagery is what makes Akhondi's photograph remarkable. The aerial view shows the haunting arrangement of these small graves, each symbolizing a life lost too soon. Surrounding this solemn site, the entire city gathered in grief, their shared sorrow creating a powerful contrast to the orderly rows of students being laid to rest.

The three winning works were selected from among 50 photographs shortlisted for the festival. The final jury comprised French and Iranian figures with backgrounds in photography, photojournalism, documentary filmmaking, art history, exhibition curation and international cultural activities.

The jury members were French photojournalist Michel Setboun, Iranian documentary filmmaker and photographer Mehrdad Oskouei, French writer, photographer and art historian Guillaume de Sardes, Iranian photographer and visual artist Maryam Rahmanian, and Baktash Hosseinimanesh, who has experience in international activities between Iran and France.

Setboun is a prominent figure in French photojournalism, with decades of experience documenting international events and conflicts. Oskouei is an internationally recognized documentary filmmaker and researcher whose work also includes the history of photography. De Sardes is a writer, photographer, art historian and exhibition curator, while Rahmanian is active in photography and visual arts. Hosseinimanesh has been involved in cultural and international exchanges between Iran and France.

The first-place winner will receive the festival's trophy, a commemorative plaque and a cash prize. The second- and third-place winners will also receive commemorative plaques and cash awards.

In addition to the three prize-winning photographs, 47 other selected works will be recognized with official certificates of participation and jury commendation plaques. All 50 photographs will be presented in exhibitions in Paris.

The first exhibition is running from November 5 to 18, while a second exhibition is scheduled to take place in Paris during December.

The festival's artistic director is Mohammadreza Keyvanfar, a photographer, documentary filmmaker and photography and cinema instructor. Seyyed Vahid Yaghoubi serves as its executive secretary.

Veteran Iranian actor, theater director Kourosh Zarei passes away



TEHRAN- Veteran Iranian actor and theater director Kourosh Zarei, a prominent figure in the country's theater, cinema and television, died at his home on Sunday, November 8, following a period of illness. He was 55.

Zarei passed away due to complications from an illness he had been suffering from over the past two years.

A well-known figure in Iran's performing arts, Zarei was particularly influential in the development of religious, revolutionary and popular theater. He served for several years as director of the Art Bureau's Center for Dramatic Arts, where he worked to support and expand theater activities across the country.

Promoting mosque-based theater, organizing theatrical events and producing works centered on religious rituals and resistance were among his major contributions. His work in these fields helped provide opportunities for younger performers and strengthen the presence of committed theater in Iran's cultural scene.

Zarei was also active as an actor in cinema and television, appearing in a number of productions. One of his best-known roles was Lavi, the elder brother of Prophet Joseph, in the popular television series "Prophet Joseph", which brought him wider recognition among television audiences.

Following news of his death, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi issued a message of condolence, describing Zarei's passing as a loss for the country's artistic community and cultural memory.

In his message, Salehi said the death of the veteran artist, who had worked in theater, cinema and television, had brought sorrow and grief. He noted that artists who devote years of their lives to the culture and art of their homeland leave behind a legacy that does not end with their passing, but continues to live on in society's cultural memory.

The minister extended his condolences to Zarei's family, colleagues and the country's performing arts community, and prayed for divine mercy for the deceased and patience and peace for his bereaved family. He also expressed hope that Zarei's students would continue his efforts to develop and support religious and resistance theater and promote performing arts among committed young people.

A number of other cultural and artistic figures and institutions also issued messages of condolence and paid tribute to the late artist.

Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Mehdi Shafiei described Zarei as a committed and people-oriented artist who regarded art as a cultural and social responsibility, saying his years of work in promoting committed theater and religious and national values would remain part of the country's artistic heritage. He also extended his condolences to Zarei's family, particularly his artist wife, and the theater community.

Art Bureau director Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman recalled Zarei's roots in Minab and his rise to prominence in Iranian professional theater, describing him as an accomplished actor and director whose faith was closely intertwined with his artistic life. Dadman highlighted his role in reviving mosque-based theater, organizing Arbaeen theater caravans and helping consolidate the resistance art movement, adding that Zarei had earned respect among artists in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and North Africa.

Director General of Performing Arts Atabak Naderi, who said he had known Zarei since 1993, recalled the latter's performance in a play at the 12th Fajr International Theater Festival, which helped introduce him to the country's theater community. Naderi also referred to Zarei's religious productions as well as his work in theater management and his role as secretary of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival.

Mehdi Naghavian, head of the Sima Film Center, paid tribute to Zarei's contribution to committed television and performing arts, particularly recalling his memorable role in "Prophet Joseph."

The Association of Revolution and Sacred Defense Cinema also described him as an actor, director, writer and manager whose presence and performances in cinema, theater and television would remain in the public memory.

Mohammad Allahyari Foumani, CEO of the Arts Credit Fund, highlighted Zarei's commitment to Islamic values and his responsible approach to the mission of art. He also recalled Zarei's service as a member of the fund's board of directors, where he had helped pursue the concerns and demands of cultural and artistic professionals.

Ayoub Aqakhani, secretary of the 45th Fajr International Theater Festival, also issued a message in which he paid tribute to Zarei's personal character, beliefs and artistic legacy, describing him as a figure whose life and work embodied the idea of committed theater in post-revolutionary Iran.

Paul Thomas Anderson's 'There Will Be Blood' to be shown at IAF

TEHRAN – The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen "There Will Be Blood," a 2007 American epic period drama film co-produced, written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, on Monday.

The 158-minute movie will be shown at 5 p.m. at the Nasseri Hall of the (IAF) and will be followed by a review session in the presence of film critic Mehrzad Danesh, journalist Alireza Bahrami, and cultural activist Reza Mirmehrabi.

It is loosely based on the 1927 novel "Oil!" by Upton Sinclair and stars Daniel Day-Lewis, Paul Dano, Kevin J. O'Connor, Ciarán Hinds, and Dillon Freasier. The film follows silver miner-turned-oilman Daniel Plainview (Day-Lewis) as he embarks on a ruthless quest for wealth during the Californian oil boom in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Critics see the film as a commentary on the nature of capitalism and greed, and its inherent national presence in America. Others have noted themes of faith, religion, and family.

It received acclaim from critics, with praise for the cinematography, Anderson's direction and screenplay, music, and performances of Day-Lewis and Dano. The National Board of Review, the American Film Institute and the National Society of Film Critics named it one of the top-ten films of 2007.

The film was nominated for eight awards at the 80th Academy Awards, winning two (Best Actor for Day-Lewis and Best Cinematography for Elswit) and received numerous other accolades. It topped various lists of the best films of the 2000s.

Paul Thomas Anderson, 56, is an American filmmaker. Often described as one of the preeminent filmmakers of his generation, he is the recipient of numerous accolades, including three Academy Awards, three Golden Globe Awards and four BAFTAs, as well as a nomination for a Grammy Award.

He is the only person to have won the Academy Award for Best Director and directorial prizes at Europe's three major film festivals: Cannes Film Festival, Venice Film Festival, and the Berlin International Film Festival. In addition to those accolades, he won the Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival.