Straight Truth

WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 500,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 47th year | No. 15470 | Wednesday | November 11, 2026 | Aban 20, 1405 | Jumada al-Thani 1, 1448

Rezaei: US must accept Iran's seven conditions before any negotiations

TEHRAN – Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei has ruled out negotiations with the United States unless Washington takes concrete steps to meet Tehran's seven conditions, while dismissing reports of imaginary talks and a possible meeting with US Vice President JD Vance in Doha.

In a post on his X account on Tuesday, Rezaei called on Washington to stop circulating 'fabricated reports' about negotiations with Tehran and acknowledge the emergence of a new order in West Asia.

"The war on Iran has already wrecked the US government. But Washington flails like a desperate gambler. FOLD YOUR HAND. STOP manufacturing FAKE NEWS about imaginary talks," he wrote. ▶ Page 2

Massie forces House vote to impeach Hegseth over Iran war, Minab school massacre

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The U.S. House of Representatives was scheduled to vote Tuesday evening on whether to advance the impeachment of "War" Secretary Pete Hegseth, after Republican Rep. Thomas Massie used a privileged resolution to force the issue onto the floor on Congress's first day back from the midterm elections. A procedural vote to table the measure is expected first. ▶ Page 5

Bahrain arrests 25 more Shia citizens as marches for jailed scholars spread

TEHRAN — Protests spread across Bahrain over the weekend as demonstrators demanded the release of detained Shia scholars and clerics, and security forces responded by arresting at least 25 people in raids and summonses.

Marchers filled streets in Sitra Island, Al-Hamala, Al-Markh and Iskan Ali, carrying portraits of jailed clerics and of Sheikh Isa Ahmed Qassim, the country's senior Shia authority.

Organizers called it a "Day of Popular Anger." The demand was simple: free every detainee, clerics first, and drop the cases.

On Sunday, a court postponed to Nov. 22 its verdict against 69 defendants, 60 of them clerics, accused of forming a "terrorist group" and "plotting against the constitutional order." ▶ Page 5

In Gaza, floods finish what the bombs started

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – When a shelter collapses in Gaza, the casualties are counted, the world moves on and the real questions go unanswered.

Most coverage treats the flooding in Gaza as a natural disaster layered onto a humanitarian one. That framing misses what the rain exposes. This is not a population caught in bad weather. It is a population the occupying regime has driven from its homes, now living in tents that were never built to keep out a storm, in a territory where the regime has destroyed most of the housing stock and infrastructure.

A tent is not a home, even if people adapt to it. Neither is it a solution to reconstruction when distributed in large numbers. It is a marker of an emergency that was supposed to end with a ceasefire. ▶ Page 5



IRGC Unveils New Underground Missile City in Show of Power

'We are fully prepared to confront any threat in the region and beyond,' IRGC aerospace chief warns

Brigadier General Ali Balali, an adviser to the commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, described missile industry as "more indigenous than the making of Persian carpets."

By Mahmoud Mahmoudian

TEHRAN – On Tuesday, the IRGC Aerospace Force unveiled a new underground missile city, displaying an array of ballistic and cruise missiles and their launch systems.

The unveiling came as Iran highlights the expansion of its domestic missile-production capabilities and the resilience of its military infrastructure in the face of repeated U.S. threats to resume military aggression against the Islamic Republic.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by military chief Ali Abdollahi and IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Majid Mousavi.

The facility showcases a range of missile systems and launch platforms, underscoring the Aerospace Force's emphasis on developing, storing and deploying strategic weapons through an increasingly extensive underground infrastructure.

The unveiling comes as Iran marks IRGC Aerospace Force Week and follows an announcement by IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi that the force would introduce a new underground missile city alongside several other military achievements.

Mohebbi said the Aerospace Force had accelerated the transfer of its missile and drone production lines from surface facilities to underground locations, moving beyond conventional underground storage complexes to establish "underground missile production cities."

He emphasized that Iran's domestic technological expertise, extensive geographical territory, and flexible industrial infrastructure would enable the country to sustain weapons production even under intensive aerial bombardment.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, General Mousavi declared Iran's readiness to confront any threat, warning that any aggression would end in defeat. ▶ Page 3



ISNA/ Danial Shaigan

Scan this QR code to watch the video.

Three-month training program for "Jan-Fada-ye Iran" battalions begins at Javad Al-Aemmeh army base

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

TEHRAN- The first pre-basic training course for the "Jan-Fada" (Devotees of Iran) battalions has commenced at the Javad al-Aemmeh Training Center of the Iranian Army's Ground Force, with the aim of organizing and strengthening the capabilities of civilian volunteers prepared to defend the country. The opening ceremony was attended by the Iranian Army's Deputy Commander for Training and Education, along with a number of senior commanders from the Army's four branches. ▶ Page 3

No plans for meeting between Vance and Iran's security chief, Araghchi says

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has dismissed media speculation about a possible meeting between US Vice President JD Vance and Iran's secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, describing reports of such an encounter as entirely baseless. ▶ Page 2

Pezeshkian: Global justice depends on equitable access to science and technology

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has said that global justice cannot be achieved without fairness in the production of scientific knowledge, access to technology and the distribution of their benefits, calling for the removal of discriminatory barriers in the international scientific and technological system.

In a message to the fifth International Conference of the Global Coalition Against Scientific Apartheid, released on Tuesday, Pezeshkian described scientific justice as a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development, lasting peace and human security. ▶ Page 2

VP says confrontation with adversaries will continue, whether peace is achieved or not

TEHRAN – Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref has stressed that the country must press ahead with the development of advanced science and technology regardless of political and security conditions, saying that confrontation with adversaries will continue whether peace is achieved or not.

"Whether peace is achieved or not, the path of confrontation with the enemy will continue. We must therefore pursue the development of advanced technologies with even greater determination to ensure that we maintain the upper hand," Aref said on Tuesday. ▶ Page 2

Iran's return to CIIE: a comprehensive report on economic, technological, investment co-op with China

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The Islamic Republic of Iran has made a significant and multifaceted appearance at the Ninth China International Import Expo (CIIE 2026) in Shanghai, marking a pivotal moment in the expansion of Tehran-Beijing economic, technological, and investment relations.

Running during November 5–10, 2026 at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai, this year's expo has brought together more than 162 countries across an exhibition area exceeding 440,000 square meters, with 4,142 foreign companies participating in the commercial section and representatives from 69 countries and international organizations present in the national pavilions section. Among the world's top 500 companies, 300 have participated in this edition.

Iran's presence at CIIE 2026 is not merely a display of products but a strategic initiative aimed at deepening economic diplomacy, showcasing technological achievements, and building sustainable partnerships with Chinese counterparts. The Iranian delegation, led by Ambassador Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, has leveraged the platform to present a comprehensive vision of Iran's economic potential, emphasizing knowledge-based industries, strategic sectors, and joint investment opportunities. ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The end of the myth of America's invincibility

In an article, Javan argued that one of the most significant strategic consequences of Iran's resistance to sustained US pressure, threats, and intervention has been the weakening of the perception that America is unbeatable. For decades, the US sought to project an image of unrivaled power based on its military, economic, and technological advantages. According to the paper, this image gradually became a central pillar of American global influence and psychological deterrence. However, Iran's continued resistance and Washington's failure to fully achieve its objectives have raised questions about the credibility of that model. This shift is important not simply because it affects America's political reputation, but because it exposes the limits of a power that has long relied on sanctions, military pressure, intervention, and intimidation to influence the choices of other nations and constrain their independence.

Sazandegi: The cycle of war has reached a dangerous stage

Sazandegi examined the possibility of renewed conflict and the options available for avoiding it. The current cycle of tensions has reached such a dangerous level that even if mediation efforts by regional and international actors, including China, result in a temporary understanding, any agreement may struggle to achieve long-term stability. The paper identified three possible paths for breaking out of the cycle. The first would involve accepting US demands, an option that is inconsistent with Iran's long-term interests. The second would be a military defeat of the US in a conflict. The third would involve reforms in governance, changes in existing policies, and measures aimed at increasing public confidence. According to the analysis, the same willingness shown toward negotiation and mediation abroad should be reflected in domestic policy. Greater attention should be given to economic actors, civil society activists, and political parties, which can serve as intermediaries between society and the state. Unless substantial reforms occur in the country's governing approach, the threat of foreign aggression and the risk of war will remain difficult to eliminate.

Shargh: The dangerous game of attrition

Shargh focused on the risks associated with a strategy of gradual pressure and attrition. The newspaper argued that political developments following the US congressional elections have led to a new stage in Washington's calculations toward Iran. While the possibility of another military confrontation remains on the table, greater emphasis is now being placed on economic pressure, diplomatic deadlock, and maintaining a climate of military threat rather than launching a direct conflict. The goal is seen as weakening Iran's economic strength and social resilience over time without paying the high costs associated with a full-scale war. The analysis described attrition as less a guaranteed path to achieving American objectives and more an investment in the passage of time. Through sustained pressure, the costs faced by the opposing side may gradually increase. Whether this strategy ultimately succeeds, however, depends on Tehran's response, regional developments, and the willingness of both sides to absorb political and economic costs.

Iran: Changes in nuclear doctrine must be rational

The Iran newspaper published an interview with international relations scholar Fardin Ghoreishi examining the debate over possible changes in Iran's nuclear doctrine. According to Ghoreishi, supporters of such a change argue that stronger deterrence could increase the costs of military action against Iran and strengthen the country's negotiating position. Critics, however, warn of potential consequences including tougher sanctions, greater international isolation, regional arms competition, a higher risk of crises, and legal or economic repercussions. Iran's main challenge is finding a way to protect national security, reduce the costs of confrontation, maintain independent decision-making, and at the same time create conditions for economic growth. No single instrument can substitute for broader national power. In his view, deterrence, diplomacy, economic efficiency, and effective governance should be regarded as interconnected elements of a comprehensive national security framework. Any discussion about changes in nuclear doctrine should therefore be conducted within this broader context and with careful consideration of all possible consequences.

Etemad: Trump has become more unpredictable

Etemad interviewed political scientist Nader Entessar about Trump's future approach toward Iran following his party's electoral setback. Trump now appears politically weakened while continuing to display an unconventional decision-making style, making his future behavior difficult to predict. As a result, both a decrease in tensions and an escalation of conflict remain possible outcomes. He stressed that Iran should not shape its policies around forecasts of Trump's behavior. Instead, Tehran should pursue an independent strategy that prepares for either scenario. Policymakers should remain ready for the possibility that Washington could raise the level of confrontation, while also recognizing that escalation may not occur. Entessar concluded that avoiding strategic miscalculation is essential. Iran, he argued, should prepare for multiple possibilities rather than allowing its choices to be determined by the uncertainty surrounding Trump's unpredictable political conduct.

Two oil tankers catch fire after explosions in Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN – Two oil tankers attempting to navigate the Strait of Hormuz in violation of designated maritime rules were hit by powerful explosions and caught fire after being intercepted, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy announced on Tuesday.

In a statement, the IRGC Navy said one of the vessels, identified as a supertanker, struck a naval mine, triggering a powerful explosion.

The second tanker, which was operating under the protection of US military aircraft and attempting to make an unauthorized covert passage through the strategic waterway, was also caught in a major fire and forced to halt, the statement added.

According to the IRGC Navy, both vessels had switched off their navigation and identification systems before approaching the Strait of Hormuz's "wall of fire."

The two tankers were left burning off the southern coast of the strait, it said.

The IRGC Navy reiterated its previous warnings that the unauthorized passage was unsafe, cautioning that any vessels cooperating with the "terrorist and aggressor US military" and attempting to use the route would face similar consequences.



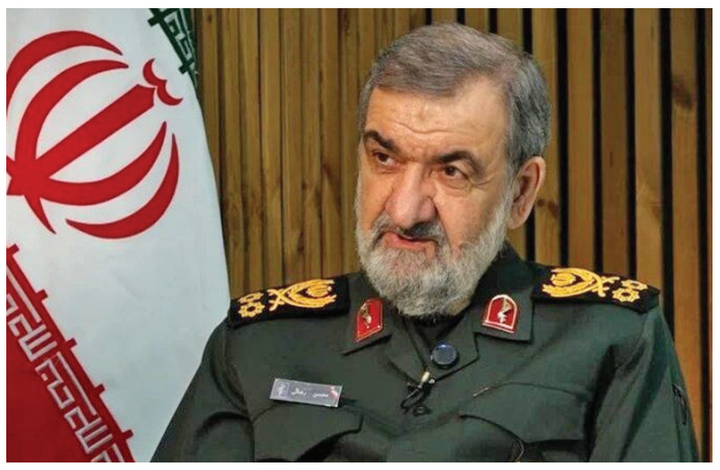
The statement did not identify the vessels or provide further details about their ownership, flags, cargoes, or the extent of the damage.

Rezaei: US must accept Iran's seven conditions before any negotiations

From page 1 "Stop denying the West Asian NEW ORDER. Time to SURRENDER to the seven conditions Iran has repeatedly set out," Rezaei added, addressing US officials.

His remarks followed a statement by a senior Iranian security official in Tehran on Monday rejecting media reports that Rezaei was scheduled to meet Vance in Doha, Qatar. The official stressed that Iran's policy and plans regarding negotiations with Washington remained unchanged and that no talks were envisaged unless the United States took practical action within the framework of Iran's seven conditions.

The position is consistent with



Tehran's latest diplomatic proposal, which Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei has described as the most logical roadmap for restoring security in the Strait of Hormuz.

Under the proposal, commercial shipping would resume passage through the strategic waterway within 48 hours after the United States lifts its naval blockade of Iranian ports, ends the war on all fronts, and unfreezes Iranian assets held abroad.

Baqaei said the proposal was based on understandings previously reached under the Islamabad memorandum and remained on the table as a demonstration of Iran's goodwill.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has also said Washington must choose between accepting Iran's conditions and continuing the war, emphasizing that the country's Armed Forces are prepared for either eventuality.

No plans for meeting between Vance and Iran's security chief, Araghchi says

From page 1 Speaking to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Araghchi said there were "absolutely no plans" for such a meeting.

He said US President Donald Trump should not have needed to hear the American public's opposition to a war with Iran or their rejection of being drawn into repeated conflicts in support of the Israeli regime to realize that his military campaign against Iran had failed.

"He should have realized much earlier that he has failed to achieve—and will never achieve—any of his objectives in the war against Iran," Araghchi said.

The foreign minister also predicted that Trump would soon recognize that pursuing sanctions and economic pressure against Iran was another misguided course of action.

Araghchi stressed that the war against Iran could not be brought to an end through military force or additional sanctions, emphasizing that the only viable way forward was to pursue diplomacy based on mutual respect and address Iran's demands and conditions.

He said Iran's two-day proposal, which sets out a diplomatic path for resolving the current crisis, remained on the table.

VP says confrontation with adversaries will continue, whether peace is achieved or not

From page 1 He made the remarks during a visit to knowledge-based companies operating at the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology, followed by a meeting with the heads of the country's national research institutes.

Aref described science and technology as strategic pillars of Iran's defense capabilities and deterrence, noting that the two recent wars imposed on the country by the United States and the Israeli regime had demonstrated the importance of long-term investment in advanced technologies.

He identified preserving and strengthening the country's scientific achievements, enhancing the standing of research institutes, making up for delays in meeting the objectives of the national Vision Document, and drawing on the capabilities of the country's talented specialists as key priorities for the current administration.

Referring to the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution's emphasis on prioritizing the aerospace industry, Aref said recent developments had made clear why the industry had been accorded such strategic importance.

"We are not seeking war, but we know how to defend ourselves effectively," he said.

The first vice president underscored that Iran must continue



advancing its scientific and technological capabilities, irrespective of domestic circumstances or the international environment, in order to maintain a strong defense posture and effective deterrence.

Pezeshkian: Global justice depends on equitable access to science and technology

From page 1 He warned that discriminatory restrictions on access to scientific resources, research infrastructure and advanced technologies widen disparities among nations and undermine international cooperation.

The president also condemned sanctions, threats and assassinations targeting scientists, researchers and academic institutions. Referring to the killing of Iranian scientists during recent wars imposed by the United States and Israel, he said such acts underscored the urgent need to safeguard the lives and security of researchers around the world.

Pezeshkian stressed that scientists, regardless of their nationality or religious beliefs, constitute an asset for all humanity and that their work should serve the common good.

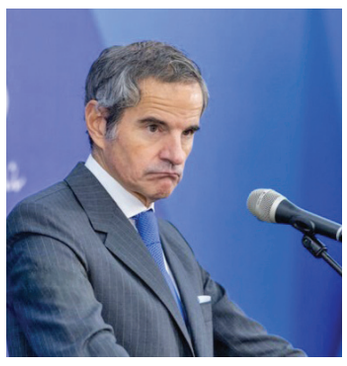
Reaffirming Iran's commitment to international scientific cooperation and the equitable sharing of knowledge and technological achievements, he said foreign restrictions could not weaken a nation's resolve to advance its scientific capabilities.

The president also expressed hope that the conference, organized by the Islamic World Peace Forum in cooperation with Iranian universities and scientific institutions, would help formulate practical solutions and strengthen cross-border scientific partnerships in pursuit of scientific justice.

Iran criticizes Grossi's double standard over condemnation of attacks on nuclear facilities

TEHRAN – Iran's permanent mission to international organizations in Vienna has criticized a 'double standard' by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi in responding to attacks on nuclear facilities, saying he had previously considered condemning attacks on Iran's nuclear sites to be beyond his mandate.

In a statement posted on its X account on Monday, the Iranian mission said it was striking that Grossi had used the phrase "STRONGLY CONDEMNS" in response to the killing of a staff member at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, but had not shown the same resolve when Iran's nuclear facilities and personnel were targeted.



"But why is it not applied consistently in all situations?" the mission asked.

It noted that when US and Israeli forces bombed Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards—an unprecedented attack in the Agency's history—or when Iranian nuclear scientists and personnel were assassinated, Grossi refrained from issuing a condemnation.

"In those situations, the Director General apparently considered condemnation to fall outside his 'purview' and 'work'," the statement said.

"Selective outrage isn't a pillar of nuclear safety and safeguards. It's a pillar of a résumé," the mission added.

It stressed that institutional responsibilities cannot be exercised selectively, emphasizing that professionalism requires consistency in addressing attacks on nuclear facilities and threats to nuclear safety and security.

MP: Betting on change in US behavior is a strategic miscalculation

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian lawmaker has warned against expecting the United States to change its approach toward Iran, saying that offering concessions in the hope of ending Washington's hostility would be a serious strategic miscalculation that could inflict lasting damage on the country's national interests.

Abbas Moqtadaei, deputy chairman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, made the remarks in an interview with Mehr News Agency, citing historical experiences as evidence that reliance on US promises has repeatedly proved costly.

Moqtadaei cited the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, arguing that the experience



demonstrated that Iran's willingness to negotiate and make concessions did not bring about a change in Washington's approach or produce reliable gains for the country.

Referring to developments in Libya and Venezuela, he said the experiences of other nations further underscored the risks of basing national decisions on expectations of a shift in US policy.

The lawmaker called on Iran to strengthen its domestic capabilities, build on indigenous scientific and technological expertise, and rely on its national resources.

Moqtadaei also accused US media outlets of seeking to influence Iran's domestic climate and create miscalculations among officials and the public, emphasizing the need for vigilance, national cohesion and sound decision-making.

IRGC unveils new underground missile city in show of power

'We are fully prepared to confront any threat in the region and beyond,' IRGC aerospace chief warns



From Page 1 ▶ Mousavi said the capabilities inherited from the distinguished commanders had become a robust and reliable instrument of defense.

"Today, we are fully prepared to confront any threat in the region and beyond, with capabilities that are both credible and reliable," he stated.

"If necessary, we will bring all of their (enemies') capabilities across the region and beyond under fire, leaving the enemy with nothing but defeat and rout," Mousavi declared.

Major General Abdollahi also said the Islamic Republic will destroy the Zionist regime, emphasizing that the US and Israel have already failed to achieve their objectives despite deploying their full military capabilities against Iran.

He said available figures indicate that the United States has never deployed such a large quantity of advanced munitions and military equipment in any war over a comparable period. However, he stressed that Washington's failure in its war of aggression against Iran was determined not by the scale of its weaponry or military hardware, but by the resolve and determination of Iranian fighters.

General Abdollahi went on to say that the Armed Forces were duty-bound to stand firm against the enemy, emphasizing that neither the enemy's numerical superiority nor its military capabilities would dictate Iran's decisions.

He identified the spirit of resistance as the decisive factor behind Iran's successes, declaring: "We neither accept the enemy's calculations nor allow them to influence our determination."

Abdollahi also dismissed the statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that either Israel must destroy Iran or Iran would destroy Israel as nothing new.

"It is clear that we will ultimately destroy them," the senior military commander asserted.

He stressed that the Israeli regime and the United States had emerged as the definitive losers on the battlefield.

Abdollahi also warned about future confrontation, saying: "Surprises in the next war will emerge one after another."

Domestic missile production and technological independence

Brigadier General Ali Balali, an adviser to the commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, also emphasized the extent of Iran's self-sufficiency in missile manufacturing, describing the industry as "more indigenous than the making of Persian carpets."

In an interview marking Aerospace Force Day, Balali traced the development of Iran's missile industry, highlighting the pioneering role of the late Major General Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, widely regarded in Iran as the founder of the country's modern missile program.

He said Iran had moved beyond dependence on foreign suppliers and now possessed the expertise and industrial capacity to design and manufacture the various missile systems required by its armed forces.

According to Balali, even the raw materials used in the production of solid- and liquid-propellant fuels are sourced and processed domestically. Iran's mineral resources and petroleum derivatives have provided an important foundation for achieving independence in this strategically significant sector, he added.

Balali rejected suggestions that Iran's missile reserves had been exhausted following the second and third wars, arguing that the country's missile industry had reached a level of maturity that allowed production to continue on the basis of domestic resources and infrastructure.

He said Iranian specialists were also developing weapons specifically tailored to operational requirements, rather than merely reproducing existing systems.

As an example, he cited the Hormuz missile designed to engage radar installations by homing in on the electromagnetic emissions they produce.

The system's radar-seeking capability, he said, reflects the progress Iranian specialists have made in developing weapons adapted to the requirements of modern battlefield operations.

Western assessments acknowledge the scale of Iran's missile capabilities

Iran's missile program has ttracted considerable attention from Western military and security analysts, some of whom have acknowledged the scale, diversity and strategic significance of the country's missile capabilities.

Fabian Hinz, a missile and military technology analyst who has worked with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), wrote in a June 2025 analysis that Iran possessed a substantial missile force, including shorter-range systems that could be deployed in its immediate neighborhood.

Although Hinz identified vulnerabilities in Iran's missile stockpiles and production capacity following the June 2025 Israeli attack, his assessment nevertheless underscored the central role of missile capabilities in Iran's military strategy, particularly given the country's limited conventional air power.

In a separate assessment published in June 2026, Chuck Freilich, a senior researcher at the Middle East Institute and a former Israeli deputy national security adviser, acknowledged that despite substantial damage to Iran's missile inventory and industrial infrastructure during the US-Israeli war, the country retained significant residual capabilities, along with the expertise, infrastructure and motivation needed to rebuild.

Freilich also pointed to Iran's geographically dispersed industrial base, underground missile facilities and mobile launch systems as important elements of the country's capacity to preserve and reconstitute its missile force.

His assessment underscores a central feature of Iran's missile strategy: its military capabilities cannot be measured solely by the number of missiles currently in storage but must also be considered in terms of the industrial infrastructure, technical expertise and production capacity that sustain the program.

Missile capabilities as a pillar of deterrence

Meanwhile, IRGC Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Mohammad Karami praised the Aerospace Force's contribution to Iran's national security, describing its missile and drone capabilities as important elements of the country's deterrence strategy.

In a message marking Aerospace Force Week, Karami said the force's performance during the US-Israeli wars of aggression and in the period that followed had disrupted the adversaries' calculations and frustrated their military ambitions.

He attributed Iran's advances to the efforts of domestic scientists, military commanders and young specialists who had transformed scientific knowledge into practical technologies and turned security challenges into opportunities for technological development.

Karami also highlighted the importance of indigenous expertise, advanced research, and the design and production of sophisticated missile and drone systems in strengthening Iran's defensive and air-defense capabilities.

He paid tribute to those who had lost their lives in the defense of the country, particularly the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and stressed the importance of faith and adherence to the directives of the current Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei.

The latest unveiling and the statements by IRGC commanders come amid continued emphasis by Iran on strengthening its military deterrence through domestic technological development, underground infrastructure, and the ability to maintain production under wartime conditions.

Three-month training program for "Jan-Fada-ye Iran" battalions begins at Javad Al-Aemmeh army base





By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

TEHRAN- The first pre-basic training course for the "Jan-Fada" (Devotees of Iran) battalions has commenced at the Javad al-Aemmeh Training Center of the Iranian Army's Ground Force, with the aim of organizing and strengthening the capabilities of civilian volunteers prepared to defend the country. The opening ceremony was attended by the Iranian Army's Deputy Commander for Training and Education, along with a number of senior commanders from the Army's four branches.

The first pre-basic training course for the National Resistance Jan-Fada battalions is being held for the first time at a specialized Army training facility inside a military base. The three-month program is designed to familiarize civilian volunteers with basic military, defensive and emergency response skills.

This marks the first time that Jan-Fada training courses have been launched at a military facility. Three other centers had previously been inaugurated at Imam Hussein Square, Haft-e Tir Square and Tajrish Square in Tehran. These centers receive volunteers on a daily basis for training.

Speaking to Tehran Times about the new training program at the military facility, Brigadier General Mohammadreza Alian-Nejad, the Iranian Army's Deputy Commander for Training and Education, explained that military bases generally provide more advanced and specialized training.

"Military bases are typically where personnel receive training in weapons and military equipment. Volunteers will be taught how to use individual firearms. Part of the program will also focus on physical fitness, while another section will cover emergency response and first aid. We will also provide introductory training in urban warfare," he said.

Asked about public interest in the Jan-Fada training initiative, Alian-Nejad described the response as extremely positive.

"Public participation has been excellent. I usually visit the training centers in the city squares at different times of the day, and there are consistently large numbers of people gathered around the training facilities, waiting to take part in these courses," he told Tehran Times.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Alian-Nejad highlighted Iran's defense capabilities and the importance of human resources in strengthening national power.

He said that committed, religious and patriotic young people constitute one of the Islamic Republic's most important national assets, adding that their willingness to defend the country and its territorial integrity is a valuable source of strength.

The Army deputy commander noted that the Iranian Army recruits and trains tens of thousands of people every year, including conscripts, non-commissioned officer cadets and university students.

He added that, following an order from the Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Army, the military had also been assigned the responsibility of training volunteers who have chosen the title of Jan-Fada, equipping them with the skills required to contribute to the country's defense.

Alian-Nejad stressed that the Army would continue its training mission until the last Jan-Fada volunteer had received the necessary instruction. He added that various training programs had been developed in cooperation with the Basij Organization.

Outlining the main components of the programs, he said military and defensive skills, search and rescue, urban warfare, and familiarization with the use of military equipment and systems were among the subjects to be taught at Army training centers.

Distinguishing between preliminary and operational training, he explained that courses held at public squares and initial training centers were primarily introductory in nature. Training at Army bases, however, would take a more operational and combat-oriented approach to better prepare volunteers for their assigned responsibilities.

Alian-Nejad also announced the three facilities currently designated to carry out the Jan-Fada training mission in Tehran: the Javad al-Aemmeh Training Center, Imam Ali Officers' Academy and Shahid Shaban Commando Training Center. These facilities will undertake the training of volunteers as part of the Army's assigned mission.

First Jan-Fada Training Course at a Specialized Military Facility

Brigadier General Second Class Hossein Dadvand, commander of the Javad al-Aemmeh Non-Commissioned Officer Training Center, also spoke about the significance of holding the course at a military base.

He said that previous training sessions for Jan-Fada volunteers had been conducted in public squares and large urban spaces. The current program, however, marks the first time such training has been organized at a specialized military training facility.

According to Dadvand, the objective is to provide volunteers with theoretical instruction, practical skills and field training so that they can apply what they have learned when the country requires their assistance.

Outlining the training curriculum, he said the program includes search and rescue, self-aid and first aid for others, urban warfare, marksmanship, obstacle courses and confidence-building exercises.

He also pointed to the advantages of conducting the program at a military base, emphasizing that access to specialized facilities, equipment and training infrastructure allows for more comprehensive and effective instruction than is possible in public urban spaces.

A training official involved in the Jan-Fada initiative also told Tehran Times that various courses had been organized in cities across the country.

He noted that training programs for women were also being conducted on a regular basis.

According to the official, more than 30 million people have registered for the Jan-Fada initiative, with training programs currently underway.

"Public interest has been so overwhelming that no matter how much time and how many facilities we allocate to training Jan-Fada volunteers, we still cannot fully meet the demand. Much to the dismay of our adversaries, the participation of the Iranian people in Jan-Fada training programs has been remarkably high," he said.

Organizing Volunteers for National Defense

The "Jan-Fada-ye Iran" campaign was launched with the aim of organizing and training civilian volunteers to contribute to the country's defense. Under the initiative, volunteers are organized into National Resistance Jan-Fada battalions and receive training at three levels: basic, intermediate and advanced.

Military and emergency response training, strengthening defensive preparedness and improving the capabilities of civilian volunteers are among the initiative's main objectives.

The launch of the first pre-basic training course at the Javad al-Aemmeh Training Center represents a step toward making greater use of the Iranian Army's training facilities and expertise to organize and equip civilian volunteers with the skills needed for national defense and emergency response.

Iran chamber, Uruguayan envoy discuss joint committee, market opportunities, private-sector co-op

TEHRAN- The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) announced the follow-up on the formation of a joint Iran-Uruguay committee and the proposal to hold a webinar aimed at explaining the capacities of the Uruguayan and Latin American markets in Iran.

According to a Tuesday report from the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Samad Hassanzadeh, the head of the Iran Chamber, in a meeting with Beraldo Nicola, the Ambassador of Uruguay in Tehran, spoke about the economic and industrial capacities of the country and pointed to technical and engineering services, modern petrochemical, refining, and agricultural technologies as suitable fields for strengthening relations between the two countries.

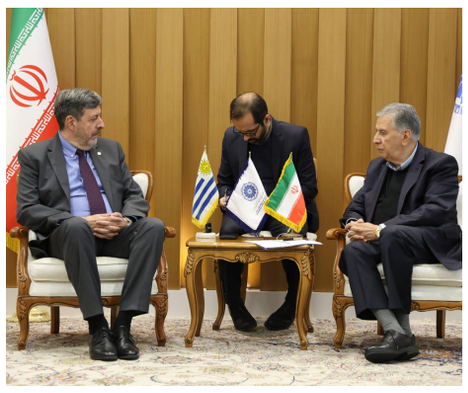
Referring to the capacities and capabilities available in Iran, he considered the production of industrial parts and machinery such as loaders, tractors, and combines, the export of agricultural products, leather, shoes, and various pharmaceutical products to Uruguay as feasible, and added: "By relying on these same areas, we can develop the level of relations between the two countries, which is currently very limited."

The head of the Iran Chamber referred to the import of rice and meat from Uruguay to Iran and the export of urea, ammonia, and various fertilizers from Iran to Uruguay, and said: "In the past, such relations between Iran and Uruguay were ongoing, and today the revival of these exchanges must be taken into consideration, because we believe the conditions are prepared for defining the necessary mechanisms in this regard."

He announced the readiness of the Iran Chamber to strengthen relations between the two countries, pave the way for establishing relations between the economic actors of both sides, and the possibility of welcoming a trade delegation from Uruguay.

The head of the Iran Chamber pointed to the memorandum of understanding that was previously signed to establish a joint committee between Iran and Uruguay and described its implementation as effective in the path of economic relations between the two countries.

In another part of his remarks, Hassanzadeh



spoke about the prevailing conditions in Iran and the region and emphasized: "The Islamic Republic of Iran, by emphasizing the preservation of values, has aimed at international communication with various countries and is not seeking war and conflict. The success and health of all nations are respected, and we do not defend or support illegal aggressions."

The head of the Iran Chamber drew attention to effective and continuous communication between the Uruguayan Embassy in Tehran and the Iran Chamber and added: "Through this, we can pursue the necessary coordination for communication between the economic actors of both sides in various fields."

Uruguay and Latin America: a suitable market for Iran's petrochemical products, various fertilizers, and plastics

Further, Belardo Nicola, the Ambassador of Uruguay in Tehran, pointed to the high level of culture, civilizational structure, and history of Iran and at the same time spoke about the importance of efforts to strengthen relations between the two countries.

The Uruguayan Ambassador in Tehran, looking at the complex conditions in the region that have involved Iran, expressed hope that Iran would soon emerge from this situation with pride and that conditions would be provided for the development of relations.

He spoke about the interest of Uruguayan traders in cooperating with Iranian economic actors and added: "In line with this interest, we have examined the fields of cooperation. Of course, I must recall that Uruguay's economy moves with a focus on the private sector."

Iran, Italy examine ways to preserve, strengthen trade ties, facilitate visa issuance for traders

TEHRAN- At the meeting of Samad Hassanzadeh, President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), with Paola Amadei, Ambassador of Italy in Tehran, while referring to the areas of trade cooperation between the two countries, discussions were held on the need to facilitate visa issuance for traders and businessmen and to hold joint trade events in various fields.

As reported by the Public Relations Department of the ICCIMA, the meeting, the two sides discussed the long-standing economic, political, and social relations between the two countries and examined ways to preserve and strengthen trade relations despite the restrictions caused by sanctions.

At the beginning, Samad Hassanzadeh, President of the Iran Chamber, referred to the activities of the Iran-Italy Joint Chamber chaired by Ahmad Pourfallah, which has been able to contribute significantly to the day-by-day development and expansion of relations between the two countries.

Continuing, referring to the restrictions caused by sanctions, he said: "Despite all restrictions, relations between the two countries have been maintained; however, due to the history of relations and the interest that exists for cooperation between the two countries, we must take steps to strengthen relations."

The President of the Iran Chamber recalled: "Despite the sanctions conditions, Iran has been able to experience significant progress in most areas such as petrochemicals, new technologies, artificial intelligence, industrial machinery, refineries, etc."

He also referred to the continuous relations of the Iran Chamber with Iran's Embassy in Italy with the aim of strengthening relations between the economic actors of the two countries and planning in this field, and added: "It is necessary that, along the way, we see facilitation of visa issuance for traders of the two countries to allow greater movement of economic actors, and on the other hand, the presence of trade delegations from Italy is emphasized."

The President of the Iran Chamber said: "Friendship with all countries and the development of trade, social, scientific, and other relations, with emphasis on observing all national values, is the program and priority of the Islamic Republic, and relying on this principle, the Iran Chamber also tries to develop the path of its trade relations with other countries."

Hassanzadeh referred to the industry of producing various building materials in Iran as a large industry that has direct connections with Italy and considered it a good ground for developing relations between the two countries.

Looking at the existing statistics, he spoke of a significant number of ceramic and building stone production units that operate with Italian technology and even export their products to Italy.

The President of the Iran Chamber considered the Italian Embassy in Tehran's efforts to resolve the challenges of economic enterprises active in connection with Italy as having a great positive effect on relations between the two countries, and in another part of his remarks referred to the various bodies of the Iran Chamber and added: "More than 34 provincial chambers are active across the country, and it is possible to use the capacity of these chambers to expand international trade interactions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's return to CIIE: a comprehensive report on economic, technological, investment co-op with China

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The Islamic Republic of Iran has made a significant and multifaceted appearance at the Ninth China International Import Expo (CIIE 2026) in Shanghai, marking a pivotal moment in the expansion of Tehran-Beijing economic, technological, and investment relations.

Running during November 5–10, 2026 at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai, this year's expo has brought together more than 162 countries across an exhibition area exceeding 440,000 square meters, with 4,142 foreign companies participating in the commercial section and representatives from 69 countries and international organizations present in the national pavilions section. Among the world's top 500 companies, 300 have participated in this edition.

Iran's presence at CIIE 2026 is not merely a display of products but a strategic initiative aimed at deepening economic diplomacy, showcasing technological achievements, and building sustainable partnerships with Chinese counterparts. The Iranian delegation, led by Ambassador Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, has leveraged the platform to present a comprehensive vision of Iran's economic potential, emphasizing knowledge-based industries, strategic sectors, and joint investment opportunities.

A national pavilion reflecting identity and innovation

The national pavilion of the Islamic Republic of Iran at CIIE 2026 has been designed and introduced under the approach "Bridging Authenticity and Innovation," emphasizing the integration of the country's cultural and civilizational identity with the innovative and technological capacities of contemporary Iran. Knowledge-based and technological products, Iranian handicrafts, and fine art industries make up different sections of this pavilion, showcasing a manifestation of the country's art, authenticity, creativity, and production and export capabilities.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of Iran's national pavilion, Ambassador Rahmani Fazli emphasized the development of economic, technological, and joint investment cooperation between the two countries. He stated that Tehran will not forget the constructive positions and valuable support of the Chinese government and people. Describ-



ing Iran-China relations as based on mutual respect, common interests, and multilateralism, he added: "The two countries' joint opposition to unilateralism demonstrates the depth of their political-security relations and is the strongest foundation for developing Tehran-Beijing trade and economic relations."

The ambassador also called CIIE a step toward deepening economic and scientific exchanges among participating countries and noted that Iran's pavilion has presented the country's innovative achievements in the fields of nano, biotechnology, medicine, and medicinal plants. He expressed hope that these capacities would provide the ground for examining the possibility of creating joint value chains between Iran and China.

Referring to the launch of China's 15th Five-Year Plan, Rahmani Fazli described it as a forward-looking roadmap focusing on innovation, the digital economy, green development, technological self-reliance, and international cooperation. According to him, this plan covers areas such as the development of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, the growth of green and low-carbon industries, the strengthening of knowledge-based production, and increasing economic productivity, and in addition to offering an inspiring vision, it creates new opportunities for cooperation.

The ambassador further identified areas such as joint research projects, commercialization of emerging industries, clean production, and the formulation of technological standards as among the most suitable fields for developing bilateral cooperation. Referring to the capacities of the "Belt and Road Initiative," he stated: "There are valuable opportunities for joint investment by Iran and China in the fields of infrastructure, advanced industries, renewable energies, smart transportation, and the green economy, which can lead to tangible achievements in bilateral cooperation."

The Chinese publication China Youth Daily emphasized that, alongside technological products and achievements, Iranian artworks and handicrafts have also been displayed at the expo. Iran's ambassador, referring to the historical background of cultural ties between Tehran and Beijing rooted along the Silk Road, said: "Iran and China, as two ancient civilizations in the east and west of Asia, are a prominent example of lasting friendship, mutual respect, and fruitful cooperation." He described the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and China and the 10th anniversary of the comprehensive strategic partnership as valuable opportunities to emphasize the shared will of Tehran and Beijing to strengthen multilateralism and constructive cooperation.

A $300 billion investment portfolio presented to Chinese investors

On the sidelines of CIIE 2026, the Iran-China Investment and Trade Forum brought together approximately 300 businesspeople, trade association representatives, chambers of commerce, and Chinese officials to discuss cooperation opportunities in the Iran-China trade supply chain.

Mehdi Heydari, Deputy Economy Minister and Head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, announced that Iran had prepared a portfolio of around 150 projects across 11 strategic sectors, with a combined estimated value of $300 billion. He put the investment needed to modernize and expand the country's energy and infrastructure sectors over the next five years at approximately $250 billion, noting that around 30 of the projects presented to foreign investors are in the petrochemical sector and require more than $45 billion in investment.

Abdol-Sadeh Nisi, Adviser to the Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO) and Director-General of its East Asia and Oceania Department, identified expanding exports of higher-value-added goods and strengthening trade corridors as the two main areas for economic cooperation between Iran and China. He called for a shift away from exports of raw and semi-processed materials toward processed products in sectors such as food, agriculture, petrochemicals, mining, construction materials, and manufacturing.

South Khorasan Governor Seyed Mohammad Reza Hashemi outlined his province's economic potential, citing more than 58 active mineral types, over 300 sunny days a year, and potential for solar and wind power generation as key investment advantages. He noted that South Khorasan produces around 98 percent of the world's seedless barberries, ranks first in Iran in jujube production and second in saffron production, and is home to about 80 species of medicinal plants.

Hossein Roozbeh, Head of the Organization for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation Development, called for moving beyond traditional trade exchanges toward technological and industrial partnerships and joint investment. Mehrdad Rahimi, Deputy for International Affairs at the National Petrochemical Company, highlighted the importance of the Chinese market to Iran's petrochemical industry and called for expanded cooperation in investment, financing, transportation, and completion of the industry's value chain.

Private sector and chambers of commerce: mobilizing traders and businessmen

The Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) participated in CIIE 2026 for the third consecutive year, providing a platform for identifying opportunities for cooperation with Chinese economic actors and introducing the capabilities of Iranian companies. Mahmoud Najafi Arab, President of the Tehran Chamber, emphasized the necessity of the effective presence of Iran's private sector in global markets and considered the role of chambers of commerce important and influential in organizing the presence of economic enterprises.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Vietnamese ambassador pays visit to Imam Khomeini International University, meets with intl. students

TEHRAN- On November 8, 2026, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran, Nguyen Luong Ngoc, visited and held working sessions at Imam Khomeini International University (IKIU) in Qazvin Province and at its Persian Language Training Center for Foreign Nationals, with a view to promoting educational cooperation, scientific research, and cultural exchange between the two countries.

1. Working session with Imam Khomeini International University

IKIU is a public multidisciplinary university. It was established in 1983 under its original name, Quds International University, and has operated under its current name since 1991. The university has around 10,000 students, nearly 300 faculty members, and seven faculties: Engineering and Technology; Basic Sciences; Literature and Humanities; Social Sciences; Architecture and Urban Planning; Agriculture and Natural Resources; and Islamic Sciences and Research.

In the 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, IKIU is placed in the 1,001–1,200 band globally, while its Mechanical Engineering program is ranked in the 201–300 band worldwide by the 2026 ShanghaiRanking. According to the EduRank database (March 2026), the university has 7,224 scientific publications and 107,904 citations. IKIU publishes 21 research journals, including three English-language and 18 Persian-language journals.

The university has strengths in mechanical engineering, technology, civil engineering, water resources management, and agriculture, and maintains laboratory facilities for applied research. IKIU is also home to the Future Studies Research Center, which conducts forecasting research, develops development scenarios, and addresses long-term issues.

At the working session, Ambassador Nguyen Luong Ngoc proposed connecting IKIU with Hanoi University and with Vietnamese universities specializing in technical and agricultural fields. He emphasized priority for student and faculty exchanges, scholarships, and joint research in engineering, technology, water resources, and agriculture, in line with each side's strengths.

2. Working session with the Persian Language Training Center and meeting with international students

IKIU's Persian Language Training Center has more than 30 years of experience teaching Persian to foreign nationals. At the time of the visit, it was hosting about 200 students from 23 countries. According to IKIU's leadership, the Center was ranked first in Iran in 2026 for Persian-language training for foreign nationals. Its strengths include teaching from beginner to advanced levels; providing preparatory Persian courses for international students before they begin their specialized studies; integrating language instruction with Iranian culture; and offering online and short-term courses.

The Ambassador discussed possible cooperation in Persian-language training for Vietnamese students, faculty development, textbook support, short-term courses, and access to scholarships. He also spoke with international students at the Center, introducing Vietnam's land, people, culture, development achievements, and Vietnam–Iran relations, thereby helping to promote Vietnam's image among international friends.

It should be mentioned that the Future Studies Research Center, established in 2011, is a research unit of IKIU focusing on future-studies methodologies, forecasting, and long-term development scenario-building. IKIU also offers postgraduate training in Future Studies.

Massie forces House vote to impeach Hegseth over Iran war, Minab school massacre

Hegseth was 'very effective at killing schoolchildren in Iran'

From page 1 ▶ Massie, a Kentucky Republican who lost his primary and leaves office at the end of the year, read eight articles of impeachment from the House floor Monday.

The 34-page resolution accuses Hegseth of launching and sustaining an unauthorized war against Iran, dismantling civilian-protection safeguards, overseeing lethal maritime operations, retaliating against a senator, and directing the seizure of Venezuela's president.

Because the measure was introduced as privileged business, House leaders had two legislative days to schedule action.

Speaker Mike Johnson had previously sent lawmakers home early in September rather than allow an earlier version of the resolution to reach the floor.

Massie did not frame the case as a dispute over competence. "We're not indicting him for being bad at his job," he told reporters. "In fact, he was very effective at killing schoolchildren in Iran." He said the articles allege that Hegseth has "broken laws" and "violated the Constitution."

What Massie alleges

Three articles center on the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

Massie says Hegseth began hostilities against Iran on February 28 without a declaration of war, statutory authorization, an attack on the United States, or an imminent threat.

He says the secretary kept the war going after Congress passed a resolution calling for withdrawal and after the law's 60-day termination period and 30-day withdrawal window expired.

The remaining articles broaden the accusation. Massie alleges that Hegseth replaced law-enforcement rules in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific with military targeting of suspected drug traffickers, resulting in at least 243 deaths.

The resolution says some survivors were denied quarter, struck again after their vessels were disabled, or left



without rescue.

It also accuses Hegseth of directing the January seizure of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, an operation Massie says killed at least 83 people, including civilians, while seven Americans injured.

Another article alleges retaliation against Sen. Mark Kelly after the Arizona Democrat publicly warned service members against following unlawful orders.

The final article concerns Yemen. Massie says Hegseth directed a campaign that killed more than 700 people, nearly a third of them civilians. The Pentagon's own 2025 report acknowledged 153 civilian deaths in Yemen.

The Minab school strike

The gravest allegation concerns the Shajareh Tayyebeh Elementary School in Minab, southern Iran. On February 28, the first day of the U.S.-Israeli war, Tomahawk missiles struck the school while children were inside.

Iranian authorities put the death toll at 156 or higher, including adults and children. Independent counts put the number of children killed at roughly 120, most of them girls between seven and twelve.

26 teachers died. Parents who had come to collect their children, a bus driver, and a pharmacy worker were also among the dead.

A United Nations fact-finding mission later found reasonable grounds to conclude that U.S. forces carried out the strike, that it was indiscriminate, and that it amounted to a war crime. The mission said the school was a civilian object and that there was no evidence it was being used for military purposes that day.

Massie argues the strike was not an isolated failure. His fourth article says Hegseth dismantled congressionally mandated civilian-harm mitigation systems, pushed out oversight officials, and removed civilian protection from defense strategy.

Hegseth has publicly promoted "maximum lethality, not tepid legality," and commanders reportedly opposed cuts to the program meant to reduce civilian deaths.

Lamerd and the wider toll

Minab was not the only strike under scrutiny. That same day, a missile hit a sports complex and nearby homes in Lamerd.

The UN mission counted at least 22 civilians dead, including children, and said Precision Strike Missiles scattered tungsten pellets across a civilian area. It reached the same conclusion as in the case of Minab: the attack was indiscriminate and unlawful.

CENTCOM has denied striking Lamerd and blamed Iran. Weapons experts consulted by BBC Verify said the damage was more consistent with a U.S. Precision Strike Missile than an Iranian weapon.

In early September, a U.S. strike near a wedding in Kuhestak, in Sirik county, killed at least four people and wounded more than 60. Investigations by The New York Times and the BBC concluded that a U.S. missile was responsible.

The UN mission concluded on September 17 that the United States likely committed war crimes in Minab and Lamerd, which together killed at least 178 civilians. It said Washington failed to take all feasible precautions to verify that the school was a military target.

The political arithmetic

Hegseth dismissed the effort Tuesday morning as a "political spectacle." Trump called Massie a "stone-cold loser" and said Hegseth had "won two wars." The White House has urged Republicans to close ranks.

But the vote is no longer easy to avoid. Massie's privileged resolution requires action within two legislative days, and House leaders can choose among a direct vote, a motion to table, or a committee referral.

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries has called himself a "hard yes." Adam Smith, the ranking Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, predicts passage.

If every Democrat supports impeachment, Massie needs three Republicans. Rep. Don Bacon has said he is "wrestling" with the question. Johnson has called impeachment during hostilities a "terrible, terrible look."

Even if the House approves the articles, removal remains unlikely. The Senate would need 67 votes to convict, and Democrats are expected to hold about 54 seats. The vote would therefore become a record rather than a removal.

Massie has little to lose. He lost his primary to a challenger backed by Trump and the Israel Lobby, and his term ends this year.

That freedom has made him more willing than most Republicans to force a vote that exposes the cost of the war and the legal limits the administration chose to ignore.

Bahrain arrests 25 more Shia citizens as marches for jailed scholars spread



From page 1 ▶ 56 are in custody, and 13 clerics are being tried in absentia. The World Organization Against Torture says the proceedings are marred by torture allegations, and rights groups told Alhurra that confessions were coerced.

Sheikh Qassim, stripped of his citizenship in 2016, urged supporters to back the defendants peacefully.

The security forces did not wait for the marches to end. On Nov. 8, they took Hajj Hassan Al-Muallima, head of the Sanabis matam, and administrator Hajj Ahmed Eid, plus Sayed Ali Ibrahim, Hussein Ali Mahdi, Hussein Mirza Al-Hilli and Saeed Mohammed Saeed, all summoned for questioning. In Abu Saiba, officers chased down Hassan Mohammed Jassim, Sadiq Jaafar Al-Mahari and Sayed Mohammed Hashim.

A barbershop raid in Bani Jamra netted Mohsen Isa Zaid and Reda Zakaria Adam, and home raids caught Mahmoud Saeed Al-Sheikh and Ali Mohsen Al-Muadhin.

The days before followed the same script. Ahmed Zain Al-Din and Abdulqader Al-Fatlawi disappeared into custody in Al-Qarya on Nov. 7.

Six men, among them Mohammed Hadi and Abbas Ali Abbas Al-Daqqaq, were summoned and held on Nov. 6. In Al-Daraz on Nov. 5, three Fateel men were arrested with Sayed Jaafar Al-Mahfoudh and Sayed Ali Al-Gharifi.

Bahrain has seen this before, at a smaller scale. Night raids on clerics' homes began May 9, and the Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain counts 53 clerics held.

Two Bahraini rights groups told AFP that more than 200 people, mostly Shia, had been detained since the Iran war began, and Reuters reported that 69 citizens of Iranian descent lost their nationality.

The template dates to 2011, when the Western-backed monarchy crushed a movement for an elected government with help from Saudi and Emirati troops. Saudi Arabia sent about 1,000 soldiers across the King Fahd Causeway in March 2011, and the United Arab Emirates sent roughly 500 security forces.

Bahrain's ties to the West help explain why the crackdown draws so little pressure from abroad. The U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet is headquartered in Manama, and Washington has treated Bahrain as a major non-NATO ally since 2002.

In 2020, the kingdom signed the "Abraham Accords" and normalized relations with Israel, and in 2023 it signed a new security and military agreement with the United States.

Through all of this, the arrests of clerics, the revocations of citizenship, and the mass trials have continued, and rights groups say Western governments have not objected.

Trump's utter nonsense about Persian Gulf Arab states

It is now quite clear that US military bases in Persian Gulf are a liability, not an asset

TEHRAN - United States President Donald Trump has said the U.S. plans to seek compensation from countries it "protected" during its war on Iran.

In an interview with CBS News correspondent Ross Douthat that aired Sunday, Trump said such countries would "pay us any and all costs we had for the war".

"We're going to get all that money back," Trump said. "They're going to do it, 100 percent. Because without us, they wouldn't exist."

Such condescending language toward regional Arab states is difficult to stomach. Trump is, in fact, humiliating these countries.

Iran would not have fired a single shot at its southern neighbors had American fighter jets not taken off from U.S. military bases in those countries to bomb Iran.

Even years before the current war and the previous year's war against Iran, Iranian officials had made it clear that no territory or country would be safe if it were used as a launching pad for attacks against the Islamic Republic.

The presence of U.S. military bases in these countries has proved to be a major liability rather than an asset.

Far from protecting them, these military bases have made the Persian Gulf Arab states more vulnerable to attacks.

These countries have become victims of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran. They have lost billions of dollars in oil and gas revenues as a result of Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic chokepoint through which about one-fifth of the world's energy supplies pass.

Iran closed the Strait in response to the illegal war.

The war against Iran has proved as detrimental to these countries as Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The claim that these countries would not "exist" without the United States is utter nonsense. Even before the June 2025 war against Iran and the current conflict, Tehran had put forward proposals for collective security arrangements in the Persian Gulf region.

Trump also explicitly spoke of compensation from Israel, which he said "wouldn't exist" without US military intervention.

This was yet another deceptive remark by Trump. For years, it was Israel that had threatened to launch military attacks against Iran, and it finally acted on those threats in June 2025 and again in February 2026, jointly with the United States.

The reimbursement demand comes after Trump and his Republican party took a drubbing in midterm elections, which the president has conceded was partly due to public discontent over the Iran war.

The US president has since declared the war "effectively over" militarily, while defending his decision to start the conflict as "a very good decision".

Here's what to know about Trump's demand for repayment, and what it could mean for the US and its allies:

Trump is misleading Americans because Israel was a direct participant in the war against Iran from the outset. Iran was just defending itself.

It is quite clear that Trump's remarks about Israel are intended to placate Americans who oppose Israel's warmongering policies in West Asia.

"We decapitated their [Iran's] nuclear arsenal," he said. "If I didn't do that, there would be no Israel right now. Israel would be gone."

Previously, Trump has said he would seek repayment from Persian Gulf Arab countries that benefit from the U.S. military presence around the embattled Strait of Hormuz, where U.S. forces have been escorting vessels.

"We're protecting a very rich portion of the world, we're spending money, and so what we've done is we're going to be reimbursed for protection," Trump said during a press briefing in July.

He named Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait as countries that should pay.

But while Israel jointly launched the war on Iran with the U.S., Gulf countries have said that they were not even informed about Washington's plans, and have since borne the brunt of Iran's retaliatory attacks. As members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), they have called for a diplomatic resolution to the conflict.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

In Gaza, floods finish what the bombs started

From page 1 ▶ That ceasefire was guaranteed by several states that could not deliver the guarantee, and by a guarantor like the United States, which openly backs the occupying regime with money, weapons, and logistics. The tents are the shape the response has taken.

The rain becomes more than weather here. The international system has settled for managing the disaster rather than solving it. Much of the humanitarian response has come to resemble a media spectacle, with events and activities nowhere near the top of the list of priorities. Global calls for reconstruction, for the evacuation of the sick, for healthcare, and for adequate shelter no longer carry weight. These failures are not marginal. They are the response itself, and they reveal a choice: to contain the catastrophe rather than end it.

The result is a population exposed to the regime's bombardment and to the elements alike, in shelters that can protect it from neither. Displaced people in Gaza have lost their homes and the basic conditions that make a shelter livable. They face continuous aggression and a tightening squeeze on the population.

A family can no longer ask whether it will get a new tent or replace one piece of fabric with another. The real question is whether a person can live the rest of their life in a place that cannot protect them from the weather, or from the bullets and missiles the regime keeps firing.

This is where the flooding stops being weather and becomes policy. The regime's bombardment destroyed the homes; its blockade has kept the tents from becoming anything more; and now the rain is allowed to finish the job. None of this is neglect. It is the design of the conditions in which Palestinians are meant to conclude that Gaza is no longer livable, that leaving is the only remaining option.

Allowing displacement shelters to flood serves the regime's ethnic cleansing policy as much as the bombs did. What it wants is not a population sheltering in Gaza but a population that gives up on it.

It will not get that. Palestinians have endured more than three years of this genocide, through the worst of it, and they have not broken. They are still in Gaza, still rebuilding what can be rebuilt and rejecting the policies being set for them by the Zionist regime.

Gaza's displacement camps fill with water and the rubble keeps growing, and still the population holds. That resolve is the one thing the occupying regime has not been able to bomb, starve, or wash away.

The greater danger is what the flooding normalizes. The worst nightmare for people in Gaza today is not only a storm. It is the continuation of a condition that the Israeli regime is making permanent. Displacement has become a way of life, as if it were eternal. The denial of the most basic rights to Palestinians has become an ordinary matter in regional and global consciousness. The world will not fail to see Gaza's suffering; the danger is that it will see it and adjust.

The discussion should not be confined to international bodies and governments, or to relief institutions counting how many tents were flooded and how much aid arrived, aid that comes only when it is nearly too late. Who can pressure the United States, the one power arming and shielding Tel Aviv? That is the question the counting avoids.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Ghoddos calls time on his international duty with Iran

TEHRAN - Iranian midfielder Saman Ghoddos has announced his retirement from international football, bringing an end to his nine-year career with Team Melli.

The 32-year-old, who currently plays for UAE Pro League side Ittihad Kalba, was absent from Iran's squad for the recent friendly matches against Palestine and Iraq. He subsequently confirmed his decision through an emotional message posted on social media.

Ghoddos, who represented Iran on the international stage for nearly a decade and also had the honor of captaining his country, described the decision as one of the most difficult of his life.

Ghoddos represented Iran in 2018, 2022 and 2026 FIFA World Cups.

In his farewell message, the midfielder wrote:

"After nine unforgettable years, the time has come for me to say goodbye to the Iranian national team," he wrote on his Instagram account.

"It is difficult to put into words what representing the people of my country has meant to me. Wearing this shirt has been one of the greatest honors of my life, bringing memories, experiences and emotions that I will carry with me forever.

"Choosing to represent Iran and its people was one of the easiest decisions I have ever made. However, deciding to say goodbye has been one of the hardest choices of my entire life.

"Throughout these years, I have always tried to represent my country in the best possible way, both on and off the pitch. I understood the great responsibility that came with wearing this shirt and never took it for granted.

"This journey was filled with incredible days, difficult moments, unforgettable victories and lessons that helped shape the person I am today. The honor of wearing the captain's armband for my country will always hold a special place in my heart.

"I am sincerely grateful to my teammates, coaches, technical staff and everyone who stood beside me throughout these nine years for the memories, sacrifices and friendships we shared.

"Most importantly, to the wonderful people of Iran: thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you. I hope I have made you proud.

"With a heart full of gratitude, immense pride and memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life, I bring this chapter to an end. Long live Iran!"

Ghoddos' departure marks the end of an important chapter in his international career. His commitment to Team Melli and his pride in representing his country were central themes of his farewell message.

The midfielder now turns his full attention to club football, having expressed his gratitude to the fans, teammates and coaching staff who accompanied him throughout his journey with the Iranian national team.

Iran women's futsal team suffer defeat against China

TEHRAN - Iran's women's national futsal team suffered a 2-1 defeat to China in their final match at the Futsal International Tournament in Yinchuan on Tuesday.

Fatemeh Rahmati scored Iran's only goal of the match.

Shahrzad Mozafar's side had made a strong start to the tournament, opening their campaign with a 6-0 victory over Hong Kong before defeating China 3-1 in their second match.

Iran then recorded another emphatic win over Hong Kong, cruising to a 9-1 victory in their third outing. However, they were unable to complete the tournament on a winning note, going down 2-1 to China in the final match.

Iran finished the tournament with three wins and one defeat.

The team took part in the competition to gain valuable international experience, assess the players' technical level and continue preparations for upcoming tournaments.

Iran face tough tests in FIBA World Cup 2027 qualifiers

TEHRAN - Iran's national basketball team will face Australia and the Philippines in late November in Malaysia at the fifth window of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 Asian qualifiers, with two crucial games set to play a major role in determining the team's chances of reaching the tournament in Qatar.

Head coach Sotiris Manolopoulos and his players face a demanding challenge, as Iran prepare to take on two of Asia's strongest basketball nations in a decisive stage of their qualifying campaign.

According to the schedule, Iran will open their fifth-window campaign against Australia on Nov. 27. Australia have established themselves as one of the dominant forces in Asian basketball over the years, making them a formidable opponent for Team Melli.

Two days later, Iran will face another major test when they meet the Philippines on Nov. 29. The Philippine side are known for their physical style of play and competitive spirit. Iran will be hoping to bounce back against the Southeast Asian side and secure a crucial victory following their previous defeat against them.

Both Group E encounters will be played at the Karisma Arena in Seremban, Malaysia, with the games being staged at a centralized venue. Playing away from home adds another challenge for the Iranian squad, who will need to deliver strong performances under pressure.

The fifth qualifying window could prove decisive for Iran's hopes of securing a place at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 in Qatar. With qualification entering a critical stage, the coaching staff have placed significant importance on these two fixtures.

Securing at least one victory in Malaysia is considered vital if Iran are to keep their qualification hopes alive and enter the final qualifying window in a stronger position.

Two defeats, on the other hand, would leave Iran facing a difficult situation. Such a scenario could make their qualification prospects heavily dependent on results involving other teams, putting additional pressure on the squad ahead of the final stage.

A victory, however, could dramatically change the picture, improve Iran's position in the standings and provide the players with a major confidence boost ahead of their return to Tehran.

For Manolopoulos, the Malaysia window represents an important opportunity to demonstrate the team's progress and tactical development. Iran will need discipline, defensive intensity and greater consistency in attack to compete with Australia and the Philippines.

The clash with Australia will undoubtedly be a major test, while the meeting with the Philippines could represent Iran's best opportunity to secure a much-needed win.

With a place at the 2027 World Cup at stake, Team Melli cannot afford to underestimate either opponent. The players must approach both games with maximum concentration, as every result could have a significant impact on their qualification campaign.

Asian Cup delay puts Ghalenoei's youth policy to the test

TEHRAN - The postponement of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup has given Iran a new timeline for preparing for the continental competition. But it has also removed one of the main arguments previously used to justify delaying a major generational transition: the limited time between the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the Asian Cup.

The Asian Football Confederation announced on Nov. 3 that the tournament, originally scheduled for Jan. 7 to Feb. 5, 2027, will now take place from Dec. 23, 2027, to Jan. 21, 2028. The decision, prompted by exceptional circumstances in the region and logistical concerns, means the competition will begin almost a year later than originally planned, subject to FIFA approval.

For Iran head coach Amir Ghalenoei, this represents more than a change of dates. It presents an opportunity, and a responsibility, to reshape the national team and prepare a younger generation for the next stage of Iranian football.

Until now, one of the arguments against a significant injection of young players was the relatively short gap between the World Cup and the Asian Cup.

The suggestion was that Team Melli needed their most experienced players to remain in the squad, leaving little room for experimentation or a substantial change in personnel. With the tournament now pushed back to late 2027, that argument has largely lost its validity.

The question is no longer whether there is enough time for rebuilding, but whether Ghalenoei is prepared to make the necessary decisions.

For Ghalenoei, the extended preparation period changes the equation. Experience will still matter, but it should no longer come at the expense of renewal.

The Asian Cup has moved further away. The responsibility to build Iran's future, however, cannot be postponed any longer.

Nomadic families move to winter pastures in Iran's Golestan province



TEHRAN - Some 2,300 nomadic Kurdish households from North Khorasan and Razavi Khorasan provinces have begun their seasonal migration to winter pastures in northeastern Iran's Golestan province, where they will stay until mid-May.

The families are settling in seasonal grazing areas across the counties of Maraveh Tappeh, Kalaleh and Gonbad-e Kavus, covering approximately 350,000 hectares, according to the provincial Department of Nomadic Affairs.

The annual autumn migration, which takes place between November 6 and May 5, brings nomadic communities and their livestock to the milder winter grazing grounds of eastern Golestan.

Mohammad-Sadeq Arab-Qaeini, director general of Golestan's Department of Nomadic Affairs, identified the Khashtali, Qazanqayeh and Shalmi routes as the three main traditional migration corridors into the province.

He said arrangements had been made with local governorates, military and law enforcement authorities, veterinary services and natural resources departments to ensure the safety of migrating families and facilitate services along the routes and at their winter settlements.

Recent torrential rains have damaged a substantial section of the province's nomadic road network, Arab-Qaeini said. Of the 350 kilometers of roads used by nomadic communities, 180 kilometers have sustained damage.

He added that arrangements had been made with construction contractors to repair the affected routes.

Support for the nomadic households will continue after their arrival, with several government agencies, including health centers, the education department, the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company, the provincial grain administration, the road maintenance department and the agriculture organization, involved in providing essential services.

Arab-Qaeini said the main provisions included drinking water, flour, kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas and livestock feed. Animal feed supplies include concentrated fodder, barley, dry forage and bran.

One nomadic union, eight cooperative companies and 12 retail outlets are involved in supplying and distributing essential goods, he added.

A centuries-old tradition of seasonal migration

Seasonal migration is an integral part of Iran's nomadic way of life, shaped by the country's varied climate, mountain ranges and extensive grazing lands. For generations, pastoral communities have moved between yeilaq (summer quarters) in cooler mountainous areas and qeshlaq (winter quarters) in warmer lowlands to find suitable pastures for their livestock.

These movements, traditionally undertaken on foot with herds of sheep and goats, follow established migration routes known as il-rah. The timing and direction of migration depend largely on seasonal weather conditions, pasture availability and access to water.

Among Iran's well-known nomadic communities are the Qashqai, Bakhtiari, Shahsevan and Kurdish tribes, whose seasonal movements have helped preserve distinctive traditions of pastoralism, traditional crafts, music, food and social organization.

In northeastern Iran, Kurdish nomadic households from North Khorasan and Razavi Khorasan travel towards the winter grazing grounds of Golestan, particularly its eastern counties. Located southeast of the Caspian Sea and bordering Turkmenistan to the north, Golestan provides access to extensive lowland pastures that serve as seasonal destinations for migrating livestock herders.

Beyond its economic importance for livestock raising, nomadic migration remains a living expression of Iran's cultural heritage, reflecting generations of accumulated knowledge about landscapes, climate, animal husbandry and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Rafsanjan presidential museum added to Iran's national heritage list



TEHRAN – The building housing the documents center, library and presidential museum of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Rafsanjan, Kerman province, has been inscribed on Iran's national heritage list, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

Seyyed Moayyed Mohsen-Nejad said on Tuesday that the building was registered under No. 34569 following the preparation and completion of its registration dossier and its approval by the National Heritage Registration Council.

He said the inscription recognized the building's national and historical significance, adding that national registration plays a fundamental role in identifying, documenting and protecting the country's historical and cultural assets.

Mohsen-Nejad noted that heritage registration goes beyond safeguarding individual buildings, describing it as a means of preserving historical memory and cultural identity and passing these assets on to future generations.

He added that registering historically significant buildings and sites could also encourage greater attention to their cultural and historical potential and support the development of cultural tourism in Kerman province.

The Rafsanjan presidential museum was established to collect and preserve official and unofficial gifts presented to the Iranian government by individuals, organizations and foreign countries during the presidency of Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (1989–1997).

Its collections include objects of national significance and documents relating to Iran's diplomatic relations. The materials are considered part of the country's national documentary heritage and are held under the supervision of the National Library and Archives Organization of Iran.

The building has three main floors and two mezzanine levels, with a total floor area of approximately 5,000 square meters. Its architectural design incorporates a sphere and a cube, with most of the usable space situated between the two geometric forms, apart from part of the basement beneath the central courtyard.

Dafineh museum group proposes intl. council of Islamic world museums

TEHRAN – The Dafineh museum group has proposed establishing an "international council of museums of the Islamic world" to strengthen cooperation among museums in Muslim countries, with the initiative expected to be examined by Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO).

Hamidreza Soleimani, CEO of the Dafineh museum group of the Mostazafan Foundation, put forward the proposal during a meeting on Tuesday at which a memorandum of understanding was signed between the group and ICRO.

Soleimani said the proposed council could provide a platform for greater cooperation and coordination among museums in Islamic countries, particularly in developing common standards and protocols for museum activities.

He noted that while the International Council of Museums (ICOM) works to establish professional standards for museums worldwide, no comparable structure currently exists specifically for the Islamic world's cultural and civilizational sphere.

Establishing such a council, he said, could serve as a starting point for developing shared approaches to museum management and strengthening cultural ties among participating countries.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Public Tender Announcement No. 4067-26

Faraz Battery Novin Parsian Company

Faraz Battery Novin Parsian Company intends to hold a public tender under No. 4067-26 for the procurement of machinery and equipment required to complete its Truck Lead-Acid Battery Production Lines, covering four different battery types with capacities ranging from 100 Ah to 250 Ah, based on 3 × 2 and 6 × 1 production line layouts, at its manufacturing facility in Khansar, Isfahan Province, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Therefore, FARAZ BATTERY NOVIN PARSIAN Co., hereby invites qualified and experienced manufacturers, suppliers, and contractors to participate in an international tender for the supply, installation, commissioning, and start-up of a Truck Lead-Acid Battery Production Line.

The list of required machines is as follows:

1. Assembly line

2. Formation Line

3. Finishing Line

Those who are interested in participating in the tender can refer to the Address 3rd. floor, No.14, Mahnaz Alley, Vali-Asr St.,Tehran, Iran, within 10 days from the publication date. Telephone number 021-72483326 is the answering of tender participants.

Study highlights challenges, opportunities for Iran's scientific diplomacy

TEHRAN – A study conducted by the Scientific Information Database (SID) of the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research, known as Jahad-e Daneshgahi, has examined the state of scientific diplomacy in Iran and worldwide, identifying restrictions on international cooperation as one of the major challenges facing efforts to enhance the quality and credibility of the country's scientific output.

The study identifies three major challenges to the development of scientific diplomacy: research security concerns, scientific sanctions, and geopolitical tensions.

According to the findings, Iran's scientific output has continued to grow in quantitative terms, accompanied by an increase in collaborative research and group co-authorship. However, international scientific cooperation remains limited compared with the country's domestic research output.

The University of Tehran and Tehran University of Medical Sciences are among the country's leading scientific hubs. Tarbiat Modares University and the Science and Research Branch of Islamic Azad University also hold prominent positions in national scientific collaboration networks.



In 2020, Iran ranked 15th globally in terms of total scientific publications, accounting for 2.02 percent of the world's scientific output. The country ranked 15th in basic sciences, 29th in social sciences, and 37th in humanities and arts.

The study also found that international research collaboration is associated with higher citation rates and improved paper quality. The United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, and Australia were identified as Iran's major international research partners.

It further highlights considerable potential for expanding scientific cooperation with neighboring and regional countries, particularly in fields such as nanotechnology, stem cell research, and medicine.

Despite these opportunities, economic constraints and difficulties accessing global scientific networks continue to pose significant barriers to expanding research partnerships.

Concerns over scientific espionage, the transfer of sensitive technologies, and foreign interference have also resulted in restrictions on research cooperation. In addition, sanctions have limited scientific collaboration involving targeted countries, including Iran and Russia. The Ukraine crisis, which began in 2022, has also disrupted some international cooperation in polar research.

The study warns that scientific isolation can restrict access to major international infrastructure and research projects, widen the gap between scientific publication and the conversion of knowledge into economic and technological value, accelerate brain drain, and undermine countries' ability to address transnational challenges.

These challenges include climate change, biosafety, water resources, and public health, all of which require cross-border scientific cooperation and coordinated research efforts.

The study proposes four main strategies to strengthen Iran's scientific diplomacy: Strengthening scientific diplomacy and expanding cooperation with neighboring and Islamic countries; Reforming academic evaluation and incentive systems to encourage both domestic and international co-authorship; Moving beyond an exclusive focus on publication numbers toward greater emphasis on citations, research quality, and addressing societal challenges; Enhancing researchers' presence, particularly in the humanities, across academic social networks and online platforms to increase the visibility and international reach of their research.

Iranian, Ivorian ministers discuss ways to boost ties in ICT sector

TEHRAN – Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister Sattar Hashemi and Ivorian Minister of Digital Transition and Technological Innovation Djibril Ouattara have explored the potential to expand cooperation in the ICT sector.

The officials met on the sidelines of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26), which is taking place in Doha, Qatar, from November 9 to 27 November, Mehr news agency reported.

Expounding on some of the important ICT projects and the scientific and academic capacities of the country, Hashemi voiced Iran's readiness to share expertise and promote collaborations in developing and expanding ICT infrastructures, particularly artificial intelligence, and the joint implementation of fiber-optic projects, as well as to sign a memorandum of understanding in the field of ICT. He also emphasized the necessity of establishing a clear, strategic roadmap to pursue and operationalize technological cooperation between the two sides.

Referring to the importance of cybersecurity in the development of digital services and infrastructure, he stressed the need for the exchange of experiences and solutions to counter cyberattacks.

For his part, Ouattara underlined the significance of enhancing collaborative efforts in the field of ICT, saying the Ivorian ambassador to Tehran will follow up on the agreements reached.

The official also welcomed Iran's proposal to host an Ivorian specialized delegation, noting that it will help focus on details and developing joint initiatives in digital technologies.

The Plenipotentiary Conference is the principal governing body of the ITU. It serves as the authoritative decision-making mechanism on the organization's strategic and financial plans, leadership, and overall direction.

Held every four years, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (also known as "Plenipot" or "PP") affirms common positions among ITU's Member States worldwide. PP-26 calls on countries to work "Together for a connected digital future."

Delegates from ITU's 194 Member States will address the world's most pressing digital opportunities and challenges, define the UN agency's strategic vision through 2031, and elect its leadership for the coming four years.

The conference is also expected to address critical, collective issues, such as expanding global connectivity and investment, strengthening the resilience of digital infrastructure, ensuring reliable emergency and humanitarian communications, advancing space-based connectivity and sustainability, and harnessing emerging technologies for development.

PP-26 features an extensive Ministerial Program, with high-level thematic discussions on resilience and emerging technologies, offering senior leaders a platform to exchange insights, showcase national achievements, and address shared challenges. The conference further supports the meaningful participation of women and youth, with dedicated activities on inclusion and accessibility in the digital transformation agenda.

ITU Member States will elect the organization's top management team as well as members of the ITU Council and Radio Regulations Board. Member States will also agree on the organization's strategic and financial roadmap for 2028 to 2031.

An Iranian delegation led by the ICT minister is attending the conference with the aim of bolstering technology diplomacy, bilateral and multilateral collaborations, and pursuing the interests of the country in global governance of information and communication technologies.

Holding meetings with his counterparts and senior officials of the member states, and exploring opportunities for cooperation in advanced technologies, digital economy fields are among the other scheduled plans of the Iranian delegation.

Tehran hosts meeting of African envoys to boost science, health cooperation

On December 7, 2025, Iranian officials and the ambassadors of 19 African countries met in Tehran to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of science, education, research, and health.



Addressing the meeting, held in Tehran, Nader Tavakoli, the Chancellor of Iran University of Medical Sciences, said, "Despite coercive sanctions, the country has managed to make great strides in the health sector, from education and treatment to technology and production of medicines, relying on committed and creative human resources," IRNA reported.

"Now, we are ready to share these achievements with Africans through establishing a strategic health alliance between Iran and African countries," Tavakoli highlighted.

Elaborating on the core areas of the strategic alliance, he said that researchers will focus on addressing real-time illnesses, such as tropical and endemic diseases, drug shortages, and health service delivery in rural areas.

Admitting African students and developing joint educational courses, with dual accreditation, as well as dispatching professors for training of trainers, will be another part of the alliance.

Other main components of the strategic alliance will include sharing technical knowledge in fields such as manufacturing vaccines, biosimilar drugs, and medical equipment by establishing a collaborative production line in African countries, Tavakoli added.

The expansion of scientific interactions between Iranian and African scientists was the last point mentioned by the official. The strategic alliance will lay the basis for boosting scientific collaborations between over 60 universities and hundreds of top research centers across the country, he further noted.

On December 8, 2025, the ministries of health and foreign affairs, in a virtual meeting with Iranian ambassadors and attachés in Africa, discussed the potential for promoting cooperation with African countries in the health sector.

During the meeting, Alireza Biglari, the deputy health minister for international affairs, highlighted the country's capabilities in areas related to health. Referring to the existing capacity as a valuable opportunity for the expansion of health diplomacy and the favorable condition for cooperation with African countries, the official announced the readiness of the health ministry to implement decisions and operational plans, IRNA reported.

For his part, Akbar Khosravi Nejad, Assistant to Iran's Foreign Minister and Director General for Africa, underlined the importance of Africa in Iran's foreign policy, and said that the country's health system is one of the main sectors for enhancing collaborations with these countries.

Tavakoli, for his part, presented an account of the current activities and programs of the university in Africa, as well as plans to meet African ambassadors in Tehran.

45 Iranian universities included in Leiden Ranking Traditional Edition

TEHRAN – The 2026 Leiden Ranking Traditional Edition has included 45 Iranian universities among the top 1,618 universities worldwide.

In 2025, 48 Iranian universities were included, placing the country first among Islamic nations in terms of the number of universities for the second consecutive year.

The University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 182), Tehran University of Medical Sciences (230), and Iran University of Science and Technology (388) are ranked first to third in the country.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (390), Tarbiat Modares University, Amirkabir University of Technology, University of Tabriz, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences are placed fourth to tenth, respectively.

The number of universities included in the Leiden Ranking Traditional Edition 2026 has increased from 1594 to 1618. Nepal is represented in the Traditional Edition for the first time, bringing the total number of countries and territories covered in the Leiden Ranking Traditional Edition to 78. This is the final release of the Traditional Edition. From 2027 onward, the Traditional Edition will be discontinued.

Based on open data from OpenAlex, the CWTS Leiden Ranking Open Edition offers fully transparent information about the scientific performance of over 3000 universities worldwide.

Leiden Ranking Open Edition has included 80 Iranian universities. Tehran University of Medical Sciences is placed first in the country (ranking 154 globally), followed by University of Tehran (172), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (316), Iran University of Science and Technology (431), Tarbiat Modares University (440) are the top five universities in the country.

Iran University of Science and Technology, Tarbiat Modares University, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Amirkabir University of Technology, and Mashhad University of Medical Sciences ranked sixth to tenth, respectively.

In Biomedical and health sciences, Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranks 44, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences ranks 96, and Shiraz University of Medical Sciences ranks 153 globally.

University of Tehran ranks 55 in Life and earth sciences, 95 in Physical sciences and engineering, 152 in Mathematics and computer sciences, and 285 in Social sciences and humanities.

The number of universities included in the Leiden Ranking Open Edition has increased from 2831 to 3049. Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, and Libya are represented in the Leiden Ranking Open Edition for the first time, bringing the total number of countries and territories covered in the Leiden Ranking Open Edition to 122.

The Leiden Ranking provides indicators of scientific impact, collaboration, and open access publishing. Size matters when comparing universities: performance can be viewed from an absolute or a relative perspective (e.g., the number versus the percentage of highly cited publications). That is why size-dependent and size-independent indicators are consistently presented together in the Leiden Ranking. This highlights that both types of indicators need to be taken into account.

Compared with other university rankings, the Leiden Ranking offers more advanced bibliometric indicators. The underlying methodology is richly documented. It provides information exclusively about the research done at universities. Research is represented in publications, and carefully collected data about these publications forms the basis for the Leiden Ranking. This basis also ensures the independence of the Leiden Ranking, since there is no reliance on data submitted by the universities themselves.

Recent rankings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

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

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

Tehrantimes79

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

NOVEMBER 11, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One can purchase the world with contentment, and live in happiness with benevolence.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:19 Dawn: 5:11 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:37 (tomorrow)

Iranian short documentary wins at 15th Africa International Film Festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian short documentary "Throne of Wood" won an award at the 15th Africa International Film Festival (AFRIFF), which ran from November 1 to 7, in Nigeria.

The 30-minute documentary, directed by Sadegh Kazemi and produced by Mohammad Javad Amirani, received the Best Documentary Short at the closing ceremony.

It is about Granny, the only one-hundred-year-old woman in a village, who has spent years piling up heaps of firewood in front of her house. Since the village has long been connected to natural gas, her neighbors mock her and consider her efforts pointless.

Known since her youth as "the Chief" for her independent and controlling nature, Granny has now reached a hundred and refuses to end up like the other elderly women of the village—dependent on her children.

Despite having more than fifty grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she now lives alone, and the most important task of her solitary years has become gathering massive stacks of wood and making her daily fire-brewed tea with them. After a fire breaks out in the house next door, the villagers pressure her to remove her woodpile for the safety of the neighborhood. But Granny is deeply attached to her wood—and giving it up is not an option.



This year's edition of AFRIFF was held under the theme "Frames of the Future: Africa's Creative Intelligence." The festival's Globe Awards recognizes outstanding films and creative talent from the festival's selection.

The Africa International Film Festival is Africa's most vibrant film festival experience. AFRIFF consistently delivers an energetic and exciting hub of real people making real connections and has gradually built a reputation for delivering real value.

AFRIFF offers Awards in categories such as Feature, Documentary, Short, Animation and Students Short, as well as awards and prizes in Directing, Acting and Screenplay. It also features special awards for Audience choice and a Jury award for outstanding film.

Cartoon of Day



End of Journey
Cartoonist: Fares Garabet from Germany

Restored version of 'Bashu, the Little Stranger' to screen in Canada

TEHRAN – A restored 4K version of "Bashu, the Little Stranger," the acclaimed film by late Iranian filmmaker Bahram Beyzaie, will be screened at Carbon Arc Cinema, an independent art-house theater in Halifax, Canada, on November 22.

The screening is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. local time on Sunday, offering Canadian audiences an opportunity to see the restored version of one of the landmark works of Iranian cinema. The film will be presented with English subtitles.

According to the Public Relations and International Affairs Department of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon), the screening is part of the international presentations of the restored version, which have introduced Beyzaie's work to audiences in different countries.

The Halifax screening follows an earlier presentation of the restored 4K version in Montreal, where the film was screened at Cinéma Moderne on October 14. The two screenings are part of the film's international circulation following its restoration with the support of Kanoon.

Released in 1989, "Bashu, the Little Stranger" follows a young boy from southern Iran who loses his home and family during the Iran-Iraq War. Fleeing the devastation, he takes refuge in a village in northern Iran, where he finds himself in an unfamiliar environment, surrounded by people who speak a different language and follow different cultural traditions.



His arrival initially exposes him to suspicion and rejection from the local community. However, Naii, a rural woman who takes him under her protection, gradually develops a close bond with the displaced child. Their relationship becomes the emotional center of the story, transcending linguistic, cultural and ethnic differences.

The touching acclaimed drama, however, carries subtle undertones about human emotions like love, loneliness, and unfamiliarity.

Through Bashu's experience, Beyzaie explores the impact of war on children and civilians, while addressing broader themes of displacement, identity, social acceptance and coexistence. The film portrays the difficulties of finding a sense of belonging in an unfamiliar society and highlights the role of compassion and human connection in overcoming divisions.

"Bashu, the Little Stranger" is widely regarded as a significant achievement in Iranian cinema, particularly for its portrayal of the human consequences of war through the eyes of a child.

In 1999, "Bashu, the Little Stranger" was voted the best Iranian movie of all time by a poll of 150 movie experts.

Born in Tehran in 1938, Bahram Beyzaie was a celebrated Iranian playwright, filmmaker and scholar whose work blended Persian mythology, epic literature, particularly Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, and contemporary social issues.

Before turning to cinema in the 1970s, he had established himself as a leading playwright and historian. Often called the Shakespeare of Iran, he was admired for his mastery of Persian and his exploration of Iranian history and cultural identity through drama.

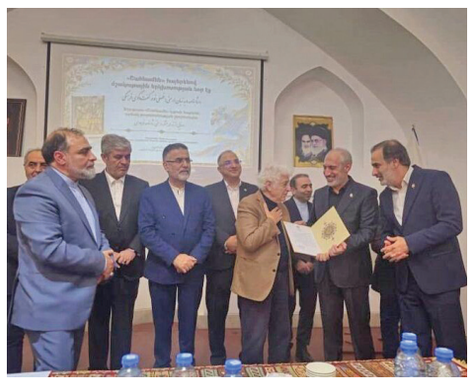
His notable works include "Ballad of Tara" (1979), "Death of Yazdgerd" (1982), and "Killing Mad Dogs" (2001).

After moving to the United States in 2010, Beyzaie continued his cultural and academic activities at Stanford University, teaching and researching Persian theater, cinema and mythology. His enduring creative commitment was also reflected in the manuscript "Dash Akol According to Marjan," completed five years before his passing.

The film's new 4K restoration was carried out at Roashana Studios with the support of Kanoon. The project is part of efforts to preserve and revive important works of Iranian cinema and make them accessible to new generations of viewers in Iran and abroad.

Carbon Arc Cinema, located in downtown Halifax, is an independent art-house venue whose programming includes international, Canadian and independent films, as well as significant works from cinema history.

Veteran composer, conductor Loris Tjeknavorian honored in Yerevan



TEHRAN – Veteran composer and conductor Loris Tjeknavorian was honored in a ceremony held in Yerevan, Armenia.

In the presence of Iran's Vice President and Head of the Plan and Budget Organization Seyyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, and the accompanying delegation, an appreciation plaque from the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi was presented to Tjeknavorian, IRNA reported.

During the ceremony, Tjeknavorian's years of artistic activity and his role in expanding the cultural ties between Iran and Armenia were praised. The appreciation plaque was awarded to him in recognition of a lifetime of dedication and his effective role in elevating Iranian music and strengthening the cultural relations between the two nations.

In the Minister's citation, referencing Tjeknavorian's prominent position in Iranian music, the text expressed appreciation for his knowledge, creativity, and continuous artistic efforts, as well as the enduring works he has added to the nation's musical heritage. The citation also emphasized his role as a composer and conductor in introducing the capacities of Iranian music to the international arena, expanding cultural and artistic dialogue, and solidifying the historical and cultural bonds between Iran and Armenia.

Additionally, Pourmohammadi honored the veteran artist by presenting him with an Armenian-language edition of the Shahnameh.

Held within the framework of the cultural relations between the two countries, this ceremony served as an opportunity to honor the shared artistic heritage of Iran and Armenia and to highlight the potential for expanding cooperation in the fields of music, the production of joint works, orchestral performances, and the exchange of artists.

Born in Borujerd, Lorestan Province, Loris Tjeknavorian, 89, is one of the most celebrated cultural figures in Armenia and Iran. As one of the leading conductors of his generation, he has led international orchestras throughout the world and has been awarded numerous times in different music events.

As a composer, Tjeknavorian has written six operas, five symphonies, choral works, chamber music, ballet music, piano and vocal works, concerti for piano, violin, guitar, cello, and pipa (Chinese lute), as well as music for documentary and feature films.

His compositions have been performed by major orchestras, including London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Halle Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra Helsinki, American Symphony Orchestra in New York, Tehran Symphony Orchestra, Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra, Haifa Symphony Orchestra, the Mexico Symphony Orchestra, London Percussion Virtuosi, Strasbourg Percussion Ensemble, and English Chamber Orchestra.

From 2009 to the present, Tjeknavorian has continued to devote his time to composing, as well as painting and writing short stories. Among his most recent works are the operas "Zahak" (libretto based on Ferdowsi's Shahnameh) and "Mowlana and Shams-e Tabriz" (libretto based on the poetry of Rumi), as well as the chamber opera "The Final Hour of Sadegh Hedayat" (libretto based on "The Blind Owl" and other works by the Iranian poet Sadegh Hedayat).

Other works include his second concerto for violin and chamber orchestra, a work for solo piano titled "1915," and two major symphonic suites: "King Cyrus," about the ancient Persian king, and "Takhti," dedicated to the celebrated Iranian wrestler.

Iranian film 'People's Child' wins award at BRICS+ festival

TEHRAN- Iranian feature film "People's Child" directed by Mahmoud Karimi, won the Best Fiction Feature award at the BRICS+ International Film Festival in Russia last week.

Produced by Seyyed Ali Ahmadi and backed by the Behesht-e Emam Reza Charity Institute, the film received the award at the first edition of the international festival, which brought together filmmakers and productions from BRICS+ countries and other nations, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

The results were announced on November 6 at a press conference held at the TASS news agency in Moscow, following the festival's screenings in Moscow and Saint Petersburg from October 29 to November 3, the report added.

The award adds to the film's achievements following its appearance at Iran's Fajr Film Festival in 2025, where it received 14 Crystal Simorgh nominations, winning three Crystal Simorgh awards and an honorary diploma.

A 2025 production, the 117-minute movie is about the children from an orphanage, who are forced to face life on their own after the Iranian Revolution in 1979. While searching for their families, one of them, named Abolfazl, learns he was once found as a lost child and decides to trace his origins.

On his journey for answers, he encounters various people and stories that gradually change his view of the world and himself. His path leads him through friendship, love, loss, and war until he discovers where he truly belongs.

The cast includes Gohar Kheyrandish, Reza Kianian, Hasan Majuni, Behrooz Shoeibi, Siamak Safari, Siavash Cheraghipour, Omid Rohani, Zahra Davoudnejad, Venus Kaneli, Javad Yahyavi, Maniya Azizi, and Mahbod Jahan Noush.

During its international festival campaign, the film was selected for eight events: the Zlín Film Festival in the Czech Republic, the Sulaymaniyah International Film Festival in Iraq, AFIN International Film Festival in Australia, Nebrodi Cinema DOC in Italy, the Heartland International Film Festival in the United States, the Barcelona Asian Film Festival in Spain, the Guglielmo Marconi International Film Festival in Italy, and the BRICS+ International Film Festival in Russia.

The inaugural BRICS+ International Film Festival received 327 submissions from 22 countries. Its program included feature films, short films and documentaries, with awards presented in several competitive categories.

The festival is a cultural initiative aimed at promoting cinematic cooperation and exchanges among BRICS+ member states and other countries. The event provides a platform for filmmakers to present their works, introduce their national cinemas to international audiences and foster dialogue through film. Its program encompasses feature films, documentaries and short films, highlighting diverse cultural perspectives and filmmaking traditions.