Straight Truth

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TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 500,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 47th year | No. 15471 | Thursday | November 12, 2026 | Aban 21, 1405 | Jumada al-Thani 2, 1448

Military and settlers work hand in hand in West Bank

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israeli soldiers shot dead a 14-year-old boy in the West Bank village of Burqa on November 9, kept ambulances from reaching the wounded and briefly held the paramedics who tried.

By November 10, the occupying military was still holding his body, Israel's outgoing government had put 823 more settlement homes out to tender, and October's figures showed settler violence at a monthly level the United Nations has never recorded before.

A boy shot in Burqa

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the boy as Moataz Iyad Daghlas and said Israel is refusing to hand over his body. ▸ Page 5

Has the West launched a new smear campaign against Iran?

TEHRAN - Reports surfaced on Tuesday, Nov. 10, that Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has been relocated from his home in Washington, D.C., to a military base amid alleged Iranian assassination threats.

It was claimed that Tehran has ramped up its efforts to target senior U.S. officials overseas, with White House chief of staff Stephen Miller and Secretary of State Marco Rubio also relocating to military or protected housing in recent weeks, Fox News said.

A senior administration official claimed that threats against Bessent had reached "more than an advanced stage." ▸ Page 5

Flooded tents deepen the misery of displaced Gazans

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN - In Gaza, even the weather has become an enemy that the international community refuses to confront.

When a sand dune collapses onto a tent sheltering displaced Palestinians, killing four children and a woman, it is tempting to describe the tragedy as another consequence of winter storms. But there is nothing natural about a catastrophe in which people have been driven from their homes, denied the means to rebuild them and left to face freezing temperatures under pieces of canvas. The rain may have triggered the collapse, but the conditions that made it deadly were created by a human-made siege.

Behind these tragedies lies a reality that no humanitarian statement can adequately capture: families who survived bombardment are now struggling to survive the cold, flooding and collapsing ground. They escaped Israeli attacks only to find themselves exposed to another form of danger. ▸ Page 5

Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting signs co-op document, eyes expanded trade

TEHRAN- The 19th meeting of the Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee concluded with the signing of a cooperation document, and Tehran and Yerevan emphasized the development of economic relations and trade exchanges.

According to an IRNA report, the 19th meeting of the Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee was hosted by Yerevan, and its document was signed on November 10, by Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, Vice President and Head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization, and Mher Grigoryan, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. ▸ Page 4



Iran's Big 'NO' to Transfer of Enriched Nuclear Material

Security chief says Iran needs highly enriched fuel for building nuclear-powered vessels

Even the smallest amount of enriched nuclear material will not be taken out of Iran," Rezaei said, adding that Tehran had informed Russia of this position.

By Mahmoud Mahmoudian

TEHRAN – Iran has ruled out transferring any of its enriched nuclear material abroad, reaffirmed its determination to retain full control over its nuclear capabilities, and warned that any renewed US or Israeli aggression would trigger a far more devastating response, as senior officials highlighted the country's growing military capabilities and readiness to defend its security.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei made the nuclear position unequivocally clear in an interview with Al Mayadeen, stressing that not even the smallest quantity of enriched nuclear material would be shipped out of the country.

"Even the smallest amount of enriched nuclear material will not be taken out of Iran," Rezaei said, adding that Tehran had informed its Russian partners that the material would remain inside the country and be used for Iran's own purposes.

He explained that Iran requires enriched nuclear material for its plans to design and manufacture nuclear-powered vessels, including ships and submarines.

Rezaei's remarks underscore Tehran's insistence on maintaining control over its nuclear stockpile, ruling out its transfer abroad as part of any potential diplomatic arrangement.

Addressing the prospects for ending the ongoing war and negotiations with Washington, the SNSC secretary stressed that any cessation of hostilities must encompass all fronts across West Asia, particularly Lebanon. He also reiterated Iran's demand for an end to the naval blockade, the release of its frozen assets, and credible guarantees against renewed military aggression. ▸ Page 3



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Pezeshkian says military aggression undermines global climate efforts

TEHRAN- Masoud Pezeshkian, the Iranian president, on Wednesday sought accountability over environmental destruction caused by the US-Israeli attacks on Iran.

Pezeshkian warned that military conflicts are undermining global efforts to combat climate change, stressing that peace is an essential prerequisite for environmental protection and sustainable development.

Addressing the United Nations climate change summit in Antalya, Turkey, Pezeshkian said the international community must reconsider the concepts of shared responsibility and climate justice, emphasizing the inseparable link between peace and the environment. ▸ Page 3

Leader offers condolences on death of Iranian actor, theater director Kourosh Zarei

TEHRAN- Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, has expressed condolences over the death of veteran Iranian actor and theater director Kourosh Zarei, describing him as a committed and revolutionary artist whose efforts to expand performing arts in less-privileged parts of the country were commendable. ▸ Page 8

Iran designates Argentine navy and air force as terrorist organizations

TEHRAN – Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has designated the Argentine Navy and Air Force as terrorist organizations in response to Buenos Aires' decision to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the ministry said the measure was taken in accordance with the principle of reciprocity and under Iran's 2019 law on reciprocal action against the US designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organization.

The statement described Argentina's decision as a hostile act that violates fundamental principles of international law, emphasizing that the IRGC is an integral branch of Iran's official Armed Forces.

It cited the 2019 legislation, which stipulates that any country that, in any manner, follows or supports the United States' decision to designate the IRGC as a terrorist organization is subject to reciprocal action.

"Accordingly, the Argentine Navy and the Argentine Air Force are subject to the provisions of the aforementioned law and are hereby designated as terrorist organizations," the statement said.

The ministry added that the Argentine government would bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from the measure.

International rail conference sees 3 MOUs for clean energy, fleet modernization

TEHRAN- Concurrently with the 19th International Rail Transport Conference, three cooperation memoranda of understanding centered on building solar power plants on railway lands, supplying 36 fully battery-powered locomotives, and refurbishing 24 out-of-service locomotives were signed in the presence of the Minister of Transport and Urban Development and a group of officials and rail industry figures.

According to an IRNA report, concurrently with the 19th International Rail Transport Conference, three cooperation and investment MoUs aimed at developing renewable energy, supplying fully battery-powered locomotives, and modernizing the rail fleet were signed in the presence of Farzaneh Sadegh, Minister of Transport and Urban Development; Mohammad Reza Rezaei Kuchi, Chairman of the Civil Engineering Committee of the Parliament; Abbas Soufi, Vice Chairman of the Committee; and Mohsen Tarztalab, Deputy Minister of Energy. ▸ Page 4

Pezeshkian holds talks with leaders on sidelines of COP31

TEHRAN– Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has held a series of bilateral meetings with the leaders of Iraq, Norway, Armenia and Pakistan on the sidelines of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Turkey, discussing bilateral relations, regional developments and prospects for expanding economic and political cooperation. ▸ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The enemy's plan must be foiled

In an article, Kayhan examined what it described as the enemy's objective in spreading reports about the possible resumption of war. The newspaper argued that preserving the current situation is not in Iran's interest and warned that officials should remain fully alert because the continuation of existing conditions could bring adversaries closer to their goals. According to the paper, repeated military threats are intended to keep Iranian officials focused on the risk of attack while economic pressure gradually produces results. Kayhan argued that the ultimate objective is to force Iran into negotiations from a position of weakness and secure concessions. The newspaper maintained that opponents have greater confidence in economic pressure than in direct military action. It further claimed that concessions would not stop pressure but instead be interpreted as a sign of weakness, encouraging further demands. In this view, even if negotiations continue, military pressure could eventually return unless the strategy designed to combine economic and security pressures is disrupted.

Sobh-e-No: Iran's rights must be respected

In an analysis of Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's brief visit to Tehran, Sobh-e-No highlighted his meetings with Iran's president and parliament speaker. The newspaper said the meeting with Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf was especially significant because it emphasized the need for the US to respect Iran's rights within the framework proposed by Tehran. According to the paper, this position reflects Iran's view that ending tensions and moving toward any future agreement cannot be separated from recognition of its rights and demands. Sobh-e-No described al-Zaidi's visit as part of Baghdad's diplomatic efforts to convey messages between the parties and help bring their positions closer together. The newspaper argued that the trip was more than a routine diplomatic consultation and provided an opportunity for Tehran to clarify its views on ending the conflict while stressing that any diplomatic process must be based on respect for Iran's rights and acceptance of the framework proposed by the Iranian side.

Etemad: A strategic opportunity

Etemad focused on diplomatic opportunities to reduce tensions between Iran and the US and to prevent the return of war. The newspaper argued that years of sanctions, maximum-pressure policies, and efforts to contain Iran have failed to achieve their intended objectives. It claimed that Washington now recognizes the need to address some of Iran's key demands if it hopes to overcome the current deadlock. According to the paper, the present moment offers an important opportunity for Iranian diplomacy, but success depends on vigilance, domestic cohesion, and careful management of negotiations. The commentary emphasized that Iranian policymakers should use existing diplomatic momentum and public support to strengthen their position internationally. It concluded that sustainable peace remains the most effective foundation for economic development, stability, and improvements in citizens' living conditions.

Hamshahri: If the Strait of Hormuz is open, why is Trump talking nonsense?

Hamshahri examined what it described as contradictions in Donald Trump's statements regarding Iran. The paper questioned why keeping the Strait of Hormuz open would be presented as a condition for an agreement if shipping and oil exports are already continuing as normal or even above previous levels. It also noted that Trump had previously focused on Iran's nuclear program as the principal issue in negotiations. According to the analysis, the shift in emphasis may indicate an effort to prepare public opinion and political conditions for a potential agreement. At the same time, the newspaper suggested that uncertainty remains over Trump's intentions. It argued that the statements could either represent an attempt to facilitate diplomacy or serve as preparation for renewed confrontation. The paper said only future developments will determine whether the objective is a negotiated settlement, lower oil prices, or the creation of favorable conditions for further escalation.

Arman-e-Melli: Diplomacy at the peak of tension

Arman-e Melli argued that recent diplomatic activity demonstrates a broad regional effort to prevent the dispute between Iran and the US from escalating into war. According to the newspaper, leaders across the region are increasingly focused on finding alternatives to military confrontation. The analysis suggested that Trump may have concluded that continued tensions could create substantial political and economic difficulties for both himself and the Republican Party while producing few benefits for the White House. The paper also pointed to developments in Israeli politics, including challenges facing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as additional factors influencing regional calculations. It argued that governments throughout the region are closely monitoring these developments and reassessing the costs and benefits of the current situation. As a result, they are weighing not only the consequences of existing tensions but also the potential impact of any future conflict between Washington and Tehran.

Pezeshkian holds talks with leaders on sidelines of COP31

From page 1 ▸ Pezeshkian met with Iraqi President Nizar Amedi on Wednesday, with the two leaders reviewing recent developments in bilateral relations and underscoring the importance of strengthening constructive engagement and expanding cooperation across various fields.

During the meeting, both sides emphasized the need to build on their respective capacities and comparative advantages to deepen ties and advance their shared interests.

The Iranian president also held talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, discussing the state of bilateral relations as well as major regional and international developments.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the state of bilateral relations and discussed key regional and international issues, emphasizing the importance of diplomacy, constructive dialogue, and multilateral cooperation in addressing shared global challenges.

In another meeting, Pezeshkian and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Caucasus region.



Iranian President Pezeshkian meets Pakistani PM Sharif on the sidelines of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31)

The two sides emphasized the importance of strengthening regional connectivity, expanding economic and infrastructure cooperation, and maintaining regular political consultations.

Their discussions highlighted the importance of closer regional engagement and enhanced connectivity as means of promoting economic development and stability in the Caucasus.

Pezeshkian also met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Antalya. The two leaders reviewed political and economic relations between Tehran and Islamabad, emphasizing the need to strengthen regional cooperation, expand trade and economic ties, and enhance coordination in pursuit of regional stability, security and mutual interests.

The meetings took place as part of Pezeshkian's participation in COP31, which is being held in Antalya from November 9 to 20, 2026, bringing together heads of state and government, senior officials, representatives of international organizations and environmental and energy experts to discuss global climate challenges.

Iran is participating in the international gathering with a delegation comprising the president and officials and experts from various sectors.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) is also represented at the conference, reflecting the country's participation in discussions on the intersection of energy, technology and environmental challenges.

Pezeshkian arrived in Turkey on Wednesday morning to attend and address the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), receiving a welcome from Turkish officials.

Before departing for Turkey, Pezeshkian described COP31 as an opportunity to engage with world officials and present Iran's position on the environmental consequences of war and aggression.

The series of meetings provided an opportunity for Iran to pursue consultations with neighboring countries and other international partners, with particular emphasis on regional connectivity, economic cooperation, diplomatic engagement and coordination on shared challenges.

Iran warns US, Israel of more devastating response to any new aggression

TEHRAN – Senior Iranian officials have warned the United States and Israel against any renewed military aggression, stressing that Iran's Armed Forces are better prepared than ever to defend the country and that the geography of any future confrontation will be determined by Iran, not its adversaries.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf made the remarks following the unveiling of a new underground missile facility by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), describing the project as a demonstration of Iran's determination to safeguard its national security and territorial integrity.

In a message marking the unveiling, Qalibaf praised the scientists, engineers, commanders and military personnel whose years of work had brought the project to fruition despite international sanctions, military and security threats, and the challenges of wartime conditions.

He said the achievement demonstrated Iran's capacity to develop highly sophisticated technologies through domestic expertise, even under severe restrictions and sustained external pressure.

Describing the missile facility as an important component of Iran's efforts to establish sustainable deterrence, the parliament speaker said such a capability rests on defensive preparedness, technological advancement and national cohesion. He added that effective deterrence must also be firmly established in the calculations of potential adversaries.

Addressing those continuing to threaten Iran with military action, Qalibaf cautioned against miscalculations, warning that any hostile move would be met with a swift and unexpected response.

"This time, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will determine the geography of the war," he said, signaling that any future confrontation would not necessarily be confined to the locations or parameters envisaged by Iran's adversaries.

The IRGC Aerospace Force unveiled the new missile city on Tuesday, displaying an array of ballistic and cruise missiles alongside their launch systems. The ceremony was attended by Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Ali Abdollahi and IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Brigadier General Majid Mousavi.

Abdollahi, meanwhile, issued a separate warning to Washington and Tel Aviv, saying any renewed aggression against Iran would be met with blows far more devastating than those delivered in previous retaliatory operations.

In a message to Mousavi marking the 15th anniversary of the martyrdom of Major General Hassan Tehrani Moqaddam, widely regarded as the father of Iran's missile program, Abdollahi praised the IRGC Aerospace Force's achievements in strengthening the country's missile and drone capabilities, as well as its performance during the US-Israeli aggression.

The senior commander said Iran had achieved self-sufficiency in producing strategic military equipment, eliminating its dependence on foreign arms imports. He also pointed to the inability of Western air defense systems to effectively intercept Iranian missiles and drones, arguing that the country's underground production facilities allow weapons manufacturing and modernization to continue even under heavy bombardment.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Araghchi urges UN, IAEA to condemn US reward offer for information on Iran's nuclear program

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has called on the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to condemn a US offer of up to $20 million in rewards for information about Iran's nuclear program, warning that the move threatens the security of the country's nuclear facilities, equipment and scientific personnel.

In a letter dated November 10 to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, President of the UN Security Council Sanita Pav?uta-Deslandes, and IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, Araghchi denounced the US initiative as an attempt to encourage espionage targeting Iran's nuclear infrastructure and scientific community.

The offer, publicly announced on November 6–7 through the US Department of State's Rewards for Justice program and promoted by US Central Command (CENTCOM), reportedly includes financial rewards of up to $20 million and possible relocation in exchange for information concerning Iran's nuclear facilities, equipment, materials and personnel.

Araghchi described the initiative as particularly alarming because it explicitly solicits intelligence on nuclear installations and individuals engaged in peaceful nuclear activities, potentially exposing them to espionage, sabotage and targeted attacks.

He stressed that Iran's right to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is enshrined in Article IV of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which recognizes the inalienable right of its parties to pursue peaceful nuclear activities in conformity with their treaty obligations.

"No State should seek to undermine another State's lawful peaceful nuclear activities through coercive measures, clandestine interference or activities that threaten the security of its nuclear installations and scientific community," the foreign minister wrote.

Araghchi also raised concerns about the implications of the US initiative for the credibility and integrity of the IAEA safeguards system, arguing that the public solicitation of intelligence on safeguarded nuclear facilities and their associated personnel could expose sensitive information to exploitation for purposes unrelated to the Agency's verification mandate.

He warned that demanding the normal implementation of safeguards while nuclear facilities, scientific personnel and sensitive information remain exposed to threats of assassination, sabotage and military aggression would create a serious contradiction.

The Iranian foreign minister emphasized that placing nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards does not diminish the sovereignty of the state concerned or place those installations outside the protection of international law.

He further stressed that scientists and technical personnel engaged in peaceful nuclear activities must be able to perform their duties without intimidation, coercion or threats to their lives and personal security.

Warning of the potential consequences, Araghchi said actions that increase the risk of sabotage or unlawful interference with nuclear facilities could lead to incidents with serious radiological and humanitarian repercussions.

In his letter, the foreign minister called on the UN secretary-general, the Security Council and the IAEA director general to openly and unequivocally condemn the US announcement.

He urged the UN secretary-general and the Security Council to draw international attention to the initiative's implications for international peace and security, address the threats it poses to nuclear facilities and personnel, and hold Washington accountable for 'its unlawful conduct.'

Araghchi also called on Grossi to reaffirm the confidentiality, impartiality and institutional independence of the IAEA safeguards system and take all necessary measures to prevent safeguards-related information obtained through the Agency's activities from being disclosed, misused or exploited for purposes beyond its mandate.

He further urged the IAEA chief to bring the matter before the Agency's Board of Governors and consider appropriate institutional measures to address its implications.

The Iranian foreign minister concluded by requesting that the letter be circulated as an official document of both the UN Security Council and the IAEA.

Leader aide warns of consequences for those supporting hostile economic blockade against Iran

TEHRAN – Mohammad Mokhber, an aide to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has warned regional and extra-regional countries and entities against cooperating with efforts by Iran's adversaries to impose an economic blockade on the country, saying those involved will face consequences that will remain in the Iranian nation's historical memory.

In a message posted on his X account on Wednesday, Mokhber referred to the persistent anti-Iran rhetoric and threats by the country's adversaries, saying those seeking to harm Iran were now hearing the echoes of their own actions reverberating across the region, Europe and the United States.

He also alluded to growing public discontent, particularly in Western countries, over rising living costs and deteriorating economic prospects, linking the mounting pressures to the US-Israeli war against Iran and 'other anti-people policies' pursued by various governments.

Referring to the ongoing US blockade and economic pressure campaign against Iran, Mokhber stressed that any cooperation with the enemy in imposing a hostile siege on the country would be indelibly recorded in the historical memory of the Iranian nation.



He further warned that responsibility for such cooperation, and its consequences, would not be confined by geographical boundaries but would extend to all those involved in anti-Iran measures.

Iran's Big 'NO' to Transfer of Enriched Nuclear Material

Security chief says Iran needs highly enriched fuel for building nuclear-powered vessels

From Page 1 ▶ Rezaei warned that any fresh US military attack would be met with retaliatory strikes against American military installations, including bases located far from Iran.

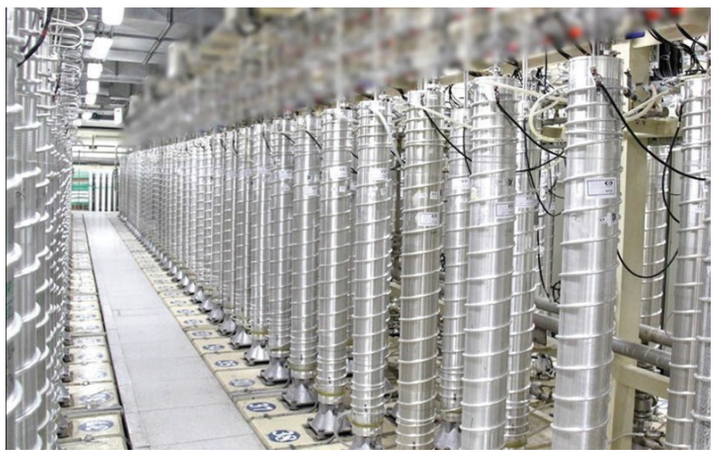
He also highlighted Iran's advances in electronic warfare, saying the country had developed sophisticated capabilities enabling it to take control of American drones and bring them down intact.

The security official's remarks came as the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force unveiled a new underground missile city on Nov. 10, showcasing another dimension of Iran's military preparedness.

Enrichment as a red line

Iran's position on its nuclear program extends beyond rejecting the transfer of enriched uranium abroad. Tehran has also repeatedly stressed that uranium enrichment itself is an integral part of its peaceful nuclear activities and not an issue on which it is prepared to surrender its rights.

On November 9, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei reiterated Iran's categorical opposition to transferring its enriched uranium stockpile to another country, describing the



proposal as "off the table" and saying there was no justification for such a move. Speaking to Al Mayadeen, he also reaffirmed Iran's commitment to pursuing a diplomatic solution without compromising its national interests and security.

The position had been reinforced earlier by Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), who said on October 8 that the country would under no circumstances abandon its enriched uranium. He also described enrichment as an indispensable component of the nuclear fuel cycle, arguing that a country cannot develop a nuclear industry without mastering this essential stage of the process.

Iranian officials have thus drawn a distinction between the country's right to continue enrichment on its own soil and proposals concerning the handling or transfer of its existing stockpile. Both issues remain central to Tehran's position in any prospective negotiations, with Iranian officials insisting that a diplomatic settlement cannot require the country to relinquish its legitimate nuclear rights.

Western nuclear analysts have also acknowledged the strategic leverage Iran retains through its stockpile of enriched uranium, particularly material enriched to 60 percent.

Nicole Grajewski, an Iran researcher at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), has explicitly described the stockpile as a source of future negotiating leverage for Tehran, arguing that Iran is likely to seek to use this strategic asset to its advantage in any future diplomatic engagement.

A similar assessment was offered by the US-based Arms Control Association, which said Tehran would likely regard any surviving 60-percent-enriched uranium as critical negotiating leverage following the US-Israeli attacks on its nuclear facilities.

In an analysis on May 29, 2026, headlined "Iran's Strongest Card in Nuclear Talks: Its Highly Enriched Uranium," Al-Monitor highlighted the stockpile's central role in the diplomatic standoff, noting that the survival of a substantial portion of Iran's enriched uranium had become Washington's foremost concern ahead of nuclear negotiations.

These assessments underscore the strategic significance of Iran's insistence on retaining control over its enriched nuclear material, suggesting that the fate of the stockpile is not merely a technical issue but a major determinant of the balance of leverage in any future negotiations.

Pezeshkian says military aggression undermines global climate efforts

Wars inflict lasting damage on environment for generations, Iranian president tells climate forum

From Page 1 ▶ "It is no longer possible to speak about the future of the Earth while turning a blind eye to wars that target soil, water, air, natural resources, and human life," he said, describing the environment as a silent victim of armed conflicts whose destructive consequences persist for generations.

The president said the US and Israeli military aggression against Iran have caused extensive environmental damage, in addition to its human and economic toll, releasing vast quantities of pollutants and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon, said attacks on fuel facilities in Assaluyeh resulted in the release of approximately 500,000 tons of greenhouse gases, while deliberate strikes on fuel storage facilities around Tehran caused an estimated one million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

He described the situation as a stark contradiction, noting that while the international community is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen climate adaptation, large-scale military operations involving fuel consumption, munitions explosions, infrastructure destruction, and widespread fires are undoing years of environmental and climate action.



Pezeshkian also expressed concern over attacks on protected natural areas, saying such strikes constitute an assault on the shared natural heritage of present and future generations.

Mines strike two tankers in Strait of Hormuz: IRGC Navy

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy said two more oil tankers attempting to secretly navigate an unauthorized route through the Strait of Hormuz struck naval mines, triggering massive explosions that set both vessels ablaze and ultimately forced their abandonment.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the IRGC Navy said the two tankers had attempted to exit the strategic waterway through an unauthorized passage under the protection of aircraft belonging to the 'US military's aggressive forces.'

According to the statement, both vessels had switched off their navigation and identification systems and were attempting to cross the Strait under the guidance of a US military officer when they struck naval mines.

It added that despite efforts by those accompanying the vessels to extinguish the fires, both tankers remained engulfed in flames and were subsequently abandoned.

The IRGC Navy said the naval mines had thwarted an 'attempt to smuggle the vessels through the unauthorized route,' adding that the incident had further tarnished the "black record" of CENTCOM Commander Brad Cooper.

The statement also mocked US military officials, saying there was no need for them to stage a media spectacle by flying helicopters over an area outside the Strait of Hormuz to substantiate their assertions.

"Aerial photographs of the Strait of Hormuz show the whole story without censorship," the statement added.

LATEST NEWS

■ Schumer calls Trump's war on Iran a major foreign policy fiasco

US Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has described President Donald Trump's war against Iran as one of the greatest foreign policy failures in American history. In a statement, Schumer said the conflict would be remembered as a major foreign policy fiasco, sharply criticizing Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth for their handling of the war. He said their conduct throughout the conflict "could not be more shameful."

■ PGSA takes legal action against vessels using forged transit documents

The Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) says legal action has been taken against two bulk carriers that attempted to reach southern Persian Gulf ports using forged documents. In a post on X, the authority said the vessels avoided being placed on its Non-Compliance List after accepting the required undertakings. It added that other vessels with previous violations may qualify for mitigated terms if they formally acknowledge their breaches by emailing the authority.

■ Iran's defense ministry says enemy must accept Tehran's demands or surrender

Iran's Defense Ministry spokesperson Reza Talaei-Nik says the country's strengthened defense capabilities leave its adversaries with two options: accept Iran's legitimate demands or surrender on the battlefield. In a post on X, he said Iran's military strength, supported by domestic production and upgraded technologies, exceeds figures presented by US President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. He described the outcome of the conflict as clear.

■ Iran arrests five suspected terrorists and three arms smugglers

Iran's Ministry of Intelligence says it has arrested five members of a separatist terrorist cell and three suspected arms smugglers in operations across Kermanshah, Alborz and Tehran provinces. The ministry said the cell had been preparing attacks under the direction of individuals linked to US and Israeli intelligence services. The smugglers were intercepted while entering Iran from the Kurdistan Region. Authorities seized 50 handguns and 100 magazines, according to the statement.

After the strikes, Iran rethinks the nuclear threshold



By Xavier Villar

MADRID - More than eight months have passed since Trump and Netanyahu launched their war on Iran, a war Trump thought would be over within days. Where does it stand today?

The United States has failed to achieve any of its stated objectives. All of its military bases in the Persian Gulf have been destroyed or critically damaged. The Strait of Hormuz remains under Iranian control. Iran has endured 40 days of attacks, but the state has survived. And, above all, Iran's nuclear program, the main stated justification for the war, remains, for now, outside the scope of negotiations.

The war also brought the assassination of the former Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who had long opposed the development of nuclear weapons. During his tenure, the debate was practically closed to public discussion because of a fatwa, an Islamic legal opinion, issued in 2003 that categorically prohibited the production and use of nuclear and biological weapons. The legal and political weight of this fatwa was such that, in 2021, the then Intelligence Minister, Mahmoud Alavi, drew harsh criticism from Islamic jurists after suggesting that, if cornered, Iran should consider possessing nuclear weapons to defend itself.

His assassination, and the subsequent rise of Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei to leadership, may bring a change in the Islamic Republic's strategic calculations. This does not mean the decision rests in the hands of a single individual. What it means is that Iran has gone through a direct war with the United States and Israel, and that this experience has changed the country's calculus as a whole, not only that of the Leader.

For years, Washington and Tel Aviv relied on the threat of military intervention to try to deter Iran from crossing the nuclear threshold. While that threat remained hypothetical, Tehran had, at the very least, to contemplate the possibility that moving toward the manufacture of nuclear weapons could provoke an overwhelming military response. Once the United States moved from threat to action, the calculation changed.

In the wake of recent events, the debate over the nuclear program has gained new momentum. In this context, a growing number of Iranian political figures argue that a change in nuclear doctrine could strengthen the country's deterrence.

For years, those inside Iran who opposed building nuclear weapons could argue that crossing the threshold would bring a devastating attack from the United States or Israel. But that attack has now happened, even though Iran has no nuclear weapons. Hence the argument that restraint protects Iran from war is now much harder to sustain, and, for those who favor change, only effective deterrence would have prevented the attack.

Thus, over the past few weeks, several Iranian political figures, of greater or lesser standing, have made statements about a possible revision. Major General Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said in an interview that, although no decision has been taken, the possibility of a change is being debated. Another example is Mohammad Javad Haj Ali Akbari, Friday prayer Imam in Tehran, who described a review of the doctrine as a national demand.

This does not mean Tehran has decided to cross the nuclear threshold. But it does mean that the strategic case for doing so may now be stronger than at any previous moment. The increasingly open public statements of Iranian officials and figures reinforce this assessment.

On another front, Iran complains that both the international treaties, specifically the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed in 1968, and the competent body in the field, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), have failed to keep their side of the bargain: they have neither guaranteed protection against attacks by nuclear powers such as the United States and Israel, nor safeguarded Iran's nuclear facilities.

In various sectors of Iran's political and analytical circles, the IAEA is commonly seen as operating within a broader structure of alliances led by the United States; it is regarded as neither reliable nor strictly technical, but as a political instrument.

This distrust, combined with the war, makes a comprehensive nuclear agreement far harder and costlier to reach. Before the war, negotiations could focus mainly on enrichment, the lifting of sanctions, inspections, and verification mechanisms. Today, any serious agreement must also address the consequences of the war itself.

Iran is unlikely to accept significant concessions on nuclear matters without effective guarantees against new military attacks, access to its frozen funds, the ability to export oil, and an acceptable arrangement on the Strait of Hormuz.

The irony is that a war whose pretext was Iran's nuclear program may end up contributing to a change in its doctrine.

Martyred Leader was architect of Iran's aerospace industry: Judiciary chief

TEHRAN – Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei has described the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution as the architect of the country's aerospace industry, highlighting his longstanding emphasis on building national strength across various fields.

Referring to the martyred Leader's repeated calls for strengthening the Islamic Republic's capabilities in different fields, Mohseni-Ejei said that had others followed those directives, the country's circumstances would be very different today.

The missiles produced by Tehrani-Moqaddam and his colleagues, Mohseni-Ejei added, have since become a means of safeguarding the nation, much like Noah's Ark.

Turning to public gatherings since the outbreak of the Ramadan War, Mohseni-Ejei said Iranians had taken to streets and squares for more than 250 consecutive nights, without a single interruption and despite extreme weather conditions.

He described the sustained public presence, including families gathering in large numbers, as an unprecedented phenomenon rooted in divine grace, the blood of martyrs, self-confidence, faith in God and trust in God's promises.

Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting signs co-op document, eyes expanded trade



From Page 1 ▶ The main axes of the document of the 19th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee concern the development of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of transport, energy, infrastructure, and cultural cooperation.

At the signing ceremony of the document of the 19th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee, Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, Vice President and Head of the Planning and Budget Organization, thanked the Armenian government for hosting and all members of the specialized committees for their efforts, and said: "Both countries are determined to expand relations."

He added: "The cultural and social ties between the two nations provide the grounds for developing economic relations between Iran and Armenia."

The Vice President and Head of the Planning and Budget Organization, on the sidelines of his trip to Armenia, said at a meeting with economic actors in Yerevan: "Relations between Iran and Armenia are in a very favorable condition, and both governments are focused on developing relations."

Pourmohammadi added: "To facilitate trade between Iran and Armenia, it was decided that, in addition to the existing bridge over the Aras River that connects the two countries, another bridge should be built by the Islamic Republic of Iran; its studies have been carried out, and construction operations will begin within the next month."

Pourmohammadi, stating that to smooth the route between the two countries, in addition to the Tabriz–Nordooz route, the Jolfa–Nordooz route is also on the agenda and will be ready by the end of the year, said: "The border terminal of the two countries will also be expanded, and by next year several hectares will be added to its area so that terminal services improve."

The Head of the Planning and Budget Organization added: "To solve the fuel problem for trucks at the border, the fuel station for Iranian trucks has been moved twenty kilometers farther from the border so that traffic and queues are not created, and within the next six months a suitable station will also be provided for Armenian trucks."

Stating that the Iranian side is carrying out many measures itself to improve the work, he said: "Many customs formalities are being carried out at the Iranian border, and this shows Iran's determination to bring the work to a result."

Pourmohammadi added: "There have also been talks with the director of the Jolfa Free Zone to create a backland site for providing services to traders."

The Head of the Planning and Budget Organization continued: "Currently, 300 trucks cross the Nordooz border per day, but Iran seeks to increase that to 500 trucks."

Stating that traders have complaints about long queues at the border, problems related to business cards, problems with settling foreign exchange commitments, and customs issues, he said: "Personally, if Iran's ambassador in Armenia reports any problem in this area to the Planning and Budget Organization, I will follow it up so that the problems are resolved."

The Vice President concluded: "With the measures being taken, within the next one year to one and a half years, the Nordooz border will be recognized as Iran's most important and busiest land trade border."

The Vice President and Head of the Planning and Budget Organization, who heads the Iranian delegation in the Tehran–Yerevan Joint Economic Cooperation Committee, during his trip to Armenia met with Mher Grigoryan, Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia, and also discussed the development of bilateral relations.

In this meeting, the two sides exchanged views on a number of issues related to regional communications and noted that strengthening stability, developing economic relations, and removing communication obstacles will create new opportunities for the countries of the region.

Mher Grigoryan, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, emphasized the political trust between Armenia and Iran, the economic agenda based on mutual interests, and the common interest in expanding cooperation, which is a solid foundation for elevating bilateral relations to a new and strategic level.

The two sides also emphasized the high capacity for further development of trade and economic relations between Armenia and Iran and noted with satisfaction the growth in trade turnover recorded in recent years.

Iran-Kazakhstan joint terminal to be established at Shahid Rajaee port

TEHRAN- The head of Kazakhstan's Consulate in Hormozgan, stating that his country pays special attention to Hormozgan ports, said: "In this regard, it is envisaged that a joint terminal between the two countries will be established at Shahid Rajaee Port."

According to an IRNA reporter, Dauirbek Duisbay, on Wednesday, on the occasion of the anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, at a press conference, while reading the message of the president of his country on this occasion, stated: "Recently, the director general of the Kazakhstan Trade Development Fund, along with a delegation of economic activists and investors from that country, visited Shahid Rajaee Port and closely learned about the capacities, facilities, and infrastructure of this strategic port in Hormozgan Province."

Referring to the readiness of Kazakhstan's private sector to participate in port investment projects and develop joint maritime cooperation at Shahid Rajaee Port, he stated: "In this regard, agreements have been signed to establish this joint terminal so that, with its creation, port processes and suitable platforms for the activities of traders and investors of the two countries at this port will be provided."

The head of Kazakhstan's Consulate considered the presence of high-ranking Kazakh economic delegations at Shahid Rajaee Port as showing the serious determination of the two countries to develop trade exchanges, increase investment, and maximize the use of the capacities of this important transit route.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

International rail conference sees 3 MOUs for clean energy, fleet modernization

From Page 1 ▶ These MOUs were concluded between the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways and a group of institutions, companies, and investment and technology groups active in renewable energy and rail technologies. Their main axes are clean energy development, attracting private-sector investment, fleet modernization, and increasing the operational capacity of locomotives.

The first MOU was signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA). It was concluded with the aim of providing the ground for private-sector participation in building solar power plants on non-operational lands of railway stations.

The second MOU was signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways and Niruafarin Aras Energy Company with the aim of investing in, supplying, and operating 36 fully battery-powered locomotives for freight and passenger use. This MOU was signed with the participation of an Iranian consortium and a foreign consortium, and representatives of the participating parties attended the ceremony.

The third MOU was signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways and an investor and technology group consisting of Sadid Fam and Rezvan Power Electronics Industries. Its subject is investment in refurbishing 24 out-of-service locomotives and returning them to the operational cycle.

These three MOUs were signed in line with linking investment and technology capacities with the needs of the country's rail industry, centered on clean energy development, supplying a new fleet, and increasing the operational capacity of existing locomotives.

Chabahar rail connection to national network geopolitically important, corridors a priority: minister

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, emphasizing the need to complete rail corridors and connect ports and production centers to the national network, cited the development of logistics infrastructure and the strengthening of regional cooperation as among the strategic priorities of the country's transport sector.

According to an IRNA report, Farzaneh Sadegh said on Tuesday at the 19th International Rail Transport Conference, emphasizing the strategic position of rail transport in economic development and increasing the country's resilience: "Developing this sector, in addition to reducing economic costs and energy consumption, helps increase productivity, improve safety, and strengthen national resilience. Therefore, it has a central place in the policymaking, planning, and actions of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development."

Referring to the importance of rail transport in crisis conditions, she added: "The continuity of transport of essential goods, production inputs, and strategic goods, as well as passenger movement, is necessary for maintaining the flow of life and economic activity in the country."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, referring to the damage to the country's rail infrastructure during the war, explained: "During the unjust war in which legal and international protocols were violated, the country's infrastructure was also targeted. Damage to seven rail bridges showed how closely these infrastructures are tied to the country's resilience and domestic connectivity."



Sadegh, referring to the importance of connecting Iran's rail network to neighboring countries, continued: "The rail network must support the country's supply chain by relying on sustainable infrastructure, a ready fleet, and capable human resources. Achieving this goal also requires simultaneous attention to fleet development and modernization, infrastructure maintenance, removing network bottlenecks, and improving operational productivity."

Completing rail corridors and utilizing Iran's strategic capacity

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, emphasizing Iran's opportunities in international transport, said: "The country's position at the junction of regional routes will turn into sustainable foreign-exchange income and economic prosperity when we can provide competitive, regular, and reliable services—so that cargo owners can confidently decide on the time, cost, and quality of transport via Iran."

She cited the completion of rail corridors, active transport diplomacy, facilitation of border procedures, tariff coordination, and development of regular services as requirements for achieving this goal, and added: "The effective connection of ports, production centers, and logistics terminals to the rail network is also especially important, and private-sector transport and logistics companies are the country's main partners in creating and maintaining competitive advantage."

Sadegh, referring to the implementation progress of the Chabahar–Zahedan railway project, stated: "In autumn 2024, the rail connection operations from Khash to Chabahar via Zahedan began. Before that, the rail connection of Zahedan to Khash had been carried out by previous governments, but this route had not yet been connected to Chabahar Port, while the rail connection of Zahedan to Chabahar is of strategic and geopolitical importance."

Appreciating the President's support in securing resources for the Chabahar–Zahedan railway project, she stated: "Over the past two years, despite the country's difficult conditions and the outbreak of war, about 40 trillion tomans have been secured and allocated for the Chabahar–Zahedan railway, and we hope this project will become operational within the next one or two months." The Minister of Transport and Urban Development considered the President's continuous follow-up for railway development and connecting the rail network to ports a sign of the importance of this issue in the priorities of the 14th government, and said: "The events that occurred in the northern ports and the restrictions we faced in the southern ports revealed more than before the importance of rail connection of ports and the creation of alternative routes for cargo movement."

She also referred to the operation and boost in activity of the Aprin logistics center over the past two years and considered the development of this center an effective measure in strengthening the country's logistics capacity.

Removing bottlenecks, modernizing fleet, and expanding private-sector investment

Sadegh, emphasizing that increasing the share of rail transport in freight and passenger movement cannot be achieved merely by developing lines, said: "Achieving this goal requires balance among infrastructure capacity, fleet, and service quality. Electrification of rail lines is also one of the important policies in this area, which is being pursued with priority for high-traffic and strategic corridors."

She added: "Success in electrification of lines requires coordination among line development, fleet supply, energy infrastructure, and operation systems, and cooperation between the transport and energy sectors is decisive in this regard."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, referring to the need to use new technologies in the rail industry, explained: "Digitalization and artificial intelligence can be effective in managing network capacity, predicting equipment failures, planning maintenance, increasing safety, and improving services. Blockchain technology, in appropriate applications, can also help with transparency and tracking documents and transactions."

Sadegh, stating that the criterion for using technology should be solving real problems and achieving measurable performance improvement, continued: "In the energy field, storage systems, modern power supply systems, and renewable energies have created new opportunities that should be used with precise technical and economic assessment." She considered the issue of supplying and ensuring the operational readiness of locomotives one of the important issues in the rail industry and said: "The shortage of traction power and the low availability of part of the diesel fleet have a direct effect on transport capacity and service quality. Over the past two years, this issue has been one of the main areas of follow-up by the Ministry Transport and Urban Development, the Railway Company, and the government, and with support for private-sector investors, the number of in-service locomotives and their operational readiness have improved somewhat; of course, these measures are still not enough and are being pursued seriously."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, referring to the agreements and MOUs concluded with the private sector in the rail sector, said: "These investments are not limited merely to increasing the length of rail lines; rather, they also include identifying bottlenecks and main freight hubs and directing investment toward double-tracking and quadruple-tracking routes, removing network restrictions, and developing logistics centers and border terminals. Some of the MoUs in this area have also been concluded with neighboring countries."

Sadegh, referring to the agreements to be signed on the sidelines of this conference, said: "Supplying fully battery-powered locomotives, refurbishing existing locomotives using battery-centric hybrid systems, and building solar power plants on railway lands are among the subjects of these agreements, which can provide the basis for linking investment and technology to respond to the needs of the rail industry."

She appreciated the cooperation of the Ministry of Energy, SATBA, the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, investors and technology-owning companies, as well as the follow-up by the CEO and staff of the Railway Company, and added: "The formation of these cooperations shows that through synergy among executive bodies, universities, and the private sector, practical solutions can be found for the difficult issues of the rail industry."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, emphasizing her ministry's support for the effective presence of investors, said: "Developing the rail industry is not possible without the active participation of the private sector and the use of its financial and specialized capacities. Domestic and foreign universities and scientific centers also have a fundamental place in this path, and university-industry cooperation is expected to continue from the problem-definition stage through the design, testing, and evaluation of solutions."

President stresses turning Iran's geographical position into a sustainable transit advantage

The President, emphasizing the importance of an efficient and competitive network of transport and logistics infrastructure in turning the country's geographical position into a sustainable advantage, added: "Completing rail corridors, connecting ports and production centers to the network, and expanding cooperation with neighboring countries can enhance Iran's position in regional transit and provide the ground for increased trade exchanges and sustainable foreign-exchange revenues."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY

RMP	Since	Number	Type	Row
30/11/2026	purchase 10,000 tons of High Carbon Ferro Manganese	48642886	General tender	1

To receive documents and get more information about the general calls for the quality evaluation of tenders and auctions, go to the company's website at www.msc.ir Refer to the tender section and select the desired call according to the available guide

ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY PUBLIC RELATONS
(1405-48)

Military and settlers work hand in hand in West Bank

Settler attacks reach highest total since 2006 as West Bank killings continue

From page 1 ▶ Two other teenagers were hit by live fire during the raid, northwest of Nablus: a 17-year-old in the abdomen and pelvis, a 19-year-old in the hand.

Wafa, the Palestinian news agency, reported that soldiers detained the boy's father, Iyad, and a young man, Rayan Daghlas, and held three Palestine Red Crescent volunteers who were working in the village. Local sources said troops also closed the main road in both directions.

The Israeli military confirmed the shooting. It said soldiers opened fire to keep Palestinians from throwing stones at Israeli vehicles and that "several hits were confirmed."

Rifles answering stones is a ratio the West Bank has lived with since October 2023. The UN counts at least 1,143 Palestinians killed there in that time, 250 of them children, a figure that includes people killed by settlers.

Burqa was one scene among several that evening. Settlers burned three bulldozers, vehicles, and equipment at stone-cutting workshops in the Beita industrial zone while soldiers stormed the town.

In Khallat al-Hummus, near Yatta, armed settlers attacked a woman's home and one slapped her for filming; a local activist said they operated under army protection.

Settler violence at record levels

The UN logged 457 settler attacks causing casualties or property damage in October, the most in any month since it began counting in 2006.

The Palestinian Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission counts far higher: 1,369 attacks in October and 12,506 since October 2023, with 52 Palestinians killed and 890 fires set on Palestinian property and farmland.

A Palestinian monitoring center, Mu'ta, counted 2,000 violations by soldiers and settlers between October 30 and November 5, including 463 road closures, 252 raids, 233 arrests and 190 settler attacks. ACLED, the conflict data project, says 2026 is on track to be the worst year for settler violence in its decade of monitoring.

In July, 11 people were killed in four incidents in which armed settlers acted alongside Israeli forces.

Settlers who change into uniforms



Al Jazeera's investigation, broadcast November 9, shows why the line between settler and soldier is so hard to draw.

Of the 63 Palestinians killed by settlers since October 2023, it found that 14 were shot by people serving in the army or wearing its uniform.

In Tal, southwest of Nablus, facial matching and local testimony identified Yitzhak Levi Filant, a settler from Yitzhar known as "Yaqoub," assaulting farmers in civilian clothes, then returning in military uniform with an army-issued weapon to give the villagers orders.

Washington sanctioned Filant in August 2024 under Joe Biden. Donald Trump's administration took him off the list early in 2025.

Abbas Melhem of the Palestinian Farmers Union described the routine: a farmer threatens to call the army, the settler walks to his car, changes, and comes back to announce, "I am the army!"

In Hebron on March 7, a settler named Nahman encroached on Palestinian land near Susya and summoned reinforcements. Brothers Shem Tov and Luria Luski arrived in an off-road vehicle.

Luria Luski, who appears in army uniform in other footage, opened fire and killed Amir Shanaran, wounding his cousin. Amir's father says his son was shot on the spot after he pushed a settler away from him.

Institutions make it possible. The army's Hagmar regional defense battalions have grown sixfold since 2023, and their job has shifted from guarding settlements to backing settler operations.

Assaf Surya, the deputy commander of the Hebron battalion, told Israeli media that most Hagmar members are settlers serving in the reserves.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir says at least 120,000 civilian weapons licenses have been issued to settlers under this government. Settlers now control about a fifth of the West Bank and have forced out 118 Palestinian communities, according to the investigation.

Consequences are rare. Yesh Din, an Israeli rights group, found that 93.6 percent of settler criminal cases opened by police since 2005 were closed without indictments.

Melhem says about 50 tons of olives have been stolen this season with army participation, much of it hauled in military vehicles.

Haaretz columnist Gideon Levy was blunter: a soldier who shoots a dog will face justice sooner than a settler who shoots a farmer.

Tenders ahead of a handover

Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition lost its majority in October's election, and opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot is trying to form a government. The outgoing cabinet has not slowed down.

It has put out tenders for 732 homes in Gva'ot, west of Bethlehem, where bidding runs from December 1 to December 28, and 91 in Oranit, south of Qalqilya.

Peace Now, the Israeli settlement monitor, called for their cancellation, saying a transition government has "no mandate to advance irreversible moves in the settlements that deepen annexation."

Palestinian officials count at least 28 land tenders since January, 18 of them covering 7,815 housing units. More than 750,000 settlers live in the West Bank and East al-Quds (Jerusalem), in settlements the Security Council declared legally void in Resolution 2334, a text Washington let pass by abstaining in 2016 and has never pressed Israel to honor.

Prisons, classrooms and a march in Lod

About 9,350 Palestinians are held in Israeli prisons, among them 350 children and 90 women. The Palestinian Prisoner Society says roughly 80 percent of prisoners have scabies, citing clothing shortages, overcrowding, poor medical care and raids by prison units with dogs, rubber bullets, and tear gas; some wings are hit every two or three days.

Schooling is fraying too. For a fourth year, government schools in the West Bank run only part of the week because the Palestinian Authority cannot pay full salaries while Israel withholds the tax revenue it collects for it, which Mahmoud Abbas said reached $6 billion in September.

More than 600,000 pupils are affected, and in Hebron's H2 area, where checkpoints and fences lengthen the walk to class, government school attendance has fallen 25 percent since October 2023.

Violence is also reaching inside Israel. On November 8, a far-right mob marched through Palestinian neighborhoods in Lod, throwing stones and shouting racist slurs. Police arrested 11 people and released all of them by morning. Haaretz reported that allies of Ben-Gvir promoted the march online as a "sovereignty march."

Britain's pledge meets its own contracts

On September 8, Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband told the House of Commons that those who finance or facilitate settlements "will face the full force of UK sanctions."

Since then, Al Jazeera found, British public bodies have published 18 contracts worth 10.7 million pounds ($14.4 million) with firms linked to settlements.

14 went to Heidelberg Materials subsidiaries, whose Israeli unit owns a quarry on land belonging to the villages of az-Zawiya and Rafat, Who Profits says.

The Cabinet Office says procurement cannot be used to boycott firms absent formal sanctions. Jeremy Corbyn called the contracts "outrageous and frankly insulting."

In Burqa, the Daghlas family is still waiting for Israel to return their son.

Has the West launched a new smear campaign against Iran?

Analysts say the fact that the U.S. is pointing the finger of threat against Bessent is to deceive the public as he is the architect of sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Analysts cite different and complementary reasons for such claims. For example, they say putting Miller, Rubio and Bessent among the protected figures are intended to demonize the Islamic Republic to justify their illegal war on the country.

A Iranian political official who spoke on condition of anonymity told the Tehran Times that threats of murder attributed to Tehran mainly originate from the fact that the U.S. has miserably failed to dislodge the Islamic Republic.

"They have not only failed to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran, they have also lost their face as the myth of the invincibility of the U.S. has been badly shattered."

He added that the Republicans' historic defeat in the midterm elections has had it own effects on the Trump administration to present Iran as a demon, especially as the Iran war and the resultant high energy prices are being cited for their defeat at home.

"The hardliners in the Trump administration have not only failed in the war against Iran, they have also suffered a defeat at home," he insisted.

Reports also surfaced that three men, including one already jailed in the United States, were accused by U.S. authorities on Nov. 10 of being "Iran-supported operatives" who plotted nearly 20 attacks on Jewish communities in Europe and the U.S. as well as a planned assault on a British airbase used by the U.S. Air Force.

Charges against Mohammad Baqer Saad Dawood al-Saadi, a dual Iranian-Iraqi national; Mohsen Mohajeri, an Iranian national; and Mohammad Ali al-Hassani, an Iraqi national, were outlined in an indictment unsealed in Manhattan federal court. Only al-Saadi is in custody.

"These defendants helped orchestrate a campaign of terror on behalf of terrorist organizations affiliated with Iran that targeted Jewish communities in Europe and the United States, and the British military base, RAF Fairford, housing American service members," McDonald said, the Associated Press reported.

McDonald claimed that "the threat presented by Iran and Iran-backed terrorist groups to America and our allies is not hypothetical — it is very real."

Before new allegations against Iran, federal prosecutors in 2024, charged Farhad Shakeri, an IRGC serviceman, with plotting to kill Donald Trump in retaliation for General Qassem Soleimani's assassination in January 2020.

Claims of threats that Iran is seeking to target figures is not limited to the United States. Accusations of cyberattack and assassination attempts have also been made against Iran by two major European countries.

French officials claimed on Nov. 9 that the Islamic Revolution Gurd Corps were behind a cyber?attack which disrupted commercial refrigeration systems across France in October. Without providing any substantiated evidence, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot even threatened that his country could respond with cyber measures of its own.

Before allegations by France, Germany also made accusations against Iran.

For example, a German court on Oct. 15 handed two men prison sentences of up to 8-1/2 years under the accusation that they planned to kill the leader of a Jewish organization in Germany. The court claimed one man had been steered by Iran's intelligence service.

"The court is convinced that the defendant, S., was recruited by the Iranian secret service and integrated into it to carry out state-sponsored terrorist activities in Germany under Iran's direction," the court in the northern city of Hamburg claimed in a statement.

All these unsubstantiated accusations are first and foremost are part of coordinated campaign to demonize Iran as they have faced economic and social problems at home and military and foreign policy failures abroad.

German student replaces flag outside Bundestag with Palestinian flag in protest to Berlin's position over Gaza war



An activist climbs a flagpole in front of the Bundestag (Reichstag) in Berlin, Germany, removes the German flag and raises a Palestinian flag in its place during a protest, on November 8, 2026. [Peacefully against Genocide – Anadolu Agency]

A 22-year-old German man climbed a flagpole outside the German parliament building, the Bundestag, in Berlin, removed the German flag and replaced it with a Palestinian flag in protest against the German government's position on Israel's ongoing war in the Gaza Strip, Middle East Monitor reported.

The man, identified as Aaron, carried out the protest on the morning of Sunday, 8 November, alongside activists from a group called Peacefully Against Genocide. Police later detained him and two other participants.

The protesters filmed the Palestinian flag being raised and broadcast the footage live on TikTok. The incident triggered political and security reactions, prompting German authorities to launch investigations and review security measures around the parliament building.

Aaron, a physics and computer science student in Heidelberg, told Al Jazeera that his action was intended to protest against German policies towards the war in Gaza and send a direct message to lawmakers inside parliament.

On Saturday, hundreds of people gathered in Berlin to demonstrate in support of Palestine and against German arms supplies to Israel, Anadolu reported.

Protesters assembled on Osloer Street before marching toward Wedding metro station, condemning Israel's occupation and seizure of Palestinian land.

Demonstrators waved Palestinian flags and carried placards calling for an end to Israeli military operations and German weapons shipments to Israel.

Some banners marked the 109th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, criticizing the displacement of Palestinians and calling for recognition of their right of return.

Participants also chanted slogans expressing solidarity with Palestinians and accusing Germany of supporting Israel's military actions.

The demonstration took place under heightened police security measures.

Flooded tents deepen the misery of displaced Gazans

From page 1 ▶ For the fourth consecutive winter, Palestinians are being forced to endure conditions that no civilian population should be expected to survive. The first major winter storm reportedly flooded around 70,000 tents within approximately twelve hours.

Humanitarian organizations estimate that Gaza needs between 200,000 and 300,000 new tents or caravans to provide displaced families with even basic protection.

Meanwhile, around one million women and girls are facing hunger and the additional dangers of living in overcrowded, flooded shelters without adequate sanitation, privacy or protection.

These are not simply figures in an aid report. They represent a political and humanitarian failure of enormous proportions.

Israel has destroyed homes, residential neighborhoods and essential infrastructure, displacing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. Yet the same occupying power continues to restrict the entry of materials needed to rebuild shelters, repair infrastructure and conduct rescue operations. Cement, construction materials, heavy machinery, fuel and other essential supplies are subjected to restrictions that leave humanitarian organizations unable to respond adequately to civilian needs.

The contradiction is extraordinary: Palestinians are denied the right to return to functioning homes, while the materials required to make temporary shelters safe are also kept out. People are expected to survive in conditions that would be unacceptable anywhere else in the world. When a child dies from exposure or a family loses its shelter to flooding, the consequences cannot be separated from the policies that created this vulnerability.

A siege does not become less destructive simply because its victims are no longer being killed by bombs. Starvation, exposure, the destruction of sanitation systems and the denial of adequate shelter can also destroy civilian life.

International humanitarian law does not suspend its protections when the weapons change. The Fourth Geneva Convention places obligations on an occupying power concerning the welfare of the civilian population, while the prohibition on collective punishment is fundamental to the laws of war.

Humanitarian assistance must not become a bargaining instrument in a political or military confrontation. Yet Gaza continues to expose the distance between international law as written and international law as practiced.

The most striking contradiction is the international community's ability to mobilize when its strategic and economic interests are threatened, but is helpless when Palestinian lives are at stake.

That the world has failed to ensure that food, medicine, tents, fuel and rescue equipment reach Gaza is regrettable.

Why does the international system move with urgency when energy markets are threatened but respond with statements and conferences when children are freezing in flooded tents?

The answer lies in politics. Gaza's humanitarian crisis cannot be understood without examining the political protection Israel continues to receive from Washington. The United States has repeatedly presented itself as a defender of a rules-based international order, yet its approach to Palestine reveals the selective character of that claim.

Washington possesses enormous diplomatic influence over Israel. It cannot credibly claim to be powerless while continuing to provide Israel with political support and influence over the international response.

President Donald Trump's proposed "Board of Peace" must therefore be judged by what it delivers, not by the language used to promote it. A body that speaks of peace while failing to secure adequate humanitarian access, civilian protection and accountability cannot claim

meaningful success.

Peace is not a diplomatic brand, a presidential initiative or a photograph of world leaders around a negotiating table. It is the protection of people whose lives have been devastated by war.

What kind of peace is being offered to a Palestinian mother whose children sleep on wet ground? What does a ceasefire mean to a family whose shelter collapses during the first heavy rainfall? And what credibility can an international mechanism claim when the basic requirements of survival remain subject to the permission of the very power responsible for the destruction?

A peace framework that avoids confronting the occupying power's obligations risks becoming an instrument for managing the consequences of occupation rather than ending them. Humanitarian assistance cannot substitute for justice, and temporary shelters cannot replace the right of Palestinians to live safely in their own homes. Nor can international guarantees mean anything if they are not accompanied by enforceable obligations and consequences for violations.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran to present three intangible heritage nominations at UNESCO meeting in China



TEHRAN – Iran will present three nominations for inscription on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage lists at the 21st session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, scheduled to take place in Xiamen, China, from November 30 to December 5.

The nominations cover Tirgan, a traditional celebration honoring water and rain; lullabies and singing traditions for children; and the traditional art of felt-making, Hassan Fartousi, secretary-general of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, announced.

Speaking to IRNA on Wednesday, Fartousi said the Tirgan nomination had been jointly prepared with Armenia, while the dossier on lullabies and singing traditions for children would be submitted jointly with Turkmenistan.

He described lullabies as a cultural heritage passed down through generations and said Iran hoped all three nominations would receive UNESCO recognition.

Fartousi said representatives of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, together with experts involved in preparing the dossiers, would attend the meeting.

Iran currently has 27 elements and programs inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage lists and registers. If all three nominations are approved, the number will rise to 30, placing Iran fourth globally in terms of the number of registered elements and programs, according to Fartousi.

Iran's most recent inscription was the traditional art of mirror-work in Iranian architecture, which was added to UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list in 2025.

The country's internationally recognized intangible heritage encompasses a wide range of traditions, performing arts, craftsmanship, rituals and traditional knowledge transmitted across generations.

Among the best-known inscriptions are Nowruz, the Persian New Year celebration; the Mehregan and Sadeh festivals; Yalda Night; traditional wrestling and zurkhaneh rituals; Ta'zieh, a form of religious theatrical performance; Naqqali, traditional Iranian storytelling; and the radif of Iranian classical music.

Other inscribed elements include the music of Khorasan's Bakhshi performers, the art of making and playing the dotar and kamancheh, the traditional game of chogan, and the art of miniature painting.

Traditional carpet-weaving skills in Fars and Kashan, the Qalishuyan ritual in Mashhad-e Ardehal, traditional Iranian boatbuilding and navigation skills in the Persian Gulf, and the cultural practices associated with preparing and sharing traditional bread are also among Iran's registered intangible heritage.

The list further includes the art of illumination, Turkmen needlework, the traditional craftsmanship of making and playing the oud and rabab, traditional sericulture and silk production, and the pilgrimage to the St. Thaddeus Monastery.

In addition to individual heritage inscriptions, Iran's national program for safeguarding traditional calligraphy was included in UNESCO's Register of Good Safeguarding Practices in 2021.

Naqqali and the traditional skills of building and navigating Iranian Lenj boats are also included on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

Iran, Armenia to establish joint committee to ease tourist travel

TEHRAN – Iran and Armenia have agreed to remove obstacles to land travel, increase direct flights and expand health tourism cooperation, with plans to hold their sixth joint technical tourism committee meeting in Tabriz, Iran's deputy tourism minister has said.

Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey announced the agreements following the 19th Iran-Armenia joint commission on cooperation, held in Yerevan on November 9 and 10.

He said tourism was among the key areas discussed during the meeting, which reviewed bilateral cooperation and produced a joint memorandum of understanding.

Mohseni-Bandpey highlighted the two countries' longstanding historical and cultural ties, saying they offered considerable potential for expanding people-to-people exchanges and tourism.

One of the main priorities is addressing difficulties affecting land travel, particularly problems at border crossings. Under the agreement, a joint meeting involving officials from Iran's East Azarbaijan province and Armenia's Syunik province, including representatives of the tourism sector, will be organized to identify obstacles and develop practical solutions.

Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, and the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration have also expressed readiness to cooperate in facilitating cross-border travel, he said.

The sixth joint technical tourism committee meeting is expected to take place in Tabriz in the near future, following the fifth meeting held in December last year. The gathering is intended to translate the latest agreements into practical measures.

> Iran is the third-most popular destination for Armenian tourists, after Russia and Georgia. Armenia, meanwhile, ranks fifth or sixth among destinations chosen by Iranian travelers, depending on the year.

Health tourism is another priority, Mohseni-Bandpey said, noting Iran's medical services and healthcare infrastructure as potential assets for attracting Armenian patients and visitors. Facilitating the entry of Armenian medical tourists into Iran is therefore among the issues being pursued.

The two sides have also discussed increasing the number of direct flights between their countries, with the matter scheduled for further examination at upcoming technical meetings.

According to the deputy tourism minister, Iran is the third-most popular destination for Armenian tourists, after Russia and Georgia. Armenia, meanwhile, ranks fifth or sixth among destinations chosen by Iranian travelers, depending on the year.

Mohseni-Bandpey also pointed to the Armenian diaspora, estimating that between seven million and eight million ethnic Armenians live outside Armenia. He said their cultural connections with Iran could provide opportunities for developing new travel packages and tourism initiatives.

He further highlighted the potential for combined tourism packages targeting international visitors traveling to the region, allowing Iran and Armenia to promote their attractions jointly, encourage longer stays and strengthen regional tourism flows.

Mohseni-Bandpey said the agreements reached at the 19th joint commission offered an opportunity to move bilateral tourism cooperation beyond general understandings and toward practical action, particularly through improved land and air connectivity, health tourism and the promotion of shared historical and cultural heritage.

Hotel-based medical care facilities to boost health tourism in Fars province

TEHRAN – Fars province is exploring plans to establish hotel-based medical care facilities and expand accommodation services for patients and elderly people as part of efforts to strengthen its position as a health tourism destination.

The proposals were discussed at a joint meeting between the provincial tourism chief Behzad Moridi and Ali-Akbar Ramjerdi, head of the Fars Health Endowment Association, which also highlighted opportunities for greater cooperation between the healthcare, charity and tourism sectors.

Moridi said Fars, particularly its capital Shiraz, has considerable potential to attract medical tourists, citing its experienced medical specialists, well-equipped healthcare facilities and advanced hospitals.

Promoting the province's medical capabilities nationally and internationally could attract more foreign patients while stimulating economic growth, investment and sustainable job creation, he said.

Moridi also stressed the need for closer coordination among healthcare institutions, charitable organizations, tourism operators and government agencies to make better use of the province's existing capacities.

Ramjerdi outlined the association's 24-year record of supporting healthcare development, saying the current value of projects and contributions made by health benefactors exceeded 200 trillion rials.

Their contributions have helped create more than 500,000 square meters of healthcare, medical and educational facilities, provide advanced medical equipment, expand emergency medical services and improve healthcare infrastructure across the province, he said.

The association currently operates 18 accommodation facilities for patients and their companions, having provided more than 400,000 bed-nights to date, Ramjerdi added. It also runs support funds for patients and students, alongside several specialized committees.

Among the proposals discussed was the development of hotel-based medical care facilities combining accommodation, treatment and care services.

Ramjerdi said the country's ageing population made it increasingly important to plan for specialized residential and medical facilities for older people, offering accommodation, healthcare and support services under one roof.

Iran is particularly known for offering high-quality services in fields such as stem cell therapy and organ transplants, which have drawn growing interest from patients abroad.

SPORTS

Women's futsal team claim bronze at 2026 Youth Olympic Games

TEHRAN - Iran's women's youth futsal team secured the bronze medal at the 2026 Dakar Youth Olympic Games after defeating Italy in the third-place play-off.

The Iranian youngsters produced an impressive performance to claim a 5-2 victory over Italy, sealing a place on the podium.

Tannaz Bagherinia was the star of the show, scoring a hat-trick, while Hadis Yari and Setayesh Rezaei also found the back of the net to complete Iran's five-goal haul.

Iran had enjoyed a perfect run in the group stage, recording three consecutive victories over Costa Rica, Cameroon and Italy to finish top of Group B.

However, their hopes of reaching the final were ended in the semi-finals, where they suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat against Venezuela.

In the bronze-medal match, Fatemeh Sharif's side found themselves trailing 2-1 at half-time against Italy. However, the Iranian team staged an impressive comeback after the break, scoring four unanswered goals to turn the game around and secure a memorable 5-2 victory.

The result ensured a bronze-medal finish for Iran, capping an impressive campaign at the Youth Olympic Games.

Goltapeh wins silver at 2026 Youth Olympic Games

TEHRAN – Iranian female taekwondo athlete Asal Goltapeh won a silver medal at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) on Tuesday.

Goltapeh lost to her German rival Luna Fellinger 2-0 in the women's ?63 kg final.

Turkey's Ayse Isik and Senegal's Aida Touré earned bronze.

She had defeated opponents from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Senegal on her way into the final.

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

Iran edge Pakistan at AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027 qualifier

TEHRAN - Iran football team edged Pakistan 1-0 in their AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027 Qualifiers Group D tie on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka meet Jordan in the group's later fixture.

Iran took the lead in the ninth minute after Yasan Jafari exchanged passes with Amirmohammad Zarei before the forward broke into the box and slotted past Pakistan goalkeeper Samer Razzaq.

The Central Asian side came close to extending their lead in the 18th minute from a set-piece, but Kiarash Shahbazi failed to connect to Zarei's looping delivery into the box with Razzaq intercepting the cross.

Iran thought they had doubled their advantage on the hour-mark when Razzaq spilled Sobhan Shahryari's cross into the path of Zarei, who struck a powerful shot into the roof of the net, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside.

Another chance went begging in the 88th minute when Aliasghar Naderi broke through the Pakistan defense and beat Razzaq, before squaring the ball to Radin Mirnezhaddarzi, who squandered the chance from close range.

Pakistan, who defeated Sri Lanka 3-1 in their opener, could only keep Iran at bay in the closing stages as the Central Asian side registered their first win.

Iran will play Sri Lanka on Saturday, while Pakistan meet Laos.

Generational shift is a part of football: Ghalenoei

TEHRAN - Iran football team head coach Amir Ghalenoei says generational shift is a natural process in football, but selection for the national team will always be based on merit, with players judged on their technical and tactical abilities.

The Iranian national team are currently in Basra, Iraq, where they are set to compete in a four-team tournament.

Ghalenoei, who has included several young players in his latest squad, explained that the coaching staff had initially planned to introduce more youngsters during the previous international break.

"We also intended to create this opportunity during the last FIFA international window, but due to its overlap with the Nagoya competitions, the plan was postponed to the upcoming window," he said.

"Players who have served the national team in the past remain in our plans. If they are in good form and meet the required technical standards, age will not be the deciding factor."

He added that the coaching staff intend to give younger players more opportunities during the current international window and those to follow, as Iran prepare for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup.

"Our aim is to give young players more playing opportunities so that, as we approach the Asian Cup, we can build a squad that combines youth and experience and be better prepared for the competition."

Emphasizing that selection will be based on performance and ability, Ghalenoei concluded: "The national team is a place for the best players. Generational shift is a natural part of football, but the most important principle is that any player who demonstrates superior technical and tactical qualities deserves a place in the national team.

"We have currently decided to create more opportunities for younger players, but that does not mean experienced players will be overlooked."

Gholizadeh close to returning for Lech Poznan after injury

TEHRAN - Ali Gholizadeh is currently in the midst of his rehabilitation program and could potentially return to full training by the end of December.

Fans will have to wait until at least the turn of January and February—when the second half of the season begins—to see his first appearance as no one on the coaching staff is willing to take any risks.

Ali Gholizadeh tore his knee ligaments toward the end of the season in May, leading to fears that he might never play for Lech Pozna? again. However, the club extended the Iranian player's expiring contract. He is currently recovering in Lisbon—the very city where his team is set to play against Benfica in the Europa League.

The fan favorite is currently based in Portugal, where he is undergoing rehabilitation under the supervision of a specialist. On Thursday, he will join the rest of the squad at the Estádio da Luz, alongside approximately 2,300 fans who traveled from Poland.

In Lisbon, manager Niels Frederiksen has opted not to include Gholizadeh, Wojciech Mo?ka, Alex Douglas, Allahyar Sayyadmanesh, or Mikael Ishak in the squad—the same approach he took for last weekend's match against Wis?a Kraków (a 3–1 victory). The manager stated: "We are fighting for three points."

Recently, Sayyadmanesh—a compatriot recommended by Gholizadeh—has done an excellent job filling the role of the key attacking player. On Thursday, in the absence of the latter, the likes of Patrik Walemark, Leo Bengtsson, Yannick Agnero, and Luis Palma will be tasked with shaping the final result.

Iran to highlight war-related environmental damage at COP31



TEHRAN - At the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) in Turkey, Iran will present documented reports on the environmental damage caused by war, highlighting its impacts on infrastructure and human health. The country will also seek to advance its environmental priorities, particularly those concerning the impacts of climate change, on the international stage.

COP31, the 31st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is being held in the city of Antalya from November 9 to 20. The event is one of the most significant international gatherings on climate change, bringing together representatives from nearly 200 countries, government officials, experts, scientists, environmental activists, and representatives of international organizations.

Iran is participating in the conference with a delegation of experts and representatives from relevant government bodies, headed by Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment. Iranian experts are focusing on challenges related to drought, financing food systems, war-related environmental degradation, and the presentation of investment-ready adaptation projects.

President Masoud Pezeshkian is also attending the conference for the first time. This marks the first time an Iranian president has participated in this international gathering at such a high level.

Iran will also present its measures to address climate change, including efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate impacts, reduce gas flaring, adopt high-level policy documents, and implement a climate management plan, despite existing limitations and challenges.

Iranian experts are seeking to strengthen water and climate diplomacy and draw on international experience to address the impacts of climate change. This approach is particularly important given the country's climatic conditions and growing pressure on water resources and the agricultural sector.

COP31 is taking place in Antalya as the intensifying impacts of climate change, the growing frequency of extreme weather events, the water crisis, and the need to finance adaptation programs have once again placed international cooperation at the center of climate negotiations. These issues are of particular importance to Iran, a country located in the world's arid belt and facing challenges such as drought, water scarcity, and desertification.

Meanwhile, COP31 negotiations are opening against a backdrop of a significant gap between countries' declared commitments and the practical measures needed to curb global warming. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the impacts of climate change, climate finance, transparency in implementing commitments, and international cooperation mechanisms are among the key issues on the conference agenda.

One of the major issues in this year's negotiations is securing financial resources for developing countries. Despite their smaller historical contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, many of these countries are more vulnerable to droughts, floods, heatwaves, and other climate-related impacts.

In this context, improving vulnerable countries' access to financial resources, climate-friendly technologies, and international capacities to implement emissions-reduction and adaptation projects is among the key demands being raised in climate negotiations.

Ansari, the head of the DOE, had also said at a meeting reviewing Iran's main challenges and negotiating priorities ahead of COP31 that the country's focus at the climate conference would be on highlighting the environmental consequences of war and calling for international accountability.

Emphasizing that Iran's main priority at COP31 would be to shed light on the environmental consequences of war and call on the international community to respond, she said the country would present documented reports detailing the impacts of the aggression on the environment, infrastructure, and human health at the international gathering.

Iran sets up pavilion at COP31 for first time

For the first time, Iran has set up a pavilion at COP31. The announced program for the pavilion focuses on issues including the environmental consequences of war, food security, and agricultural development.

For Iran, participation in climate conferences is not merely a matter of attending international meetings. Rather, it provides an opportunity to highlight national challenges, pursue access to financial resources and technology, and strengthen regional and global cooperation in the fields of the environment and natural resources.

Prolonged droughts, declining renewable water resources, land subsidence, desertification, dust storms, forest fires, and the vulnerability of wetlands are among the issues linked to climate change. Addressing these challenges requires long-term planning, as well as financial and technical resources.

Moreover, achieving climate goals requires translating international commitments into practical and measurable action. Presenting investment-ready adaptation projects, drawing on the experiences of other countries, and pursuing climate finance mechanisms can all form part of Iran's efforts to reduce its vulnerability to climate change.

Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan reach primary agreement on joint digital corridor

TEHRAN – Iran, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan have reached an initial agreement on establishing a joint digital corridor to connect Central Asia with the Persian Gulf and neighboring countries, in a move aimed at strengthening regional telecommunications infrastructure and expanding digital connectivity.

The agreement in principle was reached during a trilateral meeting between Iran's Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Sattar Hashemi; Turkmenistan's Minister of Communications, Khadzhimurat Khudaygulyev; and Kazakhstan's Vice Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development, Musaliev Doszhan Uladinovich.

The meeting was held 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, IRIB reported. The discussions focused on strengthening telecommunications cooperation and improving digital connectivity across the region.

The proposed corridor is expected to help reinforce regional communications infrastructure and enhance the sustainability of digital services by developing new connectivity routes and increasing interconnection capacity among the three countries.

It would also enable the participating countries to make better use of their geographical positions and existing infrastructure to improve digital links and accelerate data exchange between Central Asia, the Persian Gulf, and neighboring states.

Developing ICT ties with Brazil, Ghana

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 and digital economy fields are among the other scheduled plans of the Iranian delegation.

On the second day of the conference, Hashemi held a meeting with Brazil's national regulator, Carlos Manuel Baigorri, discussing ways for the enhancement of joint efforts.

Referring to the capacities of the two nations, Hashemi proposed boosting cooperation in fields like communication infrastructure, fiber-optic networks, data centers, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. Developing academic and scientific ties, sharing specialized expertise, conducting joint research projects, cooperating in space technologies and satellite applications, and fostering interactions among knowledge-based companies and private sectors of the two countries were among other issues raised by the official.

Elaborating on the capabilities of the ICT research institute for research and educational collaborations, Hashemi invited Baigorri to pay a visit to Tehran to get more familiar with the country's scientific and technological capacities.

For his part, the Brazilian official announced Brazil's interest in deepening collaborations with Iran in the ICT field. Baigorri welcomed the ideas proposed by the Iranian ICT minister, noting that promoting cooperation between private sectors, technological companies, and scientific centers of the two nations will pave the way for the implementation of joint projects and initiatives.

The ICT minister also met Samuel Nartey George, Ghana's Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, discussing avenues for the development of technological interactions between Iran and Ghana, particularly artificial intelligence,

Highlighting the country's technical and engineering capabilities in developing communication infrastructures, he voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate on connecting schools, medical facilities, and public centers in rural and underprivileged areas in Ghana, through developing fiber-optic networks, supplying equipment, transferring technical knowledge, and training human resources.

Expanding digital government services, exploring the potential joint investment for manufacturing fiber-optic cables and devices required for communication networks, enhancing collaborations between scientific and research institutions of the two countries in fields like AI, cyber security, modern communication technologies, and smart government were among other proposals put forward.

The official invited his Ghanaian counterpart to visit Tehran and explore the country's capacities in AI, digital government, and knowledge-based firms.

For his part, Nartey George welcomed these suggestions and called for bolstering interactions in digital infrastructures, sharing knowledge, and specialized experiences; he also underscored the importance of transforming existing capacities into concrete and actionable programs. 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.

National diabetes week highlighting prevention, early detection

TEHRAN – The health ministry is observing national diabetes week from November 11 to 17 to raise public awareness of the disease and highlight the importance of prevention and early diagnosis in its effective management.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood glucose. Hyperglycaemia, also called raised blood glucose or raised blood sugar, is a common effect of uncontrolled diabetes and over time leads to serious damage to many of the body's systems, especially the nerves and blood vessels.

Currently, more than 588 million people aged 20–79 years are living with diabetes, and the figure is projected to exceed 852 million by 2050. In addition, some 252 million individuals are not aware of their conditions yet.

Based on the results of the eighth national survey of non-communicable diseases (NCD) risk factors, carried out in Iranian year 1400 (2021-2022), at least 14 percent of the population aged above 25, equal to 7.5 million people, suffer from diabetes, the health ministry's website quoted Jafar Jandaghi, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

When including those with prediabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, the total number reaches 20 million, he added.

The days of the week are named as Wednesday, November 11: diabetes prevention, Thursday, November 12: diabetes and effective treatment, Friday November 13: diabetes and physical workout, Saturday, November 14: diabetes and early detection (World diabetes day), diabetes and education, Sunday, November 15: diabetes and healthy nutrition, and Monday, November 16: diabetes and media.

November 14 is the World Diabetes Day. Established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) with support from the WHO in response to growing concerns about the health and economic threat posed by diabetes, World Diabetes Day became an official UN day in 2006.

More than 40 percent of people living with diabetes across the globe are undiagnosed. Without a diagnosis, people living with diabetes may not be able to access the care, treatment and support they need to manage their diabetes and live healthy lives. Common symptoms include increased thirst, frequent urination, tiredness and blurred vision.

Knowing the symptoms of diabetes can help people recognize when to seek support. Common symptoms of diabetes include increased thirst, frequent urination, tiredness and blurred vision.

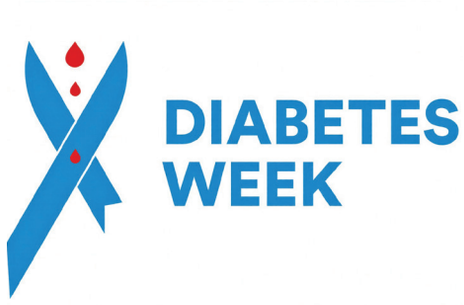
Type 1 diabetes often develops rapidly, while type 2 diabetes typically develops gradually and may cause few or no noticeable symptoms.

The 2026 World Diabetes Day theme, "Early action on diabetes," highlights the importance of earlier diagnosis, access to comprehensive care and reducing diabetes stigma.

Closing the gap in diagnosis is a global priority. One of the five global diabetes coverage targets supported by WHO Member States sets a target for 80 percent of people with diabetes to be diagnosed by 2030.

Key messages of the day:

Knowing the symptoms: Type 1 diabetes can develop at any age and is frequently missed or misdiagnosed, particularly in adults. Recognizing the symptoms can help lead to diagnosis and life-saving treatment.



Recognizing type 1 diabetes: Diabetes diagnosis can only improve outcomes when it is followed by access to timely, affordable care and ongoing support.

Advancing equitable access: Diabetes diagnosis can only improve outcomes when it is followed by access to timely, affordable care and ongoing support.

Creating healthier environments: Ensuring everyone has access to healthy food, safe places to be physically active and quality health services is effective in reducing type 2 diabetes risk and supporting effective diabetes management.

Prioritizing quality care: Quality, uninterrupted diabetes care reduces complications and enables people living with diabetes to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Supporting, not stigmatizing: Diabetes stigma is widespread, harmful and preventable. Everyone living with diabetes deserves to be supported. The words and images we use matter.

Diabetes is one of the world's fastest-growing health challenges. Urgent action is needed to increase early detection, provide uninterrupted care and support diabetes risk reduction. Early action on diabetes will save lives, improve health and reduce long-term costs to health systems.

Iran shakes with over 85 earthquakes in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 87 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from October 31 to November 6, according to seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 71 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 12 earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4, and one earthquake with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 4.6 on the Richter scale which occurred on November 1st in Bushehr province.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi and Yazd experienced the highest number of earthquakes with 11, followed by Fars and Kerman with 9, South Khorasan and North Khorasan with 6 earthquakes.

During the same period, no earthquakes were recorded in Tehran, West Azarbaijan, Alborz, Zanjan, Qom, Qazvin, Kordestan, Gilan, Lorestan, Markazi, and Hamedan provinces.

A total of 2,380 earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 2.5 on the Richter scale were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2025–March 2026), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, Mehr news agency reported.

Out of recorded earthquakes, 910 had a magnitude greater than 3, 130 had a magnitude greater than 4, and 15 had a magnitude greater than 5 on the Richter scale.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran, but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world's earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes.

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 12, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:19 Dawn: 5:11 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:38 (tomorrow)

Leader offers condolences on death of Iranian actor, theater director Kourosh Zarei



TEHRAN- Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, has expressed condolences over the death of veteran Iranian actor and theater director Kourosh Zarei, describing him as a committed and revolutionary artist whose efforts to expand performing arts in less-privileged parts of the country were commendable.

In a message issued on Wednesday, the Leader expressed sorrow over the passing of Zarei, highlighting his tireless efforts to promote theater in cities and regions with limited cultural facilities, as well as his steadfast commitment to the values of the Islamic Revolution.

The message reads:

"In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

"The passing of Mr. Kourosh Zarei, a committed and revolutionary artist of our country, has caused sorrow.

"His tireless efforts to expand performing arts in cities and less-privileged regions of the country, as well as his steadfastness in upholding the values of the Islamic Revolution, were commendable.

"I extend my condolences to his family and the country's artistic community, and beseech Almighty God to grant the deceased forgiveness, mercy and divine reward.

"Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei

"November 11, 2026"

Zarei, a prominent figure in Iran's theater, cinema and television, died at his home on Sunday, November 8, at the age of 55, following complications from an illness he had been suffering from for the past two years.

Throughout his artistic career, Zarei played a significant role in developing religious, revolutionary and popular theater in Iran. He served for several years as director of the Center for Dramatic Arts at the Art Bureau, where he worked to promote theatrical activities and expand access to performing arts across the country.

Promoting mosque-based theater, organizing theatrical events and producing works inspired by religious rituals and the concept of resistance were among his notable contributions. Through these activities, he sought to create opportunities for younger performers and strengthen the presence of committed theater in Iran's cultural landscape.

Alongside his theatrical activities, Zarei appeared in several cinema and television productions. One of his best-known performances was his portrayal of Lavi, the elder brother of Prophet Joseph, in the popular television series "Prophet Joseph," which brought him wider recognition among Iranian audiences.

Following the announcement of his death, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi and a number of other cultural and artistic figures and institutions also issued messages of condolence, paying tribute to his artistic contributions and commitment to Iranian cultural values.

Advocate of Palestinian cause John Harrison wins Booker Prize

British author M. John Harrison has returned to the forefront of cultural and media attention after winning the 2026 Booker Prize. He became the oldest author to win the prize in its history, a remarkable literary achievement.

This coincided with renewed focus on his political and cultural stances, including his call for a boycott of Israel, Voice of Emirates reported.

Harrison, 81, is a prominent figure in science fiction, fantasy, and experimental literature. His creative career has spanned nearly six decades, during which he has produced literary works characterized by their departure

from traditional forms and their focus on social and political transformations and their impact on humanity. He won the Booker Prize for his novel "The End of Everything", which presents a world facing a mysterious catastrophe that causes the collapse of institutions and disrupts daily life.

The novel follows the fates of characters trying to adapt to a new reality governed by chaos and ambiguity. Harrison's importance is not limited to his literary output. His name is also associated with political and cultural stances related to the Palestinian cause.

He has expressed support for the boycott of Israel, within a broader position advocating the use of cultural and academic means to pressure Israel regarding its policies toward the Palestinians.

These positions are part of an ongoing debate within British literary and cultural circles regarding the responsibility of intellectuals towards political and humanitarian issues. The debate also revolves around the boundaries between literary creation and writers' public stances.

On a literary level, Harrison is distinguished by a style that blends fiction and reality, using imagined worlds to raise questions about power, identity, memory, and society.

He has also succeeded in establishing a unique place among contemporary writers thanks to his diverse narrative experiments.

His winning the 2026 Booker Prize represents the culmination of a long career during which age has not prevented him from continuing to experiment and create.

Furthermore, it has brought renewed attention to the relationship between literature and political stances, and the role that a writer can play in expressing issues that transcend the boundaries of creative work.

Cartoon of Day



Children of Gaza

Cartoonist: Ameen Alhabarah from Saudi Arabia

Gaël Faye's 'Small Country' available in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book "Small Country," the debut novel by the Franco-Rwandan rapper, songwriter and novelist, Gaël Faye, has been released in the Iranian book market.

Translated by Maryam Saberi, the book has been published by Cheshmeh Publication in 175 pages, ISNA reported.

Originally published in 2016, the book has since been translated into 36 languages.

"Small Country" opens with the 33-year-old narrator, Gabriel, reflecting on his life in France. Unable to let go of his past, Gabriel makes the decision to return to Burundi, the country of his childhood and the birthplace of the author, as the novel's main story begins.

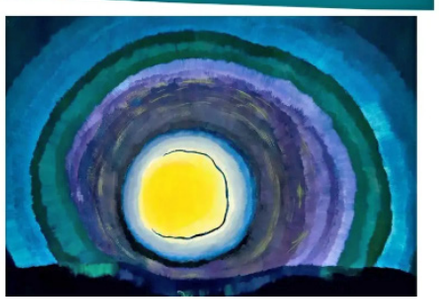
Set in Burundi and Rwanda from 1993 onwards, the novel is subsequently narrated by ten-year-old Gaby, who lives with his French father and Rwandan mother in an impasse in a comfortable district of Bujumbura, Burundi.

Gabriel's sheltered upbringing leaves him oblivious to the increasing tensions between the Hutu majority and the Tutsi minority (to which he, through his mother, belongs). As neighboring Rwanda faces the outbreak of civil war and genocide, which spill over into Burundi, the innocence of Gaby and his group of friends is brutally shattered.

The novel is based on Faye's own experiences growing up in Burundi during this period; the author has, however, stressed that it is not strictly autobiographical. Faye used his advantage of adult perspective to write about a boy who went through a similar situation to him as a child. The novel has been praised for its use of a child's point of view. The narrator, Gaby, is between 10 and 11 for much of the story. Using the perspective of a child can introduce a sense of naivety.

The novel was very well-received upon its publication in France, selling 700,000 copies. It was shortlisted for the Prix Goncourt in 2016, as well as for awards by Fémina, Médicis, Interallié, the Académie française and Renaudot. In the same year, it won the Prix Goncourt des lycéens, chosen by lycée students (typically from 15-18 years of age).





Billy Wilder's 'Witness for the Prosecution' reviewed in Tehran

TEHRAN- Billy Wilder's classic courtroom drama "Witness for the Prosecution", based on a work by renowned British mystery writer Agatha Christie, was screened and reviewed at Tehran's Arasbaran Cultural Center on Wednesday.

The special screening, featuring Persian subtitles, was held in cooperation with Cinema Cafe. Following the screening, a critical discussion of the film took place with Amir Qaderi, director and editor-in-chief of Cinema Café.

Released in 1957, "Witness for the Prosecution" is an American legal drama combining elements of mystery, film noir and dark comedy. The film stars Tyrone Power, Marlene Dietrich, Charles Laughton, Elsa Lanchester and John Williams. It received six nominations at the 30th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director for Wilder, Best Actor for Laughton and Best Supporting Actress for Lanchester. It also earned five Golden Globe nominations, with Lanchester winning the award for Best Supporting Actress.

The screenplay was written by Wilder and Harry Kurnitz, with Larry Marcus credited for the adaptation. The film is based on Christie's 1953 stage play of the same name, which she developed from her earlier short story. The story's intricate construction, shifting loyalties and carefully concealed motives made it particularly suited to the courtroom setting, where testimony, credibility and the interpretation of evidence become central to the unfolding drama.

At the center of the film is Sir Wilfrid Robarts (Charles Laughton), a distinguished London barrister known for his sharp legal mind and formidable courtroom skills. Recovering from a heart attack, Robarts has been advised by his doctors to avoid stressful criminal cases. His recovery is also closely supervised by his nurse, Miss Plimsoll (Elsa Lanchester), who is determined to keep him away from the pressures of legal practice. However, the arrival of an unusual murder case proves too tempting for the veteran lawyer to resist.

He agrees to defend Leonard Vole (Tyrone Power), a man accused of murdering Emily French, a wealthy widow who had become attached to him and named him as the principal beneficiary in her will. The circumstances surrounding the crime appear suspicious, and the financial motive makes Vole an obvious suspect. Nevertheless, Robarts becomes convinced that his client deserves a defense and takes on the case despite his fragile health and the objections of those around him.

The case becomes increasingly complicated when Robarts meets Christine Vole (Marlene Dietrich), Leonard's German wife and the person who could potentially confirm his account of the evening of the murder. Initially, Christine appears to offer her husband an alibi. However, Robarts is uneasy about relying on the testimony of a spouse, particularly when the jury might regard her loyalty to her husband as a reason to question her credibility.

The trial takes an unexpected turn when Christine appears as a prosecution witness rather than supporting her husband's defense. She reveals that her marriage to Leonard is not legally valid because she was already married to another man in Germany. This discovery allows the prosecution to call her to testify against him. Her testimony directly contradicts Leonard's account of the night of the murder and places his defense in serious jeopardy.

As the proceedings continue, Robarts must reconsider everything he thought he knew about his client, his marriage and the circumstances surrounding the crime. A mysterious woman subsequently approaches the barrister with a collection of letters that could undermine Christine's credibility and potentially change the course of the trial. The evidence introduces another layer of uncertainty, leaving both the defense and the audience to question the motives behind the characters' actions.

Rather than relying solely on courtroom arguments, the film uses flashbacks, personal revelations and carefully constructed exchanges between its characters to gradually expose the contradictions in their stories. The relationship between Leonard and Christine, in particular, becomes central to the mystery. Their conflicting accounts raise questions about love, loyalty, betrayal and the extent to which personal feelings can influence the pursuit of justice.

Billy Wilder was one of the most versatile filmmakers of Hollywood's Golden Age. Born Samuel Wilder in 1906 in what was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, he began his career as a journalist before moving into screenwriting in Berlin. Following the rise of the Nazi regime, he left Germany in 1933, eventually settling in Hollywood, where he established himself as both a screenwriter and director.

Wilder's extensive filmography spans several genres, from film noir and psychological drama to romantic comedy and social satire. Among his best-known works are "Double Indemnity" (1944), "The Lost Weekend" (1945), "Sunset Boulevard" (1950), "Sabrina" (1954), "Some Like It Hot" (1959) and "The Apartment" (1960). His films frequently combine sharp dialogue, moral ambiguity, dark humor and an interest in the contradictions of human behavior. He received six competitive Academy Awards during his career, including honors for directing, writing and producing.