Straight Truth

WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 500,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 47th year | No. 15477 | Thursday | November 19, 2026 | Aban 28, 1405 | Jumada al-Thani 9, 1448

Before Shenzhen, Trump's bargaining power is at its lowest point in years

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Donald Trump will ask Russia and China for help on Nov. 19, and he does so at a moment when the usual advantages of American diplomacy have visibly thinned.

The president meets Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, the first time the three have shared a table, and he arrives on the weakest footing of his second term. ▸ Page **5**

The expanding scope of risks: From maritime routes to investments and infrastructure

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON - The Persian Gulf states face the prospect of wider escalation. The potential risks are not confined to Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran. They may extend to other Persian Gulf states whose economies are closely tied to international investment, energy, trade, technology and financial services. Some of these countries, including Kuwait and the UAE, could face pressures affecting major economic and strategic interests if the confrontation widens and escalation continues. ▸ Page **5**

The nuclear pretext and the politics of perpetual pressure

By Ranjan Solomon

Goa, India – Enrichment is not weaponisation. A country's technological capability is not proof of its intention to build a bomb. Yet Iran is being subjected to sanctions, military attacks, intelligence operations and international intimidation, while the nuclear double standards governing West Asia remain unchallenged.

For years, Iran has been made to live under the shadow of an impending nuclear catastrophe that has yet to materialise. Its nuclear programme is repeatedly presented as an existential threat to the world, its uranium enrichment as proof of an intention to manufacture nuclear weapons, and its technological advancement as justification for sanctions, isolation, intelligence operations and military threats. The argument is repeated so relentlessly that the distinction between what Iran is actually doing and what its adversaries allege it intends to do has almost disappeared from international discourse. ▸ Page **3**

Iran's traditional felt-making craft needs new markets to survive

TEHRAN – Iran's traditional felt-making craft, known as namad-mali, faces an uncertain future as declining consumer demand, changing lifestyles and the gradual loss of traditional skills threaten its continuity. Although the centuries-old practice has considerable potential for producing a wide range of contemporary goods, artisans say its survival depends on developing sustainable markets, supporting workshops and passing on their knowledge to younger generations.

The craft, which involves transforming natural wool into a dense fabric through the application of water, soap and repeated rubbing and pressure, is among the oldest forms of textile production. Unlike woven fabrics, felt is made by interlocking wool fibers without the use of weaving or knitting. The process relies on the natural properties of wool and the skill and experience of the craftsperson. ▸ Page **6**



© ISNA/Mohammadreza Bolandi

Photos of Trump and Netanyahu are set on fire during a nighttime gathering of Tehran residents at Enghelab Square, November 4, 2026

Hybrid War After Defeat

After military failure, Washington and Tel Aviv turn to hybrid war to break Iran from within

After humiliating military failure, Washington and Tel Aviv now bet on hybrid war to break Iran from within — economic siege, cognitive warfare and sabotage synchronized with naval posturing — engineering 'moment zero' where a domestic error sparks armed chaos that American bombs could never impose.

By Seyyed Mohammad Torabi

TEHRAN – The United States and Israel, after failing to achieve their objectives through direct military aggression against Iran, have now shifted to a combined and predominantly inward-focused strategy to compensate for their humiliating military defeat.

Recent developments on land, at sea, in cyberspace and in the media all point in the same direction: a hybrid campaign in which economic pressure, cognitive warfare and special intelligence operations are synchronized with naval posturing and the threat of limited strikes. The goal is no longer to defeat Iran on the battlefield at once, but to exhaust it, divide it, and manufacture from inside the country the crisis that war from outside could not create.

After failure in direct confrontation

The past 48 hours show that the confrontation between Iran on one side and the United States and Israel on the other is entering a more military and security-driven phase again. But it is a different kind of phase from the open war of recent months.

Analysts in Tehran argue that Washington has understood a basic fact: a full-scale war with Iran is uncontrollable, costly and politically toxic inside America. Instead, the enemy is now testing and activating the full range of its capacities and platforms for internal unrest in Iran.

This is not random pressure. It is, in Iranian assessments, a deliberate strategy based on building a chain of events in which a domestic mistake, an inappropriate economic decision or a social incident can become the starting point of a much larger crisis — a crisis into which organized forces then enter, moving it from social protest to armed chaos. ▸ Page **3**



© ISNA/Alireza Masoumi

CITEX 2026: Tehran mayor highlights innovation to tackle urban challenges

TEHRAN – Science, technology and innovation, coupled with public participation, are essential to addressing Tehran's urban challenges and improving citizens' quality of life, Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani has said.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of CITEX 2026, held under the slogan "Iran Leading the Way" at Milad Tower, Zakani highlighted the importance of engaging universities, knowledge-based companies and innovators in urban development.

He also identified air pollution and traffic congestion as among Tehran's major challenges, stressing that technological solutions and stronger cooperation with the scientific community could help address them. ▸ Page **7**

Iran reports strikes on US military assets in Kuwait and Bahrain

TEHRAN– Iran's military reported targeting US military assets at a base in Kuwait and shooting down an American drone east of the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, as reports of explosions at US bases in Bahrain and a separate maritime incident in the strategic waterway pointed to mounting tensions across the Persian Gulf region.

The developments came as the Iranian Army announced that its air defense systems had intercepted and destroyed a US MQ-9 drone in the country's southeast, while the Army's combat drones struck US Patriot air defense systems and drone and missile launch platforms at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. ▸ Page **2**

Iran will respond more forcefully to any renewed aggression: army chief

TEHRAN – Iranian Army Commander Major General Amir Hatami has warned that any renewed aggression against Iran will be met with a stronger and more forceful response, stressing that the country's Armed Forces are fully prepared to confront threats without geographical limitations.

Speaking on Wednesday, Hatami said Iran's Armed Forces were closely monitoring enemy movements amid reports of military preparations and the deployment of another aircraft carrier to the region. ▸ Page **2**

COP31: Iran determined to accelerate low-carbon transition through solar energy

TEHRAN – Iran's solar power capacity has increased fivefold over the past two years, reflecting the country's determination to harness clean energy and transition toward low-carbon development, the head of the National Center for Weather and Climate Change affiliated with the Department of Environment (DOE) said.

Emphasizing the need to uphold the principles of climate justice and "common but differentiated responsibilities" in international cooperation, Ahmad Taheri said developing countries have contributed the least to global greenhouse gas emissions but are among those most severely affected by climate change, IRNA reported. ▸ Page **7**

Foreign investment projects worth $200m approved

TEHRAN- At the 312th meeting of the Foreign Investment Board and the ninth meeting of this board in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), 51 foreign investment projects with a total value of $200 million were approved.

According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Economy, the meeting was held with the members of the Foreign Investment Board present at the Ministry of Economy.

At this meeting, 53 requests by foreign investors were reviewed in the form of new investment, capital increase of existing projects, capital transfer, amendments, and renewal of foreign investment licenses.

These requests covered various economic sectors, including industry, mining, agriculture, communications, renewable energies and the construction of solar power plants, automobiles, motorcycles, transportation, health, food industries, the capital market, and services. ▸ Page **4**

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Two difficult and tense years

Shargh assessed the final two years of President Donald Trump's term, arguing that congressional constraints on domestic policy may push him to focus on foreign affairs. In this context, Iran is expected to remain a central priority. According to the paper, Trump's failure to achieve his objectives during the 40-day conflict likely demonstrated that regime change cannot be accomplished through remote air campaigns alone. As a result, he is unlikely to repeat the same strategy. The newspaper nevertheless warns that another major confrontation remains possible if Benjamin Netanyahu's political camp stays in power. If large-scale war is avoided, a more important question concerns how Iran would respond to tighter economic and transportation restrictions. Shargh argues that attempts to increase pressure through maritime measures and pressure on neighboring states could leave Tehran facing difficult choices. Should Iranian leaders conclude that such conditions are unsustainable, regional tensions could enter a new phase marked by greater uncertainty.

Iran: A serious challenge to the US scenario

The Iran newspaper focused on the ECO foreign ministers' meeting in Islamabad. It argued that Washington is trying to increase pressure on Tehran through economic measures and restrictions on important transportation routes. However, the paper stressed that geography and regional economic realities cannot be reshaped by unilateral decisions. Routes that are strategically important to Iran are also essential to neighboring states for trade, transit, and access to markets. Although the Economic Cooperation Organization continues to face structural limitations, the meeting highlighted a shared interest in preserving economic connectivity. According to the article, neighboring countries benefit from open borders and transportation networks and therefore have incentives to maintain regional cooperation. The newspaper argued that while the US seeks to tighten pressure on Iran, countries in the region remain focused on keeping routes open, expanding trade, and preventing external pressures from disrupting long-standing economic ties. From this perspective, practical economic interests may limit attempts to isolate Iran from its neighbors.

Ham-Mihan: Hormuz Strait will not surrender

The newspaper Ham-Mihan examined the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz. It noted that the waterway is not simply a route for oil tankers but a vital link connecting the Persian Gulf to international waters. A significant share of regional energy exports passes through the strait, making it important for several Persian Gulf states. According to the paper, this dependence provides Iran with asymmetric leverage. Even without closing the strait, Tehran could increase shipping risks, insurance costs, transportation expenses, and uncertainty for investors, raising the economic price of efforts to isolate the country. The article argued that the main issue is not whether the strait remains open or closed, but who determines the rules governing security and deterrence in the region. Washington seeks freedom of navigation independent of Iranian influence, while Tehran maintains that lasting security cannot ignore Iran's geopolitical position. The newspaper concluded that both sides appear to prefer limited pressure tactics over direct military confrontation.

Donya-e-Eqtesad: A transit coalition in Hormuz

Donya-e-Eqtesad discussed the recent trilateral meeting among Iran, Oman, and Uzbekistan in Muscat. The newspaper argued that the gathering should be viewed as more than a maritime security discussion. According to the article, Uzbekistan's participation links security in the Strait of Hormuz with the North-South Transport Corridor and broader competition over Eurasian trade routes. Iran's geographic position allows it to serve as a bridge connecting Central Asia to open seas through rail and road networks. The paper stressed that Uzbekistan's importance extends beyond bilateral trade. The country can act as a strategic connector among China, Central Asia, Iran, and southern markets. As a result, the Muscat meeting could contribute to stronger transportation links and greater regional economic integration while supporting Iran's broader economic diplomacy objectives.

Arman-e-Melli: Iran amid Trump-Putin-Xi negotiations

Arman-e-Melli examined the expected meeting of the presidents of the US, China, and Russia on the sidelines of the APEC summit. The paper described the gathering as an important diplomatic event and suggested that Iran would likely be a significant topic of discussion. Although the three countries have differences regarding regional conflicts and broader geopolitical issues, the Iranian nuclear file may provide limited common ground. According to the article, all three oppose Iran acquiring nuclear weapons and may emphasize continued engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The newspaper argued that any understanding among the three powers would require complex political calculations. For Trump, the meeting could help demonstrate international influence and strengthen his diplomatic standing. However, Arman-e-Melli cautioned against expecting a rapid breakthrough. While the summit may shape future diplomatic discussions, it is unlikely to produce an immediate resolution to tensions between Iran and the US.

Iran reports strikes on US military assets in Kuwait and Bahrain

From page 1 ▸ In a statement, the Army said the attack on Ali Al Salem was carried out early Wednesday. It described the base as a major US military hub, serving as an important air transport center and a gateway for the movement of military forces into West Asia. The base, it added, plays a significant role in US military logistics and regional operations.

"In defending Iran, we do not bow to any power; rather, our response to any threat and aggression will be decisive, crushing, and without geographic limits," the Army said.

The Army separately announced that its air defense units had shot down a US-made MQ-9 drone east of the Strait of Hormuz. In a statement issued on Wednesday, it said the unmanned aircraft had been detected and destroyed by domestically developed air defense systems operated by the Army's Air Defense Force in southeastern Iran. The operation, it added, was conducted under the command of the country's integrated air defense network.

The announcement followed another interception reported on Tuesday evening, when the Army said its air defense systems had destroyed a US Lucas drone over the Strait of Hormuz.

Explosions reported at US bases in Bahrain

Meanwhile, several explosions were reported at US military bases in Bahrain on Wednesday, according to media reports, including Al Jazeera. Bahrain's Interior Ministry issued a security alert, urging citizens and residents to remain calm, move to the nearest safe location and follow updates through official channels.



Unofficial reports said drones had struck Sheikh Isa Air Base, with flames seen rising from the site. Other media reports said several US personnel had been wounded in the incident.

The reports emerged as Kuwait's military announced that its air defense systems were engaging incoming drone attacks, underscoring the widening security concerns across the Persian Gulf.

Tanker hit in Strait of Hormuz; crew member missing

The maritime situation also remained tense after a tanker was struck by an unidentified projectile in the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO).

In an advisory issued on Wednesday, UKMTO said it had received a delayed report of the incident, which occurred about 13 nautical miles north of Khasab, Oman. Local authorities reported that the vessel was hit while transiting the strait, triggering a fire on deck that was later brought under control.

One crew member remained missing, and search-and-rescue operations were under way, the agency said. The extent of the damage to the tanker and the possible environmental consequences had yet to be established.

Qeshm reports no infrastructure damage

In a separate development, an Iranian provincial official said attacks reported on Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf on Tuesday had caused no damage to the island's infrastructure.

Ahmad Nafisi, deputy governor of Hormozgan Province, said the situation on the island was under control and that relevant authorities and emergency services remained on alert.

Reports of explosions had circulated following the attacks on locations on Qeshm, which lies near the Strait of Hormuz. Nafisi's remarks indicated that essential infrastructure on the island had remained intact.

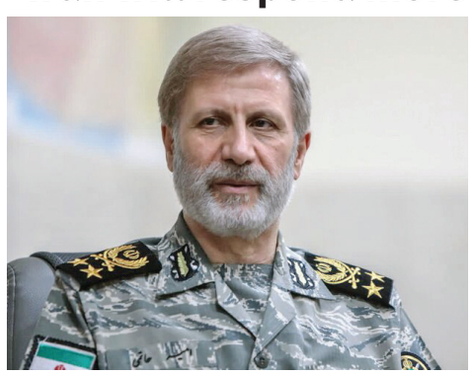
IRGC spokesman ridicules US military over drone losses

Against this backdrop, Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi, spokesman for Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), mocked the US Central Command commander over the repeated loss of American military equipment.

In a message directed at CENTCOM, Mohebbi said the commander deserved a "damage medal," arguing that he appeared to be setting new records for losses among the drone fleet under his command.

The IRGC spokesman said the US military should explain its repeated losses of costly equipment rather than boast of its military superiority. He added that the losses were continuing to mount, becoming another entry in a 'growing record of operational failures.'

Iran will respond more forcefully to any renewed aggression: army chief



From page 1 ▸ He said all four branches of the Iranian Army — ground, naval, air defense and air forces — were maintaining constant surveillance and continuously strengthening their operational and combat readiness.

The army chief noted that the adversary had already made the mistake of launching an attack on Iran, only to find itself in a difficult position and face mounting desperation. He added that, in accordance with directives issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, the necessary preparations had been made to counter any renewed hostile action.

"Should the enemy launch another attack, it will undoubtedly face a more powerful and severe response, without geographical limitations, alongside those supporting it," Hatami said.

He expressed hope that the adversary would refrain from miscalculations, warning that any such move would result in a lesson that would serve as a warning to all.

Hatami's remarks come amid heightened regional tensions and follow a meeting between Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and senior military commanders, during which the Leader underscored the importance of intelligent and calculated combat readiness to maximize deterrence.

At the meeting, the Commander-in-Chief directed the Armed Forces to respond immediately and decisively to threats of any kind or magnitude, without geographical restrictions.

He also called for strengthening military intelligence capabilities, developing indigenous defense doctrines and operational tactics, and harnessing emerging technologies to further enhance the country's defense and security capabilities.

Qalibaf accuses CNN of promoting war with report on alleged Iranian plot

TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has condemned a CNN report alleging that Iran is planning attacks involving a so-called dirty bomb or chemical weapons in Washington, D.C., describing the coverage as part of a propaganda campaign designed to manufacture a pretext for war.

In a post on his X account on Wednesday, Qalibaf criticized what he described as the recycling of false-flag narratives and warmongering by Western media outlets, saying the campaign had shifted to The New York Times and CNN after losing credibility among right-wing political circles.

"Same false flags, same warmongering, new logos. The right's credibility deficit is maxed out, so the messaging operation pivoted to NYT and CNN," he wrote.

Qalibaf also questioned the independence of CNN's editorial coverage, referring to its new ownership and alleging that the outlet's reporting was influenced by pro-Israel interests.

The report also claimed that US officials continue to debate whether Iran could or would attempt to carry out such a plot.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has also dismissed CNN and The New York Times reports, describing them as "rubbish."

In a post on his X account on Tuesday, Araghchi wrote, "In the past 72 hours, pro-Israel media have 'reported' that Iran is supposedly plotting to use chemical weapons in DC while building missile bases under dams. RUBBISH."

"Spare us the Iraq War-style propaganda, especially with Israeli fingerprints all over it. Nobody is buying it," he added.

Araghchi and Qalibaf's remarks came in response to a CNN report citing newly obtained US intelligence that allegedly points to Iranian plans to target senior members of the Trump administration using a radiological weapon, commonly referred to as a dirty bomb, or chemical weapons in Washington, D.C.

Basij ideology has thwarted US objectives against Iran, IRGC official says

TEHRAN – The ideology of the Basij, rooted in faith, national unity, self-sacrifice and social responsibility, has frustrated the United States and other adversaries in their efforts to achieve their objectives against Iran, a senior Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) official said on Wednesday.

Brigadier General Hossein Maroufi, the IRGC's deputy for cultural, social and media affairs, made the remarks at a ceremony on Wednesday.

He stressed that the Basij should not be viewed merely as a military organization, describing it instead as a broader intellectual and cultural movement rooted in the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad's Household (Ahl al-Bayt) and the ideals of Ashura.

Maroufi said the Basij ethos had extended beyond Iran's borders, with freedom-seeking people from diverse political, ethnic and religious backgrounds embracing the culture of resistance as a path to dignity and victory.

Referring to the legacy of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, the late commander of the IRGC Quds Force, Maroufi said his lasting legacy stemmed not merely from his military achievements but from his worldview and moral principles.

Lawmaker says concessions cannot change Washington's hostile policy toward Tehran

TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker has warned against the assumption that offering concessions to the United States could persuade Washington to abandon its hostile policy toward Iran, describing such expectations as fundamentally misguided. Ali Ahmadi made the remarks during a parliamentary speech on Wednesday, arguing that changes in the US ruling party do not necessarily translate into a change in the country's underlying approach toward Iran.

Referring to the US political system, Ahmadi said both the Republican and Democratic parties operate within a political structure dominated by financial and corporate interests. He stressed that placing hopes in a shift in Washington's policy through changes in political leadership or concessions would be a serious mistake. Such an outlook, he added, would also amount to overlooking the achievements Iran has secured.

Iran has emerged victorious in confrontation with US and Israel, Basij Cmdr. says

TEHRAN – Iran has emerged victorious from its military confrontation with the United States and Israel, despite the deployment of extensive military assets and the use of various types of missiles by its adversaries, the head of the Basij Organization has said.

Hojatoleslam Hossein Taeb made the remarks on Wednesday during a video conference, saying the United States had deployed 284 fighter jets, tested different types of missiles and exhausted its military stockpiles, but ultimately failed to force the Iranian nation into submission.

He said Iran's Armed Forces, Basij volunteers and the public had all played a role in the country's defense and security, adding that the widespread presence of people in the streets, alongside their participation in the defense effort, had compelled the adversaries to back down.



Taeb said Washington and Tel Aviv had initially calculated that a blockade of Iran and mounting pressure would undermine the country's resilience. Their strategy, he added, was to intensify insecurity around Iran and foment internal divisions and instability to weaken the country from within.

Referring to the late Imam Khomeini's emphasis on the need for a strong Iran and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's call for the country to become increasingly powerful, Taeb said Iran had demonstrated its defensive capabilities to the world.

He said the United States, whose military spending during the war exceeded $1 trillion, entered the confrontation with Iran alongside a full-scale war machine. Nevertheless, the conflict did not even last 40 days before the opposing side was forced to raise the white flag.

Taeb said the outcome had demonstrated Iran's growing defensive strength and established the country's ability to stand up to major military powers, proving the concept of a strong Iran to the international community.

Hybrid war after defeat

After military failure, Washington and Tel Aviv turn to hybrid war to break Iran from within

From Page 1 ▶ Iranian security analysts call this tipping point "moment zero": the moment that is supposed to provide the ground for the next stage of the enemy's operation.



Three synchronized axes for destabilization

The current destabilization effort operates, according to Iranian evaluations, on three simultaneous axes.

First, economic pressure: the continuation of sanctions and economic siege aimed at increasing pressure on people's lives and intensifying discontent.

Second, cognitive warfare: the production and dissemination of false narratives, fake news and misleading information to create social divides, erode public trust and deepen distrust toward officials, institutions, experts and even the country's defense capabilities.

Third, special and intelligence operations: focusing on sensitive economic infrastructure, particularly in the energy sector, and seeking to exploit domestic vulnerabilities.

In cognitive warfare, the publication of a single piece of fake news is not the point. The main issue is building a narrative that links scattered events to each other and creates a sense of pervasive distrust. In this pattern, every domestic mistake can become a media topic; then, through amplification, repetition and organized dissemination, it is turned into a factor for intensifying dissatisfaction.

The ultimate goal, analysts say, is to weaken society's trust in news sources, officials, experts and even national defense power.

Closely linked to this is the focus on "sensitive moments." An economic decision without sufficient public explanation, a social accident, an ill-considered remark or a political dispute can be turned into an opportunity to escalate tension. The case of gasoline remains a security and social issue in this sense.

It is clear, Iranian observers stress, that the enemy is using cognitive warfare tools alongside economic pressure, security operations and military strikes.

Southern front heats up: from sky to sea lanes

The shift to hybrid war does not mean the military threat has disappeared. It has moved, for now, largely to the south.

With the entry of the aircraft carrier Roosevelt into the CENTCOM area of operations, the U.S. military presence in the region has been reinforced. Three aircraft carriers and a collection of destroyers and combat vessels have created an extensive naval platform. Yet the concentration of combat vessels alone does not mean a firm decision to enter conflict.

The fact that these vessels keep their distance from Iran's coastal waters and the hesitation about the extensive use of their capacity — due to Iran's new technologies in the missile field — shows that force concentration is not the same as freedom of operational action.

The reported developments stretch from Qeshm and Abu Musa to the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman. They form one interconnected operational scene: attacks on radar and air defense infrastructure in Qeshm, Abu Musa and some coasts of Hormozgan, which Tehran sees as groundwork for future operations; increased engagement with reconnaissance and combat drones; increasingly insecure operational space for American fighter jets; and growing risk for vessels passing through disputed routes.

Iran, in return, has responded not only by acting against violating tankers and hostile aircraft, but by carrying out extensive and precise drone and missile attacks focused on the enemy's radar network and eyes, and by resuming missile strikes on American assets in the southern littoral states of the Persian Gulf. The recent interception of the Lucas drone in the south was seen in Tehran as a fresh sign of upgraded air defense.

Overall, the situation in the south is escalating. If diplomatic paths fail, attention in Washington could turn again to military options — options which, Iranian analysts insist, will not bring the expected results for America.

A key part of this equation is drones and electronic warfare. The increase in interception, destruction and seizure of reconnaissance and combat drones has two important consequences: limiting the ability to collect intelligence and complete the target bank, and gaining access to data and technology in unmanned systems. Recovering memories and examining the hardware and software of this equipment can create a more precise understanding of the other side's operational patterns.

Washington's hesitation and the myth of a controlled strike

In Washington, one scenario under discussion is a limited military strike, simultaneous intensification of economic pressure, and then a declaration of the end of the operation.

But the fundamental question, raised even in American circles, is this: after a limited strike, will the expansion of war be controllable?

Iran's answer has been explicit: the response to a pinpoint attack will not be pinpoint.

Part of the security calculus is also Israel's attempt to play a role in any possible operation, including assassination missions and attacks on infrastructure.

This hesitation is compounded by external constraints. The meeting this week of the presidents of China, Russia and the United States, held at Trump's request, is assessed in Tehran largely as a publicity show to soften the consequences of electoral losses in the congressional elections. The assessment of Xi and Putin, Iranian analysts believe, is that Trump has been weakened and that concessions can be extracted from him, particularly on Taiwan, in exchange for propaganda cooperation.

On Iran, the issue will certainly be discussed, but both Beijing and Moscow oppose a new military attack on Iran and will not cooperate with an economic project against it. A possible statement emphasizing freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz would fall into the category of diplomatic courtesies and will not change the situation in the Strait.

The same limits apply in Iraq. Developments in Jurf al-Sakhr and pressure from the Iraqi government for the exit of Kataib Hezbollah from the area must be read in the context of the broader competition between America and resistance forces. The importance of this development is not limited to Iraq's internal differences; the timing of pressure on the group and its possible consequences for military calculations against Iran must also be considered.

Managing moments toward moment zero

The most sensitive front, however, remains inside Iran — particularly the northwest and the streets.

Increased movements by PJAK and armed groups in the northwest, the use of suicide micro-drones and attempts to target military positions are important signs on this front.

At the same time, developments in Abdanan and some street movements increase the importance of internal security. It appears that efforts to securitize the streets will be one of the axes to be carefully followed in the coming weeks.

This fits exactly the model of moment management: turning an error into a crisis. A wrong economic move, a local incident, an unmanaged protest can be linked through social networks into a national narrative of collapse, then exploited by organized armed elements waiting for moment zero.

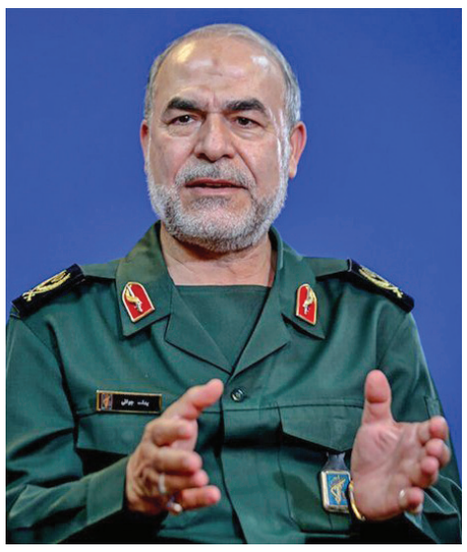
The third front in the past 48 hours — the security front centered on Washington — shows how information itself is weaponized to prepare this moment. The head of Mossad has conveyed intelligence to America claiming that Iran intends to use chemical bombs and dirty weapons inside America. The manner of transmission and reflection of this information is itself seen in Tehran as an intelligence operation on Trump's mind that could influence his political calculations and decision-making.

At a time when negotiations have also made no tangible progress, the possibility of a return to military confrontation remains on the table.

Taken together, the picture is clear: a weakened adversary that could not win the war it started is now betting on Iran's mistakes, Iran's economy and Iran's streets — while keeping carriers at a safe distance and circulating frightening stories in Washington to justify what comes next.

IRGC general: Trump faces strategic impasse

TEHRAN – A senior Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) commander has said the United States has reached a dead end in its decision-making over the war against Iran, arguing that prolonging the conflict would bring Washington mounting difficulties, while ending it would require accepting Iran's conditions and acknowledging defeat.



Brig. Gen. Yadollah Javani, the IRGC deputy commander for political affairs, said on Wednesday that the Iranian Armed Forces' battlefield superiority, coupled with strong public support and the massive presence of people in the streets, had compelled the adversaries to retreat from their demands.

He said developments on the ground indicated that the balance of the conflict was shifting in Iran's favor, while its adversaries lacked the capacity to alter the situation.

Javani said the withdrawal of US warships to positions hundreds of kilometers from the battlefield was evidence of Washington's failed calculations and the limitations of its naval capabilities.

He added that Iran's missile, drone and electronic warfare capabilities had significantly challenged the enemy's military calculations.

The general also highlighted the achievements of young Iranian specialists in extending missile ranges, developing long-range drones and advancing electronic warfare technologies. He said these capabilities had enabled Iran to target advanced enemy drones or force them to land intact in areas including the Strait of Hormuz and Qeshm Island.

Javani noted that, before launching its aggression, the United States had expected to defeat Iran within two or three days. However, battlefield developments had exposed that assessment as fundamentally mistaken.

"Today, Trump is facing an impasse in decision-making," he said, adding that continuing the war would create even greater problems for Washington, whereas withdrawing would mean accepting Iran's conditions and conceding defeat.

The IRGC commander said US President Donald Trump had no choice but to acknowledge the realities on the battlefield. He also referred to remarks by a former president of the US Council on Foreign Relations, who has emphasized that Iran would neither be defeated nor surrender if the war continued.

'Iran adapts deterrence strategy to new threats, accelerates defense projects'



TEHRAN – Iran is adapting its deterrence strategy to the changing nature of warfare while accelerating the development of indigenous defense technologies, with more than 70 defense projects identified during the recent 40-day conflict to translate battlefield lessons into operational capabilities, senior defense officials say.

The statements by Defense Ministry spokesperson Brigadier General Reza Talaei-Nik and Deputy Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics Brigadier General Majid Ibn al-Reza highlight Tehran's emphasis on maintaining military readiness, strengthening domestic defense capabilities and incorporating emerging battlefield requirements into its long-term military planning.

Speaking at a meeting of the Islamic Propagation Coordination Council on Wednesday, Talaei-Nik said Iran's deterrence strategy remained dynamic and active, adapting to evolving threats and changes in the methods and patterns of warfare.

He noted that recent hybrid warfare differed substantially from previous conflicts, requiring a continuous reassessment of defense priorities and capabilities.

The spokesman said Iran's Armed Forces had demonstrated their defensive capabilities during the 40-day War, adding that the country's strategic structures and the legacy of the Martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, had enabled the military to respond decisively from the outset of the conflict.

Talaei-Nik identified four principal pillars of Iran's national strength: leadership, national unity, the capabilities of the Armed Forces and the performance of the Islamic Republic's governing system.

He said the conflict had underscored the need for sustained military preparedness, greater reliance on domestic capabilities, the development of strategic technologies and broader public participation in national defense.

The spokesman also highlighted the role of faith, self-sacrifice and innovation among Iranian military personnel, describing these qualities as essential to the country's resilience during the war.

Turning battlefield lessons into defense capabilities

Providing further insight into Iran's post-war defense priorities, Ibn al-Reza said the Ministry of Defense had defined more than 70 projects across various fields during the conflict, known as the Third Imposed War, with the aim of translating operational requirements and battlefield developments into technological advances and practical military capabilities.

Speaking on Wednesday, the deputy minister said the country's defense industry had continued along a development path established under the guidance of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution and sustained through the work of Iranian scientists, engineers and defense industry personnel.

He stressed that changes on the battlefield inevitably generate new operational requirements, placing responsibility on the defense establishment to identify those needs, translate them into technological and research priorities, and develop solutions that can be deployed as quickly as possible.

"Any shift on the battlefield generates new demands and signals for the country's defense establishment, and it is our duty to convert these requirements into technological and research terms and turn them into products with operational capability as quickly as possible," Ibn al-Reza said.

He added that Iran's defense industry had demonstrated its ability to identify emerging operational needs and pursue new technological approaches to address them.

According to the deputy minister, the recent conflict served not only as a test of the country's existing military preparedness and defense capabilities but also as an opportunity to assess how effectively its defense industry could identify battlefield requirements, translate them into technological challenges and deliver operational solutions.

The nuclear pretext and the politics of perpetual pressure

From Page 1 ▶ The more fundamental question is whether the nuclear controversy is really about preventing nuclear proliferation or whether it has become the convenient instrument through which Iran is denied its sovereignty, its legitimate technological aspirations and its right to determine its own political future.

Iran is not known to possess a nuclear weapon. There is no publicly established evidence that it has assembled one. Its uranium enrichment programme, including the enrichment of uranium to 60 per cent U-235, is a matter of international scrutiny and legitimate concern. But enrichment is not weaponisation. The possession of enriched uranium is not the same as manufacturing a nuclear bomb. Nor does the capacity to produce weapons-grade material automatically establish a political decision to manufacture a weapon.

The continuing attempt to collapse these distinctions is at the centre of the campaign against Iran.

The politics of a manufactured nuclear emergency

The nuclear controversy has developed against a much wider political background. Iran has been subjected to decades of American sanctions, diplomatic isolation, economic restrictions, covert operations and military intimidation. Its regional relationships have been treated as a threat to Western interests, while its independent foreign policy has frequently been presented as an unacceptable challenge to the existing geopolitical order.

The nuclear programme has provided the most convenient justification for this continuing pressure.

The irony is that the United States' own intelligence community stated in its 2025 Annual Threat Assessment that Iran was not building a nuclear weapon and that the then Supreme Leader had not authorised the resumption of the weapons programme suspended in 2003. The assessment did not rule out the possibility of a future change in Iranian policy, particularly given the country's expanding enrichment capabilities. But it did not substantiate the repeated claims that Iran was actively constructing a nuclear bomb.

The Congressional Research Service, in its October 2026 assessment, acknowledges that the present status of Iran's nuclear programme is unclear following the military attacks and the disruption of international monitoring. It also records that a June 2026 memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States included an Iranian reaffirmation that it would not procure or develop nuclear weapons.

These are important facts. They deserve far more attention than the politically convenient declarations that Iran is perpetually on the verge of producing a bomb.

There are distinct stages in the nuclear process.

Uranium enrichment, the production of weapons-grade fissile material, the engineering of a nuclear explosive device and its integration into a deliverable weapon are distinct stages of the nuclear fuel cycle and weapons development. Weapons-grade uranium is generally enriched to approximately 90 per cent U-235. These technical distinctions are essential to an accurate assessment of Iran's nuclear programme and to avoiding the conflation of nuclear technology with the development of nuclear weapons.

The peacemaker who returned to the politics of force

Donald Trump entered his second presidency presenting himself as a leader who could end wars and bring peace through personal diplomacy and deal-making. He repeatedly claimed credit for resolving numerous international conflicts and cultivated the image of a president who would keep America out of prolonged military entanglements.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Foreign investment projects worth $200m approved



TEHRAN- At the 312th meeting of the Foreign Investment Board and the ninth meeting of this board in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), 51 foreign investment projects with a total value of $200 million were approved.

According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Economy, the meeting was held with the members of the Foreign Investment Board present at the Ministry of Economy.

At this meeting, 53 requests by foreign investors were reviewed in the form of new investment, capital increase of existing projects, capital transfer, amendments, and renewal of foreign investment licenses.

These requests covered various economic sectors, including industry, mining, agriculture, communications, renewable energies and the construction of solar power plants, automobiles, motorcycles, transportation, health, food industries, the capital market, and services.

The reviewed requests were also submitted by investors from Germany, Canada, Portugal, Russia, China, India, South Korea, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, as well as Iranian expatriates residing abroad in the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

Ultimately, out of the total 53 requests reviewed, 51 projects worth $200 million were approved by the Foreign Investment Board.

According to this report, since the beginning of the year 1405, nine meetings of the Foreign Investment Board have been held, resulting in the approval of 451 foreign investment projects with a total value of $3.4 billion.

Iran's 3 chambers propose export-import mechanism to resolve economic woes



TEHRAN- The monthly meeting of the heads of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture; the Iran Chamber of Guilds; and the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives was held, focusing on the private sector's concentration on solutions to support the government in supplying essential goods.

Samad Hassanzadeh, Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture; Ghasem Nodeh Farahani, Head of the Iran Chamber of Guilds; and Bahman Abdollahi, Head of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, in the joint meeting of the heads of the three chambers, emphasized the issue-oriented nature of private sector activities and the presentation of solutions that help simultaneously resolve the concerns of economic actors and the government.

Samad Hassanzadeh, Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, said at the monthly meeting of the heads of the three chambers held at the Iran Chamber: "In difficult economic conditions and given international complexities, the private sector has a greater duty than before to present solutions to the government for resolving economic problems, creating social calm, and improving people's livelihoods."

He considered the devising of multifaceted solutions that simultaneously help resolve several concerns to lie within the intellectual and operational capacity of the country's private sector, and added: "At present, on the one hand, one of the problems of the country's exporters concerns issues in the area of settling foreign exchange obligations, and on the other hand, enhancing resilience in people's livelihoods and supplying essential goods and raw materials needed for production is a key concern for the government."

The Head of the Iran Chamber added: "The solution we present to the respected government for simultaneously resolving two concerns—namely, simultaneously resolving exporters' foreign exchange obligation settlement problems and supplying essential goods and the livelihood requirements of the people and the country's production—is that exporters be given the mission to import the country's needed essential goods in exchange for settling their foreign exchange obligations."

Following the presentation of this proposal, the view of the heads of the three chambers—the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture; the Iran Chamber of Guilds; and the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives—was that exporters who export in the interest of the country's production should import the essential goods needed by the country, and an incentive opportunity should be created for exports and imports.

At present, exporters are allowed to import only the raw materials, parts, and machinery they need; while the proposal of the heads of the three chambers was that, by removing this restriction, permission for imports should become general and the government should allow exporters, in exchange for settling their foreign exchange obligations, to import essential goods needed by the country up to the ceiling of their foreign exchange obligations.

Also, in continuation of this meeting, it was decided that, given that the prescription for treating the country's economy in the current conditions is the maximum presence of the private sector, the request of the three chambers was that the government provide a mechanism for the private sector to play a greater role in economic management and for private sector participation in organizing the country's economy to increase.

Another part of this meeting was devoted to economic diplomacy and the role of the private sector in this area, where the heads of the three chambers emphasized that the government should provide conditions so that the private sector can play a maximum role in international dealings and economic diplomacy and in utilizing economic exchanges with neighbors, aligned countries, BRICS members, Shanghai Cooperation Organization members, and Eurasian Economic Union members.

Samad Hassanzadeh, regarding the development of economic diplomacy, stated: "Although Iran's enemies are seeking a naval blockade and blocking communication routes, in the international space we see that many countries announce their readiness to expand economic interaction with Iran."

Hassanzadeh, referring to the visit of an Iran Chamber delegation to Kenya, spoke of Iran's high capacities for entering the Kenyan and African markets and reported on the consideration of establishing a trade center and permanent exhibition of Iranian products in Nairobi in order to establish successful Iranian companies and cooperatives, given the demand of the Kenyan market.

Bahman Abdollahi, Head of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, also referring to recent meetings with the ambassadors of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in Tehran, emphasized the existence of opportunities for extraterritorial cultivation in Kazakhstan and said: "Kazakhstan is a hub for the production of agricultural inputs, and given the suitable water resources and the extent of agricultural land in this country, there is the possibility that, through extraterritorial cultivation in Kazakhstan, we can meet a significant part of the country's needs in the area of inputs and essential goods."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

CNG consumption tops 18 mcm/d as Iran's fuel-management policies take effect

TEHRAN- The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, Mohammad Sadegh Azimifar, said daily CNG consumption has risen to more than 18 million cubic meters, up from about 14.5 million before new policies—an average increase of 16–17 percent, or over 3.5 million cubic meters per day.

He credited consumption-management policies and public cooperation, noting CNG use had previously been declining by 1–2 million cubic meters annually since 1400.

On winter fuel, Azimifar said about 60 million liters of kerosene have been stored in provinces facing possible gas-supply tensions, especially the three northern provinces, and LPG reserves have reached maximum capacity so alternative fuel can be distributed quickly if needed.

He said consumption trends have improved: gasoline growth reached negative 3 percent in the past month instead of the previous positive 6 percent—about 9 percent below the expected baseline—while gasoil growth in non-power-plant sectors fell from positive 4 percent to negative 4 percent, about 8 percent below baseline. Gasoil has shifted from import to export, and gasoline is near break-even.

Azimifar stressed that consumption management is cross-sectoral, requiring automakers to meet global fuel standards, expanded public transportation, and fleet renewal. More than 700,000 aged vehicles have been scrapped in two years, though still far from the Seventh Development Plan's 500,000-per-year target. He warned that without continued implementation, consumption growth could return, and praised public cooperation and feedback.

Nearly 700 mines revived in country in recent years

TEHRAN- The Deputy for Mines and Mineral Industries of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, referring to 13,000 mines in the country, said: "Between 600 and 700 mines have returned to the activity cycle in recent years under the country's mine revival plan."

According to IRNA, Vajihollah Jafari said on Wednesday at the Supreme Council of Mines, being hosted by Qazvin: "Today, with the presence of the Supreme Council of Mines in Qazvin, four specialized programs in the field of mines and mineral industries are being pursued, including review of national issues, addressing the mining problems of the province, review of forex issues, and holding a service desk."

He added: "In the first program, the Supreme Council of Mines, within its usual working procedure, reviewed approvals and national issues related to government royalties and other mining issues."

The Deputy for Mines and Mineral Industries of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade continued: "The second program is a meeting with the Qazvin Province Mines Council, in which issues and matters related to mining in the province will be reviewed in the Supreme Council of Mines and the Provincial Mines Council, and we hope the envisaged agenda items will be approved so that their benefits ultimately return to the province."

Jafari, referring to the specialized review of foreign exchange problems of mining operators, said: "Parallel to these programs, the Director General of Mineral Industries also held a specialized meeting by inviting operators and reviewing issues related to foreign exchange and existing problems, so that the issues and obstacles in this sector are also addressed."

He announced the holding of a special service desk for mining and mineral industry operators in the province and noted: "Today, with the presence of four specialized directors general in the field of mines and mineral industries of the ministry and members of the Supreme Council of Mines, a service desk will be held so that the problems of operators in this field are reviewed in person."

The Deputy for Mines and Mineral Industries of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade stated: "At this service desk, provincial and specialized experts and directors general of the ministry are present, and the issues of mining operators will be reviewed and decided upon; in this way, matters that under normal circumstances might require a long time for administrative procedures will be settled in a shorter period."

Jafari, referring to the importance of reviving inactive mines, stated: "A significant part of the country's mines are inactive for various reasons, but this does not necessarily mean a halt in production in the mining sector; because some mines operate with extraction permits, seasonally, or under special conditions, and their being statistically inactive does not mean a complete shutdown of mining activity."

Stating that the mine revival plan began in the country several years ago, he stated: "In this plan, mines with the capacity to return to activity are examined from various dimensions, and to activate them, solutions such as financing, supporting investment, attracting investor participation, and providing liquidity and machinery through the capacities of the insurance fund are placed on the agenda."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran Alloy Steel Company
Tender Announcement for Export of CC-Alloy Steel Billet
Tender Ref. No.: IASCO-EXPT1405-08
Date: 11/18/2026

Please be informed that *Iran Alloy Steel Company (IASCO)* intends to conduct a public Tender for the export of **CC-Alloy Steel Billet** under the following terms and conditions:

1. Product Specifications and Commercial terms:

Main Tender Grades & Quality	*Acc. to attached specification No.*
9403I	*C07KU9403I40411A042*

**Other Grades may also be considered By Customer Request with related premium price. (Please clearly specify the desired grade, analysis and etc.)*

- **Size & Dimensions**: (130*130) * 12,000mm
- **Quantity**: 20,000 MT (±10%).
- **Delivery Time**: Approximately Forty-five (45) days from the date of Proforma Invoice confirmation.
- **Delivery Term**: FOB Bandar Abbas

Note: Other delivery ports including BIK, Parsian and Chabahar may be considered upon buyer's request, subject to amended delivery time and mutual agreement.

2. Tender General Conditions:

a. The offer must remain valid for at least **seven (7) working days in Iran** from the submission deadline.
b. Vague, conditional or incomplete offers will not be considered.
c. The buyer's company must be legally registered outside the Islamic Republic of Iran.
d. IASCO reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to accept, reject, negotiate, or cancel any or all offers without assigning any reason or incurring any liability.
e. All payments shall be deemed valid only upon the Seller's receipt of official bank confirmation.
f. Submission of offer implies full acceptance of all tender terms and conditions.

3. Offer Submission:

For instructions and further information, kindly contact the Export Department using the following details:
Tel: +9835-31222675 & +98 21 91009001
Email: Salesexp@iasco.net **(For registration only, not to send any offer)**

4. Closing Date:

Deadline for offer Submission: Tuesday, Nov 24, 2026 – by 2:00 p.m. (Tehran Local Time)

Before Shenzhen, Trump's bargaining power is at its lowest point in years



From page 1 ▶ Republicans have lost Congress, a chip-smuggling scandal has reached his friends, and the war on Iran he launched with Israel has drained ships, munitions, and votes without ending.

He stopped first in Manila, the Philippines, for regional talks and a trade signing with Thailand. Aides describe an agenda of nuclear arms, Iran, Ukraine, and trade.

Officials also said Ukraine and the Nvidia affair would stay off the table, a line Trump himself dropped on Monday when he called Ukraine "my favorite subject."

An administration that cannot settle what its own president will say in the room is negotiating from a thin position.

Asked whether he would press Xi and Putin to help end the war on Iran, Trump replied: "Save 25,000 lives a month," before adding: "25,000 lives a month in Russia-Iran... 32,000 last month." In a bizarre mix-up, Trump appeared to conflate the wars in Iran and Ukraine.

Agendas that almost never touch

Each leader wants a different meeting. Trump wants arms control and help with his campaign of aggression against Iran.

Putin, who proposed the format, wants recognition and, if he can get it, movement on Ukraine.

Xi wants quiet, time, and a favorable decision on Taiwan arms. Nobody's request is something another is willing to pay for.

Take Trump's headline item. New START lapsed in February with nothing to replace it, and Washington says any new deal must include China.

Beijing is believed to hold about 600 warheads, against thousands each for the United States and Russia, though the Pentagon projects more than 1,000 by 2030.

Its foreign ministry calls it neither fair nor realistic to pull China into trilateral talks, and rising powers seldom freeze their arsenals just short of parity.

Washington brings scant leverage to the negotiating table, having discarded the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty back in 2019. Securing any meaningful arms control accord remains a distant prospect.

Putin's position is easier. The photograph he wants is already guaranteed: a seat beside the leaders of the two largest economies, which Moscow will present as proof that Western attempts to isolate Russia have failed.

Spokesman Dmitry Peskov waves off the Yalta comparisons and says nothing agreed in Shenzhen could bind other countries. Yet Putin pitched the meeting as a Ukraine forum, and Beijing, which has said Europe belongs at any such table, may want no part of that.

Trump has partly moved toward Russia's position in the peace talks. The more realistic outcome is a loose understanding that Putin can cite for months, with no signature anywhere.

Xi can afford patience. He and Putin have met more than 40 times, and he has sat down with Trump repeatedly this year, including a September state visit to Washington that produced a framework built on "respect, fairness and reciprocity."

The Chinese leader may calculate that preserving the status quo serves as his most favorable path forward, mindful of the Jan. 10 expiration of the trade truce and Trump's withholding of a $14 billion Taiwan arms package framed as a bargaining chip.

The weakest card

Iran is the subject Trump most needs help with and has the least to trade on.

The campaign of aggression, run jointly with Israel, has tied down carrier groups, burned through advanced munitions, and, by the accounts of many analysts and the sitting U.S. vice president, cost Republicans both chambers.

Iran has steadfastly refused to buckle, its government stands firm, and its sovereign defense capabilities remain unbroken, while it maintains active diplomatic and economic ties with major powers such as China and Russia.

Trump is appealing to nations engaged with Tehran to scale back their cooperation, bringing little to the table beyond hollow gestures.

While Western commentators speculate that Putin could dangle an ambiguous gesture regarding West Asia to extract concessions on Ukraine, Moscow's longstanding alignment with Tehran makes any genuine sacrifice of Iranian interests improbable.

Despite myriads of evidence to the contrary, Trump claims he sees no need for talks with Tehran and has played down a return to major strikes.

However, earlier presidents lost Congress and still produced results abroad.

George W. Bush ordered the Iraq surge two months after the 2006 midterms. Barack Obama concluded the Iran nuclear deal in 2015 against a hostile Capitol.

Both had a plan and a team that agreed on it. By contrast, Trump's Treasury and Commerce secretaries cannot even align on a single semiconductor export rule.

Chips and a hostile Congress

Democrats take both chambers in January. Trump keeps broad authority over tariffs, sanctions, and arms sales, but any concession on Taiwan, chips, or Russia sanctions would invite hearings and legislation, and Republicans eyeing 2028 will not want to defend it.

Xi and Putin face no such body. Both can promise something in Shenzhen and expect it to hold. Trump can promise the same and watch it come apart.

Then there is the strange tale of Nvidia. Chief executive Jensen Huang resigned after admitting an affair with an executive of Megaspeed, a Singapore-based firm suspected of routing restricted chips to China.

U.S. officials reportedly suspect her of ties to Chinese security services. Beijing denies it and calls the story a pretext for a technology blockade. Reports say Secretary of State Marco Rubio and others warned Trump in May, and Huang still flew with him to Beijing.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick are openly at odds over why action took so long.

On Monday, the administration restricted chip exports to data centers in countries such as Malaysia and Thailand, a move aimed at Chinese firms that rent computing abroad. Trump says he does not know she is a spy at all and would not mind seeing Huang return to manage Nvidia.

Officials say the subject will not come up with Xi. Beijing can note which topics Washington has agreed to avoid.

The people outside the room

Smaller states are reading the guest list.

Ukraine's president has warned against another "Yalta 2, 3, 4." Japan has reportedly told Washington the summit risks making its main ally look closer to Beijing and Moscow, at a time when joint Chinese and Russian naval drills around Japan are increasing.

Europe, shut out of the Abu Dhabi talks on Ukraine, faces a $396 billion trade deficit with China on one side and a distracted United States on the other.

The comparison with 1945 mostly collapses. Yalta gathered victors at the end of a world war and produced the United Nations.

Shenzhen offers a few hours, no shared project, and, by Peskov's account, no power to bind anyone.

Beijing has rejected the label, and its stated opposition to major powers running the world explains why many governments in Africa, Asia, and Latin America still listen to it. Canada's Mark Carney urges middle powers to organize, so they are not bullied.

What is real is the shift in the picture records. A decade ago, an American president could convene a summit or decline one, and the others adjusted.

Now he flies to a Chinese city to ask for favors, sits beside a Russian leader, he could not move in Alaska, and carries a war that his own party's voters have already judged.

Each earlier setback was explained as temporary. Stack them together, from the carrier groups parked off Iran to the Quad partners irritated by tariffs, and the pattern is a country spending its influence faster than it earns it.

Thursday's tells will be small. Watch for a short statement on stability, perhaps a line that nuclear war cannot be won, perhaps similar to the AI language Biden and Xi already agreed on in 2024. Watch whether Ukraine comes up.

Watch what Trump says about Taiwan arms. The next test is the G20 at his Doral resort on Dec. 14 and 15. A president who needs a headline will sit between two men who can afford to wait.

Morocco turning into strategic outpost for Israel though UN has named it among 63 states complicit in Gaza genocide



At the Marrakech Air Show last month, Israel's war ministry opened its first official pavilion in Morocco, Middle East Eye reported.

Eight Israeli firms, among them the state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Rafael, showed drones, loitering munitions and air defense systems, while Elbit's Moroccan joint venture announced that it would deliver turrets to the Moroccan army from March 2027.

Also at the air show, the UAE's defense group Edge signed a contract to arm Morocco's drones.

The event coincided with the anniversary of October 7, which drew protesters to a vigil outside parliament in Rabat. Events were called in some 30 Moroccan cities, urging the government to drop new measures aimed at further normalizing ties with Israel. BDS Morocco called for a boycott of the Marrakech show.

The air show illustrates how, since joining the Abraham Accords in 2020, Morocco has moved from buying Israeli weapons to building them. The war on Gaza accelerated that partnership, as global boycotts and sanctions against Israel expanded.

In Europe, Spain cancelled €1.2bn ($1.3bn) of Israeli military contracts, and France barred Israel from the Eurosatory defense exhibition.

The war against Iran further exposed Israeli and Emirati industries. Iran said it struck Rafael and IAI sites, along with a drone supplier, and Emirates Global Aluminium's Abu Dhabi plant suffered significant damage.

Morocco offers its Abraham Accords partners an industrial safe haven, away from missiles and sanctions, and its coordination with Israel now spans production, intelligence, training, weapons testing, shipping and policing in Gaza.

The kingdom is becoming an offshoot of Israel's security strategy.

The Gaza war froze diplomatic relations briefly. Israel's liaison staff left Rabat in October 2023, and the office stayed shut until August 2024. In the meantime, the Abraham Accords states' share of Israeli arms exports fell to just three percent in 2023.

But military ties soon grew again. In July 2024, Morocco bought an Israeli spy satellite for about $1bn. The following year, Morocco chose Elbit's Atmos self-propelled howitzers over France's Caesar, and its special forces trained with Israeli soldiers in tunnel warfare.

In June 2025, Iran said its missiles had hit Rafael's facilities in Haifa. Five months later, IAI's subsidiary BlueBird opened a loitering munitions line in Morocco's Benslimane.

A joint Israeli-Moroccan defence plan for 2026 followed, along with a $277m turret contract for Elbit.

After Iran announced drone attacks on Rafael and IAI in March of this year, the cooperation moved deeper into manufacturing. By June, Morocco's Sidi Yahya plant was reportedly producing Elbit ammunition.

In September, at a meeting in New York arranged by the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita and his Israeli counterpart, Gideon Sa'ar, agreed to turn their liaison offices into embassies, appoint ambassadors, and sign investment and tax treaties by the end of the year.

The coordination extends well beyond Gaza. Morocco was the first Abraham Accords state to sign a cyber-defence agreement with Israel. Moroccan intelligence also acquired Israel's Pegasus spyware, and allegedly used it against senior Spanish and French officials.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The expanding scope of risks: From maritime routes to investments and infrastructure

From page 1 ▶ In the scenarios being considered, this could include targeting American interests and companies operating in the region, including information technology and artificial intelligence companies, oil companies, and industries associated with petroleum derivatives and fertilizers. The danger of these possibilities lies in the fact that Persian Gulf economies depend on a stable business environment, the movement of trade, the continued flow of energy and investor confidence.

Consequently, an expansion in the scope of potential targeting could result in damage extending beyond direct losses, affecting investment, insurance, shipping and supply chains. As for the suggestion that such developments could lead to the collapse of Persian Gulf states or the complete depletion of their investments, this remains an extremely serious scenario rather than an inevitable outcome. Its consequences would depend on the scale and duration of the escalation, as well as the ability of these states to protect their economic infrastructure and adapt to shocks. This is particularly if the United States is defeated and abandons them.

The extension of the confrontation to targeting American economic interests opens up a new dimension of the conflict. This is because targeting commercial assets or companies linked to the United States could impose costs on Washington that extend beyond its military establishment. Companies operating in advanced technology, artificial intelligence and energy represent part of America's economic and strategic interests abroad.

Their presence in the region is also dependent on the availability of protection and stability, as well as the ability to conduct business under normal conditions. If the scope of security risks expands, insurance and operating costs could rise, investment appetite could decline, and host governments could face increasing pressure to provide additional protection. This highlights one of the potential strategic options: expanding the pressure from military assets to the economic interests underpinning the American presence and its



network of relationships in the region.

One of the more dangerous scenarios is the possibility that escalation could extend to submarine cables passing through strategic maritime corridors. These cables play an essential role in transmitting data and communications between countries, particularly the Persian Gulf states, where the scale of investment exceeds $200 billion, and between continents. Digital infrastructure has become an integral part of countries' economic and strategic security.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Alaska Native wins Senate race, gives Democrats 56 seats

Democrat Mary Peltola has won Alaska's hard-fought Senate race, completing a sweeping victory for the party in the U.S. upper house in the midterm elections.

The win gives the Democrats a 56th Senate seat following a tumultuous and controversial election in Alaska, which featured alleged spoiler recruitment efforts and unprecedented court battles.

It took two full weeks of counting to call a winner in the 3 November poll due to the logistical challenge of collecting ballots from across the state's remote expanse.

It is the ninth Senate seat the Democrats have taken from Republicans in the midterms, giving the party control of the US Congress for the last two years of Donald Trump's presidency.

The Democrats also won back the House of Representatives, the lower chamber.

Peltola defeated the incumbent Republican senator, Dan S Sullivan, who is yet to comment.



In her victory statement, Peltola said the "status quo in DC is not working for Alaska".

She recalled speaking to "elders in tears about empty fish racks" and to parents in rural Alaska choosing between heating their homes and putting food on the table.

Peltola is the first Alaska Native elected to the US Senate, and is the first Democrat to win a U.S. Senate seat in Alaska since 2008.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Iran football team win Basra tournament

TEHRAN -Iran and Iraq football teams shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in Basra tournament Tuesday night.

In the match held at the Basra International Stadium, Hussein Ali put the Iraqi side into the lead just one minute into the match.

Mohammadamin Hazbavi leveled the score with six minutes remaining.

Iran had defeated Palestine 2-0 in their opening math, while Iraq were held by Lebanon.

Iran topped the table with four points, followed by Iraq and Lebanon with two points apiece.

Iran's performance at Dakar Youth Olympics was satisfactory:Azizi

TEHRAN - Hamid Azizi, head of Iran's delegation at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, has expressed satisfaction with the overall performance of the country's athletes, while stressing that comparing Iran's final standing with its previous appearance at Buenos Aires 2018 would not be a fair assessment.

Iran finished 38th in the medal table at Dakar 2026, collecting one gold, four silver and three bronze medals. The result marked a significant drop from the 2018 edition in Buenos Aires, where the Iranian delegation secured seven gold medals and finished seventh overall.

However, Azizi believes several factors must be taken into consideration when evaluating the two campaigns.

Iran competed in Dakar with 29 athletes across 14 sports, compared with 49 athletes at the previous edition. The delegation included a 10-member girls' futsal team, while athletes also represented the country in beach volleyball, badminton, beach wrestling, taekwondo, fencing, athletics, triathlon, judo and swimming.

Speaking exclusively to Tehran Times, Azizi highlighted the achievements of the Iranian athletes and pointed to several historic milestones.

"Overall, we returned home with 17 medals. The girls' futsal team won bronze medal, beach wrestling secured one silver and one bronze, taekwondo claimed one gold and one silver, judo won a silver medal, wushu earned a bronze, and swimming also secured a silver. On the official medal table, we finished with eight medals: one gold, four silver and three bronze," he said.

Azizi described the campaign as an important one for Iranian sport, particularly because of the historic achievements recorded in several disciplines.

"Among the valuable achievements of this edition was Iran winning its first-ever swimming medal at the Youth Olympic Games. Wushu also claimed a medal at this level for the first time. In addition, Iran's first female boxer competed in an event of this stature, while we also secured our first team medal at an Olympic Games," he added.

Asked whether he was satisfied with Iran's overall performance, Azizi insisted that the comparison with Buenos Aires 2018 needed to be viewed in its proper context.

"To compare Iran's performance in Dakar with its showing in Buenos Aires, we must first ensure that the comparison is based on the same criteria. We had 49 athletes in Argentina, whereas this time we competed with 29. Ten of those athletes were members of the girls' futsal team, and we effectively competed in 14 sports," he said.

He also highlighted the absence of several traditional medal-winning disciplines from the Dakar program.

"Sports such as freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling, weightlifting and karate, which are among Iran's main medal-winning disciplines, were not included in the Dakar program. Therefore, I believe a fairer assessment requires us to consider these differences."

Azizi acknowledged that Iran had not expected medals in certain sports, including cycling, badminton, athletics, triathlon, fencing and boxing, given the strength of the opposition.

Nevertheless, he said the delegation had entered several other disciplines with realistic medal ambitions and largely achieved its targets.

Sardar Azmoun: Iran have a bright future ahead

TEHRAN - Iran captain Sardar Azmoun has expressed optimism about the future of the national team, predicting positive things ahead at the AFC Asian Cup following their title-winning campaign at the Basra International Tournament.

Speaking after Iran's final match against Iraq, Azmoun said: "I am optimistic about the future of this national team, and I am confident that good things will happen at the Asian Cup."

Iran opened their campaign with a 2-0 victory over Palestine before playing out a 1-1 draw against hosts Iraq.

The result saw Amir Ghalenoei's side finish top of the four-team standings with four points, claiming the tournament title. Iraq and Lebanon finished second and third respectively with two points each, while Palestine ended bottom with one point.

Azmoun added that young players need time to adapt to the demands of international football.

"As I have said before, when young players are called up to the national team, the first and second training camps can be difficult for them. However, after that, the team can make significant progress in terms of cohesion and coordination," he said.

The Iran captain also praised the emerging talent within the squad, insisting that several young players deserve to remain part of the national team setup.

"We have some talented and promising young players who deserve to be included in future national team camps," Azmoun added.

Commenting on Saman Ghoddos' decision to retire from international football, Azmoun said the timing of such a decision was ultimately a personal choice.

"Every player decides for himself when to retire from international football, but I would like to thank Saman Ghoddos for choosing what I believe was the right time to say goodbye to the national team."

Iranian karate teams heading to China for 2026 World Cup

TEHRAN - Iran's men's and women's national karate teams departed for China on Monday night to compete in the 2026 World Team Karate Championships.

The tournament will be held in Hangzhou, China, from Nov. 20 to 22.

Iran's men's team will feature Aliasghar Asiabari, Mahmoud Nemati, Morteza Nemati, Mehdi Ashouri, Saleh Abazari, Amirabbas Beigmohammadlou, Mehdi Ganjzadeh and Esmaeil Motamedi. The team will be led by head coach Sajjad Ganjzadeh.

In the women's kumite competition, Iran will be represented by Fatemehzahra Saeedabadi, Mehrnegar Ahmadi, Mobina Heydari, Hananeh Salehi and Atena Mahboob Bashari, under the guidance of head coach Pegah Zanganeh.

Meanwhile, Fatemeh Sadeghi, Sepideh Amini, Zeinab Hosseini and Zahra Rezaei will represent Iran in the women's team kata event.

Iran Karate Federation Secretary-General Mohsen Ashouri will accompany the delegation as team manager.

Iran secures seat on FIA Eligibility Assessment Committee

TEHRAN – Iran has secured a seat on the International Automobile Federation's (FIA) Eligibility Assessment Committee, with the head of the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran elected to the six-member body for a four-year term starting January 1, 2027.



According to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the club's managing director was elected following a formal vote, based on a direct nomination by the FIA Senate.

FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem officially announced the appointment after the required procedures were completed, Miras Aria news agency reported on Wednesday.

Established under Article 25 of the FIA's new statutes, approved in 2026, the Eligibility Assessment Committee (EAC) is a senior oversight body responsible for examining the eligibility, professional qualifications, transparency and corporate governance standards of candidates seeking senior and decision-making positions within the federation.

The committee oversees appointments across the FIA's two main areas, mobility and tourism, and sport.

Its responsibilities cover a wide range of managerial, supervisory and judicial positions, including candidates for membership of the World Council for Automobile Mobility and Tourism (WCAMT) and the World Motor Sport Council (WMSC), as well as the FIA Senate, Ethics Committee and Audit Committee.

The EAC also assesses candidates for judicial positions, including judges and members of the International Tribunal (IT) and the International Court of Appeal (ICA), along with members of the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Committee and the Cost Cap Adjudication Panel.

The appointment gives Iran a role in one of the FIA's key oversight structures and provides an opportunity to participate in the federation's high-level governance and decision-making processes.

Iran's traditional felt-making craft needs new markets to survive

TEHRAN – Iran's traditional felt-making craft, known as namad-mali, faces an uncertain future as declining consumer demand, changing lifestyles and the gradual loss of traditional skills threaten its continuity. Although the centuries-old practice has considerable potential for producing a wide range of contemporary goods, artisans say its survival depends on developing sustainable markets, supporting workshops and passing on their knowledge to younger generations.



The craft, which involves transforming natural wool into a dense fabric through the application of water, soap and repeated rubbing and pressure, is among the oldest forms of textile production. Unlike woven fabrics, felt is made by interlocking wool fibers without the use of weaving or knitting. The process relies on the natural properties of wool and the skill and experience of the craftsperson.

For generations, felt was used to make practical household items and clothing, particularly in communities where sheep farming provided an accessible source of raw material. Its insulating properties and durability made it suitable for different climates and everyday needs.

Today, however, the craft is struggling to maintain its place in daily life, even as growing interest in traditional knowledge and handmade products offers opportunities for its revival.

Esmaeil Nikookar, an experienced felt-making specialist based in Gilan province, northern Iran, believes that international recognition could help bring renewed attention to the craft, but says official recognition alone will not guarantee its survival.

"Reviving felt-making requires more than international registration. It needs wider markets for its products, the introduction of new applications and effective support for artisans," he told the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts' news service.

His remarks come as felt-making is being prepared for consideration through a multinational nomination to a session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The proposed nomination offers an opportunity to highlight the craft's cultural significance and the shared traditions of communities involved in its practice.

For artisans such as Nikookar, however, the real test will be whether greater recognition translates into stronger demand, viable livelihoods and renewed interest among younger generations.

A craft shaped by climate and local knowledge

Felt-making in Iran reflects the country's geographical and climatic diversity, with traditional techniques adapted to local conditions and the intended uses of the finished products.

In northern Iran, where humidity and rainfall are relatively high, felt-makers traditionally produce denser and more tightly compressed pieces to improve their durability and resistance to moisture.

Nikookar said artisans in these areas devote considerable time and effort to pressing and compacting wool, drawing on experience accumulated over generations to produce felt suited to the local environment.

Traditional felt products were known for their strength and insulating qualities. When properly made, their tightly interlocked fibers created a dense structure that helped protect users against cold, heat and rain.

These characteristics reflect a practical understanding of natural materials rather than merely an artistic tradition. The ability to select suitable wool, regulate moisture and apply the right amount of pressure is central to producing a durable piece of felt.

Felt-making also illustrates how communities developed everyday technologies using materials readily available to them. Sheep's wool, in particular, provided a versatile resource for making protective clothing and household items long before modern synthetic textiles became widespread.

Although the craft has deep historical roots, Nikookar believes its usefulness should not be confined to the past.

Beyond traditional mats: New possibilities for felt products

One of the main opportunities for the revival of felt-making lies in expanding its range of products and adapting traditional techniques to contemporary tastes.

While felt is commonly associated with floor coverings and other traditional household items, Nikookar says the material can be used to make a much broader range of goods, including footwear, socks, trousers, waistcoats, hats and women's handbags.

Such products could help introduce felt to consumers who may have little interest in traditional items but are attracted to distinctive handmade accessories and clothing.

Wool's natural insulating properties are another advantage. Its fibrous structure slows the transfer of heat, helping felt products retain warmth in cold conditions while also providing some insulation against external heat.

These properties could be emphasized in the development and marketing of contemporary felt goods, particularly those designed for outdoor use, clothing and home accessories.

However, turning these possibilities into commercial opportunities requires more than producing new designs. Artisans need access to appropriate markets, product development opportunities and a better understanding of changing consumer preferences.

Nikookar believes that a combination of traditional craftsmanship and modern design could give felt-making a new role in the handicraft market without sacrificing its distinctive production methods.

Declining demand threatens the craft's continuity

Despite its potential, the most immediate challenge facing felt-making is the shrinking market for its products.

Nikookar considers declining public interest and reduced consumption among the main threats to the craft's survival. When consumers stop purchasing handmade products, production gradually contracts, leaving artisans with fewer financial incentives to continue working.

His own experience illustrates how changing lifestyles can affect not only the market for traditional goods but also the skills associated with making them.

He continues to produce a type of traditional hat that his father once made. The hat was once associated with a particular social standing and was commonly worn by community elders, prominent individuals and wealthier members of society.

As clothing preferences and social customs changed, demand for the item declined. With fewer people using it, the specialized knowledge required to produce it also became increasingly vulnerable to neglect.

For Nikookar, this is a reminder that the disappearance of a traditional product can lead to the gradual loss of an entire body of practical knowledge.

Exhibitions, meanwhile, have offered some opportunities to introduce the craft to new audiences, although they have not necessarily resulted in sustained commercial demand.

He recalled receiving encouraging attention from visitors at handicrafts exhibitions, including one in Shahr-e Kord. Yet public interest did not always translate into purchases.

"The main issue is establishing a connection between artisans' products and consumers' actual needs," he said.

This distinction is important for the future of traditional crafts. While exhibitions can raise awareness and provide opportunities for artisans to present their work, they cannot replace regular sales channels and a dependable customer base.

Developing a sustainable market, therefore, requires identifying products that people are willing to buy and use, rather than relying solely on the cultural appeal of traditional craftsmanship.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

COP31: Iran determined to accelerate low-carbon transition through solar energy

TEHRAN – Iran's solar power capacity has increased fivefold over the past two years, reflecting the country's determination to harness clean energy and transition toward low-carbon development, the head of the National Center for Weather and Climate Change affiliated with the Department of Environment (DOE) said.

Emphasizing the need to uphold the principles of climate justice and "common but differentiated responsibilities" in international cooperation, Ahmad Taheri said developing countries have contributed the least to global greenhouse gas emissions but are among those most severely affected by climate change, IRNA reported.

The official made the remarks while addressing the D-8 Ministerial Session on Climate Action, on the sidelines of the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31), being held in the city of Antalya from November 9 to 20 in Antalya, Turkey.

The official also called for strengthening cooperation on climate among member states, and facilitating developing countries' access to financial resources and clean technologies, noting that unilateral coercive sanctions should not hinder countries' fair and forecastable access to climate finance, environmental technologies, and essential equipment.

Referring to the shared challenges of D-8 member states in climate change, including water scarcity, drought, desertification, extreme weather events, pressures on ecosystems, and threats to food security, Taheri said addressing these challenges requires greater solidarity, coordinated actions, and the expansion of regional cooperation.

The official went on to announce Iran's readiness to share expertise and technical knowledge with D-8 member states, and proposed expanding ties in fields like developing clean technologies, managing water resources, enhancing the climate resilience of cities and rural communities, and implementing joint projects.

The first meeting of D-8 environment ministers was held in Istanbul on July 16–17. It was chaired by Murat Kurum, Turkey's



Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change.

The meeting brought together senior officials from all nine D-8 member states: Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. The central outcome was the unanimous adoption of the "Istanbul D-8 Ministerial Declaration on Climate Action and Preparation for COP31".

The D-8 Ministerial Session on Climate Action was held on November 17 under the theme of 'From Istanbul to Antalya: D-8 Partnership on Climate Implementation'.

It called for a shift from climate pledges to concrete implementation through accessible finance and technology transfer.

Ministers agreed to develop a dedicated framework to guide the bloc's cooperation on climate adaptation over the next five years.

During the session, delegations from member states also presented their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

COP31 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 also attended the conference for the first time. This marks the first time an Iranian president 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.

Ansari 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.

Highlighting war-related environmental damage at COP31, Ansari said reconstruction after the war should be viewed as an opportunity not merely to restore pre-war conditions, but to promote green recovery, advance sustainable development, and address environmentally harmful development patterns.

She stressed that the consequences of war extend far beyond the cessation of military hostilities, leaving lasting impacts on soil, water, air, forests, wetlands, and natural habitats that can persist for years and affect future generations.

The official made the remarks on Monday at an international conference titled "The Shadow of War on People and Nature in the Region."

Ansari said designating November 6 as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict serves as a reminder that environmental protection must not be sidelined during wartime. Assessments of the environmental consequences of armed conflicts, she added, should begin during conflicts rather than be postponed until they end.

Referring to the five interconnected pillars of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda — people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership — Ansari said these dimensions could not be achieved independently. The experience of war, she noted, demonstrates that peace is the essential foundation for achieving the other dimensions of sustainable development.

Without peace, people's security and health are endangered, natural resources and ecosystems are damaged, and opportunities for social participation and national and international cooperation are undermined.

From this perspective, peace means more than simply the absence of war; it is closely linked to human security, public health, sustainable access to resources, and the ability to live with dignity. Protecting water, soil, air, and ecosystems is therefore an integral part of human security and lasting peace, she said.

Highlighting the direct and indirect environmental impacts of armed conflicts, Ansari said attacks on industrial and energy facilities, fires at fuel storage sites, pollutant emissions, damage to water and sewage infrastructure, and contamination of water and soil create interconnected environmental and public health hazards.

Many of these impacts may not be immediately visible, she noted, but can persist for years, affecting livelihoods, food chains, and the health of local communities.

The experience of conflicts in other countries also shows that environmental consequences do not end when military operations cease, Ansari said.

If environmental concerns are not given a clearly defined place in damage assessments, relief programs, and reconstruction policies, she warned, part of the cost of war will be passed on to future generations.

WFP releases October report on Iran

TEHRAN – The World Food Program (WFP) has released a report, expounding on activities in Iran over the month of October.

In October, WFP food assistance reached 36,572 beneficiaries, including Afghan and Iraqi refugees, through a hybrid combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT).

Under the in-kind food assistance, WFP distributed 287.42 mt of fortified wheat flour (ration of 9 kg per person). In larger settlements, the flour is provided to support well established bakeries, while in smaller settlements, flour rations are distributed directly to beneficiary households.

Under cash-based assistance, the minimum Expenditure Basket was revised in collaboration with CAFIA, thereby increasing beneficiaries' cash entitlements by up to 67 percent effective October 2026.

Monthly transfers for male-headed households rose from IRR 8 million to IRR 13 million per person, while those for female-headed households increased from IRR 9 million to IRR 15 million per person.

By October, WFP Iran helped ease the financial burden associated with the gluten-free dietary needs of 60 refugee celiac patients from WFP's beneficiaries by increasing their additional cash entitlement From IRR 9.7 million to IRR 40 million on top of their regular food assistance.

WFP supported 416 refugees with disabilities across ten settlements, with their additional monthly cash entitlement increasing from IRR 3 million to IRR 6 million per person, on top of regular assistance.

The school feeding program and education incentives resumed in October, following the reopening of schools for the new academic year, reaching 8,540 students.

In October, WFP supported 27 income-generating projects in 18 settlements to improve economic resilience and self-sufficiency for 334 refugees, 44 percent of whom were women, and the remainder were youth. These activities included welding, tailoring, baking, farming, and other trades, providing opportunities for women and youth to develop practical skills, strengthen social connections, and actively engage with their communities.

WFP continues to oversee coordination with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and MoFA on Sendai Framework reporting, supporting the monitoring and reporting of disaster losses, risks, and progress against global disaster risk reduction targets.

Additionally, discussions were held with UN partners to consolidate DRRM priorities for the two-year United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) covers 2023–2027 extension, helping integrate disaster risk reduction into strategic UN planning and government engagement processes.

During October, eight rounds of cash transfers were completed for Iranians affected by the conflict across six provinces: Tehran, Alborz, Sistan-Baluchestan, Bushehr, Hormozgan, and Khuzestan. A total of 2,568 households (9,568 individuals) received WFP assistance during the reporting period.

Verified and eligible households received cash assistance based on household size. Households with one to three members received IRR 210 million; households with four to five members received IRR 350 million; and households with six or more members received the maximum transfer amount of IRR 420 million.

Operational needs in Iran remain fluid and require regular adjustment and reassessment of funding requirements.

Despite the uncertain response scale –driven both by continued refugee movements and the evolving needs of the host community – available resources remain insufficient to meet the needs of impacted populations under any currently foreseeable scenario.

In 2025, WFP sustained food assistance to some 33,300 vulnerable refugees living in 20 settlements across 13 provinces, including 404 refugees with disabilities (40 percent women) who received monthly cash top-ups. About 183 women and 190 men received WFP livelihood support.

WFP doubled cash transfer values since January 2025, safeguarding access to food amid price volatility and protecting the most vulnerable households.

Assistance remained uninterrupted, with targeted adjustments: wheat flour entitlements reduced from 12 kg to 9 kg (Nov-Dec) and school snacks paused (Oct-Dec) to stretch limited resources.

To promote girls' education and reduce barriers to attendance, approximately 2,629 girl students received cash incentives as part of WFP's commitment to empowering young women. Some 9,261 boys and girls and their teachers benefitted from WFP school snacks.

For more than four decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has hosted Afghans fleeing conflict and hardship. In 2025, WFP remained essential to protecting the food security of vulnerable refugees residing in 20 settlements, where households rely on shelter, education and primary health care by the Government and other humanitarian actors, complemented by WFP's monthly food assistance (through cash and in-kind modalities).

The program's focus is on maintaining a dignified minimum basic needs while prioritizing those with the highest vulnerability, including households headed by women and persons with disabilities.

Operations are implemented in close collaboration and coordination with the Center for Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (CAFIA), WFP's primary governmental counterpart, and with International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) and UN agencies, mainly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to ensure coherent refugee support and referral pathways.

(See full text at tehrantimescom)

75 earthquakes hit Iran in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 75 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from November 7 to 13, according to seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 73 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, two earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 3.8 on the Richter scale which occurred on November 12 in Kerman province.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi experienced the highest number of earthquakes with 18, followed by South Khorasan with 9, and North Khorasan with 8 earthquakes.

During the same period, no earthquakes were recorded in Tehran, Alborz, Ilam, Bushehr, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Khuzestan, Zanjan, Semnan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Qom, Qazvin, Golestan, Gilan, Markazi, and Hamedan provinces.

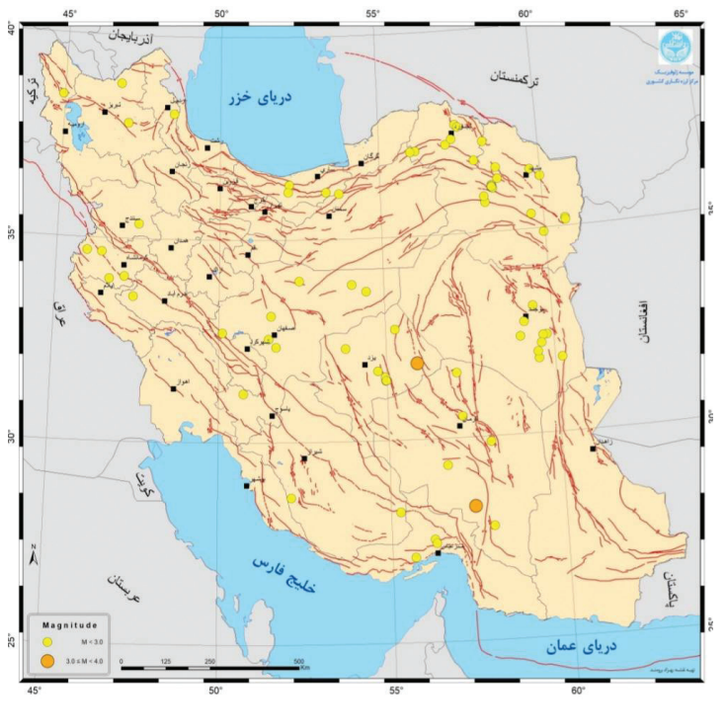
A total of 2,380 earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 2.5 on the Richter scale were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2025–March 2026), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, Mehr news agency reported.

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.

Iran has entered a decade of earthquakes since the [Iranian calendar] year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), as the Iranian plateau is shrinking by 30 millimeters per year, Mehdi Zare, professor of engineering seismology at the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and



Seismology (IIEES), has said.

The Strait of Hormuz region in the south of Iran has the highest seismic activity in the region and its formation is related to the continuation of the convergent movement between the Arabian plate and the central continental plate of Iran.

Tehran is also one of the most hazardous metropolises in the world in terms of the risk of different natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, subsidence, drought, landslides, fire following an earthquake, etc.

On the other hand, Tehran has a nighttime population of over 8,300,000 with a mixture of old non-resistant structures as well as modern high-rise buildings that affect the vulnerability of this city.

CITEX 2026: Tehran mayor highlights innovation to tackle urban challenges

TEHRAN – Science, technology and innovation, coupled with public participation, are essential to addressing Tehran's urban challenges and improving citizens' quality of life, Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani has said.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of CITEX 2026, held under the slogan "Iran Leading the Way" at Milad Tower, Zakani highlighted the importance of engaging universities, knowledge-based companies and innovators in urban development.

He also identified air pollution and traffic congestion as among Tehran's major challenges, stressing that technological solutions and stronger cooperation with the scientific community could help address them.

CITEX brings together more than 100 knowledge-based companies to showcase innovative technologies and solutions designed to address the capital's urban challenges.

Running until November 20, the event is open to the public.

CITEX focuses on three main areas: transportation, financial services and financial technology (fintech), and citizen services. It aims to strengthen cooperation among municipal authorities, technology companies, researchers, and investors, fostering innovation in urban management and contributing to an improved quality of life for residents.

The event will also provide opportunities for investors and major economic institutions to explore investment prospects and support the commercialization of innovative products. Selected companies will be eligible for financial prizes and banking facilities, with the aim of helping them bring their solutions to market and establish cooperation with the municipality.

Key topics on the agenda include smart transportation, integrated energy management and solutions to energy imbalances, circular economy development, urban waste management, the application of digital economy solutions in municipal administration, and sustainable urban financing.

By connecting technological capabilities with the municipality's practical needs, CITEX aims to provide a platform for identifying innovative solutions and facilitating their implementation in various urban sectors.

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 19, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The doer of evil is worse than the evil itself.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:50 Evening: 17:15 Dawn: 5:17 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:45 (tomorrow)

Street theater artists honor Shajareh Tayyebeh martyred students at 20th Resistance Theater Festival

TEHRAN – The first day of the street theater performances of the "Sardar-e Asemani" (Heavenly Commander) section at the 20th International Resistance Theater Festival was held in the courtyard of City Theater, Enghelab Square, and Vali-e-Asr (AS) Square in Tehran, featuring seven performing groups and the participation of enthusiastic spectators.

On the opening day, artists paid tribute to the students and staff of Shajareh Tayyebeh school in Minab, who were martyred in an attack by the US in February, Mehr reported.

The artists aimed to reaffirm that the tragedy of the martyrdom of Iran's children at the hands of American-Zionist enemies will never be erased from the memory of the artistic community and the people of this land.

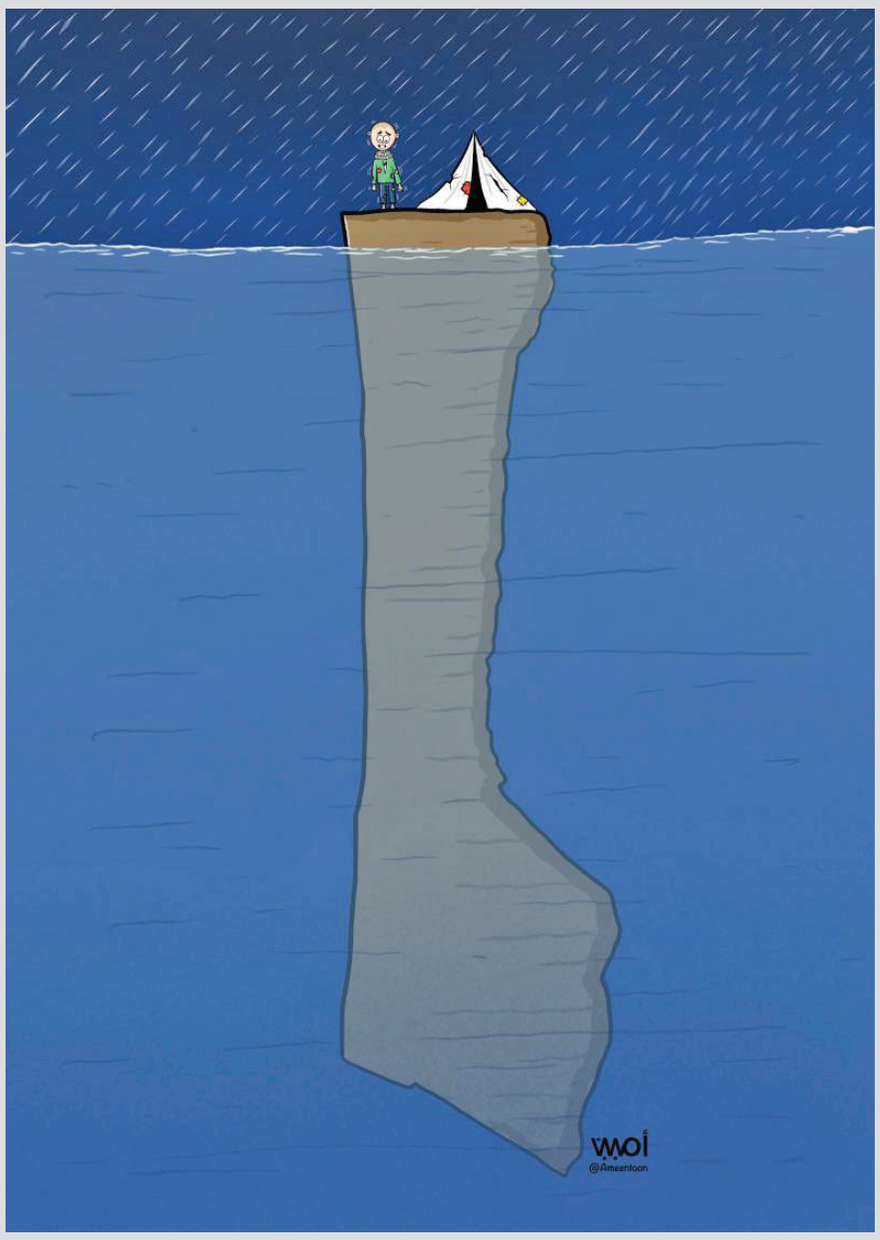
Through their creative perspectives, the street theater artists sought to narrate themes of martyrdom, resistance, and the steadfastness of the children, women, and men of Iran—particularly regarding the 12-Day War and the Ramadan War. By addressing fresh subjects drawn from social events and political crises, they aimed to engage and connect with the audience.

The 20th International Resistance Theater Festival, held under the theme "Iran, the Eternal Stage of Resistance," is directed by Mohammad Kazemtabar. It includes several sections, among them playwriting, stage theater, street theater, scientific and research activities, workshops and an international section. It is being hosted in Tehran and other Iranian cities.

The Resistance Theater Festival has developed over two decades as an event centered on themes including the Sacred Defense, the Islamic Revolution and broader concepts of resistance. Its organizers have also sought to expand the festival beyond conventional theater productions by incorporating workshops, research programs and street performances.

The current edition's call for submissions highlighted themes ranging from the experiences of the Sacred Defense and the lives of martyrs and fighters to Palestine, Gaza, the role of women in resistance and contemporary events. The festival's research section is also intended to encourage academic and interdisciplinary discussion about resistance theater and its social and cultural functions.

Cartoon of Day



Floods in Gaza
Cartoonist: Ameen Alhabarah from Saudi Arabia

Foreign theater groups to join Marivan International Street Theater Festival



TEHRAN- Theater groups from Russia, Turkey and Iraq will take part in the 19th Marivan International Street Theater Festival, which will bring together 40 groups and 270 participants, the organizers announced at a press conference in Tehran on Tuesday.

The international program will feature a performing group from Russia, a special guest from the country, a joint Iranian-Turkish production, and two performances from Iraq, according to Rouhollah Iraji, director of the festival's international section.

The festival, one of Iran's major events dedicated to street theater, will be held in the western Iranian city of Marivan, with performances planned in public spaces as well as unconventional venues, including schools, prisons and military barracks.

Festival secretary Fateh Badparva said the event would be held on a non-competitive basis this year, with the emphasis placed on artistic exchange and celebration rather than competition.

He described the Marivan festival as one of Iran's most specialized events dedicated to street theater, adding that its objectives extend beyond artistic activities to include promoting the tourism potential of the western Kurdish city.

The festival traces its origins to 1993, when five editions of a regional stage theater event were held under the name of the Marivan Theater Festival. It subsequently developed into a nationwide event and gradually established an international presence.

Badparva said the organizers had initially been concerned that removing the competitive format might affect participation, but the response from theater groups had been encouraging.

Several social and environmental issues will receive particular attention in this edition. Water scarcity and the importance of responsible water consumption are among the main themes, while works addressing the tragedy at Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab, Hormozgan province, have also been considered in the selection process.

The tragedy at Shajareh Tayyebeh Elementary School occurred on February 28, when a missile strike hit the school during the US-Israeli military attacks on Iran. The attack killed dozens of children, mostly aged between seven and 12, along with teachers and school staff, making it one of the deadliest attacks on civilians during the conflict.

Badparva said the ongoing war and its consequences would be another subject addressed through the performances, emphasizing the role of theater in reflecting social concerns.

Atabak Naderi, director general of performing arts at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, also highlighted the importance of using theatrical language to raise public awareness about water conservation. He said theater artists could help communicate the need for more responsible use of water resources through their performances.

The program will extend beyond conventional outdoor stages. Performances are planned at Shano Park, Lake Zarivar, schools, prisons, military barracks and other locations across the city. The unconventional venues are part of the festival's experimental performance section, which seeks to explore different relationships between theater, public spaces and audiences.

The organizers are also expanding the festival's academic dimension. Ali Abdolrahimzadeh, secretary of the research seminar, said 61 paper abstracts had been submitted, of which 46 were shortlisted and 39 papers were eventually selected by the selection panel. Fourteen papers will be presented in person, while six will be displayed in poster format.

Researchers from India and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq will also contribute to the seminars through online presentations. Speakers Majid Sarsangi and Mohammad-Hossein Nasserbakht will participate in discussions with researchers.

Abdolrahimzadeh said the long-term objective was to strengthen the connection between street theater and academic theater studies, potentially through the establishment of specialized university courses or a dedicated academic program.

The festival will also feature Kordestan Music Nights, organized in cooperation with the Music Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's deputy for artistic affairs. Calligraphy masters will take part in accompanying programs during the event.

According to executive secretary Avat Hesami, 40 theater groups comprising 270 participants will attend the festival. He noted that the challenging circumstances of the past two years had affected cultural and artistic activities in the country, but cooperation among artists and organizers had helped maintain the event.

The press conference concluded with the unveiling of the festival poster in the presence of Mehdi Shafiei, deputy minister for artistic affairs, Naderi, Badparva and Hesami.

Marivan City is located in the west of Kordestan province, in the west of Iran. This city shares a 100 kilometers border with Iraqi Kurdistan.

Marivan International Street Theater Festival is one of the most important major artistic events in the field of performing arts in the country. Since 1994, the city of Marivan has been included in the list of cities with independent theater festivals in the country by holding the first memorial of the Marivan theater.

The year 2001 should be considered as the starting point for the performance of street shows in Marivan because the sixth anniversary of the Marivan Regional Theater was held that year. The first national festival of Marivan street theater was held in 2004.

Street theater is a form of theatrical performance and presentation in outdoor public spaces without a specific paying audience. These spaces can be anywhere, including shopping centers, car parks, recreational reserves, college or university campuses, and street corners. They are especially seen in outdoor spaces where there are large numbers of people.

The actors who perform street theater range from buskers to organized theater companies or groups that want to experiment with performance spaces, or to promote their mainstream work. It was a source of providing information to people when there were no sources of providing information like television, radio, etc. Nowadays, sometimes performers are commissioned, especially for street festivals, children's shows, or parades.

Street theater is a way to make traditional theater accessible for those who may not be able to otherwise attend or afford tickets. The audience typically consists of anyone and everyone who wants to watch and for most performances is free public entertainment.

Italian artist reimagines Madonna paintings to expose Gaza's pain

Italian artist Eduardo Castaldo has unveiled a new installation in Naples in which he tears away a painting depicting the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus to reveal a photograph of a Palestinian mother and child in Gaza.

The striking work is part of his "Holy Mothers of Gaza" series, an art project that uses Christian religious imagery to draw attention to the suffering of Palestinian women and children, The National reported.

Castaldo unveiled the latest artwork on Wednesday at the Pappacoda Chapel, part of the Basilica of San Giovanni Maggiore in Naples, before an audience that included students, teachers and residents.

The photograph revealed beneath a painting of the Virgin Mary was taken by Palestinian photojournalist Omar El Qattaa, whose work has documented the human toll of the war.

Rather than removing the religious image entirely, Castaldo tears away part of the artwork, melding the images of the two mothers and their children.

The juxtaposition draws parallels between the Christian depiction of maternal love and the experiences of Palestinian mothers struggling to protect their children.

The unveiling was followed by a presentation at the nearby Basilica of San Giovanni Maggiore featuring Italian art historian Tomaso Montanari.

The event formed part of Vedi Napoli Sacra e Misteriosa e Poi Torni, a cultural program organized by the City of Naples in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Naples, bringing together art, spirituality and discussions about peace.

The latest work is part of a wider project spread across Naples, where Castaldo has been melding photographs taken by Palestinian photojournalists with paintings depicting the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus.

Many of the pieces are displayed in or around the city's traditional religious shrines, known as edicole votive, which have long been a feature of Naples' streets and neighborhoods.

One particularly striking work superimposes a painting of the Virgin Mary with a photograph of a Palestinian mother cradling the body of her baby, wrapped in a white shroud.

Among the photographers whose works have been featured in the project are Belal Khaled, Ali Jadallah, Ahmad Hasaballah and El Qattaa.

The installations can be found across Naples' historic center, with their locations plotted on an online map that allows visitors to follow the artworks through the city.

For Castaldo, the project also draws on his own experience of documenting conflict in the Middle East.

Born in Naples in 1977, he began working as a photojournalist in 2006, initially covering organized crime and social issues in southern Italy.

Castaldo later spent almost eight years based between Jerusalem and Cairo, covering political unrest and conflict across the Middle East for international publications.

His reporting in Egypt earned him a World Press Photo award in 2012.

But in 2014, Castaldo decided to leave photojournalism behind.

"For years, I completely discarded my portfolio from my works in the Middle East. I didn't want to use those pictures. I didn't feel like I had any right to use them", he told street art publication UP Magazine in April.

"I always had concerns about my position. I felt like a western guy who took pictures of people from the Middle East that were sold to western newspapers, participating in a narrative that I didn't agree with at all. I always thought that I was selling people in their most vulnerable moments and experiences to others."

He eventually began reworking his documentary images into street art, using public spaces to communicate stories that he felt needed to be seen beyond newspapers and magazines.

His work has since drawn attention to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, the suffering of civilians in Gaza and the displacement of Palestinians, alongside broader issues of migration, political oppression, and human rights.

The act of tearing religious imagery in "Holy Mothers of Gaza" is a means of provoking reflection rather than of destroying something sacred, he said.

"The tear of the icon becomes an act of necessary sorrow; it is the wound that heals, unites, and moves us to compassion," he said.