Straight Truth

WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 500,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 47th year | No. 15480 | Monday | November 23, 2026 | Azar 2, 1405 | Jumada al-Thani 13, 1448

Permits issued for implementation of 6 flare gas collection projects

TEHRAN- The Deputy for Environmental Protection of the HSE General Directorate of the Oil Ministry announced the issuance of permits for six projects to reduce flare gas in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21) stating: "The program for collecting associated petroleum gas is underway using the capacity of the private sector and subsidiary companies of the Oil Ministry." ▸ Page 4

How was Lebanon's Independence Day hijacked?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON — Lebanese President Joseph Aoun's Independence Day speech was supposed to unite the nation around sovereignty, dignity and liberation.

Instead, it delivered a deeply divisive political message, placing the Iranian support and the weapons of the Resistance alongside the Israeli occupation as challenges to Lebanon's independence.

At a moment when the Israeli enemy continues to occupy and annex Lebanese territory, this was not merely a political miscalculation; it was an alarming distortion of the meaning of independence.

True independence begins with liberating southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation; it was, and has always been, the Resistance's weapons that forced the Israeli occupation regime to withdraw, not international condemnations, diplomatic statements or UN resolutions. ▸ Page 5

Displaced Gazans take to the streets as Israel keeps bombing them, demolishing their homes

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Hundreds of displaced Palestinians gathered near the so-called Yellow Line in central Gaza on Saturday to protest Israeli air strikes and the demolition of their homes, six weeks after the first anniversary of the U.S.-backed "ceasefire" and with no sign that the line they live beside has stopped moving.

"More than 500 housing units have been destroyed in less than a month," Mohammed Musleh, mayor of the Maghazi municipality, told Al Jazeera.

He called it "a systematic policy of gradual creeping displacement aimed at forcing residents out of their camp and destroying as many homes as possible." ▸ Page 5

IRCS proposes BRICS network for creative and resilient women

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has proposed the establishment of a BRICS network aimed at empowering creative and resilient women and strengthening cooperation among women across member states.

Speaking about the potential of BRICS member countries, Razieh Alishvandi, IRCS deputy director for international and humanitarian law affairs, said the proposed network would provide a platform for sharing expertise and knowledge, organizing joint exhibitions, developing digital education, showcasing women's products and achievements, and facilitating small businesses' access to regional and international markets, the IRCS website reported.

The official made the remarks while addressing the International BRICS Youth Women's Forum held from November 19 to 21 in Saint Petersburg, Russia. ▸ Page 7



© File photo

Space program accelerates

Iran Building 35 New Satellites

Iran is building over 35 satellites, including the 24-satellite Shahid Soleimani constellation, with three models set for unveiling in February. With Simorgh and Qaem launchers operational and 180 private firms using space data, Tehran cements its place among the few nations with full satellite manufacturing and launch capability.

TEHRAN – Iran is currently building more than 35 new satellites, including a 24-satellite communications constellation, as the country pushes to expand its indigenous space capabilities from manufacturing and launch to data-driven services, head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) Hassan Salariyeh has announced.

Salariyeh, who also serves as deputy minister of communications and information technology, made the remarks on Sunday on the sidelines of the third Omid Media Cup in Tehran, in comments carried by IRNA.

According to Salariyeh, three models of the Shahid Soleimani constellation — the country's first major low Earth orbit (LEO) communications constellation in its first phase comprising 24 satellites — will be unveiled during the Ten-Day Fajr ceremonies in February, marking the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

35 satellites under construction nationwide

Salariyeh said the 35 satellites under development cover a wide range, from high-resolution imaging and radar satellites to telecommunications satellites, built by state institutions, universities and private firms under the overall management, policymaking and regulation of the ISA within the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

In addition to the Shahid Soleimani system, imaging satellites with one-meter resolution and better, as well as radar imaging satellites, are on the production line, alongside other projects in both governmental and private sectors.

Radar satellites, he noted, use radar technology to image the Earth's surface independently of weather conditions, cloud cover, snow and other obstructions.

From mines to weather: why imaging data matters

A central part of Salariyeh's remarks was devoted to applications, underscoring that the space program is not symbolic but deeply tied to economic and environmental management. ▸ Page 3



Araghchi at Oman's National Day in Tehran:

Oman not merely a neighbor, but a friend, brotherly nation

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN — The Omani Embassy in Tehran organized and hosted a commemorative reception at Esteghlal Hotel in Tehran on the evening of Saturday, November 21, to mark Oman's National Day. The event brought together a distinguished group of officials and authorities from Iran—most notably Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi—alongside ambassadors, ▸ Page 3

IRGC strikes US patriot radar systems in Bahrain, downs 20th American MQ-1 drone

TEHRAN – Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has announced strikes on two US Patriot air defense radar systems at military bases in Bahrain and the interception and destruction of another American MQ-1 reconnaissance-combat drone over the eastern Strait of Hormuz, warning that any violation of Iran's airspace will be met with a decisive response. ▸ Page 2

Qalibaf: Iran has achieved military deterrence, but it must be strengthened

TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf says Iran has established military deterrence against its adversaries through the capabilities and performance of its Armed Forces, but stressed that this position must be further strengthened to prevent future threats and safeguard the country's security.

In remarks on Sunday, Qalibaf said achieving sustainable deterrence was essential to keeping enemy threats away from Iran and its people, calling for practical measures to bring an end to the current state of "neither war nor peace."

He said the country must move beyond repetitive political debates and focus on clear, effective steps to overcome the prevailing uncertainty. ▸ Page 2

20th International Resistance Theater Festival concludes in Tehran

TEHRAN – The closing ceremony of the 20th International Resistance Theater Festival was held on Saturday, November 21, at the Art Bureau in Tehran.

Mohammad Kazemtabar, the festival secretary, was the first speaker at the ceremony. "One of the events that profoundly affected our hearts was the martyrdom of our Leader; however, we were ultimately able to hold this festival," he said.

"Tonight is the celebration of the Islamic Revolution Theater. I would like to thank all of you for accompanying us on this journey. To those whose names are announced during the ceremony, I offer my congratulations in advance, and to those whose names are not called, I say that this is not the end of the road," he was quoted as saying by Mehr. ▸ Page 8

Armenian delegation visits war-damaged sections of UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace

TEHRAN – An Armenian delegation, accompanied by Iranian judiciary officials, visited damaged sections of the UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace in central Tehran on Saturday to inspect the impact of US and Israeli airstrikes on the historic complex.

Alireza Razeghi, director of the Golestan Palace World Heritage complex, accompanied the visitors on Saturday and outlined the damage sustained by different sections of the historic site. He also briefed them on the palace's history, cultural significance and international heritage value, IRNA reported.

Razeghi emphasized that Golestan Palace, which is inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, is not merely part of Iran's national history and cultural identity but also an important component of the shared heritage of humanity. ▸ Page 6

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

A peace agreement that says nothing about wars in Ukraine and Iran!

Sobh-e-No examined the outcome of the Shenzhen summit. According to the newspaper, the trilateral meeting between the presidents of China, the United States, and Russia became less a display of Washington's power and more a demonstration of Beijing's and Moscow's growing influence. What remained in the public memory was not a major breakthrough for peace or a decisive diplomatic achievement, but the image of the US president standing alongside America's two principal rivals and openly praising them. One of the main criticisms raised by Western media concerned the gap between Donald Trump's claims about advancing global peace and the actual results of the summit. Despite being presented as a peace-oriented gathering, the final joint statement made no mention of either the war in Ukraine or the conflict involving Iran, even though Russia and the United States, the two central actors at the meeting, are directly connected to those crises.

Javan: This is a civilizational war

Javan assessed the outlook of those in Iran who frequently advocate peace. The newspaper argued that many supporters of peace regard it as a condition that can be reached through political will and concessions. According to the paper, when Trump says he wants Iran's oil, the issue should be understood as part of a broader civilizational conflict pursued through the tactic of resource exploitation. The article maintained that Trump cannot simply engage in a "win-win" negotiation with Iran and end the confrontation because, in a civilizational struggle, the costs of peace may exceed the costs of war, including sanctions and casualties. It argued that today's conflict is not fundamentally about territory, energy resources, or markets, but about competing narratives. Such narratives cannot be secured through ceasefires, concessions, or easy peace arrangements. In this view, those who repeatedly call for peace are operating within a different framework, while conflicts between civilizations ultimately revolve around demands for submission rather than compromise.

Resalat: Iran has influenced the economic interests of major powers

Resalat explored Iran's regional position and its impact on global affairs. The newspaper argued that despite possessing extensive military power, the United States was unable to achieve a conclusive political outcome through military means alone during the war against Iran. It further said that these developments affected Washington's ability to support Ukraine militarily. According to the article, two conflicts in different regions effectively became part of a single strategic challenge for the United States. It argued that the foreign policy of a global power cannot be analyzed separately in each theater. The Strait of Hormuz and the global energy market also demonstrated how a regional confrontation can directly affect the economic interests of major powers. From this perspective, Resalat suggested that the significance of the Shenzhen summit lies in the recognition by competing powers that dialogue and the management of strategic relations are necessary when facing the risk of broader instability.

Ettelaat: Diplomacy or military confrontation?

Ettelaat discussed the fragile state of diplomacy and the possibility of further escalation. The newspaper wrote that increased US military activity and Tehran's reciprocal threats indicate that the danger of confrontation remains. Washington is using economic and maritime pressure to strengthen its bargaining position, while Iran seeks to defend its economic and security interests. The article argued that any direct clash involving oil tankers or energy infrastructure could push the crisis into a much more dangerous phase. It identified three issues likely to be decisive in the coming days: the fate of oil tankers near Kharg Island, the outcome of diplomatic consultations mediated by regional states, and the conduct of Iranian and US forces in the Persian Gulf. According to the paper, recent developments show that the trajectory of conflict is not determined solely by military action. Oil markets, energy security, and diplomacy also play important roles in shaping future outcomes.

Hamshahri: Response to allegations about Iran

Hamshahri criticized unsubstantiated claims made by certain foreign media outlets regarding Iran. According to the newspaper, some American media organizations recently alleged that Iran intended to detonate a dirty bomb inside the United States. The paper highlighted the views of several American commentators who reject that assessment and offer a different interpretation. Citing these commentators, the article argued that Iran should not be regarded as the most likely actor to employ such weapons. It referred to comments by American political analyst Cenk Uygur, who said that Israel could even threaten the United States with a dirty bomb. According to the views quoted by Hamshahri, Israeli leaders do not see Americans as genuine allies but as expendable partners. The article concluded by noting that these commentators characterized Israel as the world's leading terrorist actor.

Qalibaf: Iran has achieved military deterrence, but it must be strengthened

From page 1 ▸ Qalibaf attributed Iran's achievement of military deterrence to the performance of its Armed Forces, alongside the rationality, determination and strategic judgment of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei.

He noted that Iran had made significant military gains over the past two years, from Operation True Promise to its resistance during the 12-day and 40-day wars imposed by the United States and the Israeli regime.

As a result, he said, the adversary had come to recognize that it could not launch another war against Iran on the scale of the 40-day aggression.



Qalibaf said the enemy had consequently shifted its focus toward undermining Iran's internal security, intensifying economic pressure and seeking to destabilize the country from within.

He emphasized that strengthening national unity, social cohesion and sustainable deterrence was essential to countering these efforts and safeguarding Iran's security.

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

During both conflicts, Iran mounted retaliatory operations against the aggressors, ultimately leading to ceasefires.

Iran has also maintained strict control over the Strait of Hormuz since the early days of the second war, amid escalating tensions with Washington in the region.

IRGC strikes US patriot radar systems in Bahrain, downs 20th American MQ-1 drone

From page 1 ▸ In a statement released late Saturday, the IRGC said its missile and drone units had targeted two radars associated with US Patriot air defense systems deployed at American military bases in Riffa and Awali, Bahrain.

According to the IRGC Public Relations Office, US military operations launched since early Saturday to escort and provide air cover for American forces in the region had failed to achieve their objectives and had instead inflicted heavy losses on the equipment and vessels they were intended to protect, both at sea and in the air.

The statement said the strikes followed violations of Iranian airspace by two US MQ-1 and MQ-9 reconnaissance-combat drones, prompting the IRGC Aerospace Force to launch an operation against American military positions at the two bases.

Another US drone shot down over Strait of Hormuz

In a separate statement on Sunday, the IRGC also announced that its air defense units had intercepted and destroyed a US MQ-1 extended-range (ER) reconnaissance-combat drone over the eastern Strait of Hormuz.

The corps said the drone was brought down by personnel of its Aerospace Force using a new-generation, advanced air defense system, which engaged the aircraft with precision and effectiveness.

According to the statement, the latest interception brought the number of US MQ-1 drones shot down by Iran to 20. It also marked the fourth US reconnaissance-combat drone destroyed by IRGC air defense systems within the preceding 24 hours.

The IRGC reiterated that any aggression against or violation of Iranian airspace would draw a forceful and decisive response from the country's Armed Forces.



It added that its air defense units remained at full operational readiness, employing advanced surveillance and reconnaissance systems to continuously monitor hostile movements across the region and detect, identify, and track aerial threats in real time.

Army chief praises Basij's role in safeguarding Iran's security and serving the public

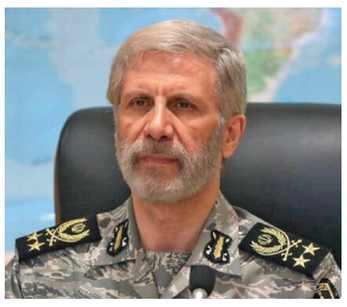
TEHRAN – Iranian Army Commander Major General Amir Hatami has praised the Basij Organization for its contributions to national security, public service, and crisis response, saying the volunteer force has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the country in times of need.

In a message marking Basij Week, Hatami described the organization as a lasting strategic initiative of the late Founder of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini, rooted in the faith, commitment, and determination of the Iranian people to defend the country's independence, security, and dignity.

He said the Basij had played an effective role in the Sacred Defense during the war imposed on Iran by the Iraqi Ba'athist regime, as well as in confronting security threats, supporting underprivileged communities, reconstruction efforts, emergency relief operations, scientific and cultural activities, and safeguarding public security.

According to Hatami, this record demonstrates that the Basij is more than an organization; it embodies a culture of faith, popular participation, social responsibility, and self-sacrifice.

He said this year's Basij Week slogan, "Basij: Devoted to the People, Hope for the Underprivileged," reflects the force's close ties with the public and its commitment to standing alongside people in difficult circumstances, including natural disasters and public service campaigns.



Public trust, he added, remains the Basij's greatest source of strength.

Referring to the recent war, Hatami said Basij members had stood alongside other branches of Iran's Armed Forces and the public in confronting complex threats to the country's independence, security, and territorial integrity.

Their presence, he said, demonstrated the force's capabilities and the Iranian people's readiness to defend their homeland.

Hatami concluded by paying tribute to Basij members who had lost their lives in service and extending his congratulations on Basij Week to its members, veterans, families of martyrs, and the Iranian nation, commending their continued dedication to serving the country.

Rezaei mocks Trump's Yalta comparison, says US has become a defeated power

TEHRAN – Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, has dismissed US President Donald Trump's comparison of a recent meeting with Chinese and Russian leaders to the 1945 Yalta Conference, saying the global balance of power has fundamentally changed and the United States is no longer the victorious power it once was.

In a post on his X account on Sunday, Rezaei said Iran in 2026 was fundamentally different from the Iran of the 1943 Tehran Conference and the 1945 Yalta Conference. He added that the United States, too, was no longer the power it had been at the time, describing it as a defeated country rather than a victorious one.

"Iran in 2026 is not the Iran of the 1943 Tehran Conference or the 1945 Yalta Conference. Likewise, America in 2026 is not the America of that era and has become a defeated country rather than a victorious one in the war!" he wrote.

"The world has changed; the current world order cannot be restored to the past with old photographs," Rezaei added.

His remarks came after Trump shared a graphic on his Truth Social platform drawing a parallel between himself, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Allied leaders who gathered at the Yalta Conference in February 1945.

Captioned "The Great Powers 1945, 2026," the graphic juxtaposed the historic photograph of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin with an image of Trump, Xi and Putin following their recent summit in China.

Trump had also described his Thursday meeting with Xi and Putin in Shenzhen as "bigger than Yalta."

IRGC adviser says IAEA chief is serving Israeli interests, warns he will face consequences

TEHRAN– Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naghdi, a senior adviser to the commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), has accused International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi of serving Israeli interests, warning that he will face the consequences of his actions.

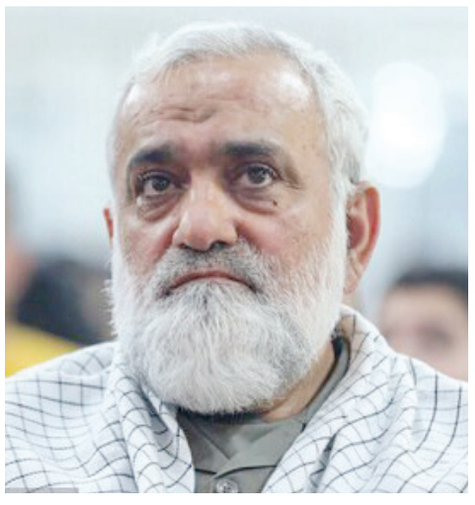
Speaking to Mehr News Agency on the sidelines of a ceremony honoring those who sacrificed their lives for Iran, Naghdi commented on Grossi's recent remarks and the IAEA's demand for access to Iran's nuclear facilities.

"Grossi is a Zionist and is not committed to any human laws or regulations. He is merely serving the Zionists," Naghdi said.

He added that God was watching everyone's actions and that Grossi would ultimately face the consequences of his conduct.

The remarks came after the conclusion of the IAEA Board of Governors' quarterly meeting in Vienna, where Iran's nuclear program once again featured on the agenda.

On the opening day of the meeting, Grossi raised allegations concerning Iran's uranium stockpiles and restrictions on inspectors' access to the country's nuclear facilities, calling for arrangements to be made to resume the agency's verification activities.



He also stressed the need to return to diplomacy and negotiations. However, his remarks came amid the continuing repercussions of US and Israeli military strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, which have further intensified Tehran's criticism of the agency's approach and conduct.

Pezeshkian calls again for end to 'neither war nor peace' situation

TEHRAN– President Masoud Pezeshkian has stressed the need for Iran to move beyond the state of "neither war nor peace" as soon as possible, with dignity and strength, describing the prolonged uncertainty as detrimental to the country and an obstacle to addressing its challenges.

Speaking on Saturday night, Pezeshkian said Iran's adversaries were seeking to disrupt the country's production chain to fuel unemployment, create economic and social problems, and foment public dissatisfaction.

He emphasized that reforming consumption patterns would enable the Iranian nation to thwart these efforts and dash the adversaries' hopes. Addressing the country's current circumstances, the president described the continuation of the neither-war-nor-peace situation as harmful, underscoring the need to bring it to an end without delay.

"We must get out of this situation, which is a form of uncertainty, as soon as possible, with dignity and strength," he said.

Pezeshkian also pointed to Iran's abundant natural wealth, noting that the country is situated in a region endowed with vast mineral resources and valuable reserves, including gold. He said a rational and clearly defined resolution to the current situation could pave the way for addressing many of the country's problems. Earlier this month, Pezeshkian said Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei had instructed officials to bring the neither-war-nor-peace situation to an end.

The president reiterated that Iran was prepared to engage in negotiations on the basis of dignity, justice and equality, but would not bow to coercion or bullying.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei has also called on Washington to stop circulating fabricated reports about negotiations with Tehran and accept Iran's seven conditions.

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

In a related development, Iran has proposed a 48-hour roadmap for restoring security in the Strait of Hormuz. Under the proposal, the strategic waterway would be reopened to commercial shipping within two days if the United States lifts its naval blockade of Iranian ports, ends the war on all fronts, and unfreezes Iranian assets held abroad. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei has described the proposal as a logical roadmap for restoring security in the strategic strait.

Iran building 35 new satellites as space program accelerates

From Page 1 ▶ Satellite imagery, he said, is among the most important tools for mineral exploration and estimating extraction, for monitoring the environment, identifying dust storm centers and environmental pollutants, and for meteorology — assessing atmospheric conditions, cloudiness and wind to forecast weather in the coming days.



Monitoring water resources and reserves, including snowpack in mountains, dams and lakes, is another key application. A satellite in a 500-kilometer orbit travels at about 7.5 kilometers per second, Salariyeh explained, adding that no other vehicle can scan the Earth's surface and collect data so quickly, making imaging data one of the most important tools for land monitoring and management.

Complementary constellations for communications and navigation

Alongside sensing satellites, Salariyeh highlighted the growing role of telecommunications satellites, especially in areas with no terrestrial infrastructure or difficult access — including shipping, air and rail lines, hard-to-reach regions, and as backup for ground networks.

These operate at different altitudes, from geostationary (GEO) satellites at about 36,000 kilometers to large LEO constellations providing broadband connectivity. Satellite communications, expanding rapidly worldwide without need for extensive ground infrastructure, are a key infrastructure of the digital economy, he said.

Navigation satellites for mapping and routing in aviation and shipping, he added, are another pillar, at a time when the number of satellites in orbit has grown rapidly and spacefaring countries are continuously expanding their space assets.

Iran, he said, has made significant progress not only in building and launching satellites but in exploiting satellite data and turning it into applied services. After reception, images and data are delivered to private and specialized remote-sensing firms for processing into value-added reports for urban management, water and mines.

More than 170 to 180 private companies are now active in satellite-data-based remote sensing in Iran, many with capacity to provide services at international level — a sign, Salariyeh said, of the growth and maturity of the country's space ecosystem.

Simorgh, Qaem and the road to heavier launchers

On access to space, Salariyeh said the Armed Forces — including the Defense Ministry and the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps — are developing various launchers and satellite carriers.

The Simorgh launcher, he said, can place 200- to 300-kilogram satellites into low Earth orbit at altitudes of up to about 1,000 kilometers, while the solid-fuel Qaem launcher, developed by the IRGC Aerospace Force, can carry payloads of up to 100 kilograms to around 500 kilometers.

Heavier launchers capable of placing multi-ton payloads into LEO and later into GEO orbit at 36,000 kilometers are under research and development.

From Omid to Noor: background of an indigenous program

The announcement builds on nearly two decades of indigenous effort. Iran became one of the few countries with domestic orbital launch capability when it placed the Omid satellite into orbit aboard the Safir launcher in February 2009, followed by Rasad, Navid and Fajr.

In recent years the program has accelerated on two tracks. The civilian track, centered on the ISA and the Defense Ministry, has produced the Simorgh, Zoljanah and Saman transfer block, and satellites such as Pars-1, Chamran-1, Khayyam — launched in cooperation with Russia in 2022 — and the Soraya satellite placed in a 750-kilometer orbit.

In parallel, the IRGC's military track has orbited the Noor-1, Noor-2 and Noor-3 imaging satellites aboard the solid-fuel Qased and Qaem-100 launchers, giving Iran independent reconnaissance and communications capacity.

Space, Salariyeh stressed, is among the world's most complex and high-risk industries and a marker of a country's technological level. Of about 200 countries in the world, only 10 to 11 can build launchers — Iran is one of them — and only about 20 to 30 can build operational satellites that remain in orbit and continuously provide images and data, a club Iran has also joined.

623 children martyred in US-Israeli wars on Iran over past 18 months: official



TEHRAN – A total of 623 children have been killed in the US-Israeli wars against Iran over the past 18 months, Ahmad Mousavi, vice president and head of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, said on Sunday, describing the loss of so many young lives as an unacceptable tragedy for the international community.

"Over the past year and a half alone, a total of 7,200 people have been martyred in the 12-day and 40-day wars, including 623 innocent children. In today's world, the death of even a single child should be unacceptable to the international community. Why have so many innocent children had to lose their lives?" Mousavi said.

He stressed that the figure of 623 referred exclusively to children killed in the conflicts and did not include the large number of children wounded in the attacks.

Mousavi made the remarks at a ceremony marking Children's Day, held on Sunday morning in Tehran. The event brought together senior government officials and families who lost their children and teenagers in the Ramadan War.

Among those attending were Government Spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani, Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Zahra Behrouz-Azar, and Vice President for Legal Affairs Majid Ansari.

Addressing the gathering, Behrouz-Azar also referred to the deaths of 623 children in the conflicts, describing them as precious young lives who represented Iran's hopes and were meant to shape the country's future.

"What happened to our children in the recently imposed wars was very bitter. Six hundred and twenty-three children — these precious young lives who were Iran's hope and were supposed to shape Iran's destiny — were martyred, and we lost them," she said.

She emphasized that the human toll extended well beyond those killed, with many other children suffering injuries in the attacks.

Behrouz-Azar paid tribute to the children killed in Minab, including victims of attacks on Shajareh Tayyebeh and Rahpouyan schools, as well as those killed in Lamerd and other parts of the country during the 12-day war, the January events, and the 40-day war.

She also warned that the consequences of the conflicts and 'enemy terrorist actions' went beyond direct casualties, pointing to the additional hardship imposed on children by sanctions and economic pressure.

Sanctions, she said, had for years restricted access to essential medicines, particularly for children suffering from rare and serious illnesses. Patients with epidermolysis bullosa (EB), commonly known as butterfly disease, and children with blood disorders have faced difficulties obtaining some of the medicines they need.

The situation, she added, had been further aggravated by attacks on domestic pharmaceutical production facilities, which had seriously disrupted the manufacture and distribution of medicines required by patients.

Legal action over Minab school attack

Meanwhile, Ansari said legal cases had been filed in local courts in four European countries and the United States over the attack on Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab, the killing of children, and the assassination of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

He said the proceedings were ongoing and would continue, adding that the Vice Presidency for Legal Affairs was working with the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs to pursue cases involving war crimes and document the attack on the Minab school.

Mohajerani: Children's blood will guarantee Iran's victory

Government Spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani, addressing the ceremony, said the blood of children killed in the US-Israeli military campaign would strengthen Iran's resolve and guarantee its eventual victory.

She said each child killed at such a young age had become a symbol of both the suffering inflicted on Iran and the country's determination to withstand the aggression.

"The blood of these dear ones gave our combatants greater strength," Mohajerani said, recounting a recent meeting with a group of Iranian military personnel.

"They said that when we want to fire, we clench our teeth and fire while remembering our martyred children," she added.

"The blood of these dear ones is the essence of our combatants' sense of honor, and it is self-evident that their blood will guarantee our victory," she said.

Mohajerani also said media, economic, and military warfare were interconnected and aimed at undermining the resilience and psychological well-being of the Iranian people.

She praised media professionals for bringing the suffering of Iranian children and their families to international attention, calling for continued efforts to ensure their experiences are heard around the world.

She expressed hope that Iran would emerge victorious with its dignity intact and that justice would be served for the children killed in the conflicts.

Araghchi at Oman's National Day in Tehran:

Oman not merely a neighbor, but a friend, brotherly nation





From Page 1 ▶ diplomats, and members of foreign delegations resident in Tehran. Far from a routine diplomatic ritual, the gathering reflected the special standing the Sultanate enjoys in Tehran and affirmed a relationship built on trust, discretion, and constructive engagement.

At the outset of the ceremony, H.E. Mr. Yarub Bin Qahtan bin Nasser Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in Tehran, welcomed guests to the Mission's celebration of Oman's Glorious National Day, describing it as an occasion to reflect on Oman's history and renew pride in its national journey. He said the day commemorates more than a national occasion: it celebrates a nation that forged unity, safeguarded sovereignty, and maintained a distinguished regional and international presence. On 20 November 1744, founding Imam Sayyid Ahmed bin Said Albusaidi laid the foundations of the Albusaidi State and united Oman under one banner, establishing national unity and sovereignty. Successive generations of the Albusaidi dynasty upheld leadership and development; today the journey continues under Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, inspired by heritage and Oman Vision 2040 toward sustainable growth and prosperity.

In a world of complex crises, Oman believes dialogue is essential to building trust and overcoming differences, and that peaceful settlement is fundamental to peace and stability. Oman pursues a balanced foreign policy based on respect for sovereignty and independence, non-interference, and adherence to the UN Charter and international law. It stresses containing regional escalation, safeguarding states and civilians, and protecting freedom of navigation under international law and UNCLOS, while considering the interests of all countries that depend on vital maritime corridors.

On Palestine, the Ambassador said a just and lasting peace requires restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and ending their suffering through the liberation of their territories from occupation and the establishment of an independent State on the 4 June 1967 borders, in accordance with Security Council resolutions and the two-State solution. Oman welcomes the positions of countries that have recognized the State of Palestine, appreciates their support for the two-State solution, and values peaceful efforts toward this objective. Oman also reaffirms the importance of the UN, especially the Security Council, fulfilling its responsibilities for international peace and security and strengthening confidence in the international system through respect for international law and its consistent application to all.

He noted that shared global challenges require international cooperation founded on justice, responsibility, and respect for human dignity. In this spirit, Oman launched the Muscat Plan of Action on 11 June 2025 at UN Headquarters in New York, inaugurated by the UN Secretary-General and attended by a broad range of international participants. The Plan seeks to counter hate speech and prevent genocide, atrocity crimes, and incitement to such crimes, emphasizing prevention, a culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and partnerships with the UN and the wider international community.

On Oman Vision 2040, he said Oman continues to make progress: nine indicators have met their targets under the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; sovereign credit ratings have been upgraded to investment grade by all three major international agencies with stable outlooks, significant progress from below-investment-grade ratings in 2020; and foreign direct investment stock rose to OMR 30.9 billion in 2025 from OMR 14.25 billion in 2020. These developments reflect improved economic and financial performance and continued progress in the legislative and investment environment.

Bilateral Oman-Iran relations, he said, rest on firmly established principles of good-neighborliness, Islamic brotherhood, social ties, constructive cooperation, and mutual respect. Despite regional challenges, these relations have maintained stability through sustained constructive cooperation. Oman's response to the war launched against Iran on 28 February 2026 was swift, clear, and decisive: the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement described the war as a violation of international law and a threat to regional security and stability and called for its immediate cessation. Oman expressed profound sorrow and regret over the loss of innocent lives in the attack on the Minab school and the tragic consequences of the war. From the outset, Oman engaged with Iran and demonstrated good faith in efforts to restore smooth maritime navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, and it will continue these efforts in accordance with international law and UNCLOS. Leadership communications continued, including the 12 October telephone call between President Masoud Pezeshkian and Sultan Haitham, in addition to ongoing calls between Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi and Dr. Abbas Araghchi. Oman remains keen to strengthen cooperation across various fields in service of mutual interests. He concluded by thanking guests and Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant institutions for their cooperation and support.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Pezeshkian calls for broader cooperation with Mauritania

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for closer relations and expanded cooperation between Iran and Mauritania, expressing hope that the two countries will further strengthen their friendly and brotherly ties.

In a message to Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani on the country's National Day, Pezeshkian said the determination of officials in both countries, coupled with the effective use of existing capacities and opportunities, could pave the way for deeper bilateral relations and broader cooperation.

"I hope that, through Your Excellency's attention and the determination of officials in both countries to make use of existing capacities and opportunities, we will witness the further development and deepening of friendly and brotherly relations and cooperation in the interests of the two nations of Iran and Mauritania," he said.

Pezeshkian also wished his Mauritanian counterpart good health and success, and the people of Mauritania happiness and prosperity.

Agriculture sector experiences 2.3% growth despite imposed difficult conditions

TEHRAN- This summary reviews the televised remarks of Iran's Minister of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezeljeh, who presented a detailed account of the agriculture sector's performance during the past year and the first quarter of the current year.

The minister's central message was that the sector has demonstrated considerable resilience in the face of wartime conditions, economic restrictions, sanctions, and global market pressures. According to him, agriculture recorded a 2.3 percent growth in value added last year and in the first quarter of this year, created approximately 70,000 new jobs, and exported nearly 3 billion dollars' worth of agricultural products in the first seven months of the year.

These figures were presented as evidence that the sector has continued to function and grow despite difficult circumstances, and that the country's food security has not been seriously disrupted. The minister also discussed fisheries, poultry, wheat and flour pricing, bread subsidies, importers' foreign-currency claims, energy constraints, market regulation for Ramadan and Nowruz, and the implementation of the cropping pattern. The overall picture is one of a sector that has been forced to adapt quickly to external shocks while trying to balance producer incentives, consumer prices, fiscal constraints, and food security.

Production resilience and export performance

The minister began by emphasizing that the agriculture sector has been able to overcome difficult economic and wartime conditions. He reported a 2.3 percent growth in value added last year and in the first quarter of the current year, along with the creation of about 70,000 new jobs. He attributed part of this resilience to diverse economic capacities, extensive communication with neighboring countries, and deep ties among nations. He acknowledged that recent developments had affected export and import costs and the final price of goods for traders, but argued that the goals pursued by enemies to weaken Iran had not been achieved. A major theme in his remarks was the role of public trust. He said that from the beginning of the 12-day war, people were assured that agricultural goods and food would continue to be supplied. This confidence, he argued, prevented panic buying, long queues, and store shortages, allowing markets, production, and supply chains to remain stable. He praised the people as the most important component of a strong Iran and as the support of the armed forces and government servants.

The minister then reviewed several sub-sectors. In fisheries, he reported a 35 percent increase in fish catch from distant waters and open seas, despite continued insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. This, he said, greatly reduced the dependence of processing factories on imported tuna. He also reported a 35 percent increase in shrimp production and farming, describing these achievements as proof of the country's production capacity and the ability of operators to continue working under difficult conditions. In poultry, he said producers continued activity despite high risks and threats to energy infrastructure. The country reached self-sufficiency in chicken meat and shifted from being an importer to an exporter. At the beginning of the year, 242 tons of chicken meat were imported, but later nearly 10,000 tons were exported. He presented this as a significant turnaround. On trade, he said that in the first seven months of the year, nearly 3.5 million tons of agricultural products worth about 3 billion dollars were exported. He stressed that this level of export under war, sanctions, and economic restrictions demonstrated the high production and export capacity of Iran's agriculture sector. He concluded this part by saying that Iran stands powerfully by relying on resilience, resistance, and the companionship of the people and various state institutions.

The minister also addressed reserves and production planning. He said stocks of essential goods and animal feed had increased even compared with previous years and peace conditions, and that planned programs had raised the level of reserves. He announced the start of a plan to produce and supply chicken meat at an optimal economic weight and age. The aim is to reduce waste, save animal feed, and increase the productivity of poultry units. He explained that chickens after about 40 to 42 days of age spend more energy and feed on fat production rather than protein, and longer rearing also requires certain drugs and vaccines for the final growth period. The new plan therefore seeks to increase productivity, reduce input consumption, improve public health, and provide more protein for consumers, while also helping the economic performance of poultry units. He also introduced a "sized chicken" plan with a standard weight of about 1.5 kilograms. He asked the public to welcome this product, arguing that it would help stabilize prices faster and increase production volume. He added that planning for Ramadan and Nowruz would adjust chick placement according to this production model so that per capita consumption and total supply would not be disrupted.

Market regulation, subsidies, and food security

The second major theme was market regulation, pricing, and subsidies, especially for wheat, flour, and bread. The minister stated clearly that there had been no change in the price of wheat and flour for subsidized bakeries. He explained that under Article 67 of the executive regulations of the budget law for the year 1405, wheat and flour needed by guilds and industry must be supplied at cost price. As a result, supply to various industries has gradually been removed from the subsidized rate.

On wheat procurement, the minister said the guaranteed purchase price for the current crop year had not yet been finalized, but views within the Pricing Council were converging and he hoped the rate would be announced in the coming days. He explained that the delay was intended to protect farmers' interests and that all production costs, including the effects of liberalizing some input prices, were being considered so that wheat farmers could sell at a real price and fair profit. He assured farmers that their interests were being taken into account.

The minister also addressed the foreign-currency claims of importers of essential goods. These claims accumulated in 1401 and 1402 because foreign currency allocation was incomplete. Initially about 5.5 billion dollars, they were reduced after foreign pricing corrections and currency reforms. He estimated the remaining claims at about 4 to 4.5 billion euros, and after accounting for importers' debts to the government, the net claims were about three billion euros. He said the government's economic team was pursuing ways to secure resources, and the Central Bank was to begin payments with priority for small traders once foreign-currency resources were available. However, he said the exact timing was not yet known. On energy, he noted that agriculture consumes less than five percent of the country's energy but is vital for food security. Producers were asked to save energy, and alternative fuel arrangements, including diesel through the Ministry of Oil, had been made for units at risk of gas cuts. He asked the public to conserve energy so that food production would not be disrupted in the coming months.

Finally, the minister discussed market regulation for Ramadan and Nowruz. He said the experience of the past two years would be used to supply needed products abundantly and at appropriate prices. He noted that food inflation last month was 2.2 percent, the lowest among commodity groups, and that the past four months showed relative stability in essential goods. He said about 85 percent of needed products are produced domestically and 15 percent imported, with import needs sufficiently provided. He reported increases in fruit and horticultural production of nearly 11 percent and red meat production of about 2.5 percent, as well as growth in white meat and eggs. He acknowledged that global essential goods prices had risen by about 23 percent and that transport and trade route difficulties had raised costs, but he expressed hope that current measures would reduce these pressures. He also said the cropping pattern was followed on about 93 to 94 percent of cultivated area, credited farmers for their cooperation, and explained that fertilizer subsidies would be returned to farmers' accounts after purchases were verified. He concluded by reaffirming the government's commitment to supplying the nation's food under any conditions, relying on domestic production capacity and public cooperation, especially before Ramadan and Nowruz.

Permits issued for implementation of 6 flare gas collection projects



TEHRAN- The Deputy for Environmental Protection of the HSE General Directorate of the Oil Ministry announced the issuance of permits for six projects to reduce flare gas in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21) stating: "The program for collecting associated petroleum gas is underway using the capacity of the private sector and subsidiary companies of the Oil Ministry."

In an interview with a SHANA reporter, referring to measures to expedite the implementation of flare gas reduction projects, Mohammad Taghi Jafarzadeh emphasized: "Following the President's directive to the Department of Environment and the Oil Ministry, efforts were made to review these projects more rapidly and reduce the usual administrative bureaucracy."

Referring to the issuance of permits for these projects over the past seven to eight months, he said: "Most of these projects are small, and the capacity of the private sector has also been utilized for their implementation."

The Deputy for Environmental Protection of the HSE General Directorate of the Oil Ministry, referring to the projects currently underway in operational areas, expressed hope that with the completion of these projects, we will witness the extinguishing of some flares in the near future.

According to Jafarzadeh, projects related to Koupal and several gas refineries are also progressing, investors have entered the projects, and the relevant contracts have been signed.

Development of associated petroleum gas collection projects

Referring to the environmental impacts of implementing associated petroleum gas collection projects, he emphasized: "In addition to reducing environmental impacts, the implementation of these projects helps to collect and utilize associated petroleum gas and prevent the waste of these resources."

The Deputy for Environmental Protection of the HSE General Directorate of the Oil Ministry expressed hope that with the implementation of the planned programs, the volume of flare gas and the impacts resulting from burning these gases in the petroleum industry will gradually decrease.

Public participation in environmental assessments

Explaining the responsibility of the Deputy for Environmental Protection of the HSE General Directorate of the Oil Ministry regarding the environmental consequences of petroleum activities, Jafarzadeh emphasized: "The mission of the Oil Ministry is the development of the petroleum industry, and this deputy is tasked with minimizing the negative impacts and consequences of this development."

Referring to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guidelines in the petroleum industry, he explained: "These guidelines cover three areas: oil field development, linear projects such as pipelines, and point-source projects such as refineries and petrochemical complexes."

The Deputy for Environmental Protection of the HSE General Directorate of the Oil Ministry, emphasizing the necessity of public participation in environmental assessments, stated: "Public participation in this process is mandatory, and the relevant guidelines have been communicated after approval by the Department of Environment; therefore, all petroleum industry projects must incorporate public participation in the Environmental Impact Assessment process."

Jafarzadeh noted: "If environmental considerations are not fully observed in the implementation of projects, part of the responsibility falls on the Deputy for Environmental Protection of the HSE General Directorate of the Oil Ministry."

Increasing the collection of flare gases in Iran's oil industry can compensate for part of the gas shortage in winter; a capacity that both prevents resource wastage and helps sustain energy supply.

According to Mehr News Agency, flare gases are among the most well-known symbols of oil regions worldwide. Flames that have been seen for years in Iran's oil fields were a sign of burning associated petroleum gases; gases produced during oil extraction but inevitably burned if the necessary infrastructure for collection, processing, and transmission is lacking. This process, in addition to causing environmental pollution, means losing a significant volume of energy resources.

In Iran, over the past decades, a large volume of associated petroleum gas has been flared. This has not only had significant environmental impacts but has also been economically detrimental; because gas that could have been used as petrochemical feedstock, power plant fuel, or even as an export commodity has effectively turned into smoke.

With the development of technologies and the expansion of oil and gas industry infrastructure, a new approach to managing these resources has emerged. Now, collecting and utilizing flare gases is on the agenda as one of the key solutions for increasing energy efficiency. Energy experts believe this is one of the lowest-risk and most economical paths for reform in the energy sector; because it simultaneously reduces resource wastage, decreases environmental pollution, and increases the country's gas supply capacity.

In fact, flare gases are a potential energy source that, if invested in necessary infrastructure, can be returned to the consumption cycle and meet part of the country's domestic needs. From this perspective, collecting these gases, besides its environmental effects, also has significant importance in managing gas supply and demand.

Increasing flare collection capacity; a shift in energy policies

In recent years, Oil Ministry has placed special focus on reducing flaring and collecting flare gases. This approach is being pursued through the implementation of numerous projects, the most important of which are the development of NGL units, construction of new processing facilities, and upgrading gas refineries.

According to announced plans, the macro-goal in the Seventh National Development Plan is to significantly reduce flare gas burning and increase the collection rate to about 16 billion cubic meters per year. Achieving this goal requires developing infrastructure capable of collecting, processing, and transferring associated petroleum gases to the consumption network.

Available statistics show that before the establishment of the 14th government, about 7 million cubic meters per day of flare gases were being collected in the southern oil-rich regions, the Central Iran Oil Company, and the Arvandan Oil and Gas Company. However, with the commissioning of new units and the completion of some infrastructure projects, this figure has now reached over 16 million cubic meters per day.

At the same time, according to officials of the National Iranian Oil Company, about 80 million cubic meters of associated petroleum gas are currently produced daily in the country. Part of this gas is transferred to NGL units and downstream facilities, but a significant portion is still burned in flares due to infrastructure limitations. Estimates indicate that the amount of flare gas in the country ranges between 40 and 50 million cubic meters per day, depending on crude oil production conditions.

Planning shows that with the development of ongoing projects, it is possible to reduce this figure by up to about 35 million cubic meters per day. Such a reduction would mean freeing up a significant volume of gas that could be used in various sectors of the economy.

One of the most important challenges in Iran's energy sector in recent years has been the gas imbalance in winter. During this season, gas consumption in the household sector increases dramatically due to heating needs, and in many cases, priority for gas supply is given to this sector. As a result, industries, power plants, and some petrochemical units face gas restrictions or cutoffs.

Collecting flare gases can play an important role as a new source of supply in reducing this imbalance. If we assume the amount of collected gas has increased from about 7 million cubic meters per day to over 16 million cubic meters per day, in practice, nearly 9 million cubic meters of additional gas enters the consumption cycle daily. On an annual scale, this amount is equivalent to over 3 billion cubic meters of gas.

Although such a capacity alone cannot completely resolve the gas imbalance in the country, it can compensate for part of the supply shortage during the cold months of the year. For example, this amount of gas can provide more stable feedstock for some energy-intensive industries or help supply fuel for power plants to reduce the need for liquid fuels such as diesel and fuel oil.

On the other hand, injecting recovered gas into the national gas network can also help increase the stability of feedstock supply for petrochemicals. Many petrochemical units face feedstock restrictions in winter, and their production capacity decreases. Using collected flare gases can compensate for part of this production decline and prevent economic losses caused by the shutdown or reduced activity of industrial units.

Overall, collecting flare gases can be considered one of the fastest and most cost-effective solutions for increasing gas supply in the country. In addition to reducing pollution and preventing resource wastage, this measure can help improve the country's energy balance and reduce some of the pressure on the gas network during the cold months. If ongoing projects are fully operationalized, this hidden energy source can play a more prominent role in managing Iran's gas imbalance in the coming years.

About 400,000 vehicles produced in 7 months



TEHRAN- According to Mehr News Agency, Soheil Memarbashi, Deputy of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO), said in a televised interview: "In the first seven months of last year, 610,000 vehicles were produced, but from the beginning of this year until the end of Mehr (October 20), this figure dropped to about 400,000 vehicles."

Memarbashi added: "Due to restrictions on foreign currency allocation and restrictions on imports of auto parts, we had a roughly 33% decline in production compared with the same period last year."

He added: "We are trying to compensate for the production decline in the remaining period until the end of the year."

Memarbashi said: "Automotive policies are determined by the automotive committee of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade. The Deputy for Machinery and Equipment of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, the CEO of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization, and the head of the Consumer and Producer Protection Organization are members of this committee, and they make decisions regarding foreign currency allocation for raw materials and parts, the method of vehicle supply, and price controls."

How is Yemen reshaping strategy for the next war?

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – Most analyses of recent developments in southwestern Yemen have focused on the extent of territorial advances by Ansarallah around Bab al-Mandeb and the Gulf of Aden.

However, the other major significance of Ansarullah's announcement that it had secured control of the strategic coastal corridor stretching from Khaboub to Khor Omaira extends beyond the immediate changes on the ground. Its broader importance lies in what the development reveals about the wider context in which it has unfolded.

The announcement comes in the wake of the illegal U.S.-Israeli war against Iran and the subsequent developments across the region.

Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab

For decades, Western strategic thinking has treated the Strait of Hormuz as the main center of gravity in any conflict with Iran.

Yet many strategic thinkers argued that Iran would not close the Strait because of the costs it would face as a result. Tehran refrained from doing so during the first direct U.S.-Israeli war imposed against it in 2025.

However, the existential war Iran faced in 2026 pushed it to close the strait, putting pressure on President Donald Trump's administration and the global economy, while dealing a particularly heavy blow to the U.S. economy.

In practical terms, the Strait of Hormuz became one of the Islamic Republic's most important strategic cards.

Ansarallah's ability to influence security in the Bab al-Mandab Strait introduces a



new factor that will shape the U.S. administration's options when considering any future war.

If Ansarallah manages to establish its ability to affect the security of shipping through Bab al-Mandab, this will create new challenges for the U.S. administration and its allies.

It will also give the Axis of Resistance greater capacity to spread its deterrence capabilities between the straits of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab, rather than concentrating them in the Hormuz Strait alone.

This means that if the U.S. decides to return to war, it will need additional military capabilities to reopen two straits instead of one.

American-Israeli dilemma

From an Israeli perspective, the results of the 2026 aggression against Iran are measured by how far it managed to reshape the surrounding strategic environment and create opportunities for wider regional dominance.

However, the ambitious objectives the Zionist regime set for the war were not achieved.

Developments in late 2026 point to the limited political results of the regime's ongoing illegal wars since 2023. Iran's revolutionary system has not fallen. On the contrary, it has strengthened its capabilities and shifted from defense to offensive and pre-emptive action.

Hezbollah has not been eliminated, despite Lebanon having endured two devastating wars. And now Ansarallah is seeking to expand the scope of its control and influence over the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

Against this backdrop, the Zionist regime's wars have failed to deliver regional dominance. At the same time, Netanyahu faces a personal political crisis at home following his election defeat. As a result, he is pushing hard for a renewed war against Iran.

He sent the Mossad chief to Washington to convince the Americans that Iran had resumed its nuclear program alongside other fake intelligence and that "the only way to eliminate this threat is to overthrow the Iranian regime," as Netanyahu himself stated publicly.

The experience of the latest war against Iran shows that the main problem facing the United States is not a lack of military capabilities. America's vast military power allows it to intervene, strike infrastructure in Iran, and inflict damage on its adversaries.

But now that the consequences of the war against Iran have reached the U.S. itself, contributing to Republican losses in the midterm elections and driving up prices for goods at home, the real challenge facing President Trump has become political and strategic.

The elections also revealed that the overwhelming majority of Americans do not want to be drawn into long-running regional conflicts with open-ended costs.

Trump may therefore want to return to war with Iran to push Iran to make concessions at the negotiating table and present the outcome as a "beautiful victory."

But the problem is that the military outcome of such a war is far from guaranteed. Meanwhile, his popularity could suffer further, and a renewed war, especially if it drags on, could damage the Republican Party's future and its chances of electoral success, particularly in the 2028 presidential election.

This risk would be even greater if the war triggered a global economic collapse.

Ultimately, the central question is no longer whether the U.S.-Zionist coalition can launch another war against Iran, but whether they can contain its military, economic and strategic consequences.

As deterrence capabilities extend from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea, turning military superiority into a decisive political victory becomes increasingly difficult.

This is why the latest developments in Yemen may matter far beyond the local balance of power: they also raise the cost of any future regional war.

How was Lebanon's Independence Day hijacked?

From page 1 ▶ No occupation was ended out of consideration for Lebanon's diplomatic appeals; how, then, can a president equate the means of defending the country with the enemy occupying its land?

Aoun is supposed to be president of all Lebanese, not the spokesperson of one political camp. Yet his speech openly targeted Iran and the Shiite political constituency, including Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc, which represents a substantial proportion of Lebanese voters.

Hezbollah's parliamentary representation reflects substantial popular support despite the electoral law's structural distortions; its candidates secured 344,882 votes across seven districts, in 2022, while Hezbollah-affiliated MPs received 347,171 preferential votes overall.

This made Hezbollah the most popular political force by preferential votes, with Mohammad Raad and Hassan Fadlallah ranking first and second nationwide.

Describing this constituency as serving Iran and portraying its political party as an instrument of an Iranian war is an insult to citizens whose votes helped elect the president.

Obviously, this was an exceptionally divisive and anti-Shiite speech, arguably among the worst presidential addresses in Lebanon's history.

The reaction was revealing: applause grew notably warmer whenever Iran came under attack. Beyond diplomatic protocol, such a pattern raises questions about the invisible expectations shaping political discourse, and whether certain narratives are being rewarded not for their national value, but for how faithfully they echo external preferences.

The choice of words was particularly revealing: demands for the Resistance to surrender its weapons, regardless of the circumstances, sounded like Israeli demands, not the words of a president addressing his own people.

The public repetition of the Israeli position was an embarrassing spectacle, especially coming from someone who should understand the suffering of southern Lebanon.

Indeed, the question of foreign interference cannot be selectively applied:

- Why does Aoun condemn alleged Iranian intervention while remaining silent about Washington's overt interference in Lebanese political affairs?

- Was it not US envoy Amos Hochstein who imposed the presidential choice on Lebanon?

- What kind of independence is this, when the country appears subject to American and Saudi tutelage, with high-level instructions reportedly delivered through WhatsApp messages demanding: "You must surrender your weapons"?

Just as Israel brought Bashir Gemayel and subsequently his brother Amin to power, in the early 1980s, the circumstances surrounding Aoun's rise invite serious questions about external sponsorship.

Meanwhile, the president who speaks of sovereignty reportedly ordered the Lebanese Army to withdraw from southern positions on March 2, 2026, leaving the people of the land with little choice but to resist.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

UN climate talks break down over bitter disagreements on fossil fuels

The COP31 climate conference in Antalya, Turkey, collapsed Sunday as countries failed to agree to an overarching deal after more than two weeks of contentious negotiations. The breaking point was over the very cause of climate change itself: fossil fuels.

Russia and Saudi Arabia sought to keep fossil fuels out of the document, according to click2houston.com.

The annual UN climate talks, which stretched deep into overtime over the weekend, hold the dubious honor of being the longest COP in history and the first major breakdown since COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009.

Experts criticized the conference as a stunning failure of leadership at a time when the climate crisis is accelerating with increasingly deadly consequences.

"This has been the worst ever COP and its collapse needs to be a wakeup call for the world," said Mohamed Adow, director of the energy think tank Power Shift Africa, CNN reported.

At the final meeting intended to approve the so-called Antalya Pact on Sunday, it became clear there would not be the necessary consensus between the more than 190 countries at the talks to adopt the deal. These did not include the US, which, under President Donald Trump, has pulled out of international climate action.

Deep divisions proved impossible to bridge over key issues — most importantly, including language that the world would need to move away from fossil fuels, a phrase that did not end up in the agreement, and increasing financial support for countries already grappling with climate catastrophes.

The European Union, Panama, the Marshall Islands and Norway were among those that rejected it. Darragh O'Brien, Ireland's climate minister who is helping lead negotiations for the EU, said the bloc would not endorse a deal "that does not even mention fossil fuels."

COP31 president Murat Kurum acknowledged support was not there to gavel through the pact. "We have done our utmost," he said, but "it is clear that there are parties in this hall who oppose this text. We recognize that there is no consensus on this document."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Kim Jong Un ignores Trump outreach as North Korea expands its nuclear arsenal



TEHRAN — Trying to reach Kim Jong Un, White House officials stationed a team outside North Korea's mission to the United Nations in Manhattan to slip a personal note from Donald Trump into a passing diplomat's hands.

At a later UN meeting, that diplomat tossed the unopened envelope back in front of a U.S. representative. Trump had already tried established phone lines. Nobody called back.

That episode, detailed by the Wall Street Journal on Nov. 21, exposes the collapse of coercive American diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula.

Washington spent three decades cycling through sanctions, military threats, and unilateral demands for complete dismantlement.

Pyongyang spent those same decades building a nuclear force now estimated at roughly 60 assembled warheads, fissile material for at least 30 more, and mobile solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the American mainland.

Since Kim Jong Un last met Trump at the failed 2019 Hanoi summit, his stockpile has roughly doubled.

Weakened at home after Republicans lost both chambers of Congress in the November midterm elections, Trump pressed aides ahead of his recent Asia trip to secure a headline-grabbing summit.

U.S. officials floated sweeping concessions, including a formal end to the 1950-1953 Korean War, liaison offices, and a joint statement that would sidestep demands for denuclearization in exchange for testing caps. Kim refused.

Having watched Trump abruptly walk out of Hanoi after Pyongyang offered partial facility closures at Yongbyon, the 42-year-old leader had little reason to trust Washington's promises. Trump flew back from Shenzhen on Thursday without a meeting.

Pyongyang no longer needs American approval to survive. Under a 2024 mutual defense treaty with Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korea reportedly sent artillery, ballistic missiles, and over 10,000 troops to aid Russia in the war in Ukraine, receiving military technology and UN Security Council protection in return.

Meanwhile, Beijing has scaled back its public calls for Korean Peninsula denuclearization, a move that suggests growing reluctance to challenge Pyongyang's atomic status.

Bolstered by closer economic ties with Russia and China as well as reported unconventional revenue streams, North Korea recorded 3.5 percent economic growth last year, its third straight year above three percent.

Inside Washington, policy coherence has evaporated. The special envoy post remains vacant.

Last year's White House national security strategy omitted North Korea for the first time since the Cold War, and the Pentagon's January defense strategy dropped denuclearization entirely.

In February, Kim declared that Washington could choose peaceful coexistence by respecting North Korea's nuclear status or face "eternal confrontation."

Trump's recent remark calling North Korea "sort of a nuclear power" reportedly rattled allies in Seoul and Tokyo without moving Kim an inch.

Displaced Gazans take to the streets as Israel keeps bombing them, demolishing their homes

From page 1 ▶

A line that keeps moving

The Yellow Line was meant to be a stopping point. Under Donald Trump's 20-point plan, Israeli troops pulled back to it in October 2025, holding about 53 percent of Gaza, with further withdrawals to follow. None came.

In March, Israel sent aid agencies maps of a new "orange line" restricted zone beyond it, and Al Jazeera's mapping now puts 65 percent of Gaza off limits.

Forensic Architecture found yellow markers set up to 940 meters past where Israel's own maps showed the line, within weeks of the so-called truce.

Israeli military chief Eyal Zamir has called it a "new border line." The regime says its deployments there address direct threats from armed groups.

About 2.1 million people are packed behind the line, according to the UN. Minister Bezalel Smotrich has called for Palestinians to leave Gaza. Analysts see a replay of the West Bank after 1967.

A 'ceasefire' that kills

Israeli attacks killed at least four Palestinians on Saturday, three of them when a drone hit a van delivering food aid to displaced people in Gaza City.

Strikes killed at least nine over 48 hours. Gaza's Health Ministry counts 1,661 dead and 6,062 wounded since the truce began.

The toll stood at 451 in January and 1,488 at the one-year mark, so roughly 170 people have died in six weeks.

The Government Media Office has logged 6,233 Israeli violations and says only a third of agreed aid trucks have entered.

Winter on the rubble and Washington's 'peace'

The housing ministry says 350,000 families are homeless and 80 percent of homes destroyed. Floods wrecked tent shelters this month.

Civil Defense crews on Saturday recovered 129 bodies and remains from 39 destroyed buildings in Nuseirat, az-Zawayda and Deir el-Balah, closing a 53-day Red Cross-funded phase. Rami al-Aidi, the agency's director in central Gaza, said 233 people had been reported missing under those buildings.

About 8,000 bodies remain across the enclave, half of them in Israeli-controlled areas, and recovery could take eight to ten years with current equipment. In December, the agency said it needed at least 20 bulldozers and 20 excavators.

Trump chairs the "Board of Peace," which in July announced what he called a "historic" Hamas disarmament deal, with Israeli troops to withdraw in step with verification.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Valerian relief at Bishapur to receive promotional push

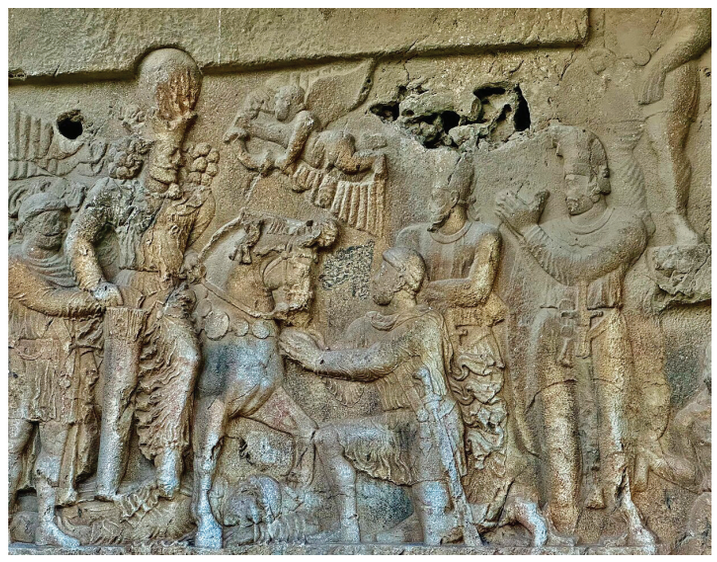
TEHRAN – Iran's Fars province is stepping up efforts to promote the ancient Bishapur archaeological site and the nearby Tang-e Chogan gorge internationally, including plans to raise the profile of a historic relief depicting the capture of Roman Emperor Valerian by Sasanian King Shapur I.

The provincial Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has also launched preparations for the conservation of Shapur I's monumental statue, marking the first major restoration effort in about 80 years, its director general, Behzad Moridi, said.

Speaking to the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA), Moridi said the department had increased its focus on Bishapur and Tang-e Chogan, near Kazerun, and was taking the promotion of the Valerian relief seriously.

He described the planned restoration of Shapur I's statue as a significant undertaking, noting that the monument had not undergone restoration work for eight decades.

Moridi also said measures were being planned to create greater opportunities for introducing the Valerian historical relief to international audiences.



Also, another bas-relief at Naqsh-e Rostam, an Achaemenid necropolis near the UNESCO-listed Persepolis, depicts Shapur I's victory over Roman emperors Valerian and Philip the Arab.

Valerian, who ruled the Roman Empire from 253 CE to 260, became the first Roman emperor captured by a foreign adversary on the battlefield when Shapur I defeated his forces at the Battle of Edessa in 260. The event was commemorated in Sasanian rock reliefs, including the monumental carving at Tang-e Chogan, which depicts Shapur triumphing over the Roman emperor.

Commenting on recent remarks by the US secretary of state concerning Iranian civilization, Moridi said historical discussions should not be turned into a confrontation between Iran and Greece.

He argued that the United States should not present itself as a representative of ancient Greek civilization, adding that discussions about the historical and cultural significance of Iran and Greece should be left to historians, philosophers and scholars of ancient civilizations.

Moridi acknowledged Greece's important place in world history but said the two civilizations should be examined through their historical connections rather than an East-West rivalry.

Referring to the history of relations between the two countries, he said Iranian cultural influence had extended to Athens, arguing that Iran's cultural legacy should not be reduced to military campaigns or violence.

Proposal to rename the Xerxes Canal as the Iran-Greece Friendship Canal

As an example of a more constructive approach to shared history, Moridi referred to a proposal reportedly made by the mayor of a town north of Athens, in an area associated with the Xerxes Canal and the birthplace of Aristotle.

According to Moridi, the mayor suggested renaming the approximately two-kilometer-long canal, built during the reign of Achaemenid King Xerxes I, the "Iran-Greece Friendship Canal."

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Armenian delegation visits war-damaged sections of UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace

From Page 1 ▸ The palace sustained considerable damage following US and Israeli airstrikes on March 1, which struck targets near the historic complex in downtown Tehran. The resulting shockwaves damaged several historic buildings, architectural features and museum objects.

Among the affected structures was the Takht-e Marmar (Marble Throne) Hall, where parts of the architectural framework sustained significant damage, although the building's overall structure remained largely intact.

The Hall of Mirrors, which houses a painting by renowned Iranian artist Kamal-ol-Molk and had recently undergone renovation, also suffered damage to its ceiling and traditional decorative features. The Brilliant Hall sustained damage to its windows and brick-supported ceiling framework, while the Shams-ol-Emareh building was affected in its courtyard roof and lower hall framework.

The main museum, known as Salam Hall, remained largely unharmed, although several windows, particularly those facing the courtyard on the eastern side, were broken or displaced. Damage was also reported to windows in the Ivory Hall and parts of the Diamond Hall.

The Windcatcher Palace (Kakh-e Badgir) sustained only minor damage, while the Tent Hall (Chadorkhane) remained in relatively good condition, despite damage to two fiberglass skylights.

Located in Tehran's historic center, Golestan Palace is among the oldest surviving architectural complexes in the capital. Its origins date to the Safavid era, when it was built within the city's historic walls. It underwent major expansions during the 19th century, becoming the royal residence and seat of government under the Qajar dynasty.

The complex comprises eight principal palace buildings, most of which now serve as museums, surrounded by historic gardens and enclosed by an outer wall with several gates.

Recognized by UNESCO for its exceptional testimony to Qajar-era architecture and decorative arts, Golestan Palace reflects the blending of Persian artistic traditions with European influences, particularly during the reign of Naser al-Din Shah. Its architectural and artistic legacy also played an important role in shaping modern Iranian art and architecture.

Kharanaq celebrates local traditions in ceremony honoring Imam Reza (AS)

TEHRAN – A ceremony marking the anniversary of the believed visit of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Imam of Shia Islam, to the historic village of Kharanaq was held on Saturday, November 21, with the participation of local residents, officials and cultural heritage enthusiasts.

The event featured a symbolic procession reenacting the Imam's arrival in the area, based on a local tradition passed down through generations, alongside religious and traditional ceremonies highlighting Kharanaq's historical, cultural and religious heritage, the Miras Aria news agency reported on Sunday.

The commemorative gathering took place at Qadamgah-e Kharanaq, a historic structure and local pilgrimage site associated with Imam Reza's reported passage through the area. The connection is rooted in local accounts and religious traditions.

Organizers said the inclusion of the event in Iran's national tourism events calendar could help promote Kharanaq's indigenous traditions and historical and religious attractions, while strengthening Ardakan county's position as a destination for cultural tourism.

Imam Reza, also known as Ali ibn Musa al-Ridha, is the eighth of the Twelve Imams revered by Twelver Shia Muslims. Born in Medina in 765 or 766, he became the eighth Imam following the death of his father, Imam Musa al-Kazim. In 817, Abbasid caliph al-Ma'mun appointed him as his successor, prompting his journey from Medina to the Abbasid court in northeastern Iran. Imam Reza was martyred in Tus, in present-day Mashhad, in 818. His shrine in Mashhad is one of the most important pilgrimage destinations in the Shia world.

Kharanaq is a historic village in Ardakan county, Yazd province, approximately 70 kilometers north of Yazd city. Its name is commonly interpreted as "birthplace of the sun," and the settlement is believed to have a history of continuous habitation spanning around 4,500 years.

NAKHL ASMARI PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY

INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

SUPPLY OF THREE (3) DIESEL GENERATOR SETS – 900 kVA EACH

Tender No.: NAPC-ITB-SDG3-2701

N.A.P.C
شرکت پتروشیمی نخل آسماری

Nakhl Asmari Petrochemical Company hereby invites international and domestic manufacturers, authorized representatives, and reputable suppliers to participate in an international competitive tender for the **supply, transportation, and delivery of three (3) diesel generator sets, each with a rated capacity of 900 kVA**, including all associated accessories and auxiliary equipment, in accordance with the technical specifications and requirements set forth in the Tender Documents.

Interested bidders are invited to submit their formal requests for the Tender Documents, accompanied by their company profile, letter of introduction, and contact details, to the following email address:

Email: tender@napc.ir

TENDER INFORMATION

- **Date of Publication:** 22 November 2026 (1405/09/01).
- **Scope of Supply:** Three (3) diesel generator sets, 900 kVA each.
- **Place of Delivery:** Any customs or port in Islamic Republic of Iran, preferably Mahshahr Petrochemical Zone (Code 40401).
- **Cost of Tender Documents:** Free of Charge.
- **Deadline for Requesting Tender Documents:** 06 December 2026 (1405/09/15).
- **Deadline for Submission of Bids:** 22 December 2026 (1405/10/01).

Further details regarding, technical and commercial proposal submission, and other tender conditions are specified in the Tender Documents.

NAKHL ASMARI PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY
Tendering Department

SPORTS

Mohammad Masoumizadeh aims to finish strong

TEHRAN – Mohammad Masoumizadeh, who helped Iran to advance to the quarter-finals of the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2026, is ready to finish top of Group B.

Defending champions Iran strolled past Vietnam 10-2 on Saturday while Lebanon overcame Afghanistan 5-0, with both sides meeting on Monday to decide the group winners.

Iran striker Masoumizadeh, who netted a brace, said their determination would see them through against Lebanon.

"Today's team is better compared to 2025, and we are in high spirits," he said. "Iran have won all our previous matches against Lebanon, and we will be well prepared."

The four-time champions hit four goals in the opening period before sweeping to a dominating win against Vietnam.

"We analyzed them and as a result, scored many times. It helped that we followed our game plan, which we did not do in our opening match," he concluded.

Iran remain unchanged in FIFA rankings

TEHRAN – Despite winning Basra football tournament, Iran remained unchanged in 23rd place in the FIFA's men's rankings at the close of the November international fixture window.

Japan still are the best Asian team in the rankings, sitting 17th in the world.

The top four remain unchanged with Argentina, ranked second, followed by France and England.

There is significant change below them though, with Morocco, achieving their highest position since the rankings were introduced in 1993, moving up two places to 5th. They had back-to-back wins in the qualifiers for next year's Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) and moved above Portugal and Brazil.

Colombia move back into the top 10, taking Mexico's position. Mexico dropped three places as they struggle to find winning form after a change of head coach and only qualifying the Concacaf Nations League finals on away goals.

While Mexico slipped downwards, Concacaf compatriots Canada moved up two places to 25th with two convincing CNL quarter final wins over Guatemala. They pushed Egypt and Australia down a place.

The ranking authors note that of the top 50 nations, UEFA now provides 25, with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) contributing 10 and CONMEBOL providing seven, while the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Concacaf account for four teams apiece.

There were 169 matches played in the last ranking window. The most upwardly mobile nations were Libya (up 22.8 points and seven places), and Togo (up seven places). The biggest drops were Tunisia (down 22.8 points) and Mauritania (down 8 places).

Esteghlal to meet Al Ain: 2026/27 ACL Elite

TEHRAN – Al Ain FC and Esteghlal football teams are set to serve up a blockbuster when they meet in the AFC Champions League Elite 2026/2027 on Monday.

Al Ain have been firing on all cylinders since the first kick of the ball, with the UAE side having seen off all challengers with relative ease.

A fifth consecutive victory will see them equaling their longest winning run and also make them believe that the continental title - which they have lifted twice before - is within reach.

Esteghlal will be eager to test themselves against Al Ain after bouncing back from defeat on Matchday Three to beat Al Shamal SC three weeks.

While it will be a tough challenge, victory for Esteghlal will see them not only drawing level on points with Al Ain but take them within touching distance of the Round of 16 and this is sure to fire up the Iranian side.

Beiranvand hopes to inspire next Iran generation

TEHRAN – Since the AFC Awards began in 1994, no goalkeeper has ever clinched the AFC Player of the Year – but that changed on Thursday night at the AFC Awards Bangkok 2026 when Alireza Beiranvand became the latest winner of the prestigious accolade.

Beiranvand, who had been shortlisted in 2019, took home the coveted trophy on his second nomination and became the fifth player from his nation to do so after Khodadad Azizi (1996), Ali Daei (1999), Mehdi Mahdavikia (2003) and Ali Karimi (2004).

Beiranvand, who bested Saudi Arabian duo Feras Al Brikan and Salem Al Dawsari at the 30th edition of the gala at the Aksra Theatre King Power, could not hide his delight and hailed it as a recognition that went beyond himself.

"Since I was nominated for the same award back in 2019, it has been seven years of hard work and consistent performances up until this evening here in Bangkok," he said at the post-event press conference.

"I would like to reiterate that this is such a great and unforgettable moment – not just for me but also for football in Asia that a goalkeeper has won. This was such a great wish and ambition for me, which I have achieved and fulfilled today – especially taking into consideration that no player from Iran had won this award for 23 years.

"I am sure that people in my country are very thrilled with this... and this is an honor that we can take pride in for many coming years in the future.

It is a great honour for me and for everybody in my country, specifically for my family. I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who has helped me through the years to come to this stage and lift this trophy."

Since leaving home at the age of 12 to pursue his footballing dreams and subsequently making his professional debut in 2011, the 1.95m shot-stopper has established himself as one of Asia's best-ever and proved that he remains at the top of his game at 34.

The most-capped custodian in Team Melli history, Beiranvand turned in brilliant displays during the FIFA World Cup 2026 and also shone at club level with Tractor FC both domestically and in the AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26™.

With the gleaming AFC Player of the Year silverware now added to his trophy cabinet, Beiranvand wants to inspire the next generation to achieve more and showcase their abilities to the world.

"In my point of view, the young players who wish to join the national team later on may be (more) motivated after seeing me lift this trophy," he said.

"So, in terms of motivation and giving them an incentive, I think this is very influential.

And my message to the young generation of football players in Iran is to keep themselves away from social media and controversies, and only remain fully focused on the game and continue to dream for what they wish to achieve.

"I believe that taking into account the great potential of Iranian players, I hope that fingers crossed, we do not have to wait too long to see another Iranian player winning this award."

New management plan aims to strengthen Persian fallow deer population

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has launched a series of corrective and management measures at Persian fallow deer breeding sites to improve population structure and strengthen the reproductive performance of the endangered species.

Masoumeh Safaei, director general of the DOE's Office for Wildlife Conservation and Management, said the population of Persian fallow deer had stagnated or grown slowly at some breeding sites in recent years.

Following expert assessments and an evaluation of the challenges by the Persian Fallow Deer Technical Committee, practical measures have been put on the agenda to address the problems, she added, according to IRNA.

One of the main priorities is to manage and reorganize male populations and improve sex ratios at the sites through the targeted relocation and distribution of males. Measures are also underway to upgrade and repair enclosures to enhance protection and improve population management.

The assessments identified several factors contributing to the population challenges, including an imbalanced sex ratio and an excessive number of males, the presence of carnivores, limited space relative to population size, and certain nutritional constraints. Operational plans have been developed to address these issues.

Safaei said the measures aim to restore the species' populations in their original habitats, promote science-based, targeted population management, improve living conditions, increase breeding success at captive breeding sites, and establish a reliable founder population.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, the Persian fallow deer (Dama mesopotamica) is classified as endangered.

Nearly half a century ago, the species was believed to have become extinct in the wild. However, four individuals were subsequently discovered in the Dez and Karkheh forests, its primary natural habitats. They were transferred to different parts of the country as part of efforts to facilitate breeding and ensure the species' survival.

Conservation efforts have helped increase



the population of Persian fallow deer from five in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (2019–2020) to 19 this year.

Genetic mapping underway to protect endangered wildlife

The DOE is developing genetic maps of endangered wildlife species to improve their survival prospects, support breeding programs, manage populations, and address threats to their existence in natural habitats.

Effective conservation of endangered species requires a thorough understanding of population genetics. Accordingly, genetic and molecular studies of key wildlife species across the country have been placed on the DOE's agenda to ensure that conservation and management decisions are grounded in reliable scientific data, IRNA quoted Leila Ezzeddinlou, head of the National Museum of Natural History and Genetic Resources, as saying.

She said the studies seek to preserve genetic diversity within and between populations, prevent reductions in effective population size, avoid inbreeding and genetic erosion, conserve genes adapted to different environmental conditions, and secure genetic resources for species restoration, breeding, and reintroduction programs.

Ezzeddinlou also referred to three research agreements signed between the DOE, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Tehran, and Gorgan University.

Under the agreements, a project is being conducted to investigate genomic diversity and phylogenetic relationships among populations of the Levant viper and Latifi's viper, to develop conservation and therapeutic approaches based on genomic markers.

In addition, work has begun on developing genetic profiles and maps for the Asiatic cheetah, Asiatic black bear, and Persian fallow deer, all of which are considered ecologically important and threatened species.

Another component of the research cooperation involves assessing genetic variation, inbreeding, and kinship relationships within the Persian zebra population. The study is being carried out in collaboration with the DOE's Yazd provincial office and is expected to contribute to the management of small populations and help prevent the loss of genetic diversity.

IRCS proposes BRICS network for creative and resilient women

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has proposed the establishment of a BRICS network aimed at empowering creative and resilient women and strengthening cooperation among women across member states.

Speaking about the potential of BRICS member countries, Razieh Alishvandi, IRCS deputy director for international and humanitarian law affairs, said the proposed network would provide a platform for sharing expertise and knowledge, organizing joint exhibitions, developing digital education, showcasing women's products and achievements, and facilitating small businesses' access to regional and international markets, the IRCS website reported.

The official made the remarks while addressing the International BRICS Youth Women's Forum held from November 19 to 21 in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

"Investing in women's capabilities is investing in the future of societies, as an empowered woman not only builds her own future, but plays a key role in strengthening the family, developing society, and advancing the economy of the nation," Alishvandi noted.

She expressed hope that cooperation among BRICS member countries would pave the way for the expansion of international interactions and the creation of new opportunities to link creativity, entrepreneurship, social solidarity, and sustainable development for women.

The official went on to announce the IRCS's readiness to share national expertise on empowering women. Elaborating on the national plan, titled YAS, which refers to future-building allies, she said the national initiative was launched in 2024,



with the aim of enhancing the individual, social, and economic capabilities of young women. The primary objective is to shift focus from temporal, intermittent support toward sustainable empowerment.

It seeks to transform young women from passive recipients of support services into empowered, responsible, creative, and engaged members of society, which is achieved by providing instruction in life skills, emergency relief and rescue, mental health, social participation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable employment.

So far, some 80,000 young women have benefited from YAS initiative with the help of IRCS ambassadors in 31 provinces of the country, she further noted.

The International BRICS Youth Women's Forum was held under the theme 'Dialogue of Generations for the Future'. It served as a platform to connect young, socially active women with leaders of women's organizations across the BRICS nations to discuss a shared agenda for the coming decade.

Discussions centered on key areas such as Economic Empowerment (Women's entrepreneurship, the role of AI in creative industries, and building economic resilience), Social and Cultural Issues (Healthcare, demographics, the labor market, and the preservation of cultural heritage through creative practices), and International Cooperation (Strengthening ties, youth initiatives, and public diplomacy among BRICS nations).

Iran outlines policies on women, family at BRICS WWG

In July, Narjes Abolqasemi, an official with the Vice-Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, elaborated on the country's macro-level policies on women and family at the BRICS Working Women Group (WWG) Meeting held in Kerala, India, on July 6-7.

The empowerment of women requires a transition from sporadic measures to strategic and sustainable policies; in Iran, women's entrepreneurship and economic development serve as driving forces for strengthening national resilience and the family foundation. Therefore, the policies are designed and implemented with a family-centered approach, IRNA quoted Abolqasemi as saying.

She also highlighted the importance of the four priority areas of the meeting, which included promoting women's participation in governance and leadership, advancing digital and financial inclusion, strengthening women's entrepreneurship and skill development, and enhancing the role of women in climate action, food security and nutrition.

Referring to the country's experience in expanding the women entrepreneurship ecosystem, she said Iran focuses on establishing support models for women-led innovative businesses, developing modern skills, and benefiting from the potential of the digital economy.

Iran's participation in the WWG meeting provided a great opportunity to share indigenous experiences, expand joint efforts, and develop new initiatives to achieve economic justice and sustainable development among BRICS member states, Abolqasemi noted.

Underscoring the significance of fostering specialized collaboration among BRICS member states, the official announced Iran's readiness to utilize its scientific, policy, and executive capabilities to assume an effective role in the design of innovative models for women's economic empowerment and expanding multilateral cooperation within the BRICS framework.

The WWG Meeting was held under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," which reflects a people-centric and humanity-first approach to global cooperation.

It brought together senior government officials from BRICS member countries in the two-day event to discuss key issues related to women's empowerment, women-led development and enhanced cooperation across shared priorities.

Iranian researchers develop ultrasonic technology for fuel oil desulfurization

TEHRAN – Iranian researchers have developed a technology for removing sulfur from heavy fuel oil using an ultrasonic reactor and a process known as AQP, marking a reported breakthrough in the country's efforts to move beyond technological localization toward developing and exporting its own industrial technologies.

The technology, developed under the leadership of Reza Mokhtar, a researcher, inventor, and senior energy expert, is designed to address two major challenges facing Iran's oil refining industry: the high sulfur content of fuel oil and the country's reliance on foreign technology in advanced refining processes.

For years, Iran's oil and gas industry has focused on localizing technologies developed elsewhere, often through reverse engineering and the adaptation of foreign designs. While this approach has helped domestic industries reduce their dependence on imported equipment and expertise, it has not necessarily enabled them to compete as original technology developers.

The AQP process, according to its developers, represents a shift in that approach. They say the technology was developed domestically, from the initial research and laboratory stages through reactor design and construction, and ultimately to a semi-industrial pilot unit intended to demonstrate its potential for commercial application.

Addressing two major refining challenges

One of the main problems facing Iran's refining and power generation sectors is the sulfur content of heavy fuel oil, commonly known as mazut. Burning high-sulfur fuel releases pollutants that contribute to serious environmental problems, making desulfurization increasingly important as environmental standards become more stringent.

Conventional hydrodesulfurization technologies used to treat heavy oil streams generally require high temperatures and pressures, substantial hydrogen consumption, and considerable capital investment. These requirements can make their application economically challenging, particularly in facilities where large-scale investment is not feasible.

A second challenge is technological dependence. The market for advanced desulfurization processes has traditionally been dominated by a limited number of international technology providers, leaving countries such as Iran heavily reliant on purchasing foreign technologies.

The AQP process is intended to offer an alternative. Rather than relying on large reactors operating under severe temperature and pressure conditions, the technology uses ultrasonic waves to generate microscopic bubbles inside a reactor. Their rapid and violent collapse, known as acoustic cavitation, creates localized conditions that facilitate oxidation reactions at temperatures close to ambient levels.

Through this process, sulfur compounds are converted into substances that can subsequently be separated from the fuel oil in a separate processing stage. The recovered material can then be treated as a recyclable byproduct.

According to the developers, the process can produce cleaner fuel while reducing capital expenditure and energy consumption compared with conventional treatment methods. They also say it could help refineries meet increasingly stringent environmental requirements.

From laboratory research to industrial application

The development of the technology involved several stages, beginning with laboratory-scale experiments and progressing to the design, construction, and optimization of ultrasonic reactors by Iranian researchers.

The project eventually reached the stage of a semi-industrial pilot unit, which its developers describe as evidence that the process has progressed beyond theoretical and laboratory research and has the potential for industrial-scale application.

They emphasize that the technology was developed without copying an existing foreign design, obtaining a foreign license, or receiving a technology transfer from an international company.

The developers also say the process has undergone technical evaluation and formal registration through recognized authorities. Such procedures, they argue, provide documented support for the technology's scientific and technical credentials and distinguish the achievement from claims based solely on research announcements.

From technology localization to technology exports

The project is being presented as an example of a broader shift in Iran's approach to industrial development: moving from adapting and localizing foreign technologies to developing proprietary processes with the potential for international commercialization.

If successfully commercialized and adopted by industrial users, the AQP process could provide Iran with an opportunity to enter the global market not only as a producer of oil and petroleum products, but also as a supplier of specialized refining technologies.

Its developers believe the experience could serve as a model for other sectors of Iran's oil industry, demonstrating how domestic research and engineering capabilities can be developed into commercially viable industrial solutions.

The achievement, therefore, is being viewed as more than the development of a new desulfurization process. It represents an effort to change Iran's position in the global technological value chain—from a country that primarily purchases and localizes advanced technologies to one seeking to develop, commercialize, and export its own technological expertise.

Iran explores ways to enhance academic ties with Kenya

TEHRAN – Iranian officials have discussed ways to strengthen academic cooperation with East African countries, particularly Kenya, focusing on developing skills-based courses and e-learning programs for postgraduate students, as well as improving strategies to attract outstanding international students.

The discussions took place during the fourth specialized online meeting on attracting international students, held on Saturday. Abbas Qanbari-Baghestan, deputy head of the Student Affairs Organization of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, and Iran's Ambassador to Kenya Mehdi Beigi were among the participants, IRNA reported.

The meeting focused on exploring Kenya's educational potential, promoting problem-oriented research, facilitating technology exchange, and fostering cooperation between government scientific institutions and universities in the two countries.

The participants also highlighted the need to hold B2B (business-to-business) meetings along with G2G (government-to-government) diplomacy, as well as benefiting from the potential of local markets and maintaining ongoing interactions between cultural attachés and the institutions that are responsible for attracting students.

Benefiting from Iran's target universities as hubs for expanding scientific and cultural relations, and training a new generation of specialists and researchers in fields of Iranian studies in Africa, grounded in proper understanding of contemporary developments, were among other highlighted issues.

According to the Seventh National Development Plan (2023-2028), the country is projected to increase the number of international students to 320,000 from currently around 60,000.

To this end, the higher education system needs to adopt some institutional and developmental approaches in organizations associated with foreign students, Mehr news agency reported.

In this regard, the parliament research center has evaluated Iran's situation in attracting international students and measures that need to be taken into account.

According to the report, the number of foreign students in the country has grown from 13,767 in Iranian year 1394 (2015 – 2016) to 68,563 in 1403 (2024 -2025). The number of educational institutions that are allowed to accept foreign students has noticeably increased from 45 to 206 over the past decade.

The report also shows that 13 acts, such as providing short-term sabbaticals, granting visas, establishing a center for foreign student graduates, and holding remedial courses, have been developed and officially accepted by the parliament as part of the educational charter for foreign students; however, they have not been implemented in time.

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 23, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Recommended prayers cannot attain the pleasures of Allah for you when obligatory prayers are left unattended.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:13 Dawn: 5:21 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:49 (tomorrow)

20th International Resistance Theater Festival concludes in Tehran



TEHRAN – The closing ceremony of the 20th International Resistance Theater Festival was held on Saturday, November 21, at the Art Bureau in Tehran.

Mohammad Kazemtabar, the festival secretary, was the first speaker at the ceremony. "One of the events that profoundly affected our hearts was the martyrdom of our Leader; however, we were ultimately able to hold this festival," he said.

"Tonight is the celebration of the Islamic Revolution Theater. I would like to thank all of you for accompanying us on this journey. To those whose names are announced during the ceremony, I offer my congratulations in advance, and to those whose names are not called, I say that this is not the end of the road," he was quoted as saying by Mehr.

Also speaking at the event, Hojjatoleslam Hossein Taeb, Commander of Iran's Basij Force referred to the closing ceremony being held on the National Hero Day in Iran and said: "If we intend to solidify the legacy of those who sacrificed themselves defending our land, we must engage in storytelling. If this is achieved through the language of art, the culture of resistance will become immortal. Our request from you, as artists, is to increase both the quantity and quality of such works."

November 21 is called the National Hero Day in Iran as it marks the anniversary of Martyr Qassem Soleimani's letter announcing the defeat of the ISIS terrorist group, symbolizing Iran's steadfast commitment to resisting imperialism. It highlights the nation's resilience in the face of adversity.

The ceremony then proceeded to the awards segment, where the winners of various categories received their prizes on stage.

The 20th International Resistance Theater Festival was held under the theme "Iran, the Eternal Stage of Resistance". It included several sections, among them playwriting, stage theater, street theater, scientific and research activities, workshops, and an international section.

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 in Palestine and Gaza, the role of women in resistance, and contemporary events.

New mural in Tehran commemorates Minab schoolchildren on World Children's Day



TEHRAN- A new mural bearing the slogan "Remember Minab" has been unveiled at Jahad Square in Tehran to mark World Children's Day, highlighting the martyrdom of children in the bombing of Shajareh Tayyebeh School in the southern Iranian city of Minab.

The mural, which was unveiled on Friday, features the statement: "The USA killed 168 children in Minab." It draws attention to the February 28 attack on the elementary school, which became one of the most devastating incidents involving civilian casualties during the US-Israeli military strikes against Iran.

The artwork seeks to keep the memory of the young victims alive and draw public attention to the consequences of attacks on educational institutions and the vulnerability of children in armed conflicts.

The Shajareh Tayyebeh School, located in Minab, Hormozgan province, was struck on February 28, as the US and Israel launched their military campaign against Iran. The attack hit the school while students were attending classes, killing children and members of the school community. The incident caused widespread grief across Iran and prompted strong condemnation from Iranian officials, who described the targeting of the educational facility as a grave crime.

The tragedy has since become a symbol of the human cost of the military aggression, particularly for children and their families. Memorial initiatives and cultural events have sought to preserve the victims' memory and bring international attention to the consequences of attacks on civilian facilities.

The unveiling coincided with World Children's Day, observed annually on November 20. Established by the United Nations, the international observance marks the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. It aims to promote children's rights, including their right to life, education, protection from violence and a safe environment in which to grow.

Against this backdrop, the Tehran mural connects the global call for the protection of children with the tragedy in Minab, urging viewers not to forget the schoolchildren who lost their lives.

The new artwork adds to a series of murals displayed at Jahad Square, which has served as a prominent site for public artworks addressing major political, social and cultural developments.

First Irandokht performing arts event to showcase women's theatrical works

By Samaneh Aboutalebi



TEHRAN- The press conference for the first edition of Irandokht, a national performing arts event dedicated to women, was held at the Art Bureau in Tehran on Saturday, with organizers highlighting the role of women in promoting national identity and expanding the country's theatrical landscape.

Maryam Ardebili, director general of women's affairs at Tehran Municipality and president of the event, said women's social engagement and collective efforts to address issues concerning women had witnessed considerable growth over recent decades.

She noted that women's talents and capabilities had increasingly attracted attention, adding that different traditional and modern perspectives on women's roles had sometimes created contradictions that called for a more complementary approach.

"Today, women's capabilities are no longer just a matter of words or slogans; talented and capable women are making their presence felt across various fields," she said.

Ardebili described theater as an important medium for artistically expressing social experiences and developments, saying that women's creative contributions could help shape a dynamic artistic environment centered on shared values, including love of the homeland.

She emphasized that Irandokht should develop into a continuing initiative rather than remain a one-off event, noting that Tehran has women-oriented cultural facilities capable of hosting theatrical productions created specifically by women.

Ardebili also addressed the representation of women during times of crisis, arguing that women are frequently portrayed primarily as victims or vulnerable members of society. Irandokht seeks to challenge this perception by presenting women as resilient and influential participants in confronting difficult circumstances, she said.

She further described the event as an opportunity to encourage dialogue around the idea of Iran and help ease social polarization by creating a space for discussion beyond ideological divisions.

For her part, Maryam Shabani, head of the Women's Theater Office at the Art Bureau and secretary of the event, said 93 works had been submitted to the organizing committee and evaluated in two stages.

She explained that the event was conceived in response to the need for a nationwide platform supporting women's theatrical activities in Tehran and other provinces.

One of its principal objectives, she said, was to strengthen national identity and highlight the cultural heritage of Iran's ethnic communities through the creative work of theater groups.

The program has been organized in three main sections: stage performances, performances and theater in public squares. The organizers also hope to introduce outstanding productions to the Fajr International Theater Festival.

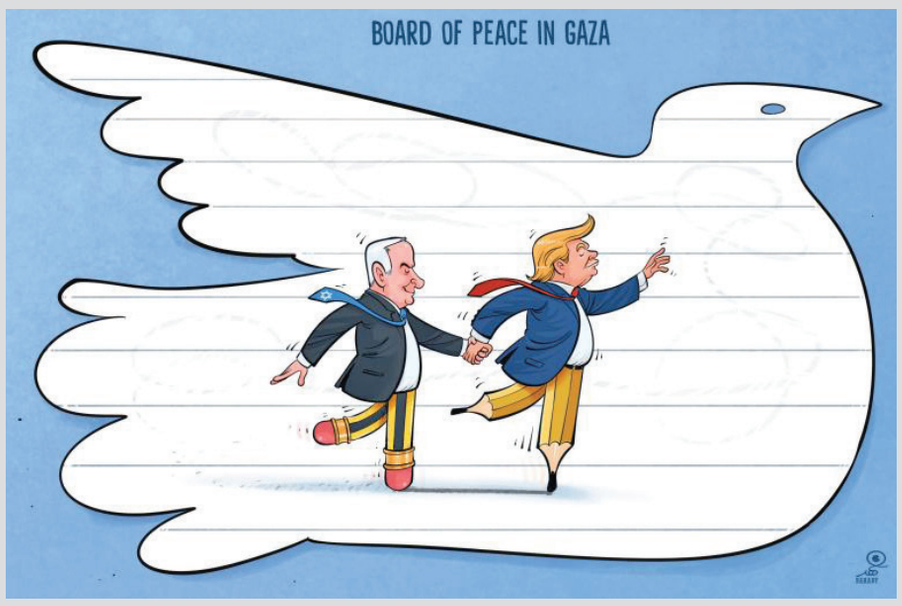
Shabani stressed that all plays selected for the event were original works by Iranian playwrights, with no translated scripts included. The artistic policy, she said, was guided by the theme of "Iran, always proud."

The first Irandokht event is scheduled to run from November 24 to 30 in Tehran, bringing together women's theater groups from different parts of the country. The program is organized by the Women's Theater Office of the Art Bureau in cooperation with Tehran Municipality's Women and Family Affairs Center, District 6 Municipality and the Tehran Greater Office of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs.

Stage productions and performances will be hosted at the Mah and Mehr theaters, as well as the Soreh and Andisheh halls of the Art Bureau. The theater-in-public-squares section will take performances to public gatherings and squares across the capital.

The event's organizers say they hope the initiative will provide a lasting platform for women's artistic participation while bringing Iran's diverse cultural traditions, rituals, literature and mythology to the stage.

Cartoon of Day



Board Of Peace in Gaza

Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria

IAF to screen Tim Burton's "Ed Wood"

TEHRAN – The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen the 1994 American biographical film "Ed Wood," directed and produced by Tim Burton, on Monday.

The movie screening is set for 5 pm and will be followed by a review session in the presence of the film critic Morteza Shapouri.

The film stars Johnny Depp as the eponymous cult filmmaker. It concerns the period in Wood's life when he made his best-known films as well as his relationship with actor Bela Lugosi, played by Martin Landau. Sarah Jessica Parker, Patricia Arquette, Jeffrey Jones, Lisa Marie, and Bill Murray are among the supporting cast.

The film proved financially unsuccessful, returning only $13.8 million against an $18 million budget, but was met with critical acclaim upon release, with particular praise for Depp and Landau's performances and the makeup, and won two Academy Awards: Best Supporting Actor for Landau and Best Makeup for Rick Baker, Ve Neill, and Yolanda Toussieng. The film is now considered to be a cult classic and one of Burton's best works.

Edward Davis Wood Jr. (1924 – 1978) was an American filmmaker, actor, and novelist. In the 1950s, Wood directed several low-budget science fiction, crime, and horror films that later became cult classics, notably "Glen or Glenda" (1953), "Jail Bait" (1954), "Bride of the Monster" (1955), "Plan 9 from Outer Space" (1957), and "Night of the Ghouls" (1959).

Marked by their campy aesthetics, technical errors, unsophisticated special effects, integration of poorly-matched stock footage, eccentric casts, idiosyncratic stories, and non sequitur dialogue, Wood's films remained largely obscure until he was posthumously awarded a Golden Turkey Award for Worst Director of All Time in 1980, renewing public interest in his life and work. Some film critics, like Will Sloan, have argued against the Worst Director label, making the case that Wood was creative in working with the financial and cinematic limitations he faced.

Tim Burton, 68, is an American filmmaker and animator. He is known for pioneering



Goth subculture in Hollywood, with his films employing a distinctive style that blends Gothic horror and dark fantasy aesthetics with whimsical and surreal elements.

He has received numerous accolades, including one Emmy Award and nominations for two Academy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and three BAFTA Awards. He was honored with the Venice International Film Festival's Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement in 2007 and France's Order of Arts and Letters in 2010.