Straight Truth

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Pezeshkian: Assassination of Iranian scientists was an attempt to rob nation of their expertise

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has condemned the assassination of Iranian scientists and prominent figures by the United States and Israel, saying the attacks were intended to deprive the Iranians of their knowledge, expertise and contributions to national progress. ▶ Page 2

Ex-top aide urges Hegseth to quit over Iran war as Pentagon unravels

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Pete Hegseth's Pentagon is coming apart in public.

His former chief of staff wants him gone. A Republican congressman has tried to impeach him. And nearly nine months into a war Congress never approved, the Navy is using munitions it once classed as expired while sailors lose weight at sea.

Joe Kasper ran Hegseth's front office for the administration's first three months. An Air Force veteran and longtime Republican aide, he told Politico that Hegseth's effectiveness "has been constrained" and that "it's time for Pete to call it quits."

He argued that Hegseth had "overindulged in ego, in attitude, and in entitlement," putting him near the bottom tenth of the country's defense secretaries. ▶ Page 5

Israel levels southern Lebanese homes, blocks residents from returning

TEHRAN — Israel's military is systematically leveling residential neighborhoods and agricultural land across southern Lebanon, turning a U.S.-brokered withdrawal framework into cover for permanent depopulation.

On Sunday evening, as Lebanon marked the 83rd anniversary of its independence, Israeli troops detonated explosives on the outskirts of Qantara in the Marjayoun district, according to local media outlets.

Massive blasts also shook Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Kfar Tebnit in Nabatieh, sending shockwaves across the south.

Artillery units shelled Haddatha, al-Mansouri, and the outskirts of Nabatieh al-Fawqa. In Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, soldiers fired flares and blew up houses while their owners watched from nearby. ▶ Page 5



Performance "Eyes of Minab: Peace for the Eyes of Tomorrow," featuring the participation of a group of Japanese activists in Tokyo.

Do Not Forget Minab

From London to Tokyo, voices rise for 120 young victims

From London's empty chairs and memorial book to Tokyo's Eyes of Minab, Paris candles, Berlin metro portraits and beach writing in Pakistan, the #RememberMinab campaign marked World Children's Day in eight cities, honoring 120 students killed in Minab and demanding their story never be forgotten and justice for victims worldwide.

By staff writter

TEHRAN – Coinciding with World Children's Day on November 20, an international campaign under the hashtag #RememberMinab has taken the story of the school children killed in Minab to streets, metro stations and public squares from London to Tokyo, organizers and participants say.

The campaign, described by its supporters as a cultural and commemorative initiative, has included street exhibitions, photo displays, artistic performances, memorial gatherings and symbolic actions in several countries, with the stated aim of honoring the victims, drawing international public attention and preventing their names from being forgotten.

London: empty chairs and a book of memories

In London, a street memorial exhibition was held with empty chairs placed in public space, alongside school bags and photographs of the Minab students.

Organizers said the symbolic installation was intended to picture the absence of children who will never return to class. A memorial book was also placed at the site, where passersby wrote messages of sympathy and solidarity, turning the exhibition into a space for human messages.

Pakistan: Minab's name on the seashore

In Pakistan, a pro-resistance activist wrote #RememberMinab on a sea beach in a symbolic gesture of support. Video of the act was widely shared on Iranian media and social networks, becoming one of the most visible media moments of the campaign.

Writing the name of Minab on the sand was a simple but meaningful act that drew the attention of a wide audience to the memory of the children and carried the campaign's message beyond borders. ▶ Page 3

Iran's seven conditions are legitimate rights, not preconditions for talks: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei has stressed that the seven conditions set by Tehran for ending the war and resolving the standoff with Washington are an integral part of Iran's legitimate rights, emphasizing that the country will not abandon them under threats or pressure.

Speaking at his weekly press conference in Tehran on Monday, Baqaei said security in the Strait of Hormuz and the wider region could be restored within the shortest possible time if the United States fulfilled its commitments and met Iran's conditions. ▶ Page 2

Two supertankers hit sea mines in Strait of Hormuz, IRGC says

TEHRAN – The IRGC Navy said in a statement released late Sunday that two supertankers were struck by naval mines and disabled after disregarding its forces' instructions and attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz via unauthorized routes.

According to the statement, the incidents occurred at two separate locations: one north of Ghannam Island and the other east of the Strait of Hormuz.

The IRGC Navy reiterated that the strategic waterway remains under the full control and surveillance of its naval forces, warning tanker owners, shipping companies and commercial operators against ignoring its directives.

The statement also cautioned against relying on 'misleading guidance' from parties seeking to facilitate unauthorized passage, specifically referring to US Central Command (CENTCOM) commanders as "smugglers."

Such reliance, it warned, would result in substantial financial losses.

Suicides among Israeli soldiers rise sharply

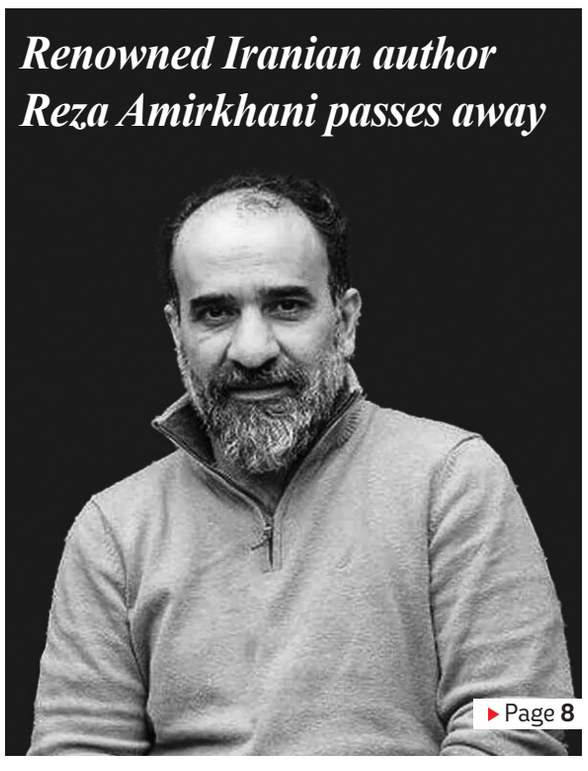
TEHRAN – Twenty-three Israeli soldiers have died by suicide in 2026, the highest annual figure recorded by the army in 16 years, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported on Monday.

The newspaper said 17 of those who died had served in the regular or reserve forces during the war on Gaza but took their own lives this year after leaving active service.

The figures also included five police officers who died by suicide in 2026.

The tally points to a continued rise in suicides across Israel's security establishment since the outbreak of the genocidal war on Gaza in October 2023.

During the decade preceding the war, the Israeli army recorded an average of 12 suicides annually, Haaretz said. ▶ Page 5



Renowned Iranian author Reza Amirkhani passes away

▶ Page 8



Prominent environmentalist warns of long-term ecological toll of war

▶ Page 6

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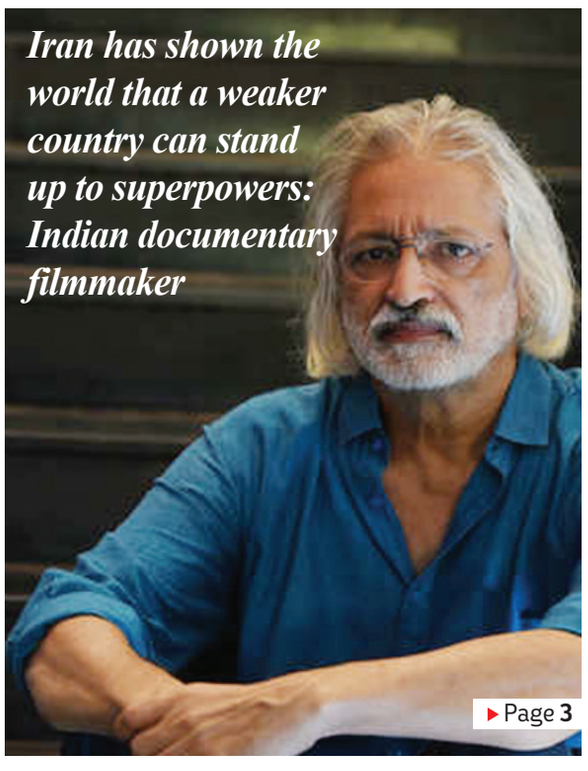

Iran has shown the world that a weaker country can stand up to superpowers: Indian documentary filmmaker

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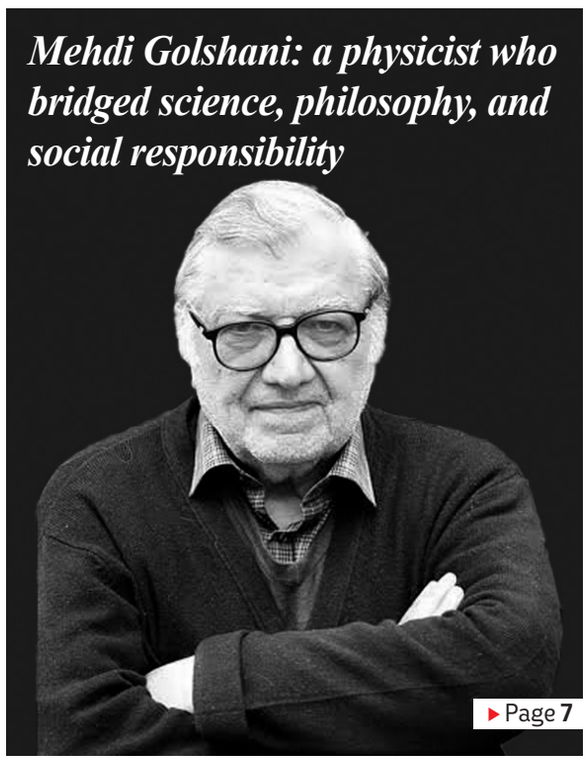

Mehdi Golshani: a physicist who bridged science, philosophy, and social responsibility

▶ Page 7

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Why shouldn't we strike first?!

In an article, Kayhan argued that recent US military movements, intelligence allegations, and statements by American officials indicate preparations for a possible new phase of confrontation with Iran. Washington is strengthening military readiness while building political and media narratives to justify further pressure on Tehran. Aggressive rhetoric from US officials and increased attention in Western media to issues related to Iran's capabilities form part of a broader strategy. These developments suggest a coordinated effort rather than isolated incidents. Based on this assessment, the newspaper questioned whether Iran should simply wait for its enemies to determine the timing and shape of events. It argued that surrendering the initiative would weaken Tehran's position and limit its ability to influence developments. Deterrence depends not only on military power but also on maintaining strategic initiative.

Iran: Iran's puzzle in Shenzhen

The Iran newspaper examined the importance of discussions involving the Islamic Republic during the Shenzhen meeting in which the leaders of China, Russia and the US held a joint meeting. Iran has become a key point where the security, economic, and strategic interests of major powers intersect. International politics is shaped primarily by national interests rather than political declarations or strategic rhetoric. Governments ultimately make decisions based on security concerns, economic priorities, and calculations of power. Countries sharing concerns about a common rival may still differ over how crises should be managed and how costs should be distributed. This reality is essential to understanding Iran's position in Shenzhen. Although China and Russia often coordinate with Tehran in opposing what they view as US unilateralism, the newspaper stressed that such cooperation does not necessarily mean unconditional support for every Iranian demand. Both countries continue to pursue policies based on their own interests and priorities. The report concluded that Iran's presence in discussions among major powers reflects its continuing importance in regional and international affairs. At the same time, Tehran should maintain realistic expectations regarding the policies of its partners.

Etemad: Diplomatic initiative remains an important tool

Etemad analyzed Tehran's relations with Moscow and argued that diplomacy should remain at the center of Iran's foreign policy. According to the newspaper, Iran and Russia may agree on limiting the risk of a wider conflict, but they do not necessarily share identical priorities. Strategic ties with Moscow and broader relations with Beijing are most effective when they complement Iran's own diplomatic efforts rather than replace them. In its view, the core issue is not choosing between Russia and the United States but using all available resources to safeguard independence, strengthen security, and improve living standards. Iran's place in any future international order will depend largely on decisions made in Tehran. No sustainable arrangement concerning Iran can succeed without Iranian participation and consent. Furthermore, Etemad emphasized that strategic partnerships should be measured by practical results, including greater security, economic progress, and public welfare. Diplomatic success, it argued, should ultimately be reflected in tangible benefits for citizens.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: A persistent challenge for the US military

Vatan-e-Emrooz examined reports concerning attacks on two US Patriot air-defense radar systems in Bahrain. Quoting military analyst Mohsen Khodadad, the newspaper said that the incident could affect part of the United States' regional air defense capability. According to the report, the event highlighted vulnerabilities facing military installations in the region and demonstrated that deployed assets are not insulated from the consequences of escalation. The paper linked the incident to warnings issued by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps regarding the country's defensive red lines. It noted that Iranian officials have repeatedly stated that any violation of Iranian airspace would receive a firm response. These messages are part of a deterrence strategy designed to discourage hostile actions and raise costs for potential adversaries. Vatan-e-Emrooz concluded that the reported attack illustrates the challenges facing US military deployments in the region and underscores Iran's determination to defend its security interests.

Donya-e-Eqtesad: Will confrontation ease?

Donya-e-Eqtesad examined whether tensions between the United States and Iran could decrease in the coming years. The newspaper argued that confrontation with Iran has repeatedly influenced US politics, citing the 1979 hostage crisis and its role in Jimmy Carter's defeat in the 1980 presidential election. According to the article, Iran continues to affect political debates in the United States. The paper argued that Republican losses in recent elections were partly linked to public concerns about Donald Trump's confrontational approach toward Iran. The newspaper suggested that Trump's political challenges, combined with the formation of a new Israeli government, may reduce the likelihood of further escalation. However, it cautioned that a decline in tensions should not be mistaken for peace. Even without a full-scale war, underlying disagreements, strategic competition, and regional disputes are likely to persist. As a result, the newspaper concluded that reduced confrontation would not necessarily bring lasting stability.

Iran has weathered two wars and years of pressure: Araghchi



TEHRAN – Iran has withstood two wars of aggression, severe economic sanctions, terrorist attacks and attempts to foment unrest over the past two years, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, stressing that the combined pressure exerted by the United States and the Israeli regime had failed to break the Iranian nation.

Speaking on Monday, Araghchi said the country had faced an unprecedented campaign involving two wars, targeted assassinations, terrorist operations, efforts to incite riots and attempts to arm counterrevolutionary groups based abroad. He said Iran's adversaries had deployed all available means in their confrontation with the country.

Referring to the outcome of the two wars, Araghchi said that after 12 days of fighting, the adversaries had shifted from demanding Iran's "unconditional surrender" to calling for an "unconditional ceasefire." During the 40-day war, he added, their position changed after about 20 days from demanding "unconditional surrender" to seeking "unconditional negotiations" and a diplomatic agreement.

He noted that the confrontation had not fully ended and that the government, Armed Forces, state officials and the Iranian people had all played their part in responding to the challenges.

Araghchi said resisting such pressure was no easy task and was beyond the capacity of many countries. He acknowledged the scale of US military capabilities, including its advanced weapons systems, extensive ammunition stockpiles, sophisticated fighter jets and large warships.

He also highlighted the Israeli regime's military capabilities and the political and sanctions-related support provided by European countries. Some European officials, he noted, had recently acknowledged that their air bases had been made available to US fighter jets. Despite the combined backing of these powers and the involvement of some regional countries, Araghchi said, efforts to overcome the Iranian nation had failed.

Turning to the Foreign Ministry's role, Araghchi said its responsibilities become particularly significant during wartime. They include conveying the legitimate voice of the Iranian people to the international community, defending the country's positions in international and legal forums, engaging with the media and creating diplomatic opportunities for Iran.

He said pursuing negotiations and seeking sanctions relief through dialogue were also among the ministry's duties. Decisions on the timing and manner of such efforts, however, rested with the country's senior leadership.

Araghchi added that the Foreign Ministry also worked to secure the country's needs by identifying alternative trade and supply routes. These efforts include finding new markets when existing ones become inaccessible, sourcing essential goods from alternative suppliers when imports are blocked, and securing new destinations for Iranian exports when restrictions are imposed.

Pezeshkian: Assassination of Iranian scientists was an attempt to rob nation of their expertise

From page 1 ▶ The president made the remarks on Monday at the unveiling ceremony of the Mosque-Centered Governance and Local Governance Plan, held at a mosque in southern Tehran.

Pezeshkian said the scientists and other distinguished figures who were assassinated had devoted their lives and professional capabilities to serving the Iranian people.

He described the assassinations as outright crimes committed by governments that profess to uphold democracy, stressing that the targeted scientists and military commanders had led simple lives.

Pezeshkian said the loss of these figures represented an attempt to deprive the country of valuable scientific and professional capabilities that had been developed through years of dedication and service.

Regional cooperation key to overcoming economic pressure

Turning to regional relations, the president described cooperation with neighboring Muslim countries as an undeniable necessity, referring to them as Iran's religious brothers.

He said the United States and other adversaries were seeking to bring Iran to its knees through sanctions and economic restrictions, but argued that constructive multilateral cooperation with neighboring countries could help the region overcome these challenges.

In particular, he highlighted the potential of land-based transportation corridors to provide alternative routes and facilitate regional trade and connectivity.

National unity essential to confronting external pressure

Pezeshkian also warned against attempts by Iran's adversaries to sow division within Iranian society, saying such efforts had failed and would not force the country to surrender through military confrontation.

He called for greater tolerance of differences in opinion and lifestyle, emphasizing that diversity should be accepted as a natural feature of society.

"Let us remember that differences of opinion and differences in lifestyles have always existed,



and we must accept diversity of thought," he said.

The president urged Iranians to demonstrate mutual respect and tolerance and refrain from obstructing one another's activities, stressing that social cohesion was essential to national development.

"If we preserve unity and solidarity, we can develop our neighborhoods, cities, provinces and the country," Pezeshkian said.

He concluded by reaffirming his administration's commitment to improving people's living conditions and livelihoods, pledging to continue serving the nation "until martyrdom."

Iran's seven conditions are legitimate rights, not preconditions for talks: Foreign Ministry

From page 1 ▶ His remarks came in response to questions about Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi's statement that Iran could reopen the strategic waterway within two hours if Washington fulfilled its obligations.

Baqaei said Araqchi's comments should be understood in their proper context, explaining that Iran's readiness to implement its commitments promptly should not be interpreted as overlooking the complexities of the situation or the need for the other side to meet its obligations.

He emphasized that Iran remained committed to fulfilling its commitments, provided that the United States did the same.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran knows what it wants, understands the rights of the Iranian people and their full scope, and will under no circumstances back down on this matter," he said.

The spokesman rejected the characterization of Iran's seven conditions as extraordinary demands or new preconditions for negotiations, describing them instead as an inseparable part of the country's legitimate rights.

He said the conditions included the removal of 'cruel and unlawful sanctions,' the lifting of the US naval blockade, and the implementation of all provisions of the memorandum of understanding signed by Tehran and Washington on June 18, 2026.

Baqaei's remarks followed Iran's proposal for a two-day roadmap to restore security in the Strait of Hormuz. Under the proposed arrangement, commercial shipping could resume passage through the strategic waterway within 48 hours if Washington lifted its blockade of Iranian ports, ended the war on all fronts, and unfroze Iranian assets held abroad.

The spokesman described the proposal as a logical framework for restoring security, reiterating that the responsibility for creating the necessary conditions rested with the United States.

Iran rejects US threats and naval blockade

Addressing recent threats by US President Donald Trump to sink Iranian oil tankers and target vessels attempting to breach the American naval blockade, Baqaei said such threats were nothing new, noting that Iran had faced similar rhetoric from Washington for nearly five decades.

He said the Iranian people would not abandon their homeland, rights or dignity in the face of intimidation.

Baqaei also rejected the continuation of the US economic and naval blockade, saying Iran would not tolerate such measures and would employ all available means to counter them.

Iran, he added, had devised a combination of military, defensive, political and diplomatic measures to counter the blockade and sanctions, stressing that the issue would be followed by concrete action.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran dismantles four terrorist cells

TEHRAN – Iranian security forces have dismantled four-armed cells affiliated with a separatist group in West Azarbaijan Province, arresting all 27 members and seizing dozens of firearms, ammunition magazines and a Starlink satellite communications device, the Intelligence Ministry announced.

In a statement, the ministry said the operation was conducted by personnel of the Intelligence Department in West Azarbaijan as part of ongoing efforts to thwart terrorist plots and prevent attempts by 'US-Israeli-backed agents' to carry out attacks inside Iran.

According to the statement, the four cells had been organizing armed operations and other activities aimed at undermining security in the country. All 27 members were identified and arrested in an intelligence-led operation.

Security forces seized 52 AK-47 assault rifles, 94 magazines and a Starlink device during the operation, the ministry said.

The dismantled network was structured into five separate divisions responsible for espionage, operational activities, propaganda, logistical support and financial affairs. Its members had also been involved in transferring weapons from border areas into the country's interior and transporting Starlink devices to urban centers to facilitate activities in support of the US-Israeli offensive, the statement added.

In a separate operation, the ministry announced the arrest of six members of three weapons- and ammunition-smuggling teams who were intercepted while entering Iran from neighboring countries.

The groups were allegedly seeking to smuggle weapons into the country for use in terrorist operations and urban warfare, according to the statement.

One of the six detainees is a foreign national, the ministry said.

Security forces seized a total of 201 handguns and assault weapons, as well as 100 additional pistol magazines, from the smuggling teams.

The ministry said the operations formed part of broader efforts to prevent the infiltration of armed groups, disrupt weapons-smuggling networks and thwart attempts to destabilize the country's security.

Iran maintains highest military readiness, warns of US-backed cognitive warfare: IRGC general

TEHRAN – Iran's Armed Forces remain at the highest level of readiness to counter any potential threat, while the country is also confronting an intensifying campaign of cognitive warfare aimed at undermining national unity and creating instability from within, a senior Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commander has warned.

Major General Mostafa Izadi, the IRGC's deputy commander, said the United States and Israel had failed to achieve their military objectives against Iran and were increasingly seeking to exploit psychological and economic pressure, misinformation and attempts to influence public opinion to weaken the country's social cohesion.

In remarks delivered on Monday, Izadi said Iran's military capabilities and resilience could serve as a model for other nations, emphasizing that the adversaries had failed to dismantle the country's defense structure despite pursuing plans to destroy its Armed Forces.

He noted that the enemy had explicitly sought to eliminate Iran's military institutions, including the IRGC, the Army, the Law Enforcement Force (FARAJA) and the Basij. However, none of these objectives had been achieved, he said.

The senior commander added that efforts to weaken Iran's Islamic and regional Resistance Front or undermine the country's missile and nuclear programs had likewise failed, describing the broader campaign against Iran as unsuccessful.

Izadi also argued that the confrontation had exposed the vulnerabilities of the US military presence in West Asia, saying the standing and prestige of the American armed forces had suffered a serious setback.

Referring to attacks on US military installations in eight countries across the region, which he said had been acknowledged by American officials, he noted that bases established in the name of providing security had instead become sources of insecurity for their host countries.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Do Not Forget Minab

From London to Tokyo, voices rise for 120 young victims





From Page 1 ▶

Los Angeles: vigil in front of the consulate

In Los Angeles, supporters held a memorial gathering in front of the Israeli consulate. Participants said the vigil was organized to commemorate the Minab students on World Children's Day and to call for their story to be heard internationally and for accountability.

The Hague: faces of the victims on display

In The Hague, Netherlands, a photo exhibition of the Minab students was organized as part of the campaign. Photographs of the children were put on public display to introduce visitors to their faces and memories, in an effort to draw European public attention through the language of images.

From Tokyo to Paris: eyes of Minab, metros and candles

In Tokyo, an art performance titled "Eyes of Minab" was staged. Images of the eyes of the Minab children were displayed on city sidewalks, confronting Japanese passersby and prompting reaction and conversation. A Japanese activist addressed the event, condemning the attack and speaking about the suffering of the schoolchildren. Participants described it as a quiet, voiceless message that such events must be remembered, with one saying all people wish for peace and another expressing sorrow and hope that people in Iran and around the world can live in peace and safety.

In Berlin and Frankfurt, photographs of the Minab students were displayed in metro stations, placing their faces before commuters in daily urban space and bringing their memory into everyday city life.

In Paris, a memorial ceremony was held in front of the Eiffel Tower. Participants lit candles, held a vigil and displayed photographs of the victims in one of the French capital's most recognizable locations, emphasizing the need to keep their memory alive.

what happened in Minab?

The campaign refers to the February 28, 2026 airstrike on the Shajareh Tayyebeh elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan Province in southern Iran, which occurred on the morning of the first day of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran.

168 people — including students, teachers, school staff and some relatives — were killed when at least three missiles struck the school grounds and buildings during an attack on nearby facilities. The Minab prosecutor later gave a breakdown of 156 dead, including 120 students — 73 boys and 47 girls aged 7 to 12 — 26 female teachers, 7 parents, a driver, a clinic worker and an unborn child. Iranian officials say around 300 surviving students continue to suffer severe psychological trauma.

Amnesty International, drawing on satellite imagery, videos and interviews, concluded the school building had been directly struck and that more than 100 children were among those killed. A UN-backed fact-finding mission recently said there were reasonable grounds to believe the U.S. Tomahawk strikes, including the one that hit the school in Minab, constituted war crimes. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has said an investigation is ongoing.

Iran's UN mission, the Iranian Red Crescent and senior military officials have called for an independent, transparent investigation, accountability and compensation, stressing that schools are protected under international humanitarian law as long as they retain their civilian character.

Iran has shown the world that a weaker country can stand up to superpowers: Indian documentary filmmaker

Anand Patwardhan says Iran holds the moral high ground and that its image abroad differs sharply from the reality his friends found.

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – Indian documentary filmmaker Anand Patwardhan has voiced support for the Iranian people following the Israeli and US military attacks on Iran, emphasizing the importance of justice, international solidarity and resistance to war.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Patwardhan, who also signed an appeal published in Le Monde in support of the Iranian people, discussed the connections between the struggles of Palestinians and Iranians, the dangers of nuclear weapons, the role of media in shaping public perceptions of conflict, and the importance of telling the stories of ordinary people affected by war.

Drawing on more than five decades of filmmaking, he also discussed the need to challenge the global arms industry and preserve a sense of shared humanity across national and political divisions.

Below is the full text of the interview:

You recently signed an appeal published in Le Monde in support of the Iranian people. What motivated you to sign it, and what message do you want the world to hear?

I was horrified by the fact that Israel began the war and the United States joined it, murdering your leader and 160 schoolgirls in the very first hour of the war.

Following the horror, I was deeply disappointed that my government was not as supportive of the Iranian people as it should have been. Iran has always stood by India, and we should have reciprocated on humanitarian grounds alone, apart from the fact that it was clear who the aggressor was.

But sadly, because we have good relations with Israel and the United States, our government pretended to be neutral. That is disappointing for citizens like me who believe in world peace and also in international justice.

You also spoke out in support of Palestine in 2023, and now you are supporting the Iranian people. What connects these two positions for you?

Justice. The idea is that the weakest in the world need international support because they have been brutalized. What was happening in Palestine was genocide.

We could not pretend that we did not know. Unlike Nazi Germany, where Germans later claimed they had not known what was happening, we cannot make that argument because it is constantly on television.

Of course, it is not easily available on our mainstream channels in India. We turn to Al Jazeera, Democracy Now or other such sources to get the real news. The genocide is known to everyone and is still happening albeit on a smaller scale.

I recently watched your documentary War and Peace, and the sections in which civilians describe their experiences of hearing explosions and living through the consequences of conflict were particularly powerful. You explored nuclear rivalry in South Asia in this film. What lessons do that experience offer for understanding the nuclear controversy surrounding Iran?

That is a complicated question because I personally believe no country in the world should possess nuclear weapons.

The only country that has ever used nuclear weapons against human beings is the United States, which dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The world has been very lucky that this has not happened again. It is a miracle that it has not, given the enormous number of nuclear weapons that exist around the world today.

When India conducted nuclear tests in 1998, I opposed this even though it was a popular "patriotic" move. Pakistan immediately replied with its own nuclear tests and a nuclear race began in our region. Nuclear weapons destabilize the world; they do not make it safer. When you possess nuclear weapons, you attract the attention of other nuclear-armed countries, which begin to see you as a potential enemy. I do not think India became more secure by acquiring nuclear weapons. Genuine security can only come by developing friendly ties with our neighbours.

Iran's situation is not exactly the same, however, and I cannot equate the two cases. One could argue that Iran's potential ability to develop nuclear weapons makes it more difficult for the United States and Israel to target it in the way they have been doing.

On the other hand, one could also argue that if it were absolutely clear that Iran was not going to develop nuclear weapons, there would be no justification for the war at all. The nuclear issue was the only justification presented for it.

Personally, I believe the world needs to disarm.

That should have happened in 1945 as soon as nuclear weapons were discovered.

There were attempts in that direction. As my film War and Peace explored, Albert Einstein who had helped develop the theory behind the atom bomb later opposed its use. Other Jewish scientists on the Manhattan project that made the bomb had feared that Hitler's Germany was also developing this weapon. But by 1945 Germany had already surrendered and the war in Europe was over and Japan was almost defeated.

At that point, the world should have said no to nuclear weapons. But USA still wanted to test their newly developed Atom bomb so Japan became their new target. Scientists like Joseph Rotblatt resigned from the Manhattan Project. Dozens of other scientists like Leo Szilard wrote a letter to President Roosevelt to stop the bomb. That letter never reached Roosevelt before he died and Hiroshima and Nagasaki thus became the tragic sites where first a Plutonium and then a Uranium bomb were tested on human beings.

Perhaps it is still not too late to fight for a nuclear free world. A start could be made if Iran says that if Israel agrees to destroy its nuclear weapons capability, Iran will follow immediately. If such a dream scenario ever plays out, it will build momentum for a total world moratorium on nuclear weapons.

You mentioned the use of atomic bombs against Japan. Some of the politicians interviewed in War and Peace also share their perspectives on the nuclear issue. However, what I find particularly important in your films is the emphasis on ordinary people's experiences rather than those of political leaders. Why is it so important to tell the story of war through the experiences of those who actually suffer its consequences?

Your question already contains the answer.

It is obvious. The people who suffer are the ones who should speak about it.

My own understanding of nuclear weapons was also deepened by the experiences of the 'Hibakusha', the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After India and Pakistan conducted their nuclear tests, these survivors travelled to both countries. The few survivors who still alive today have made it their mission to visit every country that tests nuclear weapons and explain how terrible these weapons are.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

US must reconsider its regional strategy after failures against Iran: MP

TEHRAN – The United States has failed to achieve its objectives through negotiations, pressure and military confrontation with Iran and must realize that its continued reliance on force will only accelerate its defeat and eventual withdrawal from West Asia, a senior Iranian lawmaker says.



Ebrahim Azizi, head of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, made the remarks at the third Omid Media Festival at Tehran's Milad Tower, where he called on the media to highlight Iran's growing capabilities and the strategic consequences of the recent conflicts.

He said the 12-day, and 40-day wars had exposed the limitations of conventional assessments of power and demonstrated that Iran's strength extended well beyond traditional military indicators.

Azizi said Washington, particularly since Donald Trump took office, had pursued a combination of negotiations, attempts to reach agreements, crisis creation, and economic and political pressure against Iran, drawing on its own resources and those of its allies.

However, these strategies had failed, he said, adding that the media should explain how Iran had countered US efforts and communicate the country's achievements to domestic and international audiences.

According to Azizi, Washington initially sought to bring Iran's missile capabilities, nuclear activities and regional policies to the negotiating table while simultaneously threatening military action. When those efforts failed to secure its objectives, the United States resorted to a full-scale war on February 28, pursuing the same goals: forcing Iran to surrender, breaking up the country and overthrowing the Islamic Republic.

He said Iran had emerged from the 40-day conflict with a stronger position, relying on the Leader's guidance, the capabilities of its Armed Forces, popular support, and the country's geopolitical advantages.

Iran had demonstrated its determination to defend its principles, values and territorial integrity, he said, while showing that any aggression could be met with a response capable of making its perpetrators reconsider further action.

The senior lawmaker also said the conflicts had enabled Iran to redefine its defense and security environment based on its own capabilities, including the geographical scope of its defensive and offensive operations. He said enemies must take into account that Iran's security calculations were no longer confined by conventional geographical boundaries.

Another major consequence, Azizi said, was a shift in the security perceptions of neighboring countries, particularly regarding their reliance on the United States.

The recent developments had shown that dependence on Washington could not guarantee regional security, he said, likening such reliance to "leaning against a fragile wall on the verge of collapse".

He added that the United States would not necessarily stand by its regional partners when they faced serious challenges, making it essential for neighboring countries to reconsider their security arrangements in line with their own interests.

Azizi stressed that Iran's power was no longer limited to deterrence, saying the country had also acquired the capacity to make its adversaries regret their actions. He cautioned, however, against complacency and stressed the importance of relying on domestic capabilities while remaining mindful of divine support.

Calling for a stronger international projection of Iran's capabilities, he said the experience had shown that nations relying on their own strength, spiritual values and popular support could free themselves from the domination of hegemonic powers.

Azizi went on to say that the Iranian nation would not forget the actions of the United States and the Israeli regime in the region.

He stated that the struggle by Iran, the Resistance Front and freedom-seeking people against the United States will continue until those responsible were held accountable for the killing of the Leader, schoolchildren and other Iranian civilians.

Rejecting the notion that Washington could inflict damage on the region and leave without consequences, Azizi said Iran had developed the capacity to make both the United States and the Israeli regime regret their actions.

Any renewed miscalculation or hostile move by them, he warned, would only accelerate their defeat and departure from the region.

Trump, US have no choice but to surrender to will of Iranians: Official



TEHRAN – Elias Hazrati, head of the Government Information Council, says the United States and President Donald Trump have no option but to yield to the will of the Iranian people, stressing that Iran has stood firm in an unequal confrontation with a global superpower.

Speaking at a gathering at Tehran's Milad Tower, Hazrati said the enemy had miscalculated if it believed that eliminating a leader could plunge the country into division and collapse.

His remarks came in reference to the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Hazrati praised the performance of Iran's Armed Forces during recent developments, saying they had acted with strength and demonstrated the country's military capabilities and defensive power to the world.

He added that the display had drawn greater attention from many foreign observers to the capabilities of Iran's Armed Forces.

Outlining the government's responsibilities under wartime conditions, Hazrati said its first priority had been to provide comprehensive support for the Armed Forces, enabling them to concentrate on their missions without concerns over the supply of equipment, resources, missiles, drones and other logistical necessities.

The head of the Government Information Council identified maintaining public calm and preventing divisions within society as the government's second major responsibility.

He said the enemy was seeking to sow discord, deepen social divisions and foment unrest through cognitive and media warfare. However, he stressed that the government had consistently emphasized unity among all political currents and social groups since taking office.

" We have managed to stand firm in this unequal war against a superpower, and I believe Trump and the United States have no choice but to surrender to the will of the Iranian nation," Hazrati said.

Maritime diplomacy on path to developing port co-op, attracting investment, technology transfer

TEHRAN- The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development and CEO of the Ports and Maritime Organization emphasized the development of port and maritime cooperation, the formation of a joint maritime committee, the use of educational and technological capacities, and the facilitation of joint investments with the aim of enhancing Iran's international standing in maritime transport.

According to IRNA, reporting from the Ports and Maritime Organization, Mohammad Shakibi-Nasab, in continuation of his meetings and talks with representatives of the diplomatic apparatus of the Islamic Republic of Iran in foreign countries, discussed in meetings with Abolfazl Abdoli and Mohsen Shamsi-Zadeh Ravandi, Iran's new ambassadors in Malaysia and Cyprus, solutions for developing port and maritime interactions, strengthening trade and transport cooperation, using international capacities to develop the country's sea-based economy, and adopting joint positions in international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

In these meetings, referring to the importance of maritime transport in the country's trade and the role of ports in developing economic exchanges, emphasis was placed on the necessity of strengthening maritime diplomacy, identifying cooperation opportunities with target countries, and using the capacities of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missions abroad to facilitate specialized, commercial, and investment communications.

One of the important axes of these talks was the proposal to form a joint maritime and port committee with Malaysia and Cyprus in order to identify capacities, determine areas of cooperation, and follow up on specialized issues in the maritime and port field.

In this framework, holding joint specialized meetings, including virtual meetings, was proposed as the first step in developing cooperation so that, while reviewing the capacities and expectations of the parties, the ground would be provided for continuous interactions and the drafting of joint plans.

Frther, the development of educational and technological cooperation with Malaysia and



Cyprus, especially in the fields of port management, maritime transport, engineering, and modern technologies, was among the other areas considered in these meetings.

Given the existing capacities in the ports of the two countries, emphasis was placed on using international experience in the management and operation of ports, exchanging specialized knowledge, holding scientific and educational meetings, and providing the ground for specialized visits and the transfer of experience.

In another part of the talks, the issue of developing joint investments and providing the ground for a more active presence of the Iranian private sector in international port and maritime markets was considered.

In these meetings, emphasis was also placed on developing trade and transport cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Malaysia and Cyprus, using the capacities of the two countries' ports, and reviewing and updating existing cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding.

Also, redefining the role of various actors in the North–South Corridor, with a focus on the Islamic Republic of Iran's facilitation role, was among the important topics raised in order to create new opportunities for cooperation in the field of international transport and trade.

Overall, these talks were conducted with the aim of strengthening maritime diplomacy, developing international interactions, removing obstacles to port and maritime cooperation, using educational and technological capacities, and creating new grounds for investment and the development of maritime trade.

EAG acknowledges Iran's cooperation, pledges further technical assistance

TEHRAN- The Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) has acknowledged Iran's progress in implementing the FATF action plan and pledged to continue providing technical assistance to the country, IRNA reported.

The 45th EAG plenary meeting was held in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, from November 16 to 20, with Iran attending as an observer through a delegation headed by Hadi Khani, Secretary of the High Council for the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.

In its public statement, the EAG said it will continue providing technical assistance to Iran to address shortcomings in implementing the 2016 International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) action plan.

The group also acknowledged Iran's progress in its latest report to the FATF.

The assistance includes providing supervisory and methodological documents and guidelines, as well as exchanging expertise in areas such as supervisory activities, operational and strategic analysis, international cooperation, and the implementation of targeted financial sanctions.

The statement also welcomed the support of EAG member states for Iran and the country's efforts to implement the 2016 FATF action plan.

The event, held from November 16 to 20, 2026, brought together representatives of EAG member states, Iran, international financial institutions, UN bodies and several regional and international organizations.

In the Eurasian Group Statement, It Was Emphasized:

Iran's Active Participation in Implementing the Action Plan and Continuation of EAG Technical Assistance

The 45th General Meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) concluded with the issuance of a statement in which, while emphasizing Iran's active participation in the group's activities, the country's progress toward implementing the FATF Action Plan and the continuation of EAG technical assistance to Iran were underscored.

According to an IRNA report on Monday from the Financial Information Center, the meeting was held in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran participated as an observer with a delegation headed by Hadi Khani, Deputy Minister of Economy and Head of the Financial Information Center.

According to the public statement of the meeting, the Eurasian Group will continue providing technical assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran to address existing deficiencies in the path toward compliance with the 2016 ICRG Action Plan.

The public statement of the summit said that the Eurasian Group (EAG), in its latest report to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), recognized Iran's progress.

According to the text of the statement, out of a total of 21 items envisaged in the EAG technical assistance program that the member states of the group had committed to carrying out, 8 items have been implemented.

Based on the statement, the said assistance included the provision of supervisory and methodological documents and guidelines, as well as the exchange of experiences in areas such as supervisory activities, operational and strategic analyses, international cooperation, and the application of targeted financial sanctions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Acting oil minister discuss investment, production, technology, energy diplomacy with private sector

TEHRAN- At a meeting between the Acting Minister of Petroleum and members of the Energy Committee and associations active in the oil and petrochemical industry, officials announced that 64 oil investment packages had been prepared for handover to the private sector.

The two sides also agreed to create a sustainable mechanism for interaction between the Oil Ministry and the private sector. The meeting brought together senior ministry officials, private-sector representatives, industry associations, and energy experts to discuss investment, production, contracting, technology, energy diplomacy, and removing obstacles to private participation.

Samad Hassanzadeh, President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, said at the meeting that most private-sector companies are interested in investing across all areas related to the oil and petrochemical industry, especially in increasing production, improving productivity, and developing oil infrastructure, provided that suitable conditions are created for investors. He called for deliberate measures to remove restrictions on private-sector investment in oil projects. He also referred to past experience of cooperation between the private sector and the Oil Ministry in manufacturing and supplying specialized parts needed by the oil industry during Engineer Zanganeh's tenure as minister.

Hassanzadeh stressed the necessity of completing the value chain in the oil and petrochemical industry. He added that defining clear investment packages and handing development projects over to the private sector is essential. He described the capacity of private companies to implement enhanced oil recovery projects as an opportunity for the growth of the country's oil industry and emphasized the use of modern technologies to increase production. He also said the private sector has suitable capacity to participate in refinery optimization and modernization projects. He noted the institutional capacity of the Iran Chamber, including 34 provincial chambers, 41 joint chambers of commerce, 20 specialized commissions, more than 260 national economic associations, and the Research Center. He expressed hope that the country's problems would be resolved while preserving the dignity of the Iranian nation and the authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ministry's readiness for diverse investment models

Hamid Bovard, Acting Oil Minister, emphasized at the joint meeting with private-sector activists the need to strengthen relations between the Oil Ministry and the private sector. He said the ministry seeks a permanent, regular, and structured relationship with economic actors. Referring to the private sector's capacities in investment, domestic production, and energy diplomacy, he stated that the Iran Chamber can play an effective role in these areas. He added that the Oil Ministry is ready to use various investment models, from small projects to large plans.

Bovard said there is no technical limitation in the oil and gas production sector and referred to infrastructure reconstruction programs that are underway. He also pointed to the possibility of saving about 20 percent in gasoline consumption and said private-sector cooperation is essential in consumption management and reforming energy use patterns. He described energy diplomacy as another axis of the ministry's work and, referring to negotiations with neighboring countries, reported follow-up of cooperation in the Caspian Sea area and use of the production-sharing model.



Hamid Hosseini, an oil and energy expert, highlighted investment opportunities in the upstream oil and gas sector. He said the sector has considerable economic capacity and that investment there can create added value and appropriate returns. However, many existing opportunities have not been properly introduced to investors. He identified the use of domestic financial resources, including micro-capital and resources available to the people, as one way to finance oil projects and stressed the need to design appropriate mechanisms to attract such resources. Hosseini also called for reforming investment contracts, arguing that aligning contractual conditions with investors' needs can pave the way for greater private-sector participation in upstream projects. He described the development of oil trading on the Energy Exchange as a way to increase transparency and strengthen the presence of non-governmental companies in the oil market.

Erfan Afazeli, Secretary-General of the Oil Industry Federation and adviser to the Energy Committee of the Iran Chamber, referred to the private sector's capacity to enter oil and gas field development projects. He called on the Oil Ministry to support the participation of economic actors in drafting the regulation for paragraph (b) of Article 15 of the Seventh Development Plan Law. He noted the recent action of the National Iranian Oil Company in handing over the contract for development and operation of the Zireh and Khartang gas fields. According to him, this move means the private sector has practically entered field development, especially gas fields, which is highly important given the country's gas deficit. He assessed positively the cooperation of the National Iranian Oil Company and its Business Deputy in preparing the ground for private-sector presence.

Afazeli noted that paragraph (b) of Article 15 of the Seventh Development Plan addresses the production capacity of the non-governmental sector from the country's oil and gas capacities. Accordingly, the private sector, through the Government-Private Sector Dialogue Council and the Business Support Committee, has requested that the executive regulation of this paragraph be drafted with an approach that supports the presence and participation of non-governmental actors. He said meetings had been held with representatives of the Oil Ministry, including the Planning Deputy, the National Iranian Gas Company, and the National Iranian Oil Company, but the process of drafting the regulation had stopped at some point. He stressed that, given private-sector interest, the ministry must support continuation of the work and participation of economic actors in drafting the regulation. He added that petrochemical companies and steel industries are also interested in investing in oil and gas field development, and that facilitating the issuance of licenses for exploration and production (E&P) companies by the Oil Ministry has created a suitable basis for expanding participation. He called for drafting the Article 15(b) regulation with direct private-sector cooperation and ministry support so that existing legal capacities become real investment opportunities and increased production.

Afazeli also addressed pressure-boosting contracts. He called for clarifying their status and accelerating implementation of contracts that have long remained unresolved. He said members of the Oil Industry Federation want acceleration in determining the status of pressure-boosting contracts, specifically the Phase 19 pressure-boosting project and the onshore section of the plan. He expressed hope that, with the ministry's support, both the private-sector participation regulation for oil and gas field development would be drafted more quickly and the stalled pressure-boosting contracts would be resolved. According to him, such measures could revive contractor companies' activity, employ engineers, and make use of domestic technical knowledge.

Reviving gas production and energy trade with neighbors

Nusratollah Seifi, head of the Optimization Committee of the Expediency Discernment Council, referred to the capacity of non-governmental companies in the energy industry. He said the private sector can play a role in restoring gas production capacities, developing energy trade, and expanding cooperation with neighboring countries. He considered private companies' participation in energy exchanges with neighboring countries as one usable area and stressed the need to strengthen the country's energy resilience. Seifi also said private-sector capacity should be used in projects to increase productivity and reduce energy waste, and emphasized the sector's role in strengthening supply security and developing regional cooperation.

Ahmad Davoodi, representative of the Oil and Energy Club, referred to the legal capacities of the Seventh Development Plan and called for using the envisaged tools to attract domestic and foreign investors in oil industry projects. He said it is necessary to use the investment account capacity under Article 14 of the Seventh Plan and private-sector participation in implementing development plans. Davoodi also emphasized the use of production-sharing contracts under Article 44, especially for developing joint oil and gas fields, and described this model as one way to increase investor participation in oil industry projects.

Ehsan Saghafi, head of the Association of Oil Industry Equipment Manufacturers, stressed the need to preserve the production capacity of domestic manufacturers. He said equipment manufacturers must be able to have an effective presence in projects even under difficult economic conditions and restrictions in the oil industry. Referring to the technical and production capacity of Iranian companies, he said their capacity should be used in development projects, repairs, and infrastructure reconstruction. Saghafi also emphasized continuous and structured communication between the Oil Ministry and specialized associations. He proposed that a specific group in the ministry be responsible for following up on agreements and orders issued in joint meetings with the private sector. He stressed that merely holding meetings and raising problems is not enough; for each issue, a follow-up responsible person and a clear path to results must be determined.

Khatam, another energy sector activist, emphasized the capabilities of economic actors in helping achieve the country's goals. He said the private sector has high capacity and ability to serve the people and can play an effective role in advancing the government's plans and goals. He stated that the private sector has considerable ability and experience to influence various areas and emphasized that the government must use this capacity in the best way. By strengthening consensus and interaction with economic actors, the government should provide the ground for their more effective participation in implementing plans. He noted that the private sector has designed numerous plans and projects to optimize energy consumption levels that can be implemented with government support.

Energy exports and clean technologies

Farhad Gholich-Khani, an adviser and energy activist, referred to the capacity of private companies in international markets. He said the private sector can play a role in developing energy exports, identifying foreign buyers, and introducing new markets. Emphasizing the need to use the experience and connections of private companies in regional and global markets, he considered cooperation with foreign buyers a notable area for expanding energy exports. Gholich-Khani also stressed that the oil industry must pay attention to global developments in clean energy and emissions reduction. He said that alongside conventional activities, the oil industry must take seriously developments in new technologies and clean energies.

Amir Moghiseh, Director of Investment and Business of the National Iranian Oil Company, announced the preparation of 64 investment packages for handover to the private sector. He said that in the past two years more than 30 contracts had been signed with non-governmental companies in the oil industry. Referring to the National Iranian Oil Company's plans to increase investor participation, he stated that new investment packages had been prepared, but publication of their calls for proposals had been delayed to ensure financing and the availability of preparations for implementation.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Riyadh seeks to strengthen regional leverage amid its setbacks in Yemen

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – The region is witnessing a simultaneous escalation across several regional and domestic fronts.

These include security and political crises in Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen, which have intersected amid growing international and regional pressure to change the balance of power.

Bahrain's High Criminal Court has handed down harsh sentences in a case involving 69 defendants, including 60 Shia clerics, on charges related to "terrorism and establishing a group linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps."

According to many rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch, the accusations were supported by no evidence, the defendants were subject to solitary confinement, tortured and the mass-trial was a sham. The rulings have sparked protests in predominantly Shia areas.

Meanwhile, Iraq faced a serious crisis between Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi and the armed resistance faction Kataib Hezbollah over matters supposedly linked to national sovereignty, as well as bringing weapons under state control.

Al-Zaidi had issued orders dismissing dozens of officials accused of involvement in oil smuggling in the Jurf Nasr (Sakhar) area. At the same time, he approved a plan to replace Kataib Hezbollah forces in the town with units from the army, police, and Popular Mobilization Forces.

In response, Kataib Hezbollah accused the government of breaking its commitments and using political blackmail to force it to give up its weapons, stressing that it would not do so as long as U.S.-Zionist threats persist.

Political and field information confirm that the Iraqi prime minister's moves against Kataib Hezbollah were driven primarily by direct U.S. pressure and understandings led by U.S. Special Envoy Tom Barrack. Saudi Arabia's role, meanwhile, is limited to indirect regional influence and offering economic alternatives to reduce Iranian influence.



The security tensions on the ground and the risk of clashes in Jurf al-Nasr prompted al-Zaidi to postpone his official visit to Beirut, which had been scheduled to take place amid growing political and security uncertainty in Lebanon.

The decision came after the Lebanese president warned Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance organization against dragging the country into a new war, while Washington delivered strong messages through its representative to the UN Security Council, Mike Waltz, stressing the need to dismantle Hezbollah's military infrastructure.

The United States is pushing to end the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) by the end of December 2026, while strongly calling on the Lebanese army to take firmer steps to extend state authority across the country.

These external pressures have coincided with domestic developments, including Lebanese judicial charges against Hezbollah members accused of forming armed groups, and new U.S. sanctions.

At the same time, Saudi special envoy Prince Yazid bin Farhan has been working alongside the U.S. pressure campaign, setting strict conditions linking financial and political support to Hezbollah's disarmament and the consolidation of Saudi influence in Lebanon.

This has created a political climate that made Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's planned visit to Beirut even more complicated and sensitive.

The tough Saudi and U.S. messages in Beirut coincided with the military crisis that was seen in Iraq, making the Iraqi prime minister's visit to Lebanon politically risky. Al-Zaidi's presence in Beirut at a time of escalating official Lebanese rhetoric and growing Saudi and U.S. pressure for Hezbollah's disarmament would have put him in an extremely difficult position.

He would have been caught between his international commitments and pressure from his local allies, as his confrontation with armed factions in Iraq coincided with his presence in Beirut amid a Saudi-U.S. diplomatic campaign targeting Lebanon's Hezbollah.

This could have strengthened accusations from his domestic opponents that he was carrying out a unified regional and international agenda against the Axis of Resistance.

Saudi position on regional developments and their connection to Yemen

The Yemeni fronts are witnessing a major military escalation that has reshaped control across western and southern areas, following advances by Ansarallah, whose forces have moved to within 40 to 60 kilometers of the interim capital, Aden.

This gives them greater leverage over shipping through the Bab al-Mandab Strait and poses a direct threat to the city of Aden. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, has reaffirmed that it intends to continue the war through 2027.

Riyadh had confirmed its support for Bahrain's decisions alongside the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. However, it did not issue an official statement directly addressing the Bahraini court rulings against Shia clerics.

Its role has nevertheless been clear through strategic security coordination and broad political support for Manama's measures to counter regional threats.

Saudi Arabia has declared its full solidarity with the Kingdom of Bahrain and its unconditional support for all measures taken, both domestically and internationally, to protect its security, stability, and sovereignty.

It stressed that Bahrain's security is an inseparable part of the collective security of the Persian Gulf Arab states. The rulings came at the same time as Saudi Arabia issued a strongly worded condemnation of Iranian retaliatory attacks targeting Bahrain and other regional countries.

Riyadh views Manama's security measures as part of a joint effort to deter what it alleges is Iranian interference and protect the domestic front of Persian Gulf Arab states against any security breaches.

Critics accuse Manama of taking its anger out on its Shia population after failing to take on the retaliatory operations by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has a Shia majority population.

Political and strategic assessments suggest that Riyadh views the Axis of Resistance as an interconnected network. This makes weakening Iran's allies in other arenas a way to strengthen its position in negotiations and confrontation in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia recognizes the close ties and strong coordination between Ansarallah and Iran's other regional allies.

Therefore, pressure to dismantle Hezbollah's military infrastructure in Lebanon, which is a key part of the conditions set by Saudi envoy Yazid bin Farhan, along with much of the support for al-Zaidi's government's efforts to bring armed factions under state control in Iraq, is aimed at breaking up this regional network.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Ex-top aide urges Hegseth to quit over Iran war as Pentagon unravels



From page 1 ▶ He argued that Hegseth had "overindulged in ego, in attitude, and in entitlement," putting him near the bottom tenth of the country's defense secretaries.

The Pentagon called Kasper a disgruntled ex-staffer who lasted 90 days. He has baggage: Kasper requested the 2025 leak inquiry that got three Hegseth aides fired, then told Politico he now sees no evidence any of them leaked. The Times reported that the investigation found no wrongdoing.

Still, the vacancies he describes are public. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll quit in September after months of friction.

Army Chief of Staff Randy George and Gen. Christopher Donahue, the Army's top general in Europe, were pushed out early without an official reason. Kasper calls the Army "essentially leaderless."

Impeachment waits for January

Rep. Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican who lost his May primary to a Trump-backed challenger, forced the issue on Nov. 9 with eight articles.

Three accuse Hegseth of waging war on Iran in violation of the War Powers Resolution.

Others cover the Maduro kidnapping, aggression against Yemen, civilian protections he dismantled, and the boat campaign in the Caribbean and Pacific that has killed at least 244 people.

Another charges "politically motivated reprisal" against Sen. Mark Kelly, whom Hegseth censured for reminding troops they can refuse illegal orders.

"We're not indicting him for being bad at his job," Massie said. "In fact, he was very effective at killing school children in Iran."

Republicans rescued him the next day, voting 211 to 204 to bury the resolution in the Judiciary Committee. Massie was the only Republican to oppose that.

Trump gave Hegseth an A-plus and said he had "won the war in Iran." Yet CBS News reported earlier this month that Trump weighed replacing him, and Sen. Thom Tillis calls his confirmation vote the "biggest regret of my career."

The reprieve ends in January, when Democrats take over both chambers. Asked whether he would back a renewed impeachment push, Hakeem Jeffries called himself "a hard yes."

Only two cabinet secretaries have ever been impeached, War Secretary William Belknap in 1876 and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas in 2024.

Hegseth looks headed to become the third. Conviction needs 67 senators, so removal would depend on Republicans, who so far have not moved.

The school in Minab

The war on Iran is the heaviest charge. On Feb. 28, its first day, American Tomahawk missiles obliterated the Shajareh Tayyebeh elementary school in Minab. The strike killed 156 people, including at least 120 children. At first, Trump flatly and falsely blamed Iran.

Iranian officials and survivors have described the attack as an unmistakable act of terror against civilians.

Iran has described the strike as evidence that the United States and Israel waged a war designed to break Iranian civilian morale rather than defeat a military threat.

Tehran has filed legal proceedings in the United States and several European countries, arguing that the attack on the school and other civilian sites amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

A UN-backed mission found reasonable grounds to believe the strike was a war crime. The experts concluded that the school was clearly identifiable as a civilian object.

A hollowed-out force

Hegseth has fired or blocked the promotions of more than 80 generals and admirals, about a tenth of the top ranks.

The fleet pays for it. At his Nov. 17 confirmation hearing, Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao conceded the war is "stressing our naval resources," adding the Navy recoded munitions once labeled expired to use them, and counted 17 destroyers tied down in the blockade.

He faced bipartisan resistance over plans to replace electromagnetic catapults on aircraft carriers with older steam systems, a reversal lawmakers see as costly and strategically foolish.

The carrier Abraham Lincoln ended a record deployment marked by at least eight suicide attempts. Asked about sailors losing 45 pounds, Cao said it was "just not what they want."

Suicides among Israeli soldiers rise sharply

From page 1 ▶ Army data showed that seven active-duty soldiers died by suicide between October 7 and the end of 2023. The figure rose to 21 in 2024 and 22 in 2025.

However, the army's figures provide only a partial picture, as they exclude soldiers who die by suicide after leaving active service, the newspaper reported.

Last year, the military said it had identified 15 such cases since 2023.

"Maybe the figure of 15 cases was an underestimate," an officer in the army's Personnel Directorate told Haaretz. "But even if we missed several cases in previous years, it is impossible to deny that there is an increase."

Yossi Levi-Belz, head of the Center for Suicide and Mental Pain Studies at the University of Haifa, warned that soldiers, particularly reservists serving in 2026 and beyond, constitute "a risk group."

"The coming years are critical, perhaps even dramatic, when it comes to suicide rates," he said.

According to the army, of the 17 former soldiers who died by suicide this year, it assessed that 10 cases had a high probability of being connected to military service, while one case remains under examination.

Israel's genocidal war on Gaza, launched in October 2023, has killed more than 74,000 Palestinians and injured over 176,000, most of them women and children, while destroying around 90% of the enclave's infrastructure.

The Israeli army has also waged two wars against Iran since 2025, carried out strikes in Lebanon, Yemen and Qatar, and conducted near-daily ground incursions and artillery attacks in Syria.

For decades, Israel has occupied Palestinian territories and parts of Lebanon and Syria, refusing to withdraw from them or allow the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, as stipulated in relevant UN resolutions.

Psychological toll of prolonged warfare

Mental health experts point to combat-related psychological trauma, particularly post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as a major contributing factor to suicides among soldiers. Prolonged deployments, repeated exposure to death and violence, and the loss of fellow soldiers can further compound the psychological toll.

Israeli soldiers have experienced extended and repeated deployments in Gaza and Lebanon, exposing them to intense fighting, threats to their lives, serious injuries and harrowing scenes of violence.

A Reuters report in January 2026 said Israel's military had reported a nearly 40% increase in PTSD cases among soldiers since September 2023.

Of 22,300 military personnel receiving treatment for war-related injuries, 60% were experiencing post-traumatic symptoms, according to the military.

Another important psychological factor is what experts call moral injury. Some soldiers may experience profound guilt, shame or psychological distress over actions they have taken, witnessed or been unable to prevent, including the killing or injury of civilians.

Such feelings can contribute to depression, social isolation and suicidal thoughts. However, it would be inaccurate to assume that guilt over killing civilians is the principal motive in every case. The relationship between moral injury and suicide is complex, and multiple factors may be involved.

A similar increase in military suicides occurred in the United States during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, particularly among active-duty Army personnel. The rise became especially pronounced from the mid-2000s onward.

According to Congressional Research Service reports and Department of Defense statistics, the U.S. army's suicide rate stood at approximately nine deaths per 100,000 soldiers in 2001. By 2008, the rate across all US armed forces had risen to approximately 16 per 100,000.

The upward trend continued in subsequent years. In 2012, the overall suicide rate among active-duty US military personnel reached 22.7 per 100,000, while the Army's rate climbed to 29.7 per 100,000.

Israel levels southern Lebanese homes, blocks residents from returning

From page 1 ▶ Protests erupted Sunday in Nabatieh al-Fawqa and Zawtar against the Beirut government's silence over an Israeli occupation that has pushed to the Litani River since March.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri refused Independence Day greetings, calling Lebanon's sovereignty "incomplete and unfulfilled" while border villages remain under foreign control.

Additionally, anger deepened after Israeli military spokeswoman Ella Waweya released a video on Independence Day showing her visiting a public middle school in the southern Christian village of Debel. Local officials confirmed the incursion took place weeks earlier.

Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and Education Minister Rima Karami condemned the filming of students as a "hostile show" designed to whitewash military rule, while lawmaker Ihab Hamadeh denounced the raid as an assault on children's rights.

The June 26 framework signed by the Beirut government, Israel, and the United States was supposed to trade phased Israeli pullbacks for Lebanese army deployments.

Supposed pilot-zone operations began July 20 in Froun, Srifa, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, yet talks collapsed after eight rounds in October.

War Minister Israel Katz acknowledged last month that Israeli forces have destroyed roughly 60 villages and 23,000 homes, carving out a buffer zone covering five percent of Lebanese territory.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Prominent environmentalist warns of long-term ecological toll of war

By Afshin Majlesi



TEHRAN – The environmental impact of the US-Israeli war against Iran could extend well beyond the end of the fighting, raising concerns over pollution, water supplies and damage to wildlife and marine ecosystems across the region.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Mohammad Darvish, a prominent environmentalist and desert researcher, says fires at oil facilities, damage to protected habitats and the loss of vessels carrying hazardous materials could have consequences far beyond Iran's borders. Contaminants entering the Persian Gulf could threaten marine life and food chains in neighboring countries, while smoke and airborne particles may travel hundreds or even thousands of kilometers. He warns that the lack of comprehensive scientific investigations has left the scale and duration of the damage unclear.

Darvish also discusses the shortcomings of international mechanisms for protecting ecosystems during war and the challenges of documenting environmental damage and pursuing accountability. He argues that renewable energy and shared environmental resources could help Iran and its neighbors strengthen energy security, deepen regional cooperation and build a path toward peace.

Here is the full transcript of the interview:

What are the most significant environmental consequences of the recent wars against Iran, particularly those that may not yet be visible?

War is among the most destructive human activities. Its consequences extend across the short, medium and long term, affecting human beings and all other living organisms in the affected territories.

More than 80 years after World War II, the consequences of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are still discussed, including their effects on subsequent generations. More than seven decades after the Vietnam War, the consequences of Agent Orange, which the United States used during the conflict, remain evident in contaminated soil and water and in the health of subsequent generations. Animals have also suffered, with some born with severe disabilities.

These experiences led the United Nations and other international institutions to develop conventions and protocols intended to prevent such conduct during warfare and to classify certain actions as war crimes. Yet we witnessed serious violations of these principles during Israel's war against Palestinians in Gaza and, unfortunately, during the 12-day and 39-day wars imposed on Iran.

One of the most consequential examples was the bombing of oil depots in Tehran's neighborhoods such as Shahran and Soohanak. These attacks occurred when weather forecasts indicated that rain would fall in Tehran the following day.

The fires and resulting pollution contributed to what became known as black rain and acid rain. These are extremely dangerous environmental phenomena, particularly when they result from human activity on such a scale.

To this day, no detailed report has established what proportion of the runoff from that rainfall entered the reservoirs of the Latian, Mamloo and Karaj dams, or what effects it had on aquatic organisms living in those reservoirs. We have not yet been able to determine the full extent of the contamination.

There were also explosions involving oil facilities and vessels in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. According to official figures, at least 200 vessels sank. Some were carrying chemicals and hazardous materials, and we still do not know what happened to all their cargoes.

My colleagues at the Department of Environment tried to dispatch researchers from its Marine Environment Division to investigate the situation firsthand. However, American ships warned them not to approach, saying they would regard them as suicide boats. As a result, we have been unable to establish the full extent of the damage through reliable, documented investigations.

The Persian Gulf has 17 coral islands, which are among the world's most valuable ecosystems. They support phytoplankton and zooplankton, forming the foundation of the food chain for marine organisms. These ecosystems have been seriously affected.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Iran ease Lebanon at AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup 2026

TEHRAN - Iran underlined their title ambitions with a 7-2 win against Lebanon in their concluding AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2026 Group B match on Monday.

The win capped a perfect group stage campaign for the defending champions, who will face the runners-up of Group C in the quarter-finals while second-placed Lebanon will meet Bahrain.

Mohammad Al Saleh tested Iran goalkeeper Mohammad Dastan in the opening minute but Lebanon would find the going tough after that.

Iran opened the scoring in the fifth minute when Movahed Mohammadpour's overhead kick hit teammate Mahdi Shirmohammadi and landed over the goal line.

Reza Dayeri then hit the crossbar before Iran doubled their advantage in the sixth minute through Mohammadpour's free-kick.

Lebanon custodian Ali Hallal had to be on his toes late in the first period, making back-to-back saves from overhead attempts from Saeid Piramoun and Sobhan Faleh but could do nothing to prevent Mohammad Masoumizadeh from adding to the score in the 12th minute, the-afc.com reported.

Lebanon showed more promise in attack in the second period with Al Saleh firing just over from a free-kick before Ahmad El Khatib forced a finger tip save from Mahdi Mirjalili.

Their improvements, however, yielded nothing with Iran adding to their tally in the 18th minute when Mohammadali Mokhtari tucked home a penalty past Mohamed Choker.

After several good saves from Choker early in the third period, Lebanon conceded again in the 27th minute as Mokhtari diverted home Dayeri's overhead attempt.

Lebanon pulled a goal back via Haitham Fattal's 29th minute penalty but Mirjalili restored Iran's five-goal advantage with a wonderful volley a minute later.

Al Saleh got another back for Lebanon in the 32nd minute but again Iran found the right response with Masoumizadeh hitting the back of the net in the 35th minute to seal a third straight win for the four-time champions.

Iran start 2026 Asian Women's Handball Championship on high

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Hong Kong 33-16 in their opening match of the 2026 Asian Women's Handball Championship on Monday.

The tournament takes place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from Nov. 23 to Dec. 3, 2026.

Team Melli have been drawn in Group A alongside Japan, China, Hong Kong and Bangladesh.

Iran will face China on Nov. 24, Thailand on Nov. 25 and Japan on Nov. 28, completing their group-stage schedule.

Group B comprises South Korea, hosts Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, and Australia.

Second Announcement

KSC

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER IN TWO STEPTS
No. :515947
KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE
5,000 MT UHP Grade Graphite Electrode 600 mm with respective nipples

WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

Description: UHP Grade Graphite Electrode with respective nipples as per following specification

Bulk Density:	1.65 – 1.75 g/cm³
Real Density:	2.22 – 2.25 g/cm³
Porosity:	21 – 27 %
Ash Content:	0.2 % Max.
Specific Resistance:	4.5– 6.5 μΩm
Bending Strength:	110 -140 Kgf/Cm²
Young's Modules:	7.8 – 11.8 GPa
Co-efficient Of Thermal expansion:	0.3 – 1 10^{-6} /°C

Graphite Electrode Dimensions:

Electrode Diameter:	600 mm
Electrode Length:	2400 mm

Nipple Specification:

Nipple Diameter:	317.50 mm
Nipple Length:	457.20 mm
Socket Depth:	234.60 mm
Number of Thread:	4 Thread per Inch
Thread Type:	Tapered Thread

Note1: BIDDER SHALL SUBMIT WITH TENDER A BID BOND ISSUED BY AN IRANIAN BANK OR BY A EUROPEAN FIRST CLASS BANK , IN THE AMOUNT OF 789.967.200.000 Rials OR 374,427 EUR FOR 5,000 MT GRAPHITE ELECTRODE Dia.600mm AND MAY REDUSED IN PROPORTION WITH THE QUANTITY OF BIDDERS OFFER.
ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR THE FINANCIAL BLOCK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TENDER:

1) ACCOUNT No.0102513186002 AT "MELLI BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"
2) ACCOUNT No.0100304453001 AT "SADERAT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"

Note2: ALL BIDS MUST BE INFORMED US WHICH PARTICIPATE IN OUR TENDER UP TO 27nd November, 2026. WHEN YOUR COMPANY IS CONFIRMED AND THE TENDER DOCUMENT IS SENT TO YOU, YOU MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE AFORESAID ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE 06thDecember,2026.THE OPENING DATE OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AT 10 AM ON THE 08thDecember,2026 IN THE BUYER'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF KSC AHWAZ-IRAN AND THE BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES CAN ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE TENDER.
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P.O.BOX: 1378
POST CODE: 61397-31398
AHWAZ– IRAN

Tel No. : +98 61 3213 6145 / 3213 6190
Fax No. : +98 61 32908130
Mr.Mohsen Sajadi EMAIL: m.sajadipouya@ksc.ir
OR VISIT:http://WWW.KSC.IR

Second Announcement

KSC

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER IN TWO STEPTS
No. :515948
KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE
1,000 MT UHP Grade Graphite Electrode 450 mm with respective nipples

WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

Description: UHP Grade Graphite Electrode with respective nipples as per following specification

Bulk Density:	1.65 – 1.75 g/cm³
Real Density:	2.22 – 2.25 g/cm³
Porosity:	21 – 27 %
Ash Content:	0.2 % Max.
Specific Resistance:	4.5– 6.5 μΩm
Bending Strength:	110 -140 Kgf/Cm²
Young's Modules:	7.8 – 11.8 GPa
Co-efficient Of Thermal expansion:	0.3 – 1 10^{-6} /°C

Graphite Electrode Dimensions:

Electrode Diameter:	450 mm
Electrode Length:	1800 mm

Nipple Specification:

Bulk Density :	1.75 – 1.85 g/cm³
Porosity:	18-25%
Ash Content:	0.2% Max.
Specific Resistance:	3-4.5 Micro Ohm Meter
Bending Strength:	25-28 N/mm² (MPa)
Young's Modules:	16.5-19.5 KN/mm² (GPa)
Co- efficient Of The Thermal expansion	0.3-1.0
Nipple Diameter:	241.30 mm
Nipple Length:	355.60 mm
Socket Depth:	183.8 mm
Number of Thread:	4 Thread per Inch
Thread Type:	241 T4L

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Fax No. : +98 61 32908130
Mr.Mohsen Sajadi EMAIL: m.sajadipouya@ksc.ir
OR VISIT:http://WWW.KSC.IR

Health ministry, WHO mark World Burns Week

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Health and Medical Education, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), commemorated World Burns Week 2026, under the theme "A chain of hope: from clinical care to social support".

World Burns Week was observed from November 2 to 8, with the theme of 'Thriving through a community of care'. The 2026 theme focused on the importance of thriving, rather than simply surviving a burn injury, and the key role played by countless others to support this throughout each stage of recovery.

The national event was held on November second. It brought together senior health officials, experts and WHO staff to highlight the importance of coordinated action to prevent burn injuries and strengthen care, rehabilitation and social support for people affected by burns, the WHO website announced in a press release on November 22.

The event was inaugurated by Minister of Health and Medical Education Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi, Sadjad Razavi, Deputy Minister for Curative Affairs, Abbas Ebadi, Deputy Minister for Nursing, and WHO Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran Jean Jabbour.

Mashyaneh Haddadi, National Health Policy Advisor, and Afshin Ostovar, Noncommunicable Diseases Team Lead at the WHO Country Office, attended the event. Haddadi delivered opening remarks on behalf of the WHO Representative, highlighting the importance of coordinated action to strengthen burn prevention and comprehensive care and to advance universal health coverage and financial risk protection to ensure equitable access to quality burn care.

The sharing of a burn survivor's personal story focused attention on the human impact of burn injuries, highlighting the importance of sustained support throughout the recovery and rehabilitation process.

The event recognized individuals and stakeholders who have contributed to advancing burn care. Letters of appreciation and commemorative logos were presented in recognition of their contributions. In a symbolic gesture of solidarity and appreciation, specially designed scarves commemorating World Burn Week 2026 were presented to the Minister and deputy ministers.

World Burns Week

Every day, over 30,000 people suffer burns severe enough to require medical attention – an estimated 11 million new burns annually. 70 percent of all burns occur in low- and middle-income countries.



It is estimated that 180,000 people will die from burn injuries each year. The vast majority of these deaths occur in places where access to resources is limited.

Severe burn injuries extend beyond what is immediately visible as they can trigger an inflammatory response that affects the whole body. Comprehensive burn care means coordinated multi disciplinary services including wound care, nutrition, surgery, rehabilitation, and psychological support.

Burn treatment is complex and involves different kinds of topical medications and dressings, coupled with high-level decision-making from providers.

Most individuals who suffer burn injuries survive, but many will go on to experience ongoing challenges with pain, disfigurement, and varying levels of disability.

According to the WHO, burn injuries are responsible for some of the greatest burden of morbidity. Burns cause lasting changes, impact physical and mental health, and can reduce quality of life.

World Burns Week serves as an international platform to raise awareness, facilitate greater collaboration, and work together towards global equity in the burden and care continuum of burn injuries.

The Week is an annual global campaign in the first week of November aimed at reducing global inequalities in burn prevention, burn care, and survivorship. World Burns Week was founded collaboratively by 11 organizations spanning all world regions, with the first World Burns Week held in 2024. It has since been endorsed by nearly 100 partner organisations representing burn care, public health, advocacy, and survivor support.

Burn injuries represent a significant global health challenge, with millions of new cases annually and a disproportionate burden on low- and middle-income countries. World Burns Week serves as an international platform to raise awareness, facilitate greater collaboration, and work together towards global equity in the burden and care continuum of burn injuries. By convening stakeholders, promoting understanding, and advocating for change, we strive to make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by burns worldwide.

The week envisions a world where burns are prevented, and access to timely and effective care is equitable, inclusive and lifelong – regardless of location, income, gender, age or ability.

Its mission is to be a unified voice for burns as a global health crisis by advocating for equity in burn prevention, care and survivorship and promoting international collaboration.

Russia to grant 100 additional scholarships to Iranian students

TEHRAN – The Russian Ministry of Science and Higher Education has agreed to allocate 100 additional scholarships to talented Iranian students, providing them with more opportunities to pursue higher education at Russian universities.

The issue was announced at a meeting on Sunday in Russia between Saeed Habiba, head of the Organization of Student Affairs, and Mogilevsky Konstantin Ilyich, Russian deputy Minister of Science and higher education, Mehr news agency reported.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to enhance scientific, educational, and academic interactions between Tehran and Moscow.

Iran's ministry of science, research, and technology will bestow scholarships to outstanding students.

Moreover, both parties agreed on establishing and implementing joint educational programs in fields such as modern sciences and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum, as well as conducting joint research projects.

The officials also highlighted reviewing and updating the list of accredited higher education institutions and universities.

The Russian official welcomed the continuation of cooperation and urged the Iranian side to expedite the finalization of the nomination of members for the joint scientific and academic committee.

The two sides also discussed extending the deadline for Russian universities to submit and register their data with citation databases, including the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), to encourage broader participation by Russian academic institutions in joint ranking and indexing initiatives.

Tehran, Moscow set to establish joint science and technology commission

Iran and Russia are preparing to establish a joint commission on science and technology, with a document on international scientific cooperation between the two countries set to be signed at a meeting of the commission.

In September, Ehsan Qaboul, head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology's Center for International Scientific Cooperation, said Iran is firmly committed to expanding ties with Russia, outlining the next steps by Tehran and Moscow to strengthen bilateral cooperation, including the formation of the joint science and technology commission.

Qaboul added that the Minister of Science, Research and Technology is scheduled to travel to Moscow within the next three months to finalize the document on international scientific cooperation between Iran and Russia.

He also announced plans for 500 cooperation programs with Russian universities and scientific institutions.

The programs include holding 100 joint educational courses involving Russian professors, enabling 100 doctoral and master's students to choose a second academic supervisor from among professors at

Russian universities, and organizing 100 technology events aimed at expanding bilateral cooperation from science and education into the technology sector.

Qaboul further said that 100 joint cultural events with Russian universities and academic and educational institutions, as well as 100 scholarships for Russian students, are also among the planned initiatives. The scholarships will give priority to students seeking to study Persian language and literature.

The official also stressed Iran's support for Persian-language programs at Russian universities, saying Iranian professors are ready to teach Persian to Russian speakers either in person or online.

In June, Science, Research and Technology Minister, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, and Russian Science and Higher Education Minister, Valery Falkov, reviewed strategies for developing scientific, educational, and academic cooperation between the two countries, with an emphasis on expanding professor and student exchanges, strengthening research cooperation, and facilitating academic interactions.

Simaei-Sarraf considered the development of Russian language chairs in Iranian universities and Persian language chairs in Russian universities as a sign of deepening scientific and cultural ties between the two countries.

Falkov, for his part, pointed out the beginning of a new university admission period in Russia and the welcoming of Iranian students to study at the country's universities, emphasizing the importance of providing employment opportunities and utilizing the academic potential of graduates after their return to Iran.

Mehdi Golshani: a physicist who bridged science, philosophy, and social responsibility

TEHRAN – Mehdi Golshani, distinguished professor of physics and prominent scholar of the philosophy of science, theology, and interdisciplinary studies of science and religion, died on Saturday, November 21, at the age of 87.

Golshani began his academic studies in physics at the University of Tehran before pursuing further education at the University of California, Berkeley. He received his PhD in elementary particle physics in 1969 and, upon returning to Iran, joined Sharif University of Technology.

Unlike academics who confine their work to teaching and research within a single discipline, Golshani extended his scholarly activities beyond physics to explore the philosophical foundations of science, the relationship between knowledge and society, research ethics, and the governance of higher education.

One of his major contributions was his active role in establishing Iran's first doctoral program in physics. At Sharif University of Technology, he also founded the Department of Philosophy of Science, helping institutionalize an interdisciplinary approach to scientific education and research.

In 1990, Golshani became a member of the Academy of Sciences of Iran and served at different times as head of its Basic Sciences Division.

The relationship between science and religion was another major focus of his intellectual work. He argued that empirical knowledge alone could not address all questions concerning humanity and the universe, emphasizing the need for dialogue among science, philosophy, and religious thought. He explored this perspective in numerous books and articles.



> He argued that empirical knowledge alone could not address all questions, emphasizing the need for dialogue among science, philosophy, and religious thought.

His works, including The Qur'an and the Natural Sciences, From Secular Science to Religious Science, and Physics and Philosophy, illustrate his efforts to connect specialized knowledge of physics with broader epistemological and philosophical questions.

A defining feature of Golshani's academic outlook was his emphasis on strengthening ties between the natural sciences and the humanities. He believed that university education should not confine students to their areas of specialization, arguing that a deeper understanding of science requires familiarity with its philosophical, historical, and ethical foundations.

In his speeches and interviews, he cited leading technical and engineering universities around the world as examples of institutions that place importance on both specialized scientific knowledge and the humanities. In his view, students of engineering and physics should also be familiar with the history of science, philosophy, ethics, and social issues.

Research ethics was another area to which he devoted considerable attention. Golshani maintained that technological progress and the expansion of humanity's scientific capabilities must go hand in hand with responsibility. Scientists, he argued, should look beyond the technical feasibility of research or technological development and consider the human, social, and ethical consequences of their work.

His research also covered elementary particle physics, the foundations of quantum mechanics, cosmology, the philosophy of physics, and science-and-religion studies. His academic legacy includes numerous books, translations, and scholarly articles published in both Persian and English.

Overall, Golshani sought to promote a model of university education in which scientific expertise, philosophical thinking, and social responsibility were not separate pursuits, but complementary dimensions of academic and intellectual life.

The passing of Golshani also prompted messages of condolence from senior Iranian officials. President Masoud Pezeshkian described him as a distinguished scientist and an internationally recognized figure in Iranian science, highlighting his pioneering role in advancing the philosophy of science and studies on the relationship between science and religion in Iran.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf and Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei expressed their condolences over his death, paying tribute to his scientific contributions and lasting legacy.

Lake Urmia's water level rises by 110 cm yr/yr

TEHRAN – The water level of Lake Urmia has reached 1,270.60 meters, marking a 110-centimeter increase compared with the same period last year.

Despite the improvement, the lake's current level remains 3.5 meters below its ecological level, IRNA quoted Arezou Ashrafizadeh, an official with the Department of Environment (DOE), as saying.

Lake Urmia in northwestern West Azarbaijan province started to dry up in the 2000s. The lake was once the largest in West Asia and the sixth-largest salt lake in the world, with a water surface area of 5,000 to 6,000 square kilometers. The lake's basin plays a critical role in ensuring Iran's food security and agricultural productivity. However, in recent years, the Basin's water resources have significantly declined due to rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and unsustainable water use.

Currently, the lake has about 2.5 billion cubic meters of water, and the area of the lake has reached 2,000 square kilometers.

Temporal increase in water levels over a certain period does not constitute the ecological restoration of the lake; true restoration is achieved only when a balance between water supply and water consumption is established within the basin, and the water flow required by the lake is provided on a continuous and sustainable basis, Ashrafizadeh added.

The restoration of the lake requires the implementation of effective strategies for runoff collection, the revision of water resource management within the basin, and the prevention of new water use allocations, alongside the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices to facilitate the lake's recovery, the official further noted.

In December 2025, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in cooperation with the Governorate of West Azarbaijan Province, held a workshop on a project titled 'Enhancing Restoration Activities in Lake Urmia through the Effective Use of Agricultural Water', marking the official launch of the project's second phase, which was signed in October 2025.

Funded by the Government of Japan, the FAO of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the initiative aims to promote sustainable agriculture and support the restoration of one of the country's most vital ecosystems — Lake Urmia.

The project also aims to help revive the lake, promote sustainable agriculture and support the restoration of one of the country's most vital ecosystems — Lake Urmia.

The signing ceremony of the project was held during President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to West Azarbaijan.

The document was signed by Reza Rahmani, the Secretary of the Urmia Lake Rescue National Committee, and Ali Nazaridoust, Officer-in-Charge (on behalf of the FAO Representative to the Islamic Republic of Iran).

The Lake Urmia Basin plays a critical role in ensuring Iran's food security and agricultural productivity. However, in recent years, the Basin's water resources have significantly declined due to rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and unsustainable water use.

(See full text at tehrantimescom)

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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

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

NOVEMBER 24, 2026

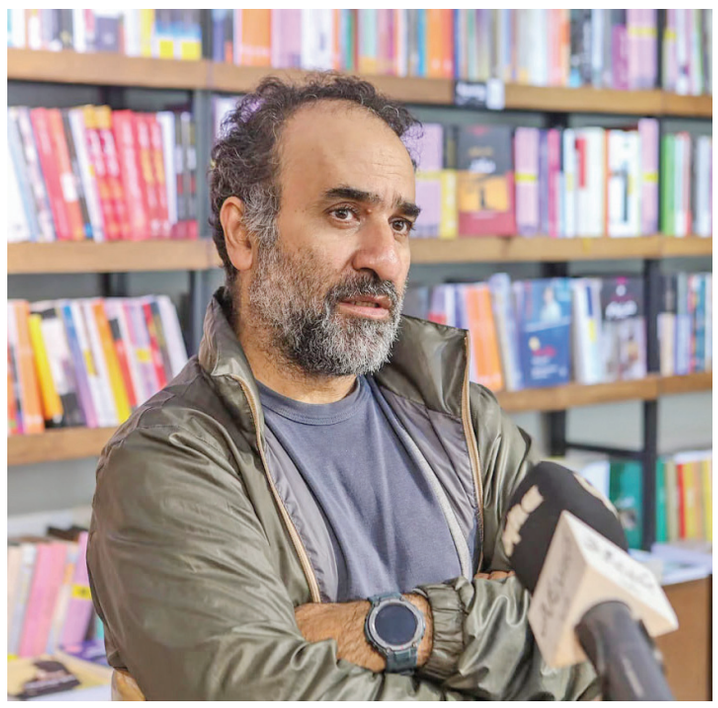
GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The most thankful of people is he who is most content whilst the most ungrateful of people is he who is most covetous.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:13 Dawn: 5:22 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:50 (tomorrow)

Renowned Iranian author Reza Amirkhani passes away



TEHRAN – Reza Amirkhani, the well-known Iranian writer and literary critic, passed away on Monday after nearly a year of enduring the consequences of an accident.

On November 30, 2025, he was involved in an accident when his paraglider crashed in the Mosha area of Damavand. Following the accident, he was transferred to a hospital in Damavand and subsequently moved to Kasra Hospital for continued treatment, Mehr reported.

Although he underwent several surgeries and was eventually discharged from the hospital to his home after some time, his physical condition remained unstable in the months following the accident.

Born in 1973 in Tehran, Amirkhani began his literary career as a fiction writer, and throughout his active years, he authored numerous works in the fields of novels, travelogues, short stories, and social and cultural essays.

His first book was during his high school years at Allameh Helli, but his profession as a writer started several years later after graduating from university. He studied mechanical engineering at Sharif University of Technology and is a graduate of National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents; he also writes essays and researches about scientific & social problems.

"His Ego" is one of Amirkhani's most well-known works, having been reprinted over 40 times. His book "Salvation," about the effects of urban expansion on a young couple living in Tehran, was selected as the best novel in 2018 at the 11th Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards, Iran's most lucrative literary prize.

Among this author's other well-known works are the novels "Ermia," "Biutan," "Gheydar," "Nim-dang Pyongyang," "Dastan-e Sistan: Ten Days with the Leader," "Janestan Kabolestan," "Nafahat-e Naft," "Nasht-e Nasha," and "Naser-e Armani".

In addition to being published in Iran, Amirkhani's works have been translated into several languages, including Russian, Indonesian, Arabic, Urdu, and Turkish.

Ali Ghamsari to launch 'Musical Silk Road' project in Qazvin

TEHRAN- Renowned Iranian composer and tar virtuoso Ali Ghamsari will launch his new cultural project, "Musical Silk Road," with a free performance combining traditional Iranian music and live calligraphy at the historic Ersieh Mansion in Qazvin.

The opening program, scheduled for Tuesday, will feature Ghamsari performing an improvised tar piece alongside calligrapher Kasra Karkazi, who will create a work of calligraphy during the performance.

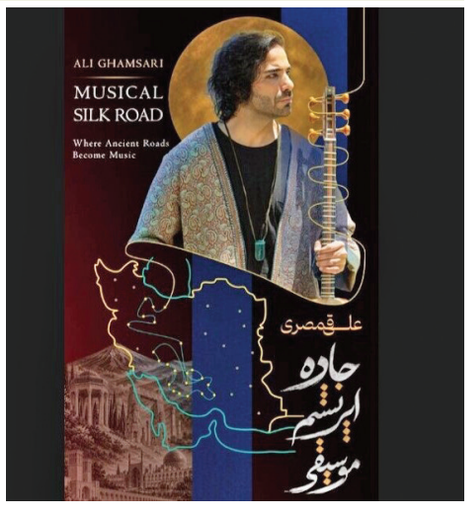
The two artists will jointly produce an opening manifesto for the "Musical Silk Road" journey, bringing together the sounds of the traditional Iranian string instrument and the visual art of Persian calligraphy.

According to the organizers, the artwork will be completed with the participation of the audience and signed by those present. It will remain at Ersieh Mansion as the first memento of the cultural journey.

The project will begin in Qazvin in collaboration with the Hamnavazan-e Hesar ensemble and will subsequently travel to different cities across Iran, presenting a series of musical performances along the way.

Qazvin was selected as the starting point because of its rich historical heritage and its recognition as Iran's capital of calligraphy. The choice also reflects the project's broader aim of exploring connections between music and other forms of Iranian artistic expression.

Through the initiative, Ghamsari seeks to bring together different artistic disciplines



and create opportunities for cultural exchange across the country, using music as a means of connecting Iran's diverse cultural and historical landscapes.

Ghamsari founded the band Sarmad at the age of 18. Afterwards, he established the Hamnavazan-e Hesar Ensemble and the Iranian String Quartet. At the age of 22, he gained fame by composing the album Naghsh-e Khiyal with Homayoun Shajarian. Since then, he has composed over 15 albums, collaborating with several traditional singers such as Alireza Ghorbani, Mohammad Motamedi, and Vahid Taj.

He has performed in many countries, including France, Morocco, Spain, the US, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Russia, and Canada.

Fritz Lang's 'Scarlet Street' to be shown, reviewed in Tehran

TEHRAN – The 1945 American film noir "Scarlet Street," directed by Fritz Lang, will be shown at the Zhou House in Tehran on Tuesday in collaboration with the Ovanes Film Club.

The film screening is set for 6 pm and will be followed by a review session in the presence of film critic Afshin Kamyabfard and filmmaker Sajjad Mansouri.

The screenplay concerns two criminals who take advantage of a middle-aged painter in order to steal his artwork. The film is based on the French novel "La Chienne" by Georges de La Fouchardière, which had been previously dramatized cinematically in 1931 by Jean Renoir.

The principal actors, Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett, and Dan Duryea, had earlier appeared together in "The Woman in the Window" (1944), also directed by Lang.

Local authorities in New York, Milwaukee, and Atlanta banned Scarlet Street early in 1946 because of its dark plot and themes.

Friedrich Christian Anton Lang (1890 – 1976), better known as Fritz Lang, was an Austrian film director, screenwriter, and producer, who worked in Germany and later the United States. One of the best-known émigrés from Germany's school of Expressionism, he was dubbed the "Master of Darkness" by the British Film Institute. He has been cited as one of the most influential filmmakers of all time.

Lang's work spans five decades, from the Expressionist silent films of his first German creative period to his short stay in Paris and his work as a Hollywood director to his last three films made in Germany. Lang's most celebrated films include the futuristic science-fiction film "Metropolis" (1927) and the influential "M" (1931), a film noir precursor.

His 1929 film "Woman in the Moon" showcased the use of a multi-stage rocket, and also pioneered the concept of a rocket launch pad (a rocket standing upright against a tall building before launch having been slowly rolled into place) and the rocket-launch countdown clock.



His other major films include "Dr. Mabuse the Gambler" (1922) and its sequel "The Testament of Dr. Mabuse" (1933), and after moving to Hollywood in 1934, "Fury" (1936), "You Only Live Once" (1937), "Hangmen Also Die!" (1943), and "The Big Heat" (1953).

Palestinian artist brings dreams, struggles to life through aerial theater in Karachi

Suspended above a stage in Karachi, Palestinian artist Shatha Yassin Jarrar blended singing, theater and aerial acrobatics to explore the distance between childhood dreams and adult realities, bringing a deeply personal account of life in the occupied West Bank to Pakistani audiences.

Her performance, "Shatha's Triangle," was staged at the Arts Council of Pakistan as part of the World Culture Festival, an international gathering featuring theater, music, dance and visual arts that concludes today. Associated with The Freedom Theatre in Jenin in the occupied West Bank, the production drew on her experiences of growing up amid conflict and restrictions on movement.

Jarrar, who is also an aerial circus trainer, said she had developed her own theatrical style, combining acrobatics with conventional theater to portray the struggles she had faced and the dreams she had been unable to fulfill, Arab News reported.

"I want from people in Karachi and anybody anywhere else to know and to listen, to hear my story," she told Arab News.

The artist said she deliberately left the performance without a definitive conclusion because her own journey was still unfolding.

"I didn't show the result because I'm still living and I'm still figuring out actually," she said.

The production's director, Mu'tasim Abu Hassan, said Palestinian artists felt compelled to tell their own stories as conflict continued to shape their lives and how they were perceived beyond their homeland.

"After the war, as a Palestinian, we find that we have to tell the people about our stories and dreams and what we really live in Palestine and reality there," he said.



Abu Hassan said the performance sought to challenge the expectation that Palestinians must constantly be portrayed as heroic figures, arguing that such representations often overshadow their ordinary human experiences.

"The main thing is to produce the reality to the audience, reality of a Palestinian as a human being, not as a hero," he said.

"Because the idea of being a hero as a Palestinian all the time, it's really heavy for us."

The combination of aerial acrobatics and movements, he added, allowed the production to communicate these experiences through an unconventional form of storytelling.

Abu Hassan said producing theater in Jenin had become increasingly difficult, with conflict and restrictions on movement disrupting rehearsals and performances.

"We lost our place, we lost our theater. Now we try to find, you know, alternative places to do our rehearsal there," he said.

Checkpoints across the occupied West Bank had also complicated travel between Palestinian cities, making it harder for artists to gather and work together, he added.

For Jarrar, performing in Karachi offered an opportunity to reach audiences beyond Palestine, where she said the production had previously been staged at five theaters.

She said performing before a larger audience than she was accustomed to had initially been stressful, but the attentiveness of spectators and their feedback afterward made the experience rewarding.

Arts Council of Pakistan President Muhammad Ahmed Shah, speaking at the event, expressed solidarity with Palestinian artists and said the festival sought to promote global peace by bringing together performers from different countries and cultures.

He said some international participants had been unable to reach Pakistan because of visa and border-crossing difficulties.

Abu Hassan, visiting Pakistan for the first time, said he had known little about the country before arriving but was encouraged by the warmth and support shown to the Palestinian performers.

"When I heard from people that 'we love Palestine and we are with you,' it really gave us support, and we felt like, yeah, we are not alone," he said.

Jarrar also expressed gratitude to the Karachi audience and said she hoped to return to Pakistan for another performance.

"See you next year, inshallah," she said.

Cartoon of Day



Burning the peace
Cartoonist: JosÃ© Alberto RodrÃguez Avila from Cuba