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Ansarallah unveils massive Mokha depots packed with Saudi and Balkan munitions

TEHRAN — Footage released on November 22 by Yemen's Ansarallah shows warehouses and metal containers packed with munitions and gear seized from Saudi-affiliated mobilization camps in Mokha during Operation Al-Ba's wa Al-Tankil.

Left behind after the September capture of the Red Sea port, the stockpiles include missiles, multiple-launch rocket and artillery rounds, 120mm mortar shells, RPG-7 launchers, 23mm anti-aircraft guns, unmanned aircraft batteries, heavy transport trucks, and fuel tankers. ▶ Page 5

Does Gaza's "Board of Peace" engineer Israel's war machine?

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – It is unclear whether Josh Greenbaum, a "Board of Peace" adviser, intended his remarks to Israeli media to distance the controversial board from Zionist war crimes and massacres in Gaza.

It is also unclear whether the statement to Yedioth Ahronoth a few days ago was an attempt to pressure the Israeli government into meeting at least some of its obligations under the ceasefire agreement in the Strip.

More than 30 months have passed since the agreement was reached, yet there has been no meaningful progress, either in stopping the massacre of Palestinian civilians, more than 1,680 of whom have been killed since the fragile agreement came into effect, while more than 5,500 others have been injured. ▶ Page 5

Former BBC host says editorial orders undermined Gaza casualty counts

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Stephen Sackur spent more than two decades fronting HARDtalk before the BBC cancelled the show in March 2025, and he now says senior editors imposed a rule that cast doubt on Gaza death figures while sparing Israeli officials comparable scrutiny.

Speaking with The Nerve in October, Sackur said top editorial brass instructed reporters to attach Britain's "terrorist" label to Hamas every time they cited Gaza health ministry toll numbers.

Israeli military denials carried no equivalent caveat regarding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's International Criminal Court arrest warrant over war crimes and crimes against humanity. That framing blunted public alarm over mass slaughter. ▶ Page 5

Chinese trade delegation, TCCIMA discuss ways to develop Iran-China trade

TEHRAN- A Chinese trade delegation, in a meeting with Feryal Mostofi, Vice President of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), and Fereydoun Vardinejad, Secretary General of the Chamber, discussed ways to develop trade cooperation and expand cultural exchanges between the two countries.

At the meeting, the Vice President of the Tehran Chamber spoke about the private sector's readiness to facilitate the presence of Chinese investors in quick-return projects.

During the visit of the Chinese trade delegation composed of managers from various fields of trade, culture, art, investment, and listed companies of the country, opportunities for strengthening interaction between economic actors of the two countries, empowering skilled human resources, deepening cultural relations, and holding joint specialized conferences were examined. ▶ Page 4



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Stronger Iran Needs Young Population

Leader says population growth builds power, creates opportunities, repels enemy threats

"Among key factors for national strength and progress is increasing Iran's future population while preserving quality and quantity, shaping future capacities, creating scientific, cultural and economic opportunities, and repelling enemy threats," Ayatollah Seyed Mojtaba Khamenei said in his message to the Fourth National Population Rejuvenation Event held in Tehran Tuesday.

TEHRAN – The closing ceremony of the Fourth National Population Rejuvenation Award was held on Tuesday, Nov. 24, with the participation of the head and officials of the National Population Headquarters, families, executive managers, population activists and journalists.

The highlight of the ceremony was the message of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Mojtaba Khamenei to the event, which was read by Secretary of the National Population Rejuvenation Headquarters Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi.

Fourth award puts population future on agenda

Organizers said the annual award is intended to promote discourse, synergy and exchange of successful experiences in population and family, and to honor families, managers, institutions and media outlets that have helped remove obstacles to marriage and childbearing.

Officials present stressed that the event should not be seen as a ceremonial gathering alone, but as part of the country's strategic planning to correct the population curve and secure national survival.

Leader: increasing young population shapes power and repels threats

In his message, the Leader described the event as a good opportunity to discuss the critical issue of population, stressing that increasing the future population, while preserving all desirable quantitative and qualitative dimensions, is of paramount importance among factors contributing to national strength, progress and a stronger-than-ever Iran.

The full text of the Leader's message is as follows: ▶ Page 3



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Tehran court opens hearing into Minab school bombing lawsuit against US

TEHRAN — Branch 55 of Tehran's International Court convened on Tuesday to hear the war-crimes lawsuit filed by families of victims of the attack on Shajareh Tayyebeh primary school in Minab over the Feb. 28 strike that killed schoolchildren and teachers.

Presiding Judge Hossein-Zadeh said the court considers itself competent to hear the claim for material, moral and punitive damages against the US government, the sitting U.S. president and leaders of the Israeli regime.

Citing Article 34 of the Constitution, the 2012 law on jurisdiction over civil claims against foreign governments on the basis of reciprocal conduct, ▶ Page 2

Pezeshkian: No one can erase Iranian nation's roots and identity

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has said that no power can undermine the Iranian nation's identity, beliefs, and deep-rooted attachment to its homeland as long as future generations are properly educated, stressing that the country would rebuild its infrastructure no matter how many times it was destroyed.

"If we raise the next generation properly, no power will be able to destroy the thought and roots of this nation. Even if buildings are razed a hundred or a thousand times, we will rebuild them," Pezeshkian said. ▶ Page 2

Qalibaf rules out action or negotiations until Iran's seven conditions are met

TEHRAN– Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has reiterated that Iran will take no action and enter no negotiations until its seven conditions are fully met, stressing that Tehran will not yield to US threats or pressure.

Addressing an open session of Parliament on Tuesday, Qalibaf said Iran's position remained clear and unchanged despite the latest rhetoric and threats from the US president.

He described Washington's threats, insults against the Iranian people, and continued emphasis on economic pressure as signs of desperation in the face of a resilient and independent nation. ▶ Page 2

Strait of Hormuz to become 'increasingly closed,' army chief warns

TEHRAN – Iran's Army chief has warned that the Strait of Hormuz will remain closed and come under increasingly tighter Iranian control until the country's seven conditions are fulfilled, stressing that any renewed aggression against Iran would trigger a more forceful response, with no geographical limitations.

Major General Amir Hatami made the remarks on Tuesday while addressing senior commanders in Tehran. The address was also delivered via videoconference to Army units across the country.

Hatami said Iran's comprehensive national power, encompassing military, social, political and geopolitical dimensions, had fundamentally overturned the calculations of its adversaries, who had failed to appreciate the country's capabilities before launching their aggression. ▶ Page 2

Behind the Trump Route, a plan B for Israel

VIENNA- Israel's war camp is still bent on pulling America deeper into an utterly futile military gamble against Iran. Netanyahu and his Washington lobbyists failed in their original goal of pushing the White House into a ground operation. It took no more than the first airstrikes for many senior American politicians, military officers, and diplomats to reach the logical conclusion that the operation had nothing to do with America's national interest. Vice President Vance had to work hard to stop the pro-Israel lobbying machine and give pragmatic negotiations a chance. It's no surprise that the Iranian side was willing to talk to him, and not to Secretary of State Rubio, who has fully bought into the agenda of pro-Israel war camp. The American public saw through it, too. By July, nearly seven in ten Americans felt the war wasn't worth what it had cost us, and roughly two-thirds wanted no part of sending troops to topple the regime in Tehran. Whatever Netanyahu's lobbyists are selling, Americans aren't buying. ▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Open breach of global security rules

Khorasan analyzed remarks by British General Rob Magowan, who acknowledged that the United Kingdom conducts offensive cyber operations against Russia, China, North Korea, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The statement, presented as a measure against cyber threats, revealed a broader British security strategy. Such actions set a dangerous precedent because they normalize offensive cyber activities under the banner of self-defense. The newspaper maintained that this approach weakens international norms and could encourage similar behavior by other governments. International institutions, particularly the United Nations, should play a stronger role in defining and enforcing rules governing state conduct in cyberspace. The newspaper criticized London over its politically motivated accusations and narratives, including the Fairford case, arguing that such efforts cannot obscure Britain's domestic policies or its cooperation with the US and Israel in actions targeting Iran. The article concluded that the growing acceptance of offensive cyber operations could undermine global stability and fuel international tensions.

Donya-e-Eqtesad: War must be prevented

In an article, Donya-e-Eqtesad emphasized the importance of diplomacy in preventing renewed conflict. Although recent developments may have reduced the likelihood of an immediate return to war, this should not be interpreted as the disappearance of threats. According to the paper, military confrontation may decline while economic competition and political pressure continue. Under such circumstances, diplomacy remains the most rational option available to Iran. This diplomacy, however, should be pursued not from a position of weakness but through realism, flexibility, strategic planning, and a clear understanding of national interests and existing power dynamics. The key challenge is not simply whether war will resume but how it can be prevented while limiting the economic and social costs associated with continued uncertainty. Tehran cannot determine the actions of Trump or Netanyahu. Nevertheless, Iranian leaders retain influence over their own strategic decisions and can play a meaningful role in shaping future developments. In its assessment, active diplomacy offers the most effective path toward reducing tensions and avoiding further escalation.

Ettelaat: More mediation, persistent distance

Ettelaat examined possible future scenarios in relations between Iran and the United States. The possibility of renewed large-scale conflict currently appears greater than the prospect of a comprehensive agreement. Although mediation efforts and diplomatic contacts have increased, the paper said there is little evidence that the two sides are moving closer on their core demands. Tehran appears unwilling to retreat from its principal positions, while Trump could face domestic political difficulties if he were to endorse an agreement largely based on Iranian conditions. As long as these differences remain unresolved, increased diplomatic activity may reflect efforts to manage tensions rather than signs of a breakthrough. The article also pointed to the beginning of a new congressional term in January, which could intensify debate over the goals, costs, and legal basis of military action. Such discussions may increase pressure on the administration to make decisions more quickly. Despite this, uncertainty remains regarding the effectiveness and consequences of any potential military measures.

Arman-e-Melli: Why neither war nor peace is acceptable

Arman-e-Melli published an interview with international affairs analyst Ali Bigdeli, who argued that the current situation of neither war nor peace cannot continue indefinitely. Bigdeli stated that neither side can realistically claim a decisive victory under present circumstances and that diplomacy remains the only practical route toward an outcome acceptable to both parties. He argued that if political rationality prevails, the present period could provide a valuable opportunity to resolve longstanding disputes. Iran currently enjoys a relatively favorable regional position, but prolonging the existing situation could create new challenges and uncertainties. He therefore advocated a more realistic and flexible policy approach. Any future agreement should receive formal approval from the US Congress, reducing the possibility that it could be overturned by a future administration. Such an arrangement would provide greater stability and predictability for both sides.

Hamshahri: The enemy failed to achieve its goals

Hamshahri focused on the failure of Trump and Netanyahu to achieve their principal objectives. The newspaper argued that after months of conflict, many analysts and international media outlets believe Washington and Tel Aviv have fallen short of their main goals, while Iran has achieved a significant portion of its strategic objectives. The report cited the US-based Soufan Center as recognizing Tehran's success in advancing key aims and influencing security dynamics in the Persian Gulf. It also highlighted Iran's missile and drone capabilities, arguing that their performance altered regional security calculations. According to Hamshahri, the political cost of continuing the conflict has increased for Washington. The newspaper concluded that the US faces a complicated situation: it has neither fully achieved its objectives toward Tehran nor succeeded in removing what it views as Iran's principal strategic instruments of pressure.

Pezeshkian: No one can erase Iranian nation's roots and identity

From page 1 ▸ The president made the remarks at a meeting of the Public Movement for the Development of Educational Justice in Mashhad, attended by a group of teachers from Khorasan Razavi Province.

A person who learns from childhood to work for their country, their people and humanity, he added, would never remain indifferent to the fate of their homeland.

Referring to foreign pressure and efforts to weaken Iran, Pezeshkian said some had assumed that killing several people would force the country to surrender. Such actions, however, had produced a more steadfast, stronger, and more deeply committed generation, he said.

"Those who are rooted in their homeland will not bow to bullying," the president added.



Pezeshkian arrived in Mashhad on the morning of Tuesday, November 24, 2026, for a provincial visit.

At the beginning of his visit, the president went to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam, to pay his respects. He also visited the resting place of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, and paid tribute to him.

During his visit, Pezeshkian also met with Chief Custodian of Astan Quds Razavi Ayatollah Ahmad Marvi to discuss the main economic, social and development priorities of Khorasan Razavi Province, as well as ways to strengthen national unity and public participation in development programs.

The president emphasized the need to give priority to people's economic conditions and livelihoods, describing public cooperation and participation as essential to implementing the country's development plans.

He also called for greater use of public and institutional capacities to advance educational justice and ensure more equal access to educational opportunities.

Pezeshkian further stressed the importance of reforming consumption patterns, managing national resources more efficiently and promoting a culture of saving, saying all sectors of society should contribute to making better use of the country's resources and capabilities.

Addressing regional developments, he described national unity, cohesion and solidarity as strategic necessities, emphasizing the need for vigilance and cooperation to counter attempts to foment unrest and instability inside the country.

Qalibaf rules out action or negotiations until Iran's seven conditions are met

From page 1 ▸ Qalibaf stressed that Iran would remain committed to its previously announced position, making clear that neither action nor negotiations would be on the agenda before the implementation of the country's seven conditions.

He also warned that any miscalculation by the adversary would trigger a decisive Iranian response, potentially extending the geographical scope of the battlefield.

Iranian officials have repeatedly emphasized that the seven conditions are rooted in the country's legitimate rights and cannot be relinquished under pressure or threats.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said on Monday that the conditions were neither extraordinary demands nor simply prerequisites for negotiations, but rather constituted the legitimate rights of the Iranian people.

The conditions come as Tehran pursues diplomatic efforts to bring the ongoing conflict to an end and resolve its standoff with Washington. Iran has called for a comprehensive cessation of hostilities on all fronts, the lifting of the naval blockade, the release of its frozen assets abroad and firm guarantees against renewed aggression, among other demands.

As part of its diplomatic initiatives, Tehran has also proposed a two-day roadmap aimed at restoring security in the Strait of Hormuz. Under the proposal, commercial shipping could resume within 48 hours if Washington lifts its blockade of Iranian ports, ends hostilities on all fronts, and releases Iran's frozen assets abroad.

Strait of Hormuz to become 'increasingly closed,' army chief warns

From page 1 ▸ He highlighted the defensive nature of Iran's military operations, noting that the country had confronted the United States, which presents itself as a superpower, and its ally, Israel, which had defeated several neighboring countries in a six-day war.

The Army chief said the enemy had assumed that Iran would be unable to sustain its missile operations beyond three or four days, drawing on its experience from the 12-day war. However, Iran continued its strikes until the final day of the conflict and maintained its ability to launch attacks during the subsequent 10-to-12-day confrontation.

He added that Iran's military preparedness and operational capabilities were currently in a strong position and that the country had achieved its objectives in defending itself.

The Army chief also recalled the late Leader's warning that any aggression against Iran would turn into a regional war, saying many had failed at the time to grasp the strategic significance of that assessment but had come to understand it once the conflict unfolded.

Hatami, who is also a member of Iran's Defense Council, said the regionalization of the war had enabled Iran to expand the conflict both vertically and horizontally, transforming its position from that of a regional power into a global one and making the consequences of its power felt worldwide.

He stressed that Iran had not allowed those responsible for the war to confine its costs to the Iranian people, saying the consequences had also been felt by the parties that initiated and supported the conflict, including at their own gas stations and in their living rooms.

He said Iran had already drawn up new operational plans and completed the necessary preparations to implement the directives.



Under the new approach, he warned, any attack on Iran's infrastructure would be met with retaliatory strikes against the adversary's infrastructure on a scale that would make recovery far more difficult.

Hatami emphasized that Iran was now formulating its military plans without geographical restrictions, adding that the country would not shoulder the consequences of war alone. Any party that assisted or sided with Iran's adversaries would also have to bear the costs.

He further cited the Commander-in-Chief's directive that, in the event of another war, Iran would determine its timing and conditions.

The Army chief described Iran's adversaries as being in a state of desperation and strategic passivity, warning that another war would push them into an even deeper predicament.

Concluding his remarks, Hatami said Iran's objectives were to remove the threat of war, bring an end to the neither-war-nor-peace situation, and secure the lifting of 'unjust sanctions.'

He stressed that these objectives were tied to the implementation of Iran's seven conditions, adding that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed until they were fulfilled.

"The Strait of Hormuz will not be reopened; it will become increasingly closed, and stronger control will be exercised over it," he said.

Tehran court opens hearing into Minab school bombing lawsuit against US

From page 1 ▸ and Articles 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 9 and 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, he said Tehran's court has both domestic and international grounds to admit the case.

The morning and afternoon sessions were attended by Supreme Court Chief Hojjatoleslam Montazeri, Tehran Justice Chief Nasser Atabati, Judiciary spokesman Seyed Ali Kazemi, Bar Association Chief Hassan Abdolianpour, Iranian and foreign lawyers, journalists, and bereaved families.

Abdolianpour, representing the families, said the case concerns 168 martyrs and described the school as a purely civilian site. Lawyer Hossein Tanhaei presented enrollment records, report cards and satellite imagery from 2016 to Dec. 1, 2025, saying the non-governmental complex, operating since September 2015 under codes 96018626 and 96018627, hosted 403 pupils and 36 staff at the time of the attack, with no sign of weapons or military use in a fully residential area.

Technical expert Mohammadreza Jalali-Nasab said debris matched a U.S. Tomahawk cruise missile, identified through a barcode linked to a U.S. tracking system, citing the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain and the missile's ability to store 16 targets and retarget in flight. AI expert Alireza Rostamzadeh said a senior Pentagon official had acknowledged use of the MSS intelligent system and WEP warfighting data platform in the war on Iran, stressing AI cannot absolve humans of target-verification responsibility.

A French international law expert and international lawyer Baboubaker Noormohammad told the court the direct hit on a marked, walled school violated distinction, proportionality and precaution, constituting a war crime entailing command responsibility.

Surviving students, a teacher and parents gave emotional testimony about three successive blasts, collapsed classrooms, bodies torn apart, and identification through clothing, jewelry and DNA. One injured second-grader displayed his burned sportswear, asking why the U.S. struck a school where "not even a bullet could be found."

The judge noted the defendants, though duly served twice, submitted no defense and did not appear. He said he personally visited the scene, court-appointed experts examined the site, and inquiries continue, adding a second session will be held if necessary before a verdict is issued.

World should say goodbye to oil if war on Iran resumes: MP

TEHRAN– A senior Iranian lawmaker has warned that any renewed war against Iran would be fundamentally different from previous conflicts, cautioning that its consequences could extend far beyond the region and threaten global oil supplies.

Abbas Golrou, head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Iranian Parliament, said the adversary must avoid miscalculations, stressing that Iran's military capabilities and defensive preparedness have significantly advanced.

In an interview with Mehr News Agency, Golrou said the reports indicate Iran has drawn important lessons from previous conflicts and made extensive preparations for any potential military confrontation.

He said these preparations cover a broad range of capabilities, including air defense, missile systems, naval power and ground operations, all of which have been developed within a coordinated military framework.

Golrou also referred to a recent meeting with Major General Ali Abdollahi, Chief of the General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, during which participants examined the military posture of adversaries, particularly the United States and the Israeli regime, as well as the movements and positions of regional and European countries.

Iran's own military preparedness was also reviewed in detail, he said, adding that the assessments pointed to a favorable situation, with significant progress in air defense and continued development of missile capabilities.

The lawmaker further said that expanding the geographical scope of a potential conflict and diversifying the range of targets across the region and beyond were among the decisions finalized in a meeting between military commanders and the Leader. The objective, he explained, was to ensure that adversaries fully understand the scale of the potential costs and consequences before contemplating further military action.

Golrou added that the international oil market must be a central consideration in any assessment of the consequences of renewed hostilities.

"If another war breaks out, the world should say goodbye to oil," he warned, emphasizing that Iran possesses the capabilities and strategic instruments to influence regional and global equations.

Iran has no reason to reopen Hormuz: US congressman

TEHRAN – US Democratic Congressman Richard Ojeda has condemned attacks on schools and hospitals in Iran, saying the United States cannot portray itself as the good side while targeting facilities serving children.

"We are not the good guys in this situation. The good guys do not bomb children's schools. The good guys do not target children's hospitals. This is unacceptable," Ojeda said.

He called for an immediate end to the war, stressing that efforts should focus on finding a way to bring the conflict to a close.

Ojeda also pointed to the economic consequences of the war, saying its end would likely lead to lower prices across a range of sectors.

"We need the Strait of Hormuz to reopen," he said, while acknowledging that, under the current circumstances, Iran sees no reason to reopen the strategic waterway.

He argued that those responsible for drawing the United States into the war remain in power and must be held accountable for their actions.

His remarks come amid heightened tensions over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital international energy transit route whose status has become a major issue in the ongoing conflict.

Stronger Iran needs young population

Leader says population growth builds power, creates opportunities, repels enemy threats

From Page 1 ▶ "The Fourth National Event on Population Rejuvenation is a good opportunity to discuss the critical issue of population. Among the key factors contributing to national strength, progress, and the attainment of a stronger-than-ever Iran, the imperative of increasing the future population of our dear Iran, while preserving all desirable quantitative and qualitative dimensions, is of paramount importance. This strategic issue that helps to shape the future, which our illustrious, martyred Leader (may God exalt his noble rank) had repeatedly emphasized over the past decades, is highly effective both in actualizing the nation's capacities and in creating and enhancing many opportunities in science, culture, economics, and society. It's also influential in repelling and removing the threats and malicious intentions of the enemy.

It appears that after a lengthy, detrimental period of negligence that had dominated the landscape of national planning and management in this respect, certain recent measures have now created an opportunity for both the public and for officials to address this matter with deeper insight.

In considering the various aspects of population and its requirements and needs in different fields, the criterion for assessment is sometimes the family and sometimes its the individual. In some matters such as housing and for many goods and services, the consumer and user is the family, and in other matters such as food, clothing, and health-related needs, the individual is considered to be the unit of criterion. The issue of achieving a desirable population is one of the matters in which both aspects (the family and individuals) are involved. Therefore, improving various infrastructures and aspects related to strengthening the foundation of the family must be a permanent element in the effort to correct the country's population curve, just as giving due attention to related individual concerns is also necessary.

Giving serious, comprehensive attention to the matter of facilitating marriage at a young age; ensuring individual health, which depends on multiple factors; supporting childbearing; promoting a family-centered culture; and introducing successful examples in this area are all effective steps on the path to making Iran stronger. Furthermore, giving a proper explanation of these matters to the entire nation, especially the youth, will serve as another useful step in this direction.

Without a doubt, every patriotic Iranian who hopes for a bright and glorious future for this land and its people will have a strong determination and resolve to ensure the continuity of future generations of the Iranian nation in a manner befitting the New Islamic Civilization. I sincerely hope that by remedying the shortcomings arising from certain past population policies, and by earnestly pursuing the sound, strategic policy of increasing the young population and placing the family at the center of this effort, our dear homeland will safely navigate this critical juncture and stage, which it now finds itself in and which will shape the future.



May divine grace, together with the blessed prayers of our Master [Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his noble reappearance)], cause God's blessings to descend upon the Iranian people, who are standard-bearers of truth and justice in this day and age. We pray He will grant us this by His grace and generosity."

Pledge to martyred Leader and fallen martyrs

After reading the message, Dastjerdi asked the martyred Leader, who had repeatedly stressed population as a fundamental concern, to cast a benevolent glance upon his children and pray for the cause of childbearing and population.

She said: "We believe that if he favors us, his blessed soul turns soil into alchemy. We ask him to look upon these children of his, for he was our father and the father of this nation, and to pray for childbearing and population, which was one of his most essential concerns."

Dastjerdi also paid tribute to the country's martyrs, naming Dr. Ali Larijani, martyred commanders of the IRGC, Armed Forces and Army, and the innocent martyred children of Minab, saying the nation remains in mourning for them.

"Our commanders, our Armed Forces, our youth, these lions of the day and ascetics of the night, and our lion-hearted women and youth who are soldiers of Imam Mahdi, are in the field and on the scene," she said, adding that the enemy should take to the grave its vain illusion, as Iran will become stronger and will spread the new civilization worthy of great Islamic Iran across the world.

Health minister warns of existential crisis

Health Minister Mohammadreza Zafarghandi told the ceremony that the meeting was not a simple gathering but a strategic session for national survival, aimed at synergy, exchange of views, culture-building and transfer of experiences.

"Today the population issue is no longer an annual matter. We face an existential crisis and a paradigm shift," he said, warning that the rapid shift from a young society toward an aging society is not only a demographic challenge but a threat to national security, economic sustainability and social continuity.

He said the total fertility rate has fallen to about 1.35, far below replacement level, warning of a deep gap in the labor force, social support structures and economic issues in the near future if the demographic transition is not managed today.

The population crisis cannot be solved with one-dimensional, project-based solutions, he said, calling for scientific and comprehensive interventions and a move from transient, superficial support toward a sustainable ecosystem for family formation.

Zafarghandi said about 13 million young people of marriage age are single, citing economic and cultural problems and instability and uncertainty about the future as main obstacles, noting that any uncertainty about the country's future conditions can reduce marriage rates.

He stressed the role of universities in providing precise analyses and new models for managing the crisis, and called for sustained follow-up with governors, district governors and all executive bodies. The national award, he said, should be regarded as part of the country's strategic programs, not an isolated event, to keep Iran young, powerful and proud.

Easing childbearing path with mother hope card

Deputy for Planning of the National Population Headquarters Seyed Hamed Barakati said families must be supported on the path of childbearing, noting that while incentives and awards matter, the process itself must be facilitated.

He pointed to the "Mother Hope Card" pursued by the headquarters as one of the measures to meet mothers' initial needs.

Barakati said the event honors those who have supported families — families, managers and institutions that by reforming a procedure have lifted a burden from families or eased difficulties where childbearing was hard.

He described media as another influential group, saying media should be the voice of the people and write about people's problems in population so officials are informed, a criterion used in selecting top media.

Referring to the president's emphasis on neighborhood-based, mosque-based and people-centered governance, he said executive bodies must remove stones from the people's path to smooth support for family and childbearing, and that actions by companies and managers that can be replicated across the country should be promoted.

Housing and jobs as decisive bottlenecks

Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution Abdolhossein Khosrowpanah said population governance structures have taken shape: the council approved the population document, parliament passed the Family Support and Youth Population Law, and the National Population Headquarters was formed to lead, coordinate and supervise policies, while national events have helped discourse-building.

He said Iran's population is about 93 million, with a fertility rate of 1.9, some 9 percent over 65 and 69 percent aged 15 to 64, warning that given aging trends, population growth is not favorable and more effective action is needed.

Khosrowpanah cited expensive housing, unemployment and unstable social and economic conditions as the most important barriers to childbearing, alongside changing attitudes toward marriage, individualism, multiplicity of responsible bodies and weak coordination.

He also pointed to women's employment, childbearing and child-rearing, and shortage of quality, affordable kindergartens, criticizing incomplete implementation of support laws. Even if the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development cannot provide owner-occupied housing for families eligible on condition of childbearing, he said, rent-to-own capacity can be used.

He stressed support for women after maternity leave so no obstacles block their return to work, and called for strengthening financial support alongside revising faculty promotion advantages for women to account for family and child-rearing responsibilities.

Khosrowpanah proposed that all headquarters and responsible bodies, including the ministries of roads, labor, education, science and health, focus for one to two years on key effective factors in solving the population issue and act in coordination.

Iran warns Bahrain of legal consequences for facilitating US military aggression

TEHRAN– Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has warned Bahrain that it cannot evade international responsibility for allowing its territory, airspace and military installations to be used in support of US military aggression against Iran, calling on Manama to end its complicity in such operations.

In a letter dated November 23 and addressed to the UN Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, Gholamhossein Darzi, Iran's ambassador and chargé d'affaires to the United Nations, categorically rejected allegations levelled against Tehran by Bahrain in letters dated November 16 and 19, describing them as baseless attempts to distort the facts and misrepresent Iran's defensive measures.

Darzi said Bahrain was seeking to divert attention from its role in facilitating and enabling continued US aggression against Iran.

US military operations from regional bases

The Iranian envoy said US military aggression against Iran had continued unabated in violation of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the fundamental principles of the UN Charter.

He cited US airstrikes on November 2 and 17 against Iranian facilities and installations on Qeshm Island and near Sirik in Hormozgan Province, followed by an attack on a radar installation on Hengam Island on November 20.

According to the letter, Iran responded on November 21 by targeting the source of the attack in Bahrain, specifically a US radar system at the Sheikh Isa military base. Darzi said any alleged targeting error was attributable solely to jamming and electronic warfare operations conducted by US forces stationed in Bahrain.

He added that credible information and evidence indicated that US military drones and other assets had been used from regional bases, including those in Bahrain and Kuwait, to carry out acts of aggression against Iran.

The letter also pointed to a recurring pattern in which attacks on Iranian facilities and vessels, including civilian ships, followed reconnaissance flights originating from Bahrain. MQ-9 drones have conducted combat reconnaissance missions from the kingdom, while P-8 aircraft have been used for maritime surveillance in support of US military operations, Darzi said.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Behind the Trump Route, a plan B for Israel



From Page 1 ▶ But don't expect Netanyahu, whose political survival depends on war, to throw in the towel and accept a deal with Iran. He has always had a Plan B, and lately it has been coming into sharper focus. In September 2020, Azerbaijan launched a full-scale war against Nagorno-Karabakh, a historic Armenian province that Stalin handed to Soviet Azerbaijan. As the Soviet Union was falling apart, war broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan; it ended in an Armenian victory and a ceasefire signed in 1994. Twenty-six years later, the Azerbaijanis, ostensibly tired of peace talks, decided to settle the score by force.

Which raises the question: what does Israel have to do with any of this? After all, we're talking about two South Caucasus nations locked in a seemingly ordinary territorial dispute. More than you might think. After the Soviet collapse, Israel forged close ties with newly independent, predominantly Shiite Muslim Azerbaijan, which it saw as a potential staging ground against Iran. Israel became one of Azerbaijan's largest arms suppliers: between 2016 and 2020, it provided 69 percent of Azerbaijan's major weapons imports, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Meanwhile, pro-Israel lobbying groups in the US and Europe helped Baku push back against Armenian organizations campaigning for international recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Senior Iranian officials and state-sponsored media have often complained that Israeli intelligence runs operations against Tehran out of Azerbaijan, using its territory and infrastructure. Baku has always denied the accusations, but its assaults on Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020 and 2023 put many doubts to rest. Israel didn't just cheer from the sidelines as Baku drove out Karabakh's 150,000-strong Armenian Christian population; it also provided extensive political, military, technical, and intelligence support. No wonder Baku now not only openly calls Israel its closest friend and strategic partner, but also unabashedly backs Israel's stance on Palestine, angering Iran and even Turkey, once its close ally. The relationship runs both ways: last year, Azerbaijan supplied nearly half of Israel's oil imports, shipped through Turkey despite Ankara's trade ban on Israel. That's the price of Israeli help, without which victory over Nagorno-Karabakh would have been highly unlikely.

President Donald Trump brought the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan to the table in August 2025, and the two sides signed a deal at the White House known as TRIPP, the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity. It calls for a multimodal transit corridor through Armenia's Syunik province that would link mainland Azerbaijan to its exclave, the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, running right along the Iranian border. Eventually, the corridor is meant to become part of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, better known as the Middle Corridor.

On November 23, 2026, Trump and Pashinyan announced the launch of TRIPP's practical implementation phase, with preparatory construction work beginning in Syunik province. What began as a diplomatic initiative is now taking shape on the ground, lending greater urgency to the project's geopolitical implications.

Oddly enough, the two men now steering TRIPP are both very close to Netanyahu and the Israel lobby: Aryeh Lightstone and Konstantin Sokolov. Lightstone is a senior adviser to Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff, while Sokolov is a businessman appointed to chair the State Department's TRIPP+ fund. Sokolov is known as one of the biggest donors to Trump and several of his pet projects; he was among the top funders of Trump's sprawling new White House ballroom. Beyond his heavy involvement in TRIPP, Sokolov has been buying up Armenia's key strategic assets, from telecom networks to gold deposits, and now has his sights set on an even more critical one: a copper-molybdenum plant less than an hour's drive from the Armenian-Iranian border.

From the standpoint of US national interests, TRIPP is a major undertaking that could not only help bring peace to the South Caucasus but also serve as a geoeconomic counterweight to China. Netanyahu and his lobbyists, however, see something else: American money and muscle they can turn against Iran, all under the noble banner of economic and logistical integration linking Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia, and Nakhchivan. Tehran sees through this dangerous game by Israel's war camp and has gone out of its way to make clear to Armenia's and Azerbaijan's leaders that it will not tolerate a hostile foreign presence on its borders. It's not hard to see how this could end badly for Yerevan and Baku. The bigger question is whether we'll let Netanyahu drag us into a Middle East quagmire all over again.

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Fourth oil tanker reportedly catches fire east of Hormuz Strait: IRGC navy

TEHRAN– The Navy of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) reported an explosion and fire aboard an oil tanker east of the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday after the vessel struck a naval mine while attempting to navigate an unauthorized shipping route.

In a statement issued on Tuesday afternoon, the IRGC Navy said the incident had occurred earlier in the day after a tanker, which it said was violating maritime regulations, entered a false and unauthorized shipping lane.

The statement added that two other tankers turned back toward the Persian Gulf after witnessing the incident and receiving a radio warning from the IRGC Navy's Strait of Hormuz Vessel Traffic Control Center.

The IRGC Navy warned that vessels attempting to use unauthorized routes could face explosions and fires.

The incident marked the fourth tanker reported by the Iranian armed forces to have caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday amid attempts to transit the strategic waterway through unauthorized routes.

Tehran's industrial recovery: 252 war-damaged units back in production



TEHRAN- The Director-General of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Tehran Province said: So far, 252 production units among the units damaged in the imposed war have been rebuilt and returned to the production cycle.

Mahmoud Sijani, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, while explaining the measures taken to support industrial units damaged during the 40-day war, stated: After identifying the damaged units, field visits with the presence of provincial officials were prioritized so that the damage status and problems of the production units could be examined closely.

He added: In the next stage, the status of these units was monitored daily in the meetings of the relevant working group, and their problems in various sectors were examined and followed up so that immediate and necessary measures could be taken to prevent the units from stopping operations.

Support measures and free damage assessment for war-damaged units

Referring to the problems of the damaged units in the areas of labor, taxation, banking, and social security, Sijani stated: Efforts were made, by adopting supportive decisions and providing immediate solutions, to prevent the aggravation of these units' problems and the complete stoppage of production lines.

The Director-General of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Tehran Province continued: Some units were able to resume their activities by being granted deadlines for paying debts, the possibility of relocating their place of activity, and meeting essential needs. Issues such as settling debts, forgiveness of penalties, insurance support for workers, and the use of banking facilities for the return of units to the production cycle were also pursued.

Emphasizing the necessity of preserving the production capacity of active units in the field of strategic and infrastructural products, he said: One of the main priorities in this process was preventing the stoppage of production of products that play an important role in the country's supply chain and economic activities; therefore, supportive solutions were considered for each unit in accordance with the type of damage and its operating conditions.

Sijani referred to the issue of assessing the damage to the damaged units and said: To estimate the damage accurately, it was planned to use the capacity of official judicial experts, and with the cooperation of the General Justice Administration of Tehran Province and the Center of Official Experts, the damage assessment of the units was carried out free of charge.

He added: Official experts, by visiting the damaged units, examined the extent of the damage incurred and prepared expert reports so that, based on accurate information, it would be possible to plan for the reconstruction and support of these units.

The Director-General of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Tehran Province noted: The reports prepared from the damage assessment were submitted to the relevant deputy in the field of business environment and planning for pursuing the necessary support and raising the issue at the national level, so that the ground would be provided for the damaged units to benefit from national capacities and support.

Referring to the results of the measures taken, Sijani stated: Out of a total of 557 industrial units that were directly and indirectly damaged during the 40-day war, 252 units have so far succeeded in being rebuilt and resuming production activity.

From physical reconstruction to resilient regeneration of industrial ecosystem

The US-Zionist imposed war, in addition to causing direct damage to some production units, also affected parts of the country's industrial supply chains. However, planning for the swift return of damaged units to the production cycle and preventing the halt of related industries has now become one of the central axes of industrial policymaking. In this path, securing financial resources, prioritizing strategic industries, and utilizing domestic capacities form the basis of support measures.

The strategy of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in this regard is not limited merely to rebuilding the buildings and equipment of damaged units, but is pursued with the aim of preserving production capacity and strengthening the resilience of supply chains. Alongside reconstruction, the modernization of industries is also on the agenda so that directly damaged industries, units affected by supply chain disruptions, and small and vulnerable enterprises, depending on the type of damage, are covered by support packages and reconstruction programs.

To achieve this goal, financial resources are needed, and it has been decided that the use of capital market capacities and modern financial instruments, alongside reconstruction funds, should also be considered.

Alongside securing financial resources for damaged units, another important issue concerning the regeneration of industries has also been taken into account. Under this plan, industries are divided into three categories: "directly damaged," "damaged within the supply chain," and "small and vulnerable industries," with special operational packages developed for each category.

In this plan, a specialized platform has been designed for registering the type of affliction of each company. Through this system, the demands of industries are connected to a network of expert consultants and management specialists in the country, so that the reconstruction process can begin swiftly based on scientific methods and lived experiences from the era of the Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq war).

In this regard, Tahmoures Lahouti Ashkouri, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade and CEO of the Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization of Iran, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, while explaining his organization's new strategies in dealing with the consequences of the war, has stated that "protecting production capacities" and "reviving damaged industrial units" are the two main pillars on the agenda of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

He emphasized that maintaining the stability of the production flow and precise monitoring of the supply chain of essential goods goes beyond a routine task; it is a defensive priority for the organization to prevent the disruption of upstream and downstream production links, from agriculture and processing industries to the final consumer market.

Referring to the damage inflicted on industrial infrastructure across 17 provinces of the country, Lahouti Ashkouri said: "One-third of all damaged units were concentrated in industrial towns and zones—units that played a vital role in supplying industrial requirements and strategic goods."

According to the explanations provided by officials of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade and the Small Industries Organization, the national strategy for rebuilding damaged industries represents a shift from mere physical reconstruction toward the resilient regeneration of the country's industrial ecosystem.

Chinese trade delegation, TCCIMA discuss ways to develop Iran-China trade

TEHRAN- A Chinese trade delegation, in a meeting with Feryal Mostofi, Vice President of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), and Fereydoun Vardinejad, Secretary General of the Chamber, discussed ways to develop trade cooperation and expand cultural exchanges between the two countries.

At the meeting, the Vice President of the Tehran Chamber spoke about the private sector's readiness to facilitate the presence of Chinese investors in quick-return projects.

During the visit of the Chinese trade delegation composed of managers from various fields of trade, culture, art, investment, and listed companies of the country, opportunities for strengthening interaction between economic actors of the two countries, empowering skilled human resources, deepening cultural relations, and holding joint specialized conferences were examined.

Other axes raised at the meeting included developing trade exchanges through the use of modern money transfer methods and implementing joint economic projects.

Zhang Yi, responsible for Iran-China cultural and trade exchanges, at the beginning of the meeting highlighted the role of the Tehran Chamber in advancing trade cooperation between the two countries and spoke of the need to raise the level of these relations. Subsequently, other members of the trade delegation, some of whom were representing chambers of commerce and industrial zones in the port city of Qingdao in Shandong Province in eastern China, declared their interest in cooperating with Iranian industrialists and traders.

Fereydoun Vardinejad, Secretary General of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, continued the meeting by introducing the structure of this institution and its role in the country's economic growth, and stated: The Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture has more than 47,000 active members, and these members account for about 50 percent of the country's GDP.

Establishing continuous communication between Iranian and



Chinese companies and institutions such as the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) provides an opportunity to improve trade relations between the two countries.

Vardinejad further explained that the Tehran Chamber's representative office in Khorgos has recently been opened, and the Chamber is trying to improve the flow of trade information among traders of the two countries and to reflect the current economic realities of Iran and China through the Chamber's communication channels.

Referring to the Tehran Chamber's measures to develop economic cooperation with China, he also stated: A special secretariat for the development of economic cooperation with China has been established with the aim of monitoring developments and new technologies in that country and informing Iranian traders.

Also, the official website of the Tehran Chamber has been designed in three versions—Persian, English, and Chinese—so that Chinese economic actors can become more familiar with Iran's laws, regulations, and business environment.

The Secretary General of the Tehran Chamber, referring to the capacity of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and BRICS for expanding economic relations between Iran and China, said: The continuation of direct dialogue between traders of the two countries and the use of these capacities can pave the way for defining and implementing joint projects and developing economic cooperation between the private sectors of Iran and China.

Emphasizing the need to create modern methods of trade interaction between traders of the two countries, he also proposed that, given the current conditions, the yuan or a barter mechanism be used for trade exchanges.

Proposal for direct investment by Chinese companies in Iran's quick-return projects

Later in the meeting, Feryal Mostofi, Vice President of the Tehran Chamber, referring to the importance of developing economic cooperation and joint investment between Iran and China, spoke about the private sector's readiness to facilitate the presence of Chinese investors in quick-return projects.

In another part of her remarks, she described the activities of the Tehran Chamber's Investment and Family Business Center and said: This center was established with the aim of preparing the necessary infrastructure for attracting capital and seeks to provide a suitable platform for the presence of economic actors and Chinese companies in various projects in the country.

The Vice President of the Tehran Chamber then referred to the difference between financing models and added: The issue of project finance requires banking agreements between the Central Bank of Iran and China and insurance institutions; nevertheless, our main priority and preference is directed toward direct investment and partnership between Chinese and Iranian companies.

The head of the Strategic Council of the Tehran Chamber's Investment and Family Business Center also referred to the capacity of Iranian economic enterprises and said: Iran has numerous projects with the capability of rapid and secure return on investment, which can provide a golden opportunity for foreign investors, especially Chinese economic enterprises. Defining quick-return projects through investment by Chinese companies will help develop the two countries and realize common goals.

Hadi Haddadi, Strategic Advisor to the Secretary General of the Tehran Chamber and Secretary of the Art Economy Committee, also described the missions of this committee at the meeting and explained that through the Tehran Chamber's Art Economy Committee, a bridge can be created between producers and suppliers of cinematic works, theater, music, and visual arts and foreign buyers and suppliers.

According to Haddadi, the Tehran Chamber's Art Economy Committee and Chinese cultural and artistic institutions such as Confucius have many opportunities for cooperation, and this synergy can go beyond classical artistic fields and also include handicrafts, carpet weaving, artworks by female heads of households and home-based businesses, as well as the tourism industry.

Emphasis on expanding Iran-China trade exchanges

The Chinese trade delegation then explained its future plans, announced the dispatch of trade, cultural, and tourism delegations to Iran in the near future, and welcomed the proposals raised for facilitating trade exchanges and expanding cultural interactions between the two countries.

The Secretary General of the Tehran Chamber, emphasizing the need to pay attention to reviving the "goods-for-goods barter" mechanism as a solution for continuing bilateral trade exchanges, proposed that relations between Iranian and Chinese cultural and economic institutions be expanded further.

He also announced that the Tehran Chamber is ready, by providing the necessary information about Iran's trade laws and regulations to Chinese economic delegations, to play a role in facilitating their trade activities and strengthening economic relations between the private sectors of the two countries.

Iran pursues 3-pronged strategy to diversify transit corridors, boost regional connectivity

TEHRAN- An official said the government is pursuing three main policies to diversify transit corridors and strengthen Iran's position: completing rail lines, strengthening Caspian port infrastructure, and expanding land trade with neighbors.

Farzad Piltan, Supreme Advisor and Assistant to the Head of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and Head of the Secretariat of the Supreme Export Council, told Mehr News Agency that the government is acting on a strategy of diversifying transit corridors and has placed several policies on its agenda.

He added that activating the North-South Corridor by accelerating the completion of rail lines and reducing dependence on water routes is among the government's most important programs in this area.

Piltan continued that making optimal use of Caspian ports and upgrading the sea's port infrastructure—with the aim of turning it into a transit hub for East-West goods—is another government policy.

He said developing land trade with neighboring countries by pursuing the removal of border obstacles and concluding new transit agreements is also on the agenda.

Piltan noted that these policies aim to reduce the dwell time of goods at borders and create alternative routes if restrictions arise on traditional routes.

He added that diversifying corridors can lower transit costs, increase Iran's competitiveness, generate transit revenues, and strengthen regional connectivity.

Effective coordination among state agencies and greater private-sector participation will be essential to implementing these plans successfully.

Iran's transit sector sits at a strategic crossroads, leveraging its geography to connect Central Asia, Russia, and Europe via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Industrial, mining projects worth $9b defined for copper industry development

TEHRAN-The head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said: For the development of the copper industry, $9 billion in industrial and mining projects has been defined, and we predict that with the implementation of these projects, we will achieve an annual production of 500,000 tons of copper cathode.

According to a Mehr News Agency report, Mohammad Masoud Samiinejad, referring to the three priorities of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization, stated: The first priority of this organization is investment in mining industries with the aim of completing the value chain and developing downstream industries.

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, in a television interview, noting that the capacity of some mining industry projects has reached saturation based on the Seventh Development Plan, said: IMIDRO's policy is not to have any commitment regarding the supply of raw materials and the provision of banking facilities for investors who receive permits to operate in this field; therefore, investors must operate in these projects relying on their own resources.

The Chairman of the Executive Board of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), referring to the copper industry's need to develop mining activities and increase production, continued: Currently, 300,000 tons of copper cathode are produced annually in the country, while the target set in the Seventh Development Plan is to increase this figure to 800,000 tons.

Samiinejad added: For the development of the copper industry, $9 billion in industrial and mining projects has been defined, and we predict that with the implementation of these projects, we will achieve an annual production of 500,000 tons of copper cathode.

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, referring to the country's foreign currency supply limitations, said: We have halted the implementation of some projects, and our focus is on completing projects that have more than 70 percent physical progress so that these projects will become operational by the end of the Fourteenth Government.

He listed the activation of small-scale mines as another priority of IMIDRO and added: To provide the ground for private sector investment, the necessary infrastructure, including electricity, gas, and roads, will be provided.

The Chairman of the Executive Board of IMIDRO, also referring to support for the exploration activities of the private sector, said: Part of the exploration activities is guaranteed through the Mining Activities Investment Insurance Fund so that if the exploration is unsuccessful, the investor can receive compensation for their losses.

Ansarallah unveils massive Mokha depots packed with Saudi and Balkan munitions

From page 1 ▸ Open-source analyst War Noir also spotted a T-55 tank, an M1942 field gun, Bulgarian M210F rockets, and Serbian M15 high-explosive rockets in the video.

Supply markings and abandoned vehicles point straight back to Riyadh and its allies. Yemeni reports link vehicles to the Giants Brigades, while ammunition crates carry Royal Saudi Land Forces markings, Saudi license plates, and IDs tied to Saudi and Pakistani nationals.

Separate September reports pointed to a possibly Israeli-made ELM-2226 coastal-surveillance radar alongside French and German radar gear among claimed captures, still unconfirmed.

Walking through the depots in the November 22 video, a Yemeni narrator declared that Sanaa needs no foreign arms imports when it can either build weapons at home or seize them from Saudi camps.

He mocked Riyadh's local fighters for fleeing while leaving fuel tankers and heavy stockpiles behind, and a fighter filming inside a captured Third Giants Brigade camp vowed the abandoned rockets would soon be fired back at their sponsors.



September's collapse near Bab al-Mandab showed how fractured Saudi-backed forces had become.

Ansarallah reached Mokha in under 48 hours by exploiting intercepted communications, severed supply lines, and friction between the National Resistance and the Giants Brigades.

Retreating units abandoned American-made Oshkosh M-ATVs, armored vehicles, and artillery.

This haul builds on a long record of captured hardware from earlier campaigns, including the 2019 "Victory from God" operation near Najran where Ansarallah displayed small arms and armored vehicles.

Washington's arms sales and backing for Riyadh and Tel Aviv have repeatedly collided with realities on the ground.

Years of heavy spending and mercenary deployments have not secured Yemen for Saudi Arabia. Instead, expensive equipment kept flowing into fighting that ended in retreat, handing Sanaa more stockpiles while Riyadh absorbed another embarrassing blow.

The captured stockpiles also sit against a devastating civilian toll.

Since Saudi Arabia launched its war on Yemen in 2015, United Nations estimates have linked the conflict and resulting blockade to more than 377,000 deaths, millions displaced, and widespread hunger, with renewed fighting since August 2026 displacing over 360,000 more Yemenis.

Human rights monitors have repeatedly documented how U.S., British, and other Western weapons, intelligence, and logistical backing enabled coalition airstrikes on homes, hospitals, markets, and transport routes.

Years of Western arms flows have prolonged one of the world's worst humanitarian emergencies while leaving vast quantities of hardware scattered across Yemen's battlefields.

Former BBC host says editorial orders undermined Gaza casualty counts

From page 1 ▸

Doubt attached to Palestinian casualty figures

Attaching a "terrorism" tag to every casualty figure planted skepticism over whether the dead were civilians or combatants. Yet independent research has shown official Gaza tallies to be substantial undercounts.

A household survey study in The Lancet Global Health estimated 75,200 violent deaths from October 2023 through January 5, 2025, plus 8,540 excess nonviolent deaths, compared with 49,090 deaths recorded by Gaza's Health Ministry for that period.

Other estimates by the Economist and the Max Planck Institute also pointed to far higher violent death tolls, while even after the October 2025 ceasefire deal, OCHA reported 1,650 Palestinians killed and 5,975 injured by November 16 alongside a UN Commission of Inquiry finding of ongoing genocidal acts and intent.

Credence for Israeli claims and a shelved film

Sackur argued that Israeli official denials received far more deference than warranted, contrasting that treatment with how Russian claims about Ukraine are handled.

Documented evidence has repeatedly contradicted early Israeli accounts, from attacks on aid seekers and emergency responders to strikes on Nasser Medical Complex.

Similar editorial caution surrounded "Gaza: Doctors Under Attack," a BBC-commissioned film on strikes against Gaza's healthcare system that the BBC declined to air over impartiality concerns before Channel 4 broadcast it and won the 2026 BAFTA for current affairs.

Producers cited internal worry over UN sourcing and anticipated reactions from pro-Israel lobby groups like CAMERA, while a separate BBC Gaza film drew an Ofcom ruling for omitting a narrator's family tie to Gaza's administration.

Smearing reporters under a news blackout

Sackur pointed to +972 Magazine reporting on an Israeli military intelligence effort to smear Palestinian journalists with alleged Hamas ties to justify lethal strikes.

In July 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists warned of an Israeli smear campaign against Al Jazeera's Anas al-Sharif and said accusations risked manufacturing consent to kill him; he was killed in an Israeli strike weeks later.



With Israel continuing to bar independent foreign journalists from entering Gaza, Palestinian reporters have been left to document the war largely alone.

At least 200 Palestinian journalists and media workers have been killed since October 2023, according to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), whose November 4, 2026 update documents continued fatalities, injuries and disappearances.

Sackur, who noted a moral failure at the heart of British policy that still arms Israel, said major newsrooms lacked moral courage as Western states enabled grave crimes.

Does Gaza's "Board of Peace" engineer Israel's war machine?

From page 1 ▸ Were the remarks intended to lift the suffocating and deadly blockade and reopen the crossings?

The occupying regime has turned the blockade into a deadly weapon, further weakening the already frail bodies of Gaza's surviving population, whose living bodies are exposed to hunger, poverty and disease as a helpless and complicit world watches and does nothing.

In his statement, Greenbaum said that the "Board of Peace" felt it was going around in circles. He stated that Hamas had agreed to disarm, but that political figures within Netanyahu's government had prevented progress on this issue.

He also pointed to several straightforward decisions that any Israeli leadership should be able to make, such as allowing the International Stabilization Force to begin operating, permitting members of the Civil Guard to travel to Egypt for training, and allowing humanitarian aid to flow into the Strip before winter sets in. He added:

"The board has been extremely patient and has given [the Zionist regime] enough room. But what frustrates us is that, now that the elections are behind us, we are seeing no progress on Netanyahu's promises to Trump."

Greenbaum's remarks cannot be viewed in isolation from other statements made by members of the "Board of Peace" particularly its executive chairman, Nikolay Mladenov.

Nor can they be separated from UN statements or international humanitarian and health groups, all of which have held the occupying regime responsible for the worsening security, humanitarian and health conditions in the devastated Strip.

On several occasions, they have called for a complete end to the aggression, the reopening of border crossings, the entry of humanitarian aid, and full implementation of U.S. President Trump's ill-fated plan. As events have shown, the plan has given the regime complete freedom to do whatever it wants in Gaza without requiring it to meet its own obligations.

It has not even managed to stop the relentless machinery of war, which continues to claim the lives of dozens of Palestinians every day.

Meanwhile, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have seized more land beyond what is known as the so-called Yellow Line. Its military operations have even extended deep into areas designated as safe, through abductions, assassinations and the destruction of homes and other buildings, as well as the entry of tanks and military vehicles into the heart of these areas. This was seen just days ago in the northern part of the Nuseirat refugee camp.

On January 22, the charter of the "Board of Peace" was officially signed during a ceremony held in the Swiss city of Davos. The charter was based on the "Comprehensive Peace Plan" put forward by Trump in September 2025, which consisted of 20 points supposedly aimed at ending the U.S.-backed genocidal war.

The main purpose behind establishing the "Board of Peace" was to reshape conditions in Gaza amid the regime's genocide.

This was to be done through a political and security framework designed primarily around the regime's interests, one that would, in one way or another, help it achieve objectives it had failed to accomplish during the war. This time, however, those efforts would take place under an international umbrella that would provide legitimacy for whatever Tel Aviv wished to do.

According to its official description, the "Board of Peace" is an international transitional body tasked with overseeing the reconstruction of the Strip and managing its transitional period. It includes an "Executive Board" and an "International Stabilization Force," as well as the "National Committee for the Administration of Gaza."

However, the board's actions have quickly revealed that its real priority is to reshape Gaza's political and security landscape in line with a Zionist vision.

It has also clearly linked progress on reconstruction, civilian administration and humanitarian aid to security arrangements centered on the complete disarmament of the Palestinian resistance.

Over the past few months, the "Board of Peace" has failed to carry out any of the responsibilities assigned to it or fulfil the tasks entrusted to it. In fact, available evidence suggests that it has made no attempt to do so.

It has even avoided discussing IOF violations, condemning them or calling for them to stop. Instead, it has devoted almost all its attention to the disarmament of Palestinian resistance forces, holding them responsible for the failure to implement the truce agreement.

Several key moments in the record of this controversial board illustrate its clear bias towards Tel Aviv. One example was the statement made by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a member of the board's Executive Board, during a briefing to the UN Security Council on April 28.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The politics of lies and the road to war



By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN — Washington has a familiar way of preparing for war: manufacture fear, present allegations as evidence, then describe aggression as national defense. Vietnam witnessed this method. Iraq paid a devastating price. Now, as Washington advances new allegations against Iran, the world must ask whether history is being prepared for another repetition.

Washington needs an enemy and a narrative repeated until suspicion becomes fear and fear becomes consent. From Vietnam to Iraq, questionable allegations and manipulated intelligence have helped justify interventions paid for by millions.

Iran is now confronting this machinery. Allegations that it may be developing biological or chemical weapons following damage to its nuclear program during the U.S.-Israeli war raise a question: is Washington recycling the weapons-of-mass-destruction narrative that preceded the invasion of Iraq to prepare for another escalation?

Vietnam offers an early warning. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration cited alleged attacks on American naval vessels in the Gulf of Tonkin to secure support for escalation. Subsequent investigations and the Pentagon Papers exposed serious distortions in the government's account. Years of destruction and mass civilian casualties followed, ending in American defeat. The lesson: leaders can use questionable information to manufacture consent for war.

Iraq offered an even more consequential example. In February 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell told the UN Security Council that intelligence showed mobile biological laboratories and chemical weapons, portraying Saddam Hussein as an immediate danger. A month later, the United States invaded. The stockpiles were never found. Iraq was devastated, its institutions weakened and its people plunged into years of violence. Powell later called his presentation a blot on his record, but the architects of the invasion faced no proportionate accountability.

For decades, Iran has faced American sanctions, pressure, military threats and accusations over its nuclear program. Washington portrays Iran's regional influence as a threat while overlooking the destabilizing consequences of its own military presence and Israel's policies.

Iran maintains that its nuclear program is peaceful, yet Washington and Israel portray its capabilities as an existential danger. Rather than pursue diplomacy and safeguards, Washington has allowed coercion to dominate. The U.S.-Israeli war has deepened instability in a region exhausted by foreign intervention.

Another allegation has entered the debate. In a November 18 interview with Fox News, President Donald Trump claimed Iran was "looking at gases, looking at bio." He provided no evidence to support his claims. He added Tehran has pivoted away from developing nuclear capabilities given that "we've shut them out".

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei responded by invoking Colin Powell's infamous UN presentation. His question was direct: does Washington expect the world to forget Iraq?

The alleged threat may change, but accepting claims without verification could produce familiar consequences. Nuclear weapons yesterday, chemical and biological weapons today: the accusation evolves while the case for confrontation remains.

Technical distinctions matter: a radiological device, chemical weapon and biological weapon are different threats. An alleged dirty bomb plot does not establish a biological-weapons program. Presidential statements and anonymous intelligence claims are not proof.

If Washington possesses credible intelligence, it should present it through verifiable international channels. This is especially important when the accusing country is itself a participant in the conflict. The United States cannot act as a military belligerent while claiming to be an impartial investigator.

The credibility question extends to America's military establishment. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute puts U.S. military expenditure at $954 billion in 2025. The Pentagon has repeatedly failed to obtain a clean financial audit, while the Government Accountability Office has documented weaknesses in its controls and gaps in supporting evidence. This does not prove theft, but it raises questions about accountability. Meanwhile, taxpayers finance military operations, overseas bases and weapons programs while domestic pressures persist.

Israel's role is central. Its government portrays Iran as an existential danger while benefiting from American military, financial and diplomatic support. Washington's accommodation of Israeli priorities raises a fundamental question: whose interests does U.S. foreign policy serve?

The United States cannot credibly defend international law while treating Israeli military actions as an exception. Nor can it demand restraint from Iran while reserving for itself and its closest ally the freedom to attack Iranian territory. Selective application of international law undermines the principles Washington claims to uphold.

The answer is not another campaign. The war against Iran must end, as must unconditional U.S. support for Israel's extremist government. Excessive military spending requires serious reassessment. Diplomacy must replace threats, and weapons allegations must be independently examined, not turned into justifications for aggression.

Americans must question the narratives presented in their name. Vietnam and Iraq exposed the distance between Washington's explanations and the destruction that followed. Iran must not become another chapter in that history.

Military superiority does not guarantee political wisdom. Iraq did not become safer through invasion, nor did Vietnam become an American victory because Washington called intervention a defense of freedom.

Iran is not Iraq. Tehran has its own defensive capabilities and regional relationships; it cannot be expected to surrender its sovereignty to satisfy Washington and Tel Aviv.

The United Nations must not repeat the failure of 2003 by allowing unverified allegations to become a passport for war. Washington once asked the world to believe its weapons claims become a passport for war. Washington once asked the world to believe its weapons claims about Iraq. The weapons were never found; the destruction was real. Today, the allegations have changed and Iran is the target. The world must not confuse American military power with international legitimacy, or political accusations with established facts. Iran does not owe its sovereignty to Washington, and the international community does not owe its silence to American foreign policy.

Washington has lied its way into wars before, and the world has paid the price. Iran will not surrender its sovereignty to American imperialism or Israeli expansionism. The weapons of mass destruction scam must not become another license for aggression. The world has seen this deception before; it must not allow Washington and Tel Aviv to turn another lie into a war.

History has delivered its warning. The question is whether Washington—and the world—has learned anything from it.

Minister highlights UNESCO bid for 9,000-year-old archaeological site near Tehran



TEHRAN – Iran plans to establish a dedicated working group to prepare the archaeological site of Tepe Ozbaki in Alborz province for a possible nomination to UNESCO's World Heritage List, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri said on Tuesday.

Speaking during a visit to the site in Nazarabad county, west of Tehran, the minister said Tepe Ozbaki had the potential to become one of Iran's prominent World Heritage nominations, citing its archaeological findings and significance in understanding the country's ancient civilizations.

He said an organized working group would be formed with the participation of national and provincial authorities, archaeological researchers and other relevant stakeholders to coordinate the scientific, conservation and administrative preparations required for the nomination.

"Tepe Ozbaki is one of the important centers of civilization in the history of Iran," Salehi-Amiri told reporters, adding that eight seasons of archaeological excavations at the site had produced valuable evidence of its historical and cultural significance.

He said archaeological studies had identified historical layers extending back to the Median period, while evidence associated with the Achaemenid period had also been found.

The minister stressed, however, that securing World Heritage status would require further research, conservation measures and the completion of the necessary legal and technical procedures before the site could be considered for submission to UNESCO.

Tepe Ozbaki, located near Nazarabad, about 80 kilometers west of Tehran, is an important prehistoric archaeological site. Its ruined settlements are believed to date back approximately 9,000 years, with excavated remains representing several millennia of human occupation, from the seventh millennium BC to the first millennium BC.

Archaeological discoveries at the site have also suggested connections with other ancient centers in Iran. According to senior Iranian archaeologist Yousef Majidzadeh, who has led excavations at Tepe Ozbaki and other archaeological sites, finds including tablets, statuettes and distinctive pottery point to possible commercial links between the area and Susa in southwestern Khuzestan province.

Salehi-Amiri also highlighted the role of private contributions in protecting the country's cultural heritage, referring to a benefactor who donated the entire archaeological site to the Iranian people without seeking financial compensation.

He called for greater public recognition of such initiatives, saying that highlighting the contribution of individuals to heritage preservation could encourage wider public participation in safeguarding historical sites.

The minister also described Alborz province as an important center for tourism and handicrafts, arguing that its historical and archaeological assets deserve greater attention alongside its better-known natural and industrial attractions.

He said the provincial authorities and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage would work together to strengthen the protection and introduction of the province's historical sites.

SPORTS

Mohammad Jamshidi excited about Iran's future in return

TEHRAN - Back in Window 4, it wasn't the kind of welcome Mohammad Jamshidi had hoped for but he was nevertheless thankful for another opportunity to represent Iran in the international stage after over three years.

The star guard was part of the Team Melli crew that competed in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers in the Philippines - a place which he holds very dear to his heart.

"Whether we win or lose, it's always a great experience to play in front of a packed arena full of people who truly love basketball," he said. "It's even more special when you have good memories here from the past."

Jamshidi and the West Asian contenders faced New Zealand and the Philippines, in that order, at the SM Mall of Asia Arena, the very same venue where he first tasted FIBA senior-level action 13 years ago.

Then a 22-year-old hooper, he made his men's team debut during Asia Cup 2013, as part of the batch that took home the gold in another dominant run spearheaded by all-time great Hamed Haddadi.

Back then, Jamshidi had no idea that he would be coming back to the country some three years later. He signed with the Meralco Bolts of the PBA, and played for the franchise briefly for the 2016 Governors' Cup.

By 2018, he'd find himself setting foot in Manila once more when Iran came over to face Gilas also at the Mall of Asia Arena during Window 5 of the 2019 World Cup Qualifiers, and went on to win by way of a 78-70 result.

Now, almost a decade later, Jamshidi marked his national team return in the Philippines, although this one feels more personal as it was his first Team Melli campaign since suffering a back injury back in 2023.

It's why he couldn't join Iran in international meets in the last three years, including the World Cup proper in 2023. And the whole ordeal brought him a lot of realizations in terms of being an athlete - and as an individual, too.

"The past two or three years have been an interesting and new experience for me. It started with my back injury and the recovery process," reflected the 35-year-old, who's been playing for the country since 2008.

"The biggest lesson I learned from the whole experience was that I need to manage the volume and intensity of my training. Training more doesn't always mean training better, and sometimes it can actually lead to injuries."

That's why Jamshidi could not be any more thankful to have been given another opportunity to suit up for the men's team even if it has been a long while since he did so, especially with what he had to go through.

"I'm really happy to be back now and able to contribute to the national team again," said the former FIBA West Asia Super League star.

There's star guard Sina Vahedi and winger Mohammad Amini, both of which led the long-time continental powerhouse to a bronze-medal finish in the Asia Cup 2025 at the expense of the Tall Blacks.

That same tandem has long been touted as the cornerstones of Team Melli in many years to come although Jamshidi also noted the other players, which he believes would be as impactful as the celebrated two.

"The national team have a lot of young and talented players," offered the two-time World Cup campaigner. "Besides Sina and Mohammad, Ali Sharifi, Mehdi Heydari, and Mehdi Jafari are also very good players."

"And I'm sure you'll be hearing much more about them in the future," he added. "I'm trying to be there for them along the way and share whatever advice or experience I can, so they can have more success in the future."

"I think we have a very good chance," said an optimistic Jamshidi, whose Iran are currently sporting a 5-3 win-loss record in Group E after dropping their assignments in Window 4 in a tough start to the Second Round.

Jamshidi and the rest of Team Iran are bound for a really crucial Window 5 ahead in Seremban, Malaysia, where they will be taking on the undefeated Australia on November 27 and the Philippines on November 29.

Bakhtiarizadeh proud as Esteghlal end Al Ain's winning run

TEHRAN - Head coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh applauded his players after Esteghlal became the first side to take points off Al Ain FC in the AFC Champions League Elite 2026/27, with the sides playing to 1-1 draw at the Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium on Monday.

Esteghlal took the lead through Saman Fallah in the 51st minute but Matías Palacios drew Al Ain level seven minutes later. The draw kept Al Ain unbeaten and edged both sides closer to the Round of 16.

"I think anyone who watched the game will have enjoyed the football both teams played," said Bakhtiarizadeh. "My players were excellent. We had some good chances and could have come away with a win.

"As I said yesterday, we respect every opponent but fear no one. Al Ain are a quality side and it's always difficult to play them at home, but my players stuck together and showed what Esteghlal are capable of.

"Our goalkeeper (Habib Far Abbasi) played well, we defended as a unit and we created plenty of chances. With a little more luck, we could have won."

Al Ain head coach Vladimir Ivic was pleased with his side's response to falling behind but called for sharper finishing after they had chances to take the lead.

"We expected a tough game against a very good side. The first half was fairly even, but they had the edge in the duels and that gave them confidence.

"Their goal was a wake-up call for us. We responded well, equalized quickly and had chances to score a second. If you can't win, it's important to come away with a point. Now we turn our attention to the next game.

"Of course we missed Sofiane (Rahimi). He's one of our best players and we're looking forward to having him back. We're creating chances, but we need to be more clinical in front of goal. We'll keep working on our finishing in training and the confidence will come."

Iran suffer narrow defeat to China at 2026 Asian Women's Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran suffered a narrow 34-32 defeat to China on Tuesday at the 2026 Asian Women's Handball Championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The 21st edition of the continental tournament is being held from November 23 to December 3, with 10 teams competing for a place at the 2027 IHF Women's World Championship.

Iran, drawn in Group A alongside Japan, China, Hong Kong and Bangladesh, had opened their campaign with an impressive 33-16 victory over Hong Kong before falling to China.

Team Melli will look to bounce back when they face Thailand on November 25, before taking on Japan on November 28 in their final group-stage fixture.

Group B features defending contenders South Korea, hosts Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India and Australia.

The top four teams will secure qualification for the 2027 World Women's Handball Championship. Australia, representing Oceania, will also qualify if they finish among the top five teams.

Despite the setback against China, Iran remain in contention for a place in the knockout stages and will be eager to deliver strong performances in their remaining group matches.

Heritage official warns of gradual destruction of Hawraman cultural landscape

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism has warned that inappropriate construction and poorly planned interventions are gradually eroding the traditional architecture and historic identity of the Hawraman (Uramanat) region, a UNESCO World Heritage site in western Iran.

Mohammad-Ebrahim Zarei raised the concerns at a meeting titled "Hawraman: The Cultural Landscape of Uramanat" on Monday, November 23, attended by researchers and experts in the field.

He said extensive changes to the historic fabric of villages and towns across Iran, particularly in Kordestan province, had damaged traditional architectural features and weakened the distinctive character of local settlements.

"In many of these areas, the architecture and natural environment that once defined their unique identity can no longer be seen," Zarei said, according to the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA).

He described surviving historic structures as valuable examples of indigenous architectural knowledge and the adaptation of human settlements to their natural surroundings.

Zarei criticized new construction in villages across the Kordestan region, saying that buildings inconsistent with local architectural and environmental characteristics had, in some cases, replaced traditional structures under the pretext of improving public facilities.

Such interventions, he warned, risk destroying architectural identity and disrupting the coherence of historic village settlements.

The university professor stressed that development projects in heritage areas must be preceded by an understanding of traditional settlement patterns and cultural practices. He cited the distinct roles of neighborhood mosques, central mosques and prayer grounds as examples of architectural and social features that should be considered before changes are made.

He then called on cultural heritage authorities to introduce clear building regulations for areas with significant architectural value and to combine the protection of historic structures with public education. New buildings, he said, should be designed in accordance with the indigenous architectural traditions of each region.

Zarei also expressed concern about the impact of large-scale and high-rise construction on the historic skyline of Mashhad and the visual prominence of the Imam Reza shrine. He said that in the past, pilgrims could see the shrine's dome and complex from different parts of the city, but the construction of towers and large buildings had increasingly obstructed those views.

He emphasized that regional architecture reflects the historical, cultural and environmental identity of local communities, urging heritage officials and specialists in Kurdistan and Kermanshah provinces to strengthen cooperation to protect the country's traditional architecture.

The Hawraman/Uramanat Cultural Landscape, spanning parts of Kordestan and Kermanshah provinces in western Iran, was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2021.

Located in the Zagros Mountains, the region is home to the Hawrami people, a Kurdish community whose agropastoral traditions and settlement patterns have evolved over thousands of years in response to the rugged mountainous environment.

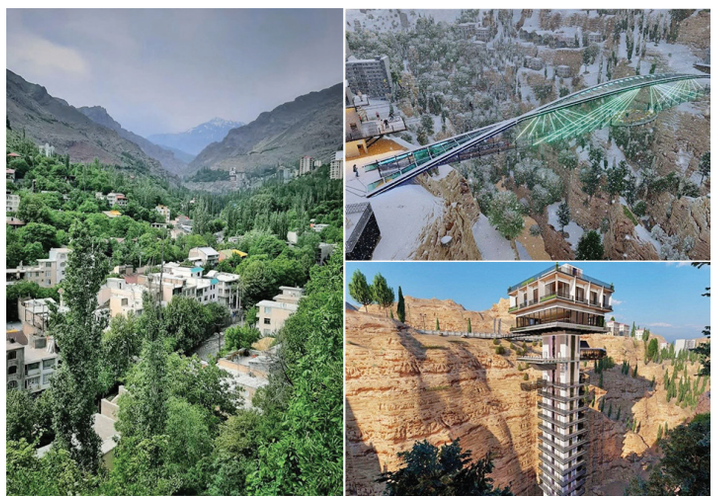
The UNESCO-listed property covers approximately 409,000 hectares, including 106,000 hectares of core area and 303,000 hectares of buffer zone. Its main components include the Zhaverud, Takht and Lahun valleys.

The landscape is distinguished by its terraced villages, steep-slope architecture, dry-stone agricultural terraces, livestock breeding and seasonal migration between highland and lowland settlements. Twelve villages within the registered property demonstrate how the Hawrami people adapted their way of life to the scarcity of cultivable land and challenging mountain conditions.

Meygun: A hidden gem for adventure tourism

TEHRAN – Plans to launch an adventure tourism park in Meygun, northeast of Tehran, have brought renewed attention to the tourism potential of the mountainous areas surrounding the capital, as well as the challenges of developing facilities in environmentally sensitive landscapes.

For decades, Meygun has been a popular getaway for Tehran residents looking to escape the city's congestion and pollution. Located about 25 kilometers northeast of the capital, the mountain town is known for its valleys, rivers, fruit gardens and mild spring and summer weather. In winter, the surrounding mountains attract visitors for snow activities, with three ski resorts operating in the wider area.



Despite its natural attractions and proximity to Tehran, however, Meygun still lacks a diverse range of tourism facilities. Most visitors come for short trips, spending time in local restaurants or enjoying the natural surroundings before returning to the capital. The limited availability of accommodation and recreational facilities has also made it difficult to attract visitors throughout the year.

Although Meygun has considerable potential to attract tourists in different seasons, its tourism sector remains largely dependent on its natural attractions and winter sports facilities. Developing adventure tourism infrastructure could help change this pattern by offering more outdoor activities and experiences, particularly during spring, summer and autumn.

By encouraging visitors to spend more time in the area, such developments could also create opportunities for local businesses and contribute to a more diversified tourism economy.

Health ministry, WHO planning 'health diplomacy' event

TEHRAN – The health ministry and the World Health Organization (WHO) are jointly planning a health diplomacy event, titled 'a bridge for development, peace and healthier communities', the WHO representative in Iran has said.

By leveraging the potential of diplomacy, the initiative could serve as a bridge toward development, peace, and the advancement of health within societies, IRNA quoted Jean Jabbour as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi on Monday.

During the meeting, Jabbour reaffirmed the organization's full support for the health ministry to keep the medicine, vaccines, and other essential health supplies available to all communities even under difficult and challenging times.

The official noted that the WHO's approach in collaborating with member states is based on a bottom-up prioritization process, which means that national priorities are established first; then they are reflected in local programs, country support initiatives, regional, and global operational plans.

Highlighting the close cooperation between Iran and the WHO, Jabbour said that medical education within Iran's Ministry of Health plays a key role in empowering the country's health system since it strengthens the health workforce and the services people rely on.

The official also underlined the importance of Iran's presence in regional and international organizations and forums, stating: "Iran plays an important role in the medical field through sharing its expertise, and we, for our part, will strive to provide the necessary support to the country to further develop and sustain the delivery of medical care services to the people even under difficult and challenging circumstances."

Outlining the organization's approach to health and peace nexus, he stated that the WHO's



motto is 'health for peace'. Accordingly, "we strive to utilize all available tools and capacities to help people worldwide lead healthier lives."

Referring to the organization's initiatives in global health security, Jabbour emphasized that the World Health Organization strives to ensure that everyone enjoys the right to a healthy life, while also supporting programs related to well-being and health promotion.

"Under our development and humanitarian mandates, we work with governments so everyone can get care, medicines and vaccines."

WHO launches $2m emergency project in Iran

In May, in response to the growing crises affecting public health infrastructure in Iran, the WHO, in cooperation with the Health Ministry, kicked off a two-million-dollar project to support urgent health responses in the country.

Supported by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the project, titled 'preventing the spread of diseases and maintaining essential health services during emergencies', aims to minimize the outbreaks of diseases, stabilize the process of providing health services, and safeguard the health system from declining performance across the country, the health ministry website reported.

Since the beginning of the imposed US-Israeli war against Iran, on February 28, airstrikes have lowered the country's capacity to provide vital health services.

The aggressors destroyed 229 health centers, 49 hospitals, 78 pharmaceutical facilities, laboratories, and warehouses.

Moreover, 56 emergency bases were targeted, nine hospitals were evacuated, 47 ambulances and 10 emergency vehicles were severely damaged.

Attacks on pharmaceutical and diagnostic equipment manufacturing facilities and their surrounding areas have disrupted the domestic supply chain of medical equipment and challenged the process of providing critical care to those in need.

Climatic shocks in southern provinces of the country have exacerbated the situation. Irregular, above-normal rainfall, following prolonged periods of drought in 2025-2026, has led to localized flooding and the accumulation of stagnant water.

High-risk provinces, including Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Kerman, and Khuzestan, are at greater risk of exposure to contaminated water sources. The situation, coupled with conflicts in water and sanitation infrastructure and disease surveillance, has increased the risks of infectious disease outbreaks and waterborne diseases, particularly cholera, and acute water diarrhea.

According to Jabbour, "the ongoing conflicts, and severe climatic shocks have placed an unprecedented burden on Iran's health infrastructure, exposing vulnerable communities to serious hazards.

The allocated fund for emergency will play a critical role in managing health system challenges. It allows us to take immediate measures to protect essential supply chains and ensure that life-saving care would be available to those most affected by crises.

Without urgent action, local transmission of diseases could quickly result in widespread outbreaks, and increase the cases and deaths from preventable disease."

To accelerate immediate action, the WHO is deploying a set of high-impact interventions. The strategy prioritizes strengthening surveillance and early warning systems, as well as deployment of essential equipment to respond to disease outbreaks, including rapid diagnostic tests for malaria, dengue fever, and cholera, the official noted.

The intervention also includes the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, insect-repellents, larvicide, along with rapid technical assistance to strengthen integrated vector management in high-risk provinces.

Over the next six months, the WHO project will directly serve an estimated 112,500 people by scaling up epidemic management and restoring access to health services. Some 272,550 people will be protected indirectly by strengthening rapid response capacities and reducing the risks of disease outbreaks.

Ultimately, the goal of this comprehensive effort is to manage the outbreak of preventable diseases and maintain essential health services at a time when they are needed more than ever.

Iran, Iraq seek to expand academic ties, facilitate student exchange

TEHRAN – Iranian and Iraqi officials have discussed ways to facilitate student exchange and remove obstacles to implementing previously reached agreements, as part of efforts to strengthen academic cooperation between the two sides.

The discussions took place at a meeting between Mohammad-Javad Najafi, Iran's scientific counselor in Iraq, and Yasin Saleh Hama, deputy minister for Cultural and International Communications at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, IRNA reported.

The meeting also focused on expanding scientific, technological, and academic ties between the two sides.

One of the main topics discussed was finding ways to remove restrictions on the admission of new students from the Kurdistan Region to Iranian universities. The restrictions, imposed following the US-Israeli war against Iran, have prevented new students from enrolling in Iranian universities since the start of the academic year in fall.

Increasing the number of Iranian universities recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education of the Kurdistan Region was the other issue discussed in the meeting. The Iranian official elaborated on the scientific and educational capacities and capabilities of Iranian universities.

Both parties also discussed enhancing scientific collaborations, benefiting from the capacities of Iranian universities and scientific centers, expanding joint research cooperation, exchanging scientific and technological expertise, holding specialized courses, and developing opportunities for postgraduate students.

Following up on the implementation of the 2016 memorandum of understanding, which aimed at strengthening direct interactions between universities and scientific centers on both sides, addressing the problems of Iraqi students majoring in Iran, and expanding operational coordination among institutions affiliated with higher education of the two countries, was among the other key topics mentioned during the meeting.

Tehran, Baghdad consider ways to deepen academic, scientific co-op

On November 3, Iranian and Iraqi officials discussed ways to strengthen academic and scientific cooperation, promote the exchange of specialized expertise, and expand partnerships between universities and research institutions in the two countries.

The discussions took place during an academic session titled "Horizons of Scientific and Professional Development," organized by the Association of Iraqi Graduates of Iranian Universities in Baghdad.

Najafi held a meeting with Salah Boushi, the head of Iraq's Center for Strategic Affairs, with



a number of Iraqi graduates of Iranian universities in attendance.

The session provided an opportunity to explore avenues for closer academic collaboration and the exchange of scientific and professional experience.

Addressing the event, Najafi described the Iraqi graduates from Iran as valuable assets playing a key role in fostering scientific and technological collaborations, developing joint research projects, exchanging knowledge and experiences between the two countries.

The official urged the graduated students to maintain ongoing contacts with their respective universities in Iran.

For his part, Boushi expounded on the role of graduates from Iranian universities in the scientific and professional development of Iraq. He highlighted that the value of higher education is manifested through problem-solving capabilities, enhancement of organizational productivity and the provision of service to society, noting that obtaining an academic degree serves as the initial step for developing competencies and acquiring professional skills.

The official also called it essential to benefit from the scientific achievements of universities in major research projects, and emphasized the need to boost synergy among the higher education system, the requirements of the labor market, and the country's development priorities.

Also, Iraqi students shared their perspectives, concerns regarding post-graduate issues, and provided some suggestions.

On August 6, Iraqi officials in a meeting with Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, called for expanding academic, scientific, and technological cooperation with Iran.

The science minister met Iraq's Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Haider Abd-Dahd Al-Rubaie, Iraq's Minister of Health, Abdul-Hussein al-Mousawi, and Acting Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Abdul Hussein Al-Mussawi, in Baghdad, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, the two sides underscored the need to expedite the implementation of the previously signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

Outstanding university professors honored for teaching excellence

TEHRAN – Twenty-one professors from universities and higher education institutions across the country were honored as outstanding at the fourth National Ceremony for Honoring Teaching Excellence, held at Tarbiat Modares University in Tehran on Tuesday.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, along with senior officials from the higher education sector and university representatives. The event recognized the contributions of distinguished faculty members to university education and the training of future generations.

Addressing the gathering, Simaei-Sarraf emphasized that education remains the university's foremost mission and that the lasting legacy of a professor lies not only in academic publications, books, inventions, and innovations, but also in the students they educate and nurture.

He described education as the beating heart of universities, stressing that research and technological development cannot flourish without a strong educational foundation.

The minister also called for a better balance between teaching and research in the country's higher education system, saying that an excessive focus on research output and academic publications over the past two to three decades had pushed teaching into a secondary position in the evaluation of university faculty members.

He noted that the previous academic promotion framework placed considerable emphasis on research achievements, sometimes leaving outstanding educators at a disadvantage despite their significant contributions to student development.

Under the revised regulations for the promotion of academic staff, teaching has been



recognized as an independent pathway for career advancement, allowing professors with exceptional educational achievements to progress without being judged primarily by the number of papers they publish.

Simaei-Sarraf further highlighted the irreplaceable human dimension of the teacher-student relationship, noting that while digital platforms and artificial intelligence can provide educational content, they cannot substitute for the personal interaction, care, and guidance that are essential to educating students.

He said professors should go beyond delivering academic material and pay attention to students' personal challenges, aspirations, and future prospects, helping them develop into knowledgeable, responsible, and well-rounded individuals.

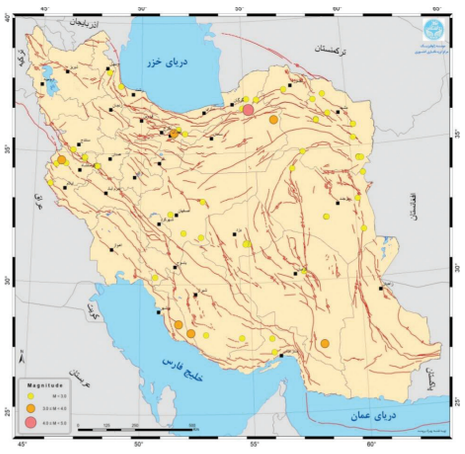
The 21 honorees represented a broad range of universities, including Sharif University of Technology, Tarbiat Modares University, the University of Tehran, Amirkabir University of Technology, Shiraz University, University of Tabriz, and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad.

The recognition of teaching excellence comes as Iran continues to strengthen its position in the international academic and research landscape. According to the 2026 Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings, Iran had 90 universities in the ranking, nine more than in the previous edition, with 14 institutions placed among the region's top 200. Sharif University of Technology was the country's highest-ranked institution, jointly placed 76th.

The 2026 Nature Index Research Leaders rankings also highlighted the research performance of Iranian universities. The University of Tehran, Islamic Azad University, Sharif University of Technology, Amirkabir University of Technology, University of Tabriz, and Tarbiat Modares University were among the country's leading academic institutions in applied sciences.

The annual ceremony, launched in 2022, seeks to promote educational quality, recognize outstanding teaching practices, and strengthen the role of university professors in developing human capital and advancing the country's scientific capabilities.

Some 60 earthquakes hit Iran in a week



TEHRAN – A total of 59 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from November 14 to 20, according to seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 52 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, six earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4, and one earthquake with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 4.2 on the Richter scale, which occurred on November 17 in Semnan province.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi experienced the highest number of earthquakes with 13, followed by Kermanshah with 9 earthquakes, Tehran, South Khorasan, and Yazd each with five earthquakes.

During the same period, no earthquakes were recorded in East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Alborz, Ilam, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Khuzestan, Zanjan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Qom, Qazvin, Lorestan, Mazandaran, Markazi, and Hamedan provinces.

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

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

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

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

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Doubt is the product of ignorance.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:12 Dawn: 5:23 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:52 (tomorrow)

Russia keen on holding cultural festival in Iran



TEHRAN – At a meeting between the head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour, and the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, Olga Lyubimova, in Moscow on Monday, the Russian minister expressed satisfaction with the growing trend of cultural interactions between the two nations and announced the Ministry's readiness to host a Russian Culture Festival in Iran.

Lyubimova also noted that the Iranian cultural festivals in Russia have been welcomed by the Russian people, IRNA reported.

Hojjatoleslam Imanipour, who is visiting Moscow at the invitation of the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, expressed appreciation for the cooperation and assistance of the Russian Ministry of Culture in organizing the "Iranian Days" in the Russian Federation, describing the event as successful and impactful.

He emphasized the importance of continuing joint cultural programs and implementing the agreements reached within the bilateral cultural cooperation committees.

Referring to the wide reception of Iranian cultural programs in the Russian cities of Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Astrakhan, and Kazan, he stated that these events were instrumental in strengthening mutual understanding between the people of the two nations and enhancing cultural relations. He expressed hope that a Russian Culture Festival would also be held in Iran in the near future.

He also declared Iran's readiness to host a Russian preliminary delegation to discuss the details of organizing this festival.

Also speaking at the meeting, Kazem Jalali, the Iranian Ambassador to Moscow, noted that cultural cooperation is a key pillar in strengthening bilateral ties, highlighting that while relations between Iran and Russia possess vast potential in political, economic, security, and military spheres, developing cultural relations can help deepen the bonds between the two peoples.

During the meeting, the parties also exchanged views on implementing the cultural cooperation committee agreements, expanding cinematic interactions, exchanging cultural and artistic delegations, and organizing joint exhibitions and events.

The events related to the "Iranian Days in Russia" program in Russia began on September 25, with the presence of the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyed Abbas Saleh in Saint Petersburg, and continued in Moscow, Kazan, and Astrakhan.

The National Orchestra of Iran, conducted by Homayoun Rahimian and featuring vocalist Mojtaba Asgari, opened the program with a concert at Moscow's historic Bolshoi Theater, one of Russia's best-known cultural venues.

The concert presented a selection of Iranian compositions alongside a work from the Russian classical repertoire, creating a musical dialogue between the two countries' traditions.

The 168-member caravan of Iranian artists, comprising musicians, performing artists, cinema and theater professionals, literary and linguistic experts, manuscript and library specialists, Persian language and poetry experts, fiction writers, and media professionals, represented a diverse and unprecedented composition for cultural weeks held abroad.

Although these events concluded on October 20, an exhibition of Iranian artists continued in Kazan for another two weeks.

Relations between Iran and Russia are not merely relations between two governments or neighboring countries. They are rooted in a long history of contact, dialogue, travel, trade, scholarship, literature and mutual understanding between the two peoples.

In this context, culture has emerged as the most natural and enduring language of dialogue between Iranians and Russians — a language through which poets, writers, artists, intellectuals and ordinary people in the two lands have communicated with one another long before politicians began to do so.

The historical relations between the two countries date back more than five centuries. From the presence of Persian literature in Russia's cultural landscape and the expansion of Iranian studies and Persian-language education at Russian universities, to the translation of Russian literary works into Persian, these exchanges have consistently served as a foundation for mutual understanding.

Kiarostami's 'Where Is the Friend's House?' among 1980s top 10



TEHRAN – The acclaimed Iranian film "Where Is the Friend's House?" by Abbas Kiarostami has been selected among the top 10 movies of the 1980s by Letterboxd, an online social cataloging service for film.

Produced by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon) in 1987, the film is widely regarded as one of the significant works of Iranian cinema and the first installment in Kiarostami's Koker Trilogy, followed by "And Life Goes On" (1992) and "Through the Olive Trees" (1994), ISNA reported.

The 1980s were, without a doubt, one of the most influential and impactful decades in movie history. The era was packed to the brim with some of the most legendary blockbusters, spectacular indie pictures, and awards-worthy masterpieces in movie history, and it has remained one of the medium›s most iconic time periods.

There were countless fantastic movies released during the ‹80s, but, according to Letterboxd ratings, 10 masterpieces stand out as the very best films of the decade.

Perhaps not the flashiest masterpiece released in the 1980s, "Where Is the Friend›s House?" is a simple-yet-stirring tale of childhood innocence, friendship, and connection.

"Where Is the Friend's House?" tells the story of an eight-year-old boy, Ahmad, who accidentally takes home his classmate's school notebook. Determined to return it before his friend faces punishment for failing to complete his homework, Ahmad sets out to find the boy's home in a neighboring village.

What begins as a simple search develops into a journey through the winding streets and rural landscapes of northern Iran, as Ahmad encounters adults who often fail to understand the urgency of his mission. Through the child's perspective, Kiarostami explores themes of responsibility, friendship and compassion, turning an everyday incident into a deeply human story.

Of course, the film isn›t nearly as boring or simplistic as that plot implies, and Kiarostami›s quiet masterpiece slowly reveals itself as a deeply moving, truly life-affirming exploration of the human condition.

The legendary Iranian director released numerous masterpieces over the course of his career, including the other two entries in his unofficial Koker trilogy, but "Where Is the Friend›s House?" is arguably his most intimate, and it is a total must-watch for any film fan.

'Lafcadio' on stage at Kanoon theater center in Tehran



TEHRAN- "Lafcadio," a play written and directed by Ali Shekari and based on a children's book by American author Shel Silverstein, is currently on stage at the Center for Production of Theater and Puppet Theater of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon) in Tehran.

The production, which will remain on stage until December 21, has been adapted for the stage through a dramatization by Reza Bahrami and is intended for children and young adults.

The play follows the adventures of an intelligent young lion whose curiosity takes him from the jungle into the human world. By imitating human behavior and becoming increasingly familiar with their way of life, he finds himself in a series of entertaining and thought-provoking situations. The story explores questions of identity, individuality and belonging through humor and adventure, inviting young audiences to reflect on the choices people make and the meaning of being true to oneself.

Reza Bahrami, Ata Moghim, Hassan Tadayoni, Rozhin Geranmayeh, Masoumeh Geranmayeh, Roya Sharifi, Anahita Chenarian, Mahan Habibi, Mahoura Zarean and Yasna Mollanouri make up the cast.

"Lafcadio: The Lion Who Shot Back," first published in 1963, was Silverstein's first book for children and marked the beginning of a distinguished career in children's literature. Written and illustrated by the author, the work combines absurd humor, imaginative storytelling and philosophical questions in a modern fable that appeals to both young readers and adults.

The story begins in the African jungle, where a young lion encounters a hunter. After the hunter refuses to listen to the lion's attempts to reason with him, the animal eats the hunter and takes possession of his rifle. Through persistent practice, the lion becomes an exceptionally skilled marksman.

His extraordinary talent attracts the attention of a circus promoter, who gives him the name Lafcadio and takes him into the human world. The lion soon becomes a celebrated performer, earning fame and wealth. He adopts human habits, wears fashionable clothes, enjoys the comforts of a luxurious lifestyle and becomes a public sensation.

However, his success gradually brings an unexpected problem: although he has everything he once might have wanted, he begins to feel increasingly disconnected from his former life. When he eventually returns to Africa on a hunting expedition, he encounters other lions and is forced to confront the question of where he truly belongs. Neither his former identity as a lion nor his adopted life among humans seems sufficient to define him.

Through Lafcadio's unusual journey, Silverstein examines the tension between personal identity and social expectations, as well as the difference between external success and inner fulfillment. The story also raises questions about imitation, the desire for recognition and the difficulty of finding a place where one feels at home. Its humorous episodes and unconventional ending give the narrative a depth that extends beyond a conventional children's adventure story.

Shel Silverstein (1930–1999) was an American poet, cartoonist, illustrator, playwright, songwriter and performer, widely regarded as one of the most distinctive voices in modern children's literature. Born on September 25, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois, he initially became known for his cartoons and illustrations, which appeared in various publications, including Playboy magazine. His work was distinguished by its unconventional humor, imaginative characters and distinctive hand-drawn illustrations.

Silverstein began writing and illustrating books for young readers in the early 1960s, following encouragement from children's book editor Ursula Nordstrom. His first children's book, "Lafcadio," appeared in 1963, followed by several works that would become classics of children's literature.

Among his best-known titles is "The Giving Tree" (1964), a story about the relationship between a boy and a tree that gives him everything it has throughout his life. The book has prompted extensive discussion about generosity, love, sacrifice and the nature of human relationships. Other notable works include "A Giraffe and a Half" (1964), "Where the Sidewalk Ends" (1974), "The Missing Piece" (1976), "A Light in the Attic" (1981) and "Falling Up" (1996).

His poetry collections are particularly celebrated for their playful language, unexpected rhymes, unconventional characters and imaginative illustrations. Silverstein frequently challenged the boundaries of traditional children's writing, addressing serious subjects through humor, wordplay and seemingly simple narratives. His works have been translated into numerous languages and continue to attract readers across generations.

Beyond children's literature, Silverstein enjoyed a successful career in music. He wrote songs for several prominent performers, including Johnny Cash. His song "A Boy Named Sue," recorded by Cash, won a Grammy Award, while his songwriting also earned him an Academy Award nomination for "I'm Checkin' Out," performed by Meryl Streep in the 1990 film "Postcards from the Edge."

He died on May 9, 1999, in Key West, Florida, at the age of 68, leaving behind a diverse body of work spanning literature, illustration, music and theater.

Cartoon of Day



Sleeping
Mikail Ciftci from Türkiye