Straight Truth

WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM

# TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 500,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 47th year | No. 15485 | Sunday | November 29, 2026 | Azar 8, 1405 | Jumada al-Thani 19, 1448

## IRGC unveils three new miniature drones for interception and suicide missions

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force has unveiled three new miniature unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), including a counter-drone interceptor and two loitering munitions designed to strike enemy targets at close range.

The systems were put on display at an exhibition showcasing the IRGC Aerospace Force's latest achievements in the northeastern city of Mashhad, alongside a range of previously developed and newly introduced equipment. ▶ Page 3

## Settler terrorism: The face of Zionism

**By Ali Minabi**

TEHRAN – Settler terrorism in the West Bank is no longer a marginal phenomenon linked to extremist groups or isolated individual attacks.

It has become part of a much broader political and security landscape, revealing big changes within the Zionist project itself, the nature of the relationship between the regime and the settlement movement, and the rise of the religious-nationalist and messianic far right from the margins to the centers of decision-making.

The issue is not simply the scale of these attacks or the number of their victims, but the role this terrorism plays in reshaping Palestinian geography, as well as the political and institutional environment that allows it to continue and expand. ▶ Page 5

## Ex-Qatari PM admits 6 Arab monarchies run intelligence collusion with Israel

TEHRAN — Former Qatari Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani has acknowledged that Israel maintains active security relations with every Arab monarchy in the Persian Gulf, confirming that several governments conceal those contacts from their own citizens.

Speaking on the Egyptian podcast "El Hal Eh?" with academic Rabab El Mahdi in an episode published Friday, Al Thani said Israeli military and intelligence links span all six Persian Gulf Cooperation Council states and have existed for years.

Only the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords in 2020. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and Oman have withheld formal recognition, yet Al Thani's remarks confirm that covert security integration reaches well beyond official embassies. ▶ Page 5

## Iranian health experts explore joint ventures, technology transfer at China's hi-tech fair

TEHRAN – A delegation of Iranian health science and technology park directors visited the Islamic Republic's pavilion at the 28th China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF 2026) in Shenzhen, exploring opportunities for technology transfer, joint production and expanded scientific and commercial cooperation with Chinese research and industrial institutions.

The delegation, comprising the head of Iran University of Medical Sciences' Health Technology Park and five other directors of health science and technology parks, is visiting China with the support of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology under the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy. ▶ Page 7




© Getty Images

*A placard at a protest in London against the US-Israeli war on Iran.*

# Israel First, America Last

***Trump weighs third Iran war as Netanyahu dictates Washington's agenda***

*Facing pressure from Netanyahu for a four-to-seven-day joint assault, Trump must choose between his America First promise and Israel's demand for a third Iran war. Tehran warns any new aggression will meet an immediate, geographically unrestricted response, while Americans increasingly ask why their soldiers must stay until Iran is defeated.*

**By Staff Writer**

TEHRAN — Nearly nine months after the United States and Israel launched their joint war on Iran on Feb. 28, Washington is once again debating a new large-scale assault, and once again the pressure is coming from Tel Aviv.

According to U.S. and Israeli officials cited by The New York Times on Nov. 18 and Haaretz on Nov. 19, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pressing President Donald Trump to join Israel in a four-to-seven-day campaign of airstrikes against Iran. Israeli planning, the reports say, includes renewed strikes on remaining nuclear sites and widespread attacks on energy infrastructure that could cut power to civilians — a step Trump has not yet approved.

It is a familiar pattern. Despite running on "America First," Trump has twice taken America into Israel's war, and critics in the U.S. itself now openly ask whether U.S. policy is "Israel First." With Netanyahu demanding a third round, that question has become central to the debate in Washington.

**A four-to-seven-day plan on Trump's desk**

The Times report says talks intensified last week when Mossad Director Roman Gofman met in Washington with CIA Director John Ratcliffe and later with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff in Miami, while Military Intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Shlomi Binder also lobbied American counterparts to resume operations.

CBS News reported on Nov. 20 that Israel and the U.S. are considering a new assault in the short term. The stated Israeli concerns are Iran's rapid rebuilding of ballistic-missile production and its move to shield nuclear and military infrastructure underground.

Trump himself has focused on what he calls "one or two" remaining targets, including the Pickaxe Mountain nuclear facility, and this week claimed without evidence that Iran may be seeking chemical or biological weapons. NBC News, cited on Nov. 24, said the administration is even discussing killing members of Iran's leadership. ▶ Page 3



© Mehr/Tayebeh Yousefi

## *Among autumn leaves, Hamedan rediscovers the joy of togetherness*

**By Afshin Majlesi**

HAMEDAN – There is something quietly captivating about walking through a park carpeted with fallen autumn leaves. The soft crunch beneath your feet, the changing colors of the trees and the cool late-autumn air that invite you to slow down and take in the scenery. But at Hamedan's fifth Bargrizan Hegmataneh Festival, held from November 25 to 27, this familiar seasonal experience became something much larger: a celebration of nature, culture and, above all, the people of the city. ▶ Page 6

## Iran's navy chief vows unrestricted response to enemy actions

TEHRAN – Iran's armed forces will no longer be constrained by geographical boundaries in responding to hostile actions, and any further enemy miscalculation will trigger a series of military operations rather than a single retaliatory strike, the commander of the Iranian Army's Navy has warned.

Rear Admiral Shahram Irani made the remarks in an interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) late Friday, saying that further military action would force American forces out of the region and back to US territory. ▶ Page 2

## Zakharova: Russia, Iran's interests must be respected in implementation of TRIPP

TEHRAN-- Russia believes that the interests of both Moscow and Tehran must be fully taken into account in the implementation of the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) in Armenia, warning that the project must not create new dividing lines in the South Caucasus.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said the Armenian-American initiative remained largely unclear, raising more questions than answers regarding its objectives, implementation and operational framework.

"Frankly speaking, the Armenian-American initiative raises more questions than answers at this stage," ▶ Page 2

## Iran to target any location from which aggression is launched, general warns

TEHRAN – Iran's Armed Forces are fully prepared to target any location from which an attack against the country is launched, regardless of its geographical position, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari has warned.

Speaking on Friday, Heidari said the deadlines and timeframes set by US President Donald Trump for renewed acts of aggression against Iran had no bearing on the country's military calculations. ▶ Page 3

## Iran-US message exchanges continue through Qatar and Pakistan, envoy says

TEHRAN– Iran and the United States are continuing to exchange messages and proposals through Qatari and Pakistani mediation, although the pace of the indirect diplomatic contacts has slowed, Iran's ambassador to Pakistan has said, reaffirming Tehran's readiness for balanced negotiations and warning of a decisive response to any renewed aggression.

In an interview with CNN, Reza Amiri-Moghadam said Pakistan and Qatar were conveying proposals and ideas between the two sides, which were being examined by Tehran with the participation of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

"Messages are being exchanged through Qatar and Pakistan. These countries put forward proposals and ideas, and we examine them. Our foreign minister is also involved in these discussions. So, the exchange of messages continues," he said.

The Iranian envoy noted that the pace of the exchanges had declined compared with previous rounds, adding that the memorandum of understanding reached in Islamabad in June to end the war remained the basis for engagement with Washington. ▶ Page 3

## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

### What is the outlook ahead?

The Iran newspaper, in an interview with international affairs analyst Jahanbakhsh Izadi, examined the future trajectory of relations between Iran and the US. He argued that Washington's strategy toward Iran is not based on a single option but rather on a multilayered framework that includes war, sanctions, pressure, isolation, and deterrent threats. In his view, US policymakers do not appear to be seeking regime change in Iran in the traditional sense. Instead, they seek to achieve their strategic objectives while dealing with the existing political system. The US has not fully achieved its broader strategic goals in the two conflicts it has fought with Iran. The issue of the Strait of Hormuz has also become an important factor in this equation. At the same time, he noted that major international actors rarely end a conflict without attempting to secure the strategic outcomes they consider necessary. This principle stems from the logic of power politics and international competition. Therefore, Trump and the US administration are striving to ensure that the conflict ultimately produces concrete strategic gains that can be presented as achievements both internationally and domestically.

**Shargh: Vigilance is necessary**

Shargh devoted its headline to Iran's cautious and calculated approach under current circumstances. The newspaper wrote that what matters most at this stage is avoiding both complacency about the possibility of war and certainty that war is inevitable. A delay in military action should not automatically be interpreted as the removal of the military option, just as every threat or military movement should not be treated as proof that conflict is about to begin. The reality is that the region has entered a fragile period in which several different paths remain available to decision-makers. The continuation of deadlocked negotiations, increasing political pressure from Israel, potential constraints within the US Congress, and concerns among Arab states about a wider regional confrontation all play a role in shaping future decisions. Shargh emphasized that one key point cannot be ignored: under present conditions, the distance between a manageable crisis and a large-scale military confrontation may be much smaller than political calculations often assume. This makes prudent decision-making, diplomacy, and strategic restraint particularly important.

**Etemad: Political proximity as a condition for cooperation**

Etemad argued that Iran and China share common interests on many regional and international issues. China has consistently supported diplomatic solutions and opposed the use of force. As a major global economic power, it offers opportunities in trade, industry, technology, and investment that Iran can benefit from while avoiding excessive dependence on any single partner. However, China also maintains broad relations with the US, Europe, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and other countries, and considers all of these ties when making economic decisions. Therefore, strong political relations with Beijing do not automatically guarantee economic advantages for Iran. According to the article, meaningful benefits require effective negotiations, well-designed projects, mutual interests, and practical planning rather than reliance on political goodwill alone.

**Hamshahri: Trump trapped in a deadlock**

Nine months after the start of the war with Iran, Donald Trump continues to fluctuate between declaring victory, threatening renewed confrontation, and retreating from some of his stated objectives. According to Hamshahri, these contradictions reflect uncertainty in Washington about how the conflict should ultimately end. On one hand, Trump wants to convince the American public that military operations have achieved their goals and that Iran no longer represents a serious threat. On the other hand, his statements suggest that the dispute has not been fully resolved. The newspaper argues that Trump cannot simply close a file that he himself turned into one of the defining tests of his presidency without presenting a result that can be defended before voters. He still seeks to preserve a narrative of success, but faces significant obstacles in achieving a clear political and strategic conclusion. While a war can be declared over in a speech, resolving the issues that led to the conflict requires far more than a declaration of victory. It demands lasting political arrangements and strategic solutions.

**Ettelaat: Diplomatic capacities should be utilized**

Ettelaat quoted international relations researcher Ebrahim Meraji, who argued that China and Russia have some ability to influence developments related to Iran, but their role should not be overstated. Their strategic priorities do not always align with Iran's interests, making it unrealistic to expect them to incur major costs to change Washington's policies toward Tehran. However, both countries can help reduce tensions through their diplomatic influence and international standing. Meraji stressed that Iran should make use of these opportunities without becoming dependent on Moscow or Beijing. He emphasized that preserving independent decision-making and strong bargaining power is essential. Effective diplomacy requires cooperation with major powers where interests overlap while ensuring that Iran's national interests remain the primary guide of foreign policy.

# Iran's navy chief vows unrestricted response to enemy actions

From page 1 ▸ He said the announcement of a naval blockade during an ongoing war indicated that the enemy had failed to achieve its military objectives.

"The enemy has not reached any of its malicious goals," Irani said, adding that its regional military presence had already been reduced and some of its forces had been forced to withdraw.

The Navy chief said Iran's Armed Forces had successfully prevented the enemy from advancing toward the country's maritime zones, keeping its forces at a distance in the Arabian Sea and the northern Indian Ocean.

According to Irani, the enemy had initially sought to approach Iran's exclusive economic zone, territorial waters and internal waters, with the aim of reaching the country's ports, coastline and islands. However, the determination of the Iranian people and armed forces had thwarted those plans.

He said the enemy had now been reduced to seeking permission to transit the Strait of Hormuz, while its advance toward Iran had been halted.

Irani also accused the enemy of seeking to undermine Iran's economic lifeline through various measures and attempts to impose a maritime blockade under different labels. Despite those efforts, he said, the country's maritime operations and port activities were continuing.

Reaffirming Iran's position at sea, Irani said the country's armed forces continued to exercise control over the maritime battlefield and were determined to maintain their position.

He further disclosed that new directives had been issued by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, removing geographical restrictions on the scope of Iran's military missions. The directive, he said, meant that the country's response would no longer be confined to previously defined operational areas.

Irani also vowed that Iran would avenge the sailors killed aboard the Dena destroyer, saying the enemy had violated international rules and maritime conventions.

Addressing Iran's operation against the US Fifth Fleet base in Bahrain, the Navy commander said the operation had inflicted severe damage on the base's command-and-control system, forcing US forces to relocate parts of their command structure to the occupied territories and naval vessels.

Irani added that the enemy had assumed it could direct military operations from positions close to the theater of conflict, but Iranian strikes had disrupted that capability.

**Alternative trade routes**

First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref has stressed that Iran has demonstrated its ability to withstand and counter an enemy naval blockade, saying the country's trade and supplies of essential goods remain in a favorable condition.

Speaking at a meeting, Aref said imports of essential commodities were continuing through ports and entry points in the country's eastern and



western regions, while commercial exchanges were proceeding smoothly.

He underscored the need to continue developing northern ports and other entry points, emphasizing that restrictions imposed on southern ports would not bring the country's trade and supply chains to a standstill.

The enemy, he said, should understand that Iran could compensate for any restrictions on its southern ports by expanding the use of alternative border crossings and other entry routes.

Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Eje'i has also said the Iranian Armed Forces' control extending from the eastern Strait of Hormuz to the northern Indian Ocean had made it impossible for US forces to maintain a free hand in the Persian Gulf.

In a message marking Navy Day on Saturday, he described the Navy as a key pillar of Iran's deterrence and military strength, praising its personnel as guardians of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

**Breaking naval blockade**

The operational deputy commander of the Iranian Army's Navy has also said that the Armed Forces have developed plans to break the naval blockade and are awaiting orders to implement them, stressing that the Strait of Hormuz remains closed to the country's adversaries and that maritime traffic through the strategic waterway is subject to strict controls.

Rear Admiral Farhad Fattahi made the remarks in an interview with Mehr News Agency, outlining the division of responsibilities between the Army's Navy and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy in the Strait of Hormuz.

Under arrangements issued by the General Staff of the Armed Forces, the IRGC Navy is responsible for controlling the western section of the strait, while the Army's Navy carries out monitoring, control and support missions in the eastern section, he said. Army naval units are also prepared to undertake operational missions when requested by the IRGC Navy.

Fattahi said the Army's Navy is responsible for the waters extending eastward from the area around Jask across the Sea of Oman and into the northern Indian Ocean, where its units remain fully prepared to defend the country's maritime borders.

Rejecting US President Donald Trump's remarks about the strait being open, the commander said such statements did not reflect conditions on the ground. He noted that routes designated by the United States for certain vessels in the southern part of the strait faced serious navigational constraints, including shallow waters, the draft requirements of large ships, underwater obstacles and reefs, as well as damage to some navigational assistance systems.

Fattahi added that an order by the Army commander-in-chief to tighten restrictions on maritime traffic through the strait was being implemented in coordination with the IRGC Navy. He said Iranian naval forces continued to confront US military movements in the region, although security considerations prevented him from disclosing details of some operations.

Asked about measures to counter the naval blockade, Fattahi said the Armed Forces had developed plans to break it and were awaiting authorization to carry them out. He emphasized that lifting a blockade did not necessarily require direct naval confrontation or an exchange of fire, as various measures and operational approaches could achieve that objective.

The commander also dismissed Trump's assertion that Iran's Navy had been completely destroyed, pointing to the country's defense-industrial capacity to build surface vessels and submarines. Iran, he said, had the industrial capabilities required to rebuild and expand its naval fleet, while universities and knowledge-based companies were stepping up cooperation with the Armed Forces to meet their requirements.

Turning to the mission of the Dena destroyer and its attack by a US submarine, Fattahi said the Iranian-built vessel had been developed using domestic capabilities and had previously taken part in the Milan international naval exercise in India. He criticized the failure to observe humanitarian principles during the incident, stressing that rescuing the crew of a targeted vessel and assisting those who fall into the sea is a humanitarian obligation.

Fattahi also said Iranian missiles struck the US aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the early days of the war. According to the commander, the carrier subsequently moved away from the area for a period and, due to the damage sustained, was unable to conduct flight operations from its deck for approximately three to four days.

Concluding his remarks, Fattahi said that although Iran was not engaged in a symmetrical military confrontation with US forces in terms of numbers and equipment, it had the capability to inflict damage on its adversary. He added that, should the order be issued, Iran's naval forces were capable of carrying out operations commensurate with their assigned missions.

**Coordination to strengthen maritime deterrence**

In a separate message marking Navy Day on November 28, IRGC Commander Major General Ahmad Vahidi underscored the importance of strategic coordination between Iran's two naval forces in strengthening maritime deterrence and protecting the country's national interests.

Vahidi said the Army's Navy and the IRGC Navy, drawing on their operational experience, specialized personnel, and expanding defense capabilities, constituted key pillars of Iran's maritime sovereignty and national security. He said their cooperation and strategic unity enhanced the country's deterrence capabilities and maritime power, while contributing to lasting security in surrounding waters.

The IRGC commander also emphasized that both forces maintained comprehensive operational readiness and were prepared to respond appropriately to any threat to Iran's national security, vital interests and maritime sovereignty.

He added that the country's naval forces relied on indigenous expertise, accumulated operational experience and the directives of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, who serves as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, to sustain their readiness and confront potential threats.

**Advanced naval technologies**

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Mehrdad Akhlaqi said the ministry was pursuing plans to equip the Navy with advanced technologies and modern maritime defense systems to strengthen its operational and defensive capabilities.

In his Navy Day message, Akhlaqi said the strategic importance of maritime security, together with recent regional developments, had highlighted the need for a technologically advanced Navy capable of addressing emerging threats.

He said the Defense Ministry was drawing on Iran's scientific, industrial and technological capacities to develop indigenous maritime technologies, meet the Navy's operational requirements and reinforce the country's defense production and support infrastructure. Achieving these objectives, he added, required closer cooperation among the country's scientific, industrial and defense sectors, as well as coordinated efforts to equip naval forces with advanced technologies and maritime defense systems.

Akhlaqi also highlighted the importance of coordination between the Army's Navy and the IRGC Navy, describing their operational readiness and combined capabilities as essential components of Iran's defensive strength and deterrence.

He said the integration of indigenous expertise, industrial capacity, modern technology, and operational preparedness would play a significant role in advancing Iran's naval capabilities and safeguarding its maritime security.

# Iran, Turkey agree to strengthen security cooperation at Ankara meeting

TEHRAN– Iran and Turkey have agreed to expand operational cooperation and intelligence sharing in border security, counterterrorism, and efforts to combat drug and arms trafficking, concluding their eighth Joint Security and Law Enforcement Working Group meeting in Ankara with the signing of an 11-point document.

The meeting, held on Friday, brought together an Iranian delegation headed by Ali Akbar Pourjamshidian, Acting Interior Minister and Deputy Interior Minister for Security and Law Enforcement Affairs, and a Turkish delegation led by Ali Çelik, Turkey's deputy interior minister.

The discussions focused on a range of shared security concerns, including border protection, counterterrorism, drug and weapons trafficking, illegal migration, cooperation through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and continued coordination between designated points of contact.

The meeting was held within the framework of the two countries' bilateral agreement on combating drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism, as well as their



memorandum of understanding on security and law enforcement cooperation.

At the conclusion of the talks, the heads of the two delegations signed an 11-point document outlining the outcomes of the meeting. It calls for strengthening operational cooperation, expanding information exchange, maintaining active communication channels between designated contact points and border authorities, and ensuring follow-up on decisions reached at previous meetings.

The two sides agreed that the ninth meeting of the Joint Security and Law Enforcement Working Group would be held in Tehran, with Iran hosting the next round of talks.

# Zakharova: Russia, Iran's interests must be respected in implementation of TRIPP

From page 1 ▸ Zakharova said, noting that no details had been made public concerning construction parameters, implementation timelines, the use of the relevant infrastructure or prospects for freight transportation.

She said the proposed Trump Route largely replicated arrangements previously developed by a trilateral working group tasked with unblocking transport and economic links, co-chaired by the deputy prime ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. However, Yerevan suspended its participation in the group in 2023.

The Russian diplomat also pointed to concerns surrounding the project, particularly those raised by Iran. Iranian officials have made clear that any physical presence of US security forces along the country's northern borders would be unacceptable.

"We consider it fundamentally important that the interests of both Russia and Iran be taken into account in the implementation of the project. The project must not create new dividing lines in the region. Otherwise, this transport and logistics initiative is simply doomed to fail," Zakharova stressed.

# Israel First, America Last

## *Trump weighs third Iran war as Netanyahu dictates Washington's agenda*



*With Jared Kushner to his left, Donald Trump listens to the rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch during a visit to the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City on May 22, 2017 /AFP*

From Page 1 ▶ Trump has offered no clear decision. He told Fox News last week he still wants a deal that "will last," but added: "I'm going to finish it off."

**Who is pushing the button in Washington?**

The Associated Press reported on Nov. 2 that Netanyahu pushed for another wave of strikes after the Nov. 3 U.S. midterms during a weekend call with Trump, who would not commit. One official said Netanyahu was working with senior U.S. officials to persuade Trump to launch a quick but extensive air campaign.

AP reported on Nov. 19 that Persian Gulf states, Pakistan and Turkey have since engaged in concerted diplomacy, including calls with senior U.S. officials, to counter Netanyahu's push and avert all-out war. Regional officials told AP they feared Gofman's visit would tilt Trump toward restarting the war.

That lobbying is driven by politics as much as strategy. Netanyahu heads a caretaker government after losing his parliamentary majority in the Oct. 27 election. The Times reported on Nov. 24 that critics see his all-out push for war as inseparable from his bid to stay in power by forcing an emergency unity government under Gadi Eisenkot.

Israeli officials know the window may close in January, when Democrats take control of both houses of Congress, giving opponents far greater say over war funding. Defense Minister Israel Katz said on Nov. 24 that Israel and U.S. Central Command are "ready to attack Iran together. Operational plans are ready. President Trump will decide."

Ynet reported on Nov. 11 that IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir and other security officials have resisted a unilateral strike without clear U.S. backing, and that Washington blocked Netanyahu on at least one occasion.

**Envoy remark lays bare logic**

Nothing has crystallized the "Israel First" charge more than Israeli Ambassador to Washington Yechiel Leiter's interview with Newsmax on Nov. 19.

Asked how U.S. troops could return home from mass deployment while Iran still supports its regional allies, Leiter replied: "You get American soldiers back here to the United States to their families when Iran is defeated." He later clarified that defeat means full regime change in Tehran and called for U.S.-Israeli "resilience."

The backlash was immediate and bipartisan. Veterans, military families and commentators from both the anti-interventionist right and the left accused a foreign diplomat of dictating U.S. deployments. Some wrote that American personnel were being treated as Israel's property. Axios correspondent Barak Ravid said it was hard to overstate how negative the reaction was in the U.S.

Leiter tried damage control on Nov. 20, writing on X: "Only the president of the United States decides when and where American troops are deployed." But as JNS and The Times of Israel noted, critics said the damage was already done.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi mocked the remark: "We did not know that the Israeli Ambassador to Washington was the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. military."

**Two wars for Israel, paid for by Americans**

For many Americans, the envoy's words confirmed what two rounds of war have cost them.

The U.S. conducted limited defensive strikes on the eve of the midterms, including a strike on a missile site on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz on Nov. 2. Iran retaliated with attacks on a U.S. air base in Kuwait and targets in Bahrain.

Indirect negotiations have failed to produce a ceasefire to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Iran refuses to discuss its nuclear program unless the U.S. lifts its naval blockade and accepts other conditions, while Trump has threatened bridges and power plants but reportedly hesitated on oil infrastructure for fear of gasoline price spikes.

Some Republicans have blamed Israel for contributing to the party's midterm defeat. Polling cited by U.S. media suggests the Iran war is deeply unpopular with the American public, who bear the costs in deployments, energy shocks and regional retaliation — while Israel presses for more.

**Tehran warns of unrestricted response, keeps diplomacy open**

Iran has responded to the threat of a third war with a dual message of deterrence and diplomacy, which is the focus of Tehran's position.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei told military chiefs on Oct. 31 that any new attack must be met with an "immediate, impactful and geographically unrestricted response" and ordered an expansion of target lists.

IRGC spokesman Hossein Mohebbi said the force is "100 percent ready," while Army spokesman Mohammad Akraminia warned "the flames of war" would engulf a much wider area. Iranian officials have threatened to widen retaliation beyond Israel and U.S. bases in the Gulf to U.S. bases in Europe, Gulf energy infrastructure and undersea internet cables. Araghchi said Iran has upgraded weapons, fixed vulnerabilities and placed forces at highest readiness.

At the same time, Iran says it remains open to indirect talks through Qatari and Omani mediators. China announced it would send a special envoy to Iran, Oman and Saudi Arabia in mid-November. Tehran insists any ceasefire requires an end to hostilities on all fronts and an end to the U.S. blockade.

With Netanyahu fighting for political survival, Trump caught between deal-making and threats, and U.S. allies warning of catastrophe, the question is no longer whether Israel wants a third war. It is whether Trump, elected on America First, will once again put Israel's objectives — regime change, destruction of nuclear and missile capacity, crippling of energy — above the interests of the American soldiers and voters who would pay for it.

If he does, Leiter's slip may be remembered not as a gaffe, but as policy.

# IRGC unveils three new miniature drones for interception and suicide missions



From Page 1 ▶ The three drones are designed for different operational roles, with capabilities intended to address aerial threats and maintain effectiveness in environments affected by electronic warfare and communications jamming.

**Sayeh: A counter-drone interceptor**

The first system, named Sayeh (Shadow), is a compact quadcopter designed for air defense and the interception of various types of unmanned aerial vehicles, particularly small drones.

According to the specifications presented, Sayeh can take off from almost any surface, conduct patrol missions, and engage aerial targets. It can also be deployed from larger aircraft serving as carrier platforms.

The drone is equipped with a thermal imaging system, enabling it to operate at night and in adverse weather conditions. Its reported specifications include an operational range of 10 kilometers, a total weight of two kilograms, a payload capacity of one kilogram, a speed of 450 to 600 kilometers per hour, and a flight endurance of approximately five minutes.

**Qasedak: An autonomous loitering munition**

The second system, named Qasedak (Dandelion), is a suicide drone developed to operate in environments where electronic warfare and signal jamming can disrupt conventional control and navigation systems.

It uses an autopilot system and optical target-recognition technology to navigate toward its target autonomously, reducing its dependence on operator communications and satellite-based navigation systems such as GPS. Like Sayeh, it can also be carried and launched by a larger drone or aircraft.

The specifications of Qasedak include an operational range of 40 to 50 kilometers, a weight of 13 kilograms, a payload capacity of three kilograms, a maximum speed of around 90 kilometers per hour, and an endurance of approximately 45 minutes.

**Third miniature suicide drone**

The third system, also classified as a miniature suicide drone, bears a strong resemblance to the US-made Switchblade 300.

It is designed to operate in GPS-denied environments, combining autonomous flight with image-based navigation and target-recognition capabilities. These features are intended to enable it to maintain its operational effectiveness in the presence of electronic warfare and GPS jamming.

The drone reportedly has an operational range of approximately 20 kilometers, a total weight of 2.8 kilograms, a maximum speed of 250 kilometers per hour, and a flight endurance of around five minutes.

The unveiling of the three systems highlights the IRGC Aerospace Force's efforts to expand its portfolio of compact unmanned platforms for air defense and precision strike missions, including operations in environments where conventional navigation and communications systems may be compromised.

# Iran to target any location from which aggression is launched, general warns

From Page 1 ▶ "The Iranian Armed Forces are fully prepared to respond to any enemy miscalculation. Wherever in the world an attack against us is launched from, that location will be a legitimate target for us. Any position from which a threat against Iran emerges will be targeted," he said.

Referring to the US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran, the general said the Islamic Republic's decisive victory against two nuclear powers and regional countries had not depended on importing weapons or military equipment from abroad. Rather, he said, it had been achieved through reliance on domestic production and self-sufficiency.

Heidari added that Iran's resistance had helped secure the country a prominent position in the emerging global balance of power, challenging an international order previously dominated by the United States.

# Iran-US message exchanges continue through Qatar and Pakistan, envoy says



From Page 1 ▶ Amiri-Moghadam stressed that Iran was prepared for "equal, balanced and win-win negotiations," but would respond decisively if subjected to another act of aggression by the United States or Israel.

Describing the confrontation as an existential battle, he said Iran had not remained idle over the past year and had made all necessary preparations to defend itself.

"We have not been sitting idle over the past year. We have made all the necessary preparations and are ready to respond," he said, recalling Iran's missile capabilities during the 40-day war that began in February.

The ambassador warned that Iran had further capabilities in reserve should military aggression resume.

"In the event of a new attack, we will have more surprises for the world," he said, adding that Iran's response would be decisive, as it had been during the 12-day and 40-day wars.

He also stressed that Tehran favored a regional approach to security, emphasizing that regional countries themselves should be responsible for maintaining stability and opposing US interference in regional security arrangements.

**Iran has made no decision to withdraw from NPT**

Addressing the possibility of Iran withdrawing from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Amiri-Moghadam said the Islamic Republic had not made any decision to leave the international treaty.

He acknowledged growing public pressure in Iran for withdrawal, arguing that membership had imposed restrictions and obligations on the country without delivering tangible benefits.

His remarks come amid an ongoing debate in Iran over the country's commitments under the NPT and the benefits of continued membership.

**Tehran welcomes diplomatic initiatives to end Yemen war**

The Iranian ambassador also welcomed diplomatic efforts by China and Russia to help end the war in Yemen, expressing support for initiatives aimed at resolving the conflict.

He said Tehran welcomed any initiative that recognized the Ansarullah movement as an established political actor in Yemen and sought to bring an end to the devastating war.

Amiri-Moghadam pointed to the position taken by Beijing and Moscow at the United Nations Security Council against efforts to designate the Yemeni movement as a terrorist entity, saying such an approach reflected recognition of the realities on the ground in Yemen.

"We also welcome any initiative that would end this devastating war," he said.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had confirmed that Iran had received proposals through Pakistan and Qatar aimed at easing tensions, adding that the proposals were under consideration.

# Iran vows to continue Fakhrizadeh's legacy

TEHRAN – Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics has reaffirmed the country's commitment to advancing scientific and technological capabilities, saying the legacy of martyred nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh will continue to inspire efforts to strengthen national power and achieve scientific self-reliance.



In a statement issued on November 28, marking the sixth anniversary of Fakhrizadeh's assassination, the ministry said honoring the scientist meant pursuing his vision of national progress through scientific advancement, reliance on domestic capabilities and investment in young talent.

Describing Fakhrizadeh as a symbol of the close bond between science, faith and commitment, the statement said he believed Iran's development depended on nurturing a new generation of scientists and pushing the boundaries of knowledge and technology.

His scientific work, the ministry added, reflected Iran's determination to secure scientific independence and overcome restrictions through indigenous capabilities.

The statement stressed that his assassination by Iran's enemies had failed to derail the country's scientific progress. Instead, it said, the attack had strengthened the resolve of Iran's scientific community to continue his work, demonstrating that knowledge and ideas cannot be eradicated through assassination.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to supporting young researchers, developing indigenous technologies and strengthening the country's scientific and industrial infrastructure. It said Iran would continue along the path of knowledge, self-reliance and scientific endeavor, with Fakhrizadeh's legacy serving as an inspiration for future generations working toward a strong and independent country.

Fakhrizadeh was a prominent figure in Iran's scientific community and had long been targeted by Israel's Mossad intelligence agency. Senior Israeli officials had described him as the father of Iran's nuclear program.

According to the report, an initial plot to assassinate him in 2018 failed. He was martyred in a second attempt on November 28, 2020, in an attack east of Tehran carried out by a group of Mossad agents using advanced technological equipment.

Six years after his assassination, the Defense Ministry says the continuation of his scientific vision remains central to Iran's pursuit of technological progress, domestic capabilities and scientific independence.

# Tehran hosting intl. fisheries exhibition




TEHRAN- Tehran is hosting the 10th International Fisheries, Aquaculture, Fishing and Related Industries Exhibition (IFEX 2026), which opened on Friday at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds with the attendance of the Minister of Agriculture.

This year, the event began with a focus on the resilience of fishermen in the southern and northern regions and the manifestation of the dynamism of the sea-based economy.

The 10th International Fisheries, Aquaculture, Fishing and Related Industries Exhibition (IFEX 2026) opened while this edition is hosting participants and fishermen from across the country—from Bu Musa, Sirik, Jask and Qeshm to the southern and northern provinces—and has displayed a different image of resilience in the production chain.

At the opening ceremony, Hamzeh Rostamipour, Deputy Agriculture Minister and Head of the Iran Fisheries Organization, honored the memory of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, fishermen martyrs, and the martyrs of resistance, and referring to the country's critical conditions, stated: "Our country is not going through easy days; we have wartime and difficult days, but despite these conditions, the 10th fisheries industry exhibition has been held with significant advantages over last year, including product diversity, export development, and modern production methods."

The Head of the Fisheries Organization, referring to the sacrifice of more than 40 martyrs and missing persons in the fisheries sector since March and the beginning of the third imposed war, added: "The peak of the country's fisheries work was manifested in these days; when fishermen's catch and shrimp farm activity in Hormozgan, Bushehr, Khuzestan and Chabahar did not stop. Even when the enemy targeted surrounding bridges, trucks carrying aquatic feed were moving. These dear ones have come from across the country to say that we are not war-stricken to become a burden on big cities, but we have taken the responsibility of food security and employment seriously with heart and soul."

**50% growth in exports and a leap in private-sector investment**

Rostamipour, presenting statistics on the sector's achievements, stated: "Despite all the challenges, our fisheries exports have increased by more than 50% compared to before the war. Also, in the current year, thanks to the efforts of fishermen and in compliance with IOTC (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) requirements, distant-water catch has grown by more than 35%."

Emphasizing the key role of investment in the development of this industry, he noted: "Before the war, 34,000 billion tomans had been invested in the fisheries sector; this figure reached 67,000 billion tomans last year, and so far this year more than 40,000 billion tomans of new investment has been registered, 90% of which is private-sector capital, and a major share of it belongs to the country's southern provinces—a province that in these difficult conditions has brought its capital into the field for development."

The Head of the Fisheries Organization also referred to the latest status of shrimp production and said: "Today alone, more than 40,000 tons of shrimp have been harvested from farms, and more than 60,000 tons more is on the way, which is equal to all pre-war harvests. My request is that you do not see fisheries merely as a production agency."

**Major capacities and demands of private-sector participants**

According to statistics presented at the exhibition, the country's total aquatic production has reached more than 1,566,000 tons (including more than 733,000 tons in aquaculture), and Iran, with an annual production of about 270,000 tons of rainbow trout, still holds the world's first place in producing this species.

Later in the ceremony, the Minister of Agriculture and members of parliament, while visiting the booths and meeting fishermen and producers from coastal areas, sat down with their concerns, including the sustainable supply of inputs, development of the cold chain, and obstacles to the repatriation of foreign currency earnings.

Gholamreza Nouri, the Minister of Agriculture, speaking to reporters, referred to the record-breaking exports of Iran's fisheries products under sensitive security conditions and sanctions, and announced the attraction of large investments by the private sector in this field.

While emphasizing the priority of energy supply for the agricultural sector, he stressed the strategic role of knowledge-based companies in achieving full self-sufficiency.

**Breaking sanctions with a record 180,000-ton export**

The Minister of Agriculture, in remarks about the performance of the fisheries industry, announced the sector's significant achievements in facing international challenges and said: "At a time when the country was facing sanctions, blockade and security fluctuations in fisheries activity areas, contrary to analysts' expectations that predicted a crisis, we witnessed a jump in exports. So far, 180,000 tons of fisheries products have been exported, a figure that under these conditions shows the resilience and authority of our producers."

Nouri, paying tribute to fishermen who sacrificed their lives in the path of meeting the country's needs, added: "Just as the armed forces are at the front line of defense, our fishermen also stood at the front line of food security with all their strength for the country."

The Minister of Agriculture, analyzing the investment trend in this industry, emphasized the key role of the private sector and said: "Statistics show that in the first half of the current year alone, more than 40,000 billion tomans of investment has been attracted in the fisheries sector. This volume of investment, mainly made by the private sector, indicates high profitability and desirable productivity in this production chain."

He added: "The government and the Ministry of Agriculture, by identifying suitable areas on the northern and southern coasts of the country, have provided the necessary infrastructure to attract investors. Also, in cooperation with the banking system, necessary facilities have been considered for the development of these areas and support for investors."

**Reliance on knowledge-based companies to achieve self-sufficiency**

In the research and development section, the senior ministry official announced scientific progress in the fisheries sector and said: "By supporting knowledge-based companies and working closely with research institutes, we have achieved major successes; including that in the field of importing rainbow trout eggs, we are now on the path to full self-sufficiency. The ministry welcomes all growth centers and universities for a technological leap in this industry."

The Minister of Agriculture, referring to challenges in the energy sector, emphasized the policy of optimal consumption but at the same time insisted on the priority of supplying fuel to farmers and said: "Although energy consumption management is a general principle, given the vital importance of agriculture in food security, special emphasis has been placed on supplying the energy needed by this sector."

He stressed: "Regarding the recent challenges in fishermen's fuel quota, the necessary follow-ups are underway so that this issue will be fully resolved soon."

# Iran seeks bigger role in China–Europe rail transit via southern corridor




TEHRAN- The deputy head of Iran Railways called for increasing the southern corridor's share in goods movement between China and Europe.

The request comes as competition among transit routes to attract commercial cargo has intensified, and Iran is seeking to gain a larger share of regional and international trade and transit by leveraging its geographic position and rail capacities.

According to ISNA, Mir Hassan Mousavi, deputy CEO of Iran Railways, during the International Transport and Transit Conference (ITTC 2026) in Ashgabat, proposed measures to develop rail cooperation with Turkmenistan, increase freight transport between the two countries, and strengthen the position of the China–Europe southern rail corridor.

Referring to the geographic position of Iran and Turkmenistan, he said: "The rail networks of the two countries have considerable capacity to connect Asia to Europe and the West Asia, and an important part of Iran's rail connections with Central Asian countries and Russia also passes through Turkmenistan's territory."

Mousavi described the Sarakhs and Incheh Borun border stations as two key points in developing rail and transit cooperation between the two countries and added: "Connecting Iran's rail network to Turkey through the Razi border will make possible Turkmenistan's indirect rail connection to Turkey's rail network."

**Iran's four proposed axes for developing rail cooperation with Turkmenistan**

The deputy CEO of Iran Railways, referring to the need to increase the volume of rail exchanges between Iran and Turkmenistan, proposed four main axes for developing cooperation.

The first includes facilitating customs procedures by relying on diplomatic capacities and through launching an electronic information exchange system between the railways and customs of the two countries—a measure that can minimize train dwell time at the border.

The second axis is dedicated to harmonizing preferential and transit tariffs between the two countries. Accordingly, Iran Railways believes that drafting competitive tariffs for the two countries' rail routes can increase the attractiveness of this corridor compared with alternative routes.

Also, developing green corridors by prioritizing rail transport in regional trade policies, as well as joint investment in infrastructure, are the other two axes proposed by the deputy CEO of Iran Railways.

On investment, Tehran welcomes private-sector participation in fleet modernization, development of logistics centers, and implementation of smart solutions at border stations.

Mousavi, noting that the current volume of rail exchanges between Iran and Turkmenistan is not proportionate to the two countries' transit capacities, stated: "Despite significant statistics recorded in past years, the temporary fluctuations in transport figures this year should be viewed as an opportunity to review freight organization methods and expand bilateral cooperation."

**Southern corridor; a complementary route in China–Europe rail trade**

An important part of the Iranian railway representative's remarks at the conference was devoted to the development outlook of the China–Europe southern rail corridor—a route that starts in China and passes through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Turkey.

Referring to the three main land routes connecting China to European markets, he said: "The northern corridor runs through Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus; the middle corridor runs through Kazakhstan, the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey; and the southern corridor extends through Central Asia, Turkmenistan, Iran and Turkey. The southern route can be used, alongside the northern and middle corridors, as one of the shortest rail routes connecting China to southern Europe and Persian Gulf countries."

Mousavi also described two operational branches for developing this corridor and added: "The first branch involves cargo passing from China to Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and then entering Iran and connecting to Turkey through the Incheh Borun border. In the second branch, trains enter Iran after passing through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and connect to Turkey through the Sarakhs border."

According to Mousavi, developing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate container trains from China to Iran and onward to Europe will be among the main priorities of this plan. Modernizing border stations, establishing logistics centers and dry ports—including the Aprin dry port—and digitalizing rail operations are among other requirements raised for operationalizing this route.

The deputy CEO of Iran Railways, referring to bilateral commercial and government meetings on the sidelines of the conference, announced Iran's readiness to finalize agreements and joint projects and emphasized using the technical, operational and human resources capacities of Iran Railways to strengthen cooperation with Turkmenistan and other regional and international partners.

# Acting oil minister announces return of 106 mcm of gas to production cycle

TEHRAN- Hamid Bovard, Acting Oil Minister, outlined the ministry's latest measures to rebuild damaged facilities, increase gas output, and collect associated/flare gas, announcing that about 106 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) of gas has so far returned to the production cycle.

Speaking at an online inauguration ceremony for Ministry of Oil development projects attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian, Bovard thanked the president for his support and praised oil industry workers and Basij forces for maintaining production and repairing damaged facilities under difficult conditions.

Bovard said that after parts of South Pars facilities were damaged, the ministry revised its priorities from Esfand 1404. Alongside reconstruction, it prioritized increasing output using other capacities, collecting flare gas, and accelerating project implementation.

He said about $350 million, equivalent to 70 trillion tomans, had been allocated for these programs. He added that intensified sanctions had not weakened the will of oil industry managers and staff, and that priority needs were met and projects pursued by relying on domestic capacity and by dividing work among different units.

On the two onshore projects inaugurated online, Bovard said last year's promise that the oil industry would become a major project workshop had faced wartime conditions and damage to facilities, but the projects inaugurated today showed efforts were continuing. The first was the Homa gas field pressure-boosting station, which supplies feed to the Parsian gas refinery. It adds about 7 mcm/d to gas production capacity, with investment of about €126 million, mostly carried out by domestic technical and engineering expertise.

The second was the Tabnak gas field separation center. Bovard said Tabnak currently produces about 33 mcm/d, and without the separation center output would have fallen to about 26–28 mcm/d in 1406. The project prevents that decline and allows an increase of about 2 mcm/d. With completion and construction of a pressure-boosting station, from 1409 the field will be able to produce 36 mcm/d for seven years. Investment was about €85 million, and the project also enables production of about 1,000 barrels of gas condensate.

*(See full text at tehrantimes.com)*

# Bushehr port loading, unloading capacity to reach 15m tons

TEHRAN- The CEO of the Ports and Maritime Organization, referring to plans to increase the loading and unloading capacity of Bushehr Port to 15 million tons, stated that creating appropriate infrastructure is among the requirements for achieving this goal.

According to a Mehr News Agency report, Mohammad Shakibi-Nasab, CEO of the Ports and Maritime Organization, emphasizing the need for long-term planning for the development of Bushehr Port, considered the provision and annexation of surrounding lands to the port area as among the requirements for developing port infrastructure commensurate with the economic and maritime capacities of the province.

Stating that the development of Bushehr Port should not be limited to its current area, he said: "By anticipating and providing suitable surrounding lands, the ground should be prepared for the development of port infrastructure commensurate with the economic and maritime capacities of the province in the long term."

According to an announcement by the Ports and Maritime Organization, Shakibi-Nasab, referring to the historical and maritime position of Bushehr Province, added: "Port development should be pursued with a forward-looking approach and with the aim of creating sustainable infrastructure for future generations."

Emphasizing the necessity of properly siting the logistics village outside the Negin Port Complex, he continued: "Considering that this complex has an industrial zone and the capacity to develop production, industrial, and packaging activities, the logistics village should be sited in a way that does not create an obstacle to the maximum utilization of the port's industrial and economic capacities."

In conclusion, the Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development, referring to plans to increase the loading and unloading capacity of Bushehr Port to 15 million tons, stated that providing the required land and creating appropriate infrastructure are among the requirements for realizing this goal.

شرکت معدنی و صنعتی گل گهر (سهامی عام)
Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/22(renewed)

GolGohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export **70,000** metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.50) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 9:00 A.M. on 08. Dec.2026 to to Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 9:00 A.M. on 08. Dec.2026 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

# Drones swarmed a British military base on Nov. 13

About half a dozen drones swarmed a British military base earlier this month and were not recovered after being repelled by U.S. defensive equipment on site, according to people familiar with the matter.

A security alert urging U.S. personnel to shelter in place was issued at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk on November 13. The incident was reported at the time, but few details were made public.

In fact, approximately six drones were sighted flying around the base, the people said, the Financial Times reported.

Lakenheath, which houses the 48th Fighter Wing, is the largest U.S. fighter jet operation in Europe, with almost 7,000 personnel.

In the incident, U.S. counter-drone technology was deployed to repel the unmanned aerial systems, but the drones were not retrieved by British or American personnel.

The base had confirmed in September that it was on "Charlie alert", the second-highest threat level issued by the U.S. Department of War.

The failure to capture the drones in November has left a question over whether any of them were carrying a payload, the people familiar with the incident said.



F-15 jets at RAF Lakenheath. The base, which houses the 48th Fighter Wing, is the largest US fighter jet operation in Europe, with almost 7,000 personnel
© Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

It means authorities in Washington and London cannot rule out that a weapon, espionage equipment or other kit was attached.

The incident is one of a series of security episodes this year at UK bases used by the U.S. Air Force, including an alleged terror plot at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.

The US Air Force confirmed on November 13 that it had responded to "suspected unauthorized drone activity" at the base, adding that "no personnel, aircraft or infrastructure were affected".

On Friday, U.S. Air Forces in Europe declined to discuss counter-drone systems for operational security reasons, but a spokesperson urged the community to "remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity immediately to local authorities".

The UK Ministry of Defense said the protection of military bases was "a top priority", adding: "We continually review and strengthen our security arrangements."

Ministry of Defense Police and Suffolk Police worked closely with USAF Security Forces to respond to the incident, which was "quickly resolved", the ministry said.

Britain is investing £470mn to strengthen security at military sites, including boosted physical protection, surveillance and counter-drone capabilities.

The RAF is moving some aircraft to hangars at night and is planning to erect anti-drone netting around other exposed aircraft, Sky News reported.

Nick Timothy, MP for West Suffolk and a Conservative shadow cabinet minister, raised concerns on Friday about the potential risk to RAF Mildenhall, also in Suffolk, from an attack on the Sunnica solar and battery farm being built 2.5km away.

He told the FT that the Ministry of Defense "has admitted to me that it did not take into account the risk of sabotage or arson when it was consulted as part of the planning process — yet MI5 and others have been warning for years that hostile states will target infrastructure in this way".

A British government spokesperson said: "All projects are subject to a rigorous planning process in which security is considered."

# Rivals lock horns in final showdown as Spaniards go to polls

**By staff writer**

TEHRAN — Spain votes Sunday in a snap election that could end eight years of Socialist-led government and bring the right-wing Vox into the national cabinet for the first time.

The People's Party (PP), led by Alberto Núñez Feijóo, is favored to finish first, but its path to power depends on Vox's Santiago Abascal and his right-wing party's seats.

The vote was called on October 6 after parliament rejected two emergency housing decrees, exposing the fragility of Sánchez's alliances. On November 12, a caretaker committee approved one decree by a single vote but again rejected automatic rental-contract renewals.

**The polling picture**

EL PAÍS's final polling average put the PP at 31.5 percent, the PSOE at 29 percent and Vox at about 18 percent.

Frente Amplio, the new alliance to the PSOE's left, stood at 6.8 percent; Podemos was at 1.1 percent where it runs independently.

The PP's lead has narrowed from roughly six points, leaving Sánchez a chance of finishing first. That would not necessarily keep him in office.

EL PAÍS's model gave the PP and Vox an 83 percent chance of a majority, projecting them at around 190 of the Congress's 350 seats. A four-point miss could leave them near 168 seats; a smaller one could hand Junts the balance in a hung parliament.

In 2023, the PP won the most seats but failed to secure an investiture majority, allowing Sánchez to return through deals with smaller parties.

Spain's parliament is chosen through 52 provincial constituencies, each with a fixed number of seats. That means the result depends on how votes are distributed across provinces, not just on the national vote total.

**The parties and their prospects**

Sánchez, in office since 2018, has built an international profile through his positions on migration, Gaza and relations with Washington. He has criticized Trump and resisted NATO's 5 percent of GDP spending target.

At home, he points to growth and job creation. The European Commission expects Spain's economy to expand 2.6 percent in 2026, against 1.3 percent in the eurozone, but forecasts inflation of 3.9 percent.

For voters facing high rents and pressure on public services, growth has not settled the question of living standards.

Feijóo, the former leader of Galicia, a region in northwest Spain, presents himself as a steadier administrator after years of unstable parliamentary bargaining.

The PP promises one million homes and says it would repeal rent controls, arguing that construction and supply are the answer.

The PSOE proposes 100,000 affordable public homes, assistance for first-time buyers and stronger tenant protections.

Abascal's Vox is expected to make the biggest gain among major parties, potentially almost doubling its 33 seats from 2023.

Its campaign centers on tighter immigration rules, mass deportations, and "national priority," giving Spaniards preferential access to public benefits and protected housing. It also advocates lower taxes and fewer climate restrictions.

Both the PP and Vox propose rolling back the Democratic Memory Law, reopening disputes over state recognition of Franco-era victims.

*(See full text at tehrantimes.com)*

# Ex-Qatari PM admits 6 Arab monarchies run intelligence collusion with Israel

From page 1 ▸ He recalled that Doha itself opened an Israeli trade office in 1996 and openly admitted that he still keeps personal ties with Israelis.

Looking ahead, he said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expects Washington's military footprint to recede and hopes Persian Gulf rulers will eventually ask Israel to protect them.

Rather than relying on Tel Aviv, Al Thani urged three or four states to build a joint regional defense alliance.

The split between public pledges to Palestine and quiet cooperation with Israel has grown stark.

Under the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative adopted in Beirut, Arab governments conditioned normal relations on full Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands, a sovereign Palestinian state with al-Quds as its capital, and a refugee settlement.

Abu Dhabi and Manama bypassed those terms entirely, and Bahrain signed a formal military and intelligence pact with Israel in February 2022.

Meanwhile, the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza has killed more than 74,000 Palestinians and wounded over 176,000, according to Gaza health authorities, with UN officials documenting continued Israeli killings and epidemic disease outbreaks in late November.

On the ground, military coordination has moved directly into regional war planning.

In September, Axios reported that Israeli military chief Eyal Zamir met counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, and Bahrain in Germany under U.S. Central Command to coordinate operations tied to the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran.



Later that month, American, Israeli, Emirati, Bahraini, and Moroccan officials convened in New York to expand the "normalization" accords.

Washington has also tied a prospective civil nuclear agreement with Riyadh to Israeli recognition, though Saudi officials still publicly claim that they condition ties on Palestinian statehood.

Across the Arab world, rulers remain sharply isolated from their populations. The 2025 Arab Opinion Index found that 94 percent of Kuwaitis and 89 percent of Qataris oppose recognizing Israel, even as their governments deepen security ties with Washington and Tel Aviv against Iran, Palestine, and Lebanon.

# Israel kills two Doctors Without Borders staff in Gaza in 'direct hit'

Two staff members of Doctors Without Borders, the humanitarian relief agency known by its French initials MSF, were killed in an Israeli strike on one of its clinics in Gaza City on Friday night.

"We are devastated and outraged by the killing of two of our colleagues, both watchmen, in an Israeli strike on one of our Gaza clinics tonight," MSF said on X on Friday, Al Jazeera reported.

It called the attack a "direct hit" and said the killings bring the number of its staff killed in Gaza to 17.

The agency's premises were "clearly marked with MSF logos, and their location had been communicated to and was known by the Israeli military", the group said.

It called for those responsible to be held accountable.

In a statement following the strike, the Israeli occupation army claimed, without providing evidence, that the two workers were members of Hamas.

The victims named Abu Hasira and Moaz Yousef Alitsbach.

Witnesses told the BBC the two men were sitting at the clinic entrance when an Israeli drone descended and fired a missile.

Mohammed Imad, a close friend of Abu Hasira, said he had seen him just hours before the attack.

*(See full text at tehrantimes.com)*

# Settler terrorism: The face of Zionism

From page 1 ▸ Settler terrorism goes beyond attacking Palestinians and their property. Its purpose is also to impose conditions that force Palestinians to leave their land and communities. An attack on a village, the burning of a home, or an assault on farmers and shepherds is not an isolated incident. Rather, these practices build on one another, making Palestinian life increasingly impossible across large areas.

The figures show just how widespread the phenomenon has become. According to data from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 1,800 settler attacks were recorded in 2025, affecting around 280 Palestinian communities and injuring 1,190 Palestinians. During the first eight months of 2026, another 1,623 attacks were recorded, linked to the displacement of 2,616 Palestinians.

These figures reflect more than a rise in the number of attacks. They point to a pattern of terrorism serving a clear political and geographical purpose: breaking up Palestinian communities, isolating them, and reducing the Palestinian presence in targeted areas. This, in turn, helps expand settlement control and undermines the possibility of establishing a geographically connected Palestinian entity.

At its core, the relationship between the regime's government and the West Bank settlers is defined less by confrontation than by their complementary roles in advancing the illegal settlement project.

While the regime provides political and legal cover, infrastructure, and settlement expansion, extremist settler groups carry out field terrorism on the ground to impose new realities and drive Palestinians out of their land.

Minor disagreements may arise between the two sides over methods or the limits of what is legally acceptable, but these do not change their shared strategic goal: expanding Zionist control over the occupied West Bank and beyond.

This relationship is reflected in the stark gap between security warnings about settler violence and the lack of accountability. A report by the International Commission of Inquiry noted that, in August 2024, the regime's internal security service, Shin Bet, had warned of an attack on the village of Jit.

However, the regional police command failed to take effective preventive action, and the attack resulted in the killing of a Palestinian. The report also cited data from the Yesh Din organization showing that 93.6% of police investigations into settler violence over twenty years resulted in no indictments, according to figures available as of January 2026.

This institutional failure cannot be viewed in isolation from the political positions that reinforce these groups' sense of protection and legitimacy. The Hilltop Youth, groups known for establishing unauthorized outposts and carrying out terror attacks against Palestinians, have increasingly benefited from this political support.

In November 2025, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir stated that he was proud the police had stopped "harassing" them.

This shift is particularly significant given the movement's transition from the margins of the regime's society into positions of political influence. In a 2024 study titled The Legitimation Process of the Hilltop Youth: From Outcasts to the Israeli Cabinet, Tom Levizky and Yuval Benziman examine how these groups moved from opposing regime authorities and established settler leadership to pursuing political legitimacy through media engagement and political alliances.

This process reached a turning point in 2023, when politicians associated with this movement took up key ministerial positions.

This development goes beyond the rise of individual far-right figures to government positions. It represents the transformation of a movement that once operated on the fringes of state institutions into one that now helps shape policy and influence government decision-making.

As a result, the movement's ideas are no longer confined to isolated outposts or groups operating on the ground; they have increasingly found their way into the very government institutions responsible for overseeing and advancing the Zionist settlement project.



The relationship between the government and the settlers is no longer defined by confrontation between opposing sides, but by a division of roles. The mechanisms of control are now exercised through both official state institutions and acts of terror carried out by settlers on the ground.

The government does not need to directly orchestrate every attack to benefit from its consequences, just as settlers do not require explicit official approval for every action, so long as their actions advance the broader objectives of the illegal settlement project.

Minor disagreements over methods or instances of overstepping authority may be genuine, but they do not alter the fact that both sides share the same overarching objective.

The religious-nationalist and messianic far right's drive to expand settlements and terrorize Palestinians cannot be understood without examining the ideological beliefs that underpin its conception of Palestinian land.

In the movement's ideological vocabulary, the West Bank is not viewed as occupied territory open to negotiation, but as "Judea and Samaria," an integral part of the biblical Promised Land.

According to this ideology, Palestinians are seen not as a people with political and historical rights, but as obstacles to the Zionist project. Since October 7, this outlook has been reinforced by rhetoric portraying all Palestinians as a security and demographic threat.

Settler terrorism serves not only to pressure Palestinians but also to advance an ideological vision of reducing their presence on the land. Israeli messianism, the belief that expanding the illegal occupation across a "biblical land" and fulfilling a "divine" promise, should be understood within its broader ideological Zionist framework.

It draws on a religious and nationalist worldview that grants Zionist Jews an exclusive claim to Palestinian land and pushes this idea to its furthest limits. While political Zionism presented the project as the realization of Jewish national self-determination, messianism gives it a religious sanctity that turns control over more land into a duty that allows no concessions or compromise.

The difference within the regime is not about the foundations of the project itself, but about how far it should go and what kind of state it should produce.

Some leaders of this movement are unfazed by international sanctions and pressure.

However, this position does not necessarily represent the entire establishment. Traditional security, economic, and diplomatic institutions recognize that continued settler terrorism and settlement expansion come at an increasingly high cost for the regime in its international standing.

In May 2026, the European Union imposed sanctions on four entities and three individuals linked to serious violations of Palestinian rights in the West Bank. Those targeted included the settlement movement Nachala and its leader, Daniella Weiss.

The issue of sanctions has returned to the forefront of international debate. This reflects growing concern over the consequences of settler terrorism and continued settlement expansion.

A divide has emerged within the settler project itself. It is not a disagreement over Zionist claims to Palestine or the Zionist character of the regime, but over the limits of settlement expansion and its political and strategic costs.

A growing camp is willing to accept international isolation in defense of its extremist agenda, while other Zionist institutions and sectors fear that its policies will weaken Israeli standing and international relations. This disagreement is over how the project should be managed and where it will lead, not over its foundations.

SPORTS

## Iran crowned champions of AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup 2026

TEHRAN - Iran came from behind to edge Japan 3-1 in a thrilling AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2026 final on Saturday.

The win at Ban Nam Khem Beach Arena gave Ali Naderi's side a third consecutive title and fifth overall, with three-time champions Japan going one better than their third-place finish in the last edition.

Japan's first foray upfront saw Yuki Kibune strike the bar before Yohei Otsuki gave them the opening goal in the third minute by directing Ryota Morioka's pass beyond an off-position Mohammad Dastan.

Kibune headed Mahdi Shirmohammadi's attempt off the line in the ninth minute as the Central Asian side regrouped, with Reza Dayeri blasting the ball over moments later and Mohaved Mohammadpour going off-target in the 11th minute with a thunderous free-kick. Japan then slowed the tempo by holding on to the ball, Takuya Akaguma closing the first period by sending his acrobatic effort wide of the left post.

Mohammadali Mokhtari's overhead kick bounced off the left post a minute into the restart, with the striker slamming his shot into the opposite post before Iran were awarded a penalty in the 17th minute, Ali Mirshekari slamming home the rebound after Takeru Furusato saved his spot-kick.

Iran continued to threaten, Mirshekari sending the ball into the stands in the 22nd minute, Mohammad Masoumizadeh's strike flying off to the right moments later and Furusato making back-to-back saves from Mohammadpour and Shirmohammadi two minutes later.

The Japan keeper again acquitted himself well with a spending save from Dayeri in the 27th minute and then blocked an attempt from Dastan, but was beaten by his counterpart on the half hour mark when the Iran keeper let loose with a stinging goal kick.

Mohammadpour dashed any hopes of a Japan comeback in the 34th minute with an overhead kick that whizzed past Furusato into the top right as Iran sealed their fifth title in emphatic fashion.

## Iran basketball to meet Philippines in crucial match

TEHRAN - World No. 40 and Asia's No. 7 Philippines will face Asia's No. 4 Iran in their second game of the fifth window of the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup Asian Qualifiers (Group E) on Sunday on neutral grounds at the Karisma Arena in Seremban, Malaysia.

Gilas Pilipinas will continue their campaign in the second round after back-to-back wins in the fourth window. Now holding a 4-4 record and sitting at No. 5 in Group E, the Nationals face a Syria team carrying a 2-6 win-loss record into the next phase as the bottom seed in Group E, alongside Iran, which hold a 5-3 win-loss record to sit tied for No. 3 in the group. Gilas open the fifth window on November 27 against Syria before taking on Iran on Sunday, with both games set at Karisma Arena. A victory over Syria and Iran would give the Philippines a much-needed boost as they look to climb the Group E standings and strengthen their bid for World Cup qualification.

Gilas Pilipinas opened their pre-window training camp in Seremban, Malaysia after flying in on November 21. Despite initial familiarity concerns from head coach Tim Cone over his scheduled November 23 release from the CBA's Fujian Sturgeons, new naturalized player Bennie Boatwright arrived a day early on Sunday, November 22. The team wasted no time, hitting the floor for their opening session that same night and logging their second practice on November 23 to shake off any early familiarity concerns noted by head coach Tim Cone.

"We're going to have to try and figure out a way to make him [Boatwright] effective within the system and try to tweak it so we can get him effective and that's always difficult to do. But he's a talented guy," said Cone.

## Iran beaten by Japan at 2026 Asian Women's Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran suffered a 25-16 defeat against Japan in their fourth Group A match at the 2026 Asian Women's Handball Championship on Saturday.

The tournament is being held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from Nov. 23 to Dec. 3, with Iran competing in Group A alongside Japan, China, Hong Kong and Bangladesh.

Team Melli began their campaign with an impressive 33-16 victory over Hong Kong before suffering a 34-32 defeat to China in their second match. Iran bounced back in their third game, securing a 23-15 win over Thailand, but were unable to maintain their momentum against Japan.

Despite the latest setback, Iran will look to finish the group stage strongly and improve their position in the standings.

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

The championship is particularly important for the participating teams, as the top four finishers will qualify for the 2027 IHF Women's World Handball Championship.

Iran will need a strong finish to their campaign to keep their hopes of reaching the global competition alive.

## Iran's Dastan takes Best Goalkeeper accolade

TEHRAN - Mohammad Dastan was named the Best Goalkeeper of the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2026™ after helping Islamic Republic of Iran retain their title on Saturday.

The 29-year-old custodian had a remarkable tournament and was instrumental as Iran lifted their fifth title with a 3-1 win against Japan in the final.

With Iran on top in every game, Dastan showed great focus and concentration as the last line of defense for the Central Asian side.

One clean sheet was achieved in the tournament, which came in the quarter-final win against Saudi Arabia with Dastan also providing the assist for Mahdi Shirmohammadi's goal against Japan in the final.

## Mohammadpour lands Most Valuable Player prize

TEHRAN - Movahed Mohammadpour was crowned Most Valuable Player after helping Islamic Republic of Iran retain their title at the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2026™ on Saturday.

The 31-year-old had an outstanding tournament and played a pivotal role as Iran lifted their fifth title with a 3-1 win against Japan in the final.

Mohahmmadpour scored in the group stage wins against Afghanistan, Vietnam and Lebanon, with the Central Asian side coasting through on maximum points in Group B.

Despite not being on the scoresheet in the quarter-final success against Saudi Arabia, he still played a pivotal role and was quickly back amongst the goals in the semi-final win against Lebanon.

In the final, Mohammadpour again produced a sterling performance, scoring the third goal to cap a memorable tournament for Iran and himself.

# Among autumn leaves, Hamedan rediscovers the joy of togetherness

**By Afshin Majlesi**



HAMEDAN – There is something quietly captivating about walking through a park carpeted with fallen autumn leaves. The soft crunch beneath your feet, the changing colors of the trees and the cool late-autumn air that invite you to slow down and take in the scenery. But at Hamedan's fifth Bargrizan Hegmataneh Festival, held from November 25 to 27, this familiar seasonal experience became something much larger: a celebration of nature, culture and, above all, the people of the city.

I arrived at Mardom Park expecting to find a seasonal festival built around the beauty of autumn. What I encountered was a remarkably lively public gathering, bringing together people from different generations, professions and social backgrounds. Families, children, young people, elderly residents, local craftspeople, artists and visitors filled the park. Their presence gave the event an atmosphere that went well beyond an ordinary tourism promotion.

The trees, dressed in shades of yellow, orange and red, provided the natural setting. Fallen leaves covered the pathways, creating the kind of landscape that photographers seek out at this time of year. Visitors stopped beneath the trees to take photographs, walked slowly through the park or simply stood admiring the colors. Some came specifically for the autumn scenery; others seemed to have come because the festival offered an opportunity to spend time outdoors with family and friends.



Children were particularly visible. They moved between the entertainment areas, games and family activities, bringing an infectious energy to the park. Parents followed them through the different sections, while groups of teenagers gathered for photographs and conversations. The festival had succeeded in making autumn an experience that could be enjoyed by all ages, rather than something reserved for nature enthusiasts or tourists.

One of the most interesting aspects of Bargrizan was its attempt to connect the natural landscape with the cultural identity of Hamedan province, which is home to many cultural and natural gems in west-central Iran.

Stalls displaying local handicrafts, souvenirs and regional products introduced visitors to the work and traditions of the area. Sections dedicated to nomadic heritage and traditional ways of life offered another dimension, reminding visitors that the region's identity is shaped not only by its ancient history but also by living cultural practices.

I stopped at one of the local product stalls and spoke with a vendor about the event.

"For us, these festivals are an opportunity to introduce our products to people who might otherwise never come across them," the vendor told me. "It is also a chance to meet customers directly and show them something made here, rather than simply selling a product."

Nearby, a local craftsperson was explaining aspects of traditional production to interested visitors. Such encounters, although brief, were among the festival's more valuable features. They created a direct connection between visitors and local producers, something that tourism promotion campaigns cannot always achieve through advertising alone.

I also spoke with a family who had brought their children to the park.

"We wanted to take the children somewhere outdoors and give them something different to do," one parent said. "They can play, see the autumn colors and learn a little about local traditions at the same time."

That combination of recreation and cultural discovery is central to the idea behind Bargrizan. Now in its fifth edition, the festival has adopted a national approach, seeking to attract attention beyond Hamedan while promoting the province's tourism attractions, local culture, handicrafts and products.

Yet, for me, the most striking feature of the event was not the stalls, the performances or even the autumn scenery. It was the sheer number and diversity of people who had come to participate.

In a country facing prolonged economic pressure and an uncertain political climate, where the population continues to deal with the consequences of international sanctions and financial constraints, the sight of such a large public gathering carries a particular significance.

Iran is living through a difficult period, one that many people describe as neither war nor peace. Economic uncertainty has become part of everyday life, affecting household budgets, employment and people's ability to plan for the future. Against this backdrop, seeing so many residents come together in a public park, bringing their families and spending time enjoying a cultural event, was a powerful reminder of the importance of collective social life.

I found myself thinking about resilience. Not the abstract kind often invoked in official speeches, but something visible in ordinary people: parents making time for their children, young people enjoying an afternoon with friends, artisans continuing to produce and sell their work, and families finding reasons to celebrate despite the pressures of daily life.

An elderly visitor I spoke with described the festival in simple terms:

"People need places like this. Life is not easy, but we still need to go out, meet one another and enjoy the good things around us."

It was perhaps the most straightforward explanation of the festival's social value.

Music and cultural performances added to the atmosphere, while the presence of local products and handicrafts gave the gathering an economic dimension.

Hamedan, the provincial capital, is widely recognized for its historical and archaeological heritage, including its association with the UNESCO-listed Hegmataneh, one of the very important centers of early Iranian civilization, which is better known as Ecbatana in the West.

But its tourism identity extends beyond historical monuments. Located near Mount Alvand, Hamedan also offers mountain landscapes, gardens, villages and natural attractions that take on a distinctive character in autumn.

The Bargrizan Festival provides an opportunity to bring these different dimensions together. It can encourage visitors to look beyond the city's best-known historical sites and discover the wider province, from its mountain scenery to its rural communities and cultural traditions.

The challenge, however, according to organizers, is to turn a successful seasonal gathering into a sustainable tourism product. This requires more than organizing a few days of activities each year. Connecting the festival to guided autumn walks, photography tours, local food experiences, village visits and accommodation packages could encourage visitors to stay longer and distribute tourism benefits across the region.

As I walked through Mardom Park towards the end of my visit, the pathways were still busy. Children were playing, families were taking photographs, visitors were browsing the stalls and people were gathering around the performance areas. The fallen leaves continued to cover the ground, occasionally stirred by the wind and the footsteps of passing visitors.

Beyond the photographs, the music and the colorful trees, it is a reminder that tourism is ultimately about people. And sometimes, the most memorable part of a journey is not the landscape itself, but the community that welcomes you into it.

# UNESCO representatives review war damage to Isfahan's historic sites

TEHRAN - Damage caused by war and natural hazards to historic monuments in the historic city of Isfahan was examined at a meeting attended by UNESCO representatives and senior provincial officials, according to Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

The meeting brought together provincial Cultural Heritage Director General Amir Karamzadeh, deputy governor-general for political and social affairs Ayyub Darvishi, UNESCO representatives and heads of several provincial government departments, Miras Aira reported on Saturday.

Karamzadeh said historic sites near the Isfahan governorate had sustained serious damage during attacks in March, when an explosion caused by a strike on the provincial administration building affected the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Chehel Sotoun and Naqsh-e Jahan Square, as well as the Safavid Government Complex, known as the Dowlatkhaneh.

He stressed the need for specialist assessments of the damage and coordinated action to protect the city's historic buildings against threats arising from armed conflict, blast waves and natural disasters.

The official said the concentration of valuable historic monuments within urban areas, and their proximity to various facilities and infrastructure, made it essential to assess their vulnerability to such hazards.

The meeting provided an opportunity for provincial authorities and UNESCO representatives to discuss the risks facing Isfahan's cultural heritage and the need for protective measures, Karamzadeh added.

He described the city's historic monuments as part of Iran's civilizational heritage and a valuable legacy of humanity, saying their protection during crises required technical planning and cooperation among relevant government agencies and international organizations.

According to Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the recent war involving the United States and Israel damaged 149 historical sites across 20 provinces.

Among the damaged properties are five UNESCO World Heritage sites: Golestan Palace in Tehran, the Naqsh-e Jahan Square complex and Imam Mosque in Isfahan, and the Trans-Iranian Railway.

# Tehran hosts autumn school on leadership in global health diplomacy

TEHRAN – With support from the World Health Organization (WHO), Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) and its Centre of Excellence for Global Health held a three-day Autumn School on Empowering Managers in Global Health Diplomacy.

The program aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the relationship between health, foreign policy, and international cooperation, while strengthening the leadership and negotiation skills needed to address today's complex global health challenges.

The program, held on October 21 and 28 and November 4, was hosted in the TUMS-affiliated World Health Observatory Building in Tehran, the WHO website announced in a press release on November 22.

The Autumn School was inaugurated on 21 October 2026, with the virtual participation of Dr Amirhossein Takian, President of the Centre of Excellence for Global Health, alongside Dr Jean Jabbour, WHO Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Christine Wegner, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Dr Mohammad Reza Dehshiri, Dean of the School of International Relations affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Dr Javad Rafinejad, Dean of the School of Public Health at TUMS.

Dr Mohammad Amirkhani, representing the Head of the Department of International Relations at the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME), and Dr Marjan Yaghmaei, representing the Vice-Chancellor for International Relations at TUMS, delivered opening remarks, formally inaugurating the Autumn School.

In his remarks, Dr Jabbour emphasized that supporting Member States in global health diplomacy goes beyond sharing technical knowledge. It involves strengthening their capacities to engage effectively in regional and global processes and to



communicate evidence, build partnerships and contribute to collective solutions.

He highlighted the crucial role of global health diplomacy as a bridge between health, foreign policy, security and sustainable development in a rapidly evolving environment shaped by pandemics, climate change and humanitarian crises, and stressed how investing in capacity-building and international cooperation can facilitate the translation of scientific evidence into impactful policies.

**WHO-supported panel on global health diplomacy**

On October 28, WHO supported the panel discussion "Global health diplomacy for pandemic preparedness and noncommunicable diseases," which focused on the role of global health diplomacy in addressing cross-border health challenges and strengthening preparedness and response.

As panel moderator, Dr Afshin Ostovar, Team Lead for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, introduced the role-play format, coordinated parallel group exercises and plenary reporting, facilitated the overall discussion and guided the closing reflections.

Dr Mashyaneh Haddadi, Health Policy Advisor, provided technical and organizational support throughout the session, assisting with the coordination of group activities and with the plenary session. She also contributed a health-policy perspective to the discussions.

**Keynote address on the evolving global health order**

On November 4, Dr Haddadi delivered a keynote address on "The new health order and the role of WHO in global health diplomacy". The address explored the evolving global health landscape, the changing dynamics of international health cooperation, and WHO's role in advancing global health diplomacy, strengthening multilateral collaboration and addressing emerging health challenges.

**Health ministry, WHO planning 'health diplomacy' event**

The health ministry and the 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 Jabbour as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi on November 23.

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."

# Iranian health experts explore joint ventures, technology transfer at China's hi-tech fair

TEHRAN – A delegation of Iranian health science and technology park directors visited the Islamic Republic's pavilion at the 28th China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF 2026) in Shenzhen, exploring opportunities for technology transfer, joint production and expanded scientific and commercial cooperation with Chinese research and industrial institutions.

The delegation, comprising the head of Iran University of Medical Sciences' Health Technology Park and five other directors of health science and technology parks, is visiting China with the support of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology under the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy.

On the fourth day of their visit, the delegation toured Iran's pavilion at the exhibition, which provides a platform for introducing the country's technological capabilities in the healthcare sector and exploring potential partnerships with international companies, research centers and technology developers, IRNA reported.

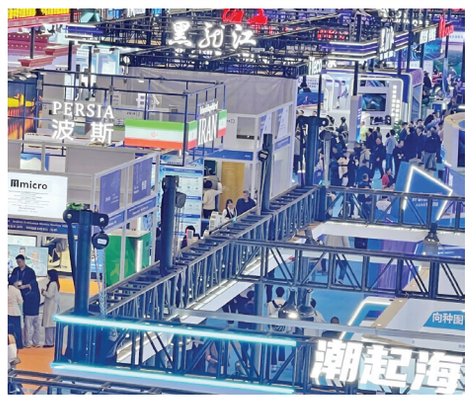
The visit is part of a program running from November 22 to 30, during which the Iranian delegation has toured technology parks and innovation zones in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

The program also includes meetings aimed at exchanging experiences and expertise in technology park management, discussing the development of technological value chains, and examining the requirements, challenges and opportunities associated with building and expanding such ecosystems in Iran and China. Visiting the China Hi-Tech Fair and becoming acquainted with the latest international technological developments are also among the delegation's objectives.

The visit comes amid growing efforts by Tehran and Beijing to strengthen scientific, technological and innovation-related ties, particularly in areas where both countries have developed research capabilities and industrial expertise.

In August 2025, Hossein Roozbeh, head of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, met with Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu to discuss avenues for expanding bilateral scientific and technological cooperation.

The meeting followed the ambassador's visit to the Tehran branch of Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT), where he praised Iran's scientific and technological




achievements and emphasized the potential for closer cooperation between the two countries.

Roozbeh, for his part, underscored the importance of accelerating scientific collaboration, noting that Iran and China have a longstanding history of cooperation in scientific, technological, economic and commercial fields.

He also highlighted Iran's growing knowledge-based ecosystem, which is home to more than 10,000 knowledge-based companies, saying the country's skilled workforce and technological capabilities could provide a foundation for expanding joint initiatives.

The officials also referred to memoranda of understanding signed in June 2025 by Iran's Vice President for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, Hossein Afshin, and Chinese Vice Premier Ding Zhisheng on the sidelines of the second Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange, expressing readiness to pursue their implementation.

Cooperation in artificial intelligence, health and medicine, environmental technologies and agriculture was among the areas highlighted in the discussions. The establishment of the Belt and Road Initiative LabsNet was also identified as a potential mechanism for strengthening scientific exchanges and international research collaboration.

The two sides further discussed exchanges of researchers, young scientists and scientific elites, as well as participation in each other's technology exhibitions.

The participation of Iranian health technology park directors in CHTF 2026 reflects efforts to translate broader scientific cooperation into practical opportunities for research partnerships, technology development, investment and industrial collaboration, particularly in healthcare and medical technologies.

# Iran seeks to expand academic ties with Tanzania through virtual education

TEHRAN – Iranian officials have discussed opportunities to expand scientific and academic cooperation with Tanzania, with a particular focus on cross-border and virtual education.

The discussions took place during the fifth specialized online meeting on attracting international students, which focused on East African countries and was held on Saturday.

Abbas Qanbari-Baghestan, deputy head of the Student Affairs Organization of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology; Mohammad-Ali Rabbani, an official with Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO); and Mohsen Ma'arefi, Iran's cultural attaché to Tanzania, were among the participants, IRNA reported.

To facilitate the launch of joint academic programs and expand cross-border education, existing requirements have been eased, allowing reputable Iranian universities to cooperate more readily with higher education institutions in Tanzania.

Furthermore, it was agreed to lay the ground for the development of online programs and the admission of postgraduate African students.

Once the council of higher education announces the permitted field of study in each university, the applicants will be able to register for the upcoming academic year, which will commence in February.

Developing short-term virtual courses in fields like Iranology, Persian language, and Islamic studies, as well as maintaining ongoing interactions between the universities of the two countries, were among other issues discussed at the meeting.

On December 7, 2025, Iranian officials and the ambassadors of 19 African countries met in Tehran to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of science, education, research, and health.

Addressing the meeting, held in Tehran, Nader Tavakoli, the Chancellor of Iran University of Medical Sciences, said that despite coercive sanctions, the country has managed to make great strides in the health sector, from education and treatment to technology and production of medicines, relying on committed and creative human resources, IRNA reported.

"Now, we are ready to share these achievements with Africans through establishing a strategic health alliance between Iran and African countries," Tavakoli highlighted.

Elaborating on the core areas of the strategic alliance, he said that researchers will focus on addressing real-time illnesses, such as tropical and endemic diseases, drug shortages, and health service delivery in rural areas.

Admitting African students and developing joint educational courses, with dual accreditation, as well as dispatching professors for training of trainers, will be another part of the alliance.

**Attracting 320,000 intl. students by 2028 on agenda**

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

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

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

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

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

Also, major organizations and institutions of the country have no participation in planning cultural programs for foreign students.

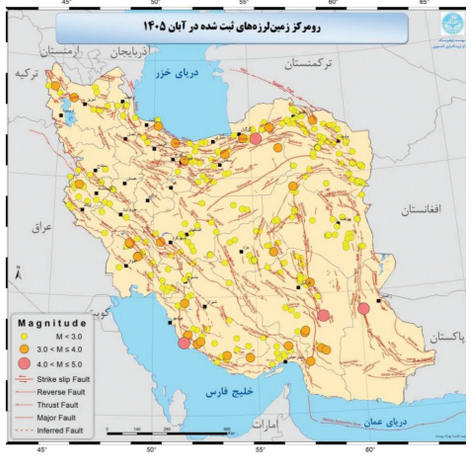
A lack of strategic, comprehensive marketing skills, and bureaucratic and time-consuming correspondence were among other recognized problems.

The parliament research center has put forward some proposals to help attract more international students. The most important one highlights adopting an approach that focuses on generating income, soft cultural power, and expanding science.

The other suggestion emphasizes the importance of boosting South-South international relations, that is, developing political and economic interactions with highly populated countries like Pakistan, India, Egypt, and some countries in Central Asia.

Ongoing evaluation of other countries' policies in attracting students, developing software and hardware infrastructures, stable and secure networks, as well as increasing the number of scholarships are among other suggested solutions.

# Over 335 earthquakes hit Iran in a month




TEHRAN – A total of 336 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from October 23 to November 21, according to seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 299 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 33 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4, and four earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, four had a magnitude of over 4 on the Richter scale, the biggest had a magnitude of 4.6 on the Richter scale which occurred on November 1st in Bushehr province.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi experienced the highest number of earthquakes, with 60, followed by Yazd with 33, and Kerman with 24 earthquakes. During the same period, nine earthquakes hit Tehran province; the biggest had a magnitude of three on the Richter scale.

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 Richter scales.

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

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

# TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

**Editorial Dept.: Fax:** (+98 21) 43051601
**Email:** info@tehrantimes.com
**Switchboard Operator:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
**Advertisements Dept.:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
**Public Relations Office:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
**Subscription & Distribution Dept.:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051430

Tehrantimes79

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

**NOVEMBER 29, 2026**


**GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

*Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.*

***Imam Ali (AS)***

**Prayer Times »** Noon:11:53 Evening: 17:11 Dawn: 5:26 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:54 (tomorrow)

## What's in Tehran art galleries




**Calligraphic painting**

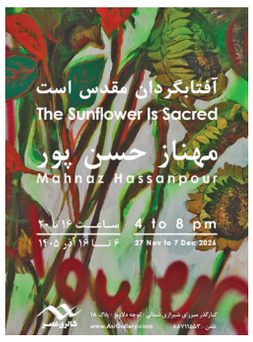
* Zahra Zare Mojtahedi is showcasing her latest calligraphic paintings in an exhibition at Shokuh Gallery.

The exhibit named "The Unfinished Dream" will run until December 7 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. off Andarzgu Blvd.

**Painting**

* Paintings by Mahnaz Hassanpour are on display in an exhibition at Asr Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "The Sunflower Is Sacred" will run until December 7 at the gallery located at 18 Delaviz St. off North Mirzaye Shirazi St.

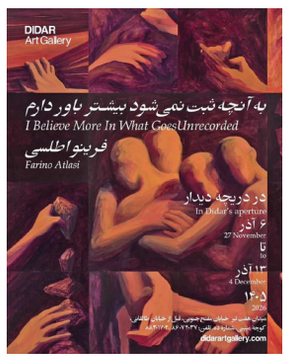






* Shila Kalamian is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

The exhibit named "Zone" will continue until December 8 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.




* An exhibition of paintings by Farino Atlasi is currently underway at Didar Gallery.

The exhibition named "I Believe More in What Goes Unrecorded" will run until December 4 at the gallery located at 10 Mobini Alley, Mofatteh St.



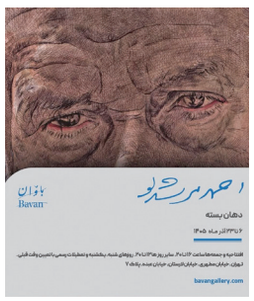

* Negah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Seyyed Reza Hosseini.

The exhibit entitled "Agitation" will be running until December 13 at the gallery that can be found at 64 Ghaffari St., Jam St., Motahhari Ave.




* Shirin Gallery 2 is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Kayoumarth Kiasat.

The exhibit entitled "And Man Was Born Into Suffering" runs until December 6 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.




* Ahmad Morshedlou is putting his latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until December 14 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.




* An exhibition of paintings by Nafas Mirdamadi is underway at Saless Gallery.

The exhibit named "Anamorph" will run until December 8 at the gallery located at 148 Karim Khan Ave.




* Emkan Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Mohsen Shahmardi.

The exhibit will be running until December 11 at the gallery that can be found at No. 3, Second Alley, Mirza Shirazi St.



# Leader offers condolences on death of Iranian writer Reza Amirkhani

TEHRAN- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei has expressed condolences over the death of prominent Iranian novelist Reza Amirkhani, describing him as a committed and talented writer whose profound research and literary creativity had left behind lasting works.

In a condolence message, the Leader expressed sympathy to Amirkhani's family, relatives and admirers and prayed for divine mercy and forgiveness for the deceased.

"The sad news of the passing of Mr. Reza Amirkhani has reached me. This committed and talented writer has left behind lasting works through his profound research and literary creativity," the message read.

Amirkhani died on November 23 following nearly a year of medical complications resulting from a paragliding accident.

The writer was injured on November 30, 2025, when his paraglider crashed in the Mesha area near Damavand, east of Tehran. He sustained severe head and brain injuries and remained unconscious for an extended period. After undergoing several surgical procedures and receiving specialized medical treatment, he was transferred from hospital to his home, where he continued to receive round-the-clock medical care. His condition remained unstable in the months that followed.

Born in Tehran in 1973, Amirkhani studied mechanical engineering at Sharif University of Technology. He emerged as one of the distinctive voices in contemporary Iranian fiction during the 1990s, establishing his literary career with his novel "Ermia."

He gained wider recognition with "Man-e Ou" (His Ego), one of his best-known novels, which explores themes of love, identity, tradition and social change against the backdrop of old Tehran. The book became a major success among Iranian readers and went through numerous reprints.

His other notable novels include "Bivatan" (Homelandless), "Qeidar" and "Rahesh," while his literary output also encompasses short-story collections, travelogues and essays on social and cultural issues. His nonfiction works include "Dastan-e Sistan," "Janestan-e Kabulestan" and "Nafahat-e Naft," reflecting his interest in Iranian society, public affairs, culture and governance.

Amirkhani was particularly recognized for his distinctive prose, inventive use of the Persian language and unconventional narrative techniques. His writing frequently explored questions of faith, Iranian identity, social responsibility and the relationship between tradition and modernity.

His novel "Rahesh" received the 36th Islamic Republic of Iran Book of the Year Award in 2019. His works have also been translated into several languages, including Arabic, Russian, Turkish, Urdu and Indonesian, introducing his writing to readers beyond Iran.

Beyond his literary achievements, Amirkhani was known for his engagement with social and cultural debates and his contributions to contemporary Iranian literary discourse. His death has prompted an outpouring of condolences from writers, publishers and cultural figures across the country.

# Iranian actor Hamidreza Mohammadi wins at 15th San Luis Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian short film "Burial Permit," written and directed by Hashem Aliakbari, has won an award at the 15th San Luis Film Festival.

Actor Hamidreza Mohammadi received the Best Actor award from the festival, which was held last week in San Luis, Arizona, the US, ILNA reported.

In "Burial Permit," Omid is about to emigrate when his mother dies. Instead of being able to mourn, he faces unexpected rules and paperwork that make burying her a challenge. What should have been a time of grief turns into a struggle with bureaucracy, showing how even the final moments of life can be controlled by complicated regulations.

In addition to Mohammdi in the lead role, the cast includes Navid Layeghi Moghaddam, Sahra Asadollahi, Setareh Heydarabadi, Ali Ghiasvand, Mahtisa Pasandideh, Touran Ramezani, and Amir Ghaffarmanesh.

Produced by Ghazal Mojtahedi, the 2025 film has previously won the Best Drama Short award from the Film Club's Lost Weekend XIX in Virginia, the US, and the Best Actor award from the Freewheeling Film Awards in London, the UK.



In addition to being collaborators, Aliakbari and Mojtahedi are married to each other. In an interview earlier this year, they talked about their film.

"Burial Permit" offers audiences a chance to experience a similar connection by sharing Omid's story and highlighting themes such as gender inequality, immigration, and grief, which transcend geographical boundaries.

Omid, a name of Persian origin, means "hope" and represents optimism for the possibility of societal change, according to Aliakbari. Omid's mother is never named, which was an artistic choice made by Aliakbari to convey the universality of gender issues and the invisibility of women in legal systems. "This woman could be anyone. Any woman ... It's a global issue. It's universal," said Aliakbari.

Even though Omid's mother and the other women in "Burial Permit" are unnamed, they play an indispensable role in the film's narrative.

"Burial Permit" has been featured at Maryland Film Festival, Turkey's Golden Bridge Istanbul Short Film Festival, and Azerbaijan's Baku Film Festival, as well as at The Bay International Film Festival in Morecambe, England.

The universality of the themes in "Burial Permit" has shown up in audience reactions during Q&A sessions and interactions following viewings. They reflected that though they believed stories like the one presented in "Burial Permit" were common experiences, hearing feedback from audience members confirmed and expanded their sense of the film's relatability.

In addition to providing a nuanced depiction of life in Iran, "Burial Permit" serves as a call to action for audiences across the world to challenge the unjust systems in our lives that we can often let go unchecked.

"We want [the] audience to think about how many systems in the world that we simply accept as normal, but they are not fair. They are unfair and outdated," Aliakbari said. "We want to leave the audience with the idea that things can be different."

The San Luis Film Festival is the only festival of its kind in Southwestern Arizona and Northwest Mexico making quality films available to the masses. The mission of the festival is to promote the culture and the arts through regional and international films from new and renowned filmmakers.

# Registration for international section of 37th Tehran International Book Fair begins



TEHRAN – Foreign publishers, their official representatives, and distributors of foreign books can now register to participate in the 37th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), which will kick off in Tehran on December 23, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Imam Ali (AS).

The registration can be done via the exhibition's registration portal at https://register-int.tibf.ir until December 7, Mehr reported.

The foreign publishers' section of the book fair aims to expand international interactions within the publishing industry, facilitate access for the scientific, academic, and general public to resources and works published in other countries, and strengthen cultural exchanges.

Organized by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the TIBF is widely regarded as Iran's most significant publishing event, annually drawing hundreds of domestic and international publishers as well as large crowds of book lovers, academics, and cultural figures.

The fair is usually organized in May; however, this year it was held online in spring, considering the country's situation and the status of the publishing industry, which was negatively affected by the recent war, imposed by the US and Israel on the country.

Over the years, the Tehran International Book Fair has evolved into a major cultural marketplace and a vibrant meeting point for publishers, writers, translators, and readers. Beyond book sales, it hosts a wide range of cultural programs, including unveiling ceremonies, panel discussions, and professional meetings.

With preparations gaining momentum, the 37th edition is expected to once again underscore the central role of books and publishing in Iran's cultural landscape while strengthening the country's literary ties with the international community.