

Israel rushing to make its West Bank land grab permanent

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Itamar Ben-Gvir climbed onto a bulldozer in occupied East al-Quds (Jerusalem) on Tuesday. Beneath him lay the ruins of a five-story apartment building. Ten apartments, home to roughly 70 Palestinians, mostly women and children, were reduced to rubble in the al-Tur neighborhood.

Israel's national security minister arrived under heavy police escort, three weeks before the Oct. 27 election, to personally oversee the destruction. The building belonged to Mustafa Abu Subaitan. Residents received their final eviction notice on Monday following years of fines and denied building permits.

The United Nations notes that obtaining these permits is nearly impossible for Palestinians in the city. ▶ Page 5

Sayyed Nasrallah's flame remains alive

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Two years have passed since the knight that for decades confronted occupation, hegemony and political intimidation returned to his original realm. Two years since a man who had become, for his followers, a political leader, a religious reference and a symbol of defiance was taken from the visible world.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's martyrdom was confirmed on September 28, 2024. But some demises do not close a life; they open an era. They do not mark the end of a journey, but the moment when a legacy passes from one generation to the next. ▶ Page 5

'Passing in Esfand' tells story of Minab school victims

TEHRAN- "Passing in Esfand," a play written and directed by Hassan Sobhani Minabi, is currently on stage at the Ebrahim Zarei Theater in Minab, Hormozgan province, portraying the stories of martyrs Makan Nasiri and Mahmoud Gholamiani, two of the victims of the Shajareh Tayyebah School tragedy.

The first performance of the play, which was held on October 1, was attended by the head of the Minab Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the office director of the city's representative in the parliament, a group of teachers, artists and theater enthusiasts, as well as members of the family of martyr Mahmoud Gholamiani. The opening performance was dedicated to the mother of Gholamiani.

"Passing in Esfand" offers a poetic account of the lives of martyrs Makan Nasiri and Mahmoud Gholamiani, while recounting part of the story of the victims of the Shajareh Tayyebah School in Minab. The production draws on local cultural elements, rituals and traditions to tell the story of the victims and their families. ▶ Page 8

From Qeshm to Tabas: exploring Iran's remarkable geodiversity

TEHRAN - Iran can be described as a land of remarkable geological diversity, where high mountain ranges, deserts and plains, caves, rock formations, salt domes, valleys, springs, coastlines and erosion-shaped landscapes co-exist across its vast territory. This diversity is the result of Iran's complex geological history and the processes that have shaped the country over millions of years, from the movement and collision of tectonic plates to folding, faulting, volcanic activity, sedimentation and erosion.

International Geodiversity Day, observed on October 6, provides an opportunity to draw attention to this lesser-known dimension of the Earth's natural heritage. It is also a reminder that protecting nature goes beyond conserving plant and animal species. Rocks, soils, water, minerals, fossils, ▶ Page 7



President Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran met his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Sept. 1, 2026.

Iran, Russia Deepen Strategic Coordination

Tehran and Moscow expand political, economic and security cooperation as shared interests and growing geopolitical pressures reinforce their strategic partnership.

Beyond expanding economic and energy cooperation, Tehran and Moscow are seeking to deepen their broader strategic partnership and contribute to the emergence of a more multipolar international order.

By Mahmoud Mahmoudian-Ravi

TEHRAN- Iran and Russia are moving to further strengthen their strategic coordination as Presidents Masoud Pezeshkian and Vladimir Putin prepare are set to meet in Turkmenistan, with Moscow expressing readiness to contribute to diplomatic efforts to reduce regional tensions and emphasizing the continuity of bilateral cooperation under their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty.

Pezeshkian and Putin held a telephone conversation on Wednesday, during which the Iranian president highlighted the positive and expanding trajectory of Tehran-Moscow relations and stressed the importance of maintaining and strengthening cooperation across various fields.

Putin, for his part, underscored the im-

portance of continued close coordination between the two countries, saying cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty remains in place despite developments and tensions in the region.

The conversation comes ahead of a planned meeting between the two presidents on the sidelines of a meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Turkmenistan. Yuri Ushakov, an aide to the Russian president, said Putin would meet Pezeshkian during the gathering, which is scheduled for October 8-9.

The Turkmenistan meeting will provide

the two leaders with another opportunity to discuss bilateral relations as well as broader regional and international developments at a time when both Tehran and Moscow are seeking to expand cooperation in an increasingly multipolar international environment.

Diplomatic coordination on regional tensions

During the phone call, Putin said Russia welcomes diplomatic initiatives aimed at reducing regional tensions and assured Iran that Moscow is prepared to contribute to such efforts and provide assistance.

Putin also praised the Iranian people's resilience in the face of attacks, saying their resistance had attracted attention and admiration in many parts of the world. ▶ Page 3

Mottaki: Retribution verdicts against those responsible for Leader's martyrdom to be issued soon

TEHRAN- Iranian Parliament's Executive Board Chairman Manouchehr Mottaki has said Iranian courts will soon issue retribution verdicts against those responsible for the martyrdom of Iran's Leader, military commanders, and thousands of Iranian citizens.

Mottaki made the remarks on Wednesday, October 7, while addressing the General Assembly of the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. ▶ Page 3

Gen. Abdollahi: Al-Aqsa Storm exceeded Zionist regime's expectations

TEHRAN- Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdollahi says the October 7, 2023, Al-Aqsa Storm operation went beyond the expectations of the Israeli regime, disrupting the calculations of its adversaries and dealing a severe blow to the regime.

In a message issued on Wednesday marking the third anniversary of the operation, Abdollahi said October 7 marked a turning point for the Resistance Front, transforming its defensive approach into a more offensive strategy focused on defending the Palestinian people and their land. ▶ Page 2

Security cooperation main goal of SCO anti-terror drill: IRGC General

TEHRAN- Special units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force have joined an international anti-terrorism exercise in Belarus, with a senior IRGC commander saying that strengthening security cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members is Iran's main objective.

The Iranian forces are taking part in the "Eurasia-Anti-Terror 2026" exercise in Minsk, which is aimed at enhancing coordination and cooperation among SCO member states in confronting violent extremist groups and emerging regional security threats.

Brigadier General Vali Madani, deputy commander for operations of the IRGC Ground Force, said the three-day exercise brings together representatives of 14 SCO member states and affiliated committees, along with more than 100 senior military and security officials. ▶ Page 3



'The Last Morning,' Lara Aburamadan's last photo taken in Gaza as she crossed the border into Egypt.

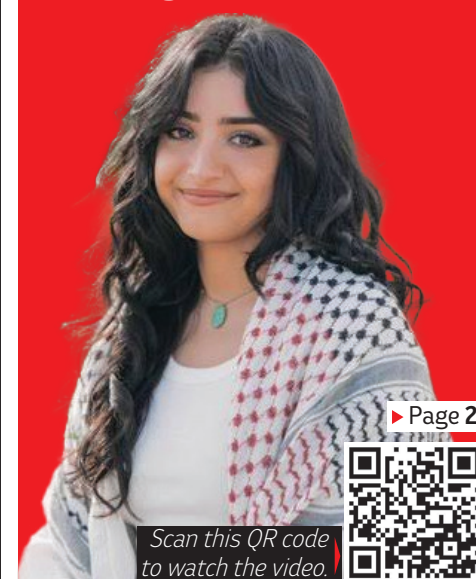
Photo exhibit in California to showcase rarely-seen side of Gaza

A photography and film exhibit opening soon at a Vallejo art gallery in California will show Gaza as those who've never lived there seldom see it.

Starting Friday, Autonomous Gallery will be exhibiting Lara Aburamadan's "Remains in Memory" a collection of eight photographs and a six-minute film which depict daily life in Gaza between 2012 and 2016. The show runs through Nov. 7, Vallejo Sun reported.

Aburamadan is a visual artist and journalist who was born and raised in Gaza City and now lives in the Bay Area. Her photographs and writing have appeared in the New York Times, VICE, NPR, Time Magazine, and elsewhere. ▶ Page 8

Why Isabella chose to disrupt Bessent's hearing over Iran



Scan this QR code to watch the video.



▶ Page 2

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

Formation of new regional arrangements

Sobh-e-No examined the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq in an interview with Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's former ambassador Iraq. He argued that the departure of American forces represents a strategic defeat for the United States on three levels: domestic Iraqi politics, the regional balance of power, and the international arena. According to him, it is a major victory for the Iraqi people and resistance groups that opposed foreign military presence. He further suggested that this development could accelerate the broader withdrawal of US forces from the Middle East. Kazemi Qomi linked these events to Iran's ongoing confrontation with US and Israeli aggression. He argued that Iran's resistance over the last 15 months has strengthened efforts to reduce American influence in the region. Combined with developments in Iraq, these trends may contribute to the emergence of new regional frameworks in the fields of security, defense, and economic development.

Etemad: Russia, China see Iran's stability important to their strategic interests

Etemad discussed what it described as Washington's long-term strategy in the Middle East. According to the newspaper, the plan aimed to reduce direct American involvement in the region while transferring greater responsibility for regional security to Israel. It argued that this process began during Donald Trump's first administration through the Abraham Accords. The article argued that the broader objective was to strengthen the US position against China and Russia, but that such a strategy could not succeed without considering Iran's role. It argued that pressure on Iran was therefore considered essential and that failure to achieve political goals could result in military confrontation. The paper further suggested that Trump's defeat in the 2020 election delayed these plans, while his return revived them. Despite the outbreak of war (the US-Israeli war on Iran), the article maintained that Iran remains a powerful regional actor and that both Russia and China see Iran's stability as important to their own strategic interests. Based on this assessment, the newspaper concluded that Iran should deepen cooperation with countries that view support for Tehran as consistent with protecting their own national interests.

Shargh: Are eyes turning again toward Beijing?

In an article, Shargh examined China's growing diplomatic role regarding Iran and the United States. The newspaper argued that Beijing has reached a position where it can significantly influence Tehran-Washington relations and wider developments in the Middle East. The article pointed to China's earlier mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia as evidence that Beijing can

help manage disputes marked by years of rivalry and mistrust. As discussions continue over reducing tensions between Iran and the United States, China's name has once again emerged as a potential mediator. According to the paper, China's role can be viewed on two levels: preserving channels of communication between Tehran and Washington, and preventing setbacks in the process of improving relations between Iran and Arab states. The article concluded that China is no longer merely an outside observer in Middle Eastern affairs. Instead, actors ranging from Tehran and Riyadh to Washington are paying increasing attention to Beijing's diplomatic influence.

Hamshahri: The costs of war against Iran for Europe

Hamshahri analyzed what it described as the economic consequences of the war against Iran for Europe. The newspaper argued that the effects of the war have extended well beyond the Middle East, reaching Europe through higher energy prices, increased transportation costs, disruptions to air travel, and rising production expenses. European media have increasingly focused on the economic burden created by the conflict. It said since the outbreak of the war in early 2026, Europe's energy markets have experienced significant volatility and price shocks. As a result, a conflict that many expected to remain geographically limited and short-lived has imposed substantial costs on European economies. The newspaper warned that these costs could continue to rise if tensions in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf persist.

Javan: Iran has consolidated control in Hormuz Strait

Javan argued that geopolitical tensions in the Persian Gulf and disruptions to shipping attacks on the Strait of Hormuz during the past eight months have created one of the most significant oil-market shocks in recent years. The newspaper maintained that continuing disruptions and lower storage levels could drive prices even higher. The article said that efforts by the United States, Israel, European countries, and several Arab Persian Gulf states to maintain normal oil exports through alternative routes have been unsuccessful. It argued that concerns over global energy supplies are becoming increasingly serious. Pointing to a sharp decline in export volumes, the newspaper concluded that attempts to normalize traffic through the Strait of Hormuz have failed and that Iran has effectively strengthened its control over the strategic waterway. It further described the situation as a war of attrition in which the United States faces growing costs and diminishing strategic advantages.

US attacks damaged 111 petrochemical and pharmaceutical facilities, Iran says

TEHRAN- Iran's Ambassador to the Netherlands and Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Hadi Farajvand, says US military attacks on Iran's chemical industries damaged 111 petrochemical and pharmaceutical facilities, disrupting supply chains and affecting the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Iran's Permanent Mission to the OPCW on Tuesday released excerpts from Farajvand's remarks at the 113th session of the OPCW Executive Council, saying that 60 petrochemical complexes, 44 pharmaceutical factories and seven pharmaceutical facilities were damaged during the US attacks.

Farajvand said the damage inflicted on Iran's chemical and pharmaceutical industries had disrupted supply chains and affected the implementation of Iran's obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

He stressed that protecting chemical facilities from armed conflicts is essential to

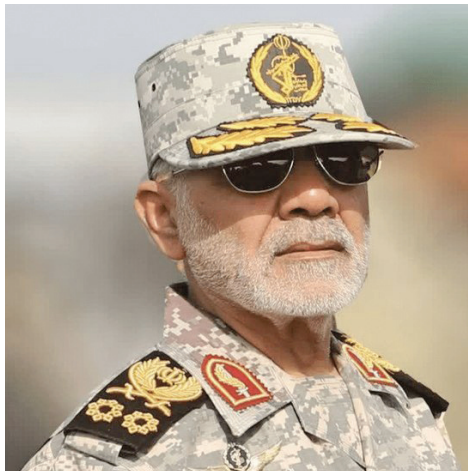
preserving the integrity of the convention, maintaining peaceful activities in the field of chemistry and promoting international cooperation.

The Iranian envoy also said the deliberate attacks on the facilities had raised serious concerns regarding several provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as the object and purpose of the international treaty.

Farajvand further reiterated Iran's concerns over US compliance with the convention, including 'Washington's role in the Israeli regime's chemical weapons program and US programs involving non-lethal and incapacitating chemical agents.' He said the concerns raised by Iran in this regard had remained unanswered and unresolved for more than two decades.

The 113th session of the OPCW Executive Council began in The Hague on Tuesday and is scheduled to continue through October 9.

Gen. Abdollahi: Al-Aqsa storm operation exceeded Zionist regime's expectations



From page 1 ► He said the operation accelerated 'the decline of the Israeli regime,' adding that the developments since October 7 had demonstrated the resilience and continued momentum of the Resistance Front.

Abdollahi said the enemies of the Islamic Ummah, particularly the Israeli regime, should recognize that the legacy of Resistance Front commanders and figures who were killed in the conflict would continue to shape the region's future.

He specifically referred to the martyred Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, former commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force; Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, former secretary-general of

Lebanon's Hezbollah; Ismail Haniyeh, former head of Hamas' Political Bureau; and Yahya Sinwar.

The Iranian commander said Iran's support for the Palestinian cause and the Resistance Front would continue, stressing that the defense of Palestine would remain a priority until 'the liberation of Al-Quds.'

Abdollahi also invoked the guidance of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and the current Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, saying Iran would continue to support the Palestinian cause and the Resistance Front.

Why Isabella chose to disrupt Bessent's hearing over Iran

Iranian-American activist says she used civil disobedience to challenge U.S. sanctions that she believes are harming Iranian civilians.

TEHRAN - Isabella Javidan, an Iranian-American staff member of the National Iranian American Council (NIAC), says she interrupted U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's testimony on September 15 to challenge what she described as Washington's portrayal of sanctions as merely "technocratic tools," arguing that they have "real human consequences."

Javidan, who has also disrupted a hearing involving U.S. Defense Secretary Peter Hegseth over funding for the Iran war, says she considers civil disobedience one of several avenues through which she and other activists are trying to oppose U.S. sanctions and military policy toward Iran.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, she discussed her September 15 action, the impact of U.S. sanctions on Iranian civilians, cooperation between anti-war activists addressing Iran, Cuba and Palestine, and NIAC's legal and political efforts against U.S. policy toward Iran.

Below is the full text of the interview:

What led you to interrupt Scott Bessent's testimony on September 15?

I decided to participate in the disruption because I'm personally tired of watching policymakers talk about sanctions as though they aren't deadly, as if they're bloodless and just technocratic tools, because they're not. They have real human consequences.

I'm an Iranian American and I have family in Iran, and I have been really disgusted sitting thousands of miles away watching the people of Iran and the people I love, millions of people that I don't know but deeply care about, suffer because of the decisions being made here in Washington.

This is an action that NIAC hadn't really participated in before, but I do think that at this point we're in a war. The situation is just too dire not to use every avenue we have to try to stop the sanctions and stop the war.

As an American-born Iranian, it feels like a duty to use my position as a citizen and as a constituent of the U.S. government, which is imposing these policies, to fight to end them. I have access to the people and institutions that are making these decisions that directly harm the people of Iran, and I'm going to use that access as much as I can.

And it also just feels really, really good to scream at some of the most evil people on Earth.

I also think that right now there's an opening to build real resistance in the U.S. to America's cruel sanctions policies, and I hope many more people take the opportunity that I did.

We have a right and a responsibility to fight for one another and to defend innocent people, especially the people of Iran, who have already been put through so much by the United States and the Zionists.

And I wasn't there alone. Other Iranian Americans were there. And we stand alongside Cuban Americans and the Cuban people, veterans and anti-war activists – because it's not just about Iran. This is a larger system of using economic deprivation against civilian populations as a criminal instrument of foreign policy.

How did you feel before the protest, and what went through your mind after Capitol Police removed you?

Beforehand, it was a mix of emotions. There's definitely fear because you never know what can happen. American police are really unpredictable.

But there's also such a sense of purpose. So, yes, it was a little nerve-racking, but overall it felt good to get in the face of somebody who is committing crimes against my family and the country of my heritage.



Did you face any legal or professional consequences?

This is my second disruption. I pay a fine and then I have to sit in jail for the day. But if I do it again, if I do it a third time, then I have to go to court.

You have also used meetings with lawmakers, public protests and legal action. Why did you feel that a disruption was necessary?

It's not that we don't try, because we do that. We do that all the time. We're always having meetings with lawmakers. We're having public protests. But the war is still going on and the sanctions keep getting worse.

NIAC just announced that we have sued the president. We're using every legal avenue we possibly can to try to put an end to the sanctions and an end to the war.

And, up to now, none of this has ended. So that's why the disruption felt like something we had to do, or I had to do, personally.

You have said that U.S. sanctions target Iranian civilians as leverage. Which sanctions do you believe have the greatest impact on ordinary Iranians?

I am particularly upset and disgusted by the aviation sanctions because freedom of movement is an inherent human right, and to prevent Iranian civilians from having access to the rest of the world physically is so grotesque and criminal to me.

But there are so many examples of sanctions having a terrible impact on ordinary Iranians.

U.S. officials argue that food, medicine and other essential goods are exempt from sanctions and can reach Iranian people. They also say the goal is to pressure the Iranian government rather than ordinary people. Do you think this claim is realistic?

No. I don't think that's true.

I don't think that sanctions only target the Iranian government. If anything, the Iranian government is more equipped to handle sanctions like this. And that is inevitable with any higher-class or elite members of society. They're just going to fare better than ordinary people, than middle-class, lower-class and low-income people.

And also, we have no evidence to show that these broad sanctions, in any capacity, in Iran and Cuba, actually achieve any of the goals they say they're trying to achieve.

The U.S. has had decades to test broad sanctions to try to topple governments, but all it's done, from what we can see from the evidence, is impoverish people, cut them off from medicine and food and travel, and create terrible inflation and isolation.

Iranian students losing access to exams like the LSAT and TOEFL is another example where I struggle to see what this has to do with the Iranian government.

You were joined by Cuban Americans, veterans and military families. How did this coalition come together, and why do you think linking the issues of Iran, Cuba and Palestine is important?

Part of the anti-war movement, especially in Washington, D.C., where I live, is that all of us try to form coalitions together and have meetings together to see how we can best work together to end these wars, end the sanctions, and end any cruel policies that our government is enacting against other countries across the world.

And right now, that especially includes Cuba, Iran and Palestine.

Iran isn't unique. Cuba demonstrates the same fundamental problem with broad sanctions. Policymakers impose economic suffering on an entire civilian population and then insist that the suffering will somehow produce political change.

That's why it really matters to have Cuban Americans who are part of the action. We have different countries, different histories and different political systems, but a very similar shared basic principle, which is that ordinary people should not be economically strangled because Washington opposes their government.

And all of our countries and people are connected in the fight against American hegemony and imperialism. We all share this struggle together.

So it's really important for those of us who are born in the U.S. to use our privileges here to do everything we can to try to stop the crimes that this government is committing.

You also interrupted Defense Secretary Peter Hegseth's hearing in July over Iran war funding. How was that action different from the September protest?

The goals were similar.

For the sanctions action, I wanted to make sure that the key message was Iran and Cuba because they have been so, so devastated by sanctions specifically.

And then with Hegseth, he was asking for a trillion dollars for bombs, and we know that these bombs are used in Palestine and Iran. That's why, for the Hegseth disruption, I made sure to include Palestine in that message.

But, yes, similar messages: end the war, end the sanctions end the blockade.

And call these people [Hegseth and Bessent] what they are. They need to be called war criminals and people who are committing crimes against humanity, and they shouldn't have a room that they feel comfortable in while they're committing these atrocities.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, Russia Deepen Strategic Coordination

Tehran and Moscow expand political, economic and security cooperation as shared interests and growing geopolitical pressures reinforce their strategic partnership.

By Mahmoud Mahmoud-ian-Ravi

TEHRAN- Iran and Russia are moving to further strengthen their strategic coordination as Presidents Masoud Pezeshkian and Vladimir Putin prepare are set to meet in Turkmenistan, with Moscow expressing readiness to contribute to diplomatic efforts to reduce regional tensions and emphasizing the continuity of bilateral cooperation under their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty.

Pezeshkian and Putin held a telephone conversation on Wednesday, during which the Iranian president highlighted the positive and expanding trajectory of Tehran-Moscow relations and stressed the importance of maintaining and strengthening cooperation across various fields.

Putin, for his part, underscored the importance of continued close coordination between the two countries, saying cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty remains in place despite developments and tensions in the region.

The conversation comes ahead of a planned meeting between the two presidents on the sidelines of a meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Turkmenistan. Yuri Ushakov, an aide to the Russian president, said Putin would meet Pezeshkian during the gathering, which is scheduled for October 8-9.

The Turkmenistan meeting will provide the two leaders with another opportunity to discuss bilateral relations as well as broader regional and international developments at a time when both Tehran and Moscow are seeking to expand cooperation in an increasingly multipolar international environment.

Diplomatic coordination on regional tensions

During the phone call, Putin said Russia welcomes diplomatic initiatives aimed at reducing regional tensions and assured Iran that Moscow is prepared to contribute to such efforts and provide assistance.

Putin also praised the Iranian people's resilience in the face of attacks, saying their resistance had attracted attention and admiration in many parts of the world.

Pezeshkian, meanwhile, emphasized the common interests underlying continued Iranian-Russian cooperation, signaling Tehran's intention to preserve the momentum of ties despite the difficult regional environment.

The two presidents' latest exchange also reflects the increasingly frequent high-level



contacts between Tehran and Moscow, which have become an important component of both countries' foreign policy engagement.

Convergence through regional organizations

The growing Iranian-Russian partnership extends beyond bilateral relations and is increasingly reinforced by their shared participation in major regional and international organizations.

Both countries are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), providing a platform for coordination on security, counterterrorism, transport, energy, and regional economic cooperation. Iran also became a full member of the SCO in 2023, further strengthening its institutional links with Russia and other major Asian powers.

Tehran and Moscow are also members of BRICS, where they cooperate with other emerging economies on issues ranging from economic coordination and trade to financial mechanisms and the reform of international institutions.

Their participation in these organizations gives the two countries overlapping diplomatic and economic platforms through which they can pursue common interests and deepen coordination on international issues.

Iran and Russia are also connected through other regional mechanisms and projects, including efforts to develop transport corridors linking Iran, Russia and other Eurasian economies. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) remains a major area of strategic cooperation, offering an alternative trade route connecting the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean with Russia and northern Europe.

Shared experience of US sanctions

Another factor contributing to Tehran-Moscow convergence is their shared experience of extensive US sanctions.

Both Iran and Russia have been subjected to broad and sustained US sanctions targeting major sectors of their economies, financial transactions, energy in-

dustries and international trade. The pressure has encouraged both countries to seek alternative mechanisms for trade, investment, banking and transportation and to expand economic ties with partners outside Western financial and commercial systems.

Against this backdrop, cooperation between Tehran and Moscow has increasingly acquired an economic as well as strategic dimension. The two countries have worked to facilitate bilateral trade, strengthen transportation links, expand the use of national currencies and develop mechanisms that can reduce their exposure to restrictions imposed through Western financial channels.

Bilateral trade has also expanded across a range of sectors, including agricultural and food products, energy, industrial goods, machinery and transportation. The development of the INSTC and closer cooperation within the SCO and BRICS are expected to provide additional opportunities for expanding trade and investment between the two economies.

For Tehran and Moscow, such cooperation is not limited to overcoming sanctions-related obstacles. It is also part of a broader effort to strengthen regional connectivity and build more diversified economic partnerships in Eurasia.

Strategic partnership continues

The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty provides a broader framework for the expanding relationship. Putin's reference to the continuation of cooperation under the treaty during his conversation with Pezeshkian underscores Moscow's view that bilateral ties should continue to develop despite regional crises and geopolitical pressures.

The relationship has gradually expanded from traditional political and security cooperation into energy, transportation, trade, investment, technology and regional connectivity. Both sides have repeatedly stressed the importance of long-term projects that can create stronger

economic interdependence.

The upcoming meeting in Turkmenistan is therefore significant beyond the immediate issue of regional tensions. It comes as Tehran and Moscow are consolidating cooperation through multiple overlapping frameworks, including the SCO, BRICS, the CIS-related regional environment and the INSTC.

For Iran, closer relations with Russia form part of a broader foreign-policy approach centered on strengthening ties with neighboring states, Asian powers and emerging economic centers. For Russia, Iran represents a strategically important partner linking Eurasian markets with the Persian Gulf and the wider Indian Ocean region.

The Pezeshkian-Putin meeting is expected to provide an opportunity to review this expanding agenda, including bilateral economic cooperation, regional security, diplomatic initiatives and the development of transportation and trade corridors.

As both countries navigate sustained pressure from the United States and a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, their expanding cooperation reflects a shared interest in strengthening strategic autonomy, diversifying economic partnerships, and enhancing the role of Eurasian regional institutions in shaping the future regional order.

Western analysts assess the significance of Iran-Russia cooperation

Western analysts and former officials have offered assessments of the deepening Iran-Russia relationship, focusing on its military-technical dimensions and its implications for the broader geopolitical balance.

Matthew Tavares, a former Pentagon analyst, argues that the relationship has evolved beyond the strategic level to include operational and tactical cooperation. He notes that information shared between Moscow and Tehran is now being employed in ways that affect US partners and forces in the region, describing this as a departure from earlier patterns of engagement. Tavares also highlights the emergence of shared defense production, observing that Iranian and Russian drone systems contain components and designs that suggest a two-way supply chain relationship, making it difficult for Western intelligence to determine the direction of technology flows. He cautions that the proliferation of low-cost precision-strike capabilities resulting from this cooperation could undermine traditional Western military advantages over the coming years.

arms embargoes.

Akrami-Nia added that recent military experience has accelerated the development of long-range strike capabilities and air defenses, while geographically dispersed production centers ensure continued weapons supplies during a war of attrition.

Former envoy: Israel seeks to draw UAE deeper into Yemen conflict

Iran's former ambassador to Yemen, Mor-teza Rahimi, says Israel, rather than the United States, is primarily seeking to draw the UAE deeper into the Yemen conflict.

In an interview with ISNA, Rahimi said Washington's broader regional priority is protecting Israel and preserving its influence in West Asia. He argued that Riyadh and Abu Dhabi have fundamentally different interests in Yemen, making a durable military alliance unlikely. Rahimi urged Saudi Arabia to pursue dialogue with Ansarullah and support intra-Yemeni negotiations.

Mottaki: Retribution verdicts against those responsible for Iran Leader's martyrdom to be issued soon

TEHRAN- Iranian Parliament's Executive Board Chairman Manouchehr Mottaki has said Iranian courts will soon issue retribution verdicts against those responsible for the martyrdom of Iran's leader, military commanders, and thousands of Iranian citizens.

Mottaki made the remarks on Wednesday, October 7, while addressing the General Assembly of the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Referring to Gaza and the wider West Asian crisis, Mottaki said October 7 was a reminder of Palestinians who had risen against Israeli oppression and refused to accept a slow death in Gaza prisons. He paid tribute to more than 76,000 Palestinians whom he said had been killed and expressed solidarity with more than 130,000 wounded.

Mottaki said the peoples of West Asia, from Iran and Palestine to Syria and Lebanon, had been affected by the warmongering of a "new apartheid regime."

He said the United States and Israel had imposed a war on Iran on February 28, 2026, describing the action as aggression. According to Mottaki, Iran exercised its inherent right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter and, despite suffering heavy losses, responded to the attacks.

During his address, Mottaki displayed photographs of Iran's late leader and the leader's 14-month-old grandchild, as well as images of damage caused by the attacks.

He said the attacks had killed the late leader and thousands of Iranian citizens and damaged more than 80,000 buildings, including hospitals, schools, universities and Iranian Red Crescent facilities.

Referring to the Shajareh Tayyebah girls' primary school in Minab, Hormozgan Province, Mottaki said the school was struck by



U.S. Tomahawk missiles on the first day of the attacks, killing 168 students, teachers and school employees.

He also cited attacks in Lamerd and Kuhestak in Hormozgan Province, saying they had resulted in more than 120 and 70 people killed or wounded, respectively.

Mottaki criticized US President Donald Trump's foreign policy, accusing his administration of pursuing war, military intervention, and threats against other countries. He also stated that Trump had been influenced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over concerns related to the Jeffrey Epstein case.

Calling on the American people to condemn violations of international law, Mottaki said Iranians are demanding accountability for those responsible.

Mottaki said Iranian judicial authorities were examining cases related to the martyrdom of Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iranian scientists and military commanders, thousands of citizens and Iran's late political and religious leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

"Retribution verdicts against these criminals will be issued soon," he said, adding that the process would follow guidance from Iran's new leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei.

Security cooperation main goal of SCO anti-terror drill: IRGC Gen.

From Page 1 ► He said Iran attaches particular importance to expanding security and counterterrorism cooperation, as well as exchanging operational experience among participating countries to improve their ability to address common security challenges.

General Madani said the exercise provides an opportunity to strengthen coordination

among SCO members and develop joint approaches to countering extremist activities and containing violent groups that pose a threat to regional stability.

The IRGC Ground Force hosted the SCO anti-terrorism exercise last year in the northwestern Iranian city of Shabestar, making Iran the fourth country to host the drill.

Senior IRGC official: Iran achieved strategic victory in war with US

TEHRAN- A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) says the Iranian nation has achieved a "strategic victory" in the war with the United States, arguing that the conflict failed to achieve the objectives pursued by Washington and its allies.

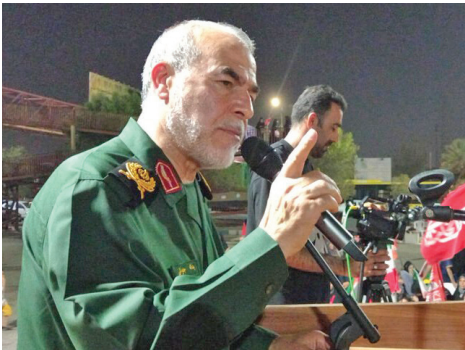
Addressing a gathering in Bandar Abbas late Tuesday, IRGC Deputy Commander for Political Affairs Brigadier General Yadollah Javani said the adversary had entered the conflict believing that a rapid, high-intensity military campaign could undermine the Islamic Republic's political, defense and security structures and fragment Iran.

He said those calculations proved wrong, stressing that the Iranian nation emerged from the conflict stronger than before.

"The enemy launched the war with the aim of weakening and collapsing the Islamic Republic; but today, by the admission and assessment of many around the world, Islamic Iran is stronger than it was before the war," Javani said, referring to developments following the Ramadan War.

Javani said the opposing side had initially sought to achieve its objectives through a swift military offensive and intense warfare but failed to accomplish its intended goals.

Referring to the Iranian people's long-standing slogan of "Allahu Akbar" (God is the Greatest), the IRGC commander said a nation that places its trust in God does not regard defeat as an inevitable outcome. He also cited the late Founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, who maintained that



the United States could not prevail over Iran through pressure and threats.

Javani further said the failure to achieve military objectives had prompted a shift in the adversary's approach toward "hybrid warfare."

According to the IRGC official, this approach now includes economic pressure, maritime and aerial restrictions, and efforts to undermine public resilience.

He said the United States had repeatedly employed such forms of pressure against Iran over the past four decades but added that the Iranian people had consistently demonstrated their ability to withstand and overcome such challenges.

Javani emphasized that the outcome of the recent conflict should be assessed not only in military terms but also in light of Iran's ability to preserve its political independence, national cohesion, and defense capabilities in the face of sustained pressure.

LATEST NEWS

■ Baqaei: 'False flags' used to manufacture pretexts for war

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei says "false flags" are a long-standing tactic used to fabricate incidents, assign blame and manufacture pretexts for war.

In a post on X, Baqaei said that amid growing public opposition to what he described as an unlawful war of aggression against Iran, those responsible were seeking to justify their actions through fabricated narratives.

"Even a raft made of lies can look like salvation to those who are drown

■ IRGC general: Iran ready to increase weapons range if necessary

A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) says the Strait of Hormuz remains closed under the full control of Iran's armed forces and will remain so until the country's "legitimate demands"

are met.

Brigadier General Mohammad-Reza Naqdi said Iran is also prepared to increase the range of its weapons if required. In an interview with Al-Alam, he stressed that the current limits are based on policy decisions rather than technical constraints, adding that Iran's domestically produced weapons can be upgraded according to battlefield requirements.

■ Iran army: armed forces prepared for protracted conflict

Brigadier General Mohammad Akrami-Nia, spokesperson for the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, says Iran's armed forces have sufficient weapons reserves and sustained domestic production capacity to remain prepared for a prolonged conflict.

Speaking to Radio Goftogoo, he said Iran has developed indigenous capabilities in missiles, drones, aircraft and naval equipment despite decades of sanctions and

Iran’s share of Russia’s \$300b market is negligible: TPO head

TEHRAN- The Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), stating that Iran's share of the Russian market must increase, said: This country imports about \$300 billion annually from various countries around the world, and despite the progress made, Iran's share of this large market is still negligible.

According to IRNA, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi said on Wednesday at the first Iran-Russia Trade Development Summit, focusing on Gilan and Astrakhan provinces, held in the Anzali Free Zone: Developing economic and trade cooperation with Russia is one of the programs that has been pursued over the past years, and one of the most important measures in this path has been the implementation of the Iran-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement.

He added: This agreement has been implemented since April 2025, and based on it, tariffs on 87 percent of goods in Iran's trade with the five member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, of which Russia is the largest, have been reduced to zero.

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade continued: The zeroing of tariffs has created an advantage and competitive power for Iranian traders, and the country's exporters can use this opportunity to be one step ahead of their rivals in the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union member countries.

He emphasized: Economic and trade convergence with the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union must continue, and it is necessary to make optimal use of this opportunity and for all economic actors and the country's existing capacities to work to increase Iran's share of the Russian market.

The Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), referring to the existing capacities for developing exports to Russia, said: Based on studies conducted, more than \$50 billion of Russia's imports overlap with goods that Iran has the possibility to export, and activating this capacity can increase Iran's exports to this country from the current \$1 to \$2 billion to \$10 or even \$20 billion.

Dehghan Dehnavi continued: In addition to this capacity, new capacities must also be created, and to activate these capacities, planning and establishing direct communication between the economic actors of the two countries is necessary.

The Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), stating that Gilan has a special position in trade with Russia, emphasized: In addition to its production capacities and export products, this province can also be a connection point and trade gateway for the country from a logistical point of view.

Dehghan Dehnavi stated: This province is connected to Russia as well as Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan through the sea, and land and rail routes have provided other capacities for trade development.

He continued: Part of the rail project is being completed, and rail connection is currently established at the border; also, part of the goods transferred from China to the region arrive at Anzali Port via Kazakhstan and Aktau Port, and are distributed throughout the country from here.

The Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) emphasized: These capacities show that Gilan, in addition to developing its own trade, can become a major commercial hub for the country.

According to him, to achieve this goal, completing the required infrastructure and defining new activities for the private sector is necessary and essential.

Dehghan Dehnavi emphasized the role of sending trade delegations in developing economic relations and added: Holding this summit and afterward planning to send trade delegations can be effective in developing trade between the two countries.

He added: Every trade communication and conversation, exchange of business cards, and negotiation among economic actors lays the groundwork for a new contract, export or import, joint cooperation, and investment.

Dehghan Dehnavi referred to the long-standing relations between Gilan and Astrakhan provinces and recalled: These relations must be in the field of investment in addition to trade, and the two sides can have joint investment in each other's capacities to provide a ba-



sis for increasing trade.

The Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization further emphasized: Part of the problems is caused by sanctions and foreign restrictions, and part is related to internal issues, including the multiplicity of laws and regulations, systems, instability of regulations, and administrative bureaucracy; our effort is to facilitate the path of trade at least in the area of internal obstacles that are within the government's control, and good measures have been taken and are being taken in this regard.

Dehghan Dehnavi also announced the drafting of an export support package by the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade and added: This package has been presented to the government and will be introduced next week, in which various supports for strengthening exports have been foreseen.

He also referred to measures being taken in the Government Economic Commission with the cooperation of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, the Central Bank, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, and recalled: Regulations in the field of trade are being drafted, and if approved, part of the trade obstacles will be removed.

Dehghan Dehnavi called one of these cases the reform of the order registration process and added: One of the proposals is that order registration return to its primary function as a declaration of trade plan, and controls that can be carried out at the customs clearance stage be removed from the order registration stage.

The Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), emphasizing that existing obstacles should not prevent the use of the country's trade capacities, stated: Iran's private sector has shown that despite restrictions, it can open the path of trade with initiative and effort and take big steps in this regard.

He considered holding the first Iran-Russia Trade Development Summit in Gilan as a measure to strengthen economic relations and added: We hope its effects will become visible in the coming months and years with increased exports from Gilan to Russia and other countries.

Dehghan Dehnavi also announced the assignment of a new trade mission to Gilan in connection with one of China's provinces and said: It is expected that this province, with proper planning, will use the new capacities for trade development.

The first Iran-Russia Trade Development Summit in Gilan began on Wednesday in the Ebtehaj Hall of the Anzali Free Zone.

This summit, focusing on Gilan and Astrakhan provinces, is being held with the presence of Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization; Teymour Pourheidari, Head of Iran's Export Development in Astrakhan and Director General of Industry, Mine and Trade of Gilan; Sergei Vladimirovich Azarov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Rasht; Ahmad Heydarian, Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Russian Federation; Hadi Haqshenas, Governor of Gilan; and Mostafa Taati Moghaddam, CEO of the Anzali Free Zone.

The purpose of holding this summit is to examine the opportunities, advantages, problems, and challenges of trade between Iran and Russia, especially Gilan and Astrakhan as the entry gates for trade between the two countries.

This summit has two specialized panels: examining the challenges and obstacles to the development of non-oil trade between Iran and Russia through the Astrakhan gateway, and from obstacles to solutions—the role of executive bodies in facilitating Iran-Russia trade and examining how to enter the Russian and Eurasian markets through the Astrakhan gateway.

Expansion of technical-engineering cooperation between Iran, Afghanistan on agenda

TEHRAN- The Minister of Energy, referring to the goals of his trip to Afghanistan, listed the expansion of technical and engineering cooperation with neighbors and said: Currently, there are good interactions between the two countries.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Energy, Abbas Aliabadi on Wednesday, upon arrival in Afghanistan, referring to the historical, linguistic, and cultural commonalities of the two nations, stated: Iran and Afghanistan are two countries with a common language and shared culture, and these commonalities provide a suitable ground for developing cooperation in various fields.

The Minister of Energy, explaining the goals of his trip, said: It was necessary to make a trip to Kabul to negotiate and meet with officials in the water and energy sector; on the other hand, visiting the fifth Abu Hanifa Afghanistan International Exhibition and expanding technical and engineering cooperation with neighboring countries, including Afghanistan, are among the most important goals of this trip.

Aliabadi, referring to the state of exchanges between the two countries, announced: Currently, there is the possibility of exporting technical and engineering services between the two countries, and we are seeking to increase it, and a good opportunity has been provided to expand these cooperations.

Afghan media reported the arrival of a 180-member trade delegation from Iran's private



sector to participate in the Kabul International Exhibition and discuss expanding exchanges and investment between the two countries.

According to IRNA, a 180-member trade delegation from Iran's private sector, headed by Mahmoud Siadat, head of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, entered Kabul on Tuesday.

According to this report, members of this large economic delegation are scheduled to attend the "Imam Abu Hanifa" International Exhibition in Kabul and meet with Afghan economic actors to examine ways to expand trade exchanges and opportunities for joint investment between the two countries.

Afghan economic experts consider the meetings between the Tehran and Kabul delegations important for strengthening economic and commercial ties between the two countries, and say these meetings can pave the way for expanding trade cooper-

ation, investment, and transit.

Abdul Nasir Rashtia, an Afghan economic expert, said in this regard that establishing strategic and favorable relations with neighboring countries is of vital importance for Afghanistan.

Referring to the lack of regular transportation and an equipped railway network, he added: The more we use the routes of neighboring countries for exports and imports, the more the costs of transporting goods will decrease.

The exchange of economic delegations between the two countries comes as Tehran and Kabul have set a target of raising the volume of bilateral trade to \$10 billion per year.

According to reports, the fifth national and international Imam Abu Hanifa (may God have mercy on him) Exhibition begins on October 7, and runs for one week.

According to reports, traders, investors, and companies from more than 20 countries, includ-

ing the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia, India, Turkey, Japan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan, are participating.

Over the years it has been held, this exhibition has been able to provide a suitable platform in vital sectors such as industry and mining, agriculture and livestock, handicrafts and carpets, telecommunications, banking, and medical equipment for concluding major trade contracts and displaying the economic capabilities of the region.

Development of Herat-Mazar-i-Sharif railway, focus of Iran-Afghanistan economic diplomacy consultations

The Deputy for Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consulted with the Deputy for Financial and Administrative Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan's caretaker government on expanding economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

According to IRNA, Hamid Ghanbari, Deputy for Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met on Tuesday with Mohammad Naeem, Deputy for Financial and Administrative Affairs of Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In this meeting, the two sides discussed and exchanged views on expanding economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of developing and strengthening infrastructure, including the construction of the Herat-Mazar-i-Sharif railway.

Oil sales policies being pursued as seriously as ever: acting oil minister

TEHRAN- According to Mehr News Agency, citing the Ministry of Oil, Hamid Bovard, on Tuesday, on the sidelines of his introduction ceremony as Acting Minister of Oil, said regarding the ministry's most important plans: The industry's current programs in production and development are continuing and are being pursued with greater speed and precision.

He added: Efforts are being made to pursue stronger policies in commerce and sales so that the oil industry, as in the past, shines with the help of all my colleagues.

The Acting Minister of Oil recalled regarding oil sales: Matters related to oil sales are being pursued as always, but I cannot disclose information in this area, and we continue to pursue our work in this field seriously.

The Acting Minister of Oil emphasized regarding energy management: I ask all dear people not to consume wastefully and to help in all areas of energy carriers so that this year we achieve stronger savings compared with previous years.

Bovard recalled regarding supplying fuel to industries in winter: Comprehensive decisions are made in the Fuel Committee in the government, and after a decision is made in the government, it is communicated to all agencies.

Decisions on fuel must be based on domestic capacities

The Acting Minister of Oil, emphasizing the need for comprehensive management of fuel consumption and strengthening transmission infrastructure, stressed the importance of a macro-level view in oil industry decision-making.

According to Mehr News Agency, Hamid Bovard, on Tuesday, in a meeting with the managers of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company at the company's central building, in addition to expressing appreciation for the efforts and hard work of employees and managers, stressed the need to use a strategic, scientific, and comprehensive view in managing the issues of the oil industry, especially the refining and distribution of oil products.

Referring to his 35 years of activity in the oil industry, he added: In management meetings, to provide the possibility of more precise decision-making and a macro view of issues, information should be presented coherently and in the form of management summaries.

The Acting Minister of Oil, stating that in large organizations the high volume of activi-

ties sometimes causes main issues to be less visible amid details and daily challenges, announced: Looking from above and outside the organization's daily atmosphere can help identify problems more precisely and find suitable solutions.

Bovard, emphasizing issues related to the gas and oil products sectors, stressed the need to adopt more precise decisions based on the country's domestic capacities and stated: Given that a significant portion of the country's needed resources is supplied domestically, instead of letting others make decisions for us, we must have plans and programs with an accurate understanding of the situation.

He considered the issue of fuel consumption management, especially gasoline and diesel, one of the country's important issues and recalled: Measures regarding the smart fuel card are important, but special attention must be paid to threats and cyberattacks, and the security and stability of fuel-related systems must be guaranteed.

The Acting Minister of Oil emphasized: Managing consumption and implementing expert plans in the fuel sector can help gradually improve the country's situation; however, the main goal should not be only managing current affairs, but we must move toward reforming the governance model and improving the way organizations are administered.

Bovard considered the use of universities and scientific centers essential for developing specialized training and training young forces, and continued: A foundation must be provided so that young forces, especially in their first years of service, are placed on the correct organizational path and their capacity and motivation are used effectively.

Referring to the importance of the main corridors for transferring and moving oil and oil products, he stressed the need to direct part of organizational activities and programs along these routes and said: Attention to these capacities can be effective in strengthening the oil industry's infrastructure.

The Acting Minister of Oil also, referring to the country's situation and the need to create hope in society, stated: In the current situation, effective and tangible measures must be taken to provide the ground for increasing people's hope. Proper management of consumption and optimal use of resources are among these measures.

Bovard, likening this situation to a fish in

water, added: Sometimes people within a large organization, due to their continuous presence in it, understand less the importance and real dimensions of the work being done. In difficult times, if the executive and expert groups of the oil industry had not been on the scene, the country's problems could have become much broader.

Appreciating the performance of expert forces and the management team, he counted the existence of expertise, empathy, and cohesion among managers as strengths of the organization and expressed hope that, by strengthening the scientific, strategic, and coherent view, this capacity would develop in various oil industry companies.

Production of oil products increased by 3%

Mohammad Sadeq Azimifar, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, also in this meeting, presenting a report to the Acting Minister of Oil, announced: The National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, under conditions of war, sanctions, and limited financial resources, by changing its management approach, has pursued four main axes: supply-demand balance, value chain development, human capital development, and data-driven governance.

He added: In this framework, six strategies were defined, including increasing and improving the quality of production, consumption management, infrastructure development, improving storage levels and fuel supply, human capital development, and research and digital transformation.

Azimifar recalled: In the production sector, with increased feedstock, implementation of key projects, and major overhauls, average gasoline production increased by about 17 percent; also, four quality improvement projects came into operation, and about three percent was added to product production.

The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company said: In the consumption sector, the annual growth in gasoline consumption, which was about 6 percent, reached about zero through a set of management measures and became negative in Shahriyar. This year, gas oil consumption also decreased by about 2 to 3 percent. Price reforms, consumption management, and combating smuggling, in addition to reducing consumption, improved targeted subsidy resources.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel rushing to make its West Bank land grab permanent

‘They want the land without its people’

From page 1 ► The al-Quds (Jerusalem) Governorate described Ben-Gvir’s participation as electoral exploitation. Hamas condemned it as organized terrorism.

Between July and September, the governorate recorded 139 demolition and land-clearing operations. Officials logged another 150 eviction and property-seizure notices.

UN data indicates approximately 170 Palestinian structures have been destroyed in East al-Quds (Jerusalem) since January.

Across the wider West Bank, Palestinian officials recorded 341 demolition operations targeting 740 structures in the first half of 2026.

Near Hebron on Monday, bulldozers leveled a home in Khallet al-Deirat in 25 minutes, leaving two families homeless.

The International Court of Justice ruled in July 2024 that Israel’s presence in the occupied territories is unlawful and demanded settler evacuation.

‘Settlement revolution’

Between 2013 and 2022, Israel approved three settlements. Since then, the government has approved more than 100. 34 were authorized in a single March cabinet session.

Outposts erected in violation of Israeli law have received retroactive state authorization.

Military chief of staff Eyal Zamir reportedly warned the cabinet that the military was severely overstretched. The cabinet approved the settlements anyway.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich inaugurated two new settlements on Sept. 27. Smotrich called it a continuation of the “settlement revolution” designed to prevent a Palestinian state.

The government is pushing forward a tender for E1 before election day. E1 is a highly contested plan that would drive



A man watches Israeli forces demolish a Palestinian-owned residential building in occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) on October 6, 2026 (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP)

a physical wedge of housing between East al-Quds (Jerusalem) and the interior West Bank.

Smotrich stated openly that the objective of E1 is to bury the idea of Palestinian statehood.

War Minister Israel Katz announced a target of one million Israeli settlers in northern West Bank during the August reopening of Ganim. In 2005, Israel evacuated Ganim, Kadim, Sa-Nur, and Homesh.

All four northern West Bank settlements are now reoccupied. Settler families moved into caravan homes in Sa-Nur under military guard.

The estimated settler population now exceeds 540,000, living among roughly three million Palestinians.

‘They want the land without its people’

The physical restructuring is most visible in the north. In July, the army issued 15 land confiscation orders covering roughly 200 dunams in the Jenin governorate.

The orders target land in Areas A and C to clear a bypass road connecting the new settlements of Emek Dotan and Noa.

This is the first time since the Oslo Accords that military seizure orders in Area A serve explicit civilian settlement infrastructure rather than a mil-

itary cover.

Six new military camps have been established across Jenin. Dror Etkes of Kerem Navot called the operation a comprehensive land-grab machine. Settlers and state forces work together to break the contiguity of the rural Jenin region.

Palestinian communities face total isolation. In Abu al-Sharqiya, east of Jenin, 26 businesses received demolition notices in August. Mayor Burhan al-Azamtah said the village is now surrounded like a prison.

In nearby Arrabah, the Israeli military has uprooted trees and restricted agricultural access. Mayor Ahmad al-Ardah said the objective is clear. “They want the land without its people,” he said.

Near Sa-Nur, settlers forced the Asa’asah family to exhume the freshly buried body of their 85-year-old father. The settlers claimed the grave was too close to the settlement. The family reburied him in another town.

Olive harvest and ‘Herod’s Pool’

This autumn, the olive harvest opened under fire.

Settlers attacked a family harvesting trees at Jabal Qamas on Oct. 3. Hussam Adily was left in critical condition.

The attackers then entered the village of Osarin, ransack-

ing a home and smashing vehicles.

Similar violence struck Rantis, Sebastia, Beit Imrin, Deir Sharaf, Aqraba, and Arrabuna. Farmers were beaten, pepper-sprayed, and run over.

Near Abu Dis, settlers burned about 55 olive trees. In Sinjil, Rafat, and Kafr Ra’i, settlers stole olives and ladders.

In Fasayil, settlers diverted irrigation pipelines from farmland owned by Saad Nemer to fill an ancient reservoir.

Smotrich announced funding to develop the site as “Herod’s Pool,” and Nemer’s crops dried up.

In Taybeh, the West Bank’s last entirely Christian village, the military declared the area a closed military zone. The order blocks Palestinians from their groves while settlers roam freely.

Lethal force accompanies the harvest violence. In Yasouf on Oct. 1, settlers shot dead 51-year-old Mashhour Yassin.

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry reported that soldiers threw away the keys to the responding ambulance. On Oct. 2, 19-year-old Bahaa al-Natsheh was shot dead near Kobar.

On Monday near Bani Naim, troops fired on a vehicle, killing 38-year-old Hossam Alaa al-Din Abdul Jabbar Walad Ali. The army claimed the car attempted a ramming.

‘That is not my job’

Journalists documenting the violence are active targets. On Tuesday near Aqraba, armed settlers beat Agence France-Presse photographer Jaafar Ashtiyeh with gun butts.

They fired live rounds and stole his equipment. Around a dozen Israeli soldiers stood 500 meters away. They made no attempt to intervene. AFP global news director Phil Chetwynd called the attack unacceptable.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Is the old WMD playbook returning?

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN — Washington has a familiar habit: when diplomacy becomes inconvenient, it begins speaking the language of threat. Repeated often enough, that language can transform a political dispute into an emergency that supposedly demands military action.

Iraq should have taught the United States how dangerous that habit can be.

In 2003, Washington and its allies built the case for invading Iraq around claims that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction. Those warnings were

presented with confidence, the threat was described as urgent, and war was framed as necessary. The weapons were never found.

The consequences, however, were real. Iraq was destabilized, violence spread and the region was left dealing with the aftermath of a war sold to the public on claims that proved disastrously unreliable.

That history matters as Washington and its allies intensify their rhetoric about Iran.

Iran is not Iraq, and the two cases should not be treated as identical. Iran has its own political system, strategic capabilities and regional relationships. Its nuclear program

was subject to the most intensive inspections before the joint U.S.-Israel attack on Iran that first began in June 2025. But one question remains familiar: when does a genuine security concern become an excuse for confrontation?

Iran’s enrichment activities deserve serious scrutiny. But scrutiny should be based on evidence, verification and diplomacy, not assumptions that make war appear inevitable.

This is where Washington’s approach deserves examination.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

94-year-old Jewish woman arrested for opposing genocide in Palestine

At 94, former human rights lawyer Margaret Owen had been trying for months to get arrested.

Jewish and an old friend of the Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband’s mother, she said she had persistently sat, along with hundreds of other pensioners, at silent vigils holding paper signs which read: “I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action.”

But while others were hauled away by the police, she said she had “failed miserably.”

“I’ve been holding that sign a long time,” Owen told Middle East Eye. She even mounted it in her front room window, and sent photographs to the Metropolitan police, to no avail.

“Even if it’s behind glass, they should have arrested me,” she said.

But on 27 September, at a protest outside the Labour Party conference in Liverpool, she was finally granted her wish.

“I was quite proud to join the arrestees last Sunday,” she said.

Owen recalled that she was among around 200 other people, “many of us old, disabled. There were a lot of white hairs around, people with crutches, somebody was in a wheelchair.

“We were just sitting quietly with our placards round our necks, and then we see the police wandering through the crowd and photographing at random with their cameras, and then they begin to encircle people,” she told MEE.



ple,” she told MEE.

Owen has a bad back and struggled to climb into the back of the police van, so she sat up front with a police officer.

“She looked really cruel and vicious when she was arresting me. But when I sat next to her in

the van, I looked her in the face and said, “I’m so sorry for you. This is not what you joined the police force for.”

Owen said the officer’s face “completely crumbled, she suddenly became human again.”

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Sayyed Nasrallah’s flame remains alive



From page 1 ► Sayyed Nasrallah’s martyrdom has not extinguished the voice he built nor erased the path he charted. It transformed his presence from that of a living leader into an enduring legacy carried by those who inherited his words, his vision, and the struggle he represented.

Frankly, Sayyed Nasrallah’s martyrdom was not simply the absence of a leader. It was the sudden orphaning of a generation. Yet the tradition from which he drew his own language had taught another meaning of orphanhood: that an orphan does not have to remain broken. He can become a leader precisely because he has learned to carry loss without surrendering to it. That is the life of his grandfather Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Two years have passed, yet we still remember the cadence of Sayyed Nasrallah’s Arabic, the deliberate pauses, the quiet confidence before his decisive stances.

His speeches have been more than political addresses. They are a grammar of resistance: Palestine, sovereignty, dignity, sacrifice, confrontation with occupation, and refusal to accept that history must forever be written by the powerful.

Even his adversaries acknowledged the reach of his rhetoric. Reuters described him as a skilled orator whose speeches were followed by friends and enemies alike.

Sayyed Nasrallah did not cultivate leadership as a private possession; leadership was a burden before it was an honour, and responsibility before it was authority. That is why the attempt to reduce his legacy to the moment of his cowardly assassination cannot contain it.

The Israeli strike could destroy a headquarters. It could end the life of a leader. It could redraw a military map. But no missile can determine what a generation will remember, what it will perpetuate, or what meaning it will extract from its martyred leader. This is where the battle over memory begins.

Sayyed Nasrallah’s legacy belongs to a Hussaini tradition in which leaders are not measured by the length of their lives, but

by the political and moral questions they leave behind.

His name has become inseparable from Palestine, from the language of resistance, and from a regional struggle that expanded far beyond Lebanon.

At the personal level, I remember myself as a young girl reaching the age of religious responsibility, and receiving my Hijab at a ceremony where Sayyed Nasrallah stood among us not as a military commander—despite his well-known description of Israel as “weaker than a spider’s web”—but as a compassionate father figure and an illuminating teacher, meeting us with warmth, dignity, and tenderness.

Today, as a woman working through the battlefield of media and words, I read that memory differently: as a reminder that political struggle is not confined to weapons or front lines. It also takes place in language, education, culture, identity and the formation of consciousness. This is why remembrance cannot become nostalgia.

Hence, the real question after a leader’s demise is not whether his followers can continue repeating his name. It is whether they can carry the responsibilities that his name came to represent: No revenge can be more meaningful than refusing to become what Sayyed Nasrallah opposes.

The answer is therefore not vengeance for vengeance’s sake, but the preservation of Palestine as a living cause; the defence of the oppressed; the refusal of occupation as a permanent political fact; and the insistence that sacrifice must produce consciousness rather than despair.

Two years have passed, yet Sayyed Nasrallah’s presence among us only grows stronger and more luminous. His words continue to take deeper root in our hearts, our consciousness, and our collective memory

“This road, we will complete,” he said, not because one man can command history from beyond the grave, but because every generation eventually faces the same question: What will you do with what was entrusted to you?

Yemen’s Ansarallah strikes Aden airport and Saudi targets

Yemen’s Ansarallah have hit a range of targets in Saudi Arabia and in the Saudi-backed areas including Aden, Middle East Eye reported.

The Sanaa-based Ansarallah targeted the airport in Aden, seat of the Saudi-backed government, on Wednesday with two ballistic missiles and drones.

Ansarallah said they had targeted a military base located within the airport complex.

“Our armed forces fired ballistic missiles at a Saudi military supply convoy that had arrived at Camp Badr, near the airport,” said Ansarallah military spokesman Yahya Saree.

Earlier this week, the Saudi-backed government began a counter-offensive to retake Red Sea coastal territory that the Ansarallah captured last month.

The Saudi-backed government in Yemen announced on Sunday that the campaign’s overall objective is to retake all of the territory it has lost to the Ansarallah over 12 years of war.

Saudi Arabia and its allied forces began attacking Ansarallah positions on Monday.

By evening local time, they claimed they had taken back the Arabian Gulf side of the Bab al-Mandab Strait and Mocha, the strategic Red Sea port city that the Ansarallah had wrested from them in September.

Ansarallah channels denied that Mocha had been taken, posting videos of their fighters inside the city. Other reports and open source information appeared to corroborate this, suggesting that the fighting around the port city was largely made up of long-range missile exchanges and that Mocha remains in the hands of the Ansarallah.

On Tuesday, the Ansarallah movement said missile and drone attacks on several sites across Saudi Arabia.

Sanaa said it had targeted the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh with drones. It also said that missile and drone strikes were launched at the Abha International Airport and an airbase in the southwestern city of Khamis Mushait.

Safarzadeh to fight for gold at Asian Para Games

TEHRAN - Iranian para-athletics star Hajar Safarzadeh has set her sights to win a gold medal at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya.

Safarzadeh said she will give everything she has to win gold at Games, and is determined to leave the competition without any regrets.

The sprinter is set to compete in the women's 100m, 200m and 400m events at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games.

"I promise that I will give my absolute best to return to Iran with the best possible medal. My main goal is to make the people of Iran happy," Safarzadeh said.

She acknowledged that preparations have not always been ideal, with the national team facing several challenges during training camps, including a lack of access to suitable track facilities.

"Conditions are never completely ideal, and there are always obstacles. We faced some shortages during our training camps and did not always have access to a suitable track. But I have learned to accept difficult circumstances and overcome the challenges so that I can achieve a good result in the competitions ahead," she added.

Asked about her chances of winning gold in Nagoya, Safarzadeh stressed that sport is unpredictable but promised to fight until the finish.

"No one can predict the future in sport, but I promise the people that, as always, I will give everything I have to achieve the best possible result. I want to finish the competition knowing that I have left nothing behind and have no regrets," she said.

Safarzadeh also welcomed the growing number of Iranian women competing in para-athletics.

"Thankfully, we have more runners and athletes this time. Alongside the sprinters, we have an athlete in the long jump and women competing in different events. This is a very positive development and can inspire young people and girls across the country to take up para-athletics," she said.

Iran will have representatives in sprinting, endurance events and long jump in the women's competition, which Safarzadeh believes is an encouraging sign for the future of the sport.

The Iranian athlete identified the 400m as her main event but said she would also target strong performances in the 100m and 200m.

"My main event is the 400m, and my primary goal is to win gold in that race. But I will also give my best in the 100m and 200m," she said.

Safarzadeh won gold in the 200m at the previous edition of the Asian Para Games but was unfortunately disqualified from the 400m after committing a violation.

"This time, with the help of my coach, I am working hard to achieve a much better result. I also want to test myself in the 100m, and I hope something positive comes from it," she concluded.

Esmailnezhad vows Iran volleyball will reach LA 2028 Olympics

TEHRAN - Iran men's national volleyball team captain Amin Esmailnezhad has expressed confidence that Iran will qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, despite widespread doubts among fans about the team's chances.

Esmailnezhad made the confident prediction during a television appearance on Iran's state-run TV, where he joined Iranian Volleyball Federation president Milad Taghavi on the program "Olympic Village."

During the show, a poll asked viewers whether Iran's national volleyball team would qualify for the Los Angeles Olympics. The results reflected considerable pessimism,

with nearly 85 percent of participants voting against Iran reaching the Games.

However, Esmailnezhad offered a completely different assessment when the host asked him directly whether Iran would qualify for Los Angeles 2028.

The opposite spiker responded with a single, emphatic word: "Yes."

He then made his message even clearer, saying: "We will go to the Olympics."

The captain's confident statement comes as Iran continue their preparations for the next Olympic qualification cycle. His comments underline the team's ambition to return to the Olympic stage and compete among the world's best.

While the road to Los Angeles will be challenging, Esmailnezhad's words send a clear message: Iran's volleyball team are targeting an Olympic comeback.

Hadi Rezaei: there are no guarantees in sport

TEHRAN - Iran's men's sitting volleyball head coach Hadi Rezaei says that Team Meli will be targeting a record-extending ninth Asian title at the upcoming Asian Para Games in Nagoya, however there are no guarantees in sport.

Rezaei also believes Iran's women's team have a strong chance of securing a place at the Paralympic Games following an impressive run of performances.

"Being a role model is not limited to able-bodied people. Athletes with disabilities can also inspire society and show that people with disabilities are capable of reaching the highest levels of sport," Rezaei said. "They can become champions for their cities and country and win gold and silver medals at the world, Asian, Olympic and Paralympic levels."

Speaking about the women's national team, Rezaei said the squad's seventh-place finish at this year's World Championships demonstrated their progress.

"The women's team finished seventh at the World Championships this year and had a very good performance. They have a strong chance of qualifying for the Paralympics, and we hope they can secure their place at the qualification tournament in Kazakhstan next July," the technical director of Iran's national sitting volleyball teams said.

Rezaei also discussed the men's team, which claimed their ninth world title last month and will now compete at the Asian Championships with five changes to its lineup.

"We have entered the Asian Para Games with almost 40 percent of the squad changed compared with the team that competed at the World Championships," he said. "This shows the growth and depth of Iranian sitting volleyball. We are able to bring other ready players into the national team within a short period of time."

"Within one or two months, 18 players are ready to compete in two major events. That demonstrates the depth and strong pool of talent we have in Iranian sitting volleyball."

Asked whether Iran can be expected to retain their Asian title, Rezaei acknowledged that sport offers no guarantees but remained confident in his team.

"There are no guarantees in sport, but these players deserve to be champions," he said. "I hope we can win the medal that the people expect from this sport and that our athletes deserve."

Hadi Rezaei is one of the most respected figures in Iranian sitting volleyball and has served as the head coach of Iran's national men's sitting volleyball team.

Known for his tactical expertise, leadership, and ability to build cohesive teams, Rezaei has played a major role in Iran's sustained success on the international stage. Under his guidance, Iran has won multiple Paralympic titles and world championships, establishing itself as a dominant force in the sport. His coaching philosophy combines discipline, experience, and a strong emphasis on teamwork and mental resilience. Rezaei's achievements have made him an influential figure in Paralympic volleyball and Iranian sport.

15 destinations to discover the soul of Iran

TEHRAN - Iran is a country of striking contrasts. In one journey, travelers can move from bustling historic bazaars to quiet desert towns, from ancient archaeological sites to misty Caspian forests and from the mountains of the Zagros to the warm waters of the Persian Gulf.

Its landscapes are as varied as its history. Mud-brick houses and windcatchers define many towns on the central plateau, while lush rice fields and forests dominate the north. In the south, islands with colorful cliffs and unusual geological formations offer a very different side of the country.

For travelers interested in history and culture, Iran also offers an exceptional concentration of heritage. The country has currently 30 properties on UNESCO's World Heritage List, ranging from archaeological sites and historic cities to cultural landscapes, gardens and natural areas.

The following 15 destinations offer a journey through some of Iran's most distinctive landscapes, historical periods and living traditions. They are not presented as a formal ranking, but as a selection of places that together provide a broad picture of the country.

Tehran

Many travelers arrive in Tehran and immediately continue to another destination. Yet Iran's sprawling capital is worth exploring in its own right.

Set against the southern slopes of the Alborz Mountains, Tehran brings together the energy of a modern metropolis with reminders of Iran's royal and cultural past. Museums, palaces, traditional bazaars, galleries and old neighborhoods give the city a character that changes from one district to another.

At the heart of the city's historic heritage is Golestan Palace. With origins reaching back to the Safavid period, the complex became an important royal residence and the seat of Qajar power in the 19th century. Its buildings and decorative arts reflect an encounter between Persian traditions and European influences, and the palace is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The National Museum of Iran, Sa'dabad and Niavaran palace complexes and the Grand Bazaar add further layers to the city's history. For a change of scenery, Darband at the foot of the Alborz offers mountain air, walking trails and restaurants beside the stream.

Isfahan

Few Iranian cities capture the elegance of Persian architecture as vividly as Isfahan.

The city flourished as the capital of the Safavid Empire under Shah Abbas I in the 17th century, when it developed into a major center of architecture, art and commerce. Its grandest expression is Naqsh-e Jahan Square, also known as Meidan Imam.

The enormous square is framed by the Imam Mosque, Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque and Ali Qapu Palace, with the historic bazaar extending from one side. The ensemble has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979.

But Isfahan is not simply a city of monumental buildings. The Jameh Mosque, Chehel Sotoun Palace and Vank Cathedral reveal different chapters of its history, while the Si-o-se-pol and Khaju bridges offer some of the city's most memorable views.

A walk through Isfahan often feels like moving through a living architectural museum, but one where people still shop, meet, pray and gather as they have for generations.

Shiraz

Shiraz is a city of gardens, poetry and old-world charm. It is



closely associated with two of Iran's best-known poets, Hafez and Saadi, whose tombs remain popular places for visitors and residents alike.

The city itself offers plenty to explore. The Nasir al-Mulk Mosque, Eram Garden, Vakil Bazaar, Vakil Mosque and Vakil Bathhouse provide a glimpse into the architectural and cultural history of Shiraz.

Yet the city's greatest appeal for many travelers lies in what surrounds it. About 60 kilometers northeast stands Persepolis, founded by Darius I in 518 BC as the ceremonial center of the Achaemenid Empire. Its monumental stairways, reliefs, columns and palace remains offer an extraordinary encounter with ancient Persian civilization. UNESCO inscribed Persepolis as a World Heritage site in 1979.

Pasargadae, the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenids, and the royal tombs and reliefs of Naqsh-e Rostam can also be visited from Shiraz, making the city an ideal base for exploring the ancient heartland of Persia.

Yazd

Yazd rises from the dry landscape of central Iran as a remarkable example of how people learned to live with the desert.

Its old neighborhoods are a maze of mud-brick walls, narrow lanes, courtyards and traditional houses. Above the rooftops, windcatchers rise into the sky, while beneath the ground an ancient network of qanats once carried water from underground sources into the city.

This relationship between architecture, water and climate is central to Yazd's identity. UNESCO describes the historic city as an outstanding example of adaptation to a harsh environment, and the Historic City of Yazd was added to the World Heritage List in 2017.

Visitors can explore the Jameh Mosque, Amir Chakhmaq complex and Dowlat Abad Garden, as well as sites associated with Iran's Zoroastrian heritage.

Yazd is perhaps best experienced on foot, when the quiet lanes and earthen walls reveal the ingenuity behind this desert city.

Kashan

Kashan offers travelers an intimate look at traditional Persian life and architecture.

The city is particularly known for its historic houses. The Tabatabaei, Borujerdi and Ameri houses feature courtyards, elaborate plasterwork, stained glass and carefully planned spaces designed to cope with the changing seasons.

The Fin Garden, one of Iran's celebrated Persian gardens, provides another expression of this architectural tradition. Nearby, the archaeological site of Sialk takes the story much further back into antiquity, while the desert landscapes around Abu Zeydabad offer a different experience altogether.

Spring gives Kashan another attraction. The annual rose harvest and golabgiri, the traditional production of rosewater, fill the surrounding villages with the fragrance of freshly gathered roses.

Tabriz

For centuries, Tabriz has stood at the meeting point of different worlds. Its location in northwestern Iran helped make it an important crossroads connecting Iran with Anatolia and the Caucasus.

That history is particularly visible in the Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex. Its interconnected brick corridors once accommodated commerce, religious activity, education and social life. UNESCO inscribed the bazaar as a World Heritage site in 2010 and describes it as one of the historic Silk Road's important commercial centers.

The Blue Mosque, Constitutional House, Azerbaijan Museum and El Goli park provide further reasons to spend time in the city.

Tabriz is also a gateway to East Azerbaijan province. Among the region's most unusual destinations is Kandovan, a village where homes have been carved into volcanic rock.

Mashhad

Mashhad is the spiritual heart of Iran for millions of pilgrims. At the center of the city stands the shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS), dedicated to the eighth Shi'a Imam.

The shrine is an immense architectural ensemble of courtyards, mosques, arcades, museums and richly decorated spaces. For visitors, it provides an opportunity to experience an important dimension of Iranian religious and cultural life.

Mashhad can also serve as a starting point for exploring Khorasan. Nearby Tus is associated with Ferdowsi, the great Persian epic poet, while the wider region contains historic settlements and landscapes that extend well beyond the city itself.

Kerman

Kerman is where history and desert scenery come together.

The city developed along routes linking central Iran with the southeast and retains important examples of traditional architecture. The Ganjali Khan complex, with its bathhouse, caravanserais, mosque and bazaar, offers a glimpse of urban life during the Safavid era.

Kerman is also a gateway to one of Iran's most extraordinary natural landscapes: the Kaluts of the Lut Desert. Wind and erosion have sculpted the desert into vast formations that can appear almost otherworldly.

The Lut Desert was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2016. The nearby Bam archaeological area, including the monumental Arg-e Bam citadel, adds another major heritage destination to the region.

Qeshm Island

Qeshm introduces travelers to a completely different Iran.

Situated in the Persian Gulf, Qeshm is the country's largest island and is known for dramatic geological formations, coastal landscapes and distinctive local communities.

The Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark includes such remarkable features as Chahkuh Canyon and Namakdan Salt Cave. The island's traditional

boatbuilding heritage, mangrove ecosystems and nearby Hengam Island add further dimensions to the experience.

For travelers interested in geology, marine environments, traditional architecture and island culture, Qeshm offers experiences rarely associated with Iran's better-known inland destinations.

Hormuz Island

Near Qeshm, the small island of Hormuz is famous for a landscape painted in striking shades of red, yellow and ochre.

Its unusual geology is one of its defining attractions. Travelers can explore colorful valleys, beaches, cliffs and coastal landscapes, often within a relatively short journey around the island.

The Portuguese Castle recalls another chapter in the history of the Persian Gulf, when Portugal established a presence in the region.

Hormuz is particularly attractive to photographers and artists, but its fragile environment also calls for careful and responsible travel. The island's appeal lies partly in its relatively intimate scale and the opportunity to experience its landscape at a slower pace.

Rasht and the Caspian region

Rasht offers a very different picture of Iran. Here, the dry landscapes of the central plateau give way to humid air, rice fields, orchards and lush vegetation.

As the capital of Gilan province, Rasht is a natural place to experience the region's food and culture. Local markets, traditional dishes and rural agricultural life are central to the character of southern Caspian Iran.

Beyond the city, the Hyrcanian forests stretch along the southern Caspian region. These ancient broad-leaved forests are home to rich biodiversity and extend through parts of Gilan, Mazandaran and Golestan provinces. They were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2019.

For travelers accustomed to Iran's deserts and historic cities, the green landscapes of the Caspian region can come as a pleasant surprise.

Ramsar

Ramsar brings together the Caspian Sea, the Alborz Mountains and the forests of northern Iran.

The town is known for its setting between the sea and mountains, while the surrounding area offers beaches, forested slopes, waterfalls and opportunities for mountain excursions.

The former Pahlavi-era Ramsar Palace and its gardens provide a glimpse into the region's more recent history. But much of Ramsar's appeal lies outdoors, where the landscape changes dramatically within a short distance.

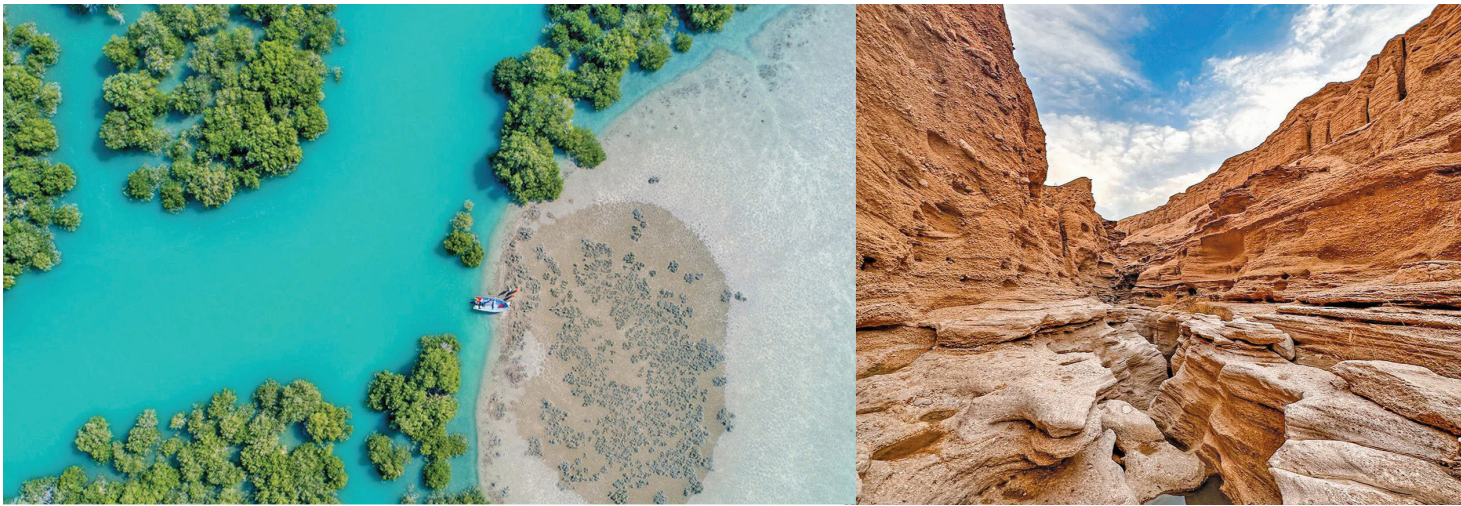
For travelers seeking a greener side of Iran, Ramsar offers a striking contrast with the country's desert cities.

Kermanshah and Bisotun

In western Iran, Kermanshah provides a gateway to the mountains and heritage of the Zagros.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

From Qeshm to Tabas: exploring Iran’s remarkable geodiversity



From page 1 ► International Geodiversity Day, observed on October 6, provides an opportunity to draw attention to this lesser-known dimension of the Earth’s natural heritage. It is also a reminder that protecting nature goes beyond conserving plant and animal species. Rocks, soils, water, minerals, fossils, caves, mountains and landscapes are all part of the planet’s natural capital and geological memory. Protecting geodiversity, therefore, means safeguarding the history of the Earth, the resources upon which human societies depend, and the foundations of life in the future.

The importance of geodiversity extends far beyond the aesthetic value of natural landscapes. Every geological feature can tell part of the Earth’s history and provide researchers with valuable information about climate change, ancient environments, the formation of mountains and sedimentary basins, and even major events in the history of life. Geological structures are also closely linked to groundwater resources, soils, mineral deposits and the formation of habitats. For this reason, conserving geodiver-

sity is an integral part of protecting a country’s natural capital.

One of the most distinctive examples of Iran’s geological diversity can be found in the south of the country, on Qeshm Island, where tectonic and erosional processes have created a remarkable collection of geological formations and landforms. The UNESCO Global Geopark of Qeshm lies in the southern Zagros Mountains, an area whose geological characteristics have been shaped by the collision of the Arabian and Eurasian plates. The Namakdan salt dome and salt complex, Namakdan Cave, Stars Valley and Chahkooh Canyon are among the area’s most prominent geological features. UNESCO describes Namakdan Cave, with its multicolored galleries and salt crystals, as one of the outstanding elements of Qeshm’s geological heritage.

In northwestern Iran, the Aras UNESCO Global Geopark offers a different picture of the country’s geological diversity. The region contains a wide range of rocks dating from different geological periods, including Paleozoic and Mesozoic carbonate rocks, igneous rocks and sedimentary de-

posits. One of the geopark’s most important geosites is the Alibashi area, which contains rock and fossil sequences associated with the Permian-Triassic boundary and is internationally significant for the study of one of the major events in Earth’s history. The Aras Geopark was added to UNESCO’s Global Geoparks Network in 2023, with around 30 geosites identified across the area.

Central Iran is home to the Tabas UNESCO Global Geopark, another major expression of the country’s geodiversity, known for the extent and variety of its geological features. The inclusion of Tabas alongside Qeshm and Aras on UNESCO’s list of Global Geoparks demonstrates that Iran’s geological diversity is not confined to a particular region or type of landscape. Valuable examples of the country’s geological heritage can be found across a wide range of environments and regions.

Geoparks, meanwhile, are not simply areas established to display geological features or serve as tourism destinations. The Global Geopark concept seeks to link the conservation of geological heritage with education,

research, sustainable tourism and the participation of local communities. In Qeshm, for example, UNESCO has emphasized the connection between natural heritage conservation and sustainable livelihoods, including activities related to geological heritage and tourism. In Aras, geological heritage forms part of a broader natural and cultural heritage landscape encompassing a range of natural and historical attractions.

The mountains, caves, valleys, deserts and geological formations found across Iran contain part of the country’s natural memory and stand as records of the Earth’s evolution. Once destroyed, many of the processes and geological evidence accumulated over millions of years cannot be recreated.

Identifying and documenting geosites, protecting them, raising public awareness and promoting responsible tourism can therefore help turn this lesser-known natural asset into a more prominent component of the country’s broader efforts to conserve its natural heritage.

Tehran to host Iran Med 2026

TEHRAN – The fourth international medical, dental, laboratory, and pharmaceutical equipment exhibition, known as Iran Med, is scheduled to be held from October 13 to 16 in Tehran.

The exhibition serves as a great platform for top Iranian manufacturers to showcase the latest innovations and products in fields like medical, hospital, and dental equipment and tools; surgical, imaging, and diagnostic equipment; hygiene products; and diagnostic and treatment equipment.

It also provides a great opportunity for manufacturers, importers, distributors, and experts in medical equipment sector experts and specialists operating in health industry to share ideas, hold meetings, and expand their presence in international markets.

The exhibition seeks to develop knowledge in pharmaceutical sector through holding free educational workshops on emerging technologies and knowledge-based healthcare innovations, regulatory, standards and export development challenges, market analysis and health economics panels, building educational capacity for medical equipment and biomedical engineering, as well as medical equipment maintenance and calibration technical workshops.

This year’s exhibition will host different participants from Eurasia, Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Russia, and Southeast Asia. Establishing an African panel in cooperation with African representatives, the exhibition aims to make African nations more familiar with the country’s achievements in health industry. Holding meetings with these countries are among

other parts of the event, Mehr news agency reported.

Iranian companies and their partners from Southeast Asia and Eurasia will sign two or three joint manufacturing agreements.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, Iran Med National Award will be held to identify and honor outstanding domestic products, technical and engineering services, and innovative student projects in the field of medical equipment. The event focuses on three main categories: ‘Student Projects’, ‘Innovation and Impact in the Healthcare Industry’, and ‘After-Sales Service and Quality’.

Some 300 domestic and foreign companies from 35 countries attended Iran Med 2025.

Iran regional leader in health system

In May 2025, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) said Iran is a leading country in expanding its healthcare system and providing access to universal health coverage.

Lauding the country’s achievements in recent years, Hanan Balkhi said that by expanding primary health care services, increasing access to health coverage in rural areas, maintaining high vaccination rates, and reducing maternal and newborn mortality, Iran has managed to become a successful role model in the region, the health ministry’s website reported.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA).

Self-sufficiency in medicine, medical equipment a priority

Medicine and medical equipment production and self-sufficiency in these areas are among the government’s priorities, Zafarqandi said in March 2025.

Medicine and medical equipment are two important areas related to people’s health, he said, adding: “We are trying to reach self-sufficiency for the supply of medicine and medical equipment,” IRNA reported.

In 2024, the head of Iran’s Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said the country exports medical equipment to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment, such as anesthesia machines and other equipment, are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are operating in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

The Rahi Sho competition is a national annual initiative focused on addressing real-world industrial and technological challenges. It provides university students and graduates in engineering, medical sciences and basic sciences from across the country with an opportunity to work on actual industrial projects, gain a better understanding of their areas of professional interest, expand their networks, and develop a clearer picture of their future career paths.

Top-performing teams are eligible for a range of incentives, including elite-status points, cash prizes, admission to post-competition growth and acceleration programs, research grants, and opportunities to be introduced to various industrial sectors. The initiative also offers other forms of support aimed at facilitating participants’ entry into industry and contributing to the development of a knowledge-based and technology-driven economy.

Pezeshkian urges young talents to turn expertise into solutions

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has stressed the important role of talented and capable young people in addressing the country’s challenges, saying society today needs individuals who can draw on their scientific knowledge, expertise and capabilities to help solve people’s problems and offer practical solutions to societal challenges.

Pezeshkian made the remarks on Wednesday at the closing ceremony of the third edition of a

national competition titled “Rahi Sho” - literally meaning “Get Going”.

“If you are determined and make sustained efforts, there is no problem in the country that we cannot solve,” the president said, addressing young talented people.

He expressed confidence that Iran would be able to overcome the difficult circumstances created by its adversaries with dignity and resilience.

‘Healthy children, joy today, better tomorrow’



TEHRAN – National Children’s Week is being marked from October 7 to 13, under the theme ‘healthy children, joy today, better tomorrow’.

The health ministry is observing the week nationwide, with each day having a specific topic, Mehr news agency reported.

Wednesday, October 7, ‘healthy mother, healthy child’. Addressing the adverse effects of having only one child, providing high-quality preconception and healthy pregnancy care, and creating favorable environments for a child’s birth and healthy life are among the key focuses of the day.

Thursday, October 8, ‘healthy nutrition, supporting breastfeeding’. The day highlights the importance of initiating breastfeeding immediately after birth, within one hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months, and breastfeeding continuation up to two years. Improving mothers’ knowledge of children’s nutritional needs is among other goals of the day.

Friday, October 9, ‘healthy environment, healthy child’. It focuses on the health and safety of the child’s environment, the prevention of accidents and injuries, clean air, safe water, and creating a secure environment for the child’s growth and development.

Saturday, October 10, ‘healthy mother, supportive family, happy child’. The day emphasizes the significance of the physical and mental health of the mother during pregnancy and the postpartum period, father and other family members’ support, promotion of parent-child interactions, secure attachment, and responsive caregiving.

Sunday, October 11, ‘playing with child, essential to child’s growth’. The day aims to encourage families to play with the child and engage in play-based activities, based on the child’s age, and reduce the child’s screen time.

Monday, October 12, ‘upholding children’s rights: every child’s right to live, grow, and thrive’. The day underlines equity and access to maternal and child health care. Early detection, referral, and timely intervention play a key role in maintaining and promoting the health of children with special needs.

Tuesday, October 13, ‘a child-supportive family and society’. Developing child-friendly centers and communities, setting up service desks, disseminating health messages, conducting surveys and collecting feedback, and providing information on local services are among the main activities of the day.

Children: Our Future and Our Responsibility

World Children’s Day, celebrated on November 20th, has always been an occasion of great significance. On World Children’s Day 2026, as with previous years, the day champions the rights, voices, and lives of children. It’s not just about celebration, but about addressing the myriad challenges children face globally.

The date, November 20th, was chosen as it marks the anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. World Children’s Day 2026 will mark 34 years since this pivotal convention.

Children are more than just the promise of tomorrow; they’re the reality of today. In World Children’s Day 2026, SDG Resources aims to highlight this union, focusing on specific goals like Quality Education (Goal 4), Reduced Inequalities (Goal 10), and Ending Poverty (Goal 1). Each of these directly affects children, shaping their present and future.

The day also serves as a platform for governments and institutions to reaffirm commitments to policies and programs that support children’s health, education, safety, and development.

Rural women lead efforts to restore Iran’s mangrove forests

TEHRAN – Rural women in southern Hormozgan Province are taking an active role in restoring mangrove forests and protecting the Shour-Shirin-Minab International Wetland, one of the country’s ecologically important coastal habitats.

In the village of Tiab, local women have been trained to collect mangrove seeds, prepare soil, raise seedlings and manage nurseries as part of an initiative designed to link environmental conservation with sustainable livelihoods.

The project was implemented by Mashgh Afarinesh Va Toseye Paydar with support from the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funding through the ICCA-GSI. It was carried out in cooperation with the Provincial Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, UNDP reported.

Training sessions and practical workshops equipped participants with the skills needed to establish and maintain a small-scale mangrove nursery. The initiative subsequently resulted in the establishment of Tiab’s first women-led mangrove nursery, with a capacity of around 1,500 seedlings.

The nursery has provided a practical means of contributing to ecosystem restoration while creating an opportunity for local women to generate supplementary income through environmentally sustainable activities.

For those involved, the work has also created a strong personal connection with the environment.

“We nurtured these seedlings with our own hands, just like our own children,” said Mehri Zarei, a member of the Tiab Women’s Green Nursery. “Planting each mangrove felt like giving birth to hope all over again. When I placed the roots into the mud, I felt as if I was becoming a mother once more, this time, to the Earth.”

The project has also promoted cooperation among communities in the region. Women from Tiab have shared their experiences with groups in neighboring villages, including Chah Sahari, where similar activities have been introduced.

The exchange has enabled the participating communities to share practical knowledge on mangrove seed collection, irrigation and nursery management, helping build local capacity for long-term conservation.

The experience in Tiab highlights the role that community-led initiatives can play in addressing environmental challenges while strengthening rural livelihoods. By involving women directly in conservation and restoration activities, the project has helped turn local participation into a practical tool for protecting one of southern Iran’s valuable coastal ecosystems.



OCTOBER 8, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Sustenance runs after the one who does not run after it.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:57 Dawn: 4:42 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:06 (tomorrow)

Photo exhibit in California to showcase rarely-seen side of Gaza



“Victory is Us,” a photo by Palestinian photographer Lara Aburamadan, will be on display at Autonomous Gallery starting Friday.

From Page 1 ▶ She told the Vallejo Sun that her art humanizes the people of Gaza and shows their resilience, which counters how she sees the population often depicted in media.

“In the mainstream media everyone focuses on the government of Hamas and Israel, and the rockets. Of course, that’s a reality, but no one talks about the people who live under this,” Aburamadan said. “So, people imagine Gaza is just destruction and people crying. No one imagines that we’re humans who have daily lives, who go out to the sea, laugh, eat, and walk on the streets.”

One of Aburamadan’s photos features children celebrating; another shows a woman staring at the sea. Another photo depicts a man having a beverage in front of a beautiful sunset as he’s being interviewed and recorded. The majority of the images in Aburamadan’s photos and video focus on tranquility.

“Within the frames,” Aburamadan wrote in an artist statement for the exhibit, “serene moments unfold against a backdrop that longs for genuine peace—a rarity in the artist’s hometown.”

Aburamadan’s short film stitches together scores of videos, each less than seven seconds, which she had posted to the social media platform Vine between 2014-2016.

“With each fleeting scene, the artist invites you to witness the warmth and nostalgia that bursts forth from her memory,” Aburamadan wrote in an artist’s statement about the film.

The film features colorful city and sea-scapes, and joyful scenes from daily life like children playing, music performances, people swimming, and a man spinning clay. Some videos depict the aftermath of the 2014 Gaza war, which the Palestinian Health Ministry said killed roughly 2,300 Gazans, by showing rubble from buildings after apparent Israeli attacks. One video shows a child on a tire swing who sways above the rubble.

All the images in “Remains in Memory” are deeply personal, Aburamadan said, largely because she has been unable to return to Gaza since she left in 2016 at age 24. The places she captured are likely no longer there, and the people may not be either. Since Hamas’s attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, Is-

raeli forces have destroyed or damaged over 80% of Gaza’s structures, and killed over 74,000 Gazans, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

“At the time when I was living there, I took as many photos as I could,” Aburamadan said. “It felt as if something within me knew those would be the last photos. It’s alive in my head but when I look online and see that the neighborhoods have been destroyed along with all the houses I had lived in. Everything you see in the show is not the same.”

Aburamadan said she left because of the blockade Israel imposed starting in 2007, which severely restricted the movement of goods to Gaza and its peoples’ right to move, and oppression she faced from Gaza’s Hamas government, which limited what she could document and express as an artist and journalist.

Before she left and crossed the border into Egypt, she took a photo which captures fellow fleeing refugees. It’s called “The Last Morning” and is included in the exhibit. “It’s a very close photo to my heart,” Aburamadan said. “Because it’s the last photo that I took in Gaza.”

Gallery owner Zachary Seth Greer obtained grant funding through the Vallejo Arts Fund to make high-quality framed prints of all eight of Aburamadan’s photos for the show. Each will be available for purchase. The prints are limited editions, with only one print available per photograph.

Greer’s Autonomous Gallery has displayed the Palestinian flag and been vocal about supporting Palestinians since the gallery opened.

“To me, Palestine is essential to all our struggles against colonialism and capitalism,” Greer said. “Hosting an exhibit like this is the least I can do to support their struggle for liberation and sovereignty.”

Aburamadan said she has intense feelings about the show and is glad it’s happening. “To see these photos printed in large sizes, I feel very emotional; I always go back to my memories,” Aburamadan said. “I’m happy to be sharing this because part of my job and responsibility is to share as much as I can about my experience.”

“Passing in Esfand” tells story of Minab school victims

From Page 1 ▶ The idea for the play emerged from Sobhani Minabi’s concern over the victims of the school tragedy and his sense of responsibility toward preserving their stories through theater. The production was subsequently developed as an artistic work for the people of Minab, with Gholamiani and Nasiri among its central figures.

“Passing in Esfand” has been selected for the 20th International Resistance Theater Festival and will compete in the festival’s main competition section. The production is also representing Hormozgan province at the event.

The play will remain on stage until October 10, with the venue accommodating 74 spectators each night.

The play draws particular attention to the story of Makan Nasiri, one of the students killed in the attack on the Shajareh Tayyeb School in Minab and Mahmoud Gholamiani, a 35-year-old Minab resident.

The Minab school tragedy took place on February 28, when a school building in the city was hit during a US-Israeli military strike. The incident resulted in



the deaths of 168 students and other civilians and caused widespread grief in the local community. The tragedy also left families facing the loss of their children and, in Nasiri’s case, continued uncertainty over the return of his remains.

On that day, Gholamiani went into the rubble of the school

following the strike, searching for children and helping rescue those trapped. He managed to save one child but returned to the site to help others. He was killed in a second strike along with some other people.

Through the story of Nasiri, Gholamiani and the other victims, “Passing in Esfand” seeks

to preserve the memory of those affected while placing their experiences within the cultural and social context of Minab. By incorporating local traditions and elements of the region’s cultural life, the production presents the tragedy not only as an event of loss, but also as a story remembered by the community through art and theater.

Mehr Media Group praised by Alexander Shtol for strengthening dialogue between Iran and Russia

TEHRAN – The executive director of the Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest has expressed his appreciation to the Mehr Media Group for their cooperation and support in organizing and covering the exhibition of the contest’s winning entries in Tehran.

In a message to the Mehr Media Group, Alexander Shtol has commended the organization for its partnership in hosting and covering the exhibition of winning works of the contest’s 11th edition in Tehran.

In the message, he praised the professionalism and contribution of the group in strengthening the dialogue between Iran and Russia, Mehr reported.

He has also thanked the Mehr News Agency for its support in holding and covering the exhibition, adding that this collaboration has provided an opportunity for young, talented photographers and photography enthusiasts in Iran and the region to become familiar with this international competition.



Furthermore, he emphasized the readiness of the Rossiya Segodnya media group to expand cooperation with the Mehr Media Group on various projects, stating that the organization welcomes and supports initiatives by the Mehr News Agency in Russia.

The exhibition of the winners and selected works from the 11th edition of the Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest was held from September 14 to September 22 at the House of Photographers Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran, in collaboration with the Mehr Media Group and the Iranian House of Photogra-

phers.

The 11th edition of the contest was held in 2025, featuring entries from young photographers from 40 countries.

The exhibition in Tehran features 30 photographs made by young reporters from Russia, Indonesia, China, Egypt, Brazil, Bahrain, and other countries. The works at the exhibition comprised a collection of visual narratives by young photographers regarding contemporary global events and issues; images that, in the form of photojournalism and documentary photography, captured social and human developments, crises, the environ-

ment, daily life, and other realities of today’s world.

The Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest is an annual event in the field of photojournalism, held with the aim of discovering young talent, supporting professional standards in photojournalism, and promoting the benchmarks of documentary photography in Russia and worldwide.

Andrey Stenin (1980 - 2014) started his career as a text reporting journalist for Rossiyskaya Gazeta in 2003. In 2008, he turned to photojournalism and, from 2009 on, worked as a photo reporter for RIA Novosti. He was an experienced military photojournalist who had worked in Egypt, Syria, Libya, the Gaza Strip, and elsewhere.

He disappeared while covering the War in Donbas. He was confirmed dead on September 3, 2014, having died on August 6, according to the Investigative Committee of Russia. Stenin was awarded Russia’s Order of Courage posthumously.

“Dial M for Murder” goes on screen at Tehran cultural center

TEHRAN- Prominent English director Alfred Hitchcock’s 1954 detective film “Dial M for Murder” went on screen at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Wednesday.

Film critic Amir Qaderi attended a screening of the film followed by a review session.

“Dial M for Murder” is based on English playwright Frederick Knott’s successful stage play of the same name. Starring Ray Milland, Grace Kelly, Robert Cummings, Anthony Dawson and John Williams, the film centers on Tony Wendice, a retired professional tennis player who is married to wealthy socialite Margot.

Tony discovers that Margot has been having an affair with Mark Halliday, an American crime-fiction writer. Fearing that Margot will divorce him and leave him without access to her wealth, Tony secretly devises a plan to have her killed and inherit her fortune.

To carry out the murder, Tony approaches Charles Swann, a former Cambridge University classmate who has a criminal record and makes a living through small-time scams. Tony reveals that he knows about Margot’s affair and tells Swann that he once stole her handbag and found a love letter from Mark. He had used the letter to blackmail Margot anonymously.

Tony then manipulates Swann into agreeing to murder Margot. He secretly obtains Swann’s fingerprints on the blackmail letter and threatens to expose him unless he

carries out the killing. Tony also offers him £1,000.

The plan appears straightforward. Tony and Mark are supposed to attend a party while Margot remains alone at home. Swann is to enter the apartment using Margot’s latchkey, which Tony hides beneath the carpet on the staircase. Tony will telephone the apartment at a predetermined time, and when Margot answers the call, Swann will strangle her. He is then supposed to make the killing look like a burglary gone wrong.

The plan, however, goes disastrously wrong. When Swann attacks Margot, she manages to defend herself and fatally stabs him with a pair of scissors. Tony soon returns home and immediately begins manipulating the evidence to make Margot appear responsible for the murder. He moves the key he believes Margot used into her handbag and places Mark’s letter on Swann’s body. He also destroys evidence linking Swann to the original plan.

When Chief Inspector Hubbard investigates the case, Tony provides a carefully constructed version of events. He suggests that Swann may have entered the apartment after stealing Margot’s handbag and copying her key. Margot’s confused statements further undermine her position, allowing Hubbard to suspect that she killed Swann in retaliation for his blackmail.

Margot is eventually arrested, convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

As her execution approaches, Mark begins to suspect that Tony is responsible for the entire scheme. He confronts Tony and suggests that he confess to paying Swann to kill Margot, arguing that such a confession could save her life.

Hubbard, however, has already begun to uncover inconsistencies in Tony’s story. He notices Tony’s unexplained spending and eventually discovers a large amount of cash in his attaché case. More importantly, the inspector realizes that the key found in Margot’s handbag actually belonged to Swann.

Hubbard concludes that Swann must have returned Margot’s key to its hiding place immediately after entering the apartment, rather than replacing it when he left. He then sets a trap for Tony.

The final sequence provides the film’s decisive revelation. Margot is brought back to the apartment and attempts to unlock the door with the key in her handbag. When it fails, Hubbard’s suspicions about Tony are confirmed. Later, Tony returns to retrieve the handbag and discovers that his own key is missing. He retrieves the hidden key from beneath the staircase carpet and uses it to enter the apartment, unknowingly proving that he is the person who knew exactly where the key had been concealed.

With Hubbard and the police waiting for him, Tony realizes that his elaborate murder scheme has collapsed. He calmly accepts his defeat and congratulates the inspector.