

Trump's White House chaotically turns on itself as Republicans brace for defeat

By staff writer

TEHRAN — A press secretary hired on a Friday and gone the next. An ambassador's ouster announced during her only briefing. Loyalists feuding over money while the chief of staff's family draws scrutiny. With the November 3 midterms less than three weeks away, Donald Trump's White House has stopped hiding its disorder. ► Page 5

Israelis beat Washington Post journalist in military-backed West Bank raids

TEHRAN — The men came down from a hilltop settlement shortly after 8 a.m. on Friday, dressed in black, carrying slingshots and batons. At least one had a gun.

By the time they finished, olive groves around Abu Falah, northeast of Ramallah, were burning, villagers were bleeding, and an American photographer for The Washington Post lay on the ground being kicked.

Heidi Levine wore a helmet and a vest marked "PRESS" front and back. Videos show settlers beating her with bats and sticks as she lay prostrate. "They just kept kicking me and kicking me," she told reporters. ► Page 5

Peace with Israel: A Lebanese illusion?

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN — The occupying Israeli regime continues to wage almost daily aggression against towns and villages in southern Lebanon.

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) fired artillery shells in at least eight areas of southern Lebanon. In the town of Bayada, an IOF tank reportedly shelled Al-Mansouri in Tyre district with several rounds.

IOF aggression was also reported in Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, which the regime has been trying to occupy over the past week. The developments have raised questions about the intentions behind the "framework agreement" signed between the Israeli and Lebanese governments on June 26.

The Lebanese government has also faced criticism for reaching a direct agreement with Tel Aviv while southern Lebanon remains under the regime's occupation forces. ► Page 5

Iran proposes joint tourism packages, measurable targets to boost Chinese arrivals

TEHRAN — Iran has proposed five practical measures to increase Chinese tourist arrivals, including joint travel packages, familiarization tours and direct cooperation between travel agencies, as it seeks to turn long-standing cultural ties with China into tangible tourism business.

The proposals were outlined in a message from Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, read at a specialized meeting on strengthening Iran-China tourism cooperation in Beijing on Friday.

Salehi-Amiri said that Iran eyes China to be become one of its most important tourism partners, stressing that the success of bilateral cooperation would depend on moving beyond discussions to concrete agreements and actual tourist exchanges. ► Page 6



Group photo at the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, Oct. 17, 2026

Either Security Together or Insecurity Together

Iran's FM tells OIC that two years of good-faith talks with the US answered with force have left deep distrust and that no new negotiations are possible without credible assurances

"Security cannot be restored by more of the same. One cannot bomb a country, threaten its annihilation and impose a blockade, and then expect the security of navigation return to normal."

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi told the 52nd Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Baghdad that lasting security in the region is indivisible: either states build security together, or they will endure insecurity together.

Speaking on Saturday at the OIC ministerial meeting hosted by Iraq under the theme "Dialogue and solidarity, two fundamental pillars for promoting peace and sustainable development," Araghchi laid out Iran's position on the ongoing war in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, Palestine and Yemen.

Araghchi arrived in Baghdad to attend the 52nd session, and was welcomed at the airport by Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister. Upon arrival at Baghdad International Airport, he paid tribute at the memorial of resistance commanders Lieutenant General Qassem

Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

He opened his address by thanking the Government and people of Iraq, "our neighbor and brother," for hosting the meeting, congratulating Secretary-General Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed on his appointment, and thanking Türkiye for its successful chairmanship of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

The OIC was founded to give the Islamic Ummah a common voice, he said, recalling that its Charter, like the UN Charter, rests on sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-interference, peaceful settlement of disputes and refraining from threat

or use of force. Those principles, he stressed, "belong to no single country or group of countries. They protect all of us, and when they are applied selectively, they lose their value."

Aggression instead of diplomacy

Araghchi said Iran has remained steadfast in its commitment to international law, the UN Charter and diplomacy over the past two years, while "the United States chose the opposite path: aggression, threats, assassination and economic warfare, with a blatant disregard for international law."

About 5,000 Iranians have been martyred, including hundreds of women and children, he said. He accused the United States and the Israeli regime of assassinating Iran's Supreme Leader and other senior political and military officials, calling it a grave violation of international law. ► Page 3

Iran's missile capabilities have changed the equation, caretaker defense minister warns US

TEHRAN— Iran's caretaker Defense Minister, Brigadier General Majid Ebn al-Reza, has responded to US President Donald Trump's threats against Iran, warning that any renewed military action would carry consequences for Washington's international standing, economy and domestic political calculations. ► Page 2

Ceasefire must cover all fronts to end regional war, says diplomat

TEHRAN— Iran has stressed that ending hostilities on all fronts is essential to achieving lasting peace in West Asia, warning that continued fighting in any part of the region would mean the war remains unresolved.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh made the remarks in an interview with Lebanon's Al Mayadeen television network on Friday, emphasizing that an end to Israel's war on Lebanon was integral to broader efforts to bring the regional conflict to a close.

Khatibzadeh, who arrived in Beirut on Wednesday for talks with Lebanese officials, said Iran remained committed to ending Israeli military aggression against Lebanon and had pursued that objective within the framework of the memorandum of understanding reached between Iran and the United States in Islamabad in mid-June. ► Page 2

Economy minister stresses accelerating finalization of projects supported by Islamic Development Bank

TEHRAN— The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance emphasized the necessity of accelerating the finalization of approved projects, removing implementation obstacles, and using the Islamic Development Bank's financing capacities to complete the country's priority projects.

Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group in Bangkok, in a meeting with Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, President of the Islamic Development Bank, added: "In this meeting, we exchanged views on the implementation process of projects supported by this bank and ways to strengthen financial and development cooperation." ► Page 4

War on Iran has cost EU more than \$112 billion, Spanish PM Sánchez says

TEHRAN— Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has warned that the war against Iran has cost Europeans more than €100 billion (\$112 billion), arguing that ordinary citizens are paying the price for a conflict they opposed.

In a post on X on Friday, Sánchez said those who had spoken out against the war had been right to warn of its consequences.

"Those of us who raised our voices against the war were right when we said NO to war," he wrote. "We knew ordinary people would end up paying the bill."

"Now, it's time to put an end to this disaster," Sánchez said.

His remarks underscore mounting concerns in Europe over the economic fallout of the war, particularly its effects on energy costs, household budgets and business competitiveness. ► Page 2



Leader congratulates U23 Greco-Roman team on world title

TEHRAN — Ayatollah Seyed Mojtaba Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, congratulated Iran's U23 Greco-Roman wrestling team on winning the World Championship title in the United States.

In a message issued Oct. 17, he extended congratulations to the pride-inspiring champions, their hard-working coaches and the entire Iranian nation, saying the shining of youth, hoisting of Iran's flag and echo of the national anthem reflect radiant hopes paving the way toward a bright and magnificent future.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

A deadlock with no easy solution

Sazandegi examined Saudi Arabia's security imbalance with the United States following the Iran- US conflict and renewed Ansarallah attacks. The war against Iran and the resumption of Ansarallah operations have disrupted the previous balance. At the same time that Iran has increased pressure on shipping near the Strait of Hormuz, the Ansarallah have resumed attacks on Saudi military and civilian infrastructure. This simultaneous escalation has intensified pressure on regional security and challenged the United States' ability to protect its allies. Saudi Arabia now faces two difficult options: continuing diplomatic efforts without any guarantee that attacks will cease, or escalating military confrontation at the risk of a broader regional war and further depletion of defensive resources. Saudi officials appear to have little confidence in finding a practical path to peace with the Ansarallah and have increasingly linked the outcome of the conflict to the result of the war involving Iran. Even so, a larger-scale American intervention would not necessarily guarantee the restoration of security.

Iran: Is the US seeking military action?

The Iran newspaper interviewed Jahanbakhsh Izadi, a professor of international relations, about the possibility of a renewed US military attack against Iran. According to him, political logic suggests that Trump would prefer reaching an agreement with Tehran before the US midterm elections. From Washington's perspective, such an agreement would need to produce significant achievements, while for Iran it would amount to surrender. However, US policymakers have reached certain conclusions regarding Iran and have defined clear objectives. The United States believes Iran must be placed in a position where it either accepts American conditions through an agreement or is compelled through military conflict. The United States has never completely closed the door to diplomacy and negotiations. Nevertheless, under current conditions, American policymakers view the cost of a negotiated agreement as relatively high.

Sobh-e-No: Iran must think beyond regional equations

Sobh-e-No discussed Iran's foreign policy outlook on regional developments in an interview with Vahid Karimi, a former Iranian diplomat in the United Kingdom. He argued that one issue often overlooked in Iran is the need for a broader worldview in international relations. Iran tends to view political developments primarily through a regional lens, but such an approach is insufficient for a country with Iran's stature and capabilities. Iran must also consider the roles of major powers such as China and Russia in

its calculations. Karimi pointed to examples of interaction between Putin and Trump on certain regional crises and noted that the Chinese president, during a meeting with Trump, stressed the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and opposed imposing transit charges on it. He added these developments demonstrate that major powers continue to discuss strategic issues and shared interests even when they have disagreements. If major powers are actively managing their relationships and regional crises, Iran must understand how their decisions could affect the country's interests and future, the former diplomat pointed out.

Arman-e-Melli: Iran's continued dominance over the Strait of Hormuz

Arman-e-Melli analyzed why Trump appears to attach less importance to the Strait of Hormuz. Public statements and field activities related to this strategic waterway had recently declined, partly because of Trump's remarks. The US president and his political-security team have attempted to create the impression in American and international media that the Strait of Hormuz is no longer a major concern for them and that they are not focused on it. Washington seeks to convey to the world that it, rather than Iran, is effectively managing the Strait and maintaining control over this sensitive passage. US officials have reportedly highlighted potential oil and gas agreements with Moscow, presenting these issues together in an effort to diminish the perceived importance of the Strait of Hormuz.

Jam-e-Jam: The strength of Iran on the diplomatic and military fronts

In an article, Jam-e-Jam highlighted Iran's power on both the diplomatic and military fronts. Iran is currently pursuing its strategy on two parallel tracks. The first is the front of resistance and military confrontation. Iran seeks to impose its conditions, which it describes as reflecting the legitimate rights of the Iranian nation, by relying on its military capabilities. According to the article, Iran currently manages the Strait of Hormuz with confidence and determination and has shown no willingness to retreat in the face of threats or military maneuvers by its adversaries. At the same time, Iranian officials have emphasized that there will be no retreat from the country's stated conditions, even by the slightest degree, in the diplomatic arena. The article argues that displays of force, threats, and psychological warfare will not benefit Iran's opponents. It concludes that Iran's adversaries must recognize that both the Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic possess sufficient resolve and resilience that they will neither back down nor abandon their national interests.

Lavrov to visit Tehran on Monday for talks with Araghchi



TEHRAN — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit Tehran on Monday for talks with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova has announced.

Speaking at a press conference on Friday, Zakharova said the talks would cover a broad range of international and regional issues, with particular attention to developments surrounding Iran and Moscow's efforts to help ease tensions.

She said the current tensions affecting Russia's friendly countries in West Asia stem

from actions by the United States and Israel.

Zakharova added that the meeting would focus on implementing agreements reached during recent high-level contacts between Iranian and Russian officials, as well as identifying practical steps to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

The talks will also address the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement between Tehran and Moscow, which provides a framework for expanding cooperation between the two countries across a range of fields.

Iran's missile capabilities have changed the equation, caretaker defense minister warns US

From page 1 ▶ In a post on X, Ebn al-Reza dismissed speculation about the possible use of the US military's most powerful conventional bomb against Iran, stressing that the size and name of a weapon would not determine the outcome of a confrontation.

"The names and dimensions of bombs do not matter!" he wrote.

"Your bombs will explode somewhere else: in your global standing, the US economy, and even your electoral calculations!" he added.

The Iranian general said the country's missile capabilities had fundamentally altered the strategic equation, telling US officials that Washington would have to adjust to a new reality.

"It is our missile power that has changed the equations and brought you to the point where, from now on, you must say: 'Yes,



sir!'" he wrote.

Ebn al-Reza's remarks came amid reports that the US military had considered additional strike options involving the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB), commonly known as the "Mother of All Bombs." The weapon is one of the largest conventional bombs in the US arsenal.

Reports have raised the possibility of further attacks on Iranian infrastructure and nuclear-related facilities should Trump order a resumption of military operations. However, the existence of military options does not necessarily mean that a decision to carry them out has been made.

The deliberations have also

renewed questions about the military and economic consequences of escalating the conflict, including whether additional bombing could achieve Washington's objectives without triggering wider regional repercussions.

Iran's defense chief framed the country's missile capabilities as a central factor in the strategic calculations facing the United States. His message was that the destructive power of individual weapons cannot, on its own, determine the outcome of a conflict.

The warning also extended beyond the battlefield. By highlighting the potential effects on the US economy, international standing, and electoral calculations, Ebn al-Reza pointed to the wider costs that a renewed confrontation could impose on Washington.

Ceasefire must cover all fronts to end regional war, says diplomat

From page 1 ▶ He described Lebanon as one of the key issues discussed in Iran's engagements with Washington, adding that his visit was intended, in part, to help bring the two sides closer together.

During his stay in Beirut, Khatibzadeh held what he described as positive talks with senior Lebanese officials, including Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, and representatives of the Foreign Ministry.

Iran calls for an end to hostilities across the region

The Iranian deputy foreign minister stressed that Israel must end its military campaign in Lebanon and across the Levant, arguing that developments on the different regional fronts are closely interconnected.

"One of Iran's conditions is an end to all wars," he said, explaining that continued hostilities on any single front would effectively mean the continuation of the broader regional war.

Khatibzadeh said Iran had therefore remained committed to ending the conflict in Lebanon, describing the effort as part of a wider approach to stopping the war throughout the region.

His remarks underscored Tehran's position that a ceasefire limited to one theater of conflict would not be sufficient to establish lasting regional stability if military operations continued elsewhere.

The Iranian diplomat accused Washington and Tel Aviv of violating the Islamabad understanding through their attacks on Iran and Lebanon. He also said US efforts to secure a ceasefire and end Israel's war on Leb-

anon had reached an impasse.

Khatibzadeh questioned Israel's willingness to honor its commitments, arguing that Washington bore responsibility for restraining its regional ally and ensuring that any agreed arrangements were respected.

Tehran rejects US war aims

Addressing the war against Iran, Khatibzadeh described the US military campaign as illegal under international law and said Washington had failed to eliminate Iran's air-defense systems and deterrence capabilities.

He said Iran had resisted an existential war and would continue to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He also reiterated Iran's readiness to address concerns raised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United States regarding its peaceful nuclear activities.

Khatibzadeh pointed to more than 15 IAEA reports that, according to him, confirmed Iran's compliance with its commitments. He presented this record as evidence that concerns over Iran's nuclear program could be addressed through engagement rather than military confrontation.

Khatibzadeh also said Iran had proposed reopening the Strait of Hormuz within seven days, signaling Tehran's readiness to pursue a diplomatic solution to tensions surrounding one of the world's most strategically important maritime routes.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister stressed that Tehran did not seek war but would resist any conflict imposed on the country.

War on Iran has cost EU more than \$112 billion, Spanish PM Sánchez says

From page 1 ▶ European citizens face the economic fallout

The €100 billion figure cited by Sánchez highlights the scale of the economic burden that the conflict has placed on Europe. Higher energy costs can feed through to transport, manufacturing, food prices and household expenditure, placing additional pressure on governments already grappling with economic challenges.

The economic repercussions raise a broader question for European governments: how can they protect their populations from the consequences of a conflict while addressing the extent to which their own military infrastructure has supported US operations?

British base used by US bombers in strikes on Iran

The debate has gained a further dimension following reports by major Western media outlets that US long-range bombers operating from RAF Fairford in England were used in strikes against Iran.

The Washington Post reported on October 6 that the Pen-

tagon abruptly moved approximately a dozen B-1 bombers out of the British base amid concerns about a possible attack on the aircraft and personnel. The newspaper noted that the aircraft had recently been used in bombing missions against Iran.

Reuters also reported on October 5 that US President Donald Trump had linked the bombers' withdrawal to a security threat. The aircraft were subsequently returned to their home bases in the United States.

The episode highlights the strategic importance of European military facilities to Washington's ability to deploy and sustain long-range air operations. It also brings into focus the role of host countries in determining whether their territory and infrastructure can be used in military action against another state.

Britain had authorized the United States to use RAF Fairford for what its government described as specific and limited defensive strikes against Iranian missile sites, according to reporting by The Washington Post. Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the decision.



The distinction between the stated scope of the authorization and the broader military consequences of providing a launch platform for attacks on Iran is central to the debate over European responsibility.

A divide between opposition to war and military cooperation

Sánchez's remarks reflect the position of a European leader who has publicly opposed the war and emphasized its cost to ordinary people. The use of British territory for US bombing operations, meanwhile, illustrates that European responses to the conflict have not been uniform.

This distinction matters be-

cause opposition to a war's economic consequences is not the same as withholding military assistance that could facilitate it. Where governments permit foreign forces to use their territory for attacks, their decisions become part of the wider strategic context of the conflict.

For Iran, the issue also raises questions about the obligations of states not to allow their territory to be used in ways that facilitate unlawful uses of force.

The financial consequences identified by Sánchez and the military role of facilities such as RAF Fairford therefore point to two interconnected dimensions of the war: the costs borne by European societies and the contribution that some European infrastructure has made to US operations.

As European households and businesses contend with the economic fallout, Sánchez's call to end the conflict places renewed emphasis on the need for a political settlement that prevents further destruction and limits the war's wider regional and international consequences.

Either security together or insecurity together

Iran’s FM tells OIC that two years of good-faith talks with the US answered with force have left deep distrust and that no new negotiations are possible without credible assurances



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held talks on Saturday with his Turkish, Egyptian, and Libyan counterparts – Hakan Fidan (L), Badr Abdelatty (M), and Taher al-Baour (R) respectively – on the sidelines of the OIC foreign ministerial meeting in Baghdad.

From Page 1 ▶ Citing documented cases, he listed the killing of more than 160 students and teachers in Minab, the cluster-munition attack on Lamerd stadium, the bombing of a desalination unit in Qeshm and the attack on a wedding ceremony in Kuhestak in Sirik. The U.S. and Israel, he said, “cannot whitewash these crimes by reversing the roles of victim and aggressor.”

He thanked those member states that expressed solidarity with the Iranian people and called on the Organization as a whole “to stand firmly against attacks on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its founding member.”

Iran, he added, defended its people, sovereignty and legitimate interests and will continue to do so by any means. “We never attacked our neighbors, but we did attack and destroyed the U.S. military bases and military installations, which are unfortunately located in our neighborhood.”

There is no contradiction between defending rights and pursuing peace, he said: “We know the cost of war, and that is precisely why we value peace. Iran asks for no special treatment, only the equal application of rights and responsibilities to all.”

“This issue will not be resolved on the battlefield. Peace cannot be built through threats of annihilation,” he added.

Hormuz open until Feb. 28, reopenable in seven days

On the Strait of Hormuz, Araghchi reaffirmed Iran’s commitment to safe and secure navigation in the waterway vital to the energy and trade of many OIC members.

“Until 28 February 2026, the Strait was open. The insecurity and disruption of maritime navigation since then are the direct result of the aggressive actions of the United States and the Israeli regime, and of the blockade and coercive measures imposed by the United States,” he said.

“Security cannot be restored by more of the same. One cannot bomb a country, threaten its annihilation and impose a blockade, and then expect the security of navigation return to normal.”

He revealed that diplomacy was in fact working. Through the good offices of Pakistan, with the support of Qatar, Iran and the United States signed the Islamabad MoU on June 17. Under paragraph 5, Iran undertook to facilitate safe movement of vessels and immediately began technical discussions with the Sultanate of Oman. Within two weeks, he said, maritime traffic had recovered to ap-

proximately 60 percent of its pre-war level.

Subsequent unilateral U.S. measures and military action blocked implementation and bypassed the dispute-resolution mechanisms it envisaged, Araghchi said.

Over two years, Iran negotiated in good faith and repeatedly was met with military action rather than diplomacy, creating deep distrust about renewed talks without credible assurances, he said.

“Even so, Iran has kept the door open. Through Qatar, we have conveyed a concrete seven-day plan: if the necessary conditions are met, the Strait can be reopened and normal maritime passage restored within seven days. The choice now rests with the United States,” Araghchi told the ministers.

Palestine and Yemen

Araghchi called Palestine the central cause of the Islamic world. “We cannot speak of peace while ignoring it,” he said, describing Gaza as a victim of genocide and a symbol of the failure of international mechanisms to protect civilians.

Dozens of resolutions have not ended occupation and violence, he said, urging the OIC to make ending the killing and blockade and protecting civilians a shared priority backed by practical and coordinated action. He endorsed the proposal by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan to designate a Gaza Genocide Memorial Day.

On Yemen, he said the people have endured almost a decade of devastating conflict, prolonged blockade and restrictions on civilian infrastructure, with undeniable U.S. and Israeli roles. Iran supports the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of both Yemen and Saudi Arabia, he said, and backs a peaceful, inclusive and comprehensive political process as the only sustainable solution.

“There is no military solution,” he said. “Sustainable peace cannot be achieved through military escalation or coercion.”

Iran, he added, is deeply concerned by developments in the Arabian Peninsula and remains ready to assist dialogue between the parties on the basis of the peace roadmap they previously agreed. The people of Yemen have the right to live with dignity, free from pressure, sanctions and blockade.

Build security together

Closing his speech, Araghchi delivered his central message to the Islamic world in a direct appeal:

“No state can build lasting security at the expense of the security of others. We believe

the problems of our region are best resolved within the region, by its own states, before they become a pretext for the wars of distant powers. In that spirit, we believe the territory, airspace and infrastructure of every regional state should be used only to serve regional security and never become a platform for staging attacks on a neighbor. We say this in a spirit of brotherhood and good-neighborliness. Our peoples share one region and one future, and the choice before us is a simple one: either we build security together, or we will endure insecurity together. Iran stands ready to work with all its brothers and neighbors toward the former.”

“Iran does not accept coercion, threats or intimidation, and will not surrender its sovereign rights under pressure. But we remain ready for dialogue based on mutual respect and credible guarantees,” he concluded.

On the margins of the Baghdad session, Araghchi held a series of bilateral meetings to explain Tehran’s positions on Hormuz, Palestine and the Arabian Peninsula.

U.S. broke its word two weeks after Islamabad MoU

In his meeting on Saturday morning with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and regional and international developments.

Araghchi, recalling the founding philosophy of the OIC, described Palestine as still the most important issue of the Islamic world, and stressing the genocide and crimes in occupied Palestine, underlined the need for urgent and joint action by the Islamic Ummah to end occupation and genocide and end the impunity of the Zionist regime.

On the region, he said the insecurity in the Strait of Hormuz is the direct result of the aggressive actions of the United States and the Israeli regime that began on Feb. 28 and have continued in various forms.

Emphasizing Iran’s commitment to diplomacy and peace, he noted that the Islamic Republic has always responsibly adhered to diplomacy to reduce tensions, but the American side has repeatedly broken its promises, and in the latest case violated its commitment only two weeks after signing the agreement on ending the war.

He also briefed his Egyptian counterpart on the latest diplomatic consultations through mediators.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Pezeshkian: Iran’s missile, defense capabilities built on foundations laid by schools, universities

TEHRAN — President Masoud Pezeshkian has underscored the contribution of Iran’s schools and universities to the country’s defense and missile capabilities, saying investment in education and younger generations is essential to strengthening national security and safeguarding the country against external threats.

Speaking on Saturday at a ceremony inaugurating a series of educational projects, Pezeshkian described education as a foundation of Iran’s scientific and technological progress.

“If we are capable of defending our country today, building missiles and standing against threats, it is because our education system and universities have played a role in this path and laid the groundwork for such capabilities,” he said.

The president stressed that

strengthening Iran’s ability to deter potential aggression requires continued efforts to develop the country’s scientific, educational and technological capacities.

Although positive steps have been taken to protect Iran’s territory from threats, he said, more work remains to ensure that adversaries cannot threaten the country’s security.

Pezeshkian emphasized that young people are central to achieving this objective, adding that their potential can be realized only if adequate investment provides them with opportunities to learn, innovate and contribute to national development.

During the ceremony, the president also paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the Islamic Revolution, particularly student martyrs and the victims of the Shajareh Tayyeb elementary

school attack in Minab, southern Iran.

The school was struck on February 28, the first day of the US-Israeli war against Iran, killing at least 168 people, including 157 schoolchildren, as well as teachers, parents, and other members of the school community, according to Iranian authorities.

The attack on the school has become a symbol of the civilian toll of the war and the vulnerability of children and educational institutions during armed conflict.

Pezeshkian’s tribute placed the loss of the Minab students alongside the broader sacrifices made by generations of Iranians, while reinforcing the importance of protecting education and ensuring that young people have the opportunity to shape the

country’s future.

The president’s remarks highlighted the connection between education, scientific advancement and national defense, presenting investment in young people not merely as a social priority but also as a long-term contribution to Iran’s security and technological independence.

His message was that the scientific and technical capabilities required to defend the country are built over years through schools, universities, and the development of skilled generations.

By calling for greater opportunities for young people, Pezeshkian stressed that sustaining these capabilities requires continued investment in education and the people who drive scientific progress.

Iran calls on UNSC to hold Israel accountable

TEHRAN— Iran has called on the United Nations Security Council to take decisive action to compel Israel to fulfill its obligations under international law, end its military aggression across West Asia, and face accountability for serious violations of international law.

Gholamhossein Darzi, Iran’s ambassador and chargé d’affaires to the United Nations in New York, made the appeal on Friday during the Security Council’s open debate on the situation in the Middle East, warning that Israel’s continued aggression, occupation, and destabilizing activities pose a grave threat to regional and international peace and security.

Darzi said the Israeli regime had repeatedly demonstrated disregard for international law and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, while continuing its military operations and violations despite the announcement of a ceasefire in Gaza.

He pointed to Israel’s actions in the Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria, as well as the two wars launched against Iran by Israel and the United States over the past year, as evidence of the urgent need for international accountability.

“The Security Council must act decisively to address the root causes of this tragedy, end impunity, compel Israel to fully comply with its obligations under international law and relevant UN resolutions, and bring an end to the decades-long injustice inflicted upon the Palestinian people,” Darzi said.

Gaza and Palestine at the center of the crisis

Addressing the humanitarian and political situation in Palestine, Darzi said Gaza remained devastated and subject to continued military attacks, leaving its population to endure immense suffering despite the announced ceasefire.

He also condemned Israel’s continued settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, escalating settler violence, and measures aimed at annexing Palestinian land and displacing its inhabitants.

Darzi stressed that an immediate and permanent end to Israeli aggression was essential, alongside the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces from Gaza, the safe and unhindered delivery of sustained humanitarian assistance, and full protection for civilians and humanitarian personnel.

He further emphasized that any political or administrative arrangements for Gaza must respect the inherent rights of Palestinians rather than subordinate them to security conditions imposed from outside.

The Iranian envoy reaffirmed the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent, sovereign, and viable Palestinian state, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital and full membership in the United Nations.

He argued that no sustainable solution could be achieved while occupation, settlement expansion, forced displacement, and violations of Palestinian rights continued.

Iran urges an end to Israeli aggression across West Asia

Darzi called on Israel to halt its continued violations of Lebanon’s sovereignty and terri-

torial integrity, withdraw fully from Lebanese territory, and comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

He also urged Israel to end its military incursions and attacks on Syrian territory, withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan and other occupied areas, and respect Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Iranian envoy framed these issues as part of a broader pattern of military aggression and violations of international law, arguing that the Security Council must address the underlying causes of regional instability rather than rely on selective condemnation.

Accountability for international crimes

Darzi described accountability for serious violations of international law, particularly international humanitarian law, as both an indispensable requirement and a legal imperative.

He said that over the past three years, Israel had committed grave international crimes against the peoples of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.

He also accused Israel and the United States of waging two unjustified wars of aggression against Iran in violation of the UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law.

According to Darzi, the two countries had deliberately targeted civilians and critical infrastructure, crossing fundamental legal and humanitarian boundaries.

He stressed that those responsible for such acts, as well as those who enable, support, or facilitate them, must be held fully accountable under international law.

Darzi warned that politically motivated conditions and selective condemnation must not be allowed to undermine the consistent, impartial, and unequivocal enforcement of international law.

Iran rejects allegations over the Strait of Hormuz

In the closing section of his address, Darzi rejected ‘baseless and politically motivated allegations’ directed against Iran by some speakers, including certain members of the Security Council.

He said such accusations distorted the facts, overlooked the root causes of the current crisis, and sought to reverse the roles of aggressor and victim.

Turning to the situation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf, Darzi said the current tensions were a direct consequence of the US-Israeli war against Iran, which began on February 28, 2026, and subsequent US actions, including ‘an unlawful maritime blockade.’

He reiterated that Iran remained committed to safe and secure navigation and had exercised its inherent right of self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity, population, and vital interests.

Concluding his remarks, Darzi said the restoration of normal and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz required an immediate and permanent end to US aggression, credible guarantees against its recurrence, respect for Iran’s sovereign rights, and the complete lifting of the maritime blockade and all other unlawful coercive measures.

Second supertanker strikes sea mine in Strait of Hormuz: IRGC Navy

TEHRAN— A second supertanker carrying more than 2 million barrels of crude oil caught fire after striking a sea mine in the Strait of Hormuz, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy announced, reporting a second such incident within 24 hours.

In a statement, the IRGC Navy said the vessel had attempted to navigate an unauthorized route after switching off its positioning and radar systems.

According to the statement, the ship had been misled by the “aggressor US military” into attempting the unauthorized passage. It subsequently struck a sea mine, triggering a powerful explosion in the engine room and bringing the vessel to a halt.

The announcement followed an earlier report by the IRGC Navy of a similar incident on Friday evening involving another supertanker carrying more than 2 million barrels of crude oil. The force said that the vessel had also disabled its posi-



tioning and radar systems while attempting to transit the strait via an unauthorized route.

The IRGC Navy reiterated that the Strait of Hormuz was closed and warned vessels against violating Iran’s regulations governing passage through the strategic waterway.

It cautioned that ships disregarding the restrictions would “burn in the fire of trust in the US terrorist army.”

Iranian, Algerian central banks governors discuss enhancing economic cooperation



TEHRAN- The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran met and held talks with Mohand Bouri, Governor of the Central Bank of Algeria, on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At the meeting, the two sides discussed and exchanged views on the latest status of monetary, banking, and trade relations between the two countries. Enhancing the level of joint economic cooperation and utilizing mutual capacities to strengthen bilateral trade interactions were among the most important themes of the meeting.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, referring to the historical and political commonalities between Iran and Algeria, emphasized the serious determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran to develop and consolidate economic relations with friendly and brotherly countries.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Algeria, while expressing satisfaction with the meeting, emphasized his country's readiness to expand economic and banking cooperation with Iran and the need to follow up on mutual agreements in line with the interests of the two nations.

In late December, Saeed Zare' Haghighi, the head of Iran Trade Center in Algeria, said that Algeria's infrastructure needs offer significant opportunities for exporting technical and engineering services, making the North African country a largely untapped economic market.

Tehran seeks rail link to Afghanistan via Uzbekistan as Iran-Kazakhstan freight grows

TEHRAN- The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, on the sidelines of the two-day summit of ministers from Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states in Kazakhstan, announced a review of obstacles to Iran-Kazakhstan rail cooperation and the issue of connecting Iran's rail network to Afghanistan via Uzbekistan.

Jabbar-Ali Zakeri, at the two-day ECO ministers' summit in Kazakhstan, referred to the development of rail infrastructure and the increase in regional transit capacity and emphasized the need to expand transport cooperation among regional countries.

The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, referring to the annual holding of the "New Silk Road" conference by Kazakhstan Railways and the country's Ministry of Transport, described the main goal of the event as developing transport in the region and strengthening international corridors.

Zakeri, referring to the opening last year of the Dostyk route, the second border crossing between Kazakhstan and China, said: "Rail-laying operations are underway on the continuation of this route over a length of 150 kilometers, and the project is expected to become operational next year. This measure can increase the capacity of the East-West corridor."

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development, stating that Kazakhstan's rail transit, despite existing restrictions in Russia's and Belarus's communications with Europe, has grown by 20 percent to about 30 million tons, described this trend as a sign of the high capacity of rail transport in the region

He said Africa — and Algeria in particular — should be seen as a strategic destination for the private sector, noting that limited numbers of commercial counsellors made targeted entry into new markets essential.

He described Algeria as a geopolitically secure country with a strategic location close to Europe, adding that after the decline in Russian energy exports, about 20 percent of Europe's oil and gas is now supplied by Algeria.

Zare' Haghighi said Algeria's foreign currency revenues had risen from around \$50 billion to more than \$300 billion in recent years, generating a trade surplus of \$20 billion to \$30 billion and creating broad scope for economic cooperation.

He pointed to strong demand in Algeria for technical and engineering services, infrastructure projects, and the construction of silos and storage facilities linked to food security, saying Iranian companies had the technical know-how and experience to meet these needs.

He also highlighted Algeria's industrial and mining potential, including steel and phosphate, and said the trade center was ready to identify opportunities, guide exporters and promote participation in specialized exhibitions, drawing on models used by countries such as Turkey that combine trade with on-the-ground investment.

He also cited the digitalization of processes and the elimination of paper documents in exchanges between executive bodies as among Kazakhstan Railways' important measures, explaining: "This transformation has reduced the time for wagons to cross the border to about 30 minutes."

According to him, the move by member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) toward using an integrated digital system can bring about facilitation of rail transport and regional trade.

Zakeri, emphasizing the importance of Iran's use of these capacities, expressed hope that, given Iran's border and transport connections with regional countries, the ground would be prepared for using integrated digital systems as well.

The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways further recalled the long-standing rail relations between Iran and Kazakhstan and announced a noticeable increase in freight movement capacity between the two countries.

He added: "Obstacles and problems in bilateral cooperation, the development of the rail network, border connections, and especially the establishment of a rail link between Iran and Afghanistan via Uzbekistan were reviewed at this meeting."

Zakeri expressed hope that part of the agreements and decisions made at this summit would enter the implementation phase by next year and provide the ground for strengthening rail cooperation and developing regional transit.

Economy minister stresses accelerating finalization of projects supported by Islamic Development Bank

From Page 1 ► The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance stated: "Following up on approved projects and removing obstacles to their implementation, especially in the environmental, urban wastewater, and educational infrastructure development sectors, were among the main axes of these negotiations."

According to the report, the issue of extending the credit validity and re-approving some priority projects whose assessment stages had already been carried out was examined, and both sides emphasized the need to pursue the use of the remaining projected credits to complete projects under implementation.

Strengthening banking coordination, finalizing payments related to installments, and facilitating the repayment process of financial obligations were among other issues raised at this meeting; issues whose follow-up can help prevent interruptions in project implementation and ensure the continuation of joint cooperation.

In this meeting, emphasis was placed on continuing expert consultations, removing existing obstacles, and focusing on completing semi-finished projects with the aim of making more effective use of cooperation capacities with the Islamic Development Bank.

In mid-June, the Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, as the alternate member of the Board of Executive Directors of the Islamic Development Bank, met and held talks with Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, the



President of the Islamic Development Bank.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Board of Executive Directors of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Mehdi Heydari, Head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran in this meeting, while once again congratulating Mr. Al-Jasser on his election and appointment as President of the Islamic Development Bank, emphasized the continued support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Bank and declared his country's expectations from the Islamic Development Bank to maintain and enhance interactions with Iran as a major shareholder.

Appreciating the Islamic Development Bank for its cooperation in financing the country's projects, he pointed to the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Bank and its economic capacities for implementing various projects, and added that removing existing obstacles and challenges for advancing and

increasing financial cooperation between the two sides is on the agenda as one of the main programs of the Investment Organization.

Heydari announced: A specific plan has been initiated to resolve financial issues between the two sides. Currently, part of the commitments has been fulfilled, and other commitments will be implemented within a short period of time.

He emphasized: In order to accelerate processes, it is necessary, within the framework of coordinated joint action, while fulfilling existing commitments, to also define a joint program for financing the introduced and finalized projects of our country.

In this meeting, a list of priority projects was presented to the President of the Islamic Development Bank, and the issue of capacity building and training, as well as holding bilateral or multilateral workshops focused on the Islamic Development Bank, was also emphasized.

Mohammed Al-Jasser, while welcoming the presence of the Iranian delegation at the meeting, emphasized that the Islam-

ic Republic of Iran is one of the major shareholders and reliable partners of the Islamic Development Bank, and in the new circumstances that have emerged, suitable capacity and opportunity will be provided for further cooperation.

He added: The role and position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region is important, and the implementation of development projects in this country will not only help its economy but will also boost the regional economy and further progress of neighboring countries.

The President of the Islamic Development Bank, referring to the issues, requests, and proposals raised, expressed hope that we will soon witness the further expansion of cooperation between the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The 51st Annual Meeting of the Board of Executive Directors of the Islamic Development Bank, under the slogan "Regional Convergence for Sustainable Prosperity," was held from June 16 to 19, 2026 in Baku.

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is a multilateral development bank established in 1974 and headquartered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. It began operations in October 1975 with a mandate to foster economic development and social progress in its member countries and Muslim communities worldwide, in accordance with the principles of Shariah (Islamic law). The Bank has 57 member countries across the West Asia, Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America, with membership open to states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Tehran, Astana eye expanded Caspian, rail cooperation

TEHRAN- The transport ministers of Iran and Kazakhstan, while emphasizing the development of transport routes and the use of Caspian Sea capacities, stressed the expansion of trade exchanges and the drafting of a comprehensive document on logistics and infrastructure cooperation between the two countries.

Farzaneh Sadegh, in Kazakhstan, met with Nurlan Sauranbayev, the country's Minister of Transport. While appreciating the holding of regional transport events and their proper hosting in Astana, she referred to the roadmap for the eastern route of the North-South Corridor, developed with the participation of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan, and described the follow-up of the implementation of agreements and the removal of existing obstacles as among the priorities of cooperation between the two countries.

Activating the eastern branch of the North-South Corridor, increasing transit capacity, connecting Chabahar Port to the rail network, and developing the China-Kazakhstan-Iran-Europe corridor were among the proposals of the Minister of Transport and Urban Development for expanding transit cooperation.

She said: "The roadmap for bilateral cooperation, with emphasis on Iran's proposed corridors, has been drafted and sent to you, and I hope the ground for signing it will be provided at the earliest opportunity so that it can be implemented more quickly."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, at the meeting attended by Zakeri, Head of Iran Railways, and Akbari, Head of the Road Transport Organization, stated that land and rail transport are of great importance to us in the current conditions, and called for the implementation of the revised protocol on international carriage of goods and passengers.

Sadegh, stating that at the Trans-Afghan meeting she had referred to the imminent launch of the Chabahar-Zahedan railway and that she was inviting him there to the inauguration of this railway, said: "The connection of Chabahar to Zahedan and Sarakhs is highly effective for access to Afghanistan and the northern Caspian countries. This railway is a new transit and logistics opportunity for the region."

She also, while emphasizing the advantages of the Iranian route for Kazakhstan's access to global markets, described the transport cooperation between the two countries as a basis for common economic interests.

Agreement on a comprehensive transport cooperation document

According to this report, at the meeting, both sides emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation in all modes of transport and to draft a comprehensive transport cooperation document; a proposal that was welcomed by the Kazakh Minister of Transport.

Nurlan Sauranbayev, Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport, also welcomed the constructive proposals of Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development, emphasized his country's determination to develop transport relations with Iran, and said: "The cooperation roadmap proposed by Iran is being finalized."

The Kazakh Minister of Transport welcomed the invitation of his Iranian counterpart to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Chabahar-Zahedan railway and, while emphasizing the development of trade routes and diversification of rail and road transport networks, stressed the pursuit of upgrading trade exchanges and holding bilateral and multilateral meetings with the participation of regional countries to strengthen logistics connectivity on routes leading to Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Europe.

In last December, private-sector representatives from Iran and Kazakhstan signed nine cooperation agreements during a visit by a trade delegation from the Iran Chamber of Commerce to Astana, aimed at expanding bilateral business ties.

The delegation, led by ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh, included chamber officials and business representatives from engineering services, agriculture, food industries, mining and mineral sectors. Participants held B2B meetings with Kazakh counterparts to explore joint projects.

Iranian delegation accompanied President Masoud Pezeshkian in his visit to Kazakhstan during which the two countries Joint Economic Committee meeting also convened.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce signed three memorandums of cooperation, including two with KazTrade and the Kazakhstan

Trade Development Council and one with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs Atameken, covering trade data exchange, business delegations, logistics and green freight transport.

Six additional agreements were signed between Iranian and Kazakh companies in sectors including agriculture, mining, copper production and food processing. One of the deals is valued at more than \$1 billion.

An Iran-Kazakhstan business conference convened in the Kazakh capital Astana on Thursday, with the presidents of both countries, senior ministers, private sector officials, and business delegations from the two countries in attendance, seeking to deepen commercial ties.

Officials from Kazakhstan's National Chamber of Entrepreneurs, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and representatives of Iranian and Kazakh companies also attended the event.

Speaking at the conference, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran aims to build a stable network of cooperation and mutual investment between the private sectors of the two countries, calling the Central Asian nation a strategic partner.

ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh, for his part, outlined four key obstacles to Iran-Kazakhstan trade and called for joint planning and stronger private-sector involvement to remove them. He said completion of the North-South Corridor infrastructure should be a top priority.

He said the current bilateral trade of roughly three hundred and fifty million dollars could grow several-fold in the short term, given existing potential and political backing.

Hassanzadeh said the presence of senior officials at the forum underscored shared determination to expand economic ties, noting Kazakhstan's importance as a major Central Asian economy and strategic partner.

He said proximity, stable political ties, and opportunities in energy, agriculture, mining, Caspian shipping, petrochemicals, metals, food industries, engineering services, and pharmaceuticals provide a strong basis for deeper cooperation.

Peace with Israel: A Lebanese illusion?

From page 1 ► A recent study published by the Israeli Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) outlines a new security doctrine. While the doctrine has yet to be officially announced, it is already being put into practice, reflecting a broader shift in how the regime views its security mechanisms.

The study argues that this new doctrine changes how Israelis understand the relationship between security, war, and peace. The regime no longer sees peace as a lasting strategic goal, but rather as a temporary arrangement. Conflict, by contrast, is increasingly viewed as a permanent condition to be managed rather than brought to an end.

At the heart of this new doctrine is a shift in how the Zionist regime views war: no longer as an exceptional situation, but as a permanent feature of its security.

The study describes this principle of war as a foundational condition, arguing that war is becoming essential to the regime's security and that peace cannot take its place.

From this perspective, peace is not a goal in its own right, but a temporary means of serving the regime's interests. The study also links this shift to the belief that the prolonged pursuit of political agreements and peace was part of the "conceptual failure" that led to the October 7 attack.

As a result, the regime's new security doctrine places greater emphasis on preemptive war and sustained military action.

This raises questions about the assumptions underlying the positions of certain Lebanese



groups that advocate "peace with Israel." Their argument rests on the assumption that the regime seeks to protect its security rather than occupy Lebanon indefinitely, and that it would therefore be willing to withdraw in exchange for a peace agreement that serves its interests.

These changes in Israeli thinking also call into question Lebanese assumptions based on the regime's peace agreements inked with Egypt and Jordan. The crucial difference is that, when Egypt signed the Camp David Accords, the Israeli political leadership, on both the right and the left, regarded peace with the largest Arab country as a strategic goal in its own right.

The same was true of the treaty with Jordan. Both agreements reflected a broader period in the regime's thinking when peace, regional integration, and political compromise were seen as essential to its national security.

At the time, the prevailing view among Israelis was that peace produced security. Today, however, a very different view is gaining ground: security is achieved through aggression and a volatile region, while peace is a temporary instrument to be

used when it serves the regime's interests.

The problem with some Lebanese debates is not whether they support or oppose peace, but the assumption that the Israelis still view peace as they did when Tel Aviv signed the Camp David Accords and the Wadi Araba Treaty.

Before considering what Lebanon might offer or gain, the more fundamental question is whether the occupying regime still regards peace as a strategic goal worth making concessions to secure.

More importantly, opinion polls conducted within Israel in recent years have revealed a striking pattern: a majority of Israelis support continuing the pattern of war, even though they do not believe it will bring lasting peace or long-term stability.

This points to an important distinction: a society that supports war without expecting a political settlement does not see war as a path to peace, but as a means of managing a conflict it considers impossible to resolve.

This stands in sharp contrast to the political climate that produced the Camp David Accords and the Wadi Araba Treaty, when

peace was viewed as a natural extension of military success rather than an alternative to it.

From this perspective, peace with Lebanon is unlikely to hold the same strategic value for the Israelis that peace with Egypt did in the aftermath of the 1973 war. For a regime that views conflict as a permanent condition, a historic peace agreement holds little appeal.

Instead, it may favor security arrangements that preserve its military superiority and freedom of action while allowing it to maintain its occupation of territory under the pretext of "forward defense."

This is where the Lebanese and Israeli approaches to the "framework agreement" diverge most sharply. Some Lebanese advocates of peace assume that the occupying regime shares their interest in ending the war and regards doing so as a major strategic priority.

The debate within the Zionist regime today, however, focuses on how to manage a long-term conflict, not how to bring it to an end.

Ultimately, the emerging doctrine points to a view of security in which conflict is permanent, peace is temporary, and war is treated as the norm.

Critics of the Lebanese authorities argue that they should therefore recognize that the strategic conditions, which made the Egyptian and Jordanian agreements with the Zionist regime possible, no longer exist. Trying to replicate those agreements would mean relying on a model of Israeli strategic thinking that no longer exists.

Israelis beat Washington Post journalist in military-backed West Bank raids

From page 1 ► Her cameras and phone were taken. She suffered four broken vertebrae and a broken rib.

Soldiers arrived while the attack was under way. They fired tear gas at Palestinians, then shot village council member Abdel Jaber Hassan in the leg.

The Israeli military claims he ran at troops with a sharp object. Residents say he carried harvesting tools. Activist Jonathan Pollak, who was there, said soldiers stood "shoulder-to-shoulder with settlers."

Abu Falah was one of at least eight villages hit on Friday, with cars and trees burned in Turmus Ayya. Yesh Din has logged at least 170 attacks since the harvest began on September 27.

The Palestinian Health Ministry reports at least four Palestinians killed and more than 100 injured this season. Ali Hassan al-Bazzari, 44, was killed near Nablus on October 7.

A day earlier, settlers beat AFP photographer Jaafar Ashtiyeh with rifle butts. Ziv Stahl from the Israeli organization Yesh Din says soldiers are "assisting settlers."

The same day, Rabbi Dov Lior, "spiritual guide" of Itamar Ben-Gvir's Otzma Yehudit party, ruled that settlers may take Palestin-

ian olives, calling it an "additional virtue."

Analysts see political pressure behind that, an effort to present the arsonists as a few Hilltop Youth rather than a movement. Israel is scheduled to vote on October 27, and Ben-Gvir is hunting settler ballots.

Washington's response followed the usual script. The State Department condemned violence "by any party," as if victim and attacker shared the blame. Senator Chris Van Hollen asked, "When will Trump and Rubio DO SOMETHING?" Representative Ro Khanna demanded an end to aid that funds settler activity. Meanwhile weapons keep flowing.

Levine is far from the first reporter hit. Sara Qudah of the Committee to Protect Journalists called the beating part of a "disturbing pattern."

CPI counts at least 247 journalists and media workers killed since October 2023, 241 of them by Israel, more than any government it has tracked since 1992. Shireen Abu Akleh, an American citizen, was killed in Jenin in 2022 while wearing a press vest. Nobody has answered for it.

Abu Falah's mayor, Nazem Saleh Shuman, said settlers burned three cars there recently. "It's become a hell for us," he added. "We have nowhere else to go."

Azerbaijan reignites debate over secularism

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - A decision by the Azerbaijani government that effectively bans students and teachers from wearing the hijab in educational institutions has sparked a wave of protests.

The amendment, approved last month, does not directly ban the Islamic veil. Instead, it prohibits clothing that the government considers to violate the "principle of secularity."

From a Western perspective, secularism is often used to judge the hijab in a way that excludes certain views while supporting others. The hijab is often presented as a sign that women lack freedom and control over their own decisions. Women who wear it are sometimes portrayed as lacking independence and the ability to make their own choices. However, this view does not necessarily reflect the experiences of women who choose to wear the hijab. Instead, it follows a way of thinking that gives priority to values such as visibility and individual freedom as understood within a Western framework.

By placing a barrier between the body of an Oriental woman and the Western gaze, the veil appears to put her beyond Western observation and desire. Its covering makes the woman seem mysterious and inaccessible, frustrating the desire to see and understand her. When a veiled woman refuses to be observed, the Western gaze may respond with disappointment and subject her to even greater scrutiny.

The portrayal of the Orient and its women as an "enigma" that must be uncovered turns the veil into a central part of this process. The veil becomes a symbol through which Western fantasies about discovering the secrets of the Orient and understanding the inner lives of its people are expressed. The desire to unveil the Oriental woman is not simply about removing what covers her. It also creates a power relationship in which the Western observer gains access to knowledge that was previously beyond their reach.

One might expect Azerbaijan, a country with a Shia Muslim majority, to be protected from this kind of thinking. However, the facts show the opposite.

Azerbaijan's Shia majority has undeniable cultural importance. Yet the way the government in Baku presents Islam reduces it to what could be called "Islamization." In this context, Islam is allowed a certain degree of visibility in cultural life, but it is not treated as a framework that can shape international relations or public policy.

Moreover, Islamization must be understood within a broader political approach to modernity. This approach treats public expressions of Islam as remnants of a tradition that must be removed or, where possible, confined to specific spaces. Outside those spaces, the hi-

Trump's White House chaotically turns on itself as Republicans brace for defeat

From page 1 ► Katie Zacharia, a Fox News commentator few in the building knew, got the job because Trump was angry that nobody defended him on television as Republican prospects sank. He offered it in an Oval Office talk Chief of Staff Susie Wiles missed. "Did anyone vet her?" one adviser asked. Officials told CNN no one had.

Her only briefing, on Tuesday, ran 14 minutes and took three questions, all from friendly outlets. Asked where she had passed the bar exam, she answered, "When I moved to China."

She later admitted she failed the California bar in 2011, though her own X reposts and the White House announcement called her "an attorney."

After Sean Hannity and "Fox & Friends" pressed her, Trump claims he told her, "Honestly, if I were you, I'd reconsider." Hours later, it was leaked that she is gone.

Citing two anonymous sources, CNN reports that Wiles helped arrange the Hannity slot, one calling it a "sanctioned hit."

Purges, feuds and a sidelined friend

The single piece of real news delivered during Zacharia's brief time at the podium was that Kimberly Guilfoyle had been asked to resign from her post as ambassador to Greece.

Guilfoyle, a television commentator and the former fiancée of Donald Trump Jr., faced intense public scrutiny after reports revealed she sought \$100,000 from a Trump donor to settle a personal credit card bill in exchange for granting political access.

Meanwhile, Trump spent Oval Office time on a vicious fight between Richard Grenell and Alina Mildon, who both owe their posts to him.

Paolo Zampolli, who says he introduced Trump to Melania, was pushed out at the State Department after a feud with Deputy Secretary Christopher Landau spilled into the press.

None of these moves look coordinated.

The chief of staff's exposure

Wiles has her own problems. She worked on Netanyahu's 2020 reelection campaign and helped isolate Trump to be fed "Mossad talking points," according to American journalist Max Blumenthal.

Her daughter Katie is a partner at Continental Strategy, a lobbying firm reportedly paid \$35,000 a month by Republika Srpska, the Serb-led Bosnian entity aligned with Milorad Dodik.

The firm claims she did not lobby U.S. officials for it and visited for another client. Still, photographs circulated just after Wiles allies James Blair and Chris LaCivita took paid consulting work there.

Trump reportedly called them "outside consultants" and threatened to "terminate them, immediately!" One person told Reuters that Wiles approved the trip without telling him.

Trump reportedly has said that Wiles will remain in her position. Reports say he has nonetheless sounded out allies about replacements. Stephen Miller, Bill Pulte and Lee Zeldin are all angling.



Pulte hauls poster boards of proposals onto golf courses and Air Force One, enough that Trump has complained about the clutter.

Corey Lewandowski, a Wiles rival, denies discussing Pulte with the president. One ally described the mood to Washington Post reporters as "the new Wild Wild West."

Behind the panic

The panic has numbers behind it. Trump's approval is the lowest of his presidency, dragged down by prices and dissatisfaction with the war on Iran. Aides reportedly expect to lose the House, call the Senate a coin flip, and admit Kansas and Texas are in play.

MAGA Inc. has spent about \$200 million with little to show, and the Texas redistricting Trump pushed, one source told Reuters, "diced up the Trump voters too much." Trump, who is not on the ballot, keeps telling rally crowds to pretend he is.

Washington keeps promising victory over Iran. It cannot yet keep a press office staffed for a week.

Students, farmers and the Yellow Jacket movement are taking to the street in France

A wave of mass protests swept across France Saturday, with dozens of peaceful marches taking place alongside scenes of violent clashes between demonstrators and police forces, Politico reported.

The demonstrations were also a battleground for candidates ahead of next year's high-stakes presidential election: The far-right's Marine Le Pen sided with law enforcement while the far-left's Jean-Luc Mélenchon backed protesters.

Throughout the day, media reported incidents in the country's largest cities including Lyon, Bordeaux, Marseille and Paris. Dozens of rioters clashed with law enforcement on the capital's Place de la République, next to a much larger number of demonstrators gathered for an authorized march that started from Paris's central square.

"A very large majority of people are protesting without violence," Paris's police prefecture said on Saturday afternoon.

Students, farmers and members of the Yellow Jacket movement, among others, took to the streets on Saturday in a "convergence of struggles" to protest rising living costs, sluggish wages and deep disagreements with the government.

About 500,000 protestors took to the streets across the country, according to the CGT union. France's interior ministry has yet to release its figures, which are usually lower than counts issued by unions.

Saturday's demonstrations grew out of the student protests that began last month with school blockades and calls for better study conditions, more teachers and more funding. The movement has since spread nationwide — and become a political issue as the campaign for next year's presidential election heats up.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran’s U23s face an uncertain future

TEHRAN – Iran’s U23 football team are approaching another crucial stage in their development without a head coach, a settled management structure or a clearly defined roadmap towards the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

Nearly three weeks after the team’s disappointing exit from the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, the search for a successor to Hossein Abdi has yet to produce a final decision, with Yahya Golmohammadi now emerging as the leading candidate.

The uncertainty is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. Iran travelled to Japan with ambitions of making progress but bowed out in the group stage after a 4-1 defeat by North Korea in its final match.

Abdi resigned after returning from Japan, leaving the Football Federation of Iran (FFIRI) to begin another search for a coach. Afshin Ghotbi was initially linked with the position, while other domestic and foreign names were also discussed. Those options have failed to produce an appointment, and Golmohammadi has moved to the front of the queue.

FFIRI president Mehdi Taj has confirmed that talks have taken place with Golmohammadi, saying the former Persepolis coach appears to be the closest candidate to the job. Golmohammadi, however, is currently in charge of Iraqi club Duhok, whose management has reportedly resisted the prospect of his departure. Iranian officials are therefore seeking the club’s approval before they can turn preliminary discussions into a final agreement.

The process has also raised questions about the federation’s decision-making structure. With the youth committee and national teams department assigned responsibilities under the federation’s statutes, the extent of their involvement in selecting the team’s coach remains unclear.

In a statement following the Nagoya elimination, the federation apologized to supporters and promised a thorough review, candid assessment and decisive action. Yet the gap between that pledge and the continuing uncertainty over the team’s leadership remains evident.

Abdi, meanwhile, challenged the federation’s account of the team’s preparation. He said the squad had gone 47 days without a training camp or access to players between early August and September 17, contradicting claims that adequate facilities and preparation had been provided.

Iran’s Olympic campaign requires sustained access to players, cooperation with clubs, a coherent schedule of training camps and international friendlies, and clear performance targets. Appointing an experienced coach may be a necessary first step, but it cannot substitute for a long-term strategy.

With qualification for Los Angeles 2028 the ultimate objective, Iran’s U23 team remain in limbo. The federation has acknowledged the failure in Nagoya and promised corrective action, but until a coach is appointed and a credible program is established, the road to the Olympics remains uncertain and the same cycle of late decisions and unmet expectations risks repeating itself.

Men’s wheelchair basketball team beat S. Korea

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s wheelchair basketball earned a hard-fought win over South Korea, winning the match 67-62 in the 2026 Asian Para Games on Saturday.

Team Melli had started the campaign with an 81-23 win over Iraq on Friday.

Iran are scheduled to face the Philippines on Monday.

Iran have an impressive record at previous editions of the Asian Para Games, having won one silver medal and secured two third-place finishes across the last four editions.

The team now hope to build on that record in Nagoya, overcome the challenges of their long journey and launch their campaign with a vic-

tory over Iraq.

Blind football defeat S. Korea in 2026 Asian Para Games

TEHRAN – Iran blind football team defeated South Korea 3-1 in their second match at the 2026 Asian Para Games.

Team Melli had lost to Thailand 1-0 in their opening match on Friday.

Hossein Rajabpour (two goals) and Sadeh Rahimi scored for Iran and Kangmin Kwon pulled a goal back for the Korean team.

Iran will play powerhouses China on Sunday.

Blind football is a sport played in teams of five by athletes with vision impairments. Of those athletes, four are outfielders and one is a goalie. The rules are similar to the official FIFA rules with a few adjustments. Each team competes to score a goal on their opponent’s side of the field.

Women’s wheelchair basketball suffer loss against Thailand

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s wheelchair basketball team suffered a 64–33 defeat to Thailand in their second Group Stage match at the fifth edition of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games on Saturday.

Despite showing improved performance in the second quarter, Iran were unable to overcome Thailand, who maintained control throughout the contest to secure a convincing victory.

Thailand made a strong start, taking the opening quarter 16–6. Iran responded with a more competitive display in the second quarter but still fell 16–13, leaving Thailand with a 32–19 lead at half-time.

The third quarter saw the two sides compete more evenly in the opening stages, but Thailand gradually pulled away, winning the period 15–7 to extend their advantage.

Thailand then closed out the game strongly, taking the final quarter 17–7 to seal a 64–33 victory.

The result marked Iran’s second consecutive defeat in the group stage. The Iranian side had opened their campaign with a 65–20 loss to hosts Japan in their first match.

Iran will look to bounce back when they face Cambodia on Monday in their next group-stage fixture, aiming to deliver a stronger performance and secure a better result.

The Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games are being held in Japan, bringing together athletes from across Asia to compete in a wide range of para sports.

PGPL: Rabiei returns as Zob Ahan head coach

TEHRAN – Mohammad Rabiei has been appointed as the new head coach of Zob Ahan, signing a new contract to begin another chapter of his tenure with the Iranian Pro League club.

Rabiei previously enjoyed a successful two-season spell in charge of Zob Ahan, guiding the team to fifth- and sixth-place finishes in the Persian Gulf Pro League. Having left a positive impression during his previous stint, he now returns with the aim of restoring the club’s momentum and improving its position in the league standings.

Zob Ahan recently parted ways with Abdollah Veisi following a series of disappointing results in the Persian Gulf Pro League, prompting the club to make a change in the dugout.

Rabiei will now be tasked with stabilizing the team’s performances and building on the foundations established during his previous spell as head coach.

Iran proposes joint tourism packages, measurable targets to boost Chinese arrivals

TEHRAN – Iran has proposed five practical measures to increase Chinese tourist arrivals, including joint travel packages, familiarization tours and direct cooperation between travel agencies, as it seeks to turn longstanding cultural ties with China into tangible tourism business.

The proposals were outlined in a message from Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, read at a specialized meeting on strengthening Iran-China tourism cooperation in Beijing on Friday.

Salehi-Amiri said that Iran eyes China to become one of its most important tourism partners, stressing that the success of bilateral cooperation would depend on moving beyond discussions to concrete agreements and actual tourist exchanges.

The meeting, hosted by Iran’s embassy in Beijing, brought together officials and representatives of tourism companies from both countries to discuss barriers to bilateral travel, develop joint tourism products and expand cooperation between tour operators.

Marking the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and China, Salehi-Amiri described the occasion as an opportunity to advance cooperation from dialogue to implementation.

He proposed establishing a



joint working group of Iranian and Chinese travel agencies and tour operators, developing at least three travel packages specifically tailored to the Chinese market, and organizing familiarization tours in Iran for Chinese travel agency executives and journalists.

The other proposals focused on providing services suited to Chinese visitors, including Chinese-speaking guides and easier payment arrangements, as well as setting measurable targets and clear timelines for tourist exchanges.

“The outcome of this meeting should not be limited to discussions and exchanging business cards,” Salehi-Amiri said in his message. He called for an action plan, travel packages, contracts and the actual dispatch of tourists.

Referring to the historic Silk

Road, which connected the two countries through trade and cultural exchange, he said tourism could give the ancient route renewed life.

“The Silk Road was once kept alive by caravans, and today it will be kept alive by the movement of tourists,” he said.

Iranian Ambassador to China Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli also emphasized the need to remove obstacles, reorganize cooperation mechanisms and increase China’s share of Iran’s tourism market.

He described the Silk Road as more than a commercial route, saying it had historically facilitated exchanges in culture, art, music and traditions. Modern technology, he added, offered new opportunities to strengthen people-to-people ties.

Rahmani Fazli also highlighted China’s potential role in Iran’s

Intl. Archaeology Day: A glimpse of Iran’s Paleolithic heritage and museums



By Fereidoun Biglari,
National Museum of Iran

TEHRAN – On 17 October, archaeologists and cultural institutions worldwide mark International Archaeology Day, highlighting archaeology’s contribution to our understanding of the human past. The occasion also invites reflection on the broader role of archaeology in reconstructing human history, investigating changing relationships between people and their environments, and communicating scientific knowledge to the public through museums and other cultural institutions.

In Iran, this day offers a valuable occasion to recognize a heri-

itage that extends far beyond monumental architecture and written records. Long before the emergence of urban centers, human groups inhabited the Iranian Plateau and its mountain ranges, developed stone-tool technologies and other early technologies, adapted to changing climatic conditions, and exploited a wide range of environments. The Paleolithic represents the longest period of this history, and it places Iran at the center of important debates concerning human evolution, hominin dispersals across Eurasia, and adaptation during the Pleistocene.

Situated between Southwest

Asia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent, Iran encompasses a remarkable diversity of landscapes and ecological settings. These environments formed part of the geographical context in which prehistoric populations moved, settled, and adapted to changing conditions. Iran should therefore be understood not just as a corridor between better-known prehistoric regions, but as a distinct archaeological landscape with real potential to contribute to future research on the early human occupation, Neanderthal behavior, and the dispersal of Homo sapiens.

The earliest chapters of Iran’s Paleolithic record are documented primarily through stone-tool assemblages recovered from open-air sites and sedimentary contexts. Sites such as Kashafrud in northeastern Iran and Dehtal, north of the Persian Gulf, have contributed to discussions of Lower Paleolithic occupation. Nevertheless, questions concerning chronology, stratigraphic integrity, and the relationship between artifacts and their depositional contexts remain important. Addressing these issues requires carefully designed field investigations, critical reassessment of existing collections, and reliable dating wherever suitable

materials and archaeological contexts are available. Dardang Rashi Cave is a key example, where modern dating methods and lithics associated with faunal remains in stratigraphic context help advance understanding of Iran’s Lower Paleolithic.

The Zagros Mountains are particularly important for understanding the Middle and Upper Paleolithic in Iran. Caves, rockshelters, and highland valleys preserve archaeological sequences that provide evidence of Neanderthal technology, subsistence strategies, and responses to environmental change. These records are also essential for investigating the arrival and subsequent expansion of modern humans, as well as the cultural and demographic processes associated with the Middle-to-Upper Paleolithic transition. Together, they offer a valuable basis for examining how human populations occupied and adapted to the varied environments of the Iranian highlands.

Over recent decades, Iranian archaeologists have advanced Paleolithic research through independent projects as well as, in some cases, collaboration with international colleagues. Their work has expanded field investigations, strengthened analytical capabilities, and brought Iran’s prehistoric record to greater attention within the international archaeological community.

The contributions of Iranian women archaeologists have been particularly significant, advancing scientific knowledge, broadening research perspectives, and strengthening the foundations of the discipline. Dr Marjan Mashkour has made major contributions to zooarchaeological research, deepening our understanding of past subsistence strategies, human–animal relationships, and interactions between human populations and their environments. Through her teaching and mentorship, she has also trained and helped shape a new generation of Iranian zooarchaeologists, many of whom are now conducting

postwar reconstruction, following the recent war against the country, and said both nations sought peace and security in West Asia.

Chinese tourism representatives described Iran as a destination with considerable cultural appeal and economic potential, expressing interest in expanding travel between the countries. They also identified several obstacles, including the absence of an Iranian tourism promotion office in Beijing, flight disruptions following the war and limited opportunities for familiarization tours.

Their recommendations included establishing an Iranian tourism representation office in Beijing, organizing promotional events for Chinese media and travel bloggers, arranging familiarization trips, developing tailored travel packages and ensuring more stable air connections.

Participants also suggested using shared cultural interests, including tea culture, to promote tourism cooperation.

During the meeting, Roozbeh Kardooni, an adviser to the minister and director general of the ministry’s ministerial office, said Iran could host a group of Chinese tourism industry representatives in the near future. Such a visit could help Chinese tour operators assess Iran’s attractions firsthand and explore opportunities to develop joint travel products.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Biodiversity, peace and security are interconnected, DOE chief says

TEHRAN – Environmental diplomacy can become an instrument of peace diplomacy, while the relationship between biodiversity, peace, and security should be viewed as a two-way relationship, Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment, has said.

Speaking on Friday at a specialized panel titled “Biodiversity and Peace: Protecting the Environment During Armed Conflicts” at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) in Yerevan, Ansari said the link between biodiversity and peace was not merely an ethical or political issue, but a fundamental concern in environmental governance, international law, and human security.

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, she said, the main drivers of biodiversity loss are generally understood to include land-use change, habitat destruction, pollution, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, and climate change.

“However, there is another factor that deserves far greater attention in this equation: the breakdown of peace and the outbreak of armed conflicts,” she said.

War can trigger several drivers of biodiversity loss simultaneously and with devastating intensity. Its consequences range from the direct destruction of habitats and widespread fires to soil and water contamination, the release of hazardous substances, human displacement, disruption of protected-area management, and the weakening of national capacities to monitor and protect nature.

Ansari said Iran was speaking about these realities not merely in theoretical terms, but on the basis of direct experience, hav-



ing witnessed the consequences of such circumstances in recent years.

During the 12-day war in 2025, several protected areas in Iran were also affected by attacks and the consequences of the fighting. According to assessments, 13 protected areas and thousands of hectares of natural land, particularly across the Zagros Mountains, sustained damage and were affected by fires.

However, the actual scale of the damage goes far beyond the number of hectares burned or destroyed, she said.

The environmental vulnerability of the Persian Gulf was again exposed during what Ansari described as the recent war of aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran. Damage to oil and gas facilities, fires, and pollutant emissions raised concerns about the risks of pollution to the region's ecosystems.

The Persian Gulf is a semi-enclosed, shallow, and highly en-

vironmentally sensitive body of water. Its coral reefs, mangrove forests, coastal habitats, and rich marine biodiversity are of considerable ecological value. These ecosystems are also directly linked to food security and the livelihoods of millions of people across the region.

Under such circumstances, no pollution incident can be regarded as merely a local problem, Ansari said. Pollutants can travel through marine currents, enter the food chain, and affect habitats far from the original source of contamination.

From this perspective, she said, condemning acts of aggression and holding those responsible accountable should extend beyond the traditional dimensions of international peace and security.

Assessments of the consequences of armed conflicts must therefore adopt an approach that examines environmental damage independently, scientifically, and

over the long term. Such assessments should go beyond physical destruction to cover biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, damage to ecosystem services, soil and water pollution, and harm to genetic resources.

The international community must establish more effective mechanisms for monitoring, documenting, assessing, and compensating for environmental damage caused by armed conflicts, she added.

Countries across West Asia and Southwest Asia face mounting environmental pressures, including climate change, water scarcity, desertification, dwindling natural resources, and growing stress on ecosystems, while continuing to grapple with persistent security crises.

In these circumstances, war can intensify environmental crises and increase the vulnerability of both communities and ecosystems.

“The relationship between biodiversity, peace, and security should therefore be understood as a two-way relationship,” Ansari said. “Peace is essential for nature, while effective and responsible nature conservation can, in turn, contribute to strengthening peace.”

Cooperation on shared rivers, wetlands, seas, migratory species, and genetic resources can create valuable opportunities for dialogue, confidence-building, and closer collaboration among countries.

“I believe that it is precisely at this point that environmental diplomacy can become an instrument of peace diplomacy,” she said.

“Peace is more than the absence of war; it is an essential condition for protecting life. And protecting biodiversity means protecting life itself.”

IRCS, ICRC hold workshops to strengthen readiness for CBRN incidents

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) have held the second and third training courses on Application of Personal Protective Equipment during Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) incidents.

The first round of the course was held in Tehran from June 7 to 21. The second and third courses were held from October 4-8 and 11-15, separately. The courses aimed to improve preparedness and the operational capacity of relief teams and has been attended by a total number of 150 members of rapid response teams from different provinces in the country, ICRC website announced in a press release on October 15.

During the closing ceremony, the attendees and instructors reviewed achievements, strengths, and ground for improvement. Stressing the need to repeat the exercises, organize the course in provincial levels, and to provide complementary equipment required, the attendees emphasized that the experience was different from previous maneuvers.

The instructors also expressed gratitude for the participants' active involvement, reiterating their positive performance during practical simulation exercises in applying the learning points and following the decontamination process suited to each type of contamination.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony, the head of ICRC's Tehran Delegation, Marise-la Silva Chau, highlighted the close collaboration between ICRC and the Iranian Red Crescent Society, citing the workshop a concrete example, putting together IRCS' operational experience and ICRC's academic expertise and technical, equipment support. She reiterated the ICRC's readiness to throw support behind similar courses to be held at a provincial level, while stressing the importance of transferring learnings to operational teams and their application in daily activities.

The IRCS Deputy Director for Education, Research and Technology, Rouzbeh Rajaei, also stressed continued training, teacher

training, and planning for similar course to be held for female participants, noting the participation of experts from different scientific institutions and centers.

The continued collaboration and transfer of knowledge and experience to operational teams is an important step in strengthening the incident preparedness and response capacity.

The first training course targeted basic health care unit (BHCU) team leaders from five high-risk provinces, namely Tehran, Qom, Markazi, Isfahan, and Bushehr, as well as passive defense trainers.

ICRC hails IRCS efforts, bravery during war

In April, the president of the ICRC, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, commended the efforts, bravery, and accomplishments of the IRCS during the recent imposed war by the United States and the Zionist regime of Israel on Iran.

“I admire the courage and commitment of the Iranian Red Crescent Society aid workers to provide humanitarian relief to people affected by the recent war. Your efforts were both important and outstanding,” Mehr news agency quoted Spoljaric Egger as saying.

The official made the remarks on April 30 in a meeting with the head of the IRCS, Pirhossein Kolivand.

Highlighting the importance of respecting international humanitarian law (IHL), the official noted that the IHL is frequently violated in the region; the war impacts on civilians, particularly children, are unacceptable. There is no justified reason for depriving children of their rights.

The measures that lead to the breach of IHL, and the attacks that target civilians and humanitarian workers, have to be stopped and reversed, she added.

The official described the current situation as dangerous, saying that “We, and the Iranian Red Crescent Society's staff, should use our capacity to reduce tensions, which is essential for the protection of civilians and children.



That is why we are here, staying here; we fulfil our responsibility inside and outside the country to change the situation, and offer assistance in any way that is possible.”

The IRCS is a leading, strong national society, equipped with good facilities. The ICRC representative in Iran will help meet the country's medical needs to set up hospitals and facilitate the import of supplies that are not allowed under sanctions, she further noted.

The official went on to thank the head of the IRCS for his continuous follow-up on the issues and for providing the ICRC with information and reports.

Vincent Cassard, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has highlighted the need to expand collaborations with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in 2026.

In December 2025, Cassard met with Razieh Alishvandi, the director of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for international affairs, lauding the IRCS for its efforts and enumerated joint activities, such as holding a conference on rehabilitation, establishing a rehabilitation secretariat by the IRCS, and co-hosting a webinar on ‘Early Rehabilitation in Conflicts and Disasters’, with the IRCS playing a key role in organizing the event.

Cassard went on to say that the ICRC office in Tehran has secured the budget to implement plans, such as rehabilitation services to vulnerable groups, particularly refugees. He added that the second conference on rehabilitation is planned to be held in the second quarter of 2026.

Iran puts forward six proposals to boost SCO anti-drug cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran's Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) has put forward six proposals to strengthen cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states in combating illicit drugs and related crimes.

Mohammad Narimani, an official with the DCHQ, presented the proposals at the opening ceremony of the SCO International Conference of Member States, titled “For a Drug-Free World,” held on October 13–14 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The event was attended by representatives of the competent authorities of the SCO member states, the SCO Secretariat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and other regional organizations, as well as government bodies, higher education institutions and civil society of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Iran's six proposals included strengthening the regional early warning system on synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, promoting cooperation in countering chemical precursors used in illicit manufacturing of narcotic drugs, establishing a SCO specialized network in prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and rehabilitation fields, developing joint capacity-building and educational programs, fostering operational and intelligence collaboration in countering transnational drug trafficking networks, and protecting health and humanitarian services, ISNA reported.

Highlighting the need for strengthening regional and international collaborations to fight against illegal drugs, the official said, “Today, the issue of drugs has transcended beyond the law enforcement sector, as it is directly connected to public health, youths, families, sustainable development, organized financial crime, and the rule of law,” Narimani said.

International drug traffickers' use of online platforms, emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, and digital financial tools has worsened the situation. Hence, it is essential to adopt up-to-date, more coordinated, and forward-looking approaches at national, regional, and international levels to fight drug trafficking, he added.

Elaborating on the country's achievements in addressing illicit drugs, the official voiced Iran's readiness for the enhancement of ties with SCO member states through sharing expertise, as well as scientific and operational experiences.

The SCO International Anti-Drug Campaign “For a Drug-Free World” has been held since 2017. Its main goal is to foster in young people an intolerant attitude towards drug use and a commitment to a healthy lifestyle, as well as to establish contacts and exchange views between experts and representatives of the academic community in order to further deepen practical cooperation in countering illicit drug trafficking.

This year, during the two-day conference, participants discussed countering transnational drug trafficking, the spread of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, the use of digital technologies in drug-related crime, as well as modern approaches to drug use prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with drug dependence.

Following the event, the participants adopted recommendations aimed at strengthening interaction among the competent authorities of the SCO member states, improving the exchange of operational information, developing early warning mechanisms for new drug threats, conducting joint anti-drug activities and enhancing the effectiveness of preventive work.

Supporting Iran's counter-narcotics work pays off beyond its borders: UNODC

In August, the UNODC released a report, emphasizing the need to support Iran in the battle against narcotics.

Supporting Iran's counternarcotics work pays off beyond its borders, the report highlighted, saying it keeps drugs from reaching other regions, cuts into the money that funds organized crime, and supports public health by slowing the spread of addictive synthetic substances.

The main seizure of methamphetamine in and around the Middle East and South-East Asia over the past few years has been report-



ed in Iran, according to the report, which was published on Thursday.

Iranian seizures of methamphetamine increased from 30,393 kilos in 2022 to 40,453 kilos in 2025, placing the country at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking.

In the first quarter of 2026 alone, Iranian authorities have intercepted 3,663 kilograms of methamphetamine destined for Europe and the Persian Gulf.

These weren't just street-level busts. These were five intelligence-led operations targeting industrial-scale shipments originating in Afghanistan, evidence that trafficking networks in the region are shifting toward synthetic drugs.

While international attention has primarily focused on the vast region's declining opium production, advanced criminal drug trafficking networks have successfully shifted toward manufacturing and exporting synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine, commonly known as meth. West Asia is now the epicenter of a synthetic drug boom.

Iran is strategically positioned along the “Afghanistan-West Asia corridor,” which serves as the primary trafficking route for these illicit commodities. The clear signal from Tehran is that these substantial shipments are being intercepted before they can reach international markets. Yet, sustained success will require enhanced international cooperation and support.

Each interception reduces the illicit financial flows that fund organized crime and slows the spread of synthetic drugs into new markets. These shipments are not merely statistics. Each seizure disrupts a supply chain that would otherwise put methamphetamine on the streets of Europe and the Persian Gulf, while cutting into the earnings of organized criminal networks.

Through its Country Partnership Programme as well as the Cooperation Framework with the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC supports the country's efforts in advancing border technology with procurement of detection scanners, strengthening labs' forensic capabilities to identify new synthetic compounds, as well as regional intelligence sharing.

Sustained donor investment is critical to prevent this route from becoming a gateway for synthetic drugs. However, the scale of the challenge demands more than financial contributions—it requires a collective and sustainable approach by the international community. By supporting UNODC's work in Iran, donor nations are investing in regional stability and international security, while also protecting their own borders from the flow of illicit substances.

Police seize over 250 tons of narcotics since March

The Iranian anti-narcotics police have seized more than 250 tons of narcotics in the first six months of the current Iranian year (started on March 21), indicating a 20 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

The anti-narcotics police have disbanded 780 drug trafficking gangs across the country, IRNA quoted Iraj Kakavand, the head of anti-narcotics police, as saying.

The official made the remarks at a press conference in Tehran on the occasion of the ‘national law enforcement week’, which is being held from October 2 to 8, under the theme ‘committed police, mobilized people, proud Iran’.

Over 7,000 smugglers were arrested, and six were killed; more than 330 weapons and 8,000 vehicles were confiscated, he added.

Monitoring social media, the police managed to arrest 196 individuals, seize over 460 kilograms of narcotics, more than 420,000 pills containing illicit drugs, and dismantle 14 gangs operating online, Kakavand further noted.

TEHRAN TIMES





Tehrantimes79

www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

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

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

OCTOBER 18, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The world is a road for going to the next one, and if it had been created for itself, man would have lived eternally in it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:44 Dawn: 4:50 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:14 (tomorrow)

What’s in Tehran art galleries

Painting

* Ech Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Sa-har Farah.

The exhibit named “Xabnameh” runs until October 30 at the gallery that can be found at 10 Mirza Taraj, opposite Dowlat St., Shariati Ave.

* Iranshahr Gallery is showcasing paintings by Mani Mehrzad in an exhibition.

The exhibit named “After Snow” will run until October 27 at the gal-ery that can be found at 69 Sepand St., off Karim Khan Ave.

* Melina Bahrami is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named “Absence” will run until October 27 at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by Negar Nasiri is currently under-way at Afrand Gallery.

The exhibit named “Unrelated” will continue until October 30 at the gallery located at 48 Jalal Hosseini St., Jahan Ara St., off Jalal Ale-Ahmad Highway.

* Paintings by Habibeh Louri are on display in an exhibition at Asr Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “The Memory of Imag-ination” will run until October 26 at the gal-ery located at 18 Delaviz St. off North Mir-zaye Shirazi St.

* Paintings by Bahar Akhavan are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled “Growth”, the exhibition runs until October 23 at the gal-ery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by Vahik Hartounian is currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

The exhibition will run until October 30 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.

* An exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Moqaddasi is underway at Sa-less Gallery.

The exhibit will run until October 27 at the gallery located at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

* Shirin Gallery is showcasing the latest collection of paintings by Mostafa Akbari in an exhibition.

The exhibit will run until October 27 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Pouya Kosari is hanging his latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at Inja Gallery.

The exhibit named “Oblivion” will run until October 30 at the gal-ery located at 4 Pedram Alley, Neauphle-le-Chateau St.

26th Tehran Auction realizes over \$4.6 million

From left: “Heech” by Parviz Tanavoli, untitled mirror mosaic work by Monir Farmanfarmaian, and “Inside and Outside” by Kourosh Shishegaran were sold as the most expensive artworks of the 26th Tehran Auction, respectively.

TEHRAN – The 26th Tehran Auction, dedi-cated to modern and contemporary Iranian art, grossed more than \$4.6 million. In this edition, Parviz Tanavoli’s bronze “Heech” sculpture was sold as the most expensive artwork in the history of the auction.

Held at the Parsian Azadi Hotel in Tehran on October 16, the 26th Tehran Auction present-ed 100 works by 93 modern and contempo-rary Iranian artists, celebrating the diversity of artistic expression and the enduring value of Iran’s art scene, Honaronline reported.

The total estimated value of the artworks in this edition was announced at \$2.941 mil-lion. Ultimately, amidst intense competition among art buyers, all 100 offered works were sold for a total of \$4,603,500.

The most expensive work of this auction was a bronze sculpture titled “Heech” by Parviz Tanavoli, which had a base price of \$750,000 and was hammered down at \$1.77 million. This work broke the sales record across all editions of the Tehran Auction.

Following Tanavoli’s “Heech” sculpture, an untitled mirror mosaic work by Monir Far-manfarmaian, with a base price of \$377,000 was sold for \$461,538, setting the sec-ond-highest record in the auction’s history.

The third landmark artwork in the Iranian art market was a piece by Kourosh Shishe-garan titled “Inside and Outside,” which had a base price of \$204,000, and was sold for \$252,800.

The other best-selling artists whose works were offered at the auction include Abol-ghasem Saidi, Mohammad Ehsai, Hossein Zenderoudi, Mansour Ghandriz, Aydin Agh-dashloo, Farideh Lashai, Wahed Khakdan, Ma-nouchehr Yektai, Massoud Arabshahi, Sadegh Tabrizi, and Shahriar Ahmadi, among others.

The first of its kind in Iran, the Tehran Auc-tion was launched in 2012 as an independent and private initiative to introduce the best in Iranian art, ranging from established and emerging Iranian artists to art collectors and the global audience.

It aims to address the increasing interest in modern and contemporary Iranian art and facilitate the acquisition of quality works in reliable ways.

Researcher calls for greater understanding between religion and music in Iran

TEHRAN- A deeper under-standing of the relationship be-tween religious institutions and the arts is essential to address-ing longstanding challenges sur-rounding music in Iran, cultural sociologist Hossein Sarvi says, emphasizing the need for in-formed dialogue and a reassess-ment of institutional relations.

Speaking to Mehr News Agen-cy, Sarvi, whose book “Religion and Music in Contemporary Iran” examines the historical and so-cial dimensions of the subject, said some of the tensions be-tween religion and music stem not necessarily from fundamen-tal conflicts but from insufficient understanding of the nature, functions and sensitivities of the two fields.

“One of the main objectives of this research has been to help improve what I call ‘mutual in-stitutional literacy’ between re-ligious institutions and the arts,” Sarvi explained.

The concept refers to the abil-ity of each institution to better understand the other’s internal logic, functions, requirements and concerns, creating oppor-tunities for more informed and realistic interaction.

Sarvi argued that the relation-ship between religion and music

in Iran remains an important subject for cultural and social debate. Questions concerning the relationship between reli-gious and artistic institutions, cultural policymaking on music, and the scope and methods of official intervention continue to require reflection and scholarly discussion, he said.

According to the researcher, examining these issues solely through a historical lens would overlook their continuing rele-vance to contemporary Iranian society. He believes that a more comprehensive understanding of the two fields could help move discussions beyond oversimpli-fied interpretations and encour-age more constructive engage-

ment.

Sarvi also stressed that ac-ademic research should not be evaluated solely by conventional publishing-market standards, noting that specialized schol-arly works generally address a narrower audience than popu-lar literature. For him, the more significant measure of a study’s impact is its ability to enter ac-ademic discussions, attract the attention of researchers and contribute to sustained intellec-tual debate.

He expressed hope that his book would reach a broader au-dience, particularly university students, researchers, cultural policymakers and those interest-ed in interdisciplinary studies. He

added that further discussion of the issues raised in the research could contribute to a deeper un-derstanding of the relationship between religion and music in Iran.

Sarvi also highlighted the role of institutions responsible for introducing and promoting scholarly publications, saying that producing and publishing research represents only part of the process of generating and disseminating knowledge. Efforts to make such works ac-cessible to wider audiences are equally important in helping them gain a stronger presence in academic and cultural life.

Sarvi holds a PhD in cultural sociology and specializes in cul-tural studies and the sociology of art. He has experience in re-search, teaching and cultural ad-ministration and is currently con-ducting postdoctoral research in the Department of Music Studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

His book, “Religion and Music in Contemporary Iran,” has re-cently reached its second edi-tion following interest from re-searchers, academics, scientific and research centers, and read-ers interested in cultural and so-cial studies.

TMoCA cinematheque to review 6 films by Stanley Kubrick

TEHRAN – The cinematheque of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) will review six films by Stanley Kubrick on Sunday.

The films will be examined from a phil-osophical perspective in a session titled “Kubrick and the Cinema of Machines,” Mehr reported.

In this program, Farzad Karimi, a postdoc in interdisciplinary studies of literature and philosophy, will analyze the works alongside screening excerpts from six films by the late filmmaker.

The event will feature excerpts from the films “Dr. Strangelove,” “2001: A Space Od-yssey,” “A Clockwork Orange,” “The Shining,” “Full Metal Jacket,” and “Eyes Wide Shut.”

Attending this program is free and open to the general public.

Stanley Kubrick (1928 – 1999) was an American filmmaker and photographer. A prominent figure of the New Hollywood era, Kubrick is regarded as one of the greatest and most influential filmmakers. His films spanned a number of genres and gained rec-

ognition for their attention to detail, innova-tive cinematography, extensive set design, and dark humor.

Kubrick’s “Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb” (1964) was a satirical black comedy. Kubrick became preoccupied with the issue of nuclear war as the Cold War unfolded in the 1950s, and even considered moving to Australia because he feared that New York City might be a likely target for the Russians. He studied over 40 military and political research books on the subject and eventually reached the conclu-sion that “nobody really knew anything and the whole situation was absurd.”

A perfectionist who assumed direct control over most aspects of his filmmaking, Kubrick cultivated expertise in writing, editing, color grading, promotion, and exhibition. He was famous for the painstaking care taken in re-searching his films and staging scenes. He frequently asked for several dozen retakes of the same shot, often confusing and frus-trating his actors. Many of Kubrick’s films broke new cinematic ground and are now

considered landmarks. The scientific realism and innovative special effects in his science fiction epic “2001: A Space Odyssey” (1968) were a first in cinema history; the film earned him his only Academy Award (for Best Visual Effects) and is regarded as one of the great-est films ever made.

While many of Kubrick’s films were con-troversial and initially received mixed re-views upon release—particularly the brutal “A Clockwork Orange” (1971), which Kubrick withdrew from circulation in the UK following a media frenzy—most were nominated for Academy Awards, Golden Globes, or BAFTA Awards, and underwent critical re-evalua-tions.

With the horror film “The Shining” (1980), he became one of the first directors to make use of a Steadicam for stabilized and fluid tracking shots, a technology vital to his Viet-nam War film “Full Metal Jacket” (1987). A few days after hosting a screening for his fami-ly and the stars of his final film, “Eyes Wide Shut” (1999), he died at the age of 70.