

Why is Europe on fire this October?

By staff writer

TEHRAN — It started with teenagers block-ading their schools. Three weeks later (October 17), about 550,000 people marched through French towns and cities, according to Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez. Unions say 800,000.

Crowds followed in Milan, Lisbon, Madrid, Brussels and Tirana, and several marches ended in fires, looting and tear gas.

Though the triggers differ from capital to capital, the bill is the same everywhere: more for diesel, food and rent, less from the public services people already pay for.

Behind it sits a war that European governments say they were never consulted on, launched by Washington and Tel Aviv on February 28. ▶ Page 5

Iran joins countries with advanced quantum training laboratories

TEHRAN – Iran has joined countries with advanced laboratories for hands-on training in quantum technologies with the inauguration of three specialized facilities in quantum optics and quantum information, established with support from the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy.

Quantum technologies are considered one of the strategic fields of science and technology, globally. The development of quantum technologies requires advancement in fundamental research, specialized training, and advanced laboratories, IRNA reported. ▶ Page 7

Samarkand summit calls for greater investment in children’s well-being

By Afshin Majlesi

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan – Hundreds of policymakers, international officials and child welfare advocates gathered in the historic Uzbek city of Samarkand on Wednesday for a global summit aimed at making children’s health, education and protection a greater priority for governments.

The two-day World Summit on Investing in Children’s Well-being brought together more than 600 participants from over 100 countries, including senior United Nations officials, government representatives, first ladies and experts in children’s rights and development.

The meeting comes at a time when many countries are struggling to tackle child poverty, improve access to healthcare ▶ Page 6



Fireworks light up the sky around the Burj Khalifa Tower, as the UAE welcomes in the New Year, in Dubai on January 1, 2026.

Defense Without Limits

Iranian officials say Tehran will place no limits on hitting aggressors and their regional backers in case of a renewed US-Israeli attack

By Staff Writer

TEHRAN – The tone of the enemy toward Iran has sharply escalated again, with senior American and Israeli officials openly speaking of finishing the job and some analysts warning a new round of war is near, while Iranian political and military officials say the country is fully ready for a severe and unrestricted response.

An informed Iranian source told Press TV that Iran has prepared for an all-out, multi-layered and comprehensive war. According to the source, Tehran has made a firm decision that in reaction to any aggression, assassination and terror, it will respond without any limitation or restraint and will crush with full force the accessible interests and targets of the aggressors and their supporters in the region.

From Tehran’s point of view, the source said, the US will not launch an attack without

Iran’s FM: every possibility exists, including that the Americans and the Zionist regime will start another war. But we are in full readiness. We are fully prepared to defend ourselves and will stand until the last moment.

Israel, nor Israel without the US, and talk of their independence from each other in a war against Iran resembles a bitter joke. The explicit threats by American officials and the Zionist regime to attack Iran, the source added, have provided the legal and moral license for Iran to adopt necessary defensive measures.

“We will soon finish the job”

On Sunday, US President Donald Trump wrote on Truth Social that Iran had been “systematically destroyed, both militarily and financially, and unless they change their ways, rapidly, we will soon finish the job.”

In the same post, Trump gave his “complete and total endorsement” to Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of Israel’s October 27 parliamentary election, suggesting Washington could take on the fight itself if Netanyahu failed to stay in power: with the “wrong Leader” in Israel, “America will have to do this work ourselves.”

Trump did not specify what action he had in mind. Earlier this month he had said the US would not attack Iran before the November 3 US midterm elections and had spoken of “productive discussions.” His latest comments came after he and Netanyahu discussed a possible new military operation, according to Axios, which reported last week that Netanyahu raised intelligence suggesting Tehran was rebuilding its nuclear program. Trump has also raised the possibility of striking the underground Pickaxe Mountain complex near Natanz. ▶ Page 3

Parliament Speaker Qalibaf meets Leader of the Islamic Revolution

TEHRAN – Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, speaker of Iran’s Parliament, has met with Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khomeini, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, to discuss the latest developments in the military, economic and cognitive warfare waged by the US-Israeli adversary against Iran.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the conflict and stressed the need to strengthen the country’s sources of power, enhance national unity and social cohesion, and ensure continued, informed public participation in rallies across the country.

They also emphasized the importance of effective engagement by members of Parliament in safeguarding and consolidating national solidarity, as well as closer cooperation between the government and Parliament to address the public’s economic and livelihood concerns.

The discussions also underscored the need to advance matters related to Iran’s strategic partners.

Qalibaf, for his part, presented reports on the activities of lawmakers since the beginning of ‘the Third Imposed War,’ as well as the Parliament’s ongoing and future plans to address the country’s challenges and resolve outstanding problems.

‘No Kings’ protests reflect a crisis of imperial plutocracy in the US

By Michael Bradburn-Ruster

ARIZONA- The most obvious focus of the current “No Kings” protests lies in US citizens’ immediate “bread and butter issues”: brutal cuts to education, social security, and health care (\$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance); massive inflation that makes it hard to feed families, pay outrageous costs for health insurance, and endure the exorbitant price of fuel precipitated by the perfidious war on Iran, launched for a second time since June, 2025, in the midst of negotiations.

Beyond that initial layer is the severe reduction and even obliteration of programs that help the poor, and the savage attacks against immigrants, many of whom are either legal or already citizens; yet all of them—whether Latin American or Middle Eastern—cast as either “criminals, thugs, rapists” or “threats to national security”, and subjected to imprisonment and deportation. ▶ Page 3



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

Vigilance coupled with avoidance of provocative actions

Sazandegi examined the distinction between a preemptive strike during an active military confrontation and military action undertaken during a relative pause in hostilities. Quoting Mohammad Atrianfar, a member of the central council of the Servants of Construction Party (Sazandegi), the article stated that a preemptive attack may be considered within the logic of military operations during an active conflict. However, this differs fundamentally from situations in which both sides are observing a temporary ceasefire or experiencing a relative suspension of hostilities. In such circumstances, launching a preemptive attack would not necessarily resolve existing issues and could instead intensify tensions and broaden the scope of conflict. The path out of the current situation lies in a combination of defensive vigilance, restraint from provocative actions, and preserving diplomatic channels. The primary goal should be preventing the crisis from escalating and creating conditions for a lasting reduction in tensions.

Etemad: The West at an impasse

Etemad analyzed the visit of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to Tehran. His trip has fueled renewed speculation regarding Iran-US negotiations aimed at reviving the Islamabad understanding, a topic frequently discussed in Iran's political sphere. According to Mashaallah Shamsolvaezin, the United States bears the greatest responsibility for undermining the agreement because it approached the issue with the expectation of Iran's surrender. At the same time, Iran has succeeded in establishing a new balance against Washington and its allies through both military and diplomatic means. This balance has increased Western concerns about extending the conflict and opening new fronts, particularly in areas such as Bab al-Mandab. Shamsolvaezin believes that three major challenges, namely the Strait of Hormuz, the nuclear issue, and Bab al-Mandab, have pushed Washington toward negotiations that may accommodate some Iranian demands. However, he contends that the United States is attempting to downplay Iran's strategic advantages, even though those advantages have grown significantly stronger than they were before the war.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Diplomatic players in Tehran

From Sergey Lavrov's visit to the arrival of Asim Munir, the simultaneous diplomatic activity involving Pakistan, Oman, Qatar, and Russia, along with indirect Chinese support, signals an intensive effort to break the deadlock in Iran-US negotiations ahead of two crucial elections involving the Knesset and the US Congress. While this sequence of events does not by itself prove the existence of a coordinated agreement between Moscow and Islamabad, it carries considerable

political significance at a time when talks between Tehran and Washington face deep mistrust and disagreements over the Strait of Hormuz, sanctions, and the nuclear file. The common message of these diplomatic exchanges is clear: the channel for diplomacy remains open, and various actors are seeking a way to halt the cycle of escalating tensions before it develops into another round of military confrontation.

Arman-e-Melli: Iran-US tensions at an unprecedented level

In an article, Arman-e-Melli highlighted the complexity of the Iran-US dispute, arguing that the confrontation, shaped by joint US and Israeli attacks on Iran, possesses a level of complexity unlike previous crises. A review of conflicts involving Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, Syria, and even border disputes over the past decade reveals that none had as many dimensions and layers as the current tensions between Iran and the United States. Part of this complexity stems from Iran's strategic geography and Tehran's geopolitical leverage against Washington and its allies. Another factor is the central role of energy, combined with the connection of these issues to broader regional developments, including the wars in Yemen and Lebanon. Given these circumstances, it is natural that new mediators, including actors from outside the region, continue to become involved. The result is a deeply interconnected conflict environment in which not only Pakistan, Qatar, Oman, Turkey, and China have become active, but Russia has also intensified its engagement.

Kayhan: Hormuz, where the oil price is still decided

Kayhan explained how Iran has used the Strait of Hormuz as leverage to increase economic pressure on the United States. The Strait of Hormuz remains at the center of the regional crisis, providing Iran with a significant geopolitical and economic advantage. In addition to possessing vast oil and gas reserves, Iran is situated alongside one of the world's most critical energy corridors. With oil prices remaining above \$100 per barrel and strategic reserves under unprecedented strain, the United States is experiencing the costs of its confrontational policies through historically high interest rates and persistent inflation. Under these conditions, markets are closely monitoring not only military and diplomatic developments but also statements by Iranian officials regarding the security of the Strait of Hormuz, oil exports, and future tensions. Reassuring messages can reduce part of the oil market's risk premium, whereas signs of growing uncertainty can have the opposite effect. The newspaper argued that Iranian officials should carefully consider the market impact of their economic and diplomatic statements.

Iran condemns US measures against Cuba as 'criminal and illegal'

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry has condemned US sanctions and pressure against Cuba, describing Washington's measures against the Caribbean nation as violations of international law and the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the ministry said that more than seven decades of US sanctions, pressure and intimidation targeting Cuba, its officials and public figures ran counter to international law and human rights principles.

The ministry also denounced an arrest warrant issued by authorities in the US state of Florida for former Cuban President Raúl Castro, calling it a "criminal and illegal act" and stressing the need to respect Cuba's sovereignty, independence and right to self-determination. Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier announced the warrant on Monday against Castro, who served as Cuba's president from 2008 to 2018. The warrant accuses him of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in connection with the 1996 downing of two civilian aircraft in Cuban airspace.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel reject-

ed the move in a post on X, describing it as a politically motivated legal manoeuvre targeting both Castro and Cuba.

"This reprehensible action against the Army General this morning in a pathetic Miami circus, with an electoral backdrop, has no, nor will it ever have, the slightest legal sense and even less practical sense," Diaz-Canel wrote.

He added that the move reflected Washington's difficulties in justifying its blockade of Cuba and 'the collective punishment' of the Cuban people. Iran's Foreign Ministry called on the US government to be held accountable for the consequences of its policies, particularly their impact on the fundamental human rights of the Cuban people.

The statement reaffirmed Iran's solidarity with Cuba and stressed that the Cuban people's right to determine their own future must be respected.

The Iranian ministry's remarks underscore Tehran's opposition to unilateral sanctions and its support for Cuba's sovereignty and independence amid renewed tensions over Washington's measures against the country.

Pezeshkian: Iran will not bow to US pressure, but does not seek war

TEHRAN — Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has stressed that Iran does not seek war but will firmly resist US pressure and will never submit to threats, coercion, or bullying by Washington.

"We are not seeking war, but we will absolutely not bow to the enemy's force and bullying," Pezeshkian said on Wednesday, addressing the 30th National Export Day ceremony, where the country's leading exporters were honored.

The president said the United States had underestimated Iran's ability to withstand military attacks and sanctions, adding that the Iranian nation had demonstrated its resilience and would continue to stand firm.

"The Americans imagine we cannot withstand their attacks and sanctions, but we will stand firm," he said.



Pezeshkian also criticized Washington for launching military attacks against Iran while negotiations were underway. He referred to the assassination of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, military commanders and scientists, as well as attacks that killed students.

He said Iran had been pursuing diplomacy based on instruc-

tions received from the Leader before his martyrdom, but the United States had resorted to military action during the negotiating process.

The president attributed the escalation of regional and international tensions to Washington's hegemonic and warmongering approach. He added that the Iranian nation's persever-

ance in the face of sanctions and external pressure had changed how neighboring countries and others viewed Iran's capabilities.

Pezeshkian added that Iran was dealing with numerous longstanding challenges, which had been compounded by the war and external pressure. He said the country needed to chart a course that would allow it to move forward with strength and determination.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi also said in a separate statement on the occasion: Iran faced both military threats and extensive economic sanctions, requiring officials to take wartime conditions into account when making decisions.

"The reality is that the country is in a state of war, and therefore all decisions must be made within the framework of wartime conditions," he said.

Russia is ready to help resolve Iran-US dispute, Putin says

TEHRAN— Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Moscow is ready to help resolve the dispute between Iran and the United States, citing Russia's longstanding relationship with Tehran and expressing interest in Washington's assessment of the situation in West Asia.

Putin made the remarks on Wednesday during a meeting with US President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, at the Konstantinovskiy Palace in St. Petersburg. The talks also covered the conflict in Ukraine and prospects for restoring economic cooperation between Moscow and Washington.

"I am very interested in hearing the United States' assessment of the situation in the Middle East and the issue of Iran," Putin said at the start of the meeting, according to the Russian account of his remarks.

He described Russia's relationship with Iran as special and based on trust, saying the ties had developed over decades.

"We have special, trusting relations with our partners and friends in Iran, built over decades. If we can do anything to help resolve this crisis, we will be happy to do so," Putin said.

The offer comes amid continuing tensions between Tehran and Washington and diplomatic efforts to address their differences. Moscow's statement signals its willingness to play a role in easing the dispute, although Putin did not outline a specific mediation initiative during the opening remarks.

Ukraine conflict remains a key focus

Putin also thanked Trump for his attention to efforts to resolve the conflict in Ukraine, referring to their latest telephone conversation and the need to end the fighting to prevent further loss of life.

Witkoff, in turn, said his recent discussions in Oslo with European officials and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had been constructive and had produced progress. He said there were areas in which the parties could move towards a cessation of hostilities.

The US envoy expressed hope that Pu-



tin would consider resuming negotiations involving Russia, the United States and Ukraine, with discussions focusing on technical issues related to a settlement.

According to Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov, the Ukraine conflict was the principal focus of Wednesday's meeting.

Witkoff also said that ending the conflict could open up prospects for expanding economic ties between Russia and the United States.

Moscow signals readiness for wider economic cooperation

Putin said Russia was prepared to discuss restoring economic cooperation with Washington, including supplying the US market with large quantities of fertilizer.

He also referred to an agreement reached with Trump during their October 9 telephone conversation on Russian diesel supplies to the United States and international markets.

Putin said diesel prices on global markets had fallen by 5-6% following the announcement of the arrangement. He added that Russia was preparing several tanker shipments, with the first expected to carry 40,000 tonnes and depart within two to three days.

Witkoff thanked Putin on Trump's behalf for the diesel agreement, which represents a step towards renewed energy trade between the two countries despite their continuing geopolitical differences.

The proposed supplies come as Washington seeks to ease pressure on fuel markets. However, the scale and timing of deliveries will determine how much additional Russian diesel can reach international buyers.

Kushner absent from St. Petersburg meeting

Witkoff arrived in St. Petersburg without Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, who had accompanied him on previous meetings with Putin. Ushakov said Kushner was unable to travel because of illness. He had also been absent from Witkoff's recent trip to Norway, where the envoy met European officials and Zelensky.

Wednesday's meeting brought together discussions on three major issues: the Ukraine conflict, US-Russia economic ties and the situation surrounding Iran. While Ukraine remained the central item on the agenda, Putin's public remarks on Iran underscored Moscow's stated readiness to assist in resolving the dispute between Tehran and Washington.

US seeks to blame Iran for insecurity caused by its own aggression: Tehran essert

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei has condemned Washington's call for the international community to denounce Iran over insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, saying the United States cannot evade responsibility for its own actions by portraying the victim as the aggressor.

In a message posted on X, Baqaei said the United States had attacked Iran twice in less than nine months while negotiations were underway, accusing Washington and its allies of inflicting civilian casualties, assassinating Iranian leaders and intensifying economic sanctions against the Iranian people.

"They attacked Iran twice in less than nine months — while negotiations were underway," Baqaei wrote, referring to the deaths of children in Minab and



girls in Lamerd, the assassination of Iranian leaders, and mounting economic pressure on the country.

He also accused Washington of violating the understanding it had signed with Iran on June 17, saying that, despite these actions, the United States was now calling on the world to con-

demn Tehran.

Baqaei argued that the consequences of what he described as unlawful aggression extended far beyond the region, contributing to regional instability and global economic insecurity.

"The world is paying the price of your unlawful aggression through regional instability and

global economic insecurity," he wrote.

Rejecting Washington's attempt to shift responsibility onto Iran, the spokesman said those responsible for initiating a conflict could not subsequently present themselves as victims while demanding international condemnation of the other side.

"You cannot launch a war of choice, set the region ablaze, unleash global chaos, and then play the victim," he said.

"You cannot evade responsibility by turning the aggressor into the accuser and the victim into the culprit."

The Iranian spokesman maintained that accountability for regional instability and its wider economic and energy consequences must be addressed without reversing the roles of those responsible for aggression and those subjected to it.

Defense without limits

Iranian officials say Tehran will place no limits on hitting aggressors and their regional backers in case of a renewed US-Israeli attack

From Page 1 ► At a campaign rally in Kansas on Monday, Trump said the US was in a position to walk away from the war now, describing Iran as devastated and adding: “They’re not going to have a nuclear weapon.”

Netanyahu matched the tone. In a briefing with Israeli journalists on Sunday, he declared that bringing down the Islamic Republic remained a key objective and that he had directed all security agencies to pursue it: “We must bring this regime down once and for all.”

Presenting an updated security doctrine, he said, as reported by Israel Hayom: “The objectives I set do not depend on American approval. To the extent necessary, we will also act independently. We have done so before, and if necessary, we will do so again. We are prepared to take the initiative. We must prevent the enemy from delivering the first blow.”

He described confronting Iran as his “life’s mission,” claimed “90% of the job is done” by pointing to economic pressure and protests, and responded to Trump’s endorsement with: “Together we will complete the mission!” In a video of a phone call released Monday, he told Trump: “Donald, we have a job to finish, you said it, and we’ll finish it together.”

In an interview with Fox News on October 18, Netanyahu warned Iran is developing intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching US cities and seeking nuclear warheads, saying: “You are the real target.” He listed as his first priority if reelected: “First, we will achieve the complete elimination of the Iranian threat to Israel, to America, and to the entire world.”

Unannounced visit and election countdown

The rhetoric moved with military sig-

nals. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth paid an unannounced visit to Israel on Monday, October 19, meeting Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz at Ovda Air Base in the Negev. Spokesman Doron Spielman said they discussed “the threats in the region” and offensive-defensive cooperation. The Pentagon gave no details.

On Tuesday, Hegseth told US troops in the Central Command area: “I got to see some of our warfighters — they’re preparing and ready to ensure that Iran never has a nuclear weapon,” adding they were “ready to go.”

Israel canceled soldiers’ leave from Thursday ahead of the vote. Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir said forces were on “a high level of alertness and readiness” against “external interference.” Netanyahu told i24NEWS on Tuesday that Iran and its proxies could try to disrupt the October 27 election.

Either a deal or an attack”

The Financial Times reported on Wednesday, October 21, citing a person familiar with Israeli planning, that renewed US-Israeli strikes in the coming weeks are “not an unreasonable scenario.” Three sources said Netanyahu urged the military earlier this month to prepare a multi-day offensive including nuclear sites, planned for the weekend of October 10, which did not proceed after Trump opposed action before the US midterms. One source said: “There will either be a deal or an attack.”

White House deputy spokesperson Anna Kelly told the FT the US “will not be attacking Iran at any time prior to the midterm elections.” The New York Times quoted Raz Zimmet of Tel Aviv’s INSS as saying: “The baseline expectation in Israel, and in Israel, is that it’s a matter of when the war restarts, not if.” He added a strike



A satellite image taken September 11, 2026, shows the aftermath of a September 10, 2026 attack on a pumping station on Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline. It was one of three pumping stations damaged in strikes that day.

alone would likely not achieve Washington’s goals but might give Trump “an image of victory and a way out.”

Ready for war, ready for diplomacy

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Iraq’s Al-Ekhabariya channel that Iran entered three rounds of talks and all three led to war. “We were in the midst of negotiations and in the end it was proven that the Americans cannot be trusted. In the third round, we reached an understanding with Trump, but Trump himself violated it and adhered to it for only two weeks.”

After more than eight months, Washington has achieved none of its objectives, he said, calling that a strategic failure for the US and a strategic success for Iran. America is now in a deep quagmire, resorting to military threats, sanctions and pressure on neighbors not to cooperate with Tehran, without result. “Iran will never surrender, neither to sanctions nor to military threats. The only solution

is diplomacy and a negotiated solution.”

“Every possibility exists, including that the Americans and the Zionist regime will start another war. But we are in full readiness. We are fully prepared to defend ourselves and will stand until the last moment,” Araghchi said. “When I say we are ready for war, it does not mean we want war. It is a message to do calculations and not enter that war again. We are as ready for diplomacy as we are for war.”

The main deterrent, he argued, is that readiness: Americans know war cannot deliver their goals. In the two wars, they “fell into Israel’s trap, more precisely Netanyahu’s trap. Netanyahu will do anything for his personal goal, not for America, Israel or anyone else.”

In a Financial Times essay titled “The false assumptions about us are dangerous,” Araghchi wrote that a way forward requires Washington to accept it has “no military options.” Trump entered the war on “fundamentally erroneous assump-

tions,” being wrongly told Iranian forces are unprepared, despite lessons learned since 2025. “In June 2025 and February 2026, they bombed us while we were negotiating. And in June this year, shortly after an agreement was signed by Presidents Pezeshkian and Trump, we were attacked a third time. How can we trust a US president again?”

He recalled presenting a Seven-Day Plan via mediators at the UN General Assembly under which the US would do nothing it had not already agreed to: the Strait of Hormuz would reopen on Day 6, talks for a final deal on Day 7. He cited Moody’s that the war has cost US consumers \$265 billion this year, about \$2,000 per household, half from energy prices, plus damaged bases and equipment losses. Further escalation, he warned, would put civilian lives, regional states and the world economy at great risk and bring “even greater strategic failure.”

Defense without restraint

Armed Forces General Staff spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi replied to Trump and Netanyahu: “We tell the child-killing twins, Trump and Netanyahu: you are on the slope of decline, and with boasting you will not save yourselves from the swamp of death.”

New Defense Minister Mehrdad Akhlaghi Ketabchi, approved Sunday with 237 votes, wrote he devoted his first working hour to the IRGC Aerospace Force and Army air defense: “For us, responding to threats is not a rhetorical contest; it is turning threats into greater readiness. We are focused on our targets with new technologies; we eat dust but we will not give away soil.”

National Security Commission Chairman Ebrahim Azizi wrote on X: “Regardless of your election results, we have no

doubt about your hostility. We are ready, in response to any operational mistake, to wipe you off the map.”

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei wrote Wednesday on X, reacting to the US Secretary of State’s call to condemn Iran over Persian Gulf insecurity: “In less than nine months, they attacked Iran twice in the middle of negotiations; they slaughtered our children in Minab, killed our daughters in Lamard, assassinated our leaders, and intensified sanctions; and now, after blatantly violating the understanding they signed, while claiming victory, they ask the world to condemn Iran.” The world, he said, is paying for US-Israeli law-breaking, from regional turmoil to energy insecurity. “You cannot set fires, throw the region into chaos, then stand as plaintiff and ask others to condemn the victim.”

Ball in Washington’s court

Tehran sees a deadlock not easily broken. The gap over the balance of conflict, US pressure to force submission before the midterms, Iran’s tighter control of Hormuz and action against violating vessels, oil above \$110 after two tankers carrying 4 million barrels hit mines — one burning, one halted — the criticized diesel deal with Russia, and Hegseth’s secret talks with Netanyahu alongside UAE officials all point to continued tension.

While unofficial sources speak of a Pakistan-Qatar proposal, Tehran believes Trump seeks to pass the midterms, not end a costly war whose declared goals keep changing. Iran does not doubt Islamabad’s sincerity, but the ball, officials say, is in Washington’s court. Until the US abandons the illusion of forcing surrender and imposing unilateral terms, by negotiation or aggression, the conflict will not end.

‘No Kings’ protests reflect a crisis of imperial plutocracy in the US

From Page 1 ► A distinct goal of the current protests, however, as noted by Tehran Times, is the urgent emphasis on voting in the upcoming midterm elections, since the average voter turnout in midterm elections is only 48%, despite a rise to 52% in 2022. Midterm elections occur halfway through a presidential term, and determine the composition of both chambers of Congress, Representatives and Senators. This November’s election is particularly crucial, for if Trump loses his Republican majority in Congress, Democrats plan to launch investigations into his blatantly corrupt family businesses, the Epstein files, immigration enforcement, and corporate profiteering. And if Trump also loses control of the Senate, Democrats can block Trump’s nominees for Cabinet positions, paralyze his appointment of federal judges and nominees to the Supreme Court, give Democrats subpoena power that would enhance their power to investigate the administration, and might possibly lead to impeachment proceedings.

While Trump and his base—both the “uneducated” he claims to love and the oligarchs he panders—fear such an outcome, the rest of the country dreads that the administration may steal the election, as he attempted to do in 2020, and which Trump continues to hallucinate having won.

For more astute protesters, deeper dimensions lie beyond their immediate private afflictions and political tactics: the current regime is the malignant harvest of a systemic sociopolitical disease, an incremental process that has achieved only its most virulent embodiment in Trump. Decades of lavish tax breaks for the ultra-rich have impoverished and depleted life for the ordinary citizen, accomplished by the long assault on Labor Unions and the obscene rise in Corporate Profits. The struggle is against a system devoted to perpetual war and militarism, the rise of a surveillance state behind a shabby façade of “democracy” whose flimsy mask conceals the true face of a merciless plutocracy.

The entire society has been commodified: humanity, personhood, culture, art, law, and indeed the Earth itself are subordinated to the calculation of profit for the oligarchs. As one corporate executive affirmed, “We have to save capitalism from democracy” [Quoted in Nancy MacLean’s masterful Democracy in Chains (2017)]. But this catastrophe did not begin with Trump, whose flagrant vulgarity, malice, ignorance and blatant corruption have reduced every ideal to a “deal”, every principle to “profit”, every fact to “fake news.” Nonetheless, Trump has crossed a threshold, representing an apotheosis of the Neoliberal ideology that has reigned since Reagan and Thatcher. Not to be confused with “Liberal” social values, Neoliberalism is not merely an economic theory but a

Worldview that envisions the absolute supremacy of the spurious “Free Market”: privatization of all public space, the erasure of any regulations and responsibilities that protect workers, the public and the environment. The social fabric is devastated: citizens are reduced to mere consumers; elections succumb to legal bribery; the individual will is divinized, while community and compassion are mocked as “Communist.”

At its root, Neoliberalism is an assault on all transcendent values, which are reduced to mere transactions: the evisceration of the Goodness, Truth and Beauty that form the very basis and deep fraternity of authentic principles that might unite the threefold Abrahamic Traditions and bridge the distance between East and West. But for the plutocracy, nothing is sacred: all life is merely “collateral damage” in the cult of money and power. Meanwhile, a perverse, heretical “Christian fascism” mirrors the Zionist desecration of Judaism and mutilates our shared dialectical heritage into a weapon of conquest.

On leaving office in January, 1961 President Eisenhower warned against the Military Industrial Complex (MIC), which over the last six decades has metastasized into the Military-Industrial-Media-Academic Complex (MIMAC), whereby Corporate Media serves as flagrant propaganda, and corporatized University Administrations silence and expel voices dedicated to the practice of critical thinking, professors who bravely stand for global justice, peace and accountability, while war crimes and genocide are upheld with lies, prevarication and impunity.

Trump has waged an assault on the very foundations of American society: the Constitution, a crucial element of which is the “separation of powers” between the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches, designed to avert the rise of tyranny. While Trump has attacked judges appointed by former presidents of both parties, he has fantasized that Article II of the Constitution gives him the right to do “whatever I want.”

The Will to Power and Addiction to Avarice reign supreme. In 2018, Trump unilaterally abrogated Obama’s JCPOA—the accord (in conjunction with China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United Kingdom) limiting Iran’s nuclear development in exchange for sanctions relief—despite Iran’s compliance, as verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That fateful decision resulted from pressure exerted by his billionaire donors, amid the long-established aims of the CIA in conjunction with Mossad.

What many Iranians as well as Americans grasp is that we are facing an administration of the most deeply cynical character, whose abysmal in-

humanity was crystallized in the heartless retort of Matt Schlapp (chairman of the American Conservative Union), on a Piers Morgan broadcast in March: dismissing Peter Beinart’s compassionate lament that if the U.S. and Israel had not attacked Iran on February 28, the schoolgirls killed at the Shajarah Tayyibeh elementary school in Minab “would be alive,” Schlapp quipped: “They’d be alive in a burqa... in a barbaric, unequal society... with no ability to make career choices.” By Schlapp’s cavalier reckoning, the illegal, unprovoked war of aggression launched against Iran was blameless, the humanity of both the dead and living girls, their teachers and parents obliterated, along with the lives of the 73 boys whose massacre was omitted in nearly all US media reports.

Be it noted that Schlapp has faced multiple sexual harassment charges involving other men.

The bombing of Minab was no mere “accident”, given that Pete Hegseth, Trump’s Secretary of War (formerly “Defense”) openly implemented a doctrine of “More lethality and less accountability”, publicly spurning what he called “stupid rules of engagement.” Not mere bravado: he dissolved the policy to limit civilian casualties established by the Department of Defense, known as the Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response (CHMR), pronounced “Chimmer”, and fired the senior advisor at the Pentagon’s Civilian Protection Center of Excellence, Air Force combat veteran Wes J. Bryant. “We’re departing from the rules and norms that we’ve tried to establish as a global community since at least World War II,” Bryant said. “There’s zero accountability.”

As the eminent former Ambassador Chas Freeman has declared, “diplomacy... begins with empathy.” The tragic reality of US foreign policy, he laments, is quite the opposite: “We don’t do diplomacy anymore. [In] the ‘rules-based order,’ ... we make the rules and decide who they apply to and who is exempt from them.”

Freeman’s grim insights are amply confirmed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s shameless scorn of “so-called International Law”, as the administration engages in attacking and dismantling every mechanism designed to promote and ensure human rights and global accountability, from the UN to the ICC, which Trump himself has called “an evil group of people”. For the US soars above the law, which it makes and breaks, supports or sabotages at will, in accordance with its capricious, often incoherent and myopic “interests” bereft of values, blind to principles, contemptuous of truth.

Like a lobotomized version of Netanyahu, Trump exemplifies what Marc Owen Jones has called alethocide: the killing of truth, in brash defiance of Hannah Arendt’s warning: “The ideal subject of



totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the convinced Communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction (i.e., the reality of experience) and the distinction between the true and the false (i.e., the standards of thought) no longer exist.” [The Origins of Totalitarianism. Part 3, Ch. 13, §3., p. 474. (1979 ed.)].

Yet lest we be comforted by the hope that a Democratic majority would make the needful turn to empathy and diplomacy, we have only to regard the dismal Biden policy toward Palestine to sober such wishes, from its refusal to condemn the brutal evictions of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem (2021), to its audacious denials of Israeli apartheid—documented and declared from 2020-2022 not only by the UN, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, but by Israeli human rights organizations B’Tselem and Yesh Din—to its brazen lies and duplicity in the face of war crimes and genocide, as Biden’s minions violated US domestic law by providing Israel a flood of weapons, and “willfully enabled atrocities” in Gaza, as meticulously detailed in the recent book Crossing the Red Line by Akbar Shahid Ahmed.

As demonstrated since the Clinton presidency, the key difference between the two US parties rests in rhetoric and comportment, not in substance: while Trump spews vulgarity, racism, misogyny, megalomania and toxic fables; threatens Iran that “a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again”; declares Climate Change a “hoax” and sneers at the global scientific consensus regarding the ecocide we continue to commit—Democrats deplore his barbarity and ignorance, while urbanely praising human rights but ignoring their implementation, raise insipid procedural objections against the war, and prudently pose and gesture toward crucial shifts to renewable energy—yet only two candidates even mention “climate” on their current campaign websites.

After Gaza, the Democrats’ notoriety as “the lesser of two evils” is more woefully suspect than

ever. Both parties serve the corporate and financial elite, even as they seduce and betray their constituents, far too many of whom remain complacent in the face of the fascist tide, distracted by celebrity worship, sports events, casinos, and barbecues, while vainly imagining themselves immune to the lure of “bread and circuses” and the lust for dominion and military might that leads to the suicide of empires. Trump is merely, as Chris Hedges avows, “the naked, stripped-down expression of this suicidal pact.”

The thirst for hope must not erase our nation’s long history of depredation, too rarely taught in our schools: throughout the twentieth century US support for Latin American dictators reached its peak during the Reagan administration, but the Empire emerged long before: the Mexican-American War (1846-8) was provoked by the US in order to justify stealing the territories and riches of California and Texas; Hawaii was overthrown in 1893; and the Spanish-American War of 1898—purportedly to “liberate Cuba from the domination of Spain (the erstwhile analogue of our era’s enemies du jour, whether “Communist” or “Islamist”), but in truth to ensure US domination of the Caribbean sugar market—extended to the Philippine War (1899-1902) to annex and subjugate the archipelago under the guise of independence, freedom, and “Christian” values.

The dynamic satirized in Mark Twain’s scathing essay of 1901, “To the Person Sitting in Darkness” exposed the seething Imperialism and avarice beneath the dazzling veil of rhetorical hypocrisy in its lethal quest to “enlighten” the “savage,” “heathen,” “uncivilized” peoples and lands whose sovereignty and dignity were despoiled in our grotesque triumph.

A modicum of change will doubtless come with time, but the imperative transformation of consciousness may well arrive only with the bitter gift of regret: the inevitable collapse of our hegemonic Heart of Darkness.

Co-op MOU signed between Chambers of Commerce of Mashhad, Dushanbe



TEHRAN- During the trip of the Governor of Khorasan Razavi Province and his accompanying delegation to Tajikistan, a cooperation memorandum was signed between the Chambers of Commerce of Mashhad and Dushanbe with the aim of developing trade interactions and facilitating the activities of traders and businessmen of the two countries.

At the signing meeting, held at the Dushanbe Chamber of Commerce, the issue of Iranian and Tajik traders using the domestic forex rates of the two countries to attend exhibitions and develop exhibition cooperation was discussed and agreed upon.

Also, the ground for the presence of Tajik businessmen in the Mashhad Mining Exhibition, which is held in the next Iranian month, was reviewed, and emphasis was placed on providing the possibility of attendance and allocating booths to Tajik traders.

Acceptance of Iran's national standards for goods imported into Tajikistan was another topic raised at this meeting, and it was decided that the necessary follow-ups in this regard would be carried out through the Dushanbe Chamber of Commerce.

It is worth noting that at the end of this meeting, the head of the Dushanbe Chamber of Commerce and Tajik economic actors were invited to travel to Khorasan Razavi Province in the coming months at the invitation of the Mashhad Chamber of Commerce, so that the ground for expanding trade and economic cooperation between the two sides would be provided more than before.

Back in mid-August, Iran and Tajikistan took a significant step toward deepening their energy partnership, with both sides agreeing to establish a working group to examine mechanisms for exporting Iran's surplus oil products and supplying crude oil needed by Tajikistan's refineries.

The agreement, announced on August 15 following high-level talks in Tehran, marks the latest in a series of accelerated diplomatic and economic engagements between the two Persian-speaking nations over the past year.

Mohsen Paknejad, Iran's former Oil Minister, met with Dalir Juma, Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources, and Azim Ibrahim, Tajikistan's Minister of Transport, to review cooperation capacities. Speaking after the discussions, Paknejad described the meeting as "a very good opportunity" to explore partnership potential with Tajikistan.

"The bulk of these discussions focused on the possibility of exporting Iran's surplus oil products, so that we can help address some of the issues and problems facing our friendly and brotherly country Tajikistan, which it is currently encountering in this area," Paknejad stated.

The Oil Minister confirmed that various mechanisms have been considered for this cooperation and that a working group will be formed to examine the issues and enter into technical discussions. "Our basis is to be able to draft a long-term contract framework with Tajikistan regarding fuel supply and the supply of crude oil needed by its refineries," he added.

Paknejad noted that this was the third time in two years he had met with Tajikistan's Energy Minister in Tehran, and that the matter had been seriously pursued by both sides with groundwork laid for implementation. "A significant portion of this cooperation is currently being implemented, and related operations are underway," he said.

Regarding the potential volume of bilateral trade, Paknejad said it depends on logistics conditions and will be implemented in accordance with available capacities.

For his part, Dalir Juma emphasized that Tajikistan, given the global energy situation, is seeking to increase imports of oil products from Iran. He described the meeting as productive and noted

that a high-level Tajik delegation had traveled to Tehran specifically to examine ways to boost imports, particularly at a time when many countries face energy challenges and Dushanbe has been affected by these conditions.

Juma confirmed that details of cooperation, including product type and required quantity, were reviewed during the talks. He noted that Tajikistan's Transport Minister, who also chairs the Joint Committee for Iran-Tajikistan Cooperation, was present to discuss transport and logistics capacities. "Cooperation in the oil sector can become one of the most important axes of bilateral cooperation between Tajikistan and Iran," Juma emphasized, expressing confidence that energy trade development would positively impact overall economic and commercial relations.

Transport and logistics cooperation gaining momentum

The energy agreement builds on a series of bilateral engagements that have gathered pace throughout 2026. Just a month earlier, in mid-July, Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh, met with Shayesteh Saeed Moradzadeh, Tajikistan's Deputy Minister of Transport, in Tehran to emphasize the development of transportation, transit, and logistics cooperation.

The July 13 meeting, held in the framework of following up on agreements from the visit of Tajikistan's President to Tehran, saw both sides review the latest status of bilateral cooperation and discuss solutions to strengthen cooperation in the transportation and transit of goods, the development of logistics infrastructure, and the enhancement of regional connectivity.

The two sides examined existing capacities for expanding logistics cooperation, developing transit, and utilizing the capacity of Iran's ports. They emphasized accelerating the implementation of joint agreements and making maximum use of existing capacities in the path of developing transportation relations.

Solutions for developing cooperation in the field of transit corridors, facilitating the movement of goods, enhancing regional cooperation, and creating the necessary platforms for increasing trade and transit exchanges among regional countries were discussed. The two sides also emphasized the continuation of consultations and holding joint meetings at various levels, especially at the ministerial level.

The development of air transport cooperation, increasing flights between cities of the two countries, exchanging technical expertise, as well as expanding rail cooperation, increasing freight transport capacity, and examining new rail routes were among other topics discussed.

Trade and industrial ties on the rise

In early June, Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyed Mohammad Atabak, and his Tajik counterpart, Sherali Kabir, met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Industry Ministers' Meeting. The two sides emphasized the development and facilitation of trade exchanges between Tehran and Dushanbe.

Atabak and Kabir aimed to maximize the utilization of capacities and strengthen mutual economic ties, emphasizing the acceleration of the implementation process of previous memoranda of understanding and operationalizing agreements. Increasing the level of trade exchanges between the two countries, attention to Iran's extensive capabilities in mineral reserves, mineral processing, pharmaceutical industries, and textiles were examined.

The industry ministers agreed on the necessity of facilitating administrative processes to expedite trade and industrial relations between Tehran and Dushanbe, and emphasized the need to utilize the capacities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as a transformative platform for industrial convergence among member states.

National Export Day ceremony held with President Pezeshkian in attendance

TEHRAN- The National Export Day ceremony was held on Wednesday morning, October 21, at the Summit Hall, with the attendance of President Masoud Pezeshkian; Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas Araghchi; Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Seyed Mohammad Atabak; Head of the Trade Promotion Organization Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi; Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture Samad Hassanzadeh; those active in the field of foreign trade, and related experts, to honor national exemplary exporters.

At the 30th National Export Day ceremony, the Export Atlas system was unveiled, and 13 national premium companies and 43 national exemplary companies were honored.

A joint committee should be formed to quickly remove export barriers

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, emphasizing the need to accelerate the removal of export barriers, called for the formation of a joint committee with the participation of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, and the Central Bank to quickly resolve exporters' problems.

Seyed Mohammad Atabak, Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, speaking at the National Export Day ceremony and referring to the presence of private-sector representatives in the Supreme Council for Non-Oil Exports, stated: "Given the multiplicity of government bodies present in this council, it is necessary to form a specialized committee before issues are raised at the highest level, so that the required matters are examined there and, as far as possible, decided."

Addressing the President, the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade added: "In the current situation, especially given hourly changes in the status of some borders, decisions must be made more quickly. Accordingly, I propose that a committee be formed with the membership of the Iran Chamber of Commerce,



the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, and the Central Bank so that it can decide on the current issues and problems of exporters. In cases requiring decision-making at a higher level, the approvals of this working group would be submitted to the Supreme Council for Non-Oil Exports for final approval."

Atabak, referring to the unveiling of the comprehensive atlas of the country's official foreign trade gateways at the ceremony, said: "It is expected that this atlas will become a reference for foreign trade actors. Of course, to maintain its effectiveness, the information must be continuously updated, and this can be pursued under the stewardship of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran."

He also emphasized the need to strengthen the presence of Iranian traders in target markets and referred to the capacities of the country's trade agreements, saying: "In some markets, including the Eurasian Economic Union, there are fewer barriers to trade development, but the presence of Iranian traders in these markets still needs strengthening."

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, referring to last week's meeting with officials of the Eurasian Economic Union, stated: "At this meeting, the Union's officials did not consider the number of Iranian traders active in the Union's market to be proportionate to existing capacities. This is while the efforts of the country's exporters have placed Iran among the top countries in this field; neverthe-

less, increasing the presence of Iranian traders in the markets of member states remains necessary."

Atabak also announced agreements in the field of standards and said: "It was agreed that, to prevent export stoppages due to standards issues, the country's prevailing standards and certificates of origin would be used so that the export process continues and exported goods do not face stoppage due to these barriers."

He emphasized the need to follow up on the agreements made, continuously update the comprehensive atlas of the country's official foreign trade gateways, and strengthen decision-making mechanisms to remove export barriers.

Drafting of 10 proposals to remove trade barriers and develop value-creating exports / Necessity of compensating for increased transportation costs

The Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, while emphasizing the need to facilitate regulations, compensate for increased transportation costs, and strengthen the presence of Iranian firms in global markets, announced the drafting of 10 proposals aimed at entering the decision-making cycle and facilitating the path of exporters' activity.

Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, at the 30th National Export Day ceremony, emphasized the necessity of supporting exporters, removing domestic barriers, and strengthening the infrastructure for export development.

Dehghan Dehnavi, referring to the position of exporters in the country's economy, said: "National Export Day is not a day for stating numbers and lists of actions; rather, it is a day to appreciate those who have created and maintained a link between the domestic market and foreign customers."

He added that exporters did not stop the trade process under the difficult conditions caused by war, sanctions, and economic blockade: "Despite problems in transferring funds, exporters remained committed to their obligations and worked to sustain employment. This resilience demonstrates their decisive role in maintaining the flow of trade and the continuity of the country's economic activities."

The Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, referring to the slogan "Dynamic Trade, Value-Creating Exports," stated: "This year's slogan cannot be reduced to a mere title; rather, it is a criterion for measuring the performance of actors in the non-oil export field."

The Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, referring to the importance of transportation routes in the country's foreign trade, stated: "Seventy-five percent of the country's foreign trade was conducted via sea, but with the efforts of various agencies, especially the private sector, we were able to redefine alternative routes during this period and continue the trade process."

Dehghan Dehnavi, emphasizing Iran's capacities for trade development, added: "The country possesses capabilities, knowledge, skills, and specialized human resources that can be used to increase trade volume and raise it from one billion dollars a week to one billion dollars a day."

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade called exporters the front line of the economic war and stated: "It is our duty to remove the domestic barriers facing exporters and facilitate the path of exporters' activity."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

‘Developing trade relations with Africa requires results-oriented economic diplomacy’

TEHRAN- The Advisor to the President for Economic Cooperation, referring to the importance of coordination among government institutions, the private sector, and academic centers, said: "Developing trade relations with Africa requires moving from preliminary and ceremonial talks toward results-oriented economic diplomacy."

According to IRNA, Masoumeh Aghapour said on Wednesday at the second course of the Iran-Africa Chamber of Commerce, aimed at empowering the younger generation to enter international trade: "To achieve this goal, the government must facilitate the ground for the activity and presence of the private sector; universities and academic centers must provide the necessary knowledge and specialized support; and economic actors, relying on their understanding of the market and their capabilities, must take on the main responsibility for advancing trade projects."

Aghapour added: "None of these sectors alone can actualize all existing capacities. Cooperation and division of responsibility among the government, universities, and the private sector will pave the way for the formation of an efficient system for developing foreign trade."

The Advisor to the President for Economic Cooperation, emphasizing the necessity of changing Iran's approach to developing trade relations with the African continent, said: "Success in African markets will not be achieved by increasing the number of trips and signing memoranda of understanding; rather, we must seek the implementation of real projects, the formation of capable companies, the conclusion of operational contracts, and the training of a new generation of international trade actors."

He added: "Africa is not merely a market for supplying Iranian goods; it is a strategic horizon for the future of Iran's economy and an important platform for the effective presence of the new

generation in the field of international trade."

Aghapour, referring to the government's special attention to the capacities of the younger generation, said: "Belief in the capabilities of young people and their role-playing in the country's economic transformations is one of the important issues on the path of Iran's economy transitioning from traditional structures toward a modern economy and broader international interactions."

He said: "The younger generation, especially young people familiar with modern technologies and global economic developments, can play a role in designing new paths for foreign trade, identifying international opportunities, creating innovative businesses, and developing Iran's economic relations with other countries."

Africa: a strategic opportunity for future of Iran's economy

The Advisor to the President for Economic Cooperation, referring to the demographic, economic, and trade capacities of the African continent, stated: "Africa, with its young population, broad production and consumption capacities, and developing markets, is one of the important areas for expanding Iran's economic cooperation. Therefore, the view toward this continent must change from a short-term approach limited to case-by-case interactions to a long-term and targeted strategy."

He stated: "To effectively exploit these capacities, economic actors' view of Africa must be based on precise market knowledge, assessment of opportunities, and the design of executive plans. Therefore, success in international markets becomes meaningful when initial contacts lead to sustainable economic cooperation, joint projects, export development, and the creation of added value for the country's economy."

Aghapour, referring to the complexities of economic activity in foreign markets, said: "Successful presence in African markets requires

precise knowledge of the economic conditions, regulations, and trade mechanisms of destination countries. Before entering any market, economic actors must professionally examine potential risks, the supply chain, laws and regulations, the banking and foreign exchange system, and the methods of conducting trade transactions."

The Advisor to the President for Economic Cooperation added: "Iranian exporters must carefully study the destination market before offering their products, and by understanding distribution methods, retail shelves, household preferences, and consumer expectations, they must design and offer products suited to market needs."

Aghapour considered the establishment of a specialized department for trade with Africa and the training of specialized personnel to be among the important steps toward developing economic cooperation with this continent, and stated: "One of the country's fundamental needs is cultivating human resources familiar with the characteristics of African markets and equipped with specialized knowledge of international trade."

He added: "Specialized training must be linked with operational experience so that young people can, in addition to becoming familiar with the theoretical foundations of trade, gain experience in real processes of negotiation, marketing, identifying business partners, and implementing contracts."

The Advisor to the President for Economic Cooperation said: "Developing cooperation with this continent should not be limited to exporting traditional goods; rather, the ground must also be provided for the presence of Iranian technology companies, knowledge-based firms, and providers of specialized services. Therefore, identifying the real needs of destination countries and matching the capabilities of Iranian companies with these needs must be at the center of trade planning."

Why is Europe on fire this October?

The people of Europe are paying for a war they never chose

From page 1 ▶

A bill Europe cannot dodge

Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, which normally used to carry about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas, was effectively shut after the attack on Iran.

Energy infrastructure became a front line. American-Israeli strikes hit Iran's Pars energy zone in Asaluyeh, a hub for processing gas from the world's largest gas field. Iran's retaliation forced Qatar to halt LNG production. Brent crude climbed above \$100 a barrel.

Europe, whose gas market was already very tight after a cold winter, has been paying for a war it did not start and cannot end.

The European Commission puts the cost to Europe at roughly €100 billion in disrupted trade and energy markets. In some areas, gas has climbed about 140 percent and diesel has doubled.

On October 6, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said imported fossil fuels had cost Europe an extra €100 billion "without a single molecule of additional energy."

EU gas storage sits near 70 percent, well under the usual 80 for this time of year, and Germany's tanks are about half full.

Brussels now asks member states to limit heating in public buildings and switch off unneeded street lighting. TotalEnergies, meanwhile, has reported a surge in quarterly profit.

Despite ample evidence of their complicity, European leaders insist that the war is not theirs. Chancellor Friedrich Merz claims Washington consulted no one and has "no convincing plan."

Polls show about 58 percent of Germans call the campaign of aggression against Iran unjustified and 68 percent of Spaniards oppose the war.

The invoice arrives regardless. The same reckless hegemon that started the war has imposed a 15 percent tariff on most EU goods, a deal Paris called a "submission," while it plans to buy Russian diesel itself while EU states fail to agree on relief.

Europeans are trapped in the orbit of a so-called ally that picks the wars and mails the receipts.

However, analysts warn against a single-cause story. Years of lagging wages and pandemic debt have left households without a cushion, so every new shock lands on bare ground.

A school blockade becomes a national crisis

The French movement began in late September, when high school students in working-class



Paris suburbs blockaded schools over teacher shortages, crumbling buildings and lessons lost whenever absent staff go unreplaced.

The CGT union joined while the students were on fall break, then farmers, transport workers and public employees.

By mid-October, the unrest had escalated dramatically, culminating in about 2,400 arrests and hundreds of injuries, with shops looted in Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Bordeaux and Limoges's 19th-century city hall nearly destroyed.

President Emmanuel Macron, in a rare televised address, acknowledged protesters' "legitimate demands" but blamed "far-left activists" for the destruction. He also described the Iran war as one of the main causes of economic hardship in France.

His government has already promised 3,000 substitute teachers and dropped planned university fee increases, an admission that the grievances are real.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a post on X that Macron had "made his bed" by assuring Trump that he welcomed atrocities against Iranians. "Too late to blame the war his ilk helped cause," Araghchi added.

The numbers explain the mood. Unemployment is 8.3 percent, and 21.6 percent among those aged 15 to 24. Consumer prices rose 3.1 percent in September, with energy up 21.3 percent.

Economists estimate a family of four has lost about €1,200 a year in purchasing power since 2024. Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu's answer is a 2027 budget that freezes the civil service pay index and tightens sick-leave reimbursement to shrink a 5.4 percent deficit.

Bond yields rose on October 19 and a Goldman Sachs strategist expects higher taxes.

Rents, wages and a generation shut out

Housing is where the squeeze

turns even more personal.

In Madrid, tents fill Puerta del Sol after the eviction of María del Carmen Abascal, 87, whose rent an investment fund raised 230 percent. She died in the hospital about two weeks later.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's housing measures failed in parliament, so he called a snap election for November 29, and a general strike, Spain's first in 14 years, has been called for November.

The minimum wage is €1,221 a month. Rent on an 80-square-meter apartment averages about €1,130.

Portugal recorded the EU's fastest annual rise in house prices in the second quarter, 16.5 percent, and prices have more than doubled since 2017.

Lisbon rent reportedly equals 116 percent of the average salary. Tens of thousands marched there on October 17, and one official said the government would "not yield to shouts from the street."

Italy shows the same strain from another angle. Inflation hit 4.2 percent in September. Truckers, farmers and steelworkers blocked roads in the south, causing local fuel shortages.

"We cultivate the land, we harvest debts," read a banner in Gela, Sicily. In Milan, 271 people were arrested over two days, most of them minors, and a new October 17 Movement promises marches every Saturday at 3 p.m. The CGIL union has called a general strike for November 20.

Belgium saw clashes in Brussels and Liège, where police used water cannon.

In Albania, students in the Flamingo movement demand Prime Minister Edi Rama resign over corruption and a luxury coastal development linked to Jared Kushner, Donald Trump's son-in-law.

Money for arms, none for classrooms

Protesters in Rome, Brussels and Madrid have marched against higher military budgets.

An eight-country poll found 46.2 percent unwilling to back more military spending if it raises taxes, against 35.5 percent in favor.

Eurobarometer indicates 75 percent still support financial and humanitarian aid for Ukraine, but only 56 percent back paying for weapons. Governments plead scarcity when citizens ask for teachers and heating, then find billions for arms.

Moral anger runs alongside the economic kind. Pew finds unfavorable views of Israel at 73 percent in Germany, 75 in Italy and 69 in Britain, with deaths in Gaza above 74,000.

Sociologist Donatella della Porta ties Generation Z's activism to a chain of crises that includes solidarity with Palestinians, and Milan's march was held against war and living costs at once.

In France, 74 percent of voters under 30 say the political class neither represents nor listens to them.

Who is cashing in politically

The beneficiaries so far sit on the right. Marine Le Pen has made a deep cut in the fuel value-added tax her signature promise before April's presidential election, and Elabe polling shows her ratings up since the war began while Macron's slid.

The AfD leads German polls, with energy inflation at 14.9 percent, and wants to restore energy ties with Russia.

Giorgia Meloni faces a new challenger in Roberto Vannacci's National Future, and in Poland the Confederation of the Polish Crown is gaining.

Pew finds 69 percent of French people, 68 percent of Spaniards and 62 percent of Italians dissatisfied with democracy.

MIT economist Daron Acemoglu says liberal democracy stopped delivering shared prosperity to the working class and then grew used to dismissing its complaints.

Regarding France, Trump preferred another story, posting that "The migrants have taken over France."

Spain votes November 29, Italy strikes November 20, and France heads to the polls in April.

Each government tied itself to a transatlantic alignment whose costs now fall on its own voters, and none has offered a plan to reverse them. Until one does, the squares will stay full.

colonised; force was the only way. Therein lies the nucleus of "Greater Israel" — a project that does not contemplate co-existence, but the definitive subordination of the other.

"Democracy" in Israel was established for the Jews after the Zionists expelled 90 percent of the Palestinian population. It makes no sense, then, to speak of "democratic decline": the foundations on which Israel rests today are racial, and they have always been there for anyone who wished to see them.

Hayman linked this to another principle: security pursued through the establishment of "communities and forward positions in all friction zones with the Arab population, in the occupied West Bank, and in the security zones of Syria, Lebanon and Gaza".

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

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Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

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The emperor has no clothes: Trump's parade of power and the naked American empire

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN- In 1837, Danish author Hans Christian Andersen published The Emperor's New Clothes, the story of a vain ruler deceived into believing he was wearing magnificent garments invisible to fools and those unfit for office. His ministers praised what did not exist, and the public followed, until a child finally cried out: "But he hasn't got anything on!"

Nearly two centuries later, Washington appears to be staging its own version of Andersen's famous procession. Donald Trump continues to parade American power before the world, surrounded by officials applauding his decisions, even as the economic, military and political consequences of his confrontation with Iran expose a far less flattering reality.

Andersen's emperor was not ruined by deception alone, but by the cowardice of those who knew the truth and chose to protect his pride.

Washington's problem today looks remarkably similar. That child's voice is the only honest sound in West Asia today. It rises from the ruins of Gaza, from the bombed suburbs of Beirut, from the defiant streets of Tehran, screams from the Minab school, from the mountains of Yemen. It says what the courtiers of Washington and Tel Aviv dare not: the American empire is naked. Its clothes are the fiction of victory. Its tailors are the lobbyists and generals who stitch wars from other people's children. And the emperor, draped in the tattered myth of moral authority, continues his procession while his own people shiver.

Look at the latest spectacle. Donald Trump, the self-described master dealmaker, has announced that Russia will sell diesel to the United States. The Treasury has quietly eased sanctions on Russian fuel. The first tranche, he boasts, will flow immediately. But the arithmetic exposes the absurdity. America burns through millions of barrels of diesel every single day. The entire shipment would last barely a week.

Then the crisis returns the same crisis that has forced farmers to pay much more for fuel, that has parked trucks at the roadside, that has sent the price of bread and



medicine climbing for working families. This is not a triumph. It is a beggar's bowl extended to Moscow. The nation that spent years demonizing Russia now pleads with it for the fuel to keep its own economy breathing. The emperor has nothing on.

And while Trump parades his diesel-stained rags, the Pentagon buries its dead in fine print. The official count of American troops killed in the war with Iran has been revised upward again. Twenty-one dead. Eight hundred and sixty-five wounded. But the Washington Post reported months ago that the true toll was higher, that the military was hiding casualties from the public. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth called that report "a complete lie." Now the Pentagon has confirmed the very numbers it denied. The dead were real. The lie was his. This is the architecture of empire: it lies to the world, and then it lies to itself.

The lesson of the naked king is not merely that power deceives. It is that those who serve power will applaud the deception until their hands ache. In America today, the children are being silenced. Journalists are threatened. Whistleblowers are prosecuted. The wounded are hidden in statistics. The dead are erased from databases. The empire cannot bear the sight of its own reflection, because the reflection shows a hollow giant, bloated on bombs, starving for fuel, trembling before the very nations it swore to destroy.

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

Greece's alliances with UAE and Israel fail eastern Libya-Turkey test

In the days before Libya's eastern parliament approved a contentious maritime agreement with Turkey, Greece was trying to assemble its allies — Egypt, Israel and the UAE — to prevent the deal, multiple officials in the region told Middle East Eye.

But on Tuesday, the Libyan House of Representatives in Benghazi ratified the agreement, showing that a fractured Libya, at the very least, could come to a consensus in acknowledging Turkey's sweeping maritime claims over the Eastern Mediterranean.

"Turkey has cemented itself in Libya. It's almost impossible now for a Libyan leader in the future to sign a deal with Greece because there is a Libyan consensus," Constantinos Filis, director of the Institute of Global Affairs in Athens, told Middle East Eye.

But the deal is more than a setback for Greece or a diplomatic notch in the belt for the Mediterranean. It underscores how the Middle East is rearranging itself in the wake of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and simmering conflicts across the region.

In sum, the partnerships that Greece depended on to counter Turkey in the Mediterranean failed to deliver because the Middle East is undergoing a geopolitical reordering of priorities.

Egypt and Turkey have mended fences after a deep rift, while Persian Gulf states like the UAE are looking for new security partners, with the Iran war on the verge of flaring up again. The irony for Greece is that the actions of its closest partner, Israel, have contributed to these shifts.

The maritime rivalry between Greece and Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean long predates the fracturing of Libya into rival governments following the 2011 removal of Muammar Gaddafi. The two neighbors came

close to war in 1996 over an uninhabited island.

Traditionally, Greece and Turkey could push the envelope in their tensions, knowing that the U.S. would intervene to prevent its NATO allies from crossing the line into direct conflict. But that dynamic has changed.

The U.S. is now less engaged in the Middle East and is at loggerheads with NATO on several fronts, like the war in Ukraine. Greece is a big spender in NATO, but Turkey has developed a domestic weapons industry of its own.

Turkey's regional power is increasing, with an ally now governing Syria and Persian Gulf Arab states looking to it as a security partner as the U.S. steps away.

Tom Barrack, the American ambassador to Turkey and envoy to Syria and Iraq, said on Tuesday that the United States' "grand bargain" of oil for security with the Persian Gulf was "transitioning".

A Libyan source familiar with the matter told Middle East Eye that eastern Libya's ratification of the maritime deal is one step in a wider plan to unite Libya under one government that the Trump administration has agreed to with Turkey.

The source said the United States wants Turkey to broker a deal between rival governments in Benghazi and Tripoli. Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin visited the latter on Tuesday.

Greece has sought new Middle Eastern allies as the U.S. retreats from its security role, and Turkey flexes its muscles in the region. The maritime deal Ankara has with Libya disregards Greek claims to maritime zones not just in uninhabited islands, but large ones like Crete, home to 600,000 Greeks.

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

A new security doctrine for Israel

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - Israel has a new security doctrine. It has never been published, never presented to the public, and never formally adopted by the military establishment. And yet, since October 7, 2023, it is this unwritten concept, not the doctrine forged over decades, that has shaped Israeli decision-making and now dictates the country's entire approach to security.

On Monday, Tamir Hayman, former military intelligence chief, set out the principles that, he argued, can be inferred from the policy Israel is actually applying.

The document makes clear that "Jewish identity" must prevail over "its democratic system of government". This primacy is conceived to guarantee the survival of Israel as a Jewish state, even at the cost of eroding its "democratic values".



This is nothing new. Modern Zionism was born among the liberal-nationalist currents of nineteenth-century Europe. But unlike the emancipatory nationalisms that sought integration into Europe, Zionism organized a colonisation outwards: a population transfer articulated more as demographic engineering than as an "ancestral return". Herzl himself considered founding a Jewish state

in Argentina or East Africa. Palestine was finally chosen, but the logic was the same: build a homogeneous space for a diaspora. The "return" narrative disguised a colonial settlement project — not merely occupying a land, but displacing and replacing those who inhabited it. The premise became explicit with Vladimir Jabotinsky in The Iron Wall (1923): no Arab people would voluntarily accept being

Para taekwondo athlete Bakht wins gold

TEHRAN – Alireza Bakht won the gold medal in para taekwondo of the 2026 Asian Para Games on Wednesday.

On the third day of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games, Bakht faced Jeonghun Joo of South Korea in the -80 kg final and won 2-0 to take the gold medal.

In this exciting bout, Bakht won the first round 6-2. In the second round he won 12-6 in a powerful performance, so the match did not even go to a third round.

Zare wins men's 100m in 2026 Asian Para Games

TEHRAN – Alireza Zare, Iran's men's 100m sprinter, took first place in the final at the Nagoya Asian Para Games on Wednesday.

The third day of para-athletics competition at the 5th Asian Para Games in Nagoya began at 9 a.m. local time today at the Paloma Mizuho Stadium.

Zare won the men's 100m T35 title with a time of 12.32.

Idrees Al-Zaidi of Iraq took silver with 12.69, and Indian Anubhav Choudhary took bronze with 12.72.

Zare broke the Games record on his way to the gold medal.

Haghshenas grabs gold in para taekwondo

TEHRAN – Hamed Haghshenas won the gold medal in the 2026 Asian Para Games by defeating Uzbekistan's Umarjon Muydinov on Wednesday.

In the K44 para taekwondo competition, Haghshenas faced Muydinov in the gold medal bout of the +80 kg category.

Haghshenas won this fine match 2-0 and claimed Iran's second taekwondo gold of day three.

In this match, Haghshenas drew the first round 9-9. With everything level between the two para taekwondo athletes, the referees ruled in Haghshenas's favor because of a warning his opponent had received.

In the second round, Haghshenas won 12-6 and finished the match 2-0.

After Alireza Bakht in the -80 kg category, Haghshenas became Iran's second gold medalist of day three of the Games.

Nagoya 2026: Navaei takes gold in Judo

TEHRAN – Ali Navaei won the first gold medal in judo at the Nagoya Asian Para Games by defeating Uzbekistan's Islomjon Tukhtaboev.

The classification matches and finals for the second set of three weight categories in blind and visually impaired judo at the Nagoya Asian Para Games were held this evening Wednesday at the city's Martial Arts Hall.

By defeating the Uzbek champion, Navaei won Iran's first judo gold medal at the Nagoya Para Asian Games.

In the +95 kg visually impaired classification match, Amirhossein Nimrouzi faced Talgat Azhgaliyev of Kazakhstan and, by defeating him, won a bronze medal at the 5th Para Asian Games.

Mohammadreza Kheirollahzadeh, a Paralympic gold medalist and world champion, faced Zhurkamyrza Shukurbekov of Kazakhstan in the +95 kg final. In a tough, grueling bout, Kheirollahzadeh was defeated and settled for

the silver medal at these Games.

Iran's blind football lose to Japan: 2026 Nagoya

TEHRAN – With less than two minutes left in the match, Iran's national blind football team lost to Japan 2-1 at the 2026 Asian Para Games on Wednesday.

In their last group-stage match at the 5th Asian Para Games Aichi-Nagoya, Team Melli faced Japan at the Terraspo Tsuruma sports complex and lost a breathtaking match 2-1.

With a draw enough to send Iran through, Japan scored the second goal with one minute and 48 seconds left in the match and took the victory.

As a result, Japan advanced to the final with a 2-1 win, and Iran's national blind football team missed out on the final.

In the classification match, Iran will face Thailand for the bronze medal.

Women's wheelchair basketball fall short to China

TEHRAN – Iran's national women's wheelchair basketball team lost 61-11 to China, the Paris Olympic bronze medalist, in their fifth match at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games.

At the end of their five matches, Iran's national women's wheelchair basketball team finished fourth at this stage with two wins and three losses.

According to the competition format, the first- and second-placed teams go to the final to compete for the championship, the third- and fourth-placed teams compete for the bronze medal, and the fifth- and sixth-placed teams play each other to determine their final ranking.

Under these circumstances, Iran's national women's basketball team will face Thailand on Thursday for the bronze medal.

They lost to Thailand 64-33 in the preliminary round.

Safarzadeh claims silver in 2026 Para Games

TEHRAN – Hajar Safarzadeh, Iran's women's 100m sprinter, won the silver medal at the Nagoya Asian Para Games 2026.

In the athletics competition held at Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Safarzadeh finished second in the women's 100m T12 final with a time of 12.30, competing against runners from Indonesia, China and India, and took the silver medal.

India's Simran won the title with a time of 12.02, and Ni Made Putri of Indonesia took third place with 12.51.

Safarzadeh also won a silver medal yesterday in the 200m T12.

Women's sitting volleyball overcome Mongolia

TEHRAN – Iran national women's sitting volleyball team beat Mongolia 3-0 (26-8, 25-12, 25-9) on Wednesday and advanced to the semifinals of the 2026 Asian Para Games.

Iran, who lost their first match to China, finished second in Group B with today's win and reached the semifinals.

“We played well and won the match. Since yesterday's match against China was not satisfactory, we promised that we would show a better performance against Mongolia and I am satisfied with my team,” Iran head coach Maryam Iranmanesh said.

Samarkand summit calls for greater investment in children's well-being

By Afshin Majlesi

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan – Hundreds of policymakers, international officials and child welfare advocates gathered in the historic Uzbek city of Samarkand on Wednesday for a global summit aimed at making children's health, education and protection a greater priority for governments.

The two-day World Summit on Investing in Children's Well-being brought together more than 600 participants from over 100 countries, including senior United Nations officials, government representatives, first ladies and experts in children's rights and development.

The meeting comes at a time when many countries are struggling to tackle child poverty, improve access to healthcare and education, and protect millions of children from violence, exploitation, malnutrition and social exclusion.

A key message running through the discus-



sions was that investing in children is not only a social responsibility but also an investment in the future. Without proper healthcare, education and protection, children face greater risks of long-term hardship, with consequences that can affect entire communities and national economies.

The opening ceremony featured a message from Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, whose government has introduced reforms aimed at expanding social services and providing greater support for vulnerable families.

Uzbekistan's First Lady Ziroat Mirziyoyeva also addressed the gathering, alongside senior UN officials and representatives of participating countries.

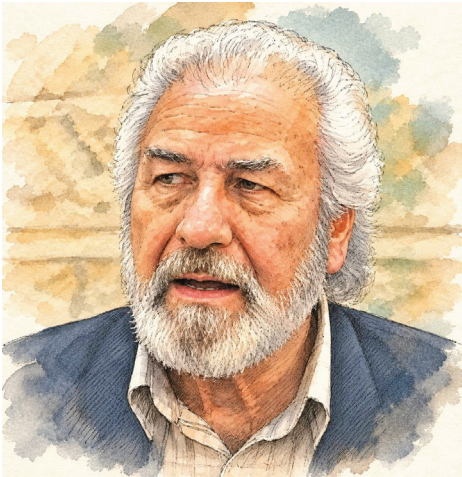
Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rah-



man, who is also serving as president of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, was among the prominent speakers.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres sent a message that was delivered by the or-

National Museum of Iran pays tribute to renowned archaeologist Yousef Majidzadeh



TEHRAN – The National Museum of Iran has expressed its profound sorrow at the passing of Yousef Majidzadeh, one of Iran's most distinguished archaeologists, whose research made significant contributions to the study of the country's prehistoric cultures and early civilizations. Majidzadeh died in France on October 19, 2026, at the age of 90.

In a statement, Jebrael Nokandeh, Director General of the National Museum of Iran, extended his condolences to Majidzadeh's family, colleagues, students, and the wider archaeological community, recognizing his important role in advancing archaeological research in Iran.

“Yousef Majidzadeh was an influential figure in Iranian archaeology, dedicating much



gанизation's resident coordinator in Uzbekistan, while Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed addressed the summit through a video message.

Najat Maalla M'jid, the UN special representative on violence against children, also spoke at the opening, stressing the need to protect children from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Several first ladies took part in the high-level discussions, including Emine Erdoğan of Türkiye, Aigul Japarova of Kyrgyzstan, Tamara Vučić of Serbia, Nehmat Aoun of Lebanon and Auxillia Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

Their presence highlighted the international attention being given to children's welfare. But the main challenge remains turning political statements into practical measures that improve the lives of children and their families.

Participants also discussed the needs of



children with disabilities, those without adequate family support and those whose education and development are affected by poverty, discrimination or social exclusion.

A separate international congress on childhood cancer is being held alongside the summit, drawing attention to the wide gap in access to diagnosis and treatment around the world.

According to the World Health Organization, about 400,000 children and adolescents develop cancer each year.

Survival rates vary considerably between countries. More than 80% of children with cancer survive in high-income countries, while the rate remains below 30% in many low- and middle-income countries.

This gap reflects differences in access to early diagnosis, essential medicines, specialized treatment and long-term medical care.

For many families, a child's chances of survival depend not only on the type of cancer but also on where they live and whether they can afford and access the treatment they need.

Improving outcomes requires investment in



hospitals, trained medical staff, reliable supplies of medicines and healthcare systems that allow children to receive treatment without placing an overwhelming financial burden on their families.

The childhood cancer congress brings these inequalities into the broader discussion on children's well-being, underlining the need to ensure that every child has access to quality healthcare, regardless of their family's financial circumstances or country of residence.

Mental health, childhood obesity and preventable illnesses are also among the issues being discussed in Samarkand.

For millions of children facing poverty, illness, inadequate education or a lack of protection, the significance of the Samarkand sum-



mit will ultimately depend not on the number of countries represented, but on whether the commitments made here lead to meaningful changes in their everyday lives.

Nokandeh added.

The National Museum of Iran extends its condolences to Majidzadeh's family, colleagues, former students, and the archaeological community.



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Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile

We would like to invite your company to participate in our tender for the supply of Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile
For further details, please refer to the link below:

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Kindly submit your quotation and Proforma Invoice no later than 10:00 AM on 24 October 2026, either by email to tender@owzanmarket.com or in a sealed envelope delivered to the Security Office of Ozan Company.

Iran joins countries with advanced quantum training laboratories

TEHRAN – Iran has joined countries with advanced laboratories for hands-on training in quantum technologies with the inauguration of three specialized facilities in quantum optics and quantum information, established with support from the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy.

Quantum technologies are considered one of the strategic fields of science and technology, globally. The development of quantum technologies requires advancement in fundamental research, specialized training, and advanced laboratories, IRNA reported.

The three advanced laboratories inaugurated in Isfahan University of technology (on October 14), Shahid Beheshti University (on October 17), and Sharif University of Technology (on October 20) with the aim of strengthening the scientific capacities of the universities, developing national quantum technology ecosystem, providing practical training, expanding students' experiences, and developing human resources required to advance quantum research and technologies.

Now, Iranian students have gained access to infrastructure for directly conducting advanced experiments, including entangled photon generation, single-photon detection and generation, experimental tests of Bell's inequality, two-photon interference, quantum tomography, quantum key distribution, and the investigation of diamond-based quantum systems.

In July 2025, President Masoud Pezeshkian declared the implementation of the 'national document on quantum science and technology'.

The document is a comprehensive set of main objectives, assessment indicators, national strategies, implementing and monitoring mechanisms, IRNA quoted Abdolhassan Bahrani, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, as saying.

It has been developed as a roadmap for the progress of research, expansion of technology, and commercialization of quantum technologies, the official added.

In this line, quantum science and technology headquarters will be established to enhance coordination among relevant organizations, develop an implementation roadmap, pursue the development of regulations, observe national and global advancements, as well as propose amendments to revise the document.

To implement the document,

FAO to strengthen pest management, protect production in Kerman date palm groves

TEHRAN – A delegation from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has visited date palm groves in Kerman Province to strengthen the management of pests and diseases through technical cooperation, field-based interventions and engagement with national and provincial stakeholders.

From 11 to 14 October, the delegation led by FAO Representative to Iran Farrukh Toirov visited project sites in Jiroft, Anbarabad, Bam and Narmashir to review progress on integrated Pest Management (IPM) in date palm groves.

The mission assessed the application of project-supported interventions, examined the use of equipment provided to pilot sites and engaged with farmers, researchers, plant protection specialists, agricultural authorities and private-sector stakeholders across the date value chain.

The project addresses key threats to date production, including the red palm weevil,

palm borers, Dubas bug and Date Palm Fruit Bunch Wilting Disorder. During field visits, the team observed pest management interventions in both modern, large-scale orchards using drip irrigation and traditional orchards employing flood irrigation.

The delegation also examined orchards affected by pest infestations and visited date sorting, packaging and processing facilities serving domestic and export markets.

The mission also provided an opportunity to discuss current pest control practices and explore potential approaches to improving the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions.

Discussions with stakeholders highlighted the red palm weevil as one of the most significant challenges facing date production in the province. Meetings held at the South Kerman Agricultural Jihad Organization and the Bam County Governor's Office brought together local governors, agricultural authorities, researchers, farmers and private-sector

representatives to discuss pest management, production challenges and constraints affecting the date value chain, including the control measures and access to export markets.

The FAO Representative welcomed the strong engagement and shared commitment demonstrated by stakeholders in Kerman, noting that their collaboration provides a favourable foundation for expanding technical cooperation.

Through this project, FAO continues to work with national and provincial counterparts to strengthen technical capacities and promote more effective management of date palm pests and diseases. The project's field-based approach supports the assessment of practical interventions under local production conditions and helps identify opportunities to protect date palm groves, reduce pest-related losses and strengthen the sustainability of date production in Iran.

tabei University (2 documents) ranked first to third. In cognitive education, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences were placed first to third, respectively.

In cognitive rehabilitation, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (21 documents), University of Tehran (16 documents), and Iran University of Medical Sciences (12 documents) ranked first to third. The best three universities in philosophy of mind were University of Tehran, Isfahan University, and Amirkabir University of Technology.

In cognitive evaluation, Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranked first with 196 documents. Iran University of Medical Sciences (105 documents) and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (91 documents) ranked second and third.

The country is placed second in quantum (with 216 documents) and advanced materials (with 5975 documents), after Saudi Arabia, with 283 and 6160 documents in quantum and advanced materials, respectively.

Despite illegal sanctions, Iran secures first place in cognitive sciences among Islamic nations and ranks ninth globally in advanced materials. Numerous prestigious Iranian universities and institutions are included in international rankings. These accomplishments underscore the country's scientific capabilities, IRIB quoted Science Minister Hossein Simaei-Sarraf as saying, addressing the 7th Turkey Educational Technologies Summit (known as TETZ 2026), held in Istanbul from June 26 to 28.

Iran serves as a great opportunity to invest in higher education and modern technologies. The country has one of the largest higher education systems in the region, with more than three million students and over seventy thousand faculty members and researchers.

Highlighting that the rapid development of emerging technologies, including AI, is fundamentally transforming human relationships and higher education systems around the world at an unprecedented pace, Simaei-Sarraf said that effective use of smart technologies requires the establishment of a system based on algorithmic transparency, educational justice, accountability, protection of learners' rights, and responsible data governance.



Hossein Afshin, the vice president for science, technology, and knowledge-based economy, cuts the ribbon on an advanced quantum laboratory in an undated photo.

the vice-presidency, in cooperation with other relevant institutions, will initially provide a national plan for division of labor in the quantum science and technology sector. It will be followed by providing support for the development of applications, commercialization, and participation of knowledge-based companies to make the best use of domestic innovative capacities.

Iran ranks first in key scientific output among Islamic countries

Iran ranks first among Islamic nations in key fields of scientific output such as quantum science, cognitive sciences, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and advanced materials, the head of the Presidential Affairs Office at the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) announced in August.

The country is in close competition with Turkey and Saudi Arabia in these fields, IRNA quoted Saeed Bakhtiari as saying.

He made the remarks in a press briefing on August 17, noting that the development of science in these fields has also been emphasized in national development plans.

Based on the reputable Web of Science database, Iran ranks first among Islamic countries in scientific output in some of these fields, while placing second or third in others. Overall, however, Iran holds the top position, he said.

Bakhtiari noted that in advanced materials—a multidisciplinary field spanning physics, chemistry, mechanics and materials science—Iran ranks second among Islamic countries and ninth worldwide.

He added that Iran ranks third in artificial intelligence, behind Saudi Arabia and Turkey, while in quantum science it ranks sec-

ond, after Saudi Arabia.

The ISC official further said that Iran holds the top position among Islamic countries in scientific output in cognitive sciences and ranks first overall.

According to Web of Science (WoS) data, over a five-year period (from 2021 to 2025), Iran (with 32 documents) ranks first in cognitive sciences among Islamic countries.

Turkey, with 23 documents, and Saudi Arabia, with 22 documents, are placed second and third, respectively, IRNA reported.

From 2014 to 2023, Iran ranked either first or second in most fields of cognitive sciences among Islamic countries. Over the course of the decade, the country ranked first in cognitive neuroscience, cognitive rehabilitation, and cognitive linguistics with 387, 156, and 30 documents, respectively.

It ranked second in cognitive psychology (124 documents), cognitive education (561 documents), philosophy of mind (34 documents), and cognitive evaluation (898 documents). The country's best ranking globally was in cognitive neuroscience; it ranked 15.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences, with 73 documents, University of Tehran, with 39 documents, and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, with 32 documents, ranked first to third in cognitive neuroscience. In cognitive psychology, University of Tehran (10 documents), Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (7 documents), and Allameh Tabataba'i University (6 documents) were the top three universities.

In cognitive linguistics, University of Tehran (with 3 documents), Al-Zahra University (3 documents), and Allameh Tabataba'i

WHO delivers 10,000 cholera rapid diagnostic tests to Iran with CERF support

TEHRAN – The World Health Organization (WHO), with support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), has delivered 10,000 cholera rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) to Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education to strengthen early detection and help prevent potential outbreaks.

The tests will be distributed to the high-risk provinces of Hormozgan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Khuzestan to enable the rapid identification of cases and support timely public health responses.

"Early detection is our most critical tool in preventing infectious disease outbreaks. By equipping local health systems with these tests, we are empowering frontline workers to respond swiftly and protect vulnerable communities," said Dr. Jean Jabbour, WHO Representative to Iran.

The broader project aims to benefit more than 112,000 people. Despite logistical challenges affecting air and sea transport, WHO is also working to deliver essential supplies for malaria and dengue fever.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pistachio harvest supports agriculture, seasonal jobs in northeastern Iran

As the pistachio harvest season begins in Khorasan Razavi Province in northeastern Iran, farmers and seasonal workers in the Neishabur area are busy harvesting, collecting, transporting, and processing the crop, which plays a key role in the local economy and seasonal employment.

Dried pistachio production in the area reached 7,340 tons in the current Iranian year, which started on March 21, with an average yield of around 620 kilograms per hectare.



OCTOBER 22, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever warns you against sins and vices is like the one who gives you good tidings.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:39 Dawn: 4:54 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:18 (tomorrow)

Exquisite handwritten Quran unveiled at the TMOCA



TEHRAN – The unveiling ceremony for the handwritten Holy Quran by world-celebrated Iranian calligrapher Mohammad Ehsai was held on Wednesday, in the presence of Seyyed Abbas Salehi, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and Master Ehsai at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA).

During the ceremony, Salehi stated: “Master Ehsai’s meticulously prepared Quranic work is an honor for the art of calligraphy and the scribing of the Holy Quran in our beloved Iran. This great master has dedicated about 10 years to creating this exceptional artistic masterpiece”.

“The Muhaqqaq script, recognized as an Iranian prose script, is a source of pride for Iranians through its revival in the field of Quranic calligraphy,” IRNA quoted the minister as saying.

According to the Minister of Culture, in this special era when our relations with the Islamic world are of particular importance, Master Ehsai – while remaining faithful to the tradition of scribing the Holy Quran in the Muhaqqaq

script – has also applied his own special innovations, creating a unique work in the realm of Quranic transcription.

“This four-volume collection, spanning more than 2,600 pages, is a precious work where every single page can be considered an artistic painting. Undoubtedly, this exquisite piece will pave the way for a greater showcase of Iranian art around the world,” Salehi added.

The illumination, ornamentation, printing, and exceptional binding of this artistic work were carried out with the utmost quality and precision over more than six years under the guidance of a specialized team.

Mohammad Ehsai, 87, is mostly famous for his numerous calligraphic paintings and works created in nastaliq, which have been showcased at exhibitions and auctions across the world.

A special public exhibition of this work will be held on Thursday and Friday, at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

Pakistan’s cultural heritage takes center stage at Tehran exhibition

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN—An exhibition exploring Pakistan’s historical and cultural development, from ancient civilizations to its enduring literary traditions, was inaugurated in Tehran on Tuesday, bringing together diplomats, cultural officials and researchers to highlight the long-standing ties between Iran and Pakistan.

Titled “Pakistan Through the Ages,” the exhibition was organized by the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran in collaboration with the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI). It featured historical photographs, calligraphy, paintings and visual records from different periods, offering visitors an overview of Pakistan’s rich cultural heritage.

The event also provided a platform for discussions on the countries’ shared civilizational legacy, the influence of Persian language and literature on the Indian sub-continent, and the potential for expanding cultural and tourism co-operation across the region.

Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Pakistan’s ambassador to Iran, was unable to attend the ceremony, as he was accompanying a Pakistani delegation led by Field Marshal Asim Munir during its engagements in Tehran. His remarks were delivered by Ismat Hassan Sial, deputy head of mission at the Pakistani Embassy.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, president of the ECO Cultural Institute, welcomed the participants



Left to right: Deputy Head of Mission at the Pakistani Embassy Ismat Hassan Sial, President of the ECO Cultural Institute Muhammad Hassan, Secretary General of the ECO Asad Majeed Khan, President of the Saadi Foundation Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, and Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpei

Hassan referred to the Sufi poetry and music of Sindh, Punjab’s literary heritage, Balochistan’s poetry and handicrafts, and the storytelling and hospitality traditions of the Pashtun communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also drew attention to the distinctive heritage of the Kalash communities in Chitral and the linguistic and cultural diversity of Gilgit-Baltistan and Hunza.

These regions, he said, bear witness to centuries of interaction among South Asian, Central Asian and Tibetan cultures. Mountain ranges, rather than serving mere-

and Persian cultural traditions on Pakistan’s historical and literary development, underscoring the role of language, music and poetry in connecting communities across the region.

Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpei, Iran’s deputy minister of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts for tourism affairs, highlighted the potential of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to promote regional integration and create new opportunities for sustainable development.

He said tourism could serve as an effective instrument for economic growth, closer cooperation among member states and greater familiarity among their peoples. Developing joint tourism routes, facilitating travel, promoting shared cultural attractions and encouraging cooperation between public and private sectors were among the measures that could advance these objectives.

Mohseni Bandpei also emphasized Pakistan’s strategic geographical position at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia, describing the country’s active participation as important to the realization of ECO’s regional goals.

Turning to bilateral relations, he said Iran and Pakistan shared interests in regional peace and stability, economic development, public welfare and sustainable cooperation. Their relationship extended beyond political and economic ties to encompass a long history of cultural, linguistic and literary interaction.

He also welcomed Pakistan’s diplomatic efforts to encourage dialogue and peaceful negotiations, stressing that mutual understanding and confidence-building were

essential to lasting peace. Expanding language education, academic exchanges and opportunities for younger generations to become familiar with thinkers such as Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Jalal al-Din Rumi could further reinforce the cultural bonds between the two nations.

Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, president of the Saadi Foundation, also addressed the gathering, describing Islam and Persian literature as fundamental links between Iran and Pakistan.

He said Persian had played a significant role in the transmission of Islamic thought to the Indian subcontinent, particularly through mystical literature and poetry. The historical influence of Persian, he added, remains visible in Urdu and Pakistan’s literary traditions.

Haddad-Adel pointed to the substantial collections of Persian manuscripts preserved in Pakistani libraries and the contributions of generations of Pakistani poets who wrote in Persian. He also highlighted the importance of Allama Iqbal, whose intellectual and literary legacy represents a significant connection between the two countries.

Drawing a comparison between Lahore and Isfahan, he noted that the cities share recognizable cultural and historical features that reflect their longstanding connections.

The speakers agreed that the region’s shared heritage provides a valuable foundation for closer cultural relations and regional cooperation. The exhibition served as a reminder that centuries of interaction among civilizations have left a lasting imprint on the languages, literature and traditions of the peoples of the region.



President of the ECO Cultural Institute Muhammad Hassan speaks at the opening ceremony of “Pakistan Through the Ages” exhibition in Tehran on October 20, 2026.

and described Pakistan as a country whose identity has been shaped by numerous languages, communities, customs and historical experiences.

He emphasized that Pakistan’s cultural richness could not be reduced to a single, uniform narrative. Rather, it reflected the distinct traditions of its regions and communities, each contributing to the country’s broader national identity.

ly as barriers, have often provided routes for trade, migration and cultural exchange.

He added that national unity did not require the erasure of cultural differences. Respect for local identities and support for their development could instead strengthen social cohesion and deepen mutual understanding.

The exhibition also highlighted the influence of Islamic civilization

Brazilian adaptation of ‘Taste of Cherry’ to be released in 2027

TEHRAN – An adaptation of Abbas Kiarostami’s 1997 Palme d’Or winner “Taste of Cherry” is going through post-production in Brazil.

Wagner Moura, the Brazilian actor who garnered an Oscar nomination for “The Secret Agent,” stars in Argentinian filmmaker Lisandro Alonso’s Portuguese-language adaptation, with the working title “The Scent of The Pitanga,” ISNA reported.

“It took me a little while to accept the idea,” said Kiarostami’s son Ahmad Kiarostami, who is an executive producer on the film. “But after I did, I told Lisandro that this is his film so he makes all the decisions. ‘Taste of Cherry’ is a universal story and is not bound to a certain geography or even time”.

The choice of a local tropical fruit – the pitanga from the myrtle family – already signals this is not a straightforward remake. Rather, it is a reinterpretation of the story of a middle-aged man driving around the outskirts of Tehran asking strangers to do him a favor, which invites the audience to reflect on the value of life.

“I don’t need to see this new film necessarily as a fit into my father’s work. This is a different film, made by a different director,” Kiarostami said. “But I believe Lisandro has the right sensitivity. He’s brave enough not to follow the norm of cinema, which is an important part of the original film”.

Budgeted at \$1.8 million, the film was shot in Palmas, the capital city of Tocantins state in the North Region of Brazil. It is set to be delivered in early 2027.

Kiarostami believes Brazil is perfect for a new take on “Taste of Cherry.” “We share a lot of qualities. I love Brazil and its warm and friendly culture,” he said, adding that he first visited the country with his father in 2004 when he was honored with a retrospective at Mostra de São Paulo.

“We kept telling each other that being in Brazil felt like being with family, even though we didn’t speak the language.”

Since the release of “Taste of Cherry,” multiple other critics have also declared it a masterpiece; in the British Film Institute’s 2012 Sight & Sound poll, six critics and two directors named it one of the 10 best films ever made. “Taste of Cherry” was also named the 9th best film of the 90s by Slant Magazine.

Abbas Kiarostami (1940-2016) was a film director, screenwriter, poet, photographer, and film producer. An active filmmaker from 1970, he was involved in the production of over 40 films, including shorts and documentaries. He attained critical acclaim for directing “Close-Up” (1990), “The Wind Will Carry Us” (1999), and “Taste of Cherry” (1997). In later works, “Certified Copy” (2010) and “Like Someone in Love”

(2012), he filmed for the first time outside Iran: in Italy and Japan, respectively.

He was part of a generation of filmmakers in the Iranian New Wave, a Persian cinema movement that started in the late 1960s and emphasized the use of poetic dialogue and allegorical storytelling dealing with philosophical issues. He is known for his use of Persian poetry in the dialogue, titles, and themes of his films. His films also contain a notable degree of ambiguity, an unusual mixture of simplicity and complexity, and often a mix of fictional and documentary elements. The concepts of change and continuity, in addition to the themes of life and death, play a major role in Kiarostami’s works.

Ahmad Kiarostami will participate in a panel discussion with Alonso and Brazilian producer Vania Catani of Bananeira Filmes as part of the 50th Mostra de São Paulo at the São Paulo Museum of Image and Sound (MIS) on October 24. It will be preceded by the screening of two works directed by Kiarostami in 2016, the year he died: “Take Me Home,” a visual essay in short format, and “24 Frames,” a documentary that explores his fascination with photography.

As part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Mostra, MIS also hosts the exhibition “Steps – Unpublished Photographs by Abbas Kiarostami,” featuring 60 black-and-white images of stairways photographed by the director around the world.

Cartoon of Day



What's Wrong with You?
Cartoonist: Kike from Puerto Rico