

Leader calls for judicial reforms and stronger anti-corruption efforts in meeting with Judiciary chief

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khomeini has called for broader access to justice, stronger protection of public rights and decisive action against corruption, stressing that these measures are essential to strengthening public trust in the judiciary.

The priorities were outlined during a meeting with Judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, which focused on the need for comprehensive, tangible judicial reform, the timely enforcement of court rulings and the wider use of modern technologies to strengthen oversight and improve the administration of justice. ► [Page 2](#)

Operation al-Khalil exposes limits of Israeli aggression

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – The resistance operation in al-Khalil (Hebron), which took place just days before the Israeli elections, was far more than an isolated security incident.

It raises fundamental questions about the limits of power within the Israeli regime's security establishment and its ability to prevent armed resistance operations in the occupied West Bank.

Despite continued raids, tighter military restrictions, an expanding campaign of searches, arrests, detentions, and home demolitions, armed resistance remains ongoing. This exposes the gap between the ability to establish control on the ground and the ability to achieve lasting security. ► [Page 5](#)

Macklemore says 'being human is not complicated' as sold-out Gaza benefit tour opens

By staff writer

TEHRAN — American rapper Macklemore returned to the stage Thursday night at Colorado's Red Rocks Amphitheatre with an explicit message of solidarity for Palestine.

Addressing a packed crowd in his first performance since being dropped from Ed Sheeran's stadium tour, Macklemore condemned Israel's ongoing genocidal campaign in Gaza, telling the audience, "I say, free Palestine! Being a human being in this moment is not complicated."

During the set, the rapper broadened his remarks to address Western-backed oppression across Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, and Haiti, alongside brutal ICE enforcement actions in the U.S.

The Red Rocks appearance served as a launchpad for his independent Free Palestine benefit tour, set to open in Dublin on October 26. ► [Page 5](#)

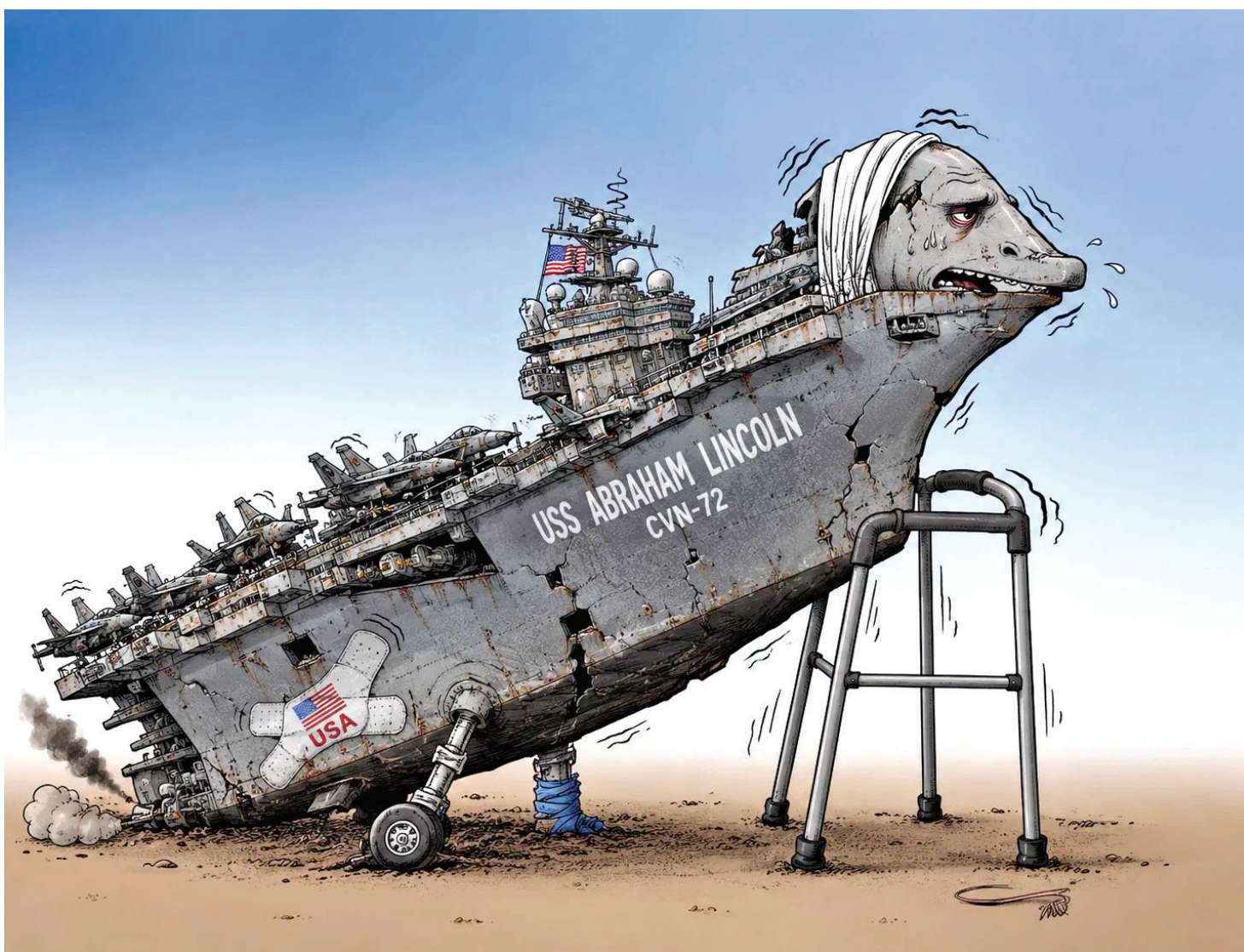
Iran drops four places to sixth at Nagoya

TEHRAN - Iran concluded its campaign at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya in sixth place, suffering a four-position decline from its runner-up finish at the previous edition in Hangzhou, China, in 2023.

The Iranian delegation collected 102 medals, including 26 gold, 36 silver and 40 bronze, compared with 131 medals — 44 gold, 46 silver and 41 bronze — at Hangzhou.

Despite the decline in the overall standings, several Iranian athletes delivered outstanding performances, demonstrating the country's continued strength in para-athletics and swimming.

Among the most successful competitors was Sina Zeighaminejad, who emerged as one of Iran's leading gold medalists in para swimming. He secured three gold medals, underlining his remarkable consistency and establishing himself as a key figure in Iran's medal-winning campaign. ► [Page 6](#)



No Persian Gulf for Old Carriers

Top commander says American warships will never return as Strait of Hormuz becomes center of war

Persian Gulf in Iranian doctrine, the front line of national defense and the lever that turned an intended war of overthrow into a war of attrition Washington cannot win.

TEHRAN – The main confrontation between Iran and the United States in this war has been, and continues to be, in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, and senior Iranian commanders now say the era when American aircraft carriers cruised these waters with impunity is over for good.

In his strongest remarks to date on the naval war, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and Commander of the Central Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters, Major General Ali Abdollahi, declared that the U.S. Navy has been rendered ineffective and will never be allowed back into the Persian Gulf.

Abdollahi said:

The proud Armed Forces of Islamic Iran, with trust in Almighty God, have managed to render ineffective the U.S. Navy, which Trump and the leaders of that country regard as the pinnacle of American power and with which they threaten

the region and the world, in such a way that it is no longer able to approach the seas surrounding the Persian Gulf and Iran's territorial waters.

"The U.S. president must dream of his military and army once again entering the Persian Gulf. They will take this wish to the grave forever," he added.

"We will under no circumstances and at no time allow American military vessels to enter the Persian Gulf," he stressed.

From overthrow to reopening the Strait

His remarks, delivered as Washington and Tel Aviv openly speak of "finishing the job" and preparing a renewed offensive, underscore how far the war's objectives have shifted. What began as an American-Israeli campaign to overthrow

the Islamic Republic or force its surrender has now, after more than eight months of war, been reduced in practice to a struggle to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

When the war began in June 2025 with surprise strikes in the middle of negotiations, and escalated again in February 2026 and June this year, U.S. President Donald Trump promised swift collapse in Tehran, destruction of Iran's nuclear program, and an end to its missile and regional power. None of that happened.

Instead, Iran survived, retaliated with massive missile, drone and naval operations against American bases and Israeli targets, tightened its control over the Strait of Hormuz, and imposed an unprecedented energy and military cost on Washington. Moody's estimates the war has already cost American consumers \$265 billion this year, about \$2,000 per household, half of it from higher energy prices. ► [Page 3](#)



Athens stage performance honors Minab school victims

TEHRAN- A theatrical performance commemorating the schoolchildren killed in the US-Israeli attack on Shajareh Tayyebah School in Minab has been staged in Athens, Greece, as part of a cultural program highlighting the human consequences of the tragedy.

"Reading Sara's Memories from Minab," written and directed by Greek theater artist Andreas Zafeiris, was presented at the Brecht Stage of the 2510 Cultural Center in cooperation with Iran's Cultural Attaché Office and Embassy in Greece on Thursday.

The play draws on the memories of Sara, a girl who survived the attack on the school in southern Iran. Through the perspective of a child, it portrays everyday life, fear, loss and the lasting consequences of the assault, ► [Page 8](#)

Twelve countries condemn any attack or threat against nuclear facilities

TEHRAN – Twelve countries, including Iran, Russia, China and Pakistan, have issued a joint statement declaring that nuclear facilities must never, under any circumstances, be subjected to attack or the threat of attack.

On Friday, the 12 countries — Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe — issued the joint statement during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee. The statement addressed the prohibition of any attack or threat of attack against nuclear sites and facilities that are under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and dedicated to peaceful purposes. ► [Page 3](#)

Iran has sufficient forex reserves to fund imports through end of Trump term, CBI chief says

TEHRAN — Iran has sufficient foreign exchange reserves to cover the country's imports through the end of U.S. President Donald Trump's term and beyond, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati said in an interview with Bloomberg.

In a post on his Telegram channel, Hemmati said he gave a televised interview to Bloomberg on the sidelines of last week's annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. ► [Page 4](#)

Russian embassy denies reports of staff leaving Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant

TEHRAN – The Russian Embassy in Tehran has dismissed reports that Russian diplomatic staff and specialists working at Iran's Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant are leaving the country, stressing that activities are continuing as usual.

In a statement, the embassy said it was aware of reports published by certain hostile media outlets alleging that an evacuation of Russian embassy personnel and specialists at the Bushehr facility was underway.

"We would like to clarify that neither embassy staff nor Russian specialists at the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant are leaving Iran," the statement said.

The embassy emphasized that operations were proceeding as normal, describing contrary reports as false information and saying their origins were entirely clear. ► [Page 3](#)

Beyond Iran's famous cities: villages that deserve a place on every traveler's itinerary

TEHRAN – Iran's historical cities are renowned for their grand mosques, Persian gardens, traditional bazaars and Silk Road heritage. Yet beyond the familiar destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz and Yazd, to name a few, lies another side of the country: a landscape of mountain villages, ancient mud-brick settlements and rural communities whose traditions offer a different perspective on Iranian life.

Scattered across the country's mountains, valleys and desert margins, these places reveal the diversity of Iran's geography, architecture and cultural heritage. Some are easily reached on a day trip from a nearby city, while others require more time and effort to explore. Together, they offer travelers an opportunity to look beyond the country's best-known attractions and discover the character of its rural regions. ► [Page 6](#)

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Silence about attacks on nuclear facilities is unforgivable

Jam-e-Jam criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for its response to attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities. The article argued that military strikes carried out by the United States and Israel against Iran's nuclear sites in 2025 and 2026 constituted serious violations of international law and the prohibition on aggression. According to the paper, both the governing bodies and the Secretariat of the IAEA failed to issue even a statement condemning these actions, a situation unprecedented in the agency's history. The newspaper claimed this failure exposed a major institutional weakness and raised concerns about the consistent application of principles that the agency is supposed to uphold. It argued that the IAEA cannot credibly defend the integrity of safeguards while treating attacks on safeguarded facilities as a secondary concern. Therefore, the agency should clearly reaffirm that attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities are unlawful, unacceptable, and should never be tolerated under any circumstances.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Decoding an Emirati flight to Tehran

Donya-e-Eqtasad examined the repeated landing of an Emirati aircraft in Tehran. These flights sparked speculation about possible contacts between the UAE and Iran ahead of a potential new phase of regional tensions. The visits occurred at a time of intensified diplomatic activity across the region. The newspaper also noted that Trump's support for Netanyahu before Israel's national elections increased concerns about possible new attacks against Iran. Since the UAE aligned itself with the United States and Israel after the outbreak of conflict and was reportedly targeted by Iranian retaliatory actions, the return of a government-linked Emirati aircraft to Tehran attracted attention. Combined with earlier reports regarding possible arrangements related to frozen Iranian assets, the flights fueled speculation about behind-the-scenes communication between the two countries. Nevertheless, the true purpose of the flights remains unclear, leaving open the question of whether they were intended to ease tensions or serve another mission.

Ettelaat: E3's proposal for mediation amid tensions

Ettelaat discussed the announcement by Germany, France, and the United Kingdom (known as European trio) that they are prepared to act as mediators between Tehran and Washington over the Iran nuclear issue. According to the newspaper, these three countries possess extensive experience in talks concerning Iran's nuclear program and have long participated in diplomatic efforts aimed at ensuring its peaceful nature. The European initiative remains focused on preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, a goal that Berlin, Paris, and London continue to regard as essential for reducing regional tensions. European governments are therefore seeking to keep the door open for negotiations while responding to the rapidly evolving security situation in the Middle East. At the same time, Iran's response to the proposal remains uncertain. Since the European troika has largely been sidelined in recent phases of the nuclear dispute, it remains to be seen whether Iran and the United States will once again bring these countries back into the negotiating process.

Etemad: Washington's messages not genuine diplomatic initiatives

Etemad interviewed former Iranian parliamentarian Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh about the likelihood of war versus successful negotiations. While diplomatic efforts to reduce regional tensions continue, assessments of potential Iran-US talks remain cautious. Falahatpisheh argued that Washington's recent messages are not genuine diplomatic initiatives but rather ultimatums containing strict demands. He believes the United States seeks to restrict significant parts of Iran's nuclear and military capabilities, and that its proposals appear closer to demands for surrender than a basis for agreement. At the same time, he noted that Iran is trying to highlight the costs and vulnerabilities of any military confrontation, taking into account both US electoral considerations and Iran's military posture. In his view, this strategy can strengthen deterrence while keeping diplomatic channels open.

From page 1 ► Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that judicial proceedings must be conducted swiftly, carefully, and decisively, with court rulings enforced without undue delay to ensure their effectiveness and serve as a deterrent to crime.

He also stressed the need to make extensive use of advanced technologies, particularly to monitor the proper implementation of laws, facilitate regular inspections, and improve the management of public-sector organizations and institutions.

Other priorities included holding officials accountable for failures to perform their duties



when such failures constitute criminal offenses, developing comprehensive plans for a firm response to crime, and coordinating with relevant authorities to eliminate the underlying con-

ditions that facilitate legal violations and misconduct.

The meeting also highlighted the need to pursue the restitution of rights and compensation for material and moral damages resulting from crimes attributed to American and Israeli perpetrators.

At the outset of the meeting, Mohseni-Ejei briefed the Leader on the judiciary's plans for its next phase of work. These include revising the Judicial Transformation Document and accelerating the digitalization and intelligent automation of judicial processes.

Senior adviser to IRGC chief: Netanyahu has strengthened Iran and Palestinian cause

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi, a senior adviser to the commander-in-chief of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's actions have helped strengthen the Islamic Republic and advance the Palestinian cause, arguing that the Israeli leader has served these causes more effectively than even the most prominent reformers and revolutionaries who support Palestine.

Speaking about what he described as the role of divine will in achieving victory, Naqdi said that when people work for God's satisfaction, all elements of creation come to their aid, and sometimes even their enemies are made to serve their cause.

"Do not underestimate the fact that you overcame them with just one percent of the US military's budget," he said. "The reason was that God was supporting you. You worked for God's satisfaction, and God gave you strength."

Referring to the final years of the Pahlavi monarchy, particularly 1979, Naqdi said the shah had effectively become an instrument of the Islamic Revolution, with his actions ultimately working against him.

"Today, Netanyahu is an example of the same situation," he said.

Naqdi argued that Netanyahu had done more to advance the Islamic Republic and the Palestinian cause than some of their most prominent supporters could have achieved.

"The service Netanyahu has rendered to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Palestinian cause is something that even the greatest reformers and revolutionaries who support Palestine could not have accomplished," he said. "He has played a major role in advancing the Palestinian revolution and the Islamic Revolution."

Global public opinion turning against Israel

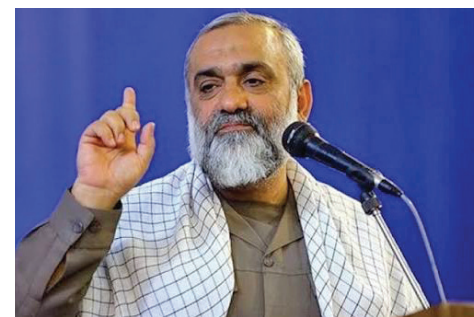
Naqdi also pointed to what he described as a significant shift in global public opinion toward Israel.

Several years ago, he said, Iran had pursued diplomatic efforts to persuade nearly 100 foreign delegations to walk out of the UN General Assembly, make noise, and boo the Israeli prime minister during his address.

"I asked artificial intelligence about this," Naqdi said, recounting that the response was that even years of diplomatic work would not have achieved such an outcome. Instead, he said, the change had resulted from the Israeli regime's own conduct and actions.

Naqdi said he had posed another question about how many years of publicity and campaigning would have been needed to persuade millions — or even hundreds of millions — of people across the five continents to raise the Palestinian flag and support the Palestinian cause, despite the difficulties they faced.

"Again, the answer was the same," he said. "The nature of Netanyahu's operations, the conduct of his government toward the Pal-



estinian people, and the events they brought about have all worked in our favor."

Naqdi points to changing US attitudes toward Israel

Naqdi also cited what he described as a shift in American public opinion toward Israel.

"Could we have brought American public opinion to the point where a US serviceman set himself on fire in front of the Israeli Embassy, shouting 'Free Palestine'?" he asked, referring to an act of self-immolation that he said had taken place in protest against Israel.

He also pointed out that five US service members had set themselves on fire in Atlanta, Boston, and Washington in protest against Israel.

"Could we have brought American public opinion, which was entirely pro-Israel, to such a point? We could not have done that ourselves," Naqdi said. "Who did it? This is the result of Netanyahu's actions. God can even make your enemy serve your cause."

US economic blockade aims to undermine Iran's ties with neighbors

TEHRAN – Evidence suggests that the United States has little confidence that its economic blockade of Iran will achieve its intended effect, but is counting on the pressure to undermine Tehran's relations with neighboring countries.

Although Washington has claimed that its so-called Operation Economic Exclusion is designed to exert maximum pressure on Iran and force it to make concessions in negotiations, Tehran Times' analysis indicates that the primary objective is to damage Iran's relations with its neighbors, particularly Iraq and Pakistan, while simultaneously fomenting instability in both countries.

The choice of these two countries is no coincidence. Both Iraq and Pakistan have populations with strong sympathies toward Iran, and public opinion in both countries is strongly opposed to the United States and the Israeli regime. Iraq has experienced US occupation and its associated atrocities, while Pakistan, the only nuclear-armed Muslim country,

is a target of Israeli hostility. Israel has also formed an alliance with India and the United Arab Emirates in an effort to contain Pakistan.

Tom Barrack, the US ambassador to Turkey, reportedly told a Turkish official who had expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the economic blockade against Iran: "If these arrangements fail to affect Iran, they will certainly have the desired effect on those enforcing the blockade. If we can use them to restrict Iraq's and Pakistan's ties with Iran, we will achieve the desired result."

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar has also said that US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, by designing Operation Economic Exclusion, is seeking to hit several targets with one stone. "Even if only one of these objectives is achieved, it will be a victory for us, because the threat posed by Iraq and Pakistan to us is no less than that posed by Iran," he said.

It is in this context that Iraqi Prime Minister al-Zaidi has warned that "a

land blockade of Iran means a blockade of Iraq."

Mark Dubowitz, head of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) think tank, has also argued that one of the advantages of Operation Economic Exclusion is its potential to provoke political and social upheaval in Iraq and Pakistan by severing their economic ties with Iran.

"One of the advantages of Operation Economic Exclusion is that cutting Iraq's and Pakistan's economic ties with Iran could provoke supporters of the Islamic Republic in both countries and trigger a political and social earthquake," he said. "In the medium and long term, this would benefit Israel, even if some in the United States disapprove."

"The United States must not forget that both Iraq and Pakistan have strongly anti-Western public opinion. Therefore, we should not be concerned about the consequences of the operation for these two countries."

Pezeshkian calls for end to Iran's 'neither war nor peace' situation

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for an end to the country's "neither war nor peace" situation, saying Iran needs a clean and predictable environment to plan for the future and make effective use of its vast national resources.

Speaking in a ceremony on Saturday, Pezeshkian said the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution had ordered that Iran move beyond the state of uncertainty, arguing that meaningful planning was impossible under such conditions.

"The martyred Leader ordered that we move out of the 'neither war nor peace' situation, because you cannot plan amid uncertainty," Pezeshkian said. "He instructed us to go and finish the job, but these dishonorable people changed the rules."

The president nevertheless stressed that Iran must con-

tinue seeking a way out of the current situation and establish conditions conducive to planning and development.

Iran, he said, possesses exceptional advantages in its mineral resources, geographical position and human capital, each of which represents a valuable national asset.

"We must find a way to improve conditions and move beyond this situation, because God has bestowed all His blessings upon us," Pezeshkian said, calling for a change in mindset and a return to the right path.

He urged everyone living in Iran to set aside disputes and disagreements and work together to advance the country.

"Unity and solidarity are what enable us to make progress," he said, adding that people across the country should compete to achieve excellence by pursuing useful, efficient and effective initiatives.



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Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

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The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of **2×50000±5% MTS of Granular Triple Super Phosphate** through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Sunday dated 25/10/2026 until Saturday dated 31/10/2026 (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 3390397822635006500000000000008

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Monday dated 30/11/2026 (During official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelops will be on Tuesday dated 1/12/2026 at 10:00 a.m. with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

- The bid bond value should be at € **442453** or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer selling rate on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on **5/10/2026** for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.
- The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% will be **IRR 877,742,739,293** which must be only submitted by the bidders.
- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)

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No Persian Gulf for old carriers

Top commander says American warships will never return as Strait of Hormuz becomes center of war

From Page 1 ▶ Today, American officials no longer speak of imminent regime change in Tehran. They speak of restoring freedom of navigation, reopening the Strait, securing detained vessels, and preventing oil prices from climbing beyond \$110 per barrel after mine incidents involving tankers. In other words, the superpower that came to bring Iran to its knees is now fighting to bring its own ships back through a waterway guarded by Iran.

Abdollahi directly mocked that reversal:

Trump has repeatedly claimed that they have destroyed Iran's nuclear facilities, but at the same time they keep repeating that Iran must not have nuclear weapons, and this blatant contradiction has no end.

"If you have destroyed everything, then what is the meaning of repeating these hallucinations? These remarks are utterly meaningless, contradictory and repetitive, and are consumed to deceive world public opinion and especially the American people," he said.

"If you are sure that you have destroyed all of Iran's military facilities and capabilities, then why do your rusted carriers, vessels and cowardly military forces not dare to approach the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's maritime and land borders?" he asked.

Fifth Fleet no longer functional

That question now defines the military map of the region. Iranian officials say U.S. forces, after suffering painful blows from the guardians of the Strait, no longer come forward from the Arabian Sea, and whenever they have taken that risk, they have harmed themselves.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Mojtaba Khamenei made the same point in his message of September



28, which Abdollahi's statement echoed: These days [the enemy forces], because of the painful blows they have received from the guardians of the Strait of Hormuz, do not come forward from the Arabian Sea, and whenever they have risked this danger, they have inflicted damage upon themselves; and soon the Arabian Sea itself will rid itself of them.

Iranian commanders say this is not rhetoric but the result of sustained, heavy strikes on the very infrastructure that once sustained American dominance in the Persian Gulf.

According to Iranian military assessments, U.S. bases around the Persian Gulf — in Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq — have been repeatedly targeted since the start of the war and have suffered extensive damage. Above all, the U.S. Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, the command center of American naval power in the region for nearly three decades, has been rendered completely destroyed and unusable by Iran's heavy missile and drone attacks.

For years, the Fifth Fleet, with its destroyers, coastal combat ships, minesweepers and logistics hub at Manama, was presented as the guarantor of American order. Iranian officials

now say its piers are empty, its command facilities inoperable, and its remaining vessels forced to operate from far outside the Persian Gulf, beyond the reach of Iranian anti-ship missiles, speedboats, submarines, mines and coastal defense systems.

U.S. carriers that once docked in Bahrain and sailed routinely through Hormuz now remain in the northern Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. Resupply requires long detours. Insurance rates have soared. Even Washington's allies on the southern shore of the Persian Gulf, who hosted U.S. forces in hope of protection, have found their ports and airfields turned into targets and have quietly asked Washington to reduce its visible presence.

No return to pre-war order

Abdollahi said Iran's strategy is to deepen that quagmire:

Undoubtedly, with the firm resolve of the brave and wise Leadership, the will of the risen and resistant people, the self-sacrificing Armed Forces and the officials of Islamic Iran, it has been decided to drown you day by day deeper into the quagmire you have built with your own hands — America and its illegitimate offspring, the Zionist regime, and your feeble and aggressive armies.

"With the help of Almighty God and divine victory, the strategy of a strong Iran is that the longer this confrontation lasts, the deeper you will be dragged into the swamp of death and decline, God willing," he added.

Regional and even Western analysts now concede that the security architecture of the Persian Gulf will not return to what it was before the war. For thirty years, that architecture rested on a simple assumption: unchallenged American naval supremacy, an open strait under American escort, and regional states sheltering under the U.S. umbrella while Iran was contained.

That assumption has collapsed. Iran has demonstrated it can close or control the Strait at will, strike any base in a 2,000-kilometer radius, impose costs on global energy markets, and survive direct American-Israeli bombardment. Host states have learned that hosting U.S. strike assets invites Iranian retaliation. Shipping companies have learned that transit without Iranian consent is a military risk, not a routine insurance matter.

Tehran therefore rejects talk of a return to the status quo ante through a ceasefire that merely reopens the waterway for American warships. Iranian officials insist any durable arrangement must recognize Iran's legitimate security rights, end aggression and sanctions, and exclude U.S. military vessels from the Persian Gulf altogether.

For Tehran, the message is both military and political: the Persian Gulf is no longer permissive waters for aging carriers, rusted destroyers and expeditionary fantasies. It is, in Iranian doctrine, the front line of national defense and the lever that turned an intended war of overthrow into a war of attrition Washington cannot win.

Russian embassy denies reports of staff leaving Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant

From Page 1 ▶ Located on Iran's southern coast along the Persian Gulf, the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is Iran's first commercial nuclear power facility. Although construction at the site was initially undertaken by the German company Siemens in the 1970s, Russia took responsibility for completing the plant's first reactor unit under an agreement signed with Iran in the 1990s. The first unit

was connected to Iran's national electricity grid in 2011 and reached full capacity in 2013.

Russia has continued to cooperate with Iran on the development of the facility, including the construction of additional reactor units. The project forms part of broader cooperation between Tehran and Moscow in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Judiciary chief: Israel's existence poses a threat to humanity

TEHRAN — Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei has described Israel as a threat to humanity, saying the regime seeks not merely the partition of Iran but its complete destruction.

"We must not forget that our current confrontation with the enemy is an existential war," Mohseni-Ejei said on Saturday. "The savage Zionist regime is not even satisfied with the partition of Iran; it seeks to destroy and annihilate the country. We, in turn, consider the very existence of this occupying regime to be a danger to humanity."

Speaking at a meeting with the country's economists in Tehran, the judiciary chief stressed that Iran must address its economic challenges in light of the circumstances imposed by its adversaries, while acknowledging domestic shortcomings and the need to find solutions.

"When we speak of economic problems and inefficiencies, we must not overlook the enemies' schemes and conspiracies," he said.

Mohseni-Ejei noted that Iran's adversaries initially sought to prevent the Islamic Revolution from taking shape and, after it was established, to obstruct the country's progress. He added that even voices from the opposing camp now acknowledge Iran's growing power.

"The bottom line is that we must identify and acknowledge our shortcomings, while also taking into account the conditions imposed on us by the enemy," he said.

Mohseni-Ejei underscored the need for economic policymaking to reflect the realities of the current conflict, arguing that the country could not continue operating as though it were at peace.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Further escalation between US and Iran would have no winners, says French FM

TEHRAN — French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot has warned that further escalation between the United States and Iran would benefit neither side, cautioning that any renewed tensions could have serious consequences for global oil prices.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with his British, German, Turkish, Egyptian, Pakistani and Saudi counterparts in Istanbul, Barrot said further escalation between Washington and Tehran would have no winners and would likely lead to a significant rise in oil prices.

Istanbul hosted a four-way meeting of the foreign ministers of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt on Friday to discuss regional and international developments.

The meeting preceded a broader gathering involving the foreign ministers of France, Britain, Germany and Italy, alongside their counterparts from the four countries.

The eight countries were expected to discuss key regional and international issues, including ways to end the war between Russia and Ukraine, developments in Yemen, tensions in the Middle East, opportunities to strengthen cooperation between European and regional countries, Israel's actions in the region, and the latest developments concerning the Palestinian issue.

The gathering marked the first time the eight countries had convened under such a framework, at Turkey's initiative, in Istanbul.

Twelve countries condemn any attack or threat against nuclear facilities

TEHRAN — Twelve countries, including Iran, Russia, China and Pakistan, have issued a joint statement declaring that nuclear facilities must never, under any circumstances, be subjected to attack or the threat of attack.

On Friday, the 12 countries — Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe — issued the joint statement during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee. The statement addressed the prohibition of any attack or threat of attack against nuclear sites and facilities that are under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and dedicated to peaceful purposes.

According to IRNA, the statement was read out by Gholamhossein Darzi, Iran's ambassador and chargé d'affaires to the United Nations. It contained eight points, as follows:

1. We reaffirm the importance of the full and effective fulfillment of the objectives of the International Atomic Energy Agency, particularly its statutory mission to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. We also reaffirm the inalienable right of all states to develop research into, produce

and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

2. We recall United Nations Security Council Resolution 487 (1981), which strongly condemned a military attack against nuclear facilities. We also recall the relevant decisions and resolutions of the IAEA General Conference — documents GC(53)/DEC/13, GC(XXIX)/RES/443, GC(XXIX)/RES/444 and GC(XXXIV)/RES/533 — which clearly reflect the longstanding position of the international community opposing any attack or threat of attack against nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards and dedicated to peaceful purposes.

3. We reaffirm that an attack or threat of attack against nuclear facilities violates the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law and the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and is fundamentally incompatible with the objectives and purposes of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

4. We emphasize that attacks against nuclear facilities have serious implications for nuclear safety and security and pose a grave threat to the integrity, effectiveness and credibility of the IAEA safeguards system, as well as to the broader global non-prolifera-

tion framework.

5. We emphasize that attacks against nuclear facilities would adversely affect the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and international cooperation, and could result in the release of radioactive materials, with severe consequences both within and beyond the affected country, including serious impacts on civilian populations and long-term environmental damage.

6. We emphasize that silence in the face of attacks against protected nuclear facilities undermines established international norms, erodes confidence in the international legal order and increases the risk of such attacks becoming normalised.

7. We therefore reaffirm that nuclear facilities must never, under any circumstances, be subjected to attack or the threat of attack.

8. We call on all member states to stand united in preserving the integrity and credibility of the IAEA safeguards system, strengthening nuclear safety and security, and protecting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and international cooperation by expressing their clear and unequivocal opposition to any attack or threat of attack against nuclear facilities.

IRGC: US war on Iran is a battle over identity and civilization

TEHRAN— The ongoing confrontation between Iran and the United States goes beyond the military arena and targets Iran's national identity and civilization, Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi, spokesman for Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), said.

Speaking at a provincial prayer conference for the armed forces in Qazvin, Mohebbi referred to remarks attributed to US President Donald Trump about turning Iran back to an earlier era,

describing them as an indication that the confrontation also concerns Iran's identity, civilization and future.

Mohebbi said certain foreign powers opposed Iran's strength and continued existence as a unified country, seeking to weaken it and divide it into smaller entities to diminish its national power.

He identified two principal objectives behind the confrontation: undermining Iran's national identity and targeting its Iranian-Islamic civilization.

According to the IRGC spokesman, the confrontation extends to the country's religious, historical, cultural and moral identity, as well as the social values and behavior of its people. He said Iran's adversaries sought to weaken the nation's religious and cultural foundations.

Mohebbi described the conflict as a decisive struggle whose outcome could shape not only Iran's future but also that of many other countries.

Expressing confidence in Iran's

eventual victory, he cited the people's faith and steadfastness, along with the sacrifices of those killed in the conflict, as important sources of strength in confronting the adversary.

He stressed that defending Iran's territorial integrity, Iranian-Islamic identity, culture, and civilization was essential, calling on the nation to remain committed to safeguarding its heritage and shaping its future.



President Masoud Pezeshkian visited the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) on Friday evening, October 23, 2026, during a brief trip to Mashhad, and paid his respects at the sacred resting place of the eighth Shia Imam.

Following his visit to the shrine, the president proceeded to the Dar al-Zehr portico to pay his respects at the tomb of Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution. He recited a Fatiha in tribute to the soul of the late Leader and the great leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Iran needs predictable rules, less red tape to strengthen foreign trade, industry group says

TEHRAN — Iran needs predictable economic policies, less bureaucracy, greater private-sector participation and the smarter use of technology to strengthen its foreign trade, the head of the Iranian Association of Digital Technology and Smart Systems Employers said.

Seifollah Niknami made the remarks at a strategic meeting on Iran's foreign trade, emphasizing the need to coordinate national capabilities in technology, industry, energy, logistics and the private sector to improve production and trade.

“Technology must serve to solve real economic problems,” Niknami said, adding that the country's domestic capabilities could become competitive advantages only if they were connected to one another and to global markets.

Producers cannot be expected to plan for the long term when the rules governing their activities may change abruptly through new directives, he said. Maintaining exporters' credibility in international markets also requires reducing cumbersome procedures, improving coordination among digital systems and avoiding unpredictable policy decisions.

Sanctions and external restrictions pose serious challenges, Niknami said, but regulatory instability and unnecessary procedures should not impose additional risks on producers and exporters.

Regulatory stability is an intangible asset for production and exports, he said, noting that a shipment held up while awaiting an official inquiry or approval could affect not only delivery schedules but also a company's working capital, contractual commitments and opportunities in target markets.

Niknami outlined four priorities for improving the business environment and strengthening the resilience of Iran's foreign trade: stable and predictable regulations; eliminating unnecessary procedures and improving coordination among government agencies; risk-based, intelligent oversight; and effective participation by professional and employers' associations in policymaking.

He said the impact of decisions affecting production and exports should be assessed before they are introduced, with businesses given a reasonable period to adapt where necessary.

Information required by authorized agencies should also be exchanged in a coordinated manner, subject to confidentiality requirements and legal limits on access, so that businesses do not bear the cost of inconsistencies among digital platforms and government bodies, he added.

Niknami said durable policies could not be developed without listening to producers, exporters and specialized industry associations. Such organizations should be involved from the earliest stages of consultation rather than informed only after decisions have been made.

Private-sector participation does not re-

IOFS, Iran sign cooperation deal to advance joint agricultural projects

TEHRAN — Iran and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) have signed a cooperation agreement to expand agricultural and technological collaboration, with a three-month action plan to be drawn up to translate the commitments into practical projects, Iran's agricultural research chief said.

Gholamreza Golmohammadi, head of Iran's Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization, signed the memorandum during a visit to Kazakhstan and held talks with IOFS Secretary-General Berik Aryn on cooperation in vaccine and seed production, agricultural biotechnology, water and soil management, and joint research projects, Iran's state broadcaster IRIB reported.

Other areas discussed included establishing a plant gene bank for Islamic countries, creating strategic food security reserves and



place the government's responsibilities, he said, but provides an expert basis for more accurate, realistic and effective policymaking.

Digital transformation must begin with process reform

Niknami said reforming existing procedures was a necessary prerequisite for digital transformation.

Smart systems do not begin with purchasing technology, but with identifying problems and improving processes, he said. Digitizing an inefficient or unnecessary procedure does not necessarily constitute progress, as it may simply transfer an existing obstacle to a computer screen.

Technology, data and innovation should instead help strengthen different parts of foreign trade by lowering costs, speeding up procedures, increasing transparency and improving decision-making, he added.

Five priorities for trade resilience

Niknami said the meeting had been organized around five specialist panels addressing the resilience of Iran's foreign-trade logistics; resilient trade governance and diversification of markets and value chains; expanding trade through the Eurasian region; energy, infrastructure and technical and engineering services; and the use of technology, data and innovation to make foreign trade smarter.

The meeting should produce more than a discussion of existing problems, he said, adding that the specialist sessions were expected to identify priority obstacles, practical solutions, actionable proposals and measurable indicators of progress.

If international conditions have made trade more difficult, Iran should not further complicate production and exports through unstable decisions and cumbersome procedures, Niknami said.

Responding to difficult conditions requires sound policymaking, coordination and joint action, he added.

Niknami expressed hope that the meeting would help connect the country's fragmented capabilities, simplify procedures, strengthen business confidence and increase private-sector participation in policymaking.

These efforts, he said, could improve Iran's economic competitiveness, advance smart trade, support production and employment, and strengthen the reputation of Iranian brands in global markets.

expanding joint vaccine production.

Golmohammadi said a three-month work plan was being prepared to follow up on the agreements and turn them into practical initiatives.

Aryn called for the establishment of a joint working group, the identification of priority areas and clarification of funding arrangements for the proposed projects.

On the sidelines of the visit, the Iranian delegation also held talks on transferring technical expertise and developing joint production of vaccines against foot-and-mouth disease, as well as expanding scientific and technological cooperation with Islamic countries.

The discussions took place during the delegation's participation in an international agricultural exhibition in Kazakhstan.

Iran's largest oil processing plant reaches 320,000 bpd capacity at South Azadegan field

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Iran's South Azadegan oil processing center has reached its nominal capacity of 320,000 barrels per day following the completion and commissioning of all four processing trains, state-owned Petropars Group said.

Hamidreza Saghafi, head of Petropars Group, an implementing arm of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), said the facility was Iran's largest oil processing center, with four trains designed to handle a combined 320,000 barrels per day.

The third processing train was commissioned on March 19, 2025, and reached stable production on May 14, 2025, Saghafi said. The fourth train was commissioned on Dec. 21, 2025, and reached stable production on Dec. 25, he added.

Construction of the first and second trains began moving



towards completion in February 2026 and continued despite wartime conditions. Pre-commissioning and commissioning activities also began, enabling the trains to receive crude oil for processing, Saghafi said.

Following authorization for a

four-day production shutdown, the control and safety systems of the first two trains were integrated with those of the third and fourth trains. After approval was granted to introduce crude oil into the first two trains, the facility achieved its 320,000-bpd processing capacity on Oct. 11, 2026,

he said.

Saghafi said the center was a key infrastructure project for the development of West Karoun, an oil-producing region in southwestern Iran. The facility is expected to play an important role in transporting, processing and stabilizing crude oil from the area and could help support higher output from other fields in West Karoun.

Overall project progress has exceeded 80%, he said.

On associated gas, Saghafi said completion of the relevant units would enable the facility to send 200 million standard cubic feet of gas per day to the NGL 3200 gas processing plant.

He credited the achievement to the efforts of project specialists and workers, as well as cooperation between the project owner and contractors.

Iran has sufficient forex reserves to fund imports through end of Trump term, CBI chief says

TEHRAN — Iran has sufficient foreign exchange reserves to cover the country's imports through the end of U.S. President Donald Trump's term and beyond, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati said in an interview with Bloomberg.

In a post on his Telegram channel, Hemmati said he gave a televised interview to Bloomberg on the sidelines of last week's annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Hemmati said inflation, which accelerated sharply following a 40-day war, had eased in the three months leading up to the end of Shahrivar, the sixth month of the Iranian calendar which ended on September 22, 2026.

He attributed the earlier surge in inflation to two main factors: supply-side shocks caused by damage to infrastructure and in-

dustrial facilities, some of which have since resumed production, and inflationary expectations on the demand side, which the central bank had partly contained through monetary policy tools.

Hemmati said the United States had sought to isolate Iran economically and intensify pressure on the country, predicting that its economy would collapse within two weeks. Despite heavy economic pressure on the Iranian people, Washington had failed to achieve its main objective, he said, describing the prediction as an illusion.

He said he had also raised the issue in an address to central bank governors from the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

Addressing the decline in oil revenues, Hemmati said oil income accounted for a limited share of the government budget. He said

the government intended to cover its budget deficit through other sources of domestic-currency revenue, including asset sales, reforms in the energy sector and exports of petroleum products.

On foreign currency revenues, he said Iran was still receiving proceeds from oil exports and had made arrangements to maintain supplies in the future.

Asked about the central bank's foreign exchange reserves, Hemmati said they were in a good position and would be sufficient to finance imports through the end of Trump's presidential term and beyond.

Hemmati also discussed measures to offset the loss of purchasing power among households, highlighting the distribution of electronic or commodity vouchers and gradual increases in their rial value for low-income families.

Govt. reviews export rules, seeks to remove trade barriers with Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan

TEHRAN — Iranian government is reviewing regulations governing exporters affected by transport and logistics disruptions and has proposed measures to remove barriers to shipments to neighboring countries, including Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Hamid Ghanbari said.

The 12th meeting of Iran's Foreign Economic Relations Coordination Headquarters in 1405, the Iranian calendar year that began in late March 2026, was held at

the Foreign Ministry on Saturday, Oct. 24, to discuss trade diplomacy and non-oil exports, IRNA reported.

Ghanbari said conditions arising from the imposed war had created new challenges for exporters, making changes to domestic procedures necessary to address their difficulties and outstanding obligations.

He said arrangements had been proposed to review existing rules for exporters unable to meet their commitments because of trans-

port disruptions, as well as businesses that had received foreign currency to import raw materials but could not complete the imports because of problems along transport and logistics routes.

The proposed changes had been accepted by the relevant government agencies, Ghanbari said, without providing further details.

The meeting also discussed proposals to address obstacles facing Iranian exporters of goods to neighboring countries, including Iraq, Pakistan and Afghani-

stan. The proposals could be pursued through negotiations with foreign counterparts, he said.

Ghanbari added that Iran's embassies and consulates would be instructed to follow up on the proposals.

He expressed hope that, despite what he described as difficulties caused by Iran's adversaries, the efforts would help preserve existing exports and make future shipments more targeted while improving overall export performance.

IMPASCO to offer 2 mineral exploration investment packages in South Khorasan

TEHRAN — Iran will launch an auction next week for two mineral exploration investment packages in South Khorasan province, comprising a total of 10 exploration licenses, an official at the state-owned Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company (IMPASCO) said.

Shima Moafi, acting deputy head of development and planning at IMPASCO, said the initiative was designed to encourage private-sector participation and create new investment opportunities in the mining sector.

The first phase will offer two exploration investment packages in South Khorasan through a competitive bidding process, with each package covering five exploration licenses, Moafi said, according to IRIB.

Further investment packages covering the provinces of Ilam, Qom and Isfahan are expected to be offered after the initial phase, she added.

Back in June, the head of the executive board of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) emphasized the need to transform the country's mineral exploration policies, saying that developing national exploration standards, expanding private sector participation, attracting foreign investors, and training specialized human resources will be the main pillars of Iran's mineral exploration development program.

Speaking at a meeting on Tuesday to re-

view the exploration activities and plans of the organization's major subsidiaries and affiliated companies, Mohammad Masoud Samiei-Nejad described the expansion of mineral exploration as one of the mining sector's highest priorities this year.

He said IMIDRO's policy is focused on implementing development programs in the exploration sector, with a target of completing one million meters of drilling by its subsidiary companies.

Referring to the need for a unified approach to exploration procedures, Samiei-Nejad stated that standardized and integrated policies should be developed for mineral exploration and the issuance of discovery certificates based on the type of mineral, the scale of exploration operations, and the conditions of drilling sites. Once finalized, these standards will be communicated to companies and provincial authorities across the country to ensure that all stakeholders operate within a common regulatory framework.

The IMIDRO chief also stressed the importance of establishing a dedicated exploration working group. Given the prominent role of exploration development in Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, he said, the necessary executive guidelines should be prepared, and—with the participation of the private sector—exploration challenges and obstacles in different provinces should be examined and addressed through specialized reviews.

Samiei-Nejad noted that investment models in the exploration sector require revision, explaining that the current investment structures within IMIDRO's subsidiaries are relatively closed and should be reformed to facilitate the entry of new investors, particularly from the private sector. Accordingly, he said, all subsidiary companies are required to submit operational plans within the next six months outlining how they intend to increase private sector participation in mining activities, especially exploration projects.

He also emphasized the importance of utilizing foreign investment in major mining projects, saying that planning should be undertaken to attract foreign investors—particularly for large-scale mines. At the same time, he called for a thorough study of the experiences of Eurasian countries in advancing mineral exploration, especially in the copper and gold sectors, over the past decade.

Concluding his remarks, the IMIDRO head announced the launch of a specialized workforce training program for drilling operations. He said that expanding mineral exploration would not be possible without skilled personnel. Therefore, through specialized training courses and the participation of leading domestic and international experts, IMIDRO will begin training drilling technicians, with the initial goal of preparing 100 specialized drilling technicians.

Americans are done paying for Trump's family business

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Donald Trump won the White House promising to “Make America Great Again,” then promised Americans a short, cheap war on Iran. They got a closed Strait of Hormuz, Brent crude above \$116 a barrel, and gasoline past \$5 a gallon in several states. He and his family got a windfall.

Nine days before the November 3 midterms, the distance between those two experiences has become the central fact of American politics.

In CNBC's final pre-election survey, 36 percent of registered voters named government corruption among their top issues, ahead of food prices at 34 percent and gasoline at 23 percent.

Fox News found 60 percent of voters extremely concerned. People are reading their grocery receipts and the headlines as one story.

A war with a customer list

The campaign of aggression against Iran has already cost tens of billions of dollars, paid from the public purse. Some of it is landing with companies the president's sons own or advise.

Powerus, which Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr. are backing toward a stock listing, holds an Air Force contract worth up to \$90 million for interceptors meant to counter Iranian drones.

Skeptics doubt the systems can stop Iran's one-way attack drones, which have proved themselves in large numbers. Powerus is pitching them to Arab governments in the Persian Gulf anyway, the same clients Washington claims to be defending.

Trump Jr. also holds roughly \$4 million in Unusual Machines, where he serves as an adviser. The “War” Department bought 3,500 drone motors and related parts from the company, and the Army has floated a follow-on order of 20,000.

Its shares jumped when his link became public. Rep. Jason Crow says firms tied to the sons have drawn about \$3.7 billion in federal money this term.

The youngest Trump son, Barron, joined 1789 Capital days af-



ter the 2024 election. Among its holdings is Anduril, approved for a possible \$2 billion interceptor sale to Kuwait.

Trump's own portfolio includes Palantir, Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and Northrop Grumman, whose revenues have swelled with U.S. military war-mongering.

Richard Painter, who served as ethics lawyer in George W. Bush's White House, told the Wall Street Journal that he sees no modern precedent. That is a notable benchmark, given the Bush administration's own notorious record of foreign aggression and corporate enrichment.

Persian Gulf states, he says, are “under immense pressure to buy from Trump's sons,” so the president will deliver what they want. It may be the first time, he adds, that a president's family has made vast sums from a war launched without congressional authorization.

Arab monarchy money and a crypto pipeline

The Persian Gulf runs through the family's earlier business too. In his upcoming book *Princes and Thieves*, Matthew Cole reports that Jared Kushner had access to at least two accounts tied to the UAE and Israel, together receiving about \$2 billion, part of it Saudi-backed and moved through banks in Baku.

Dutch intelligence, which had penetrated his phone, helped trace the transfers. A third account, the report says, paid for an Israeli pledge to defend the Emirates against Iranian strikes.

Then came crypto. Days before

the 2025 inauguration, an entity backed by Tahnoon bin Zayed, the UAE's national security adviser, agreed to buy 49 percent of World Liberty Financial for \$500 million.

An Abu Dhabi fund he chairs later bought \$2 billion of the firm's USD1 stablecoin. Months on, the administration eased AI chip exports to Emirati firms, including G42, which Tahnoon controls.

Trump also pardoned Binance founder Changpeng Zhao, whose company had paid \$4.3 billion in fines, and accepted a \$400 million jet from Qatar.

On October 22, a Circle shareholder sued in federal court, alleging violations of the Foreign Emoluments Clause.

Trump's disclosures show \$2.2 billion in earnings for his first year back, \$1.4 billion of it from crypto, including about \$636 million from a memecoin whose promoters advertised a dinner with him for its 185 biggest holders.

'Slime, not crime'

Smaller scandals keep piling up. Ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle resigned after the Wall Street Journal reported she asked a donor to cover a \$100,000 credit card bill.

Adviser Corey Lewandowski faces a Justice Department inquiry. The New York Times says Alina Habba, Trump's former lawyer, agreed to a \$50 million deal with the family of a Venezuelan billionaire who later received a pardon.

Trump's answer was to warn

that dishonest allies “have to be prosecuted,” while his Justice Department charged a Virginia Democrat, state Sen. L. Louise Lucas.

Expect few convictions. Experts point to the Supreme Court: McDonnell in 2016 narrowed “official acts,” Snyder in 2024 excused gratuities paid after the fact, and Trump v. United States granted presidents sweeping immunity.

The Justice Department's Public Integrity Section was effectively shut down in February 2025. What remains, some prosecutors say, is “slime, not crime,” despite overwhelming evidence of corruption that Americans across party lines can no longer ignore.

Nine days to judgment

Voters have noticed anyway. A Washington Post/ABC News/Ipsos poll found nearly two in three Americans think Trump is using the presidency to enrich himself, with most of the rise coming from Republicans and their leaners.

His approval sits at a record low of 33 percent, and Democrats have spent \$182 million on corruption ads, more than the last four cycles combined, according to data from the firm AdImpact.

Vice President JD Vance calls the charge “laughable.” Trump's pollster argues undecided voters will still choose on pocketbook issues. Perhaps. But \$5 gasoline and a president's sons selling drones are hard to pull apart.

The deeper question is what the money buys. In Matthew Cole's account, Kushner held signing rights on an Emirati account while Abu Dhabi wanted the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) dead.

Trump quit the agreement in May 2018. Months after he left office, Saudi Arabia's sovereign fund gave his firm \$2 billion, despite a screening panel finding its due diligence “unsatisfactory in all aspects.”

Today, at least some of the transactions happen in plain sight: Emirati stablecoin purchases, chip exports, drone contracts, and more.

Operation al-Khalil exposes limits of Israeli aggression



From page 1 ► The operation is significant because of its timing and the context in which it occurred. Raids by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) alongside settler terrorism on Palestinians, their land, and their property in the West Bank have been escalating, alongside threats to expand the aggression.

The question is not only what security consequences the resistance operation has produced, but what it reveals about the shortcomings of the regime's approach in the West Bank. The IOF continues to pursue policies aimed at imposing new realities through aggression and the complete control daily life in the occupied territories.

The armed resistance operation in al-Khalil that killed and injured IOF troops cannot be understood separately from the conditions in the city and its surrounding areas, where IOF attacks on Palestinians continue and overlap with settler terrorism.

On September 24, homes and other structures were demolished in the area of Jinba near al-Khalil, displacing eight families comprising 55 Palestinians, including 32 children. Some were forced to seek shelter in caves.

On October 12 and 13, children and their

vehicles were attacked with rocks and sticks as they made their way to school. On October 17, settlers attacked the village of Ma'in near al-Khalil, injuring three Palestinians, one of whom was shot with live ammunition. They also stole 380 sheep. On October 19, farmers were attacked while harvesting olives.

These incidents are also inseparable from the IOF restrictions imposed on Palestinians at the Ibrahimi Mosque in al-Khalil and the continued measures enforcing its division by time and space.

Palestinians face conditions in which Israel's pressure extends beyond military operations into the details of everyday life and their ability to remain on their land, amid the ongoing threat of ethnic cleansing.

The al-Khalil operation raises questions about the occupation regime's ability to prevent armed resistance, even under heightened alert and strict security measures. Military superiority, a heavy military occupation, and the capacity to carry out raids and arrests do not necessarily mean an ability to anticipate every operation or prevent it from taking place.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The limits of American power: Trump's reckless gamble against Iran

By staff writer

TEHRAN – The U.S.-Israeli war against Iran has exposed the limits of American military power and the dangers of an administration that appears to have mistaken technological superiority for the ability to dictate political outcomes, William H. McRaven, who served in the U.S. Navy, wrote in Foreign Affairs.

Launched on February 28 without a clearly defined rationale or attainable objectives, the war illustrates Washington's persistent failure to learn from the costly experiences of Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

From the outset, the Trump administration's objectives have been inconsistent. Initially, Washington spoke of regime change and eliminating Iran's nuclear ambitions. Later, reopening the Strait of Hormuz became a central priority, even though the waterway had not been closed before the war began. Trump's contradictory statements about these objectives have raised serious questions about whether his administration had a coherent strategy or adequately considered the consequences of military action.

“The war was launched without a clear rationale and with a constantly shifting set of objectives—from changing Tehran's regime and squelching its nuclear ambitions to, more recently, reopening the Strait of Hormuz, which wasn't closed until the war started. The results, not surprisingly, have been bad both for U.S. interests and for the Middle East,” McRaven stated.

At the heart of this failure lies an enduring American illusion: that overwhelming military superiority can overcome political, geographical, and strategic realities. Advanced aircraft, precision weapons, and sophisticated intelligence systems can inflict enormous damage, but they cannot automatically force a determined adversary to surrender or produce the political changes Washington desires. Iran's geography, its capacity to challenge shipping through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, and its determination to resist foreign aggression all place signifi-

cant limits on the effectiveness of American military power.

The administration's approach has also undermined its international standing. According to the analysis, Washington launched the war without first building international legitimacy or consulting its allies, including neighboring Arab states. Its failure to acknowledge responsibility for an airstrike that reportedly killed 120 students at an Iranian elementary school further damaged its moral credibility. When Trump subsequently sought international assistance to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the administration encountered resistance from countries whose support it had failed to cultivate.

Such miscalculations reflect a broader problem in American policymaking: the growing concentration of presidential power and the politicization of institutions responsible for providing independent military, diplomatic, and intelligence advice. When personal loyalty takes precedence over professional judgment, warnings about the costs and risks of war may be ignored. The result can be a dangerous cycle in which overconfidence produces reckless decisions, and those decisions generate consequences that military force alone cannot reverse.

The experiences of Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq should have taught Washington that wars without clear objectives, broad international support, and realistic exit strategies can become prolonged strategic failures. Yet the Trump administration appears to have repeated these mistakes, underestimating both Iran's capacity to resist and the broader regional consequences of attacking it.

Ultimately, the war underscores a fundamental truth: military supremacy does not amount to unlimited political power. Geography, national resistance, international legitimacy, and the quality of leadership remain decisive factors in determining the outcome of conflicts. The central lesson is clear: no amount of firepower can compensate for a reckless strategy, contradictory objectives, and a failure to understand the adversary.

Macklemore says ‘being human is not complicated’ as sold-out Gaza benefit tour opens

From page 1 ► The momentum traces back to a September 4 concert at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium, where Macklemore declared “I say, free Palestine!” and performed “Hind's Hall,” his protest anthem dedicated to Hind Rajab, the five-year-old girl brutally killed by Israeli forces in Gaza.

That performance sparked immediate retribution from pro-Israel networks, leading to his exclusion from Sheeran's tour. Following intense pressure from Zionist advocacy groups such as the Israeli-American Council, New England Patriots owner and billionaire Robert Kraft led a campaign demanding his removal.

Venue owners issued an ultimatum to tour promoter Messina Touring Group: remove Macklemore or forfeit access to major American stadiums.

Rather than apologizing, Macklemore answered by announcing independent European arena dates. All three upcoming shows, in Dub-

lin, Paris, and London, sold out within minutes.

Proceeds are slated for 12 humanitarian relief organizations operating in Gaza, including the Gaza Soup Kitchen, Medical Aid for Palestinians, and UNRWA USA. He also committed his estimated \$1 million in net earnings from Sheeran's tour to Palestinian relief efforts.

The institutional purging of Macklemore triggered an immediate rift within the Western entertainment industry.

During a September 19 performance in Philadelphia, Sheeran read a scripted statement from the prompter, calling the situation in Gaza “catastrophic and unjustifiable” while carefully avoiding any direct attribution of responsibility to Israel.

The highly stage-managed address drew swift ridicule and anger on social media, where critics blasted the pop star as spineless for delivering a carefully sanitized PR apology to protect his corporate tour revenues rather than taking a stand against geno-



cidal violence.

Four supporting acts, including Irish singer Aaron Rowe, Beoga, Finneas, and Lukas Graham, resigned from Sheeran's tour in direct protest of the corporate blacklist.

Condemning the corporate censorship, Rowe publicly called out the billionaire stadium owners for attempting to enforce political compliance, declaring that artists cannot stand by while powerful interests use their financial leverage to suppress voices speaking up against genocide.

insistence that it was targeting Hezbollah leaders and weapons depots across the country, including in the capital, Beirut.

But it wasn't until this year that Israel significantly ramped up its military operations, mounted a ground invasion, and occupied long stretches of the south and east of Lebanon.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

anon this month, carrying out air strikes and home demolitions in the Nabatieh, Bint Jbeil, and Sidon districts.

The New Arab said it was told there was “intransigence in Israeli positions, while the Lebanese side is holding firm to its demands that steps must be reciprocal.”

The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), largely funded by the US, has also rejected direct mili-

tary-to-military coordination with the Israelis, instead preferring a third-party verification mechanism to be employed by the United Nations and allies such as France.

Israel has bombed Lebanon consistently since October 2023, after the Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel ignited the region.

A November 2024 ceasefire brokered by the former Biden administration did little to curb Israel's

Iran drops four places to sixth at Nagoya

From Page 1 ► Another standout performer was Elham Salehi, who captured two gold medals in para-athletics. Her achievements provided a significant boost to the Iranian delegation and highlighted the important contribution of female athletes to the country's success.

Alireza Zare also produced an impressive performance, winning two gold medals in para-athletics. His achievements included a record-breaking run in the men's 200-meter T35 event, where he clocked 24.83 seconds to secure the title.

While these individual successes offered encouraging signs, Iran's overall results reflected a noticeable decline compared with Hangzhou. The delegation won 18 fewer gold medals and 29 fewer medals overall, although it also competed with a smaller squad.

Meanwhile, China reaffirmed its dominance of Asian para sports, finishing comfortably at the top of the medal standings with an extraordinary 435 medals, comprising 207 gold, 117 silver and 111 bronze.

Host nation Japan secured second place with 64 gold, 60 silver and 62 bronze medals, while Uzbekistan finished third with 45 gold, 49 silver and 51 bronze.

India claimed fourth position with 30 gold medals, followed by South Korea with 29, leaving Iran sixth with 26 gold medals.

China's commanding performance demonstrated its considerable depth across multiple disciplines and reinforced its position as the continent's leading para-sport powerhouse.

For Iran, the Nagoya Games presented a mixed picture of individual excellence and collective disappointment.

Although champions such as Zeighaminejad, Salehi and Zare delivered memorable performances, the four-place drop in the rankings underlined the need for stronger preparation, investment in emerging talent and improved competitive depth.

The challenge now facing Iranian para sports is to build on these individual achievements and regain a place among Asia's leading delegations at future international competitions.

Iran start FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026 on high

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Guyana 6-0 on Saturday in the FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026.

Iran have been drawn in Group R alongside Vietnam, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Guyana, and Mauritius. Competing against teams from different regions will expose the young players to a variety of playing styles and tactical approaches.

The young Persians will meet Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brunei on Sunday.

The tournament features 189 national teams divided into 32 groups, with matches played in an eight-a-side format. Each match consists of two 20-minute halves, with rolling substitutions permitted.

The FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026 takes place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from Oct. 24 to 30.

Donyamali hails Iranian participants at 2026 Nagoya

TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth, Ahmad Donyamali, issued a message praising the Iranian delegation's participation and efforts at the fifth edition of the Asian Para Games in Nagoya and congratulating the medal winners.

Iran concluded its campaign at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya in sixth place, suffering a four-position decline from its runner-up finish at the previous edition in Hangzhou, China, in 2023.

The Iranian delegation collected 102 medals, including 26 gold, 36 silver and 40 bronze, compared with 131 medals — 44 gold, 46 silver and 41 bronze — at Hangzhou.

He also emphasized the need for a thorough assessment of Iran's performance at the Games, continued support for Paralympic athletes, and swift, effective planning to secure qualification slots and ensure a strong Iranian presence at the Los Angeles Paralympic Games.

Snyder hopes to finally face Yazdani in Astana

TEHRAN - Kyle Snyder has never faced Hassan Yazdani in an official match, given that the two superstars have built their individual legends in disparate weight classes.

The paths of the fellow 2016 Olympic and multi-time world champions may finally cross this week in Astana, and both — along with the entire wrestling world, no doubt — would like to see them face each other.

"I spoke with Yazdani maybe a month ago and we both said it would be great to compete against each other at this tournament, so hopefully it happens," Snyder said at a press conference Friday on the eve of this year's World Championships, where he will attempt to defend his freestyle 97kg title and claim a fifth gold overall.

For Snyder, the ninth World Championships of his career could hardly be more challenging -- and exciting.

"I think that this is the deepest weight class that I've ever wrestled in in my life," Snyder said. "There's a lot of really tough guys in the weight class. That's what makes it exciting."

It's not hard to see what has gotten the juices flowing for the 30-year-old two-time Olympic medalist.

A week before the 97kg competition begins, one known factor is that Snyder, as the top seed, faces a potential quarterfinal (!) clash with longtime nemesis and eighth seed Abdulrashid Sadulaev, who will be chasing a seventh world gold.

What remains unknown is who Snyder will have to first beat to get to the quarterfinals. And, as he pointed out in the press conference at Barys Arena, any one of a number of unseeded wrestlers are capable of taking down the reigning champion in the first round.

Topping that list is Yazdani. After taking a second career Olympic silver at the 2024 Paris Olympics at 86kg, he took the great leap upward this year to 97kg. Yazdani showed he could handle the extra weight by defeating world silver medalist and Paris bronze medalist Amirali Azarpira in a two-match playoff to make the world team.

Snyder said he was impressed with Yazdani and said he expected to have no difficulty making the transition in terms of power.

"When I watched him wrestle Azarpira, I didn't see any difference between [the two. They] both looked similar in regard to strength, and I think Azarpira is one of the strongest guys in the weight class," Snyder said.

Snyder has gotten a tiny glimpse of what he might expect should he face Yazdani in Astana.

"I wrestled Yazdani one time in practice, for about 20 minutes," Snyder said. "It was many years ago, so we haven't wrestled in a while."

Still, he knows that Yazdani could not have accomplished what he did without having what Snyder called "the will of a champion."

"He's so determined, he's so resilient. I think about all the things that he has gone through and experienced in his career. All of the legends that he has defeated. There aren't many wrestlers who have had that level of experience.

"And then, of course, tactically everyone knows he's going to underhook you, he's going to wrestle at a really high pace immediately when the match starts. He's a good scrambler, he has good leg attacks. So, being ready for all those different things. I think that he's a very worthy competitor."

As for Sadulaev, when pressed Snyder singled him out as his toughest foe. The two have had epic battles in the past that have been dubbed "Snydulaev."

"I haven't wrestled Yazdani so I don't know what that match would be like," Snyder said. "But, just from my past, Abdulrashid Sadulaev is the toughest competitor."

Still, experience keeps Snyder from looking ahead to a potential encounter.

"We'll be in the same quarter, but we both still got to win in order to wrestle each other," Snyder said. "I think at a tournament like this that the wisest thing to do is take it match by match, because there are a lot of guys who are unseeded who I potentially wrestle first who are really high-level champions in the sport.

"We've spent all summer preparing for all the different guys I could wrestle in the bracket...The guys in my weight class are so talented and there's going to be a lot of matches that come down to one exchange, one point, one second."

It is interesting to note that 10 years after all three struck gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics, Snyder (97kg), Sadulaev (86kg) and Yazdani (74kg) are competing in the same weight class.

Source: UWW

Beyond Iran's famous cities: villages that deserve a place on every traveler's itinerary

TEHRAN - Iran's historical cities are renowned for their grand mosques, Persian gardens, traditional bazaars and Silk Road heritage. Yet beyond the familiar destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz and Yazd, to name a few, lies another side of the country: a landscape of mountain villages, ancient mud-brick settlements and rural communities whose traditions offer a different perspective on Iranian life.

Scattered across the country's mountains, valleys and desert margins, these places reveal the diversity of Iran's geography, architecture and cultural heritage. Some are easily reached on a day trip from a nearby city, while others require more time and effort to explore. Together, they offer travelers an opportunity to look beyond the country's best-known attractions and discover the character of its rural regions.

Kandovan, life inside volcanic rock

In northwestern Iran, Kandovan stands out for its unusual architecture. Located near Tabriz, the village is known for its cone-shaped rock formations, in which generations of residents have carved homes and other living spaces.

Often compared with Cappadocia in central Turkey, Kandovan belongs to a small group of settlements where people have continued to inhabit rock-cut dwellings into modern times. Its distinctive landscape, shaped by volcanic activity and centuries of human adaptation, gives the village an appearance unlike that of most Iranian settlements.

Unlike archaeological cave sites preserved primarily as historical attractions, Kandovan remains a living community. Its homes illustrate how residents have adapted traditional building practices to the surrounding geology and climate.

The village is also one of the more accessible rural destinations for travelers visiting Tabriz, making it a convenient introduction to Iran's countryside.

Palangan, a village climbing the Kordestan's mountains

In Kordestan province, western Iran, Palangan is celebrated for its stepped architecture and dramatic mountain setting. Traditional houses rise above one another along the slopes, creating a compact settlement that appears to grow out of the surrounding terrain.

The village offers a glimpse into rural Kurdish life, including local food traditions and the close relationship between communities and their natural environment. Its river, mountain scenery and stone-built houses make it a popular destination for visitors from nearby areas.

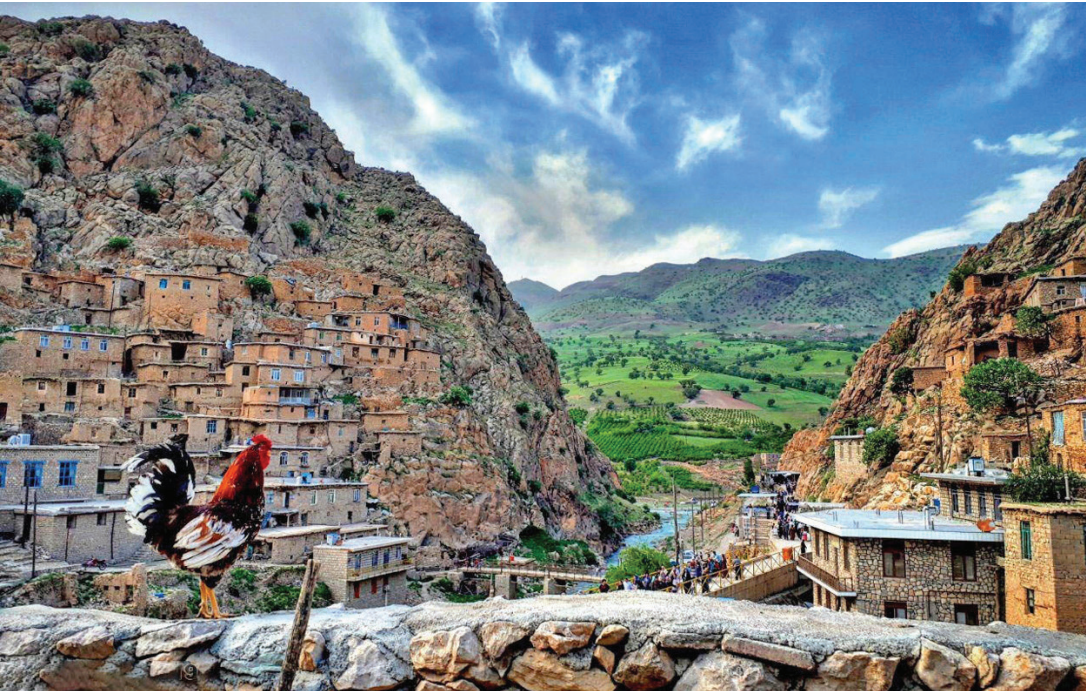
Local restaurants serving river fish provide an opportunity to sample regional cuisine, while the surrounding hills offer a setting for walking and exploring.

Palangan is among several stepped villages found across the Kurdish mountain regions of western Iran. Although some rural settlements in the area remain relatively difficult to reach, Palangan can be visited from nearby urban centers, including Sanandaj, with onward travel arrangements.

Masuleh, where rooftops become streets

Further north, in Gilan province, Masuleh offers another striking example of architecture adapted to mountainous terrain. Its traditional houses are built along a steep slope, with the roof of one building often serving as a walkway or courtyard for the house above it.

The arrangement gives the village its distinctive stepped appearance and makes pedestrian movement an integral part of its architectural character.



A general view of Palangan village in western Iran

Set amid the mist-covered mountains of northern Iran, Masuleh is known for its humid climate, lush surroundings and frequent clouds that drift through the settlement. Its popularity among domestic travelers means that its streets can become crowded, particularly during busy travel periods.

Nevertheless, walking trails leading into the surrounding mountains offer opportunities to escape the busiest areas and appreciate the landscape. Within the village, rooftops and narrow paths remain important spaces for everyday encounters, reflecting a strong sense of community.

Masuleh is therefore both a scenic destination and an example of how traditional settlements developed in response to steep terrain and local living conditions.

Gazor-Khan, gateway to the Alamut Valley

For travelers interested in history and mountain landscapes, Gazor-Khan in Qazvin province offers a combination of both. The village is best known as the gateway to the ruins of the UNESCO-listed Alamut Castle, a fortress associated with the Nizari Ismaili community, whose members became known in medieval sources as the Assassins.

Perched high above the Alamut Valley, the fortress occupied a strategic position and became an important center of the Nizari Ismaili state. Its history is closely associated with Hassan-i Sabbah, who established his base there in the late 11th century.

The Mongol campaign led by Hulagu Khan resulted in the fortress's capture and destruction in the 13th century. Although much of the original structure has disappeared, the remaining ruins and surrounding mountain scenery continue to attract visitors.

Beyond the historic site, Gazor-Khan is a quiet mountain village surrounded by orchards, including apple, apricot and cherry trees. In spring, flowering trees add color to the landscape, while hiking routes provide opportunities to explore the valley.

The journey requires more planning than a visit to villages close to major cities, but the combination of history, scenery and rural life makes it a rewarding destination.

Abyaneh, a living link to Iran's past

Located near Kashan, at the foot of Mount Karkas, Abyaneh is among Iran's best-known historic villages. Its red earthen buildings, wooden balconies, narrow lanes and traditional dress give it a distinctive appearance.

The settlement is often associated with Iran's pre-Islamic past, although its long history spans multiple periods. Its architecture reflects the use of locally available materials, particularly the red soil that gives the buildings their characteristic color.

Abyaneh is also notable for the preservation of elements of local language and cultural traditions. Some older residents speak a distinctive local dialect, while traditional clothing remains an important part of the village's cultural identity.

Men have traditionally worn dark coats and loose trousers, while women's clothing is known for its colorful patterns and white headscarves. These customs provide a visible connection to regional traditions that have endured alongside broader changes in Iranian society.

Abyaneh's popularity, however, has brought challenges. Visitors can fill its narrow streets, particularly during peak travel periods, and the village can sometimes feel more like an open-air heritage site than an ordinary rural community.

Nain, desert heritage beyond the main tourist routes

Between Yazd and Tehran, Nain offers a quieter encounter with Iran's desert heritage. Although technically a small town rather than a village, it deserves attention for its historic architecture and relatively understated place on many travel itineraries.

The town is known for its historical Jameh Mosque, an old bazaar, traditional water reservoirs and the remains of Narenj Castle. Together, these structures reflect the architectural and engineering traditions that helped communities survive in Iran's arid central regions.

Traditional water reservoirs, known as ab-anbars, were designed to store water for use during dry periods. Along with other water-management structures, they demonstrate the importance of adapting settlement patterns and architecture to scarce water resources.

Parts of Nain's historic fabric have deteriorated, and some old buildings remain in poor condition. Yet the town's less commercialized atmosphere can offer a different experience from more heavily visited heritage destinations.

Its contrast between historic quarters and newer neighborhoods also reveals how traditional settlements have evolved as residents adapt to contemporary life.

Kharanaq, traces of an ancient Silk Road settlement

Northeast of Yazd, Kharanaq is known for its abandoned mud-brick settlement and atmospheric ruins. The village developed along historic travel routes and is associated with the network of settlements that supported movement across central Iran.

Its old buildings, narrow alleys and earthen walls form a dense architectural landscape. Some structures are believed to date back many centuries, although the history of individual buildings varies.

Walking through the abandoned quarter offers a sense of

how communities once organized their homes and passageways in a desert environment. From elevated points, visitors can see the settlement against a backdrop of surrounding mountains and open terrain.

The ruins are also vulnerable. Weathering, erosion and uncontrolled visitor access can accelerate the deterioration of fragile earthen structures. Exploring the area responsibly means avoiding unstable buildings, staying on established paths where possible and respecting any restricted areas.

Kharanaq can be combined with visits to Meybod and the Zoroastrian pilgrimage site of Chak Chak, making it a possible addition to a wider itinerary from Yazd.

Meybod, desert architecture and ingenious design

Meybod, another historical settlement near Yazd, offers a broader view of the architectural traditions of Iran's central desert. Although it is a town rather than a village, its historic structures make it a worthwhile stop for travelers interested in the region's cultural heritage.

One of its principal attractions is Narin Castle, a large earthen fortress whose origins extend back into antiquity. The town also preserves traditional water reservoirs and a historic pigeon house.

Pigeon houses were constructed to shelter birds and collect their droppings, which were used as agricultural fertilizer. Their design reflects the resourcefulness of communities that relied on locally available materials and developed practical solutions to meet everyday needs.

The pigeon house in Meybod is among the notable surviving examples of this building tradition in Iran.

Together, the castle, water-storage structures and pigeon house illustrate how architecture in the desert served practical purposes while also becoming part of the region's distinctive cultural landscape.

Why Iran's rural destinations matter

Exploring Iran's villages and smaller historic settlements offers more than a change of scenery. These places reveal how people have adapted to different environments, from the volcanic formations of the northwest to the steep mountains of Kordestan and the water-scarce landscapes of the central plateau.

Their architecture reflects local responses to climate, geology and available resources. Their languages, clothing, food and customs also demonstrate the country's regional and ethnic diversity.

For travelers whose itineraries focus on Iran's famous cities, adding even one or two rural destinations can broaden their understanding of the country.

DOE, IUCN discuss joint programs to protect endangered species

TEHRAN – Hamid Zohrabi, deputy head of Iran’s Department of Environment (DOE), and Vivek Menon, chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC), have discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in developing management and conservation programs for endangered species.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity being held from October 19 to 30 in Armenia, IRNA reported.

The head of IUCN Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office attended the meeting as well.

The talks particularly focused on conservation and restoration programs for the Asiatic cheetah, the great bustard, and the Persian zebra, onager, their respective habitats, as well as the reintroduction of the Persian fallow deer into its natural habitats.

Both parties also discussed enhancing technical and scientific cooperation and providing funding under sanctions.

Menon expressed hope that ongoing collaboration between IUCN officials and Iranian experts would guarantee the survival of endangered species, such as the Asiatic cheetah, in Iran.

COP17 is being held under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, alongside the Twelfth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP-12) and the Sixth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization



(NP-MOP-6).

The two-week negotiations are being held in two stages: technical-level discussions followed by the ministerial segment.

The leaders’ summit took place on October 16, featuring an address by President Masoud Pezeshkian. It marked the first time a president of the Islamic Republic of Iran had attended a Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Addressing the summit, Pezeshkian called for “peace diplomacy” to protect biodiversity, condemning the devastating environmental impact of wars of aggression as ecocide and urging the international community to establish effective, transparent and enforceable mechanisms to safeguard natural heritage during wartime.

According to the latest report by the IUCN Red List, about 154 vertebrate animal species and around 25 percent of plant species in the country are at risk of extinction, with 117 species being classified as critically endangered in the national list. Persian

zebra, Asiatic cheetah, black bear, great bustard, and yellow deer are among animals that are in danger of extinction.

Among extinct animals, the Hyrcanian tiger and Persian lion are the two feline species that have disappeared forever in the country. Fortunately, the Persian zebra and the Persian yellow deer are examples of successful conservation efforts where scientific measures and local community participation have resulted in the species’ recovery.

Genetic map for endangered species being developed

The DOE is developing a genetic map of endangered wildlife species to increase their chance of survival, create a breeding plan, manage their population, and address the risks facing them in their natural habitats.

Effective conservation of endangered species is almost unattainable without a precise understanding of population genetics. To this end, genetic and molecular studies of key wildlife species in the country have been put on the agenda, ensuring that management decisions

are based on accurate scientific data, IRNA quoted the head of the National Museum of Natural History and Genetic Resources, Leila Ezzeddinlou, as saying.

Preserving genetic diversity within and between populations, preventing declines in effective population size, avoiding inbreeding and genetic erosion, conserving genes adapted to diverse environmental conditions, and providing genetic resources for species restoration, propagation, and introduction or reintroduction programs are among primary objectives of these studies, she added.

Referring to three research agreements signed between the DOE, the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources of the University of Tehran, and Gorgan University, the official said that as part of the cooperation, a project is underway to investigate the genomic diversity and phylogeny of Levant viper and Latifi’s viper populations, employing conservation and therapeutic approaches based on genomic markers.

Moreover, the development of genetic profiles and maps for the Asiatic cheetahs, black bear, and Persian yellow deer, as keystone and threatened species, has kicked off.

The other part of the agreements focuses on the assessment of genetic variation, inbreeding, and kinship relationships within the Persian zebra population, which is being conducted in collaboration with Yazd’s provincial DOE department. The initiative plays a key role in managing small populations and preventing the loss of genetic biodiversity, she highlighted.

WFP showcases refugee children’s art to support humanitarian work in Iran

TEHRAN – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has held an art exhibition featuring paintings by refugee children living in 20 settlements across Iran to raise support for its humanitarian operations in the country. The exhibition concluded on Friday.

The initiative brought the creativity, resilience and hopes of refugee children to the public through an art exhibition hosted at two well-known venues in Tehran, offering visitors a glimpse into their dreams, perspectives and experiences. Each artwork told a unique story, highlighting the creativity and determination of children who continue to pursue their aspirations despite the challenges they face, the UN website announced in a press release on October 21.

The artworks were displayed at Haman Store, a prominent concept store located in central Tehran, and Prague Pastry Boutique, an established Tehran brand with four branches across the city and a newly introduced concept store. Both venues were recognized for their distinctive approach to art, design, and community engagement, providing opportunities to introduce the children’s artwork to a wider audience.

Beyond celebrating artistic expression, the initiative also aimed to mobilize support for WFP’s humanitarian operations in Iran. Visitors had the opportunity to purchase the paintings, with proceeds contributing to WFP programs supporting vulnerable communities, including refugee children and conflict-impacted members of the host community.

These programs include school-based assistance, cash transfers and food support, helping families meet their essential needs while promoting children’s well-being and access to education.

WFP currently provides humanitarian assistance to approximately 60,000 people across Iran, including refugees and vulnerable members of host communities affected by the recent escalation.

Through this initiative, WFP seeks to connect the public with the stories of refugee children, celebrate their artistic talents and

demonstrate how creativity and community engagement can contribute to humanitarian action.

WFP services

As part of the response to the recent escalation, WFP started to provide cash transfers to affected Iranian households, with the first round completed, reaching 340 households, of which 327 were male-headed households.

Assistance was provided according to household size: IRR 210 million (USD 139.1) for households of one to three members; IRR 350 million (USD 231.9) for households of four to five members; IRR 420 million (USD 278.3) for households of six or more members.

In 2025, WFP sustained food assistance to some 33,300 vulnerable refugees living in 20 settlements across 13 provinces, including 404 refugees with disabilities (40 percent women) who received monthly cash top-ups. About 183 women and 190 men received WFP livelihood support.

WFP doubled cash transfer values since January 2025, safeguarding access to food amid price volatility and protecting the most vulnerable households.

Assistance remained uninterrupted, with targeted adjustments: wheat flour entitlements reduced from 12 kg to 9 kg (Nov-Dec) and school snacks paused (Oct-Dec) to stretch limited resources.

To promote girls’ education and reduce barriers to attendance, approximately 2,629 girl students received cash incentives as part of WFP’s commitment to empowering young women. Some 9,261 boys and girls and their teachers benefitted from WFP school snacks.

For more than four decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has hosted Afghans fleeing conflict and hardship. In 2025, WFP remained essential to protecting the food security of vulnerable refugees residing in 20 settlements, where households rely on shelter, education and primary health care by the Government and other humanitarian actors, complemented by WFP’s monthly food assistance (through cash and in-kind modalities).

The program’s focus is on maintaining a dignified minimum basic needs while prioritizing those with the highest vulnerability, including households headed by women and persons with disabilities.

Operations are implemented in close collaboration and coordination with the Center for Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (CAFIA), WFP’s primary governmental counterpart, and with International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) and UN agencies, mainly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to ensure coherent refugee support and referral pathways.

Despite a complex year, marked by economic volatility and temporary operational risks, WFP sustained core assistance to settlement refugees. To safeguard purchasing power, WFP increased cash-based transfer values by 100 percent in January 2025 following the recommendation of a settlement-specific Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) assessment; this was complemented by a one-time cash top-up to cushion households during market instability and reduced income after the Iran-Israel 12-day conflict.

Targeted adjustments preserved program continuity: wheat flour entitlements were reduced from 12 kg to 9 kg per person for November-December, and the school snacks program was suspended for October to December.

These measures limit service disruptions while protecting life-saving transfers for the most vulnerable. Livelihood activities were scaled down given funding shortfalls and corporate efficiency measures, with WFP continuing to explore cost-effective, resilience-building options that can be re-activated as resources allow.

By December 2025, Iran continued to be one of the world’s largest refugee-hosting countries, sheltering approximately 2.5 million Afghans, including 773,000 individuals with official refugee status. Among them, around 35,000 critically vulnerable refugees reside in 20 settlements across 13 provinces.

Iran, Kyrgyzstan seek to expand science and technology cooperation

TEHRAN – Iranian and Kyrgyz officials have called for expanded cooperation in science and technology during a meeting on the sidelines of the 5th World Creative Economy Conference in Jakarta.

The meeting brought together representatives of Iran’s Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy and a Kyrgyz delegation comprising senior officials from the country’s ministries of economy and finance, as well as managers of its creative industries parks.

Highlighting both countries’ membership in BRICS, the Iranian side expressed readiness for Iranian knowledge-based companies to export products to Kyrgyzstan.

The Kyrgyz delegation, meanwhile, praised Iran’s significant technological progress and called for stronger bilateral cooperation in the field.

In April, Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, and Minister of Science, Higher Education, and Innovation of Kyrgyzstan, Gulzat Isamatova, explored ways to deepen scientific and technological ties between the two countries.

The Kyrgyz official invited the Iranian minister to pay a visit to the universities and scientific centers in Kyrgyzstan and participate in forthcoming scientific conferences, IRNA reported.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf welcomed the idea of enhancing scientific collaborations and stressed the need to benefit from the capacities of science and technology parks to share expertise and strengthen innovation ecosystems, noting that these measures will lay the ground for improving technological interactions between Iran and Kyrgyzstan.

The two sides also discussed boosting cultural interactions among students of the two nations through educational centers to hold Persian and Kyrgyz language courses.

In September 2024, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister Sattar Hashemi met his Kyrgyz counterpart to discuss ways to foster cooperation in the ICT sector.

The officials met on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation held in Astana,



Kazakhstan, Mehr news agency reported.

Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Nuria Kutnaeva, expressed interest in defining joint projects and developing scientific cooperation. The official emphasized the necessity of cooperation in the field of ICT in addition to economic and cultural collaborations between the two countries.

During the meeting, the two sides welcomed cooperation in local platforms and postal affairs and decided to prepare a draft of a memorandum of understanding in this regard.

Moreover, in April 2025, Iran and Kyrgyzstan held the 14th meeting of their Joint Economic Committee in Tehran, aiming to expand bilateral ties across economic, scientific, cultural, and technical sectors.

Senior officials from both countries, including Iran’s Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji and Kyrgyz Economy and Commerce Minister Sydykov Bakyt Tolomushevich, attended the meeting, which emphasized boosting trade and investment cooperation.

At the opening ceremony, Nouri highlighted agriculture, industry, energy, and technology as key areas of collaboration. He expressed hope that the session would lay the groundwork for a significant rise in economic exchanges between the two nations.

Sydykov echoed these sentiments, noting the long-standing ties between Iran and Kyrgyzstan since 1992 and underscoring multilateral cooperation through organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union.

National poison prevention week: recognize danger, take timely action



TEHRAN – The national poison prevention week began on Friday and will run through October 29, focusing on raising public awareness of poisoning risks and promoting prevention measures.

This year’s observance is being held under the theme “From Recognizing Danger to Taking Timely Action to Prevent Poisoning,” with the aim of highlighting poisoning hazards, improving public awareness, and encouraging timely action to prevent poisoning incidents.

Each day of the week highlights a specific point:

Friday, October 23rd, ‘preventing drug poisoning’

Saturday, October 24th, ‘preventing poisoning in children’

Sunday, October 25th, ‘preventing carbon monoxide poisoning’

Monday, October 26th, ‘preventing food, plant, and mushroom poisoning’

Tuesday, October 27th, ‘preventing chemical and pest poisoning’

Wednesday, October 28th, ‘preventing poisoning by venomous animals’

Thursday, October 29th, ‘preventing drug and alcohol poisoning’

According to the head of the Food and Drug Administration, Mehdi Pirsalehi, protecting human health and lives against poisonings requires identifying risk factors, strengthening a culture of prevention, and being prepared to take appropriate and timely action in emergencies, ILNA reported.

Poisoning can occur at homes, workplaces, in nature, and during the course of daily activities. The effects of poisoning range from mild to severe, with some cases being fatal. Therefore, identifying sources of danger and being aware of prevention strategies constitute an important part of public health protection programs, he added.

The majority of poisoning cases can be prevented through storing medications and chemicals safely, using toxic ingredients properly, adhering to safety warnings, avoiding the consumption of unidentified substances, and educating children and families, Pirsalehi noted.

In case of poisoning, or if poisoning is suspected, avoid self-medication; instead, seek immediate medical treatment, he said.

Referring to this year’s theme, he said raising awareness of poisoning symptoms and taking timely action will help prevent potential health complications. The national drug and poison information center affiliated with the Food and Drug Administration strives to enhance public awareness, develop effective practices in prevention, and facilitate access to information and specialized advice.

However, reducing cases of poisoning requires the coordinated participation of the healthcare system, educational institutions, the media, families, and other relevant sectors, Pirsalehi further noted.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:35 Dawn: 4:56 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:20 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries

Painting

* Tehran's CAMA – Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists.

The exhibit will be running until November 2 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.

* An exhibition of paintings by Shaho Babaei is underway at Kavin Gallery.

The exhibit named “Nightfall” will be running until November 6 at the gallery located at No.24, Pesian St. Zaferanieh Neighborhood.

* Keiman Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Farnaz Baghban.

Entitled “The Regression 2”, the exhibition will be running until November 2 at the gallery located at 10 Akhgari St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.

* Bashgah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by several artists.

Entitled “Someday, You'll Remember”, the exhibition will be running until November 6 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by Fardokht Kiaimehr is underway at Shokuh Gallery.

The exhibition will run until November 2 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. off Andarzgu Blvd.

* An exhibition of paintings by Fat'hi Kasraian is currently underway at Atbin Gallery.

The exhibit named “Voyage to Nowhere” will continue until November 3 at the gallery that can be found at 42 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave. near the Parkway Intersection.

* Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Samila Amir-Ebrahimi.

The exhibition will be running until November 13 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.

* A collection of paintings by Maryam Beigi is currently on view in an exhibition at 009821 Projects Gallery.

The exhibition named “The Nest of Fire” will run until November 3 at the gallery located at No. 25, 18th Alley, Kheradmand St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Paintings by Mohammad Nourian are on display in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until November 6 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 5, Bahrami alley, Mashahir Street, Qaem Maqam Farahani Avenue.

* An exhibition of paintings by Pantea Bayat Mokhtari is underway at Aria Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until November 2 at the gallery located at No. 10 Zarrin Alley, near Beheshti St., Vali-e Asr Ave.

Majid Entezami to perform his memorable pieces in Tehran

TEHRAN – Maestro Majid Entezami will conduct a 150-piece orchestra on October 29 at the Espinas Palace Hotel in Tehran, at a concert featuring the memorable works he has made for Iranian films and TV series.

The works to be performed in the concert include “Kolah Pahlavi,” “From Karkheh to Rhein,” “The Glass Agency,” “The Scent of Joseph's Shirt,” “The Insane Flew Away,” “Kani Manga,” “Men of Anjelos,” “Duel,” “Once Upon a Time, Cinema,” “The Eagles,” “Zaal and Simorgh,” “The Train,” “The Wolves,” and “The Symphony of the Epic of Khorramshahr,” Honaronline reported.

In 2023, the veteran composer and conductor Entezami staged the concert “Along with Memories,” in which he presented a selection of his works accompanied by Iran's National Orchestra at Tehran's Vahdat Hall. His presence on the stage, which happened after an 11-year hiatus, was met with remarkable audience reception, and the concert was extended for multiple runs.

Also an oboist, Entezami, 78, has composed music for over 80 movies, 10 television series, and 10 suite symphonies. He holds the record for winning the most Crystal Simorgh awards in the Best Original Score category at the Fajr International Film Festival.

He studied at State University of West Berlin under the supervision of Karl Steins and Lothar Koch in 1968. He performed suc-

Majid Entezami performed a selection of his memorable compositions at a concert titled “Along with Memories” at Tehran's Vahdat Hall in December 2023.

cessful concerts with the Berlin University Symphony Orchestra in Lyon, Nancy, and Marseille from 1969 to 1972.

In 1973, Entezami came to Iran by the invitation of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra and performed a successful Mozart concert as oboe soloist, conducted by Helge Dorsch. Then he returned to Germany as a member of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra and West Deutsche Philharmonie.

In 1974, he became a member of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra as well as a teacher at the Tehran Conservatory and the music department of the Uni-

versity of Tehran. He performed two oboe recitals with Lucette Martirosian on piano and harpsichord and Ivan Pristas on bassoon in 1976 and a concert with the Les Jeunesses Musicales de l'Iran orchestra conducted by Ali Rahbari and Valodia Tarkhanian as viola d'amore soloist.

Despite being the son of famous Iranian actor Ezzatollah Entezami, Majid's entrance into the cinema industry was his own.

He has a profound understanding of the picture and has always tried to tell the untold essence of the story. He also has experience with a variety of styles which has given his portfolio variety, from

comedies to epic war movies.

The music of Entezami is orchestral and based on western classical music, but with Iranian instruments and unusual rhythms which give his works an eastern feel.

Every theme and musical color heard in Entezami's work has a rational explanation in the story. He believes that music tells a part of the story that is not already told in the picture. Some of his works seem to be narrative, almost like part of the script, but he maintains that no director has ever asked him for such characteristics.

Athens stage performance honors Minab school victims

TEHRAN- A theatrical performance commemorating the schoolchildren killed in the US-Israeli attack on Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab has been staged in Athens, Greece, as part of a cultural program highlighting the human consequences of the tragedy.

“Reading Sara's Memories from Minab,” written and directed by Greek theater artist Andreas Zafeiris, was presented at the Brecht Stage of the 2510 Cultural Center in cooperation with Iran's Cultural Attaché Office and Embassy in Greece on Thursday.

The play draws on the memories of Sara, a girl who survived the attack on the school in southern Iran. Through the perspective of a child, it portrays everyday life, fear, loss and the lasting consequences of the assault, bringing the experiences of those affected into focus.

The program also featured documentaries about the attack on the Minab school, as well as a screening of the short film “MINAB 168.”

Following the theatrical performance and film screenings, writers and media activists took part in a discussion titled “The Role of Art in Resistance and the Fight against Oppression and Injustice.”

Mohammadreza Bahmani, Iran's cultural

attaché in Greece, referred to the killing of thousands of children in Gaza, Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon and Iran over the past three years. He described protecting children and defending human dignity as responsibilities that transcend political and geographical boundaries.

Bahmani also emphasized the role of art in exposing injustice, conveying the voices of victims and preventing such tragedies from fading from collective memory. He expressed appreciation for the Greek artistic group's efforts to commemorate the children martyred in Minab.

Palestinian writer and translator Nawzat Hadid spoke about the role of art in preserving collective memory and the historical identity of the Palestinian people. She described artistic expression as a means of documenting displacement, conveying experiences of resistance and representing the suffering of individuals whose lives can otherwise disappear behind statistics and reports.

Greek journalist, writer and director Thomas Sideris highlighted the responsibility of the media in covering wars and humanitarian crises. Drawing on his professional experience, he said journalists should go beyond reducing victims to numbers and communi-

cate their actual lives and experiences to audiences.

Konstantina Karouti, a representative of the “Until Victory / MINAB 168” campaign, stressed the importance of preserving the memory of the 168 children who lost their lives and turning public sympathy into social action. She described art and cultural activities as ways to challenge indifference, racism and the normalization of violence.

Zafeiris said theater could bring audiences closer to victims' experiences and encourage them to listen to their stories. He emphasized that taking time to hear about other people's lives could help transform passive spectators into responsible participants.

The program also included video messages from Minab artist and eyewitness Jafar Qasssemi, Lebanese journalist Marwa Othman and Australian researcher Tim Anderson.

An art exhibition titled “MINAB 168” was another feature of the event, paying tribute to the children killed in the attack.

According to the organizers, proceeds from the program will go toward rebuilding Shajareh Tayyebeh School. The play is scheduled to return to the stage on October 29 at the Brecht Stage in Athens.

Paint, paper, and pencils help Gaza children cope with trauma and loss

The steady sound of voices fills the Asmaa shelter-turned-exhibition space in Beach Camp, Gaza City, operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). As people move through the crowded room, they pause to smile, point and take photos of the colorful artwork that brightens the once-bare walls.

Standing among them are 11-year-old friends Layan and Lareen. The young students-turned-artists proudly show off their posters and upcycled cardboard figures.

“I love drawing flowers,” said Layan. “And one day, I want to become an architect,” European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations reported.

Alongside 1,000 other children living in UNRWA shelters across the Gaza Strip, the young friends have participated in art activities organized by the Agency. Under the supervision and guidance of UNRWA psychosocial counsellors, the students have learnt how to express their thoughts, aspirations,

and emotions through art, creating posters, drawings, artistic models, and sculptures.

Lareen is among the 250 children selected to exhibit their art in one of the five temporary exhibition spaces across the Gaza Strip.

“We were so happy to participate. We collected things around us and learnt how to turn them into something beautiful. We made new friends and spent time together in a healthy environment, away from the destruction around us,” said Lareen.

The art activities and exhibitions were made possible through funding from European Union humanitarian aid. The funding provided the paint, paper and other materials needed for drawing, coloring and crafting, along with the psychosocial support that helped create a safe and encouraging environment for the participants.

Art can play an important role in supporting children's healthy development during war and conflict. Through art, they learn how

to express complex emotions they might otherwise find difficult to articulate, while strengthening their confidence and fostering a sense of normalcy. For children in the Gaza Strip, opportunities to learn, play and express themselves have been disrupted by more than three years of war, repeated displacement and the loss of loved ones.

Wael, an UNRWA mental health and psychosocial support counselor in the Gaza Strip, has witnessed how the art activities have made a difference and explains how these gave the children a voice, while strengthening their well-being and helping them rebuild hope in the most challenging circumstances.

“The children transformed their feelings, experiences and aspirations into powerful artworks that speak of both their struggles and their hope for a better future,” Wael said.

The project also attracted older children eager to develop their ar-

tistic talents.

For 16-year-old UNRWA school graduate Khadija, living in the Asmaa shelter in Beach Camp, art became a means of documenting the realities facing children in the Gaza Strip. Having lost both her home and her brother during the war, she uses her artwork to reflect on the experiences that continue to shape her community.

“I saw a child whose arms had been amputated playing hopscotch in the street. These are the real losses in life, the moments of joy that disappear. We have been deprived of everything. I want to express the suffering of the children,” Khadija said.

Despite her loss, Khadija continues to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

Lareen, too, is looking to the future. As she walks through the temporary exhibition admiring the artwork created by her fellow participants, she dares to dream big: “I want to become a world-famous artist.”