

Iran seeks to expand gas trade with GECF members

TEHRAN – Iran is seeking to expand gas trade with members of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), develop a common gas market and strengthen energy cooperation, the country's acting oil minister said ahead of the group's eighth summit in Russia.

Hamid Bovard said Iran would hold bilateral talks with oil and energy ministers from member countries on the sidelines of the summit to discuss expanding cooperation and bilateral activities.

Iran, a founding member of the GECF, would outline its positions through President Masoud Pezeshkian at the leaders' summit and through the acting oil minister at the group's ministerial meeting, Bovard said, according to Shana. ► Page 4

Saudi Arabia turns to US AI system as Yemeni pressure mounts

TEHRAN – Failing to protect itself and its proxies in southern Yemen, Saudi Arabia has turned to an American-AI generated system to unsuccessfully counter Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF), also known as Ansarallah.

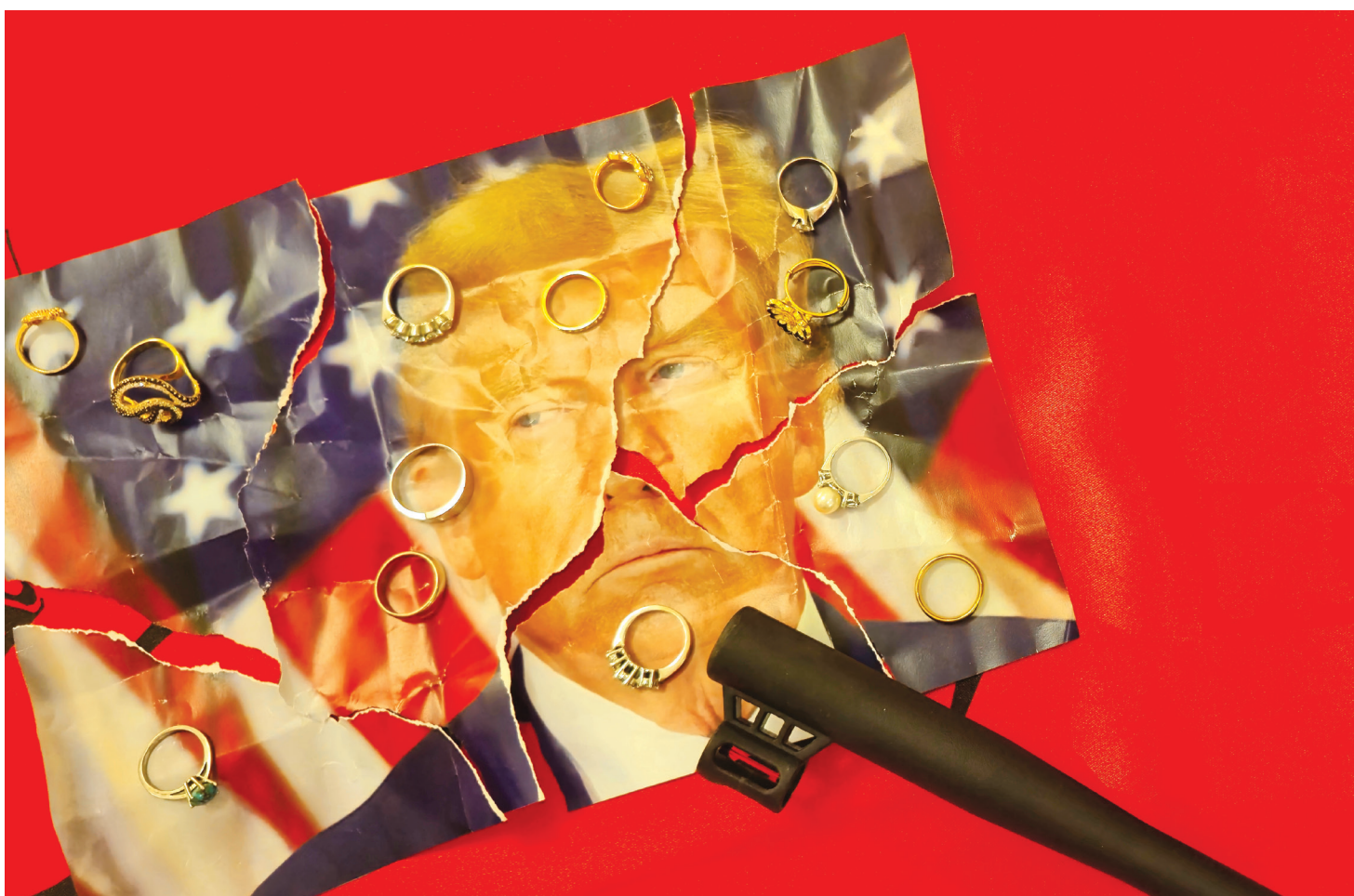
The war between Ansarallah and Saudi Arabia was resumed after Saudi Arabia on July 13 prevented a passenger plane carrying Ansarallah officials from landing in Sanaa by bombarding the airport, forcing the plane to land at Hodeidah International Airport.

After this reckless move, Ansarallah declared an eye-for-eye reprisal and started to target Saudi facilities, including airports and oil infrastructure. It also began targeting Saudi vessels in the Red Sea in response to the blockade of Yemen which has been in force for more than a decade. ► Page 5

Iranian doc 'Ameneh's Golden Blood' screened simultaneously in Toronto, Tehran

TEHRAN- Iranian writer and filmmaker Habib Ahmadzadeh's documentary "Ameneh's Golden Blood" was screened simultaneously at York University in Toronto, Canada and Tehran's Tarikh Café on Friday, October 23, bringing audiences in the two countries together to explore a story of medical urgency, human solidarity and the search for an exceptionally rare blood type.

The screening at York University was organized at the invitation of Claudia Chauhan, a professor at the university's School of Health Policy and Management. The event was held in person and online for faculty members and students, followed by a 90-minute question-and-answer session with Ahmadzadeh. ► Page 8



Women donate their jewelry to raise funds to avenge the assassinations that Trump ordered inside Iran

'Rings of Revenge': Tehran Women Rise for Vengeance

Iranian women donate wedding rings and gold to avenge martyred Leader as revenge vow enters ninth month

By Zahra Irani

TEHRAN – Since February 28, Iranians have pledged to avenge the blood of their martyred Leader and other martyrs of the war, and in the latest step, groups of women are offering their wedding rings and gold to pursue that revenge.

This is part of the first message by Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei on March 12, 2026, in which the issue of avenging the blood of the war martyrs was raised for the first time:

"I assure everyone that we won't forgo avenging the blood of your martyrs. The revenge we have in mind is not just because of the martyrdom of the illustrious Leader of the Revolution. Every member of the nation who is martyred by the enemy constitutes a separate case that demands seeking revenge. A

Zahra, 36, an engineer and mother of three, said as she joined the drive: "This gold necklace is the only keepsake I have from my mother, and I am certain that if she were alive, she too would have prioritized avenging the Leader just as we do. So I donate it to share in every bullet fired in retribution against Trump."

limited portion of this seeking revenge can already be seen. But until we completely take revenge, this file will remain on top of all the others. We're even more sensitive with regard to the blood of our children and infants. The crime deliberately committed by the enemy against the Shajarah-Tayyibah School in Minab and other similar cases will receive particular attention in this process of taking revenge."

The demand for revenge has since become one of the most serious public demands in Iran. Red flags of revenge have been present at nightly gatherings that began at the start of the war and have now passed more than 240 nights, with their largest presence at the vast, multi-million funeral of the martyred Leader of the Revolution.

Multiple rewards for avenging the assassins of the martyred Leader have so far been announced. For example, a campaign for revenge against Trump was launched from the early days of the war. The campaign's website states:

Following the hostile actions of Zionist terrorist regimes and the United States of America in violating the sacred soil of Iran and assassinating the leader of the Islamic Ummah, ► Page 3

Iran slams Germany, EU for 'contradictory' positions on US-Israeli aggression

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei has criticized Germany and other European countries for 'contradictory positions' on the US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran, highlighting the contrast between Berlin's earlier endorsement of Israeli attacks and its more recent warnings against renewed military action.

In a post on his X account on Sunday, Baqaei juxtaposed German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's remarks in June 2025, when he described Israel's aggression against Iran as "the dirty work Israel is doing for all of us," with warnings issued by Germany's foreign minister and other European officials in October 2026 against renewed attacks on Iran. ► Page 2

Tehran has "veto power" over Strait of Hormuz: Obama

TEHRAN — Former US President Barack Obama has criticized President Donald Trump over the war against Iran, rising consumer prices, and chaos and corruption within his administration.

Speaking to crowds in Ohio on Saturday, Obama described the upcoming elections as a crucial opportunity for voters to challenge Trump's policies and curb his administration's actions.

"This election is our last best chance to at least rein in some of the foolishness of this administration," he said. ► Page 3

Turkey warns Washington against renewed strikes on Iran

TEHRAN— Turkey has warned the United States against launching fresh military strikes on Iran, saying a new attack would widen the conflict across West Asia and that diplomacy remains the only viable path toward ending the war.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan delivered the message on October 23 after meeting with his counterparts from Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Egypt, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in Istanbul. He said the eight countries shared the view that renewed military action against Iran would further destabilize the region.

"We are all in agreement that a new attack on Iran would expand the war in the region," Fidan said at a joint press conference.

"A military intervention on Iran is not in any way a solution. Nobody approves this at the moment," he added, stressing that diplomacy and dialogue were the only way to bring the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran to an end. ► Page 3



Nothing will be the same as it was before -40day war: Araghchi

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France meets second weekend of mass protests with 70,000 police, arrests 1,314

► Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Military calculations under a cloud of doubt

The Iran newspaper examined possible scenarios for a future attack on the Islamic Republic. According to the report, these options could include a short but intense military operation targeting energy infrastructure and military assets. Supporters of such an approach argue that stronger military pressure could force Tehran to make concessions that previous campaigns of pressure failed to achieve. However, this assumption remains the main point of disagreement regarding Washington's strategy. Critics argue that earlier failures may not have resulted from insufficient military force but from the mistaken belief that military superiority can easily be translated into political success. Some analysts believe Donald Trump continues to pursue the illusion of a decisive and unquestionable victory, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu views continued confrontation as an opportunity to advance political and security goals that have long been part of his agenda. The debate therefore extends beyond military power and focuses on whether force can realistically achieve lasting political outcomes.

Etemad: Conditional diplomacy and the cost of war

Etemad analyzed recent warnings issued by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. According to the paper, Trump's mixed messages have emerged at a time when Araghchi, in an article published in the Financial Times, stated that Iran is prepared to reach a "fair and honorable" agreement if the United States demonstrates a genuine commitment to a lasting resolution of tensions. He also warned that escalation in the Strait of Hormuz or elsewhere in the region could threaten civilian lives, regional security, economic stability, and global trade. The newspaper stresses that these remarks should be viewed as a conditional offer to return to diplomacy rather than confirmation of ongoing negotiations (through intermediaries by certain countries). Consequently, Araghchi's statements regarding diplomacy and Trump's comments about the absence of talks should not necessarily be interpreted as contradictory. Iranian officials have repeatedly emphasized that the country remains prepared both diplomatically and militarily and will not back down from its stated red lines.

Sobh-e-No: Can Israel launch another war on its own?

Sobh-e-No assessed Israel's ability to launch another military conflict with Iran. According to its analysis, Israel lacks the capacity to sustain such a war independently. Referring to the 12-day war against Iran in June 2025, the report argues that Israel's ability to continue military operations proved limited and that serious defensive challenges became apparent during the fighting. By the eighth day, Israeli officials reportedly recognized growing difficulties in countering Iran's attacks. As a result, Israel sought close coordi-

ination with the United States and concluded that any major future operation would require joint action. The report also argues that defensive resources and strategic reserves have come under increasing pressure. While Israel retains considerable offensive capabilities and can inflict damage on Iran, the newspaper contends that its main challenge lies in maintaining effective defense during a prolonged confrontation. For this reason, it considers the prospect of Israel independently organizing a large-scale war against Iran unrealistic.

Hamshahri: Military power and its limitations

Hamshahri focused on the limits of military action at a time when speculation continues about the possible resumption of American and Israeli attacks on Iran. Citing international relations scholar Mohammad Ayoub, the newspaper argues that previous wars demonstrate that air power and destruction of infrastructure do not automatically lead to political surrender or guarantee goals such as regime change. The United States and Israel possess significant advantages in intelligence, surveillance, advanced aircraft, and precision-strike capabilities, allowing them to inflict substantial damage. Nevertheless, destroying nuclear facilities does not necessarily eliminate a country's nuclear potential. Physical infrastructure can be rebuilt and scientific expertise and technical knowledge cannot simply be removed through bombing. Furthermore, uncertainty regarding the location and status of nuclear materials complicates efforts to assess the long-term effectiveness of military strikes. Military achievements do not always translate into durable political or strategic success.

Javan: Intelligent resistance

In an article discussing Iran's approach to external pressure, Javan examined the concept of intelligent resistance. The newspaper argues that if resistance means preventing an adversary from imposing its will while strengthening the nation's ability to defend its interests, then diplomacy can be considered part of the same strategy. According to the article, moving beyond the current state of "neither war nor peace" requires changing the calculations of the opposing side through national strength, domestic unity, and realistic diplomacy. At the same time, Iran must manage two arenas simultaneously: confronting foreign pressure and governing effectively at home. In the first arena, defensive deterrence, national cohesion, and diplomacy based on practical guarantees are viewed as essential. In the second, the government should focus on employment, production, trade, economic welfare, and administrative reform. If opponents seek a war of attrition, internal weaknesses, economic uncertainty, and public dissatisfaction stemming from solvable problems should not be allowed to intensify the impact of external pressure.

structive outcomes to strengthen cooperation among BRICS members.

The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, hosted by India under its 2026 chairship, is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on October 26–27 under the theme "Strengthening Parliaments for People-Centric Development." The forum will bring together parliamentary leaders and lawmakers from BRICS members and partner countries to discuss institutional resilience, the responsible use of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, reform of global governance, and sustainable development. The program will also include bilateral and multilateral meetings, with a special session devoted to parliamentary diplomacy, capacity-building and the exchange of legislative best practices. The gathering aims to strengthen dialogue and cooperation among participating countries through parliamentary engagement.

Nothing will be the same as it was before 40-day war: Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has reaffirmed Iran's readiness to cooperate with all countries in the region, particularly those bordering the Persian Gulf, stressing that lasting peace, security and stability in West Asia can be achieved only through regional cooperation and without foreign interference.

Speaking on Sunday at a ceremony marking the inauguration of the Martyr Kamal Kharrazi Museum and Document Center at the Foreign Ministry, Araghchi said, "Allow me to look beyond the war. We and the countries of the region must live together in peace, without foreign interference. This is the only way to achieve peace, security and stability in our region."

Kharrazi served as Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations from 1989 to 1997 and as foreign minister from 1997 to 2005. He subsequently chaired the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, an advisory body on Iran's foreign policy. He died on April 9, 2026, from injuries sustained in a US-Israeli airstrike on his home in Tehran on April 1.

"Our relations and communications with all these countries in the Persian Gulf region remain in place, and we are working to reach a common approach and understanding on a new security structure for the region. This is the only way to establish peace and stability in our region," he said.

Regional countries must take responsibility for their own security

At the gathering, Araghchi recalled Kharrazi's remarks at an Iranian-Arab dialogue in Doha in May 2025, in which the late diplomat emphasized that regional prosperity and security depended on cooperation among regional countries rather than reliance on foreign military forces.

"The policy outlined by the late Dr. Kharrazi before the past two wars remains the Islamic



Republic of Iran's fundamental position: regional security must be ensured by the countries of the region themselves, without relying on or allowing the presence of foreign forces. The Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to help achieve this goal and is prepared to engage in dialogue on the matter," he said.

"Our neighborhood policy is based on peaceful coexistence with our neighbors. We have been, are, and will remain neighbors. Therefore, we must find a common solution to ensure our own security and that of the region, with all regional countries involved and no foreign forces interfering," Araghchi added.

The foreign minister argued that the two wars against Iran since 2025 had demonstrated the shortcomings of regional security arrangements built around a foreign military presence.

According to Araghchi, US military bases in the region had failed to provide the security expected by their host countries and had instead contributed to instability.

"These wars have shown that the security structures of some countries in the region, which relied on a foreign military presence and interference, have failed to deliver the desired results. US bases in the region have not brought peace and security to the countries hosting them. On the contrary, their presence has itself become a source of insecurity," he said.

Araghchi added that these bases had been involved in attacks against Iran and had subsequently come under Iranian retaliatory action, arguing that their presence had intensified insecurity rather than prevented it.

He further maintained that foreign military forces were deployed in the region primarily to protect Israel, a principal source of instability and conflict in West Asia.

Iran calls for a new regional security order

Araghchi said the experience of the recent wars had prompted a reassessment of existing security arrangements and created an opportunity for re-

gional countries to pursue new approaches based on their own capabilities and cooperation.

He said Iran welcomed initiatives that would enable countries in West Asia to take greater responsibility for their collective security without depending on external military powers.

The foreign minister also stressed that the war against Iran had fundamentally changed the regional landscape, including the situation in the Strait of Hormuz.

"Nothing will be the same as it was before the 40-day war," he said, emphasizing that regional countries would need to recognize the new realities.

"The current war has changed everything. We must accept that new realities have emerged. Shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz will no longer be the same as before, and the strait will no longer be managed as it was in the past. There are issues we have discussed in negotiations, and those talks will continue," Araghchi said.

Iran slams Germany, EU for 'contradictory' positions on US-Israeli aggression

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei has criticized Germany and other European countries for 'contradictory positions' on the US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran, highlighting the contrast between Berlin's earlier endorsement of Israeli attacks and its more recent warnings against renewed military action.

In a post on his X account on Sunday, Baqaei juxtaposed German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's remarks in June 2025, when he described Israel's aggression against Iran as "the dirty work Israel is doing for all of us," with warnings issued by Germany's foreign minister and other European officials in October 2026 against renewed attacks on Iran.

"June 2025: German Chan-

cellor Friedrich Merz, speaking about Israel's aggression against Iran, said: 'This is the dirty work Israel is doing for all of us,'" Baqaei wrote.

"October 2026: German Foreign Minister (and others) warn against renewed attacks on Iran and stress the need to prevent further escalation," he added.

To underscore his criticism, the Iranian spokesperson concluded his post with a quotation from German writer Friedrich Schiller's play The Maid of Orleans, invoking the image of reason being dragged helplessly into the abyss by madness.

The quotation reads: "O exalted Reason, bright daughter of the divine mind, wise architect of the universe and guide of the stars—who are you, then, if, bound to the tail of the wild



horse of madness, you must watch helplessly, crying out, as you are dragged alongside that drunken rider into the abyss?"

Baqaei's message drew attention to the contrast between

Berlin's earlier response to Israel's military action against Iran and its current calls to prevent further escalation, questioning the consistency of the European position on the conflict.

Qalibaf to skip BRICS parliamentary forum in India

TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf will be unable to attend the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in New Delhi due to unforeseen circumstances, the Iranian Embassy in India has announced.

In a statement posted on its X account, the embassy said Iran's parliamentary delegation would nevertheless participate in the meeting, reaffirming the Islamic Republic's commitment to active and effective engagement in BRICS summits and meetings at the highest level.

The embassy added that the Iranian delegation would continue consultations and dialogue with representatives of other member states to expand and deepen bilateral and multilateral cooperation, particularly in parliamentary relations.

The embassy also expressed appreciation to the Indian government for its hospitality and the arrangements made to host the forum, wishing the gathering success and expressing hope that it would produce con-

Iranian MP warns Israeli-occupied territories could become uninhabitable in under an hour

TEHRAN– Ebrahim Azizi, head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has warned that any action targeting Iran's national security and interests would trigger a response that could render the Israeli-occupied territories uninhabitable in less than an hour.

Azizi issued the warning in a Hebrew-language post on his social media account, writing: "Be aware that in the event of any action against our national security and interests, rendering the occupied territories uninhabitable would take less than an hour."

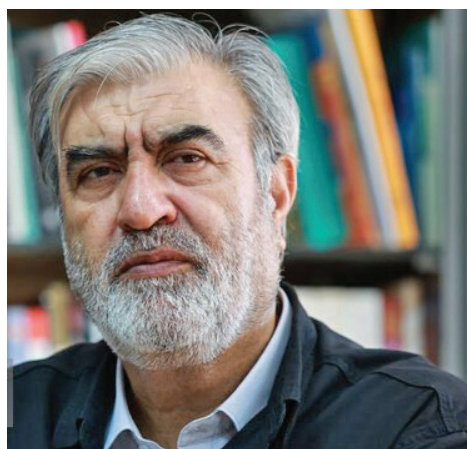
He also shared an image highlighting key Israeli infrastructure, including desalination

plants, strategic bridges and energy facilities.

Azizi's remarks came amid escalating tensions between Iranian and Israeli officials, with both sides issuing warnings over potential attacks on strategic infrastructure.

On Thursday, Israeli War Minister Israel Katz warned that any Iranian attack on Israel would prompt strikes against Iranian infrastructure, including energy facilities.

"An Iranian attack on Israel will free us from all constraints," Katz said. "We will strike all infrastructure — including energy infrastructure — and return Iran to the Stone Age and darkness."



‘Rings of Revenge’: Tehran women rise for vengeance

Iranian women donate wedding rings and gold to avenge martyred Leader as revenge vow enters ninth month

From Page 1 ▶ Grand Ayatollah Imam Khamenei (may his soul rest in peace), we, the free nations of the world, unanimously express our outrage against the perpetrators of these crimes. In light of the jihad decree issued by the supreme religious authorities in response to the assassination of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and the oppression of the Iranian people, the campaign ‘Kill Trump’ has been launched with the aim of providing financial rewards for the assassin of Donald Trump, the criminal president of the United States. By submitting the required information, you can join this international movement.

According to organizers, more than 665,000 people have so far joined this campaign, and more than \$116 million has been allocated for it.

Rings that become a noose

In the latest move for revenge, groups of Iranian women have formed a separate campaign. A popular women's group called “Madari” (Motherhood) is behind the initiative.

On Thursday night, October 22, hundreds of women held a gathering called “Rastakhiz of Tehran Women” (The Uprising of the Women of Tehran) in front of the main gate of the University of Tehran in the city center. Women from different walks of life, including wives and daughters of martyrs of the two recent wars, volunteers and students, took part in the gathering, which featured

speeches by women activists, choir performances and elegies, with “revenge” as the common thread and soul of the program.

Alongside the gathering, registration began for donating wedding rings to the avenger of Trump. A group of women under the name “Mada-raaneh” (Maternal) has launched the “Rings of Revenge” campaign. These women have declared their wedding rings as the prize for revenge, and in a symbolic visualization, it was shown that each of the women's rings will become a hangman's noose around Trump's neck.

The revenge-seeking women also joined the “Golden Retribution” drive by donating gold and money to share in every bullet spent for revenge. Notably, the “Nehzat-e Madari” movement, which runs the drive, gifted gold donors a bracelet with a bullet plaque as a reminder of this revenge and blood-seeking. The bracelets are a sign that these women consider retribution for the murderer of the martyred Leader as their mission.

Zahra, 36, an engineer and mother of three, said as she joined the drive: “This gold necklace is the only keepsake I have from my mother, and I am certain that if she were alive, she too would have prioritized avenging the Leader just as we do. So I donate it to share in every bullet fired in retribution against Trump.”

Reyhaneh, 25, a graduate student who joined the drive by donating her bracelet, said: “The Iranian woman



will not let these aggressor murderers go until we have taken retribution for each and every one of our martyrs. Gold is nothing; we will give our lives to eliminate these child-killers who bereaved us of our martyred Leader.”

Marzieh, 45, a tailor and mother of four, explaining why she joined the drive, said: “I had struggled to save this money to buy a new sewing machine; but if the spilled blood of my

martyred Imam goes unanswered and I cannot see my young Imam [Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei], I want nothing. Punish the murderers so severely that they will never again dare to insult our Imam.”

Ayatollah Seyed Mojtaba Khamenei had stressed in a message issued on July 9, coinciding with the funeral of the martyred Leader:

“Now, I offer these words to our martyred Leader: O unjustly slain

Leader! O you who've been oppressed but are exalted! O righteous servant of God! As we bid farewell to your body with tearful eyes and broken hearts, we pledge to safeguard your legacy, to steadfastly traverse the straight path you laid out, to fear no hardships along the way, and to attach our hearts to divine promises and glad tidings as you did. We pledge to avenge your pure blood and the blood of all the martyrs of these

two wars by taking revenge against the criminal, disgraceful murderers. This vengeance is what our nation is demanding, and this must definitely be done. These criminals, whose names are fully documented from the highest to the lowest ranks, will carry their dream of a peaceful death in bed to the grave. They must know that this action doesn't depend on my presence or that of any other official. Whether we are here or not, this will be done. Soon, free-spirited people throughout the world will each carry out a part of this divine mission.”

Justice, not emotion

Some American media and analysts try to portray the issue of revenge as emotional, while such a demand must be seen through the lens of “justice.” If criminals do not face justice, they see the way paved for repeating their crimes.

The shadow of revenge weighs so heavily on Trump that his exit from Turkey after the NATO summit in July turned into a historic scandal for the U.S. president. In an unprecedented move, after waving to cameras and reporters and boarding Air Force One, Trump secretly exited through another door of the plane, boarded a catering truck and was transferred to another aircraft to head to Britain.

After the incident, Trump said his life is always in danger. It seems he will likely now also fear the wedding rings of Iranian women.



Iran fully united, on highest alert amid US-Israeli threats: official

TEHRAN— Iran remains fully united and on the highest level of alert amid continuing threats from the United States and Israel, Saeed Khatibzadeh, head of the Foreign Ministry's Center for Political and International Studies, has said, warning that any further US military action would lead to another failure.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday on the sidelines of the inauguration of the Martyr Kamal Kharrazi Documentation Center and Museum in Tehran, Khatibzadeh emphasized Iran's national unity and readiness to respond to threats against its security.

He said Europe had made a series of misguided decisions in recent months and was now facing the consequences of its own policies, adding that European countries had marginalized themselves on major international issues through their approach to regional developments.

Khatibzadeh called on European governments

to distance themselves from the Israeli regime's actions and repeated violations of international and humanitarian law.

He stressed that confidence in European countries would remain difficult to establish unless they explicitly condemned such actions, stopped allowing the United States to use their military bases, and demonstrated a genuine commitment to upholding international law.

The Iranian official also warned Washington against further military action, saying that if the first and second wars against Iran had failed to achieve their objectives, another military campaign would prove equally unsuccessful.

He stressed that efforts should instead focus on building a peaceful Iran and a stable region, free from ‘the destabilizing presence of the United States and its allies.’

Khatibzadeh condemns attack on Foreign Ministry library

In separate remarks at the inauguration ceremony, Khatibzadeh condemned the Israeli attack on the Foreign Ministry's specialized library, saying the strike had disrupted the activities of the century-old institution for the first time in its history.

Comparing the attack to the destruction caused by the Mongol invasions, he described the library as one of Iran's leading specialized academic resources in foreign policy, international economics, international relations and international law. The collection contains Iranian and foreign publications in multiple languages.

The ceremony marked the inauguration of the Documentation Center and Museum dedicated to Seyyed Kamal Kharrazi, a prominent Iranian diplomat and former foreign minister who died on April 9, 2026, from injuries sustained in a US-Israeli airstrike on his Tehran residence on April 1.

ding of foreign policy.

Beyond foreign policy and the economy, Obama took aim at Trump's renovations to the White House, using the changes to ridicule the president's personal style.

“What's with all the gold? He's got the White House looking like Saddam Hussein opened up a Cheesecake Factory,” Obama said.

The November 3 elections are shaping up as a significant test of public confidence in Trump's leadership, with the economic impact of the war and the administration's broader policy choices emerging as key issues in the campaign.

The war has added to volatility in global oil markets and intensified pressure on fuel prices, raising questions about Trump's economic pledges as American consumers face higher costs.

Trump has acknowledged that oil prices remain “temporarily high” but has maintained that they will eventually decline.

The economic consequences of the war, particularly rising energy costs, have become a major issue in the run-up to the midterm elections, providing Democrats with an opportunity to challenge the administration's economic record and its han-

Turkey warns Washington against renewed strikes on Iran

From Page 1 ▶The meeting brought together foreign ministers from the so-called Regional Four (R4) and the European Union's E3, alongside Italy, in the first collective gathering of the group in this format. Discussions focused on the war involving Iran, the risk of further regional escalation, attacks on Saudi Arabia attributed to Yemen's Ansarallah movement, and the conflict in Ukraine.

The meeting came amid growing reports that Washington was considering renewed military action against Iran following the November 3 US midterm elections, raising concerns among regional and European governments about the prospect of a wider confrontation.

European powers call for de-escalation

British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband also underscored the need for a diplomatic solution, saying the conflict had continued for too long and imposed an excessive burden on the British public.

“The very clear message” is that “diplomacy, dialogue and de-escalation has to be the answer to this conflict,” Miliband told broadcaster ITN. “Frankly, this conflict has gone on too long, the British people have suffered too much from it and we cannot afford months more of it.”

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot warned that further escalation would leave all sides worse off and push oil prices higher, highlighting the potential consequences of a prolonged conflict for global energy markets.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said Germany, France and Britain were prepared to engage in talks with Tehran to address concerns over Iran's nuclear program.

The statements reflect mounting concern among European governments that renewed hostilities could deepen instability across West Asia, disrupt energy supplies and carry significant economic consequences beyond the region.

The diplomatic push came after The New York Times reported on October 21 that US and Israeli military officials had drawn up detailed plans for renewed strikes against Iran following the US midterm elections.

Citing US officials, the newspaper reported that potential targets could include Iran's energy infrastructure, nuclear facilities, and missile and drone capabilities.

The report intensified concerns over the possibility of another military campaign against Iran and the risk that attacks on critical infrastructure could trigger a broader cycle of retaliation.

Iranian media citing officials that a possible Iranian response to renewed US-Israeli attacks could extend beyond conventional military targets to include undersea cables, data centers and artificial intelligence infrastructure in West Asia owned wholly or partly by US investors and commercial interests.

Such scenarios underscore the potential for a wider conflict to affect critical digital infrastructure and economic assets, alongside its more immediate military and energy consequences.

According to Reuters, Fidan said the Istanbul meeting had also addressed possible parameters for preventing the conflict from spreading further, although he did not disclose details of the discussions.

Tehran has “veto power” over Strait of Hormuz: Obama

From Page 1 ▶ The midterm elections will determine control of the US Congress for the remainder of Trump's term, with the outcome set to influence his administration's ability to advance its domestic and foreign policy agenda.

During campaign appearances in Ohio and Michigan, Obama acknowledged that economic concerns and inflation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic had contributed to Democratic losses in the 2024 elections. However, he argued that Trump had failed to deliver on his promises to ease the financial pressures facing American households.

“If you thought everything was too expensive before ‘you know who,’ everything is more expensive now,” Obama said, referring to Trump without mentioning him by name.

Obama told Democrat supporters the war with Iran had given Tehran “veto power” over the Strait of Hormuz.

Obama also criticized the Trump administration's handling of the war against Iran, arguing that the conflict had strengthened Tehran's leverage over the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway through which a significant share of the world's energy supplies passes.

Livestock, poultry exhibition generates over \$1b in export agreements

TEHRAN – More than \$1.0 billion in export contracts and memorandums of understanding for technical and engineering services were secured at Iran's 25th Livestock, Poultry and Related Industries Exhibition, the head of the country's Animal Feed, Poultry and Aquatic Feed Industries Association said.

Majid Ghadiri said the economic benefits of the agreements would depend on continued negotiations, the finalization of implementation contracts and the completion of necessary preparations to put them into operation, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

Turning the agreements into sustainable economic gains would require continued engagement with foreign partners, identifying the needs of target markets and removing implementation barriers, he said.

Such efforts could help expand exports, generate foreign currency earnings and strengthen Iranian companies' positions in regional and international markets, Ghadiri added.

More than 400 domestic companies and 17 foreign trade delegations attended the exhibition,



he said, highlighting international cooperation, technology transfer and exports of technical and engineering services as key areas of potential collaboration.

The event also attracted more than 25 ambassadors and economic counsellors, as well as over 50 knowledge-based companies, Ghadiri said.

He added that the exhibition provided an opportunity to showcase the capabilities of Iran's livestock and poultry industries, identify target export markets and expand industrial cooperation.

Next year's budget bill to be submitted to parliament in a month



TEHRAN – Iranian government plans to finalize the budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year (starts in late March 2027) within a month and submit it to parliament in December, the head of the Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) said.

Hamid Pourmohammadi said the budget circular for the Iranian year 1406, which begins in March 2027, had been drafted and approved by the Economic Council and sent to the president for issuance.

"Our plan is to complete the process of preparing and finalizing the budget bill in the government within a month and, God willing, submit it to the Islamic Consultative Assembly in December," Pourmohammadi was quoted as

saying by ISNA.

He said the government had already held talks with lawmakers on how to prepare next year's budget, noting that the country's current economic circumstances made the process different from that of the previous year.

Despite the impact of war, blockade and military confrontations, the country's financial and budgetary systems must continue operating on schedule, Pourmohammadi said. He added that budget payments had so far faced minimal disruption, although some expenditures could be given lower priority at certain times.

Pourmohammadi said the government would place greater emphasis on improving the living conditions of civil servants and retirees, many of whom are struggling with inflation. It would also seek to address disparities in public-sector pay, he added.

He said recent developments could also prompt changes in the composition of government revenue, potentially reducing the budget's reliance on oil income and shifting some of the burden toward other sources.

Improving household livelihoods, narrowing pay inequalities among government employees and reviewing the balance of revenue sources are among the issues expected to be considered in drafting the next year's budget, Pourmohammadi said.

Iran, Thailand seek to expand cooperation in telecommunications, IT

TEHRAN – Iran and Thailand have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in telecommunications and information technology, deepen regional and international engagement, and develop a memorandum of understanding to formalize joint initiatives, Iran's Communications and Information Technology Ministry said.

Mohammad Hafez Hakami, the ministry's deputy for technology, innovation and international affairs, made the remarks during a meeting with Thai Ambassador Sake Nopthaisong, thanking him for attending the Elecomp exhibition and stressing the importance of multilateral cooperation in the technology sector.

Hakami highlighted Thailand's role in regional technology cooperation as the host of the headquarters of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT). He also called for greater use of the two countries' shared capacities and sought Thailand's support for Alireza Darvishi's candidacy for the post of APT deputy secretary-general.

He also underscored the need to preserve the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as a specialized, non-political body and protect its professional role in carrying out

technical responsibilities.

Hakami condemned attacks by the United States and Israel on Iran and damage to civilian infrastructure, particularly telecommunications facilities, saying such infrastructure and communications networks and services must be protected from attack.

Nopthaisong emphasized the importance of maintaining and expanding bilateral cooperation, citing the history of relations between the two countries and previous meetings between their senior officials.

The ambassador, who began his mission in Iran about two months ago, said he had become familiar with Iran's capabilities and achievements in artificial intelligence, digital transformation, emerging technologies, support for knowledge-based companies and the commercialization of innovation.

The two sides agreed to draft and sign a memorandum of understanding to provide a framework for closer bilateral engagement and technological cooperation.

They also discussed inviting Thailand's communications minister to visit Iran and arranging a reciprocal visit by Iranian officials to Thailand to expand ties and pursue areas of mutual interest.

Iran seeks to expand gas trade with GECF members

TEHRAN – Iran is seeking to expand gas trade with members of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), develop a common gas market and strengthen energy cooperation, the country's acting oil minister said ahead of the group's eighth summit in Russia.

Hamid Bovard said Iran would hold bilateral talks with oil and energy ministers from member countries on the sidelines of the summit to discuss expanding cooperation and bilateral activities.

Iran, a founding member of the GECF, would outline its positions through President Masoud Pezeshkian at the leaders' summit and through the acting oil minister at the group's ministerial meeting, Bovard said, according to Shana.

Key issues on the agenda include protecting energy infrastructure during wars and crises, expanding gas trade among exporting countries and identifying ways to increase exchanges, he said.

Bovard added that Iran would also push for the establishment of a common gas market and closer coordination among exporting countries to develop common policies on gas exports.

On relations with Russia, Bovard said the two countries had established cooperation in the energy sector, with Russian



companies holding contracts to develop several Iranian oil and gas fields. Negotiations on gas exchanges between the two countries are also under way, he added.

"We hope to achieve positive results during this trip and further pave the way for strengthening cooperation and expanding energy exchanges between Iran and Russia," Bovard said.

Bovard travelled to Moscow on Sunday to accompany Pezeshkian at the eighth GECF summit and attend the forum's 28th ministerial meeting.

The ministerial meeting is scheduled for Monday, a day before the leaders' summit. An extraordinary meeting of the GECF Executive Board, chaired by Seyed Ali-Mohammad Mousavi, Iran's deputy oil minister for international affairs and commerce, and a meeting of the Ad Hoc High-Level Committee were also scheduled for Sunday.

The meetings are expected to review and finalize key documents, including the summit's final declaration.

The GECF provides a framework for dialogue and coordination

among natural gas-producing and exporting countries. Its meetings address developments in gas markets, supply and demand outlooks, energy security and the role of natural gas in the global energy mix.

Other areas of focus include developing natural gas markets, monitoring trends in the liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry and assessing investment needs to meet future demand.

The forum's leaders' summit is held every two years. Previous summits took place in Doha in 2011, Moscow in 2013, Tehran in 2015, Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia in 2017, Malabo in Equatorial Guinea in 2019, Doha in 2022 and Algiers in 2024.

The GECF has 12 full members: Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. Angola, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Peru and Senegal participate as observer countries.

According to figures cited by the forum, its members collectively hold about 70 percent of the world's proven natural gas reserves, account for 38 percent of global marketed gas production and 42 percent of global gas exports. Their share of global LNG exports is estimated at around 47 percent.

Iran to add 3,800 MW of thermal power capacity to national grid

TEHRAN – Iran plans to add 3,800 megawatts of new thermal power generation capacity to its national grid in the next Iranian calendar year (begins late March 2027), as the electricity sector faces financial pressures that threaten investment in infrastructure, a deputy energy minister said.

Mostafa Rajabi-Mashhadi, deputy energy minister for electricity and energy affairs, said the gap between regulated electricity tariffs and the actual cost of supply was increasing the sector's outstanding receivables and debts while reducing its capacity to finance infrastructure development.

Without sustainable funding to offset the shortfall, the situation could further weaken investment, while covering the gap through the public budget could put additional pressure on government finances and widen the budget deficit, he said, according to IRIB.

Rajabi-Mashhadi said gradual electricity pricing reform, targeted support for vulnerable households and expansion of competitive electricity markets were among the measures needed to improve the sector's financial sustainability and encourage new investment.

Industries to play a growing role in power generation

Of the 3,800 MW of thermal power capacity

expected to come online next year, the capacity being developed by industries for their own electricity needs will be about twice that of new power units being built by the Energy Ministry, Rajabi-Mashhadi said.

The figures reflect the growing role of industrial companies in investing in electricity generation to meet domestic demand, he added.

He also highlighted the expansion of electricity trading on the Energy Exchange as a way to improve price transparency, facilitate transactions and strengthen incentives for investment and consumption management. Deepening the market could help bring electricity supply and demand into closer balance, he said.

Smart meters to support demand management

Rajabi-Mashhadi said the rollout of smart electricity meters was another key element of demand management, allowing more accurate monitoring of consumption and more effective implementation of tariff policies.

The meters also enable authorities to control the power consumption of high-use customers within established regulations, a measure that could help curb excessive demand and ease pressure on the grid during peak hours.

The Energy Ministry aims to encourage public participation in managing electricity consumption, he said. Customers who keep consumption within prescribed limits will benefit from incentives, while high-use customers are encouraged to adjust their consumption patterns and pay for electricity consumed above the prescribed level at rates reflecting its supply cost.

Power sector prepares for winter supply pressures

Rajabi-Mashhadi said fuel supplies for power plants were entering a critical period ahead of winter. Although stocks of liquid fuel at power plant storage facilities were at satisfactory levels, constraints on natural gas supplies and rising seasonal demand could make it more difficult to secure enough gas for power generation.

He said the electricity sector needed to be fully prepared for the critical 100-day winter period to ensure reliable energy supplies.

Achieving that goal would require coordination among the relevant sectors to secure fuel supplies, keep power plants operational and encourage all consumers to manage electricity and gas use, he added. The aim is to get through the period with minimal disruption to the country's energy network.

Energy Ministry implements 60 measures to secure electricity supplies during winter

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Ministry is implementing 60 operational measures to ensure stable electricity supplies during the winter and mitigate the potential impact of fuel shortages, while power plants' liquid fuel reserves remain at satisfactory levels, the country's electricity industry spokesman said.

Ehsan Zabihzadeh said more than 80 percent of the fuel consumed by thermal power plants comes from natural gas, with most facilities designed to operate primarily on gas. Liquid fuels serve as a backup to improve grid reliability and help offset potential gas supply constraints, he added, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

Gas supplies to power plants and their liquid fuel inventories are currently in a favourable position, Zabihzadeh said. Liquid fuel stocks are roughly at the same level as a year earlier, when reserves were particularly strong, and the trend this year has also been positive so far.

Some storage capacity remains to be filled, but the remaining tanks are expected to reach capacity in the coming days and weeks as winter approaches, with the help of the Oil Ministry, he said.

However, maintaining reliable electricity supplies throughout the winter will depend not only on initial preparedness but also on continued gas allocations and the timely delivery of liquid fuels, Zabihzadeh said.

Authorities have designated a roughly 100-day period, beginning in mid-December, as the main window for winter preparedness and have coordinated plans to secure power plant fuel supplies with the Oil Ministry, he added.

60 measures to manage winter constraints

Zabihzadeh said attacks attributed by Iranian officials to Israel and the United States had damaged gas supply infrastructure, reducing part of the country's gas supply capacity compared with last year, according

to statements by Oil Ministry officials.

The electricity sector has therefore drawn up 60 operational measures to get through the 100-day winter period with minimal disruption. Implementation of the measures is progressing satisfactorily, he said.

The main steps include completing essential power plant maintenance on schedule, accelerating renewable energy development to increase electricity generation without fuel consumption, advancing maintenance at the country's nuclear power plant so it can return to service at the beginning of the cold season, and optimizing hydropower generation.

Improving the efficiency of thermal power generation is also a priority, Zabihzadeh said. Authorities aim to maximize the use of high-efficiency generating units and reduce diesel consumption, particularly in northern Iran, where power plants face a greater risk of fuel supply constraints.

Maintenance of the electricity

grid and major energy transmission corridors is receiving greater attention than in previous years, he added, as authorities seek to minimize transmission bottlenecks that could restrict electricity supplies during winter.

Energy conservation remains a priority

Zabihzadeh said coordination among different sectors was essential to managing energy consumption and maintaining reliable electricity supplies throughout the cold season.

Government agencies and public institutions should lead by example in conserving energy, while all electricity and gas consumers should help manage demand, he said.

Reducing energy consumption can lessen the impact of potential fuel shortages, Zabihzadeh added, stressing that conservation should extend beyond winter. Even small savings can have a meaningful effect if sustained and adopted as a long-term practice.

France meets second weekend of mass protests with 70,000 police, arrests 1,314

By staff writer

TEHRAN — French police arrested 1,314 people and sealed off city centers on Saturday as hundreds of thousands marched for a second consecutive weekend. Rather than addressing the root causes of the nationwide unrest, the government focused entirely on silencing the demonstrators through state repression.

The Interior Ministry initially said nearly 1,000 people had been detained, then raised the figure to 1,314, along with 75 fires and 24 looted shops.

It counted 410,000 marchers nationwide, 110,000 of them in Paris. Unions and activists say the real turnout was close to double. Whichever number is right, the crowds held steady against a deployment of 70,000 police officers and gendarmes, 20 percent more than a week earlier, backed by SWAT units, helicopters, armored vehicles and water cannon. Shopkeepers boarded up. Museums closed.

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez defended the state's security lockdown by noting that demonstrators had been successfully barred from staging unauthorized marches or entering city centers. For an official representing a self-proclaimed republic, the remarks offered a striking public confirmation of a strategy that kept citizens out of their own urban cores.

The government had already banned non-union demonstrations it labeled "illegitimate."

The Paris march was mostly calm. Brass bands played, and grandparents walked beside students.

Trouble came at Porte de Vincennes, where the route ended. Masked groups threw bottles and stones, and police replied with



tear gas, water cannon and stun grenades, then charged a wider crowd with batons.

Tear gas also kept demonstrators from the centers of Lyon, Lille, Montpellier, Nantes and Toulouse. Two people were seriously hurt in Clermont-Ferrand and Toulouse, one reportedly losing fingers.

French authorities claimed that investigations are already under way into children and other protesters maimed by explosive police weapons.

A plan to switch off the platforms

Two days before the march, Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu wrote to Orange, SFR, Free and Bouygues Telecom, according to French outlet Blast.

He asked them to be ready to block TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and X in the event of "urban violence," and said he wanted the power to suspend access outright.

The operators answered that they lacked the capacity to do it quickly and that VPNs would defeat the block.

Paris has done this before. It cut off TikTok during the 2024 unrest in New Caledonia and lifted the ban only after several days. The pattern is familiar to anyone who

has watched Western governments hypocritically denounce internet shutdowns in Iran and elsewhere, then reach for the same switch at home.

Whose violence gets attention

The destruction on the margins of Saturday's marches was real, and shopkeepers are counting losses. Yet the official story leaves out who else showed up.

In Nice, prosecutors said 59 people were taken into custody, 11 of them suspected of extreme-right affiliation. Some were stopped in two vehicles carrying masks, gloves, gas sprays, and truncheons. Local media reported these groups going after peaceful demonstrators.

Others found a use for the chaos. Facing elections, Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu seized on the riots to attack immigration, with Netanyahu blaming "Islamic extremists."

Observers of the unrest describe the wreckers as mostly apolitical young men, many of immigrant origin but born in France. In Orléans, thousands marched against a congress held by Marine Le Pen's National Rally, the party that polls and analysts currently position as the frontrunner for next year's presidency.

A president with little left to offer

The revolt began in mid-September, when students aged 15 to 18 protested teacher shortages, leaking roofs and classrooms without enough chairs.

Teachers, parents and unions joined, and the grievances grew to cover the cost of living. On October 17, more than half a million people marched.

At least 2,700 were arrested, and Paris City Hall said 450 shops were damaged, 228 of them looted. Police later conceded they had misjudged the scale of the trouble.

Emmanuel Macron meets this with an approval rating of 15 percent, according to Ipsos BVA. He has struggled to pass budgets since losing his parliamentary majority in 2024, and Lecornu has called himself "the weakest prime minister of the Fifth Republic."

Public debt is near 120 percent of GDP, and Macron's one signature reform, a higher pension age, had to be frozen.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who marched in Paris, warned that protests will recur every week unless Macron gives in, and he pointed to possible industrial action on November 5.

The anger is not French alone. Tens of thousands marched in Madrid to defend pensions. Portuguese police cleared housing encampments in Lisbon and Porto. Catalan police arrested 128 people in Barcelona, and Italy sent hundreds of troops to Milan. Brussels police used a water cannon on students.

Jérôme Rodrigues, a leading voice of the yellow vests, summed up the standoff. "It's not police shields that will provide an answer to French people struggling and unable to make ends meet," he said, according to The Guardian's Sunday report.



storms, high wind, snowfall and dense foliage — and even deliberately planted decoys — can reduce its success rate.

There is also a worrying ethical aspect to shortening the kill chain. A human is always supposed to verify the target that the AI-assisted tool has identified and decide how to react.

But it doesn't always work that way. For example, among the sites MSS targeted in Iran on the first day of the war was a school. An American missile killed almost 200 people at a primary school in southern Iran, most of them children aged between seven and 12.

In its military campaign in Gaza, Israel has also used AI-assisted targeting. An Israeli system known as the Gospel, or Habsora, is the closest to MSS in the way it works.

But, as has been documented elsewhere, including by Israeli and British journalists and in the recent documentary Naza, the use of such AI targeting tools have also been highly problematic because of the numbers of civilian casualties that can result.

"On the one hand [in Gaza], AI has enhanced commanders' situational awareness, less-

ened the human costs of tunnel mapping, improved the speed of military strikes, and boosted the survivability of troops," analysts Frederic Wehrey and Andrew Bonney wrote for War on the Rocks, a specialist media outlet. "Yet the benefits afforded by such functions have been overshadowed by mounting civilian deaths reportedly resulting from this technology's safeguards being loosened or eliminated."

All of which is why Antony Loewenstein, an independent journalist based in Australia who has researched the impact of Israel's AI-assisted technology, doesn't believe similar technology will lead to the defeat of Ansarallah.

"I don't think there's much evidence at all that using an AI tool is going to make much difference on the ground, except for causing huge amounts of civilian casualties," Loewenstein, who authored the book, "The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports The Technology of Occupation Around the World," told DW. "And I think what the US and the Saudis will find is that the Houthis (Ansarallah) have an incredibly high tolerance level for destruction."

Israel seizes civilian houses in al-Khalil, establishes frontline military posts

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israeli forces have sealed every major entry point into al-Khalil (Hebron), driving more than 2,200 Palestinians out of their homes and transforming entire residential quarters into military barracks.

The punitive siege, ordered directly by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu following a resistance operation on Friday that killed two Israeli soldiers at a nearby checkpoint, has paralyzed the governorate of nearly 800,000 residents.

Municipal leadership in al-Khalil declared the city a disaster zone after troops moved systematically through neighborhoods including al-Jalda, Ein Deir Baha, Khallat Manna, and Dahiyat al-Zaytoun, forcing families out at gunpoint.

The mechanics of this latest aggression follow a pattern perfected by the Israeli army across the northern West Bank.

Soldiers give residents minutes to gather basic belongings before bulldozing storefronts, knocking down outer walls, and stringing razor wire across residential streets.

Over 490 housing units spanning roughly 350 dunams have been commandeered or targeted for clearing, with municipal officials warning that expulsion orders could soon reach 2,500 additional residents.

Concurrently, Israeli forces shut down the historic Ibrahimi Mosque, barring Muslim custodians and worshippers while suspending the call to prayer across the Old City.



Mass arrests have swept through more than 400 sites in a single 24-hour period, according to local prisoner groups, leaving schools closed and municipal services unable to clear accumulating waste beyond the military perimeter.

The timing of this campaign coincides with intense domestic political maneuvering ahead of Israel's upcoming parliamentary vote.

Far-right ministers such as Itamar Ben-Gvir and Israel Katz have openly touted the displacement of al-Khalil's population as proof of military resolve.

Local Palestinian officials and experts point out Netanyahu's cabinet's use of collective punishment and the desecration of holy sites as a brutal campaign stunt to secure nationalist votes.

Meanwhile, on the agricultural front across the West Bank, regime-backed Israeli settler rampages have damaged nearly 300,000 olive trees since last year, turning the traditional harvest season into another front of land theft and displacement.

Obama accuses Trump of corruption

Barack Obama has criticized the "chaos, cruelty and corruption" of Donald Trump's second term, launching an eviscerating attack on the Republican president in the run-up to the midterm elections.

The former US president told a Democratic rally in Ohio that "enough is enough" and that voters must reject Republicans at the polls, The Telegraph reported.

"After two years of chaos and cruelty and corruption and incompetence, the likes of which we have not seen in the modern era, you get a chance to say, 'enough is enough,'" Obama said in Cleveland, where he was supporting Sherrod Brown, the Senate

candidate, and Amy Acton, the gubernatorial candidate.

"The current president chose to make a series of bad decisions," Obama said. "Most importantly, he decided to start an unnecessary war that nobody asked for," he added, referring to the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Meanwhile, US Senator Chris Van Hollen has warned that the US-Israel war on Iran could be the "next forever war" and called for it to "end now".

"Trump illegal Iran war is turning into our next forever war," the senator regretted.

Mass rally against Netanyahu government just ahead of elections



Three days before Israel's first general election since the genocidal war on Gaza began, thousands of Israelis protested against the Netanyahu government late on Saturday in Tel Aviv demanding an independent inquiry into the security failures that led to the October 7, 2023 attacks.

The protest was organised by the October Council, a group founded by the families of captives taken to Gaza three years ago, to demand accountability for the government's failure to prevent the Hamas attack that preceded the war.

"Three days before the election, we will hold the culminating event marking three years of struggle to uncover the truth, de-

mand accountability and establish a state commission of inquiry," the October Council wrote on X ahead of the rally.

Elsewhere in Israel, protesters were also gathering for antigovernment demonstrations, Haaretz reported.

Leading figures from opposition parties, including Gadi Eisenkot of the Yashar party, who is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's main centre-right rival, took part in the protests.

In Tel Aviv, Eisenkot was greeted by chants of "Who's coming? The next prime minister", according to The Times of Israel. The leader of the Democrats, Yair Golan, was also at the rally.

Iran’s most decorated para swimmer Izadyar calls time on career

TEHRAN – Shahin Izadyar, Iran’s most decorated Paralympic swimmer, has announced his retirement from competitive swimming after an illustrious career that saw him claim 28 medals across five editions of the Asian Para Games.

Despite bringing down the curtain on his remarkable career, Izadyar insists his journey in the pool is far from over, revealing plans to return to the sport as a coach in the near future.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Izadyar reflected on his achievements, memorable performances and the milestones that shaped his career.

“My first Asian Para Games were in Guangzhou, China, in 2010. I was just 17 years old and managed to win two gold, one silver and three bronze medals, becoming the most decorated athlete in the Iranian delegation. I also broke the Asian record in both events in which I won gold,” he said.

“In 2012, I competed at the London Paralympics as Iran’s first and only representative in swimming. For the first time in history, an Iranian Para swimmer reached the final of the men’s 100m breaststroke. It was a huge achievement for our sport.”

Izadyar continued his medal-winning run at the 2014 Asian Para Games in Incheon, South Korea, where he collected five silver medals and one bronze.

“Although I delivered some strong performances in Incheon, I couldn’t win gold. However, with five silvers and one bronze, I once again became the most decorated athlete in the Iranian delegation,” he recalled.

Two years later, Izadyar made his second Paralympic appearance at Rio 2016, again carrying Iran’s hopes as the country’s sole representative in Para swimming.

“I reached the 100m breaststroke final once again and clocked an impressive 1:09.63. I also recorded 25.32 seconds in the 50m freestyle, a record that still stands,” he said.

The highlight of Izadyar’s career came at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, where he delivered a sensational performance, capturing six gold medals and one silver.

“Jakarta was my third Asian Para Games, and it was an unforgettable experience. With six gold medals and one silver, I became the most decorated athlete among approximately 3,700 competitors at the Games,” he said.

Although Izadyar missed the Tokyo Paralympics, he returned to the continental stage at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games in 2023, competing at the age of 30.

“In Hangzhou, I won two silver and three bronze medals and once again finished as the most decorated athlete in the Iranian delegation,” he explained.

Izadyar also represented Iran at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games alongside fellow swimmer Sina Zeighaminejad, but an injury prevented him from reaching the final.

His final competitive appearance came at the Asian Para Games in Nagoya, where he added three silver medals and one bronze to his impressive collection.

“Competing in Nagoya marked my fifth appearance at the Asian Para Games. I won three silver medals and one bronze and once again shared the distinction of being the most decorated athlete in the Iranian delegation,” Izadyar said.

“That was my final competition, and I decided to say goodbye to competitive swimming. But I hope it won’t be long before I return to the pool, this time as a coach, to continue serving the sport I love.”

With 28 Asian Para Games medals and a career spanning multiple Paralympic appearances, Izadyar leaves behind an extraordinary legacy as one of the most successful figures in Iranian Para swimming.

Beiranvand joins Fajr Sepasi

TEHRAN – Iran national football team goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand has joined Fajr Sepasi Shiraz to complete his mandatory military service.

Beiranvand, Iran’s first-choice national team goalkeeper, will serve his military duty with the Shiraz-based football club.

His military service officially begins on October 23, and he is required to report to Fajr Sepasi on Saturday.

However, due to the closure of the transfer window, Beiranvand will not be eligible to play for Fajr Sepasi until the mid-season transfer window opens.

The Iranian international had previously attempted to arrange his military service with Tehran-based Niroo Zamini FC but has ultimately been assigned to Fajr Sepasi.

According to Beiranvand, his mandatory military service is expected to last approximately six months.

Iran learn fate at 2026 Asian Women’s Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s national handball team have learned their opponents for the 21st Asian Women’s Handball Championship, scheduled to take place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from November 23 to December 3, 2026.

According to the tournament draw, Iran have been placed in Group A alongside Japan, China, Hong Kong and Bangladesh.

Group B features South Korea, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Australia and the winner of the IHF Trophy.

Iran will face a challenging campaign, particularly against Asian powerhouses Japan and China, as they seek to make their mark on the continental stage.

South Korea, one of the most successful teams in Asian women’s handball history, will headline Group B, while hosts Kazakhstan will look to capitalize on home advantage.

The championship will bring together leading teams from across Asia, providing an important opportunity for Iran’s women to test themselves against strong regional opponents and demonstrate their progress in international handball.

The AHF Asian Women’s Handball Championship is a biennial continental handball competition contested by the senior women’s national teams of the members of Asian Handball Federation (AHF). Since 2018, it also includes teams from Oceania. The competition also serves as a qualifying tournament for the IHF World Women’s Handball Championship.

The current champion is Japan, which won its 2nd title at the 2024 tournament.

Greco-Roman wrestler Ahmadi wins silver at 2026 World Championships

TEHRAN – Payam Ahmadi from Iran won a silver medal at the 2026 World Wrestling Championships – Men’s Greco-Roman 55 kg on Sunday.

He lost to Azerbaijan’s Eldaniz Azizli 3-1 in the final.

The bronze medals were won by Georgian Vakhtang Lolua and Iskhar Kurbayev from Kazakhstan.

The 2026 World Wrestling Championships are being held in Astana, Kazakhstan on October 24 and 25.

Restoration of Sassanid reliefs at Naqsh-e Rostam nears completion after three decades

TEHRAN – The restoration of Sassanid-era bas-reliefs at Naqsh-e Rostam, one of Iran’s most significant archaeological sites, is approaching completion after a conservation effort that began in the 1990s, with work continuing on a relief depicting Shapur II, a site official said.

Mostafa Rakhshandehkhoo, head of the Naqsh-e Rostam complex and supervisor of its conservation and restoration workshops, told the Iranian Students’ News Agency (ISNA) that restoration work on more than eight Sassanid bas-reliefs had been pursued over several decades to preserve their historical and artistic value.

The ongoing work on the relief of Shapur II represents a decisive stage in the long-running effort, bringing the restoration program close to its final phase, he said.

Rakhshandehkhoo stressed that conserving historical monuments involves more than physical intervention. It requires detailed studies, expert assessments, informed decision-making and the careful application of appropriate conservation methods.

“The primary objective is to preserve the authenticity of the monument, control damaging factors and create conditions that will help ensure its long-term survival,” he said, according to ISNA.

He added that preparing a restoration plan suited to the condition of the Shapur II relief, as well as reviewing and approving it through the relevant authorities, was particularly important. Work based on an approved plan and carried out in accordance with professional conservation



A Sassanid-era bas-relief at Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran depicts the triumph of Shapur I (on horseback) over Valerian (standing) and Philip (kneeling in surrender before the Persian king).

standards helps ensure that interventions are appropriate to the monument’s specific circumstances.

The official said the experience gained over decades at Naqsh-e Rostam demonstrated the importance of sustained conservation efforts, technical expertise and careful monitoring in protecting archaeological remains.

Historical monuments are exposed to various damaging factors over time, he said, making long-term planning essential to preserving them for future generations. He added that the value of the project lay not only in bringing restoration work to an end but also in the methods used, adherence to scientific principles and responsibility toward cultural heritage.

Rakhshandehkhoo added that the experience could serve as a model for other conservation

projects, emphasizing that understanding the characteristics and condition of each monument and selecting suitable techniques were essential to avoiding unnecessary interventions and improving the durability of restoration work.

A record of Sassanid power and artistry

Naqsh-e Rostam, located in Fars province near Persepolis, contains monuments from several periods of ancient Iranian history. The site is particularly notable for its Achaemenid royal rock-cut tombs and Sassanid bas-reliefs carved into the cliff face.

The Sassanid Empire, which ruled Iran from 224 to 651, left an extensive artistic and archaeological legacy. The reliefs at Naqsh-e Rostam depict royal ceremonies, military victories and scenes associated with the

authority of Sassanid rulers, providing important evidence for understanding the period’s political history and artistic traditions.

The site’s rock-cut monuments stand alongside the tombs attributed to Achaemenid kings, making Naqsh-e Rostam an important archaeological landscape spanning different eras of ancient Iranian civilization.

Its reliefs are more than works of art; they are historical records that help researchers investigate royal representation, political power and the cultural traditions of the Sassanid period.

The site’s proximity to Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire and a UNESCO World Heritage property, further underscores its significance within Iran’s archaeological heritage.

Jameh Mosque of Fahraj: A timeless architectural treasure near Yazd



A view of Jameh Mosque of Fahraj

Semnan province, it illustrates an important stage in the development of Iranian mosque architecture, when substantial piers increasingly replaced columns as primary structural supports.

Built largely from mud bricks and sun-dried clay materials, the mosque demonstrates how local construction techniques were adapted to religious architecture in a challenging desert environment. Its restrained appearance, with little decorative ornamentation, distinguishes it from many of Iran’s later monumental mosques.

A courtyard framed by ancient arches

The mosque’s architectural composition centers on an enclosed courtyard surrounded by arcades and a vaulted prayer hall. The courtyard, lined with clay tiles, contains a central ablution tank that is now dry. Thick rectangular piers divide the arcades into arched bays, creating a balanced rhythm across the interior façades.

The prayer hall features traditional Iranian barrel vaults, supported by sturdy brick piers. These vaults, together with the

building’s oval-shaped arches and pointed arches above the entrances, reflect a combination of structural ingenuity and architectural traditions associated with the transition from the Sassanid era to the Islamic period.

The prayer hall has three entrances, with the central entrance wider than the two side entrances. This arrangement reflects the importance of the main axis leading toward the qibla, the direction of prayer. The building also contains two mihrabs, or prayer niches, positioned close to one another. The larger, principal mihrab is made of plaster and measures approximately 2.32 meters wide and 3.24 meters high.

Unlike many famous Iranian mosques, the Jameh Mosque of Fahraj has no prominent dome, elaborate tilework or extensive inscriptions. Its architectural interest lies instead in its proportions, construction methods and preservation of early building forms.

An early example of the Iranian minaret

One of the mosque’s most notable features is its clay minaret,

which is believed to have been added later, possibly during the 10th century. Together with the early minaret at the ancient city of Na’in, it represents an important surviving example of the development of the Iranian minaret.

The structure takes the form of a tapering cylinder, with an internal spiral staircase illuminated by narrow openings in its exterior walls. A projecting balcony and triangular crenellations emphasize its vertical profile, creating a striking contrast with the mosque’s low, horizontal roofline.

The minaret is significant beyond its immediate setting. The development of the cylindrical minaret became an influential feature of Islamic architecture, with related forms spreading across regions including Iraq, Syria, Anatolia, Afghanistan and India over subsequent centuries.

A rewarding stop for cultural travelers

For visitors exploring Yazd and its surrounding historic settlements, the Jameh Mosque of Fahraj offers an opportunity to discover a lesser-known architectural landmark away from the region’s more elaborate monuments. Its understated appearance invites closer attention to the details of early Islamic construction, from the arrangement of its arches and piers to the geometry of its vaulted prayer hall.

The mosque is particularly appealing to travelers interested in architectural history, archaeology and the cultural connections between pre-Islamic Persia and the Islamic period. Its location in Fahraj also makes it a potential stop on a journey through the villages and desert landscapes southeast of Yazd.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

TEHRAN – Iran and Indonesia have explored ways to expand scientific and technological co-operation, with a particular focus on developing science and technology parks and strengthening academic and research ties.

Iran’s Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Technology Esfandiar Ekhtiari and Indonesian Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology Brian Yuliarto met in Jakarta on October 23 to discuss cooperation through exchanges of professors and students and greater use of the two countries’ scientific and research capacities, Mehr News Agency reported.

Highlighting Iran’s scientific achievements, Ekhtiari outlined the country’s research, educational, and scientific infrastructure, including the artificial intelligence center at Sharif University of Technology, the Laser and Plasma Research Institute at Shahid Beheshti University, the satellite monitoring center at Iran University of Science and Technology, a quantum laboratory at Isfahan University of Technology, IT centers at other universities, and the Pasteur Institute of Iran.

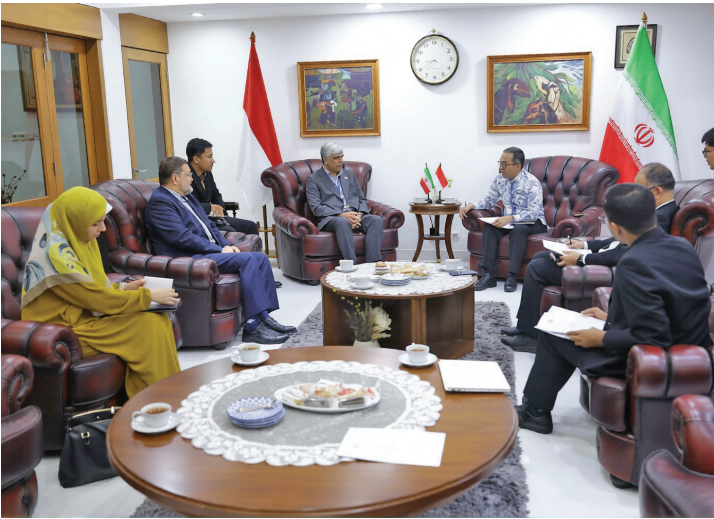
He said these facilities had been targeted during what he described as the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, condemning the attacks and arguing that they were aimed at undermining the country’s scientific and technological progress.

The official also announced Iran’s readiness to provide and transfer expertise to establish science and technology parks that support the development of Indonesia’s innovation ecosystem.

For his part, Yuliarto condemned attacks on scientific institutions, highlighting that Indonesia rejects any form of aggression and colonialism.

He stated that the partnership between the two sides is aimed at strengthening national technological capacity and the inter-academic research ecosystem.

“We are very pleased to be able to invite leading professors from Iran to serve as visiting professors at Indonesian universities. This step is expected to significantly accelerate and improve the quality of cooperation in science and technology between Indonesia and Iran,” topik.id quoted



Yuliarto as saying.

Referring to Iran’s capabilities in science and technology sectors, the official emphasized the importance of sharing technological expertise and expanding scientific interactions.

The partnership also encompasses the commercialization and downstreaming of research results. The two parties also discussed the formation and development of high-tech startups in the renewable energy and aerospace sectors.

The two countries agreed to take the results of the initial dialogue to technical discussions. The next step is to draft and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ministries responsible for higher education in both countries.

The MOU is intended to serve as a legal framework and operational basis for faculty exchanges, student mobility, and joint research funding. The program will involve leading universities from Indonesia and Iran.

Expanding scientific cooperation

In August, Sharif University of Technology and Institut Teknologi Bandung of Indonesia signed a memorandum of understanding to deepen scientific, research, and educational cooperation, exchange professors, researchers, and students, and implement collaborative research projects.

The MOU aims to bolster scientific and academic interactions between the two universities, explore the potential for technological collaborations and technology commercialization. Accordingly, the faculties and academic staff of the two universities can identify areas of shared research interest and collaborate on implementing specific

research projects, IRNA reported.

It centers on exchanging scientific resources and information, holding joint conferences, educational workshops, and symposia, conducting short-term scientific visits, as well as developing joint educational programs and curricula.

The agreement also grants postgraduate students the opportunity to study abroad, access library resources at partner universities, and conduct field research.

On the sidelines of the 13th BRICS Education Ministers’ Meeting, held from August 5 to 7 in Odisha, India, Acting Minister for Science, Research and Technology of Iran, Masoud Shams-Bakhsh, and Yuliarto, held a meeting to explore avenues for the development of scientific and technological cooperation.

Both sides discussed ways to develop scientific collaborations, particularly in emerging technologies.

During the meeting, Yuliarto expounded on the scientific capacities of Indonesia, specifically in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, voicing Jakarta’s readiness to implement collaborative research projects, exchange professors and postgraduate students, grant sabbatical leaves, and organize short-form courses in cooperation with Tehran.

The Indonesian official invited Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, and Shams-Bakhsh to pay a visit to Indonesia

For his part, Shams-Bakhsh highlighted that long-standing cultural, historical, and religious ties between the two countries have established a natural, deep, and lasting foundation for the

expansion of educational and research cooperation between the two countries.

Increasing the number of scholarships, expanding scholarship exchanges, developing joint educational courses, conducting research on climate change, food security, renewable energies, and agriculture were among key focuses of the talks.

The two sides also discussed the inclusion of more Iranian universities in the BRICS Network University, relying on Indonesia’s experiences. They highlighted the signing of an MOU to implement the reached agreements as soon as possible

On July 15, the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and the Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) conducted a joint webinar, titled ‘Advancing Iran-Indonesia Research Collaboration: Strategic Opportunities Ahead’, on Wednesday to explore avenues for the expansion of scientific and research cooperation between the researchers, scientists, and the scientific institutions of the two countries.

The webinar kicked off with the remarks of the president of INSF, Morteza Hormozinejad, and the deputy chairman for Facilitation of Research and Innovation, Agus Haryono.

Also, experts and professors from both countries in the health, water security, and environment sectors delivered lectures.

The event served as a great opportunity to promote scientific ties, expand research collaborations, and develop joint projects between Iran and Indonesia.

In December 2025, Rolliansyah Soemirat, the Indonesian ambassador to Tehran, said the new Indonesian administration intends to develop scientific and technological ties with Iran, highlighting Iran’s extensive capabilities in science and technology.

“The administration is looking forward to the expansion of international collaborations, particularly in fields of science and technology, which opens up new opportunities for cooperation between the two countries. The main focus of the interactions will be centered on sharing technology and emerging innovations, as well as boosting technological cooperation,” IRNA quoted Soemirat as saying.

Tehran, Bangkok underline enhancing co-op in ICT

TEHRAN – Iranian and Thai officials have highlighted the importance of expanding joint efforts in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, boosting regional and international interactions, and developing a memorandum of understanding between the two sides.

Deputy ICT minister, Mohammad-Hafez Hakami, and Thai ambassador to Iran, Sake Nopthaisong, met on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Highlighting the longstanding partnership between Iran and Thailand, Nopthaisong called for continued cooperation between the two countries.

The official went on to say that since he was appointed Thai ambassador to Tehran, he has been interested in getting familiar with Iran’s accomplishments and capacities in different fields like artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and emerging technologies.

For his part, Hakami said that since the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) headquarters is in Bangkok, Thailand plays a significant role in strengthening regional technological cooperation. He suggested benefiting from the capacities of the two nations to develop interactions.

The two sides underscored the need to draft and sign a memorandum of understanding to foster bilateral relations and technological cooperation.

GII 2026 places Tehran 65th among top 100 science and technology clusters

The Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked Tehran as the world’s 65th-largest science and technology (S&T) cluster this year, according to a report released by the UN’s World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Each year, the GI identifies and ranks the world’s top 100 innovation clusters. Using a bottom-up, data-driven approach that transcends administrative and political boundaries, the GI identifies geographic areas with a high concentration of inventors, scientific authors, and venture capital (VC) activity. These innovation clusters often extend across multiple municipalities or subnational regions and, in some cases, span two or more countries.

Three metrics determine the top 100: the locations of inventors listed in patent applications filed under the WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the affiliations of authors of published scientific articles, and the locations of companies receiving venture capital funding.

The GI 2026, under the theme “Powering entrepreneurs at the frontier of science”, examines how scientific breakthroughs become deep science startups and spinouts.

In addition to China and India, six other middle-income economies have clusters among the top 100, including Brazil (1 cluster), the Islamic Republic of Iran (1), Egypt (1), Malaysia (2), Mexico (1), and Turkey (1).

Tehran is the only cluster within Iran that

falls within the top 100 innovation clusters in 2026. In 2026, Tehran had 405 PCT applications, 58,732 scientific publications, 107 venture capital deals, 0.0 percent Share of global PCT applications, 0.7 percent share of global scientific publications, and 0.0 percent share of global venture capital deals, making it the 65th largest innovation cluster and 88 innovation cluster by intensity, slipping down from 63rd and 85th, respectively in 2025.

The city’s estimated cluster population, PCT application per capita, and scientific publication capita amount to 7,852,733; 52; and 7,497 respectively, IRNA reported.

The venture capital pre-deals per capita is about 14, and the total innovation intensity share per capita is 0.097.

In patent registration, medical technology ranked first (with 19 percent share), followed by computer technology, civil engineering, and pharmaceuticals.

Top publishing organizations in Tehran are University of Tehran with 5,232 articles, Islamic Azad University with 4,081 articles, and Iran University of Science and Technology with 3,725 articles. A majority of published articles are in engineering fields.

In a recent global ranking by StartupBlink 2026, Tehran’s position has advanced by 20 spots, ranking 348 among the world’s most innovative cities.

Tehran is home to 96 startups, making up 81 percent of all startups in the country. Tehran has approximately 1 startup per 100,000 people. In 2025, the ecosystem recorded an annual growth rate of over 36 percent. The city is currently ranked as the 1st strongest startup ecosystem in Iran, having remained stable since 2025. At the regional level, Tehran ranks 11th in West Asia, having moved up 2 spots since 2025.

According to Iran Innovation Zone, the achievement is the result of strengthening innovation infrastructure and developing interactions among different sectors operating in the knowledge-based economy, Mehr news agency reported.

The report by StartupBlink has highlighted the role of Pardis Technology Park, the country’s largest technology and innovation hub, as one of the driving forces of Iran’s knowledge-based economy. The park hosts hundreds of knowledge-based and technology companies, creating business development infrastructure and providing a platform for enhancing cooperation among startups, investors, large industries, and institutions.

Moreover, hosting the International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX) every year, Pardis Technology Park plays a key role in networking and connecting experts in the innovation ecosystem. According to the report, thanks to the capacities of Pardis Technology Parks, Iran’s startup ecosystem ranks 95 globally.

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

Intl. conference on Global Coalition against Scientific Apartheid set for November

TEHRAN – The 5th International conference on Global Coalition against Scientific Apartheid is planned to be held on November 10 in Tehran to promote justice in science and technology in the new world order, and honor the scientists martyred during the imposed US-Israeli war against the country.

Organized by the World Islamic Peace Forum and Islamic Azad University, the key objectives of the conference involve promoting scientific justice as a prerequisite for global peace and justice, examining the state of scientific justice within the current and future global order, identifying instances of scientific apartheid, analyzing the assassination of scientists and the imposition of technological sanctions, and fostering coalitions among experts and scientific institutions worldwide.

The conference is centered around five main topics, including intellectual and philosophical foundations of scientific justice and overcoming science and technology apartheid; unilateralism, scientific and technological hegemony, and the future of world order; examples of scientific and technological apartheid and countermeasures; scientific justice, fair peace and development; as well as global coalition for justice in science and technology: from discourse to action.

Sanctions contradict UNESCO’s Open Access Policy

In April, Science Minister Hossein Simaei-Sarraf condemned sanctions imposed on the country’s science sector, saying that

the sanctions are in opposition to UNESCO’s Open Access Policy.

Addressing the Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy, which was held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France, on March 25 and 26, the minister said that as per Resolution 2231 of the Security Council, imposing sanctions on scientific activities has no legal validity, IRNA reported.

The two-day event was held under the theme ‘Science Diplomacy in a Rapidly Changing World: Building Peace in the Minds of Men and Women’.

Simaei-Sarraf delineated Iran’s viewpoints and perspectives on issues such as modern science diplomacy to address the challenges of the 21st century, the role of science diplomacy in safeguarding the security of science and promoting open access in scientific research, and the role of science diplomacy in fostering fair cooperation for the development and responsible use of new and emerging technologies.

On the sidelines of the event, the official held meetings with the Deputy Director-General, Xing Qu; Assistant Director-General for Natural Science, Lidia Arthur Brito; Assistant Director-General for Education, Stefania Giannini; and Assistant Director-General for External Relations of UNESCO, Firmin Edouard Matoko.

Moreover, Simaei-Sarraf held meetings with the ministers of science of Sri Lanka and

Colombia and the deputy science ministers of Iraq and Switzerland.

In a meeting with Iranian professors residing in France and Germany, Simaei-Sarraf invited them to help enhance collaborations with the country.

The official also highlighted the need to amend laws and eliminate existing gaps to be able to benefit from the scientific capacities of Iranians living abroad. It was decided that 20 prominent Iranian professors residing in Europe would travel to Iran this summer to deliver speeches and hold scientific and educational workshops in different fields such as artificial intelligence, and renewable energy.

The Global Ministerial Dialogue on science diplomacy, as part of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, aims to advance international dialogue on creating a new global framework for science diplomacy that addresses the current needs of society.

The dialogue aims to foster a high-level commitment to science diplomacy as an instrument for promoting dialogue and peace; explore innovative science diplomacy initiatives through exchanges between ministers, scientists, diplomats, and experts to contribute to peacebuilding and human rights protection; agree on a common framework to advance shared goals through science diplomacy; and highlight ongoing initiatives and opportunities in science diplomacy.



Roselle harvest underway in southwestern Iran

Harvesting of roselle, commonly known as hibiscus or sour tea, has begun in Karun County, southwestern Khuzestan Province.

The plant is known for its deep red calyces, which are widely used to prepare herbal tea, refreshing beverages, and food products.

Rich in antioxidants, roselle may help lower blood pressure in some people. Its distinctive sour flavor and potential health benefits have made it a popular ingredient in traditional drinks and herbal infusions.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you are greeted then return the greetings more warmly. If you are favored, then repay the obligation manifold; but he who takes the initiative will always excel in merit.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:34 Dawn: 4:57 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:21 (tomorrow)

Iranian doc 'Ameneh's Golden Blood' screened simultaneously in Toronto, Tehran



TEHRAN- Iranian writer and filmmaker Habib Ahmadzadeh's documentary "Ameneh's Golden Blood" was screened simultaneously at York University in Toronto, Canada and Tehran's Tarikh Café on Friday, October 23, bringing audiences in the two countries together to explore a story of medical urgency, human solidarity and the search for an exceptionally rare blood type.

The screening at York University was organized at the invitation of Claudia Chauhan, a professor at the university's School of Health Policy and Management. The event was held in person and online for faculty members and students, followed by a 90-minute question-and-answer session with Ahmadzadeh.

The documentary follows Ameneh, a young girl from the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr, whose urgent need for an extremely rare blood type triggers an international search for a potentially life-saving transfusion.

The screening and discussion were organized by York University's West Asia Research Cluster, with the event also examining the human consequences of sanctions and their effects on healthcare and medical decisions.

Meanwhile, the documentary was screened for Iranian audiences at Tehran's Tarikh Café. The program was hosted by documentary filmmaker and Iranian history researcher Hossein Dehbashi, with film critic Abbas Yari also in attendance. A discussion with Ahmadzadeh fol-

lowed the screening.

The film recounts the efforts of physician Mostafa Moqaddam to find compatible blood for Ameneh, whose blood type is identified in the documentary as Rh-null, an exceptionally rare type sometimes referred to as "golden blood." The search highlights the importance of international cooperation and the challenges medical professionals face when a patient requires a blood type available from only a handful of known donors worldwide.

Through a suspenseful cinematic narrative, Ahmadzadeh's documentary presents the medical complexities of the case alongside the efforts of people and organizations working across national borders to locate the needed blood.

The film has been prepared with subtitles in 55 languages, according to information released by its organizers, with the aim of raising public awareness about rare blood types and making the story accessible to international audiences. It is also available to watch free of charge on the Iranian video-sharing platform Aparat.

The York University screening forms part of the documentary's international outreach, using a personal medical story to encourage discussion about healthcare, access to treatment and the role of international solidarity in life-threatening situations

Cartoon of Day



Israeli Election
Cartoonist: Mohammad Sabaaneh from Palestine

Iran participating in 69th Belgrade International Book Fair

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran is participating in the 69th Belgrade International Book Fair, which kicked off in the Serbian capital on October 23.

With the joint participation of Iran's Cultural Attaché office in Serbia and the cooperation of the Iran Book and Literature House, the Islamic Republic of Iran is presenting over 100 titles at the book fair. The event is taking place from October 23 to 31, at the Belgrade Fairgrounds, Mehr reported.

Among the highlights at the Iranian pavilion is the introduction of the book "Persian Tales" translated into Serbian, aimed at familiarizing Serbian audiences with Iranian stories and literary heritage. Additionally, the new issue of Noor magazine was unveiled to introduce Iranian cultural and literary content to Serbian audiences. These programs emphasize the importance of presenting Iranian works through international translation and publication, and leveraging book events to expand cultural diplomacy.

Hosting literary sessions, conversations with authors, introducing and unveiling newly published works, and special programs for children's and young adult literature are among



the events planned for this year's exhibition. Other key focuses of the event include introducing the literature of participating countries and expanding relations among publishers, translators, and readers.

The Belgrade International Book Fair is one of the premier publishing and literature gatherings in Southeast Europe, hosting publishers, authors, translators, researchers, and book enthusiasts from various countries.

With a history spanning sev-

eral decades, the exhibition provides an opportunity to introduce new works, exchange experiences among publishing industry professionals, and develop international cooperation. Topics such as translation rights, developments in publishing, and the role of literature in connecting cultures are also highlighted during the event.

Held under the slogan "Words Build Worlds," the 69th International Belgrade Book Fair brings together numerous publishers and authors, offering a rich pro-

gram of events, book presentations and special discounts.

The fair features 300 direct exhibitors from Serbia and 14 other countries, with Tunisia as the guest of honor.

Following Iran's presence in previous editions of the Belgrade exhibition, this participation provides an opportunity to introduce the works of Iranian authors, expand connections with publishing activists, and strengthen cultural interactions between the two countries.

'Yellow Letters' goes on screen at Tehran cultural center

TEHRAN- German-Turkish filmmaker İlker Çatak's 2026 political drama "Yellow Letters" went on screen at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday.

Film critic Kourosh Jahed attended a screening of the film followed by a review session.

"Yellow Letters" won the Golden Bear at the 76th Berlin International Film Festival in February 2026, bringing international attention to a story about political persecution, artistic freedom and the personal cost of dissent.

The film, which premiered in the festival's main competition, follows Derya Tufan, played by Özgü Namal, and Aziz Tufan, portrayed by Tansu Biçer, a married couple of Turkish theater artists whose lives take a dramatic turn after they lose their jobs following the premiere of their play.

As professional opportunities disappear, the couple must confront the consequences of political pressure while trying to preserve their relationship and protect their family. Their marriage begins to unravel as the loss of their livelihoods exposes differences in how they respond to the circumstances surrounding them.

Çatak directed the film and co-wrote its screenplay with Ayda Çatak and Enis Köstepen. The cast also includes Leyla Sımyrna Ca-

bas, İpek Bilgin, Aydın Işık, Aziz Çapkurt and Yusuf Akgün.

An international co-production of Germany, France and Turkey, "Yellow Letters" was developed over several years with support from European film institutions. The project received a €10,000 grant from the German-Turkish Co-Production Development Fund in 2021 and participated in the Berlinale Co-Production Market in February 2022.

In November 2022, the project received €65,000 in funding from MOIN Filmförderung, the film funding organization for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein. Eurimages, the Council of Europe's fund supporting independent European cinema, awarded the production a further €368,000 in November 2023. International sales were handled by Be For Films.

Principal photography took place in Hamburg and Berlin, which served as stand-ins for the Turkish cities of Ankara and Istanbul. Filming wrapped in July 2024. One of the locations was the Berliner Ensemble's main auditorium, where a scene involving approximately 250 extras was filmed.

Following its Berlin premiere, the film was released theatrically in Germany by Alamode Film on March 5, 2026. It was also selected for the Horizons section of the 60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, where it

screened from July 3 to 7. The production was subsequently included in the official selection of the 71st Valladolid International Film Festival for its Spanish premiere.

The Golden Bear was not the film's only recognition in Germany. It also won the Prize of the Guild of German Arthouse Cinemas. At the 2026 German Film Awards, "Yellow Letters" received nominations for Best Fiction Film, Best Director for Çatak, Best Screenplay for Çatak, Ayda Meryem Çatak and Köstepen, Best Actress for Namal, Best Actor for Biçer, Best Cinematography for Judith Kaufmann, Best Editing for Gesa Jäger and Best Production Design for Zazie Knepper. Marvin Miller won the award for Best Original Score.

The film received generally favorable reviews from critics. Its reception reflects the continuing interest in political dramas that explore how restrictions on freedom of expression affect not only public life but also the private relationships and everyday decisions of those caught in their consequences.

Through the story of two theater professionals confronting the loss of their careers, "Yellow Letters" examines the intersection of political pressure, artistic expression and family life. Its international production and festival journey have helped bring these themes to audiences beyond Turkey and Germany.

Art exhibition in Venice displays current state of Gaza



A Palestinian-created art installation that captures the current state of Gaza.

stewardship of Palestine Museum and the new home of the PHT, chronicles the events of over two years of genocide in Gaza between 2023-2025 through.

At the heart of the tapestry lies tatreez, a centuries-old Palestinian embroidery tradition, which UNESCO added to its Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2021. The art of tatreez, once used to adorn wedding dresses, celebrate life and express tenderness and color, is now recording mass graves,

ruins and starvation.

This powerful exhibition has been curated by Faisal Saleh, Jehan Alfara, Jan Chalmers, and Ibrahim Muhtadi.

October 7th, 2023, a war of injustice and cruelty. A genocide of innocent Palestinians and civilians, bombed and murdered. These cruel realities have been photographed, taking inspiration from the subjects sewn onto the fabric. These stories have been specifically assembled through

embroidered panels.

The needlework is impeccable, representing what it looks like standing in front of a slightly pixelated image.

Red thread carefully sewn to represent the bullet wounds and drips of blood from a bulletproof vest worn by over 210 journalists who have been targeted inside Gaza. Israel has killed more journalists than any nation on record, with 2025 marking the deadliest year ever documented for media workers globally.

Israel's military campaign in Gaza since October 2023 has killed more than 74,000 Palestinians and injured over 175,000 others, while causing widespread destruction affecting approximately 90% of civilian infrastructure.

According to the latest figures from Gaza's Health Ministry, Israeli violations of the ceasefire, since last October, have killed 1,534 Palestinians and injured 5,486 others.

The "Gaza – No Words – See the Exhibit" exhibition will run through November 22.