

Lula defeats pro-Israel Bolsonaro, dealing Trump a major Latin American blow

TEHRAN — Brazilians re-elected Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Sunday, October 25, giving the 80-year-old leftist a fourth term and the Trump administration its most consequential defeat in the Western Hemisphere.

Lula took 51.8 percent to Senator Flávio Bolsonaro's 48.2, a lead of more than 4 million votes, three weeks after trailing by 2.2 million. No one had ever won Brazil's presidency after finishing second in the first round.

The result ends a run of seven straight right-wing presidential wins in Latin America over 18 months. Brazil was supposed to be the prize that completed the set. ▶ Page 5

Who is the Hebrew-speaking 'fox applying for the henhouse guard job?'

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Having spent years whitewashing Abu Dhabi's submission to Israeli interests, Lana Nusseibeh is now being promoted by her handlers to run the United Nations.

Nominated on Oct. 21, the 48-year-old minister of state is the newest and most contested entrant in the race to succeed António Guterres, and the objections started within hours.

Nusseibeh was born in 1978 into a family in al-Quds (Jerusalem). Her grandfather Anwar sat in Jordanian governments, her father Zaki advises the UAE's rulers, and her uncle Sari is a philosophy professor. ▶ Page 5

Milan event commemorates child victims of Gorla, Minab and Gaza

TEHRAN- Italian artists and activists have commemorated children killed in wars in the country's Gorla district, Iran's Minab and the Gaza Strip, marking the 82nd anniversary of the bombing of an elementary school in Milan during World War II.

The commemorations took place on October 20, the anniversary of the 1944 Gorla massacre, which claimed the lives of 184 children and 19 school staff members when an Allied air raid struck the Francesco Crispi elementary school in northern Milan.

This year's anniversary carries additional significance following the Italian parliament's approval of a law establishing October 20 as a national day of remembrance for the child victims of the Gorla massacre and children killed in all wars. ▶ Page 8



Leader to elites:

Profound, Accelerated Scientific Surge Must Build Strong Iran

'A strong Iran depends on scientific and technological power, and this core pillar is one of the most important factors for shaping Iran's role in the emerging global equations and the new world order.'

TEHRAN — A ceremony honoring dozens of scientific and sports medal-winners, titled "Medal-Avaran-e Keshvar-Doost", was held at the martyrdom site of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in central Tehran, where a message by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, was read out.

On the days coinciding with the martyrdom anniversary of Lady Fatima Zahra (pbuh), Ayatollah Sayyid Mojtaba Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, issued a message addressed to Iran's elites, as well as its scientific and sports medalists, on Oct. 26.

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, the Leader said that according to one of the narrations, these days coincide with the martyrdom anniversary of the Master and Lady of the women of Paradise, Lady Siddiqah Tahira, Fatimah Zahra (pbuh). It's remarkable that the exact time of her martyrdom remains unknown, just as the honorable resting place of that divine light is still hidden.

He described her as an exemplary figure in worship, servitude and devotion to God, as a supreme example in uniquely close companionship with the Noble Prophet (pbuh), and as a valiant defender of the Wilayah of the Commander of the Faithful. She

was a paragon in acquiring and imparting knowledge, in situational astuteness and rising up for the truth, in patience, sacrifice, selflessness, and compassion for others, and as wife and mother in raising the line of the Infallible Imams (pbuh). In one word, he said, she's a role model for all believing men and women.

Iran, a manifestation of determination and hope

The Leader said that among the shining virtues of a society based on the example of Lady Fatimah (pbuh) is that it lays out a roadmap for the revolutionary, Muslim nation of Iran for undertaking great social movements, being present in the fields of struggle and jihad, participating in popular movements, and even aspiring to achieve progress in the sciences and serve others with humility without expecting anything in return. ▶ Page 3

Iran says Europe has yet to offer concrete proposal for negotiations

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said on Monday that Tehran had received no concrete proposal from European countries for negotiations, questioning whether recent European calls for diplomacy reflected a genuine change in policy.

Speaking at his weekly press conference in Tehran, Baqaei described the statements as potentially no more than a political gesture, criticizing France, Germany and the United Kingdom for failing to explicitly condemn the US-Israeli military aggression against Iran over the past two years. ▶ Page 3

leader stresses public trust, swift action against corruption

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei has emphasized the need for sincere public service, stronger public trust in government institutions, and decisive legal action against corruption, Judiciary Chief Hojjatoleslam Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said.

Speaking about his meeting with the Leader, Mohseni Ejei said Ayatollah Khamenei was well-informed about a broad range of issues and received information through multiple channels rather than relying on a single source. ▶ Page 3

Pakistani Mustafa Prize laureate explores nanotechnology in fight against breast cancer

TEHRAN — Nanotechnology is opening new avenues for breast cancer treatment by improving drug delivery, overcoming resistance to chemotherapy, and reducing damage to healthy cells. Pakistani medicinal chemist Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, a 2021 Mustafa Prize laureate, is among the researchers exploring how advanced drug-delivery systems can make cancer therapies more precise and effective.

Breast cancer remains a major global health challenge, with patients often facing recurrence, drug resistance, and severe treatment-related side effects. Conventional chemotherapy targets rapidly dividing cells but can also damage healthy tissues, including hair follicles, the gastrointestinal lining, and bone marrow. Meanwhile, cancer cells can develop multidrug resistance (MDR) by activating molecular pumps that expel drugs before they can take effect. ▶ Page 7

Pezeshkian to Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi officials: Iran seeks cooperation, will defend rights



▶ Page 2

'The Iranian people will neither compromise nor surrender'

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN — Military attacks and economic pressure will not force Iran into submission, says former foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki, who argues that Washington has failed to translate its superior resources into its desired outcomes.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Mottaki, now a lawmaker and member of Parliament's Economic Committee, discusses the country's wartime governance, its response to renewed sanctions and its diplomatic efforts at recent Inter-Parliamentary Union assemblies. He acknowledges the economic hardships facing Iranians but maintains that public grievances should not be mistaken for a willingness to yield to foreign pressure.

Mottaki also assesses the potential consequences of the upcoming U.S. congressional elections and how the Trump administration's failed war against Iran could shape the president's political future. ▶ Page 2



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

Oil at \$117 exposes Trump's illusion

In its analysis, Kayhan discussed Iran's position on international affairs and its influence over key strategic and economic routes. According to the newspaper, oil prices reaching \$117 per barrel sends a clear message to policymakers in Washington and Tel Aviv: Iran has the ability to influence major economic and vital waterways, making the threats issued by Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu increasingly difficult to carry out. Netanyahu continues to speak of the possibility of toppling Iran's government, while Trump still claims he can bring the Iran issue to an end. Such statements, the article argued, are driven less by realities on the ground than by domestic pressures, political rivalry, and internal challenges. It concluded that Iran would not remain passive in any future confrontation but would seek to reshape the balance of power in its favor through new military capabilities and strategic doctrines.

Shargh: Waiting and maintaining readiness

Shargh examined how electoral considerations in Israel and the United States may influence the policies of Netanyahu and Trump toward Iran. Citing university professor Ali Asghar Zargar, the newspaper argued that upcoming elections have not yet reached a stage where they can be regarded as the decisive factor in determining whether conflict with Iran could resume. According to Zargar, Tehran is pursuing a strategy of buying time while preserving its readiness and strategic capabilities. Iranian policymakers are monitoring developments closely and intend to adjust their decisions according to future circumstances. Zargar noted that Iran is not currently in a position to launch preemptive military action against either Israel or the United States. Moreover, such action could bring serious regional and international consequences. It might also encourage regional actors and Washington to adopt tougher positions and continue pressure on Iran. As a result, he believes that Iran's current circumstances leave little alternative but to maintain a policy centered on patience, caution, and preparedness while awaiting further developments.

Khorasan: Elections under the shadow of war

Khorasan reviewed developments taking place ahead of elections in Israel and their possible connection to regional tensions. The newspaper argued that several indicators, including a notable rise in oil prices, a decline in global gold prices, the departure of some American diplomats from regional countries, and security reports published by US media outlets, could be interpreted as signs of an approaching conflict. At the same time, even if war does not occur, the effort to create a more security-focused atmosphere may itself serve

political objectives. According to the analysis, Washington's actions could be intended both to influence Iran's calculations and to help Netanyahu politically. Concerns about security may encourage Israeli voters to support Netanyahu's continued leadership. It further suggested that even if confrontation does not emerge before the election, the possibility remains afterward. In that scenario, Netanyahu may continue emphasizing security threats in order to strengthen his position, preserve his government, and manage political challenges from rival coalitions and opposition groups.

Resalat: Iran counts down to revenge

In an opinion piece, Resalat explored the contrasting views of Iran and its enemies regarding the possibility of military action. Iran's adversaries believe an attack could weaken Tehran's influence and restore conditions in strategic waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz. However, Iran views the prospect of such an attack very differently, seeing it as an opportunity to retaliate. According to Resalat, those considering action against Iran seek to weaken the country's determination and reduce its impact on global markets. Yet the paper argued that Iran remains committed to responding forcefully if attacked. It portrayed Iran not simply as a geographical territory but as a historical force shaped by centuries of conflict, foreign pressure, occupation, and political challenges. The article concluded that this experience has repeatedly enabled the country to emerge from crises with a renewed capacity for resistance and endurance.

Arman-e-Melli: Proposal to leave NPT will favor US

Arman-e-Melli addressed proposals by some domestic hardliners calling for Iran to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). According to the newspaper, advocates of withdrawal have promoted the idea for years, including before the recent conflict, without fully considering the consequences it could create. The article argued that Iran's continued membership in the NPT has complicated Washington's efforts to build a broad international consensus against Tehran. It added that the United States has already faced criticism regarding its policies and actions toward Iran. In this context, leaving the treaty could increase pressure on Iran and narrow its diplomatic options. The newspaper argued that such a move could prove particularly costly at a time when the country is already facing multiple political, economic, and international challenges. It concluded that any decision regarding withdrawal from the NPT should be based on a careful assessment of the likely costs, risks, and long-term consequences rather than short-term political considerations.

in New Delhi.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the two sides to exchange views ahead of the parliamentary gathering.

The delegation arrived in the Indian capital on Sunday evening and was welcomed by Iranian Ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali and Indian parliamentarians Ghulam Ali Khatana and Yusuf Pathan.

The delegation is also scheduled to hold meetings with other parliamentary delegations attending the event.

Parliamentary cooperation within BRICS

The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum brings together lawmakers from member countries to discuss the role of parliaments in advancing inclusive, people-centered development and strengthening parliamentary cooperation.

For Iran, participation in the forum also provides an opportunity to promote a more balanced international order and oppose unilateralism, in line with the slogan adopted by its delegation.

BRICS comprises 11 members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Argentina.

Pezeshkian to Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi officials: Iran seeks cooperation, will defend rights

TEHRAN – Senior officials from Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia — the three countries that recently signed the Mecca defense pact — traveled to Tehran on Monday for talks with Iranian leaders.

Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman, Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin met with President Masoud Pezeshkian and with Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei.

Speaking at a joint meeting with the three visiting officials, President Pezeshkian welcomed dialogue among Islamic countries and stressed the failure of enemies to achieve their objectives against Iran.

"They imagined they could bring the Islamic Republic of Iran to collapse through pressure and aggression; but the result of these actions was the strengthening of internal unity and cohesion and increased solidarity of the Iranian nation," Pezeshkian said.

"Our people, despite the imposed losses and hardships, defended their land with power and steadfastness. The notion that the Iranian nation can be forced into surrender is a false and void notion," he added.

The president said the Islamic Republic of Iran pursues its legal rights within the principles and rules of international law, and relying on those very principles, will firmly defend the legitimate rights and interests of the Iranian nation.

Call for united front against Israel

Pezeshkian expressed hope that the presence of major and influential Islamic countries could play an effective role in strengthening regional stability and unity.

"We should not allow the Zionist regime to commit terror and aggression against any individual or country whenever it wishes. I am confident that if Islamic countries stand together and adopt a coordinated position, such actions cannot be repeated," he said.

"I believe that if we manage our



differences and emphasize commonalities and shared interests instead of focusing on divisive issues, we can overcome regional problems more easily and effectively," he added.

He warned against interventionist and divisive policies, saying one of the objectives pursued in the policies of the US and the Zionist regime is to weaken regional countries, create rifts among Muslim nations and gradually weaken major Islamic states.

"We must, by strengthening mutual cooperation and supporting one another, prevent the realization of such objectives and not allow regional countries to be exposed separately to pressure and threats," Pezeshkian said.

He added that Islamic countries should move to meet each other's needs through constructive engagement, economic cooperation and the use of mutual capacities. "The notion that nations can be forced into surrender through pressure and sanctions is a void notion. The deeper and broader cooperation among regional countries becomes, the greater their ability to manage problems and confront external pressures will be."

Pezeshkian stressed that Iran, relying on domestic efforts, the support of the nation and the guidance of the Leader, will successfully pass through difficulties, adding that Islamic countries must understand the interconnectedness of their security and interests. Weakening any major

regional country, he said, could pave the way for increased pressure and threats against other Islamic countries as well.

From words to joint action

Emphasizing the need for consistency between words and deeds in regional relations, Pezeshkian said: "We should not say what we do not believe in or fail to uphold in practice. We must, hand in hand, provide the ground for flourishing the region's scientific, economic, cultural, political and security capacities; develop communication routes, facilitate travel, turn borders into opportunities for cooperation and link the universities, scientific centers, traders and merchants of Islamic countries to one another."

He said expanding multilateral cooperation lays the ground for sustainable security, noting: "When science, culture, trade and economy cross borders and communications among nations expand, the ground for the spread of terrorism and insecurity will disappear. Therefore, strengthening scientific, cultural and economic bonds not only helps the development and welfare of nations, but is one of the most effective ways to consolidate collective security in the region."

Pezeshkian said any understanding reached in such meetings that leads to stronger regional unity, cohesion and cooperation will enjoy Iran's serious and all-out support, adding that focus must be placed on common ground and areas of cooperation

and differences must not be allowed to hinder shared interests.

Nuclear rights and double standards

In another part of his remarks, Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's principled position on nuclear activities, saying the Islamic Republic is not seeking nuclear weapons and, as a member of the NPT, wants to continue its nuclear activities within the framework of international rights and obligations.

"Iran accordingly reserves the right to benefit from peaceful nuclear activities and expects these rights to be respected within the framework of international regulations," he said.

He criticized dual approaches toward Iran, saying: "Using the nuclear issue as a pretext for exerting pressure, threats, attacks on nuclear facilities, and claiming readiness for talks and dialogue simultaneously with attacking Iran is a contradictory and unconstructive approach that has undermined public trust and increased distrust among Iranian officials and people."

Pezeshkian said Islamic countries must, by strengthening their interactions and coordination, not allow such approaches to become a routine for dealing with regional nations. Safeguarding nations' rights, respecting countries' sovereignty, countering aggression and strengthening regional cooperation require common will and coordinated action, he added.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is also ready, relying on religious commonalities, mutual interests and respect for nations' rights, to expand its cooperation with Islamic countries in this path," he said.

The officials of the three neighboring countries also held separate meetings with SNSC Secretary Mohsen Rezaei. At the end of the meetings, the four countries issued a joint press statement, stressing: "The participants agreed to continue talks to strengthen cooperation among the four regional countries, including in the field of peace and security in the region."

'The Iranian people will neither compromise nor surrender'

Lawmaker and former FM tells Tehran Times that Iran's resistance has exposed limits of US military power; sanctions and political influence

From page 1 ► The following is the text of the interview:

Could you please elaborate on the activities of the Parliament since the beginning of the 40-day war? Did the security threats from the United States and Israel against the lives of the representatives lead to any temporary suspensions of parliamentary functions?

War inherently carries specific consequences. The aggressors in these two wars imposed upon us have shown no regard for international law or human rights, as evidenced by their targeting of innocent civilians—children, women, and athletes—alongside their conflict with our military forces. They have created an ugly reality in this American-Zionist war. It is only natural that when they are committed to sowing fear and terror—striking schools, seminaries, and civilian areas like Lamerd and Koushk, or attacking weddings and funerals—they would also attempt to assassinate officials of the Islamic Republic whenever possible, as their terrorist acts have clearly demonstrated.

Consequently, yes, measures were taken within Iran to mitigate the fallout from the enemy's actions. For example, government cabinet meetings, parliamentary sessions, and other official state gatherings were not held in their traditional, established locations. We, as representatives, continued to

carry out our committee work and oversight duties, but we suspended open parliamentary sessions due to these specific threats. Cabinet meetings were still held, but not at the presidential office.

However, while these security measures were necessary, they did not disrupt the administration of the country. As you have observed throughout the past year and a half of the war, despite the inevitable pressures—particularly regarding food and basic supplies, which are usually the first sectors to suffer—there has never been a shortage of goods in the market or a lack of food for our people. This success demonstrates that the government, drawing on the experience of the eight-year [Iran-Iraq] war, had a firm grasp on wartime management and successfully adapted to the circumstances. Thus, while we faced significant difficulties, these challenges were unable to disrupt the cycle of governance, notwithstanding the damage inflicted upon our people and our nation.

In recent months, you have participated in international forums several times as the head of the Iranian parliamentary delegation. What was the reaction of foreign representatives during these trips? Has their perspective on Iran changed?

The two recent assemblies where I and several other rep-



resentatives attended were held in March in Istanbul, and in early October in Arusha, Tanzania, for the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference, which typically convenes twice a year. Part of our work in these assemblies involves dividing ourselves among the working committees—numbering three, four, or five, such as the Committee on International Peace and Security, the Committee on Women, the Committee on Youth, the Committee on Environment, and the Committee on United Nations Affairs—where we present our positions on various thematic issues.

Another key component is the General Assembly, where countries can propose emergency items. In Istanbul, three emergency items were proposed, while in Arusha, four were brought forward. Naturally, the Assembly must vote on which topic becomes the official emer-

gency item for debate, resolution, and final decision.

One point of particular significance to us was the maneuver carried out by Bahrain at both the Istanbul and Tanzania conferences. Bahrain was essentially a party to the war, having allowed U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf for 40 years—dedicating 135,000 square meters of its small territory to the Americans to do as they pleased, alongside hosting the U.S. Fifth Fleet. However, the war resulted in the disruption and closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which had been open prior to the aggression of these very countries. We have consistently sought to remove these obstacles and restore conditions so that the Strait can be safely utilized for international shipping, tankers, and vessels, in accordance with established regulations and Iran's rightful regional role.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian delegation attends opening of BRICS parliamentary forum in India

TEHRAN – An Iranian parliamentary delegation attended the opening ceremony of the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in New Delhi on Monday, October 26, as lawmakers prepared to engage with their counterparts from member countries on people-centered development and the evolving international order.

The delegation comprises Ahmad Naderi, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Presiding Board; Abbas Moqtadaei, head of the Iran-India Parliamentary Friendship Group; and Ali Haddadi, deputy head of the group.

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, speaker of the Iranian Parliament, had been scheduled to lead the delegation but decided not to travel to New Delhi.

The forum, being held on October 26–27, is convened under the theme "Fostering Parliaments for People-Centric Development." The Iranian delegation is participating under the slogan "Iranian Strength, a New International Order, and Countering Unilateralism."

Talks with India's parliamentary leadership

Ahead of the forum's opening, the Iranian lawmakers met with Om Birla, speaker of India's Lok Sabha, on Monday morning, according to a report by the Iranian Embassy

Profound, accelerated scientific surge must build strong Iran



From Page 1 ► At this point in time, our beloved Iran is a manifestation of determination and hope more than anything else, he said, stressing that the role of Iran's elite and its talented, capable young people in fostering this hope and setting the country on the path toward a bright future is unparalleled. Excellence, he added, is not confined to science, technology and sports. Any positive distinction can be a mark of excellence, now seen in those who strive to elevate the sacred flag of their homeland.

"They are the elite in insight and jihad," he said. "We consider figures like Rizali Khajavi and Ali Landi to be among the distinguished elite, and their names deserve to be inscribed above the entrances of cultural institutions." Martyrs and self-sacrificing individuals who offered their lives and health, he added, have left an extraordinary mark on the fate of Islamic Iran and have received from the One God the medal of servitude to Him.

Congratulations to medal-bringers of Olympiads and sports

The Leader congratulated the nation and all those who brought honors, numerous awards, medals and scientific awards in the Olympiads in astronomy and astrophysics, mathematics, earth sciences, geography, physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, artificial intelligence, and the humanities, as well as many recent achievements in sports.

He expressed admiration for the determination of those leading the caravan of honor and hope, the standard-bearers of progress, from adolescents and young people to coaches, professors and eminent scholars. The motivation and hope of elites to bring about changes, he said, is a bright flame witnessed over many years and decades, whose manifestation in repeated annual championships in Olympiads and sports is a source of honor and pride for the entire nation.

He said the outstanding results and new records of hard-working athletes attest to their effort, determination, resolve, and faith, elevating dear Iran be-

fore the eyes of all nations. He praised the female athletes who make the honorable symbol of the Iranian women's attire shine before the world, and all medalists who bring joy to the nation and honor to the flag of Islamic Iran, each playing a vital role in realizing the vision of a strong Iran.

Elite status as divine blessing and heavier responsibility

Noting that these are days marked by cheerfulness and renewed focus on science and research in universities, hawzas and schools, the Leader addressed seekers of knowledge, elites and scholars.

"Being among the elite is a divine blessing and gift," he said. At its core are talent and intellectual ability, a profound divine gift and immense wealth that Iranians, particularly youth, possess in abundance. Reason and servitude require gratitude in heart, words and actions, which opens the way for that blessing to reach its full potential.

Appreciation, he said, must begin with the individual and be cultivated by parents, teachers, schools, universities and the national system. An elite individual thus bears a heavier responsibility to apply talent optimally to resolve the country's challenges. The distinguished elite, he added, aren't people who regard themselves as set apart and think only of personal desires, but those who see themselves as effective members of society and use talent for the advancement of self and society.

From knowledge to daily life and defense power

The Leader said Iranian elites have shown knowledge can be turned into tools for real problems, from stem cell research, nanotechnology and biotechnology to aerospace, industry, mining, medicine, agriculture, nuclear energy and infrastructure.

Visible manifestations, he said, include electricity generated by Iranian turbines, knowledge-based technology in desalination plants on southern islands, agricultural drones over northern farms and rice paddies,



children born to infertile couples through Royan's advanced technologies, diagnosis and treatment with radiopharmaceuticals, monitoring of land and crops with remote-sensing satellites, and gains in productivity and food security. Furthermore, he added, many other achievements, particularly in the defense and military sectors, have repeatedly astounded the world in their time and will continue to do so in the future.

Strong Iran depends on science; enemy targets elites

"A strong Iran depends on scientific and technological power, and this core pillar is one of the most important factors for shaping Iran's role in the emerging global equations and the new world order," the Leader said. The key to empowerment lies in pushing boundaries of knowledge and solving scientific challenges.

He said the malice and criminal actions of enemies against Iranian scientists prove this pivotal role. The same enemy that assassinated prominent scientists and elites during the Second and Third Imposed Wars – and in academic settings years prior – cannot bear to see Iran advance. It seeks to spread hopelessness, capture minds, draw talents into neo-colonialism and turn them into cogs in Western plunder, he said. Yet every drop of blood shed from martyred elite, scientists, professors, students and schoolchildren has unleashed a storm of determination and progress.

Recalling ancient civilization and luminaries, contrasted with two centuries of stagnation in Qajar and Pahlavi eras, he said the nation recognizes the strategy of "Knowledge is Power" (Al-'ilm sultan) and rapid growth over three decades, largely indebted to the guidance of our illustrious martyred Leader. If before a new surge had to be urged, the experience of two recent wars has proven it must now be both profound and accelerated.

Five priorities to shift center of knowledge to Iran

To that end, the Leader said, elites alongside officials must

devote themselves to building a glorious future, keeping five points in mind:

First, a serious, practical plan for basic sciences and humanities, as physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics are the foundation of all sciences. Second, sustained attention to undiscovered truths, pushing boundaries and racing to solve famous unsolved problems, particularly in mathematics. Third, creativity and innovation through scientific courage, self-confidence and attractive incentives for practical solutions. Fourth, self-reliance in solving challenges and removing bottlenecks for transnational engagement. Fifth, developing talents in experimental disciplines through industry-university cooperation from early years, knowledge-based enterprises, and linking elites, universities, companies, industries and startups with government support across the chain from knowledge to consumption, focusing on water, soil, food, energy and artificial intelligence.

Rapid advancement, he said, requires harmonizing economic incentives and commercialization with elite motivation, linking research, industry and markets, and direct participation of elites from universities and seminars in planning and policymaking.

If pursued, he said, the center of gravity of knowledge will gradually shift from Western countries to Iran, Iran will emerge as a leading authority, and the martyred Leader's objective of establishing Persian as one of the world's primary scientific languages will be realized.

"God willing, by the blessing of the blood of the martyrs who were elite scholars, and through the benevolent prayers of our Master and Mawla [Imam Mahdi, may God hasten his noble reappearance], a profound, accelerated advancement in the sciences by the nation's elite and distinguished scholars, together with the comprehensive advancement of an ever-stronger Iran, will pave the way toward the realization of a New Islamic-Iranian Civilization."

Leader stresses public trust, swift action against corruption

From Page 1 ► The two also reviewed the powers previously delegated to the heads of Iran's three branches of government to determine whether those authorities remain in effect.

Mohseni Ejei said the Leader placed particular emphasis on serving the public sincerely, addressing the needs of all segments of society, resolving people's problems and taking practical steps to strengthen public confidence in the government.

Ayatollah Khamenei also stressed the importance of dealing swiftly and comprehensively with corruption cases and with individuals whose actions, whether deliberate or unintentional, place additional pressure on the economy and people's livelihoods.

Such cases, Mohseni Ejei said, must be handled in accordance with the law and without discrimination.

The Leader further underscored the need to prevent even the slightest form of corruption from taking root within government institutions.

According to Mohseni Ejei, Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that problems that can be corrected must be rectified, while cases that cannot be resolved through corrective measures require firm action.

The remarks highlight the emphasis placed on accountability, the protection of people's livelihoods, and the strengthening of public trust as key priorities for the country's judiciary and government institutions.

Top council's war reconstruction directive notified to 7 executive bodies

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization has notified the directive of the Supreme Council for Economic Coordination of the heads of the three branches on the reconstruction of war-damaged sectors to seven executive bodies.

According to the notification issued by Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi on Oct. 21, the directive was issued following the president's letter of July 28 (6 Mordad) on taking necessary measures to implement approvals related to the reconstruction of sectors damaged by the imposed war and emergency economic decisions.

The notification refers to the Oct. 4 session of the Supreme Council for Economic Coordination of the heads of the three branches regarding the reconstruction of war damages, which has been approved and endorsed by the heads of the three branches.

The recipients of the notification are the



Ministries of Economic Affairs and Finance; Industry, Mine and Trade; Agriculture; Communications and Information Technology; Roads and Urban Development; the Supreme Council of Free Trade-Industrial and Special Economic Zones; and the Securities and Exchange Organization.

Tehran designates emergency shelters across capital for wartime conditions

TEHRAN – Tehran Municipality spokesman has announced that specific locations across the capital have been designated as emergency shelters for use in wartime conditions.

Abdolmotahar Mohammadkhani, the spokesman, said on Monday morning that the municipality is pursuing both emergency measures and long-term plans to provide sheltering capacity in line with the current situation.

"Tehran Municipality is pursuing emergency actions and long-term programs to provide shelter capacities in accordance with the existing conditions," Mohammadkhani said, referring to the urban management's efforts to secure shelter spaces.

He added: "In the short-term section, Tehran's Crisis Management Organization has identified a number of metro stations, commercial complexes, schools and government

buildings for use in emergency situations. The available capacities in different districts and neighborhoods have also been reviewed and their locations have been marked on the map."

Pointing to the municipality's long-term plans, Mohammadkhani said the construction of multi-purpose subsurface structures is among the programs to be pursued in the coming years. These spaces, in addition to being usable in critical conditions, will also have applications in normal times, with parts of them usable as underground commercial and office complexes.

Referring to Tehran's comprehensive subsurface plan, he added that building multi-purpose spaces requires time, and it is not possible to construct structures solely for wartime use in proportion to Tehran's population, which is why the use of multi-purpose capacities has been put on the agenda.

Iran says Europe has yet to offer concrete proposal for negotiations

From Page 1 ► He also criticized Europe's role in efforts to reinstate UN sanctions on Iran through the snapback mechanism, urging European governments to adopt a more independent and constructive approach to developments in West Asia.

Baqaei criticized the 'selective application of human rights principles' by European governments and institutions, citing police actions against protesters in France and Belgium.

He said Iran had summoned the French ambassador and, more recently, the Italian ambassador to convey its concerns over reported human rights violations during protests in Europe. He also criticized European officials for attributing domestic unrest to foreign interference rather than addressing underlying grievances.

Regarding protests in Albania, Baqaei said public opposition to corruption and the transfer of land to foreign business inter-

ests was an internal matter. He argued that allegations of foreign interference failed to address the reasons behind the demonstrations.

Iran reaffirms position on nuclear program

Addressing US allegations about Iran's nuclear program, Baqaei reiterated that Iran had never possessed or sought to acquire nuclear weapons.

Referring to former US President Barack Obama's remarks on diplomacy and Iran's nuclear program, he said Tehran had entered the 2015 nuclear agreement in good faith, while Washington withdrew from the deal three years later.

Baqaei argued that allegations about Iran's nuclear intentions had been used to justify military action, pointing to a 'contradiction between US assertions' that Iran's nuclear program had been destroyed and subsequent military threats and attacks.

He stressed that Iran remained prepared to defend itself against threats. Asked about potential threats to submarine communications cables and digital infrastructure, he said decisions on any response rested with the competent authorities and would not be disclosed in advance.

Regional diplomacy and security

Baqaei said a visit by a Qatari delegation to Tehran formed part of ongoing regional consultations on bilateral cooperation and Qatar's mediation role amid heightened tensions.

He also said the cancellation of a meeting in Salalah would not change Iran's position that regional countries should establish collective security arrangements based on their own capabilities. Tehran had advanced similar proposals at meetings in Baghdad and within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, he added.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Mourners attend the funeral procession of security-defender martyr Mohammadreza Talebi, a Basij member from Tehran, held Monday morning in front of his house. His body was laid to rest at Behesht-e Zahra cemetery. Talebi was severely wounded and fell into a coma after being attacked by rioters in Tehran's District 7 on January 9, and was martyred on Saturday after months of suffering from his injuries.

Agricultural output rises despite water cuts, reduced cultivated area

TEHRAN – Iran's agricultural production reached 137 million tons in the past crop year despite a 15 billion-cubic-meter reduction in water allocated to the sector, a deputy agriculture minister said.

Majid Anjafi, deputy agriculture minister for crop production, said cultivated areas for vegetables, summer crops and many melons and other field crops had declined, but higher productivity and yields per hectare had helped increase overall output.

He said the Ministry of Energy allocated 15 billion cubic meters less water to agriculture than planned in the previous crop year, leaving little scope to expand cultivated land with available water resources.

Of the approximately 65 billion cubic meters of water scheduled to be supplied to agriculture under official plans, only a limited amount was allocated as water available for planned use, Anjafi said.

He warned that without improvements in productivity and a shift away from traditional farming practices, the water shortfall could have reduced agricultural output by at least



30 million tons. Production could have fallen to 100 million tons from a projected 130 million tons, he said.

However, official figures showed that total agricultural production reached 137 million tons, which Anjafi described as an exceptional achievement for the country's farmers and agricultural sector.

The gains came despite reduced water availability and smaller cultivated areas for several crop categories, highlighting the role of improved yields in sustaining and increasing production.

New copper, gold mines set to begin production next year

TEHRAN – Iran's Mines and Metals Development Company has more than doubled estimated reserves across 14 mineral exploration areas, with development work at selected copper and gold deposits expected to begin next year after exploration is completed, its chief executive said.

Morteza Aliakbari said on Monday that the company had focused exploration on 14 of its original 31 mining areas after technical assessments identified greater potential for further exploration.

Direct exploration work has more than doubled the estimated reserves in those areas, he said, adding that the company was pursuing formal registration of the reserves with the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade.

The selected areas are mainly focused on copper and gold deposits. Under the company's plans, one or two mines could each support the construction of a dedicated processing plant, Aliakbari said.

He also outlined a shift in the company's investment strategy, saying it began reducing its exposure to commercial steel production in 2026, with the transition expected to continue through 2031.

Energy constraints, carbon-related costs and the prospect of lower profitability in commercial steel were among the factors behind the change, he said. Copper and gold, alongside rare earth elements and critical metals, are expected to play a greater role in

Trade flows continue despite temporary border closures, higher logistics costs

TEHRAN – Goods continue to enter Iran despite restrictions on transport routes, with shipments being redirected through alternative corridors when individual routes are disrupted, a trade official said.

Seyed Ali Emami, director general of the Trade Logistics and Support Office at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), said maritime restrictions had prompted a shift toward alternative transport routes but had not halted seaborne shipments into the country.

The level of restrictions varies according to cargo type and vessel conditions, with some ships facing tighter controls than others, Emami said.

He said importers were increasingly using multimodal transport and changes to shipping documentation, including a practice known as "switching bills of lading." Some goods are also entering Iran on smaller vessels or via rail and road networks.

Restrictions may temporarily affect land crossings with Pakistan, Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, Emami said, adding that the psychological impact of reports about border closures can sometimes exceed their

practical consequences.

A border may close for two days before operations gradually resume, he said. Such reports can trigger significant concern even when cargo movements restart after a short disruption.

Goods continue to enter Iran through various routes despite the restrictions, Emami said. When one border becomes inaccessible, shipments can be redirected through other crossings, although detours may lengthen transport distances and increase costs.

The main downside is higher logistics expenditure, he said, noting that the additional costs depend on the type of goods, country of origin and mode of transport.

Restrictions have affected road, rail and maritime transport, but they have not brought the country's commercial logistics to a complete standstill, Emami said. Shipments are continuing, although they may take longer and cost more than before.

Regarding trucks held up at border crossings, he said such delays had occurred even before the current wartime conditions, though the situation could exacerbate existing constraints.

GECF ministerial meeting opens in Moscow ahead of leaders' summit

TEHRAN – The 28th ministerial meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) opened in Moscow on Monday, bringing together representatives of member states to discuss gas market developments, energy security and ways to strengthen cooperation.

The meeting is being held a day before the forum's eighth leaders' summit, scheduled for Tuesday, with President Masoud Pezeshkian attending on behalf of Iran.

Hamid Bovard, Iran's acting oil minister, traveled to Moscow to participate in the ministerial meeting and accompany Pezeshkian at the summit.

Iran is also seeking to advance bilateral energy cooperation with Russia during the meetings. Bovard said the two countries had reached agreement on the general terms of a natural gas swap deal, with technical arrangements for implementation now nearing completion.

The agreement was discussed at a previous meeting between the Iranian and Russian presidents in Turkmenistan, Bovard said. He added that a pipeline project Russia is pursuing through Azerbaijan could enable gas exchanges between the two countries in the near future.

Cooperation in the oil sector is also continuing, with Russian companies involved in the development of four major Iranian oilfields. Bovard said the projects had made satisfactory progress



and that discussions on advancing the contracts would continue during his visit.

Iran plans to use the GECF meetings to discuss production plans, expand cooperation with member states, particularly in the gas sector, and address international developments and damage to its energy infrastructure, Bovard said.

Ahead of the ministerial meeting and summit, the GECF executive board held an extraordinary session in Moscow on Sunday, chaired by Seyed Ali-Mohammad Mousavi, Iran's deputy oil minister for international affairs and trade. The session focused on coordinating the two gatherings and finalizing key documents, in-

cluding the summit's closing declaration.

During his visit, Bovard also toured the monitoring center of Russian oil company Zarubezhneft and was briefed on its operations and technical capabilities.

He welcomed the participation of Russian companies in Iranian oil industry development projects, saying Iran's national oil and gas companies had also established a similar monitoring center to oversee operations across the country.

Zarubezhneft Chief Executive Sergei Kudryashov said the center consolidates data from the company's onshore and offshore operations, allowing production volumes and other operational

parameters at individual wells to be monitored.

The GECF has 12 full members, including Iran and Russia, and represents countries that hold about 70 percent of the world's proven natural gas reserves, account for 38 percent of global marketed gas production and supply 42 percent of global gas exports. Member countries also account for an estimated 47 percent of global liquefied natural gas exports.

The forum holds its leaders' summit every two years. Previous meetings have been hosted by Doha, Moscow, Tehran, Santa Cruz in Bolivia, Malabo in Equatorial Guinea and Algiers, which hosted the seventh summit in 2024.

Output from 3 western oilfields exceeds contractual target

TEHRAN – Daily oil production from Iran's Paydar East, Cheshmeh Khosh and Dalpari fields has risen to 127,000 barrels, exceeding the 120,000-barrel daily target set under a contract with a Russian company, the head of the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC) said on Monday.

Nasrollah Zarei said production from the three fields stood at about 41,000 barrels per day when the current administration took office, before increasing to the current level through development projects carried out with Russian companies.

The Aban and Paydar West development project is nearing completion and is expected to require about another year, Zarei said. A second, larger project covering the Chesh-

meh Khosh, Dalpari and Paydar East fields is progressing according to schedule, with about two years of work remaining.

Zarei described the Russian company's performance in implementing the projects as satisfactory, adding that plans were underway to increase production beyond contractual commitments while maintaining output levels.

He said all PEDEC projects include environmental assessments and that no work begins before the required permits are obtained. The company is also committed to environmental standards, with support from oil ministry officials helping advance compliance efforts.

Zarei said the company had also undertaken social responsibility initiatives, including

social studies conducted under two contracts with universities and the production of a film highlighting its activities.

The Cheshmeh Khosh, Dalpari and Paydar East oilfields are located in western Iran within the operating area of the West Oil and Gas Production Company. They began production in 2011.

A contract to develop the three fields was signed in February 2020 with the participation of Russian and Iranian companies and entered the implementation phase in 2020 after the necessary permits were obtained.

The project aims to increase and sustain crude oil production and improve the utilization of reservoir capacity.

Iran, Turkey explore trade opportunities, export potential



TEHRAN – Iran and Turkey should strengthen trade ties by identifying competitive Iranian export products, assessing market demand and verifying potential buyers, Iran's commercial attaché in Turkey said at a seminar on bilateral trade opportunities and challenges.

Kamran Davari Niko, Iran's commercial attaché in Istanbul, made the remarks at a seminar hosted by the Qazvin Chamber of Commerce and attended by its board members and business representatives, according to the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO).

Davari Niko said none of Turkey's border crossings with Iran had been closed, expressing hope that trade between the two countries would continue. He stressed the need to monitor developments, identify suitable

routes for maintaining trade flows and make better use of existing capacities to expand economic cooperation.

He also highlighted direct engagement and bilateral consultations as important tools for strengthening commercial relations, referring to a meeting between Qazvin Chamber of Commerce board members and Turkish counterparts in Istanbul.

The seminar examined Iranian goods with export potential in the Turkish market, as well as opportunities for imports from Turkey. Participants emphasized the importance of assessing market needs, evaluating products' competitive advantages, calculating production costs and determining profitability before entering new business sectors.

Other topics included estimating operating costs, assessing

mutual benefits, checking the commercial credibility of trading partners and understanding formal and customary contractual practices. Participants also discussed required regulations and permits, tariffs, transportation costs and payment methods as part of efforts to reduce trade risks.

Earlier in June, the representative of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Ibrahim Dogan Salman stated that in 2025, the trade between Iran and Turkey surpassed \$5.6 billion.

During a meeting with members of the Board of Directors of the Yazd Chamber of Commerce, Doghan Salman added that the preferential trade agreement implemented between the two countries in 2015 has provided a solid foundation for the development of these cooperations.

Referring to the history of economic and cultural relations between Iran and Turkey, he said: "There are deep-rooted cooperations between the two countries, and we are interested in strengthening these relations more than ever."

Dogan Salman, stating that "we are not on two sides of the Silk Road, but rather walk side by side on this road," added: "Iran and Turkey have always been neighbors throughout history and have known and understood each other. What binds the two

nations together is a shared history, culture, and civilization."

The Istanbul Chamber of Commerce representative, referring to the value of trade between the two countries, stated: "In 2025, the trade between Iran and Turkey exceeded \$5.6 billion. Furthermore, the preferential trade agreement implemented between the two countries in 2015 has provided a solid foundation for the development of these cooperations."

He cited the active presence of entrepreneurs from both countries as the most tangible sign of this bond and said: "Currently, 7,288 companies with Iranian investment are operating in Turkey, and at the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce alone, the number of companies of Iranian origin has reached 2,040."

Dogan Salman also referred to the people-to-people ties between the two countries and added: "In 2025, more than three million Iranians visited Turkey, and this statistic shows that Iran and Turkey are not merely each other's markets, but are also true partners."

The Istanbul Chamber of Commerce representative emphasized: "To strengthen the bond between the chambers of commerce on both sides, we are prepared to hold joint meetings, bilateral talks, and specialized exhibitions."

Who is the Hebrew-speaking ‘fox applying for the henhouse guard job?’

Lana Nusseibeh’s close alignment with Israel shadows her bid to lead the UN

From page 1 ▶ She read history at Cambridge, then took a master’s in “Israeli and Jewish Diaspora Studies” in London, where her teacher Colin Shindler later called her “instrumental” in the 2020 normalization deal. She is fluent in Hebrew.

In 2013, she became the UAE’s first female ambassador to the UN and stayed eleven years, twice presiding over the Security Council.

‘The fox applying for the henhouse guard job’

Weeks before the Abraham Accords were signed, she told the Emirati outlet The National that the “empty chair policy” toward Israel “had produced no peace.” She went on to host Israel’s then-UN envoy, Gilad Erdan, at the Emirati mission.

In March, she rushed to condemn Iran’s defensive counterstrikes against U.S. bases across the region, while ignoring the underlying U.S.-Israeli campaign of aggression that precipitated them. She uttered not a word regarding the loss of Iranian civilian lives, including the devastating American attack on an elementary school in Minab that killed 155 civilians, over 120 of them children.

Her defenders point to her September 2025 warning against Israel annexing the West Bank as proof of her independence. But a closer look shows she was actually protecting the anti-Palestine Abraham Accords, which formal annexation would have destroyed.

The UAE has kept and even upgraded its ties with Israel through every month of the ongoing genocidal war on Gaza,



whose toll now exceeds 74,000.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf reacted to her nomination in an X post. He called the bid a runaway-clearing exercise for the “Greater Israel” project and a way to whitewash genocide, then added that “the fox is updating the LinkedIn profile to apply for the henhouse guard job.”

He attached excerpts of an interview in which she defends normalization with the genocidal Israeli regime.

The field and the arithmetic

Behind the sudden push lies Security Council arithmetic. In the Oct. 16 straw poll, front-runner Rebeca Grynspan of Costa Rica, who leads UNCTAD, secured nine “encourage” votes but faced “discourage” votes from two permanent members.

With IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi and Guyana’s diplomat Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett capturing only two votes apiece, the Security Council vote ground to a halt, opening the door for Abu Dhabi’s push.

Into that deadlock stepped a candidate whom some observers now call the front-runner. Nusseibeh has quickly drawn support from a broad pro-Western coalition.

Key Washington voices, including Brett McGurk, as well as Israeli outlets such as Ynet and The Times of Israel, along with members of Tel Aviv’s foreign policy establishment, have welcomed her bid. Perversely and tragically, she is also backed by the Arab-led Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the Palestinian Authority’s UN delegation.

Proxy networks and the independence question

Sudan poses a steep hurdle for Nusseibeh’s candidacy, casting a direct spotlight on Abu Dhabi’s aggressive regional posture.

A UN fact-finding mission reported in September reasonable grounds to believe UAE-linked entities armed and trained the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), fueling a devastating civil war and enabling genocidal massacres.

This policy forms part of a

broader imperial strategy: across North Africa and the Horn, Abu Dhabi has cultivated proxy networks and armed non-state actors, from Khalifa Haftar’s forces in Libya to the Southern Transitional Council in Yemen and separatist movements in Somalia, fragmenting sovereign states to secure ports, gold-smuggling routes, and strategic influence.

In Sudan, this patronage network translated into direct logistical support for the RSF, causing deep friction across the Global South and making the UAE complicit in severe war crimes.

Justin Lynch, managing director of the Conflict Insights Group, told the AP that Nusseibeh operated as Abu Dhabi’s primary point person on Sudan, routinely offering assurances that the UAE was not aiding the RSF even while Washington and other Western capitals privately knew otherwise.

Lynch noted that the Secretary-General’s core duty is protecting civilians from atrocities such as the El Fasher siege, warning that “handing the job over to the diplomat who ran cover for it would be an insult to the survivors.”

Similarly, Nathaniel Raymond, executive director of Yale’s Humanitarian Research Lab, cited an insurmountable “dual loyalty” and conflict of interest.

Pointing out that the RSF’s assault on El Fasher was made possible by UAE-supplied drones, mortars, and logistics, Raymond argued that the UN should not mark the anniversary of the El Fasher massacre by appointing an official from the very state credibly accused of enabling the carnage.

Lula defeats pro-Israel Bolsonaro, dealing Trump a major Latin American blow



From page 1 ▶

Washington’s failed push

Trump never formally endorsed Bolsonaro, but his administration played its hand anyway. It imposed double-digit tariffs and sanctions on Brazilian officials to stop the prosecution of Jair Bolsonaro, now serving 27 years for a coup plot that included plans to assassinate Lula.

In May, it designated Brazil’s two largest criminal factions as terrorist organizations, which Lula warned could become a pretext for intervention. Reuters reported that the State Department led a campaign to return the Bolsonaros to power.

Flávio made the alliance his pitch, promising to join the U.S.-led “Shield of the Americas” security coalition “with great enthusiasm and great honor.”

Lula answered with sovereignty, turning the tariffs into the rallying cry “Brazil belongs to Brazilians.” On election night, he said the country “does not accept being anyone’s backyard.”

The stakes extend to minerals. Brazil holds the world’s second-largest known rare earth reserves and about 90 percent of global niobium, used in jet and rocket engines.

After USA Rare Earth, partly owned by the U.S. government, closed a \$2.8 billion takeover of the miner Serra Verde, Lula’s government moved to tighten oversight of critical minerals. “With Lula, the U.S. is on shakier ground,” Monica de Bolle of the Peterson Institute told AP.

Israel had a stake too. Bolsonaro campaigned as openly pro-Israel, promising to move Brazil’s embassy to al-Quds (Jerusalem) in 2027 and to restore full ties with Tel Aviv.

Lula has long backed Palestinian statehood, and he has criticized both Washington and Tel Aviv over the genocidal war on Gaza. Brazil joined South Africa’s genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice and recalled its ambassador from Israel in 2024.

Benjamin Netanyahu made no secret of his preference. He appeared by video at Flávio’s campaign launch in July, and after the first round he phoned the senator and invited him to visit Israel.

The next day he posted on X, congratulating Bolsonaro, wishing him a great victory and writing, “I look forward to restoring the extraordinary friendship between Israel and Brazil.” The vote came two days before Israel’s head to the polls for the first time since October 7, 2023.

How Lula turned the race around

Lula’s first-round campaign was listless, and polls favored Bolsonaro. Then it changed.

The president, who said last year he owned no cell phone, began filming selfie videos aimed at younger voters, and ally André Janones launched a WhatsApp channel, “Lula’s Army,” that grew from 50,000 followers to nearly 11 million on a platform long dominated by the Bolsonaro movement. Turnout climbed to more than 128 million, the highest in 20 years.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Trump vilifies Senate hopeful El-Sayed with Islamophobic rhetoric

Trump mocks Jews mulling to vote for El-Sayed

President Trump turned to Islamophobic stereotypes to motivate Michigan Republicans on Sunday, claiming at a rally that Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic Senate nominee, if elected, would bring a wave of jihadists to the United States.

“If Abdul and the Democrats win, they will open the floodgates and invite hordes of jihadis to our shores, creating a nightmare of violence and terror until you cannot even have a Christmas,” the New York Times quoted Trump as telling more than 4,000 supporters gathered in Port Huron.

Through such inflammatory rhetoric, Trump is seeking to mislead the American public while crossing all bounds of decency and morality.

He called Dr. El-Sayed, whose family immigrated from Egypt, a “jihadist Muslim Brotherhood member,” a baseless claim. He then contrasted Dr. El-Sayed, a Muslim who was born in the United States, with his Republican opponent, Mike Rogers, who is white and also born in the United States.

“I call him apple pie,” Trump said of Rogers, who is 63. “He’s like, perfect, this guy. He’s like central casting. He’s what your state is all about.”

Trump’s comments, coming in a key mid-term battleground nine days before the elections, underscored the dark themes and personal vilification he and his allies have embraced as part of their closing pitch. And while he has often used crude and racist language, Trump’s message in

Michigan seemed aimed at overtly stoking a fear of Muslims to get voters to the polls.

But a broader question about Trump’s rally here — which followed several in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, among other stops — is whether his presence helps or hurts Republican turnout in a year when polls show deep dissatisfaction with the president. His audience in Port Huron seemed enthusiastic, and thousands strained to take Trump’s picture as he took to the stage. But he held the rally in a conservative district of a state that pollsters believe is swinging back to Democrats.

Trump’s deep unpopularity has complicated Republicans’ path to victory. While Trump carried Michigan by two points in 2024, just 34 percent of likely voters now approve of him, according to a New York Times/Siena poll conducted in mid-September.

Polls indicate that Dr. El-Sayed, 41, has a narrow edge over Mr. Rogers in a race that will be pivotal to determining control of the Senate.

Trump’s attacks on Dr. El-Sayed on Sunday, questioning his loyalty to the United States, began before he got on Air Force One outside of Washington and accelerated after he landed in Michigan.

Trump also disparaged Jewish voters who were considering voting for Dr. El-Sayed.

“Any Jewish person that supports this guy should be ashamed of themselves,”

East Eye.

“I told them I was going to our family home because I needed to collect some documents, including my birth certificate and ID. They asked me how many days I was planning to stay and where exactly our house was located. They wanted to check whether I was lying to them or not.”

Hala, who used a different name for security reasons, had to describe the location of the house. She told the fighters she would need more than a day because it was a mess and she had to locate many documents. The house has no electricity, making the task harder.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Sudanese recount horrors in el-Fasher at the hands of UAE-backed RSF

Three weeks ago, Hala, a Sudanese woman, left the refugee camp in Tawila and returned to the city of el-Fasher.

She took a bag and got into a small vehicle operated by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the paramilitary group that took over the North Darfur capital a year ago, raping, killing and looting thousands of civilians like Hala.

When she arrived in el-Fasher, which is about 60km east of Tawila, she noticed that everything had changed. Houses had been looted or destroyed. The streets looked different.

RSF fighters immediately approached her as she got out of the vehicle. “They asked me where I was going,” Hala told the campaign group Avaaz, in an interview shared with Middle

Iran’s Greco-Roman team win 2026 World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran have secured the Greco-Roman team title at the 2026 World Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, following an outstanding performance by their wrestlers on the international stage.

The Iranian squad clinched the championship ahead of the conclusion of the Greco-Roman competitions, underlining the country’s dominance in one of its most successful sporting disciplines.

Iran made an impressive start to the tournament, collecting one gold, two silver and one bronze medal in the first four weight categories before securing additional places in the finals.

Gholamreza Farokhi delivered Iran’s first gold medal in the 82kg division, defeating Turkey’s Yuksel Saricicek 5-1 in the final.

At 55kg, Payam Ahmadi claimed silver after losing 3-1 to Azerbaijan’s Eldaniz Azizli in the gold-medal contest.

Ali Ahmadi Vafa also earned silver in the 60kg category, narrowly missing out on gold after being pinned by Japan’s Koto Gomi despite holding a 7-1 lead.

Iran’s fourth medal came through Ali Oskou in the 77kg division. He secured bronze with a 4-3 victory over Uzbekistan’s Nekibov.

The Iranian team’s impressive campaign continued as Saeid Esmaeili and Alireza Mohammadi advanced to the finals in the 67kg and 87kg categories, respectively.

Esmaeili defeated Azerbaijan’s Hasrat Jafarov in the semifinals, while Mohammadi booked his place in the final with a commanding 10-1 victory over Armenia’s Gevorg Tadevosyan.

Danial Sohrabi at 72kg and Fardin Hedayati at 130kg also won two gold medals, while Olympic and world champion Mohammadhadi Saravi seized a bronze medal at 97kg.

Esteghlal face Shabab Al Ahli in AFC Champions League Elite clash

TEHRAN – Iran’s Esteghlal will take on the UAE’s Shabab Al Ahli in a highly anticipated AFC Champions League Elite 2026/27 encounter at Rashid Stadium in Dubai on Tuesday.

Both teams enter the contest with perfect records, having collected six points from their opening two matches, setting up an intriguing battle between two in-form sides.

Shabab Al Ahli have enjoyed a historic start to their continental campaign, winning their first two matches in the competition for the first time. A third consecutive victory would see the Dubai-based club join an exclusive group of UAE teams to have won their opening three continental fixtures.

Only Al Ain FC (2003 and 2023/24), Al Wahda FC (2007) and Al Jazira Club (2012) have previously accomplished that feat.

The Emirati side will also draw confidence from their impressive record against Iranian opposition. Shabab Al Ahli remain unbeaten in 12 encounters with Iranian clubs, recording eight victories and four draws.

Their strong run includes a 1-0 triumph over Iran’s Tractor in the opening round of this season’s competition.

Shabab Al Ahli also hold a favorable head-to-head record against Esteghlal, having remained undefeated in their two previous meetings in 2017, with one win and one draw.

Esteghlal, meanwhile, have made an equally impressive start to their Asian campaign and will be determined to maintain their winning momentum.

The Tehran-based club have won their opening two matches in the competition for only the second time in their history.

Esteghlal began their campaign in convincing fashion with a commanding 3-0 victory

over Qatar’s Al Sadd SC before demonstrating their resilience in a hard-fought 2-1 win against another Qatari side, Al Gharafa SC.

With both teams boasting perfect records and strong attacking form, Tuesday’s encounter promises to be a fiercely contested affair as Esteghlal look to end Shabab Al Ahli’s unbeaten run against Iranian opposition.

Carrying Iran’s flag at Youth Olympics a great honor, Faraji says

TEHRAN – Iranian table tennis sensation Benyamin Faraji has expressed his pride at being selected as Iran’s flagbearer for the Dakar Youth Olympic Games, while setting his sights on further success on the international stage.

Faraji and national futsal player Hadis Yari have been selected as Iran’s flag-bearers for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

The Youth Olympic Games will begin in Dakar on Oct. 30, with Iran set to compete across the event with 29 qualification places. Iran will look to make its mark at Dakar 2026, as its young athletes prepare to represent the country on one of the biggest international stages in youth sport.

Speaking after securing qualification for the World Table Tennis Championships in both singles and doubles, Faraji said he was delighted with his achievements, particularly given the tough competition.

“Thankfully, I managed to qualify for the World Championships in singles, and together with Arian Ghaffari, we also secured a place in the doubles event,” Faraji said.

“It was a major achievement, and I’m extremely happy. Considering the strong opponents we faced, I honestly didn’t expect us to qualify in doubles as well, but fortunately, we made it.”

The rising Iranian star also reflected on his recent performances at the Asian Games and Asian Championships, highlighting his victory over one of the world’s top-ranked players.

“I performed well at the Asian Games and managed to defeat a player ranked 20th in the world, which was a fantastic result for me,” he said.

“I also delivered a strong performance at the Asian Championships, and I hope to maintain this momentum in upcoming competitions.”

Turning his attention to the Dakar Youth Olympic Games, Faraji insisted he is fully prepared for the challenge despite a demanding competition schedule that has left him with limited time for rest and recovery.

“I’m completely ready for the Dakar Games. Although I haven’t had much time to rest and recover, I’m determined to give my best and compete with everything I have,” he explained.

Faraji described his appointment as Iran’s flagbearer at the Dakar Youth Olympics as one of the proudest moments of his young career.

“Carrying Iran’s flag at the Dakar Youth Olympics is a tremendous honor, and I’m incredibly proud to have been given this responsibility,” he said.

“I hope to represent my country in the best possible way and make Iran proud through my performances.”

The talented paddler faces a busy period, with the Dakar Youth Olympics and the World Youth Table Tennis Championships in Istanbul both on his upcoming schedule.

“I have two major competitions ahead of me: the Dakar Youth Olympics and the World Youth Championships in Istanbul. My goal is to shine in both events,” Faraji stated.

“It’s going to be a challenging period because these major tournaments are taking place so close together. However, I’m ready for the challenge and determined to perform at my highest level.”

Despite already making a significant impact on the international table tennis scene at a young age, Faraji stressed that his ambitions extend far beyond his current achievements.

Restoration of Isfahan’s Chehel Sotoun palace awaits UNESCO funding

TEHRAN – Restoration of Iran’s UNESCO-listed Chehel Sotoun palace and garden is awaiting additional funding from the government and UNESCO, as experts assess structural damage to the Safavid-era monument following a 40-day war with the US and Israeli forces, the site’s director said.

Most emergency measures to prevent further deterioration have been completed, but major restoration work, including repairs to the palace’s columns, roof structures and decorative features, cannot proceed without sufficient funding, Mostafa Hadipour, director of the Chehel Sotoun World Heritage site, told IRNA news agency on Monday.

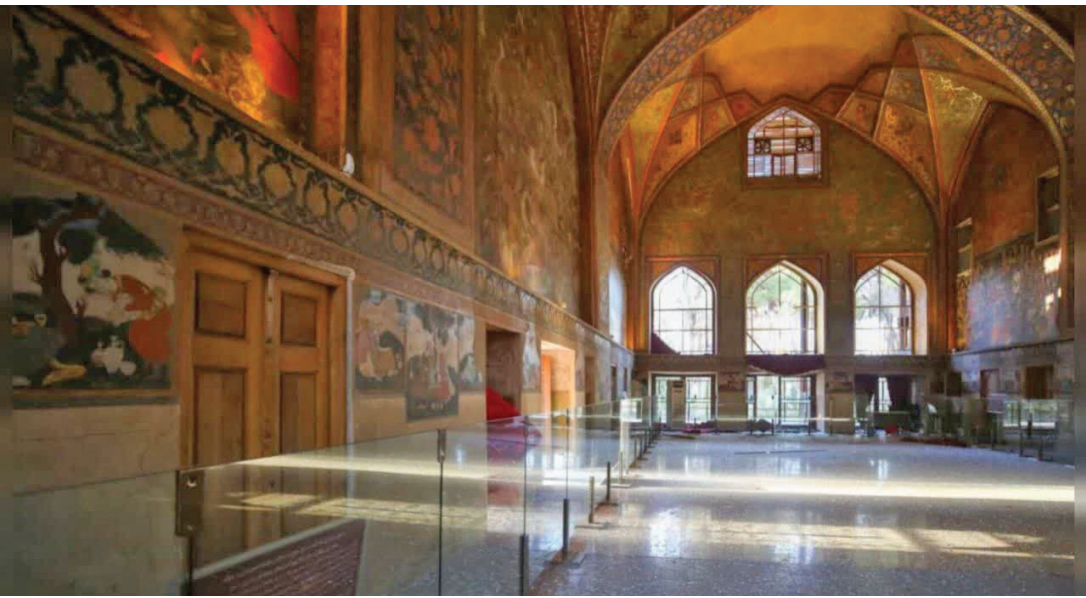
Hadipour said the estimated damage to the complex stood at about 1.5 trillion rials (\$56 million), adding that funds allocated by the government and Isfahan province for restoration planning and maintenance of the garden’s approximately 67,000 square meters of green space were insufficient to cover major restoration contracts.

He called for urgent intervention by the government and UNESCO, arguing that the international organization had a responsibility to support the protection of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, including in circumstances involving armed conflict.

“We are waiting for the allocation of funds promised by UNESCO and the government for this World Heritage site,” Hadipour said.

Without the necessary financing, he said, essential work such as scaffolding the palace’s porticos, repairing roofs, restoring muqarnas decorative elements and rebuilding wooden structures could not be undertaken.

Emergency measures have so far focused on both structural stabilization and decorative features. They include covering vulnerable sections with plastic



sheeting, installing temporary supports and treating doors and equipment to help protect them through the winter. Specialists have also carried out reinforcement work on the palace’s double-roof structure.

Technical assessments have identified several columns in the palace’s portico that have shifted from their original alignment, as well as displaced structural beams. A consulting company is conducting further studies to determine the appropriate repair methods.

One option under consideration is to reinforce the affected columns with steel elements and return them to their original alignment. Another is to stabilize them through engineering measures while retaining their current positions. Hadipour said no final decision had been made.

The damage to the columns has been tentatively linked to blast waves from attacks on the Isfahan provincial governor’s office within the historic Safavid Government House complex during the 40-day war. The reported damage affected the protected surroundings of Chehel Sotoun and other historic monuments in the city.

However, the precise cause

and extent of the structural deterioration have been subjects of differing assessments. Some heritage specialists have questioned whether the blasts alone could explain the columns’ condition, noting that reinforcement work was reportedly carried out on the portico columns in earlier decades. Accounts differ over which restoration specialists undertook the work and whether all the columns were reinforced with steel.

Hadipour said detailed technical studies were continuing and that the consulting company was preparing the necessary implementation plans. Large-scale restoration can begin once the plans are approved and the required funding secured.

The attacks also damaged other historic buildings in Isfahan’s Safavid Government House complex, including the Ali Qapu Palace, the Talar-e Ashraf, the Timurid Hall, the Jabeh Khaneh building, which houses the Museum of Decorative Arts, and the Rokib Khaneh building, home to the Museum of Contemporary Art, according to IRNA.

The complex forms part of Isfahan’s historic urban landscape, which includes Naqsh-e Jahan Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Damage was reported to monuments in the square’s

protected surroundings following attacks on March 8, with further damage reported after the provincial governor’s office was bombed on March 9.

Chehel Sotoun, meaning “Forty Columns” in Persian, is one of the principal surviving monuments of Safavid Isfahan. The 17th-century pavilion was developed under Shah Abbas II for royal receptions and diplomatic gatherings. Its name refers to the reflection of its 20-columned entrance portico in the long pool in front of the building.

The palace is renowned for its historic paintings and decorative interiors, including works associated with the Safavid artistic tradition. Its surrounding garden is one of nine Iranian gardens collectively inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 2011 as the Persian Garden, recognized for their distinctive design and influence on Persian landscape architecture.

The latest damage has heightened concerns over the conservation of Isfahan’s architectural heritage, while the delay in securing adequate funding threatens to postpone major repairs to one of the city’s most prominent historic landmarks.

Fatatu Forest, a hidden natural retreat in northern Iran

TEHRAN – Tucked away in the rural landscape of northern Iran, Fatatu Forest is a natural attraction in Khomam county, Gilan province, offering visitors a peaceful escape among lush vegetation, wetlands, rice fields and the landscapes of the southern Caspian coast. Recognized for its ecological importance and its surviving Hyrcanian forest vegetation, the woodland holds considerable potential for nature-based tourism, although limited visitor facilities remain a challenge.

Located near Fatatu village, the forest covers approximately 300 hectares. It is among the remaining examples of the Hyrcanian forests, a distinctive forest ecosystem extending along the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. The broader Hyrcanian forest region, which dates back millions of years, was inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 2019.

Fatatu Forest has also been registered on Iran’s National Natural Heritage List, reflecting its environmental significance and the importance of protecting its vegetation and biodiversity.

A tranquil landscape of alder trees

One of the forest’s defining features is its dense growth of alder trees, characteristic of the lowland woodlands found along the Caspian coast. Other tree species, including maple and oak, are found in forested areas around Khomam, alongside plant species adapted to the region’s humid climate.

The dense vegetation, natural walking routes and quiet surroundings make Fatatu an appealing destination for visitors interested in walking, photography and experiencing the natural environment away from crowded tourist centers.

Seasonal changes add to its appeal. In spring and summer, the forest is marked by fresh foliage and abundant greenery, while autumn brings warmer shades of color to the landscape. The sounds of birds and the cool, humid atmosphere contribute to the area’s tranquil character.

Beyond its scenic appeal, the forest serves an important ecological function. Its vegetation provides habitat for wildlife and helps



sustain the natural balance of the surrounding landscape. Preserving this environment is therefore essential to any plan to develop tourism in the area.

A walking route towards the Caspian Sea

Fatatu Forest’s location is another advantage for travelers. A natural walking route passes through the woodland and surrounding rice fields before reaching the Caspian Sea, offering an opportunity to experience several of Gilan’s characteristic landscapes on a single outing.

The route combines the shade of forest trees with open views across rice paddies and the coastal environment. It offers a different perspective on Gilan, a province widely associated with its humid climate, agricultural traditions and green rural scenery.

Visitors can also explore Fatatu village and nearby settlements, where rice fields and traditional rural life form part of the region’s appeal. Local products, including rice, tea and traditional foods, provide additional opportunities to experience Gilan’s agricultural and culinary heritage.

Fatatu Forest can be incorporated into a broader visit to Khomam, a small town situated about seven kilometers from Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, and approximately 15 kilometers from Bandar-e Anzali.

The surrounding area offers a variety of rural and natural attractions. Nearby villages provide opportunities to observe traditional architecture, agricultural activities and local crafts. Fashtakeh, in particular, is known for its traditional mat-weaving heritage and was

recognized as Iran’s first national village associated with mat weaving.

The wider Khomam area also offers access to coastal scenery and wetlands connected to the Anzali Lagoon region. These landscapes complement the forest experience and make the district suitable for travelers interested in combining woodland walks with village visits and rural exploration.

Khomam’s relatively short distance from Rasht makes Fatatu Forest a potential option for a day trip for visitors staying in the provincial capital or traveling between Rasht and Bandar-e Anzali.

Tourism potential and conservation challenges

Despite its natural assets, Fatatu Forest remains relatively little known as a tourism destination, and the lack of basic visitor facilities limits its readiness to accommodate larger numbers of travelers.

Speaking to IRNA, Mansour Hadipour, head of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism office in Khomam county, has described the forest as a valuable natural area with significant potential for environmental protection and nature-based tourism.

He has said that the local authorities intend to promote Fatatu Forest as a potential tourism investment opportunity at a Gilan investment conference. Possible development concepts include health-oriented tourism that makes use of the area’s natural setting, provided such activities comply with environmental regulations.

Hadipour has also highlighted the area’s historical potential, saying that modern archaeological studies could help identify previously undocumented evidence of its past.

For travelers seeking a quieter side of Gilan, Fatatu Forest offers an opportunity to experience the province’s lowland forest heritage, rural landscapes and proximity to the Caspian coast. Its alder woodland, seasonal colors and walking routes provide a setting for a relaxed excursion, while nearby villages offer a glimpse of the region’s agricultural and craft traditions.

Iran-China project to restore wetlands, curb dust storms enters implementation phase

TEHRAN – A joint Iran-China project to restore Salehiyeh and Allahabad wetlands, located west and southwest of Tehran, and curb dust storm sources has entered the implementation phase, with planned measures covering more than 48,000 hectares.

The wetlands are important ecosystems that help sustain local biodiversity and regulate environmental conditions. However, declining rainfall, drought, excessive water extraction, and drainage projects have contributed to their degradation and the shrinking water bodies.

A specialized webinar to review the operational aspects of the memorandum of understanding for the joint project was held on Saturday with the participation of University of Tehran faculty members and representatives of relevant organizations.

Coordinated by the Secretariat of the National Dust Storm Headquarters, the project involves the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the University of Tehran, and the Plan and Budget Organization. It aims to curb active dust storm sources, improve the hydrological regimes of the two wetlands, and enhance the livelihoods of local communities.

Under the plan developed for the first phase, rehabilitating drainage systems and reopening waterways, establishing living and non-living windbreaks, implementing biological measures, using environmentally compatible mulches, and empowering local communities have been envisaged, Mehr news agency reported.

According to the Department of Environment (DOE), in accordance with President Masoud Pezeshkian's directives and to follow up on the resolutions of Iran's National Headquarters for Dust Storm Policy and Coordination, a specialized webinar was held on Saturday, reviewing the operational aspects of the tripartite memorandum of understanding (MOU) of the Iran-China joint project. Officials from the University of Tehran and other related organizations attended the webinar.

Addressing the event, Behzad Raygani, secretary of the National Secretariat for Sand and Dust Storms, outlined the parameters for joint effort while highlighting the need for integrated water resources management, restoration of wetland ecosystems, development of conservation agriculture, and stabilization of soil in critical dust hotspots.

The initiative serves as an example of na-



tional synergy, and proactive environmental diplomacy will be pursued across the short-term, medium-term, and long-term.

Pezeshkian pushes for drafting action plan to combat desertification

In September, President Pezeshkian highlighted the need to draft a five-year Iranian-Chinese action plan to manage airborne dust and combat desertification in line with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the two countries.

The MOU was inked in the last month of spring in 2025, in Lanzhou, China, to promote scientific cooperation and address sand and dust storms (SDSs) challenges, IRNA reported.

Following specialized meetings and an assessment of scientific and operational indicators, a five-year action plan is scheduled to be developed, and two regions have been designated as pilot sites for implementing joint efforts.

The selected areas include Salehiyeh Wetland, a major dust source affecting Alborz, Qazvin, and Tehran provinces, and Tabas desert, another main dust hotspot in the country, chosen due to their roles in the expansion of desertification, sandstorms, and their impacts on agriculture and infrastructure.

Highlighting the importance of protecting natural resources and the environment,

Pezeshkian called for taking action against unauthorized construction and illegal activities that undermine regulations and lead to environmental consequences, as well as benefiting from the capacities and expertise of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in implementing pilot projects.

The official made the remarks in a meeting held on September 13 to give an account of the progress in the bilateral MOU.

Moreover, the president urged the University of Tehran to maintain constant collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and develop a joint action plan to be assessed and discussed in the next meetings. The official also asked the Plan and Budget Organization to secure funds required for the studies and measures in the five-year action plan.

Dust storms are significant environmental challenges that adversely affect food security, human health, and the sustainable development process at national and regional levels.

Being located in an arid and semi-arid area, Iran has been negatively impacted by climate change. The rise in temperatures, drop in precipitation, intensified droughts, and frequent SDSs have not only threatened the ecosystem and biodiversity but also jeopardized the country's food security by exacerbating soil erosion, expanding desertification, and declining agricultural productivity.

Pakistani Mustafa Prize laureate explores nanotechnology in fight against breast cancer



TEHRAN – Nanotechnology is opening new avenues for breast cancer treatment by improving drug delivery, overcoming resistance to chemotherapy, and reducing damage to healthy cells. Pakistani medicinal chemist Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, a 2021 Mustafa Prize laureate, is among the researchers exploring how advanced drug-delivery systems can make cancer therapies more precise and effective.

Breast cancer remains a major global health challenge, with patients often facing recurrence, drug resistance, and severe treatment-related side effects. Conventional chemotherapy targets rapidly dividing cells but can also damage healthy tissues, including hair follicles, the gastrointestinal lining, and bone marrow. Meanwhile, cancer cells can develop multidrug resistance (MDR) by activating molecular pumps that expel drugs before they can take effect.

“Cancers are very difficult, complex, and diverse diseases,” Choudhary said. He explained that chemotherapy drugs often affect both cancerous and healthy cells, making it challenging to target tumors without causing significant side effects.

Choudhary, who heads the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) at the University of Karachi, serves as vice president of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and coordinates the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMSTech).

Receiving the Mustafa Prize marked a turning point in his scientific career, providing renewed motivation and focus. Since then, his research group has increasingly concentrated on innovative breast cancer treatments and smarter drug-delivery technologies.

Nanocarriers offer one promising approach by encapsulating therapeutic compounds in microscopic particles that protect drugs from premature degradation and release them more effectively at tumor sites. These systems can use passive targeting, which exploits the increased permeability of tumor blood vessels, or active targeting, in which antibodies, peptides, or other molecules help nanoparticles bind to cancer-cell receptors.

According to Choudhary, nanoparticles can contribute both to drug discovery and to delivering existing medicines more precisely, potentially improving their effectiveness while limiting harmful side effects.

One promising strategy involves poly (lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA), a biodegradable and biocompatible polymer widely investigated for controlled drug delivery. Adding vitamin E-derived TPGS may further help counter drug resistance by interfering with the energy-dependent mechanisms that cancer cells use to expel chemotherapy drugs.

Researchers are also investigating nanoparticles coated with natural cell membranes to help them evade immune clearance and accumulate more effectively in tumors. Platelet membranes are particularly promising because their surface proteins may support tumor targeting. A 2025 preclinical study reported greater uptake of platelet-membrane-coated, bufalin-loaded PLGA nanoparticles by tumor cells than that of uncoated particles.

These advances could be particularly valuable against triple-negative breast cancer, an aggressive subtype lacking estrogen, progesterone, and HER2 receptors, which limits conventional targeted treatment options. Nanoparticle-based systems that respond to local tumor conditions may offer alternative ways to deliver drugs without relying on these receptors.

Despite the promise, significant challenges remain. Producing platelet-membrane-coated nanoparticles consistently at clinical scale is difficult, and incomplete membrane coverage remains a concern. Such technologies must overcome manufacturing and regulatory hurdles before routine clinical use becomes possible.

Choudhary emphasizes that, although increasingly selective therapies are available, no drug can yet deliver absolute disease-specific precision. Integrating molecular biology, nanotechnology, and medicinal chemistry could nevertheless bring researchers closer to safer, more effective treatments for cancers that have long resisted conventional therapies.

Over 355 earthquakes hit Iran in a month

TEHRAN – A total of 356 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from September 23 to October 22, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 322 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 30 earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4, and four earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, two had a magnitude of 4.2 on the Richter scale which occurred on October 16 and 20 in Kerman province.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi experienced the highest number of earthquakes with 44, followed by Kerman with 40, and Yazd with 30 earthquakes.

During the same period, 10 earthquakes hit Tehran, the biggest one had a magnitude of 3.3 on the Richter scale.

A total of 2,380 earthquakes with a mag-

nitude of more than 2.5 on the Richter scale were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2025–March 2026), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, Mehr news agency reported.

Out of recorded earthquakes, 910 had a magnitude greater than 3, 130 had a magnitude greater than 4, and 15 had a magnitude greater than 5 on the Richter scale.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran, but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world's earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes.

Health Expo Iraq to offer prime opportunity for Iranian medical sector

TEHRAN – The sixth edition of Health Expo Iraq, the country's annual international health exhibition and congress, will offer Iranian health-sector manufacturers a valuable opportunity to enter the Iraqi market and expand their business in the neighboring country.

The event is scheduled to take place from October 28 to 31 at the Baghdad International Fair.

The expo will feature a wide range of products and services, including medical equipment, laboratory devices, pharmaceuticals, hospital supplies, and healthcare services. Additionally, seminars, workshops, and panel discussions are organized for participants, encouraging industry professionals to share knowledge and experiences and establish new business connections.

Iranian delegation will set up their pavilions to feature the products and achievements of the Iranian knowledge-based firms, establish connections between Iranian and Iraqi experts and stakeholders, hold B2B meetings, and identify the needs of Iraq market in the field of health.

Iran's ambassador to Iraq and embassy advisors will visit Iranian pavilions and hold meetings with companies to explore potential and capacities for the expansion of ties between the two countries.

With a population of over 46 million and the pharmaceutical market valued at 4 billion dollars, Iraq is one of the biggest health markets in West Asia. The country is planning to meet 70 percent of its pharmaceutical needs

through domestic production by 2027.

Boosting academic ties to meet domestic, regional priorities

On October 19, Iran's scientific counselor in Iraq, Mohammad-Javad Najafi, and Iraqi Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Haider Abd Dahed, discussed ways to strengthen academic cooperation between universities in the two countries, with a focus on problem-solving approaches and addressing domestic and regional needs.

Collaboration on problem-oriented research, the provision of scholarships, the facilitation of educational issues for students, and preparation for the 'Third Iran-Iraq Science Week' were the key topics discussed during the meeting, IRNA reported.

The officials also discussed conducting collaborative research projects, supervising joint dissertations for postgraduate degrees, and publishing joint scientific articles in globally reputable magazines.

Addressing the challenges and educational problems faced by the students in reciprocal countries was the other issue raised by the two sides.

In September, the chancellor of Shiraz University, Alireza Afsharfar, and Najafi explored the potential to expand academic ties with Iraqi universities.

The officials met on September 26, discussing ways to develop collaborative educational courses, exchange students and professors, attract international students, and conduct joint re-

search projects, msrt.ir reported.

Establishing dual degree programs, holding summer schools and educational courses in English and Arabic languages, and participating in Iran-Iraq Science Week were among other issues highlighted by the officials.

The officials also highlighted the need to share the scientific and educational capacities and the capabilities of Shiraz University with Iraqi students, and to implement research projects on shared challenges like dust storms and the environment. They also discussed ways to foster ties with universities and scientific centers in Lebanon and Kurdistan.

Iran regional leader in health system

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

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

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

TEHRAN TIMES

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who is sure of God’s compensation, shows much generosity himself.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:33 Dawn: 4:58 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:22 (tomorrow)

Virginia Woolf’s ‘Freshwater: A Comedy’ published in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book “Freshwater: A Comedy” written by Virginia Woolf has been released in bookstores across Iran.

Yousef Najafi Jablou is the translator of the book that has been brought out by Tagh Publication, ISNA reported.

“Freshwater: A comedy” is a play written and produced by Virginia Woolf in 1935, and the only play she wrote. Although only performed once in her lifetime, it has been translated into many languages and produced in many countries since. Alfred Lord Tennyson appears as a character in this play.

Virginia Woolf researched the life of her great-aunt, the photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, publishing her findings in an essay titled “Pattledom” (1925), and later in her introduction to her 1926 edition of Cameron’s photographs.

The play is named after Freshwater, Isle of Wight, where Julia Margaret Cameron lived in a somewhat bohemian atmosphere at her home, Dimbola Lodge, surrounded by a number of artists and literary figures, including George Frederick Watts and Tennyson in the 1860s.

Tennyson’s nearby home, Farringford was another artistic center. The plot revolves around the attempts by the young actress Ellen Terry to escape from her marriage to the much older Watts, partly family history, partly mocking the conventions of the Victorian times that the Bloomsbury group had fought to escape.

The Camerons are set to embark for India, while both Mrs. Cameron and Watts are intent on portraying Ellen in their respective media. Ellen on the other hand views a young naval lieutenant as her escape, with an offer to escape to Bloomsbury. This collapses a number of historic events into a single afternoon.

Although a slight work not intended for publication, and easily dismissed as frivolous, it has been given a larger meaning when placed in the broader context of Woolf’s work and views. For beneath the comedic ele-



ments, there is an exploration of both generational change and artistic freedom. Both Cameron and Woolf fought against the class and gender dynamics of Victorianism and the play shows links to both “To the Lighthouse” and “A Room of One’s Own” that would follow.

Virginia Woolf (1882 – 1941) was an English writer and one of the most influential 20th-century modernist authors. She helped to pioneer the use of stream of consciousness narration as a literary device.

Woolf began publishing professionally in 1904 and rose to prominence during the interwar period with novels including “Mrs. Dalloway” (1925), “To the Lighthouse” (1927), and “Orlando” (1928). She also wrote the influential feminist essay “A Room of One’s Own” (1929), followed by “Three Guineas” (1938), which explores the roots of fascism in the society. Her work became central to 1970s feminist criticism and remains influential worldwide, having been translated into more than 50 languages.

Cartoon of Day

Halloween, The Orange Nightmare
Cartoonist: Enrico Bertuccioli from Italy

Iran, Tajikistan to expand cultural cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran’s Deputy Culture Minister Mohsen Javadi and the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan Matlubakhon Sattoriyon emphasized the formation of a specialized working group to follow up and implement the two countries’ cultural agreements in the fields of printing and book publishing, translating literary works, and introducing the shared Persian-language heritage.

The two sides met and held talks on October 24 on the sidelines of the 14th Dushanbe International Book Fair in Tajikistan, ISNA reported.

In the meeting, which was held with the aim of deepening the longstanding cultural and literary ties between the two countries, the two sides exchanged views on practical solutions for expanding the level of cooperation in various areas of the printing industry, book publishing, and book reading.

Among the most important axes of the talks in the meeting were coordination, synergy, and planning in the field of collating, printing, and publishing the works of the literary and historical luminaries and figures shared by the two countries.

The cultural officials of Iran and Tajikistan described the ancient heritage of Persian speakers as a valuable asset and emphasized that its preservation



and proper publication requires the continuous cooperation of specialized organizations and institutions in both countries. Cooperation in the field of introducing and translating the works of contemporary writers of both countries and designing an ecosystem for the Persian language in cyberspace were among other topics raised in the meeting.

In order to follow up on the approved measures and operationalize the agreements reached, it was decided that a specialized joint working group be formed

between cultural representatives of Iran and Tajikistan. This working group will be responsible for continuous follow-up and facilitating the process of implementing bilateral cooperation programs.

The 14th Dushanbe International Book Fair was held from October 22 to 24 at the National Museum of Tajikistan.

Iran Book and Literature House presented more than 300 titles at the fair, promoting Iranian literature and opportunities for cultural cooperation.

The Iranian pavilion featured classical and contemporary literature, Iranian studies, and children’s and young adult books.

Iran Book and Literature House also held meetings with Tajik cultural officials and participated in specialist sessions to explore cooperation in publishing, translation, and literary exchange.

Iran has regularly attended the Dushanbe fair and Tajikistan has participated in the Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF). Tajikistan was the special guest of the TIBF in 2023.

Baran Auction to showcase Iranian calligraphy, miniatures

TEHRAN – The fifth edition of Baran Auction, specializing in Iranian and Islamic art, will be held in Tehran on Friday, October 30, featuring works of traditional calligraphy and Persian miniature painting, including “The Third Feather” by the late Iranian master Mahmoud Farshchian.

The event will take place at 5 p.m. at the Raizan International Conference Center, IRNA reported on Monday.

A public exhibition of the selected works will be held at the same venue on October 28 and 29, offering art enthusiasts, researchers and collectors an opportunity to view the pieces before the sale, the report added.

The upcoming edition continues Baran Auction’s focus on preserving and promoting Iran’s calligraphic heritage while expanding its presentation of traditional visual arts. Alongside calligraphic works, this year’s selection includes pieces from the country’s miniature painting tradition, highlighting the historical connections between the two art forms.

Among the featured works is “The Third

Feather” by Farshchian, whose paintings frequently draw on Persian literary, spiritual and mythological themes. According to the organizers, the work evokes the mysterious feather of the Simorgh, the legendary bird associated with wisdom and spiritual discovery in Persian literature. They describe it as a symbol of awareness, hope and renewal, reflecting the enduring power of Iranian cultural thought.

Calligraphy remains central to Baran Auction’s identity. Previous editions have featured works associated with major figures in the history of Iranian calligraphy, including Mir Emad Hassani, Darvish Abdolmajid Taleqani and Mirza Gholamreza Esfahani, alongside works by contemporary artists.

The fourth edition of Baran Auction, held in 2019, demonstrated the market appeal of Iran’s traditional arts, with five folios from a rare copy of Ferdowsi’s “Shahnameh”, written in the nastaliq style during the Timurid period (1370–1507), selling for more than \$21 million.

The auction, held at Tehran’s Raizan Inter-

national Conference Center, presented 94 works and generated more than \$6 million in sales, although 25 lots failed to attract buyers.

Other notable sales included a miniature portrait of Princess Navab Akbari Beigom, created by an Indian artist during the Zand dynasty (1751–1794), which fetched more than \$1.3 million, and a cylinder inscribed with a Persian translation of the Cyrus Cylinder by calligrapher Hossein Niktalab, which sold for approximately \$930,000.

The results underscored the commercial potential of traditional Iranian and Islamic art within the country’s art market.

By bringing together calligraphy and miniature painting, the fifth edition aims to present a broader view of Iran’s artistic legacy while providing a platform for the appreciation and circulation of works rooted in its cultural traditions.

Founded by Mahbubeh Kazemi Dulabi in 2016, Baran Auction specializes in calligraphic paintings and works of calligraphy.

Milan event commemorates child victims of Gorla, Minab and Gaza

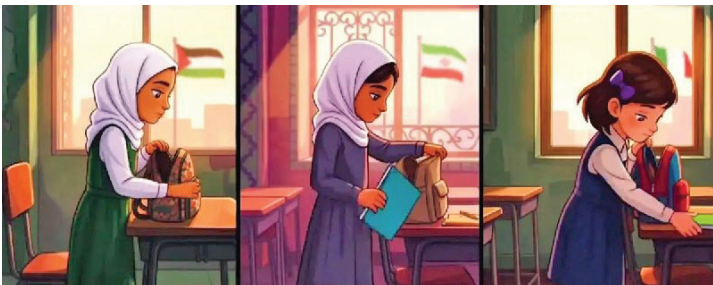
TEHRAN- Italian artists and activists have commemorated children killed in wars in the country’s Gorla district, Iran’s Minab and the Gaza Strip, marking the 82nd anniversary of the bombing of an elementary school in Milan during World War II.

The commemorations took place on October 20, the anniversary of the 1944 Gorla massacre, which claimed the lives of 184 children and 19 school staff members when an Allied air raid struck the Francesco Crispi elementary school in northern Milan.

This year’s anniversary carries additional significance following the Italian parliament’s approval of a law establishing October 20 as a national day of remembrance for the child victims of the Gorla massacre and children killed in all wars. The legislation, Law No. 85 of May 6, 2026, aims to preserve the memory of the victims and promote a culture of peace.

During the recent commemorations, participants drew parallels between the Gorla tragedy and the deaths of children in the Israeli-American attack on a school in Minab, southern Iran, as well as the killing of children in Gaza.

Media activist Zio Filippo took part in the activities, accompa-



nying his public outreach with music videos as he moved from Piazza della Repubblica toward Piazza Venezia, according to reports on the event.

Italian artists have also released a song titled “Gorla, Minab, Gaza” to honor children killed in armed conflicts and highlight the shared tragedy of civilian victims across different historical and geographical contexts.

The song links the memory of the children killed in Milan during World War II with that of children who have lost their lives in more recent conflicts, including those in Iran and Gaza.

The Gorla massacre occurred on October 20, 1944, when American aircraft taking part in an Allied bombing operation over Milan targeted industrial facilities in the surrounding area. A bomb struck the Francesco Crispi elementary school, killing 184 children and 19 members of the school staff.

The tragedy became one of the

most painful episodes in Milan’s wartime history and a lasting symbol of the devastating impact of aerial bombardment on civilians.

On February 28, the Shajareh Tayyebeh elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a devastating massacre as the United States and Israel initiated their strikes against Iran.

While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a missile strike that caused the building to collapse, trapping children and teachers beneath the rubble. Iranian authorities confirmed a final death toll of 168 people, with at least 95 others wounded, marking one of the most harrowing incidents of the conflict’s opening day.

Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread

across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations have painted a starkly different picture.

An analysis by Al Jazeera’s digital investigations unit, utilizing over a decade of satellite imagery and recent video clips, revealed that the school was a clearly distinct civilian facility, separated from any adjacent military sites for at least ten years. Furthermore, witness accounts and satellite-based analyses confirmed that the school was triple tapped by three separate, deliberate strikes, leaving no doubt about the nature of the attack.

The international community has faced mounting evidence regarding the responsibility for this atrocity, with investigations from major global outlets including The New York Times, BBC Verify, CBC, and NPR all concluding that the United States was responsible for the strike.

These findings have raised fundamental questions about the intelligence used to justify the bombing, as the patterns of the strike suggest a direct targeting of a civilian educational institution. The Minab school tragedy now stands as a somber testament to the immense human cost of the aggression and a focal point for those demanding international accountability.