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Leader calls for reversing population policy shortcomings

8

No talks with US until Iran's 'seven conditions' met: *Speaker*

2

Tehran court holds hearing on US missile strike on Minab school

2









The combo shows plaintiffs and survivors of a US missile strike appearing in a court of law in Tehran on November 24, 2026 to file a lawsuit against those behind the American attack on an elementary school in Minab, southern Iran, on February 28, 2026 that killed 168 people, mostly children.
MIZAN

World's emerging power triangle



By Morad Enadi
International affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The recent gathering of the United States, China and Russia in Shenzhen carries several important implications for international relations and the future balance of global power.

First, 35 years after the collapse of the bipolar order in 1991, the meeting has revived the idea that the international system may be entering a new phase. Analysts have described the distribution of global power as unipolar, uni-multipolar, multipolar or hierarchical. The Shenzhen gathering has prompted another interpretation: the emergence of a three-pole system and a new triangle of power. China and Russia share positions on many international issues and have interests that differ from those of the United States. In practice, the two countries often stand together against the third.

Second, the three countries do not have equal weight or status. Some analysts argue that the current world order remains essentially bipolar, with the United States and China at its center because of their economic strength and close military and political competition. Yet President Vladimir Putin's presence alongside Xi Jinping and Donald Trump underlined that Russia cannot be ignored. Moscow is the world's second-largest nuclear power and holds a permanent seat and veto on the United Nations Security Council. Its vast oil and gas resources also give it influence. Russia therefore retains a significant place in global affairs, despite the relative superiority of Washington and Beijing.

Third, the gathering raises questions about the relative weight of the world's power centers. The three leaders met on the sidelines of the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), held in Shenzhen.

Page 3



US-sanctioned exchange center simply a public transaction platform: *CBI*

3



Washington behind military walls

OPINION EXCLUSIVE 4



AFC Champions League Elite:

Bakhtiarizadeh praises 'excellent' Esteghlal after Al Ain draw

6

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No talks with US until Iran's 'seven conditions' met: *Speaker*

International Desk

Iran's Parliament speaker and lead negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said that there will be no practical measures or negotiations with the United States until Iran's seven conditions to end conflict are met.

Addressing a parliamentary session on Tuesday, Qalibaf rejected recent remarks by US President Donald Trump and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent as baseless rhetoric and empty threats, and said Iran's position is clear and unchanging.

"Threats and insults against the proud people of Iran, and the emphasis on economic pressure, are but a sign of the Americans' desperation in the face of our dear, resistant, and independent nation," Qalibaf said.

He warned that in response to the enemy's movements, Iran is prepared to deliver a decisive response and alter the geography of the battlefield in the event of any miscalculation.

Qalibaf was referring to threats by Trump on Sunday that he may order fresh military attacks against Iran after the New Year if Tehran does not reach an agreement with Washington.

The US and Israel launched a war of aggression against Iran in late February 2026, amid diplomatic talks between Tehran and Washington on a replacement for the 2015 nuclear deal that Trump abandoned during his first term in 2018.

Following 40 days of conflict, Iran and the United States signed a 14-point memorandum of understanding on June 17. The agreement included a ceasefire and a 60-day window for further negotiations.

Washington breached the deal by trying to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz without any Iranian coordination.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (R) speaks during a parliament session in Tehran on November 24, 2026.
ICANA



Diplomatic efforts to resolve the differences have stalled due to Washington's failure to abide by the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.

Tehran has stated that any diplomatic resolution requires Washington to meet seven conditions recently set out by Iran to end the conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

These conditions include the permanent cessation of hostilities, the lifting of sanctions, the release of frozen Iranian assets, the removal of the US naval blockade on Iranian ports, and guarantees preventing future aggression.

Tehran court holds hearing on US missile strike on Minab school

International Desk

A court in Tehran held a hearing on war crimes committed by the United States during its missile strike on an elementary school in Iran's southern city of Minab on the first day of its aggression against Iran on February 28.

The case concerns the killing of 168 children, teachers, and other victims at the school on February 28, when the United States and the Israeli regime began their unprovoked aggression against the Islamic Republic.

The hearing took place at Branch 55 of the International Court of Tehran, presided over by Judge Majid Hosseinzadeh, and attended by senior judicial officials, international lawyers, media representatives, and families of those either martyred or injured.

Opening the proceedings, Hosseinzadeh said the families had filed claims against the US government, its president, and senior Israeli officials, seeking punitive damages and compensation for material and moral damages.

Hassan Abdolianpour, head of Iran's Central Bar Association, said the proceedings had to establish the identities of those responsible and the evidence linking them to the attack.

He stressed that the decisions behind the attack needed to be examined through targeting records, intelligence assessments, command documents, and technical evidence.

Abdolianpour also called for the issuance of summonses to nine US Navy destroyer commanders to examine their responsibility for the losses.

Lawyer Hossein Tanhaei presented documents showing that the school complex, comprising separate elementary schools for boys and girls and a preschool, operated under the supervision of Iran's Education Ministry since October 2015.

According to the evidence submitted, 403 children were enrolled at the institution when it was attacked, alongside 36 staff members. Academic records, report cards, photographs, and satellite imagery were presented to establish its continuous educational activities and civilian character.

The court also heard testimony from Reyhaneh Mahdikhah, a surviving student whose sister was killed in the US strike.

"Our school was not a military facility. And even if it had been, would that have justified tearing the students limb from limb? They had no weapons. They went to school carrying nothing but their schoolbags and stationery," she said.

Atefeh Zakeri, the teacher of the school, described multiple explosions that destroyed the school, saying she pulled injured children from beneath the rubble, despite suffering injuries herself.

'School deliberately targeted'

Eyewitness Jafar Ghassemi said he heard three powerful explosions and rushed to the scene. He said the school was deliberately targeted and that the location was struck again at around 2:30 p.m. (local time).

Several fathers recounted the devastating loss of their children and the difficulties of identifying their remains.

Hassan Salari, who lost his wife and two children, said his son was identified through his pencil case and his wife through her wedding ring. His eight-year-old daughter was subsequently identified at a morgue.

Other parents described finding their children's remains days after the attack, including through DNA testing.

The plaintiffs' legal team also invoked the Geneva Conventions, the UN Charter, and customary international humanitarian law, calling for investigations into the weapons used, targeting decisions, and chain of command.

UN envoy condemns Bahrain's 'baseless accusations'

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations strongly rejected Bahrain's accusations against the Islamic Republic, describing them as a deliberate attempt to distort facts and conceal Manama's role in facilitating continued US military aggression against Iran.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Security Council on Monday, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative Gholamhossein Darzi said Bahrain's allegations were baseless and intended to misrepresent Iran's defensive measures, Press TV reported.

According to the letter, Darzi said Bahrain was attempting to conceal its undeniable role in supporting ongoing US aggression against Iran.

He stressed that the continued use of regional countries' territories, airspace, military bases and logistical infrastructure, particularly in Bahrain and Kuwait, to facilitate US military attacks against Iran carried serious consequences under international law.

"No state can evade its international obligations or responsibility by allowing its territory to be used as a platform for aggression against another sovereign state," Darzi said.

He added that states are obligated not to knowingly allow their territories to be used by another country to carry out acts of aggression against a third state.

Darzi said US military aggression against Iran was continuing unabated, in clear violation of the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the fundamental principles of the UN Charter.



Gholamhossein Darzi
IRNA

He cited several recent attacks on Iranian territory, including US airstrikes on November 2 and 17 against coastal areas in southern Iran, targeting facilities and infrastructure on Qeshm Island and near Sirik in Hormozgan Province.

He also referred to an attack on a radar facility on Hengam Island on November 20.

In response, Iran targeted the source of the attack in Bahrain on November 21, striking a US radar system stationed at the American military base of Sheikh Isa, the ambassador said.

Darzi stated that any alleged targeting error was attributable to US electronic warfare and jamming operations hosted by Bahrain.

He further said credible information and evidence showed that US military drones and other military assets were being used from regional bases, including those in Bahrain and Kuwait, to carry out attacks against Iran.

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0540014
Second Announcement
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN
N.I.S.O.C

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at **www.setadiran.ir** Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity	UNIT
1	● SLICKLINE SPOOLED ON IRON REEL ● H2S, CO2 AND CHLORIDE ION TRIM ● TYPE: SUPA-75 OR SANNICRO-26 ● STAINLESS STEEL UNS N08926 (ALLOY 25-6) ● REF. "SANDVIK (ZAPP-GROUP)", "BRIDON" ● SIZE 0.108 INCH X 20000 FEET	40	RL
2	SIZE 0.125 INCH X 20000 FEET	10	RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: **www.setadiran.ir**, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **46,375 EURO** or **95,585,539,360 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.
ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS DDP, NISOC WAREHOUSES, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
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Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



US-sanctioned exchange center simply a public transaction platform: *CBI*

Economy Desk

The governor of Central Bank of Iran rejected a US Treasury claim that the country's currency and gold exchange center was part of Iran's shadow banking network, saying it was simply a platform for recording transactions at a publicly accessible institution.

Abdolnaser Hemmati said the US decision to sanction the center suggested that Washington had run out of targets.

"Everyone can see the exchange center. Its building has an address, its name is displayed on the sign at the entrance, and its website is accessible to everyone. If they see this place as 'shadow banking' too, they apparently have become confused about the difference between sunlight and shadow," Hemmati said.

"Perhaps when someone sees every shadow as a threat even in broad daylight, they feel safe only in a military barracks," he added.

The Trump administration announced new Iran-related sanctions on Monday, targeting dozens of individuals and entities, the US Treasury Department said, as part of efforts to isolate Iran from the global economy and disrupt what it described as the country's "shadow banking networks."

The Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) also released an analysis identifying nearly $15 billion in financial activity between January 2025 and August 2026 that it said could be linked to Iranian shadow banking.

The sanctions targeted two dozen Iranian exchange houses and front companies involved in facilitating Iran's foreign trade, including firms based in the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Hong Kong, as well as key personnel.

"Iran's shadow banking system is the last financial lifeline of a bankrupt regime," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.

The Treasury said Iran's shadow banking system was overseen by the Central Bank of Iran and operated through dozens of domestic exchange houses and bank affiliates that managed networks helping Iranian clients circumvent sanctions.

However, according to Iran's Tasnim news agency, the Center for Exchange of Currency and Gold is neither a bank nor a covert banking network, contrary to the US official's claim. It is a platform for registering and organizing foreign currency and gold transactions, playing a role in the mechanism through which importers obtain foreign currency and exporters offer their foreign exchange earnings.

In practical terms, part of the country's export earnings is made available through this mechanism to importers who need foreign currency to purchase goods and raw materials. The center serves as a venue for recording and matching transactions, rather than generating foreign currency or holding the country's foreign exchange reserves, Tasnim said.

Tasnim said the sanctions were intended to raise the cost of cooperation with Iran's financial and trade networks for foreign partners and further restrict foreign exchange channels.

Sanctioning the exchange center does not necessarily mean that foreign exchange resources will be lost or transactions halted, Tasnim said, adding that the impact would depend on whether foreign exchange settlements and supplies for importers could continue.



IRNA

The news agency said transactions could continue through alternative channels, including by diversifying foreign exchange and trade routes, using local currencies and expanding bilateral currency agreements.

It said the Central Bank of Iran could help maintain foreign exchange flows by strengthening existing channels and developing alternative settlement mechanisms.

The effectiveness of the sanctions would ultimately depend on the extent to which they disrupted foreign currency supplies for foreign trade and increased the cost of trade, Tasnim said.

Energy minister in China for summit, talks on infrastructure financing

Economy Desk

Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi is in China to attend and address an energy ministers' summit and hold talks with senior Chinese officials.

Aliabadi, who is leading a delegation on the four-day visit, is scheduled to meet China's commerce minister and the head of China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure), Iran's Energy Ministry said.

Facilitating financing for major infrastructure and energy projects is among the main topics on the agenda of the talks with Chinese officials, the ministry said. Aliabadi is also due to hold bilateral meetings with other senior officials and ministers attending the international summit.

The Iranian delegation is also scheduled to visit advanced factories and industrial complexes producing energy storage systems (ESS) in Guangzhou and Shanghai.

The visits are aimed at examining the latest technologies in power grid management and renewable energy development, the ministry said.


Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi (C) arrives in China on November 24, 2026.
moe.gov.ir

Iran's lead, zinc industry generates up to $800m in annual exports

Economy Desk

Iran produces about 220,000 metric tons of zinc ingots annually, meeting domestic demand and exporting most of its output to markets including China, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey, the head of the country's Lead and Zinc Industries and Mines Association said.

Mojtaba Bozorg told the Iranian state-run IRIB broadcaster that domestic consumption accounts for about 40,000 tons of annual zinc ingot production, while the industry generates between $700 million and $800 million in export revenue each year.

Current output is about five times domestic demand, allowing Iranian manufacturers, particularly galvanizing plants, to meet their requirements entirely through local production, he said.

The northwestern province of Zanjan accounts for about 70% of Iran's zinc ingot production and nearly 20% of its lead ingot output, making it the country's main hub for the zinc industry, Bozorg said.

He attributed the industry's development to private-sector investment, technological advances and the use of domestic mineral resources, which have also enabled producers to recover other metals alongside lead and zinc.

More than 20,000 people are directly employed in the industry, with several thousand others working indirectly across its supply chain, he said.

Under Iran's seventh five-year development plan, the country has set annual production targets of more than 450,000 tons of zinc ingots and about 400,000 tons of lead ingots, Bozorg said. The zinc target is more than double current output.

He said achieving those targets would require a reliable energy supply, easier access to raw materials, changes to regulations that constrain production expansion and greater support for knowledge-based technologies.

Power and fuel shortages, raw material costs and some export restrictions remain among the industry's main challenges, Bozorg said, adding that producers were working to maintain output, expand export markets and increase capacity.

World's emerging power ...

The absence of a European Union representative was not, in itself, unusual.

Page 1 ›

However, the image conveyed to the world, particularly through the meeting's agenda, carried a broader message: a three-pole era in international relations may be taking shape.

For the European Union, that message is significant. Despite years of efforts to deepen integration and establish itself as an independent center of global power, Europe appears to have been left out of the top league, or at least to have little influence in the current calculations of major powers. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz appeared to respond when he referred to the war in Ukraine and said that any meeting resembling the Yalta Conference would fail without European participation.

Fourth, the Shenzhen meeting's final statement focused on reforming the United Nations, restricting the decisions of the International Criminal Court, managing energy issues and regulating nuclear competition. It also addressed China's call for nuclear disarmament. These priorities point to an effort by the three powers to coordinate their response to challenges that are growing in scale and complexity.

The emphasis on international institutions comes as the United Nations has been pushed to the margins. The organization, along with the International Atomic Energy Agency, its specialized agency, remained silent in the face of the unlawful US-Israeli attack against Iran. The attack was a clear violation of the UN Charter and the agency's regulations, yet neither institution managed even to deliver a meaningful response.

There is also a contradiction in Washington's position. Despite the International Criminal Court's issuance of an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over war crimes, the United States continues to defend Israel's actions in the region, including its attack on Iran. Washington has instead sought to restrict the court's decisions. Whether the issues raised in Shenzhen can produce results will depend on how firmly the three powers are committed to safeguarding regional and international peace and security.

Fifth, the leaders' statements on nuclear weapons should be considered in light of their arsenals. Trump has said that the United States has 4,000 nuclear warheads, followed by Russia with 3,800 and China with 500. If these figures are taken as the basis for comparison, the emphasis placed by the three powers, particularly Washington, on preventing a nuclear war may be less than convincing. It could be seen largely as a public display for a global audience. Nevertheless, China's call for nuclear disarmament, whatever its motivation, can be regarded as a step toward strengthening international peace and security.

Overall, despite the public display of unity, particularly Trump's performance before the cameras, the United States, Russia and China remain divided on Ukraine, Iran and energy management. Their positions are far from identical. A further complication beneath the public statements and final communiqués is the closeness of China and Russia, the two sides of the triangle that often oppose or decline to support the third. This alignment is revealed less in press conferences than through the powers' actions. The Shenzhen meeting's significance will therefore be measured not by the image its participants presented, but by whether their words lead to coordinated action. Until then, the idea of a new global triangle remains an interpretation of the emerging balance of power, not an established international order.

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0340012

Second Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

N.I.S.O.C

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity	UNIT
1	CASING 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPF, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS VAM , N.VAM, THREAD, RANGE 3, DRIFT LENGTH: 42 IN	30,000	LE
2	PUP JOINT, TUBING 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPH, 7 FT, PIN & BOX	65	NO
3	PUP JOINT, TUBING 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPH, 10 FT, PIN & BOX	65	NO
4	COUPLING TUBING 4-1/2 IN., (VAM-N. VAM-SEC)	500	NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **153,665/53 EURO** or **310,686,343,220 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

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Washington behind military walls



By Saman Sofalgar
Political researcher

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The reported decision by several senior American officials to relocate to military bases amid fears of Iranian retaliation reveals an uncomfortable reality for Washington: its confrontation with Iran is generating security concerns that extend far beyond the Middle East.
What American policymakers have long presented as a strategy for protecting US interests is increasingly exposing the costs and contradictions of an approach built around sanctions, military pressure, and threats of escalation.
According to reports by American media in November 2026, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent moved from his private residence to a military installation following security concerns associated with alleged Iranian threats. Other senior officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and War Secretary Pete Hegseth, have also reportedly taken up residence in military housing in the Washington area. These developments are politically significant.
For an administration that regularly emphasizes American military superiority and its ability to project power across the globe, the prospect of senior officials seeking protection behind the security barriers of military installations presents an uncomfortable contrast between Washington's international ambitions and its domestic security concerns. More importantly, the episode highlights a fundamental weakness in American policy toward Iran: the assumption that Washington can impose virtually unlimited pressure on another country without facing meaningful consequences.

Price of confrontation

For decades, American administrations have relied on economic sanctions, military deployments, and diplomatic isolation to influence Iran's strategic calculations. The underlying assumption has been that Washington's military and economic superiority gives it the ability to dictate the terms of confrontation. Iran, however, has consistently rejected this framework.
Despite years of sanctions and sustained political pressure, Tehran has maintained its independent foreign policy, preserved important military capabilities, and continued to play a significant role in regional affairs. This resilience has repeatedly challenged Washington's expectations that economic restrictions would eventually force Iran into accepting American demands.
The latest security developments suggest another dimension of this strategic confrontation. American officials must increasingly consider the possibility that policies directed against Iran could generate retaliatory risks extending beyond the region. Nevertheless, the growing concern within the American administration demonstrates that Washington cannot completely separate its foreign policy decisions from their potential domestic consequences. The central contradiction is clear: an administration seeking to demonstrate its ability to pressure Iran must also confront the security implications of maintaining that pressure.

Sanctions and the illusion of control

The relocation of Bessent is particularly noteworthy because of his central role in the administration's economic campaign against Tehran. Washington has increasingly relied on financial restrictions to limit Iran's international trade, banking relationships, oil revenues, and access to foreign investment. These measures are frequently described as alternatives to military confrontation, but their strategic consequences extend well beyond economic policy. For Iran, sanctions represent an attempt to constrain national sovereignty through economic coercion. They affect ordinary citizens, restrict economic development, and create obstacles to international commercial relations.
From Tehran's perspective, accepting such pressure without resistance would establish a precedent in which powerful states could use financial dominance to dictate the political choices of independent countries. The American approach also contains a strategic paradox. Washington expects economic pressure to weaken Iran's ability to resist, yet the continuation of that pressure can reinforce Tehran's determination to preserve its independence and strengthen its deterrence capabilities.
Bessent's reported relocation illustrates the personal security dimension of this broader confrontation. The official responsible for overseeing economic pressure against Iran is himself reportedly among those requiring additional protection because of concerns linked to the consequences of the conflict. The irony is difficult to ignore: economic coercion may be designed to reduce the costs of confrontation for Washington, but it does not eliminate the possibility that confrontation will generate new costs.

The illustration shows US President Donald Trump behind bars.
ALMA HASER/THE ATLANTIC

Military bases as symbols of vulnerability

The reported use of military installations as residences for senior civilian officials also carries considerable symbolic importance. Military bases provide controlled environments, restricted access, and enhanced security arrangements. Moving government officials to such facilities can be a reasonable precaution when authorities identify credible threats. Yet the reported concentration of senior policymakers in protected military accommodation raises questions about the normalization of exceptional security measures. Fort McNair in Washington has attracted particular attention.
A March 2026 report by The Washington Post described the presence of Rubio and Hegseth at the installation and raised concerns about unidentified drone activity over the facility. The origin of those drones was not established, and their presence cannot independently be attributed to Iran. Nevertheless, the incident illustrates the challenges facing American security institutions as tensions with Tehran remain elevated. The broader political message is significant.
Washington has spent years presenting its military presence across the Middle East as a guarantee of security and stability. Yet the reported relocation of its own senior officials demonstrates that military superiority does not necessarily eliminate vulnerability. American policymakers should recognize that security cannot be measured simply by the number of aircraft carriers deployed, military installations maintained, or sanctions imposed. It also depends on the ability to avoid unnecessary confrontations that generate additional threats.

> Bessent's reported relocation illustrates the personal security dimension of this broader confrontation. The official responsible for overseeing economic pressure against Iran is himself reportedly among those requiring additional protection because of concerns linked to the consequences of the conflict. The irony is difficult to ignore: economic coercion may be designed to reduce the costs of confrontation for Washington, but it does not eliminate the possibility that confrontation will generate new costs.

Iran's deterrence and strategic independence

Iran's position in this confrontation must be understood within the context of its longstanding opposition to foreign intervention and coercive policies. Tehran has repeatedly argued that its national security cannot be separated from the broader regional environment. American military deployments, sanctions, and support for regional pressure campaigns are viewed by Iranian policymakers as elements of a strategy intended to constrain the country's sovereignty. Iran's response has emphasized deterrence, strategic independence, and the development of capabilities intended to make military aggression costly. This approach reflects a basic principle of international relations: a country does not need to possess the same conventional military resources as a global power to influence its strategic calculations. Geography, regional partnerships, military capabilities, and the economic importance of the Persian Gulf all shape the balance of risks. The reported security concerns among senior American officials therefore illustrate an important feature of the confrontation.
Washington may possess substantially greater conventional military resources, but this does not give it unlimited freedom of action. For Iran, the ability to preserve strategic independence despite sustained American pressure is itself an important political and security objective. However, deterrence should not be confused with an absence of danger. Escalation could impose enormous costs on the entire region, including on countries that have no interest in becoming part of a direct confrontation.

Washington's strategic contradiction

The most important question raised by these developments is whether the United States is achieving its stated security objectives through its Iran

Department of Army Civilian Police officers conduct anti-drone operations during nighttime at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., somewhere between November 17–21, 2025. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio (not pictured) both temporarily live on Fort McNair.
SGT. ZACK STINE/US ARMY



policy. Washington has repeatedly tried to justify its pressure campaign by invoking regional stability, nuclear nonproliferation, and the security of its allies. Yet a strategy that continuously increases tensions risks undermining those very objectives.

The problem is not simply that Iran refuses to accept American demands. It is that Washington has often approached diplomacy from a position in which meaningful concessions are expected primarily from Tehran, while American economic and military pressure is treated as an unquestionable instrument of policy. Such an approach leaves limited room for a sustainable diplomatic settlement. Iran, like any sovereign state, has legitimate interests concerning its territorial integrity, national security, and political independence. A durable regional order cannot be constructed through permanent economic pressure or the assumption that one country has the right to determine the strategic choices of another.

Cost of Washington's choices

The relocation of senior American officials to military bases is important because it exposes the growing security implications of a confrontation that Washington has repeatedly chosen to sustain. The United States remains a powerful international actor, but power does not guarantee immunity from strategic miscalculation.

The experience of its confrontation with Iran demonstrates that economic pressure and military intimidation cannot automatically produce political compliance. For Tehran, the central objective remains the preservation of sovereignty and the prevention of foreign coercion. For Washington, the challenge is increasingly whether it can recognize the limits of its own pressure strategy.

Ultimately, the most revealing aspect of this episode is not that American officials may have to live behind the security barriers of military bases. It is that a government accustomed to projecting power across the world must now confront the domestic security consequences of its own international policies. Washington can continue to invest in military protection, intelligence operations, and economic sanctions. But none of these measures can substitute for a realistic diplomatic strategy. The lesson is straightforward: Iran cannot simply be pressured into surrendering its strategic independence, and American power cannot eliminate the consequences of confrontation. If Washington genuinely seeks stability, it must abandon the illusion that security can be achieved by permanently threatening the secu-

Hegseth's unmaking of US military



By James M. Lindsay

Former director for global issues at the US National Security Council

OPINION

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's efforts to remake the US military — and the turnover that has followed — have no parallel in US history.

Beyond sacking a range of four stars, Hegseth has blocked or delayed the promotions of 80 or more senior and flag officers. More than half of the officers affected are women or Black. He has also sought to end all diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs in the military, saying that the phrase "diversity is our strength" is the "single dumbest phrase in military history".

Five former secretaries of defense have written to Congress to express "deep alarm" at Hegseth's efforts. My colleague Linda Robinson recently wrote a CFR report calling Hegseth's moves a "war on military talent," and arguing that he is driving highly talented individuals to leave their service early or perhaps never join at all. These are serious concerns. The resolution introduced recently to impeach Hegseth, which the House narrowly rejected, did not address Hegseth's efforts to remake the US military.



Charles Bolden



Michael E. Smith

It is still worth assessing the impact of his personnel decisions. Although the services are unique in what they do, they are organizations like any other. All successful organizations rest on the ability to sustain a culture that promotes their fundamental ideals. But successful cultures are far easier to destroy than to repair.

The best way to understand the impact of Hegseth's efforts to remake the Pentagon is to speak with people who have served at the highest levels of the US military. So, for Veterans Day, I recorded the latest episode of The President's Inbox with two retired flag officers, Marine Corps Major General and former NASA administrator Charles Bolden and Rear Admiral Michael E. Smith, founder and president of National Security Leaders of America.

Here are three takeaways from my conversation with Charlie and Mike:

1. The damage being done to the US military is real: Charlie described Hegseth's changes as "doing generational damage," while Mike said that "the secretary is doing more damage to the ethos of the military as being a nonpolitical organization than I've ever witnessed in my career." Both Charlie and Mike are confident that the services can weather this storm, as they have overcome tumult in the past. However, repairing the damage will take years.

2. The assault on senior leadership and DEI programs will hurt retention and recruitment: Charlie and Mike both fear that Hegseth's personnel decisions, his direct (and unusual) intervention in senior promotions, and his attacks on DEI programs will drive talented leaders out of the services.

Both Charlie and Mike disagree with Hegseth's attacks on diversity. Charlie was blunt: Hegseth "is dead wrong when he says that diversity destroys our organizations". To the contrary, "diversity is critical to having a strong, knowledgeable, well-run military." Mike added that by firing and sidelining the careers of so many Black and women officers Hegseth "is implementing the same type of political and racial and gender policies that theoretically he is challenging." People are unlikely to join or stay in an organization that they see as hostile to them. As a demographic note, more than half of all people under the age of 30 identify with a nonwhite race or ethnic group.

3. The US military is being politicized: Charlie and Mike repeatedly stressed that members of the US military take an oath of loyalty to the Constitution, not to a person, an office, or a political party. As Mike put it: "Whatever the political policies of the president, the duly elected president, you go by them. As long as it's not an illegal order, you implement them. And if a new administration comes in, you support them. That's the strength of the military."

Hegseth's moves to fire or block the promotions of senior officers because they previously implemented policies he dislikes risks undermining that foundational principle. Military officers at all levels now have to worry that faithfully executing their orders today could harm their careers in the future. That is not a healthy situation.

Charlie, Mike, and I also covered several other topics in our discussion. These included: lessons from their own careers in the US military; the merits of Hegseth's plan to reduce the overall numbers of flag officers; how military promotion boards work and why Hegseth's personal intervention in them is so alarming; and why noncommissioned officers (NCOs) are the backbone of the US military. I encourage you to give the episode a listen.



The illustration shows US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth over a torn picture of the Pentagon.
ERIC FAISON/THE DAILY BEAST



Senior US military officers attend Secretary of War Pete Hegseth's "State of the Force" address at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, on September 30, 2025.
KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

The article was first published by the Council on Foreign Relations.

> Hegseth's moves to fire or block the promotions of senior officers because they previously implemented policies he dislikes risks undermining the foundational principle that the US military take an oath of loyalty to the Constitution, not to a person, an office, or a political party. Military officers at all levels now have to worry that faithfully executing their orders today could harm their careers in the future. That is not a healthy situation.

AFC Champions League Elite:

Bakhtiarizadeh praises 'excellent' Esteghlal after Al Ain draw

Sports Desk

Esteghlal head coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh was full of praise for his players' "excellent" performance after the Persian Gulf Pro League club played out a 1-1 draw against Emirati heavyweight Al Ain in the AFC Champions League Elite on Monday.

Iranian international defender Saman Fallah gave the visiting Blues the lead six minutes into the second half, heading home Jasir Asani's set-piece delivery past Al Ain goalkeeper Khalid Eissa.

Esteghlal's lead was short-lived, however, as Matías Palacios' low drive from inside the box took a deflection off Roozbeh Cheshmi and slipped past a sprawling Saleh Hardani into the bottom corner seven minutes later.

Despite the home side enjoying more possession, Esteghlal had a couple of chances to restore its lead, while also having goalkeeper Habib Farabbasi to thank for producing a couple of heroic saves late on, as the Blues ended Al Ain's perfect run in the West Zone league stage.

"I think anyone who watched the game will have enjoyed the football both teams played," Bakhtiarizadeh said at the post-match press conference.

"My players were excellent. We had some good chances and could have come away with a win.

"As I said yesterday, we respect every opponent but fear no one. Al Ain are a quality side and it's always difficult to play them at home, but my players stuck together and showed what Esteghlal are capable of.

"Our goalkeeper played well, we defended as a unit and we created plenty of chances. With a little more luck, we could have won," added the Iranian.

The result saw both sides move closer to securing a place in the last 16, with Al Ain leading the 16-team table on 13 points after five rounds, while Esteghlal sit third on 10 points, level with second-placed Al Hilal.

Esteghlal will return to action in a fortnight, hosting Uzbekistan's PFC Neftchi at Basra International Stadium, which serves as the Blues' home venue.



Esteghlal players and coaching staff salute the away supporters after a 1-1 draw against Al Ain in the AFC Champions League Elite in Al Ain, UAE, on November 23, 2026.
AFC

Neftchi pulled off an impressive second-half fightback at home against Al Hilal, coming from two goals down to hold the Saudi Pro League giants to a 2-2 draw in Fergana.

Tractor thrashed

Iranian top-flight side Tractor SC, meanwhile, endured another disastrous night in the continental competition, suffering a 5-1 thrashing at the hands of UAE Pro League side Al Wasl in Muscat.

Iranian international striker Mahdi Taremi was the star of the show for Al Wasl, scoring twice and providing an assist as Tractor remained winless and third from bottom in the table with two points.

Tractor had to play the best part of the match with 10 men after center-back Mohammad Daneshgar was sent off following a VAR review for denying Taremi a clear goal-scoring opportunity.

The Iranian side was dealt a further blow in the second half as Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, who scored a 72nd-minute consolation goal, was stretchered off in stoppage time, raising fears that the prolific striker could be sidelined for an extended period.

"I apologize to our fans for the result. The scoreline doesn't reflect the difference between the two teams," Tractor head coach Javad Nekounam said after the game.

"We went down to 10 men almost as soon as the game started.

"The players worked hard and played well for about an hour. We had a one-on-one chance early in the second half, but as the game wore on, the fatigue from the journey caught up with us," added the Iranian, whose team took to the pitch at Sultan Qaboos Stadium following an exhausting, multi-stage journey amid a U.S.-imposed ban on Iranian airlines.

"The trip took 18 hours, including a seven-hour delay at the airport. We missed a day of training and could only manage a light session before the match. I can't fault the players. They gave everything they had."

Trailing the eighth and final knockout spot by five points, Tractor are on the verge of missing out on the round of 16 but will still look to salvage some pride in their remaining three matches, starting with a trip to Tashkent to face Pakhtakor on December 7.

2026 World Taekwondo Gala Awards:

Salimi in three-way race for Male Athlete prize

Sports Desk

Iran's Arian Salimi will be part of a three-horse race for the Male Athlete of the Year prize at the upcoming World Taekwondo Gala Awards.

The annual ceremony will be staged in Astana on Sunday, coinciding with the final day of the World Taekwondo Grand Prix Final in the Kazakh capital.

Arguably the best heavyweight practitioner in the world, reigning Olympic champion Salimi will face competition from Brazil's Henrique Marques and South Korea's Moon Jin-ho, both of whom have enjoyed impressive campaigns this year.

A world champion in 2025, Marques leads the men's -80kg world rankings with 148.4 points. The Brazilian claimed bronze, silver and gold medals at the Rome, Muju and Paris Grand Prix events, respectively, and also won gold at the Pan American Championships and the U.S. Open.

Moon, meanwhile, tops the -68kg rankings with 150 points after collecting gold medals at the Muju and Paris Grand Prix events, the Asian Championships and the Korea Open, as well as bronze at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in October.

Salimi has been a consistent medal winner since the start of the year, collecting 131 ranking points to top the men's +80kg standings.

The Iranian has claimed five gold medals at the Asian Championships, Korea Open, Paris Grand Prix, Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games and World Taekwondo President's Cup. He also picked up bronze at the Muju Grand Prix.

Given his impressive record and results, Salimi is among the leading contenders for the men's award.

However, the upcoming competition in Kazakhstan could prove decisive in determining the ultimate winner of the prestigious prize.

The star-studded Iranian squad at the season finale will feature six representatives in the men's divisions and three in the women's events.

Salimi will be joined by world champion Abolfazl Zandi (-58kg), Asian champion Mahdi Haji-Mousaei (-68kg), Amir Sina Bakhtiari and Radin Zeinali (-80kg), as well as Mohammad Hossein Yazdani (+80kg) in the men's competition.

Olympic silver medalist Nahid Kiani (-57kg), Saghar Moradi (-67kg), who won gold at September's Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, and two-time world junior champion Hana Zarrinkamar (+67kg) will represent the country in the women's competi- tion.



WORLD TAEKWONDO

AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup:

'We're here to win the title':

Mohammadpour confident ahead of Saudi clash

Sports Desk

Iran's Movahed Mohammadpour has insisted that the defending champions would settle for nothing less than a third successive crown at the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup.

The Iranian made the remarks ahead of Wednesday's quarterfinal clash against Saudi Arabia at the Memories Beach Arena in Phang Nga, Thailand.

Mohammadpour said Iran would not need to make any major adjustments for the knockout match, stressing that the team was focused solely on retaining its crown.

"We don't need to make any changes for the quarterfinals," Mohammadpour said. "We are Iran, and we came here to win the championship."

Mohammadpour was among the scorers as Iran comprehensively defeated two-time semi-finalists Lebanon 7-2 on Monday to conclude the group stage with a perfect record, having defeated Afghanistan (9-2) and Vietnam (10-2) earlier in Group B.

The four-time champions have faced Saudi Arabia before, and while Mohammadpour has nothing but respect for his opponents, the defender is confident his side has what it takes to prevail.

"We will improve from match to match as long as we follow our game plan," Mohammadpour said. "So it doesn't matter who our opponents are because we are Iran and we are going forward with full power and a strong game," added the Iranian, whose team is chasing a record-extending fifth title in 12 editions of the flagship continental showpiece.

Saudi Arabia left it late to secure a place in the last eight, advancing as Group C runners-up with a 7-3 win against Uzbekistan, and midfielder Waleed Mohamed believes hard work will be the key to further progress.

"We qualified from a group that included very strong teams, and this was the result of long-term preparation," he said. "The team aspires to go even further, as nothing is impossible with hard work and perseverance.

"Iran are considered one of the leading contenders, but we have the ambition and determination to win and the resolve to represent Saudi football with honor."

The Saudis opened their campaign with a shootout victory over the United Arab Emirates after the two sides played out a 3-3 draw, before suffering a 9-1 thrashing against 2015 champion Oman, which was beaten 8-1 by Iran in last year's final.

The winner of Wednesday's game will take on either three-time champion Japan or the UAE in the semifinals on Friday.

The other last-eight matches will see host Thailand square off against Oman, with Bahrain facing Lebanon.



FFIRI

Marbles keep old childhood tradition alive in Hormozgan

Iranica Desk

Traditional and indigenous games in Iran have long been more than simple pastimes. They have formed an important part of the identity, collective memory, and social ties of generations. Across the country, these games have taken on the character of their local environment and culture. In the warm coastal province of Hormozgan Province, they became intertwined with maritime life, the familiar dirt lanes of neighborhoods, and the cool evening breeze blowing in from the Persian Gulf.

Among these games, marbles is one of the best-known and most fondly remembered pastimes shared across Iran. For generations, its simple rules and demand for precision brought excitement to old neighborhoods, public gathering places, and dirt alleys, particularly in the ports and islands of Hormozgan. Reviving and preserving such games offers a valuable way to maintain a sense of community and pass traditional elements of local culture on to younger generations, according to chtn.ir.

Before the rise of video games and smartphones, urban and rural streets and open spaces were filled with the noise and energy of children at play. In Hormozgan, the dirt lots and



● khabarfoori.com



● mehrnews.com

open areas around neighborhoods provided an ideal setting for these childhood competitions, where friendship, agility, concentration, and fairness were learned through play.

At the heart of these gatherings were small, colorful glass marbles. A flick of the thumb and forefinger sent the marbles rolling across the ground, while their gentle clicks and collisions created a distinctive soundscape. The game required neither a standardized playing field nor expensive equipment. A few marbles and a patch of level ground were enough to provide hours of inexpensive, healthy entertainment.

Archaeological findings suggest that games involving spherical pieces have existed for thousands of years in ancient civilizations. Numerous clay, stone, and bone pieces have been discovered at archaeological sites in Iran, Mesopotamia, and the Indus Valley, pointing to the deep historical roots of this type of pastime.

Along the southern coast and in the coastal areas of Hormozgan, children traditionally used smooth, rounded beach stones, fruit pits, or dried clay and mortar balls before industrially produced glass marbles became available. Later, the arrival of brightly colored glass marbles in local markets gave the game a new lease on life, turning it into a popular pastime enjoyed by successive generations.

Marbles can be played in several ways, including games involving holes or one-on-one target shooting. One of the most common and exciting variations involves targeting marbles inside a circle.

First, a straight line is drawn on the ground, and all players stand behind it. Each player shoots their marble forward. Unlike many other games, the player whose marble travels the farthest gets the first turn, with subsequent turns determined by the distance each marble has traveled.

A circle is then drawn around the original line, and each player places a predetermined number of marbles—such as one or two, depending on the agreement—inside it.

The first player begins from the point where their marble stopped during the previous stage. Using a flick of the thumb, they aim at the marbles inside the circle. If they succeed in knocking a marble outside the circle, they claim it and earn another shot as a reward for their skill.

If the shot misses or fails to knock any marble out of the circle, the turn passes to the second player—the one whose initial throw traveled the next-farthest distance. That player begins from the point where their own marble stopped.

The process continues until all the marbles have been knocked out of the circle. The player who has collected the largest number of marbles at the end is declared the winner.

More than a simple form of entertainment, marbles also served an educational and developmental purpose. On an individual level, the game helped children develop hand-eye coordination, estimate angles and distances, control the force of their shots, and improve concentration. Socially, it gave children practical experience in taking turns, respecting rules, judging fairly according to local measures such as hand spans and paces, and accepting both victory and defeat.

Its low cost also made the game accessible to everyone. Children from different backgrounds could sit side by side on the dirt, compete, and socialize without the barriers often associated with more expensive forms of entertainment.

Today, the spread of apartment living and the growing popularity of digital games have pushed many of these street-based pastimes into decline. Yet in many homes and neighborhoods across southern Iran and Hormozgan, small jars and containers filled with marbles can still be found on shelves and inside cupboards.

Those brightly colored glass balls are more than remnants of an old children's game. They evoke memories of childhood, uncomplicated gatherings, and a distinctive chapter in the cultural identity of Hormozgan — a tradition that once turned the simplest patch of dirt into a place for friendship, competition, and play.

Golabar emerges as new destination on Zanjan's tourism map

Iranica Desk

Golabar village in the town of Ijrud, Zanjan Province, is emerging as a destination for heritage and nature tourism, combining archaeological sites and traditional culture with recreational facilities developed around the Golabar Dam.

Located in a region where mountain landscapes give way to broad plains and river valleys, the village is known for its archaeological heritage, traditional livelihoods and natural attractions. The Golabar Dam and the tourism village established alongside it have added a new dimension to the area's appeal in recent years.

Ijrud has a long history that predates the political boundaries of modern Iran. Its location along ancient routes connecting Zanjan with other parts of the Iranian plateau made the area an important setting for the settlement of different communities and civilizations over the centuries.

Archaeological findings and field evidence from across Ijrud point to a longstanding pattern of settlement supported by water resources and fertile land. Historical evidence indicates that the area played an important role in agriculture, pastoralism and, at various periods, regional defense, while retaining elements of its historical identity through the centuries.

Among the town's historical sites, Golabar holds particular significance. Archaeological remains found at the Golabar



● IRNA



● wikipedia.org

historical site indicate that settlement in the area dates back to pre-Islamic periods. The availability of permanent water sources and fertile soil is believed to have contributed to the development of settled communities in the area.

Remains of residential structures, together with the village's location near the river, provide evidence of the importance of water and agricultural resources in the selection of the site for settlement. These archaeological remains have become an important part of the cultural heritage of Ijrud.

The area's heritage is also reflected in the traditional way of life of its residents. Agriculture and livestock farming remain important economic activities, while traditional crafts such as kilim weaving and Tanur-making continue to be practiced locally.

Golabar is also known for its archaeological record, with excavations and other evidence pointing to a long history of human settlement. Remains from different historical periods have been identified in and around the village, highlighting its significance as a site for archaeological and heritage research.

In recent years, however, Golabar Dam has become one of the main attractions drawing attention to the village. The dam serves as an important source of water for agriculture in the area and has created a large reservoir that has added a new dimension to the surrounding landscape.

A recreational and tourism village has been developed near the dam, offering visitors opportunities to enjoy the surrounding mountains and reservoir. Activities such as water-based recreation, recreational fishing and walking along the reservoir are among the attractions available to visitors.

Golabar also benefits from a four-season climate. Its relatively cool summers, green spring landscapes and colorful autumn scenery make the village suitable for visits throughout much of the year. Traditional houses standing alongside newer buildings add to the village's visual character, while surrounding orchards, natural landscapes and hiking routes provide additional attractions.

The local economy continues to rely primarily on agriculture and livestock farming. The region's fertile soil and access to water have created favorable conditions for growing crops such as wheat and barley, as well as a variety of fruits. Livestock farming is also an established economic activity, with locally produced animal products known in Ijrud.

Traditional crafts form another important part of Golabar's cultural identity. Tanur-making, the traditional production of clay ovens used for baking local bread, has been practiced in the village for generations. The craft represents both a household tradition and a form of tangible cultural heritage.

Kilim weaving is also practiced by women in Golabar households. Traditional patterns, colors and motifs inspired by nature and local culture are incorporated into handwoven kilims, which are regarded as among the area's traditional products and souvenirs.

Local crafts and cultural products could also provide a basis for handicraft festivals and local markets as tourism development plans for Ijrud continue to expand.

Golabar has gained a more prominent position on Zanjan's tourism map as provincial authorities have promoted new tourism routes, including the Golabar–Khuin–Kataleh Khor–Soltanieh route. Plans and initiatives related to tourism infrastructure, documentation of historical sites and promotion of local handicrafts are expected to further support the development of the area as a tourism destination.

For visitors, Golabar offers a combination of archaeological heritage, rural life and natural attractions. Exploring the village's historical remains, purchasing locally woven kilims, sampling bread baked in traditional ovens and visiting the reservoir are among the experiences available to travelers.

Golabar's emergence as a tourism destination is part of a broader effort to diversify and strengthen tourism in Zanjan Province, which combines archaeological heritage, historic monuments, natural landscapes and traditional culture.

Zanjan is home to a number of nationally and internationally significant attractions. The UNESCO-listed Soltaniyeh Dome, one of Iran's most important historical monuments, is among the province's best-known destinations and forms an important part of its cultural tourism potential. The province also offers natural attractions ranging from mountains, valleys and rivers to caves and rural landscapes.

The province's historical and cultural attractions are complemented by traditional handicrafts and local products. Zanjan is particularly known for crafts such as filigree work, knife-making and traditional textiles, while its local cuisine and rural traditions add to the province's cultural tourism appeal.

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Pezeshkian highlights livelihoods, development priorities in Mashhad



President Masoud Pezeshkian, (1st R), pays homage to the late Leader Ayatollah Khamenei by visiting his mausoleum inside the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) in Mashhad on November 24, 2026.
President.ir

Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian discussed economic conditions, development priorities and national unity in Mashhad on Tuesday, as part of a provincial visit that also included paying tribute at the mausoleum of the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

President Pezeshkian paid homage to the late Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei by visiting his mausoleum inside the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH), the eight Imam of Shia Muslims, in the northeastern city of Mashhad.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was buried in his resting place on July 9 alongside his family members who were assassinated all together during a missile strike on his residence in Tehran on February 28 when the United States and Israel waged an all-out war on Iran.

During talks with Ahmad Marvi, custodian of Astan Quds Razavi, the organization that administers the shrine, Pezeshkian reviewed Khorasan Razavi province's main challenges and priorities, including livelihoods, public involvement in national development programs and social cohesion.

Mashhad is the capital of Khorasan Razavi province and home to the shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH).

He said improving living conditions and securing public cooperation were essential to advancing development plans.

He also highlighted the role of public institutions and local communities in a national initiative to promote educational equity.

Pezeshkian called for changes in consumption patterns, more effective resource management and a stronger culture of conservation.

"All sectors of society should contribute to making better use of the country's resources and capacities," Pezeshkian said.

On regional developments, he described national unity and solidarity as a strategic necessity, calling for vigilance and cooperation to counter what he said were efforts by Iran's enemies to stir unrest and destabilize the country.

Marvi briefed Pezeshkian on the province's key concerns and development projects, as well as efforts to improve services for pilgrims visiting the shrine.

The talks also covered the shrine organization's social, cultural and service capacities and ways to use them to address provincial challenges and improve services for residents and pilgrims.

Tehran to host next round of Islam-Orthodox Christian Talks in 2027

Arts & Culture Desk

Tehran will host the 13th round of dialogue between Islam and the Russian Orthodox Church in February 2027. Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill expressed hope that the talks would be successfully held in the Iranian capital during a meeting on Monday with Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour, head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization. The meeting came ahead of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Joint Commission for Islamic-Christian Dialogue in 2027, IRNA reported on Tuesday. The next round of talks will focus on the role of religious leaders in addressing emerging global challenges. The patriarch described faith and moral values as essential to social life and said religious leaders were responsible for passing them on to future generations.

He called for greater cooperation among religious scholars in examining the ethical implications of new technologies, including artificial intelligence, cyberspace, bioethics and medical advances. Imanipour thanked the Russian Orthodox Church for its supportive positions and called for stronger academic and research ties, including exchanges of professors, researchers and students and the implementation of joint programs. In a separate meeting on Monday, Russian Culture Minister Olga Lyubimova announced that her ministry was ready to organize a Russian cultural festival in Iran, citing the positive reception of Iranian cultural events in Russia. Imanipour thanked the Russian Culture Ministry for its support in organizing Iran's cultural days in Russia and described the events as successful and influential in strengthening mutual understanding between the two nations.

Iran's cultural days in Russia began on September 25, 2026 in St. Petersburg and continued in Moscow, Kazan and Astrakhan until October 20.

He said Iran was ready to host a preliminary Russian delegation to discuss arrangements for the proposed festival.

The two sides also discussed expanding cooperation in cinema, exchanging cultural and artistic delegations, and organizing joint exhibitions and events.

The 12th round of dialogue between Islam and Russian Orthodox Christianity took place in Moscow in February 2023, after a four-year break caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour, head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (fourth from R), and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill (fifth from R) pose for a group photo during a meeting in Moscow on Nov. 23, 2026.
IRNA

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0540013

Second Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN
N.I.S.O.C

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
01	● PARTS FOR "SJS- SERVAGROUP" TRIPLEX P ● USED FOR CEMENTING/ ACIDIZING SERVICE. ● FALIZ PAJOUHESH PARS ● TRAILER MOUNTED TWIN PUMP CEMENTING UN ● REF. SJS- SERVA GROUP ● FLUID- END ASSY ● FLUID- END ASSY, 3-1/2" ● P/ N: P60-34-000	2 NO
02	● FLUID- END ASSY, 4-1/2" ● P/ N: P60-44-000	2 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **17,532/79 EURO** or **37,000,000,000 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

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Leader calls for reversing population policy shortcomings

Social Desk

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has called for addressing the shortcomings of past population policies, describing efforts to increase the country's young population with a focus on the family as a strategic priority for Iran's strength and development.

In a message to the Fourth National Population Youth Award event, Ayatollah Khamenei said population growth was among the most important factors in securing Iran's future, strengthening its capabilities and advancing its scientific, cultural, economic and social opportunities.

He said the issue had repeatedly been emphasized by his predecessor, martyred Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and criticized what he described as a prolonged and damaging period of neglect in the country's planning and management of population affairs.

The Leader added that recent measures had created an opportunity for officials and the public to approach the issue with greater attention.

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that efforts to achieve an optimal population required attention to both families and individuals, including investment in infrastructure that strengthens family life and measures addressing individual needs, particularly in health.

He identified facilitating marriage at a young age, safeguarding individual health, supporting childbearing and promoting a family-centered culture as key steps toward strengthening the country.

Highlighting successful examples of family life and explaining the importance of population growth to the public, especially younger generations, were also necessary, he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said patriotic Iranians who wanted a prosperous future for their country should be motivated to ensure the continuation of generations in line with the ideals of the new Islamic civilization.

He expressed hope that correcting the shortcomings of previous population policies and consistently pursuing a strategy of increasing the young population with the family at its center would help Iran overcome what he described as a critical and decisive period.

The message was read at Tuesday's event by Dr. Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi.

The message was read at the event by Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi, secretary of Iran's National Population Staff.

The annual National Population Youth Award is held under Article 19 of Iran's Law on the Protection of the Family and Youth of the Population.