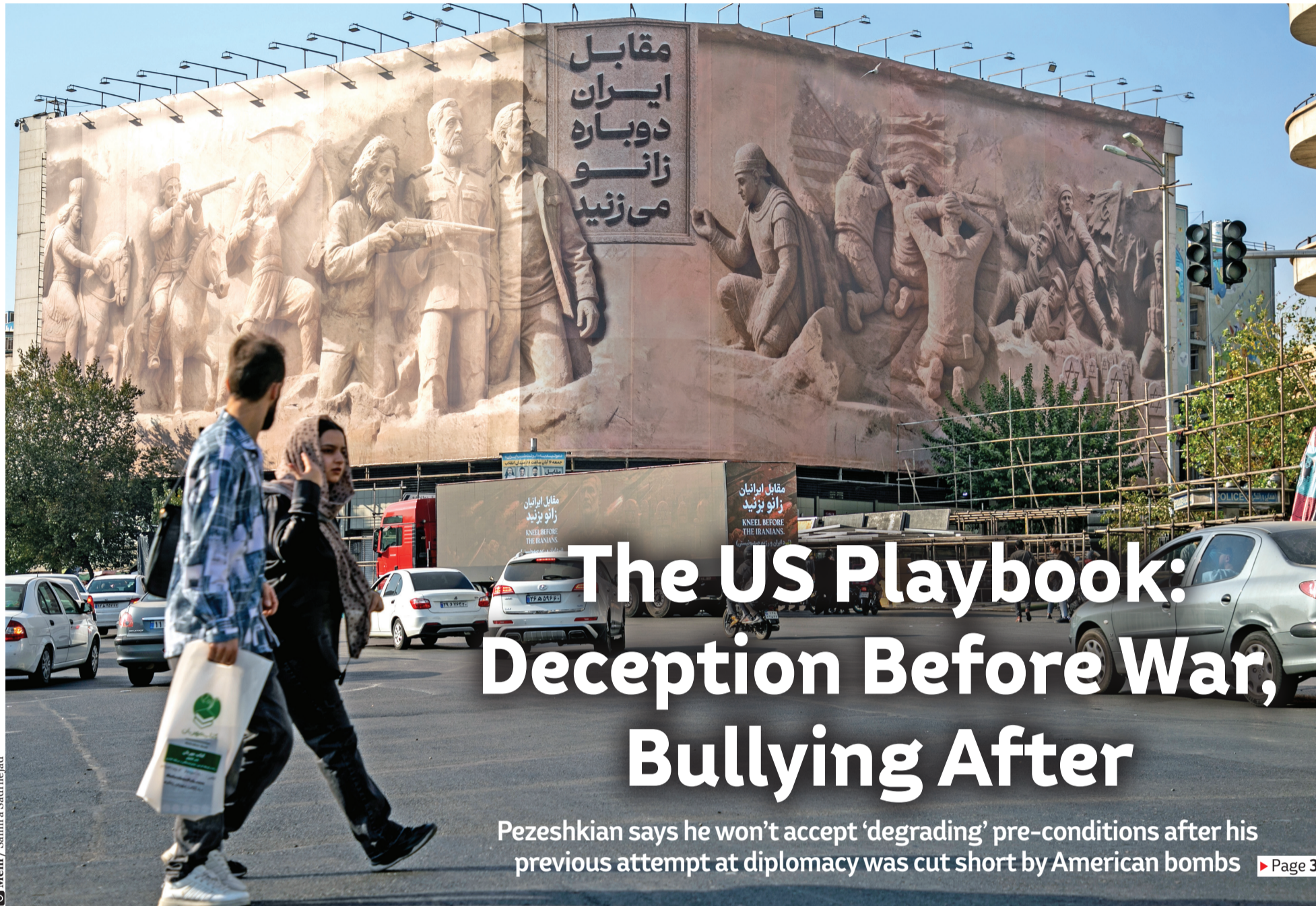


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The US Playbook: Deception Before War, Bullying After

Pezeshkian says he won't accept 'degrading' pre-conditions after his previous attempt at diplomacy was cut short by American bombs ▶ Page 3

The mural in Tehran's Enghelab Square features the slogan "You will kneel before Iran again," dated November 6, 2025.

Two new senior Iranian commanders appointed

TEHRAN – Iran has made new changes to its military leadership, six months after it fought a war against Israel and the United States.

Brigadier General Alireza Elhami has been installed as the new commander of the Joint Headquarters the Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base and the Air Defense Unit of the Iranian Army [Artesh].

Brigadier General Bahman Bahmard has also been appointed as the commander of the Air Force of the Iranian Army. ▶ Page 2

President unveils economic drive in South Khorasan, touts national strength

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian concluded a significant working visit to South Khorasan province, heralding a major injection of capital and a series of development projects aimed at boosting the regional and national economy.

The centerpiece of the visit was the inauguration of two key industrial facilities: a new steel ingot production unit and a gold processing center in the city of Qaen.

Further solidifying a focus on economic expansion, the government signed two crucial Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) related to enhancing food security and constructing a heavy tire factory. ▶ Page 4

Proxy theater in the Persian Gulf: Israel scripts, UAE performs

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Israel's war on Gaza has been marked by mass civilian deaths, starvation tactics, and the destruction of homes, hospitals, and refugee camps. At a time when international courts and human rights groups are demanding accountability, the United Arab Emirates has not stepped back. It has stepped in.

By secretly committing \$2.3 billion to Israel's largest private arms manufacturer, Elbit Systems, Abu Dhabi has positioned itself not as a bystander to the Gaza catastrophe but as a financial enabler of the military-industrial ecosystem sustaining it. This deal, revealed by Intelligence Online, is the second-largest arms contract in Israeli history. The buyer was deliberately kept secret when Elbit announced the deal last November, shielding the UAE from immediate backlash as images of Gaza's devastation filled global screens.

Lebanese parliament pushes back, breaks boycott

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—On Thursday, Lebanon's parliament sent a decisive signal: political blackmail no longer guarantees paralysis.

Despite an aggressive boycott campaign led by the Lebanese Forces (LF) party and its leader Samir Geagea, lawmakers convened, restored quorum, and reactivated the legislative process, reclaiming institutional authority from partisan veto.

The session proceeded with 75 MPs, resuming the September 29 agenda deliberately left open by Speaker Nabih Berri after quorum had been lost.

The first rupture in the boycott came from the National Moderation Bloc, whose attendance punctured Geagea's claim to control quorum.

Their move was followed by several Change MPs, who joined once quorum was secured—sealing the boycott's collapse.

Sydney attack: Israel's balance of gains and losses

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Israeli media's interpretation of the terrorist attack in Sydney is marked by contradiction and confusion.

Was it unrelated to any intelligence manipulation, or an act of terrorism motivated by anger over the regime's brutality in Gaza?

The terror attack in Sydney targeted a Jewish event linked to the Israeli Chabad movement. It occurred only days after the Israeli regime approved a large allocation in its 2026 state budget aimed at improving its global image. The total amount reached 2.35 billion shekels.

Of this, one billion shekels was officially authorized to fund social media campaigns, partnerships with civil society organizations, and coordination with parliamentarians, social media influencers, and other public figures.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who strongly advocated for increasing media and public diplomacy spending, stated that circumstances had changed and Israel must therefore adopt a new approach.

Why terrorists in Iran's borderlands are rebranding

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The statement issued on December 10 by the spokesperson of the so-called Jaish al-Adl, a terrorist group responsible for the murder of dozens of Iranian security personnel and citizens in recent years, announcing the formation of the so-called "Popular Fighters' Front," was received in Iran's security circles not with surprise, but as confirmation of a predictable tactic outlined in an increasingly well-known manual of regional destabilization.

This apparent shift, in which a Salafist and separatist group responsible for years of violence in Sistan-Baluchistan suddenly presents itself as a defender of "Iranian unity" against the establishment, does not reflect a genuine ideological evolution. ▶ Page 2

Golestan at a glance: forests, ancient monuments and Caspian landscapes

By Afshin Majlesi

GORGAN – Golestan is one of the least visited provinces in Iran, yet for many travelers who take the time to explore it, the region may quickly become a favorite destination.

After several days wandering through Golestan, it is easy to see why the province deserves far more attention. With its green landscapes, deep cultural roots, and major historical sites, Golestan stands out as a hidden gem well worth discovering.

Golestan is home to sections of the ancient Hyrcanian forests, which are registered by UNESCO. Stretching along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea, these forests are among the most significant natural heritage sites in the region and offer excellent opportunities for hiking and nature tourism. ▶ Page 6

Exclusive Interview

Beyond the Strait: Hormozgan charts course from transit hub to economic powerhouse

▶ Page 4



Blessed with snow in final days of fall

A girl in the city of Hamedan stands while another girl takes a photo of her after a heavy snow blanketed the northwestern city in the final days of autumn. After two months of low precipitation, snowfall in most parts of the country has brought joy to people.

According to the head of Meteorological Organization, Sahar Tajbakhsh, the country has been facing a spell of drought over the past six years. Since the beginning of the current water year, September 23, until December 5, a total of 4.7 mm of rainfall has been recorded in the country, indicating an 88.4-percent decline from the long-term figure of 40.2 mm.

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