



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei met in Tehran on Sept. 7, 2018.

A look at what Iran's Leader wrote to Putin this week, and why it matters

Vigilant Against Western Scheme

'US cannot challenge Iran in Persian Gulf:' IRGC Navy Chief

TEHRAN – Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy, declared the United States “incapable” of challenging Iran's maritime dominance and vowed “decisive retaliation” against any aggression toward its oil tankers or territorial waters.

In an interview with Iran's national TV, which aired on Sunday, Tangsiri attributed decades of U.S. “bullying” to Tehran's unyielding resistance and noted that Iran now exercises unrivaled strategic control over the Persian Gulf's vital waterways.

This interview comes amid escalating U.S. military posturing in West Asia, marked by the deployment of additional warships to the region and renewed anti-Iran rhetoric from U.S. officials.

Referring to U.S. Navy aircraft carriers, he remarked, “Their carriers once toppled governments; today, our vessels order them out of our waters.”

Tangsiri also emphasized Iran's control over critical infrastructure, such as oil and gas platforms, as both a strategic advantage and the cornerstone of a peaceful stance that avoids initiating conflicts at sea.

He further showcased the nation's defense capabilities by noting the strength of its air defenses and the quality of its missile production. ▶ Page 2

Iran signs \$750m investment deals in rail transport sector

TEHRAN – Iran on Sunday signed investment memoranda worth \$750 million in the country's rail transport sector, in the presence of the Minister of Transport and Urban Development, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI), private investors, and industry stakeholders.

Two agreements were inked between the RAI and two private firms—Avan Rail Passenger Trains Co. and Pars Ofogh Hashtgerd Agro-Industry Co.—aimed at bolstering the country's passenger and freight rail capacities.

Under the first agreement, Avan Rail will invest \$713 million to expand Iran's passenger and locomotive fleet. The project involves the purchase of 600 tank wagons, 300 diesel multiple unit (DMU) passenger cars, and 50 locomotives.

The second agreement, worth \$37 million, was signed with Pars Ofogh Hashtgerd to finance the procurement of 650 bulk freight wagons.

Nourollah Beiranvand, RAI's Deputy for Investment and Transport Economy, said that under Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, clear quantitative targets have been set for the rail sector—including raising rail's share in national transport to 30 percent and boosting annual transit capacity to 40 million metric tons. ▶ Page 4

The day Americans march against authoritarianism

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – The nationwide “50501” protests held on April 19 represent a significant and multifaceted grassroots mobilization against the policies and governance style of President Donald Trump during his second term.

The 50501 Movement has initiated a strategic escalation by organizing demonstrations across all 50 states to turn widespread public dissent into sustained political pressure.

In the initial months of 2025, the 50501 Movement formed to counter what its organizers label an authoritarian takeover by the Trump administration through hostile means. The movement that began on Reddit forums in January quickly transformed into a nationwide protest network operating under the banner 50 Protests in 50 States One Movement.

Core complexities and motivation of the protesters

The protests characterized the broad spectrum of political grievances against the Trump administration pertaining to its policy issues and its style of governance. Some of the central issues include the following:

Ortagus's rude diplomacy reflects American policy

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — With the phrase “Crack is wack, Walid,” Morgan Ortagus, the U.S. Deputy Special Envoy to West Asia, addressed Lebanon's Druze leader Walid Jumblatt on X in response to a statement he made last weekend describing the United States' conditions for Lebanon as “impossible.”

This suggests that Ortagus was accusing Jumblatt of being politically unconscious and deviant from American racist supremacy!

In turn, Jumblatt responded to Ortagus, “The Ugly American: Morgan Ortagus,” attaching to his post Hans LaRuin's famous painting titled “Death Directs the Bullet.”

LaRuin's painting, in grim colors, depicts the specter of death commanding a sniper, crouching behind bunkers during World War I, to fire his bullet.

Besides, Jumblatt's phrase was inspired by the title of the 1958 political novel *The Ugly American* by Eugene Burdick and William Lederer, which highlights the failures of the U.S. diplomatic corps in Southeast Asia.

Israeli troops caught in deadly ambush

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hamas executes a complex ambush against Israeli occupation forces in Gaza, causing casualties.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, carried out a complex ambush against Israeli occupation forces in the al-Tuffah neighborhood, east of Gaza City.

The operation targeted two infantry military vehicles and resulted in casualties.

According to a statement by al-Qassam Brigades, its fighters hit a Merkava 4 tank and a D9 military bulldozer with Yassin 105 shells, setting both vehicles on fire.

Additionally, the al-Qassam Brigades reported that an Israeli Hummer vehicle was struck by an anti-tank missile in the same area, critically wounding two soldiers.

When an Israeli rescue team arrived at the scene, it was hit by an explosive device.

One soldier was killed and two others were wounded. The Israeli military evacuated the injured via helicopter.

Israeli media reported the death of one soldier and the injury of four others, two of whom are in serious condition. ▶ Page 5



Salehi-Amiri: Sadi's language, a means of cultural diplomacy

TEHRAN – The culture and language of great Iranian poet Sadi Shirazi stems from identity of Iranians, said Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri on Saturday. Speaking in a ceremony which was held near Sadi mausoleum in Shiraz, Fars province, to commemorate this renowned master, Salehi-Amiri added that Sadi's language includes reason, ethics, tolerance, and beauty, ISNA reported. ▶ Page 6



Tragic death of Palestinian photojournalist Fatima Hassouna sparks outrage, calls for justice

TEHRAN- On Wednesday, the Palestinian artistic community mourned the tragic loss of Fatima Hassouna, a 25-year-old photojournalist and artist, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza.

Reports indicate that she died alongside ten family members, including her pregnant sister, when their home was struck in what can only be described as a devastating attack.

This brutal incident occurred just one day after it was announced that a documentary spotlighting Hassouna's life in Gaza would premiere at a French independent film festival running parallel to Cannes. ▶ Page 8