



Trump deploys 2000 National Guard troops to crack down on LA protesters

# Make America Quashed Again

Agents fired tear gas, flashbangs and pepper balls, and protesters hurled rocks at Border Patrol vehicles on June 8, 2025.

Scan this QR code to watch the video.

## E3's politicized IAEA gamble and Iran's possible countermeasures

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – As the IAEA Board of Governors convenes on Monday, a manufactured crisis orchestrated by the United States and its European allies (E3) threatens to derail diplomatic engagement with Iran.

The catalyst is a deeply flawed report by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi—a document Tehran condemns as “politically motivated” and reliant on “fabricated data provided by the Zionist regime.”

Despite Iran's exhaustive cooperation with IAEA inspectors and the closure of past allegations in 2015 (GOV/2015/72), the U.S. and E3 are poised to table a resolution accusing Iran of “non-compliance.”

In a post on X, Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, predicted “a tense discussion” on Iran's nuclear program at the upcoming IAEA Board of Governors meeting, adding that “for sure, it will not bring positive results.” ▶ Page 2

## Avichay Adraee, the Arabic spokesman of Israeli terrorism

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON — Lebanese actress Nadine Al-Rassi sparked widespread anger when she addressed the IOF Arabic spokesman, Avichay Adraee, regarding the airstrikes that targeted Beirut's southern suburbs on the eve of Eid al-Adha.

Al-Rassi said, “Avichay, is there any way you can stop this game? The people of Lebanon are not that few that you can say, ‘Beware the people of Lebanon?’ Specify who you are referring to geographically. You can say, ‘Beware, people of Beirut, people of Nabatieh’ as we are welcoming tourists and we are promised investment projects. Please specify which area and which street.”

Adraee reposted Al-Rassi's video on his X, commenting: “Greetings to Ms. Nadine Al-Rassi. I followed your recent statement. I would like to clarify that my words were not directed against the Lebanese people in general, as they were understood or intended to be understood, as we differentiate and discriminate between you. We have never had a problem with the Lebanese state or the generous Lebanese people. We have no interest in disrupting Lebanese tourism or harming its image.”

Adraee added, “When some Lebanese territories are used for terrorist purposes against us, the problem becomes real.” ▶ Page 5

## Game-changer for Iran?

*Acquisition of Israeli nuclear files elevates offensive capabilities, says Iran intel. chief*

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – A successful Iranian intelligence operation (or string of them) was brought to the open on Saturday, as the country's national television announced Iran had obtained a trove of sensitive and strategic documents related to Israel's nuclear facilities.

Informed sources told IRIB that the documents were brought into Iran some time ago, but intelligence forces required time to analyze them before breaking the news. The sources added that this infiltration represents one of the most significant security breaches Is-

rael has suffered.

With the backing of the United States and France, Israel is believed to have maintained an operational nuclear program since the 1960s and currently possesses at least 90 nuclear warheads. Despite repeated calls by high-ranking Israeli officials to use nuclear weapons against Palestinians or other populations in the region, no international body has ever produced a report on the scope or status of the regime's nuclear arsenal. To this

day, much of the publicly available information comes from a former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility, who exposed the regime's concerning nuclear program to the British press in 1986. He was subsequently convicted of treason and sentenced to 18 years in prison.

The Saturday announcement came just two weeks after Israeli authorities declared they had arrested two men suspected of committing “security crimes” for Iran. While it's un-

clear whether these arrests are directly related to the recent nuclear infiltration, the number of Israelis arrested for alleged cooperation with Iranian intelligence has risen sharply in recent years.

Personally, appearing on national TV Sunday, Iran's Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib said the volume of documents obtained was so immense that “thousands of documents” is a gross understatement compared to what

has been acquired.”

“These documents and other strategic records of the regime will enhance Iran's offensive capabilities,” Khatib explained, before clarifying that the “strategic,” “operational,” and “scientific” information was collected through complex operations inside the occupied territories. He also noted that the methods used to transfer the records would not be disclosed, but some documents would be published in the future. Among the “treasure trove” of information are details about Israel's relations with Washington and European states as well.

▶ Page 2

## Russia's Cultural Week to begin in Tehran, Isfahan with high-level diplomatic support

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN – Russia's Cultural Week in Iran is scheduled to be inaugurated on Monday evening in Tehran and Isfahan, the organizers have announced.

The event aims to emphasize the deepening cultural ties and strategic cooperation between the two countries. Hossein Divsalar, Deputy for Scientific and Cultural Cooperation Development at Iran's Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations (ICRO), announced this during a joint press conference with Russian Ambassador to Iran, Alexey Yurievich Dedov, held in Tehran on Sunday. ▶ Page 8



## Dozens wounded in necks, chests, heads from shootings near aid sites

Earlier Sunday morning, the GHF posted on Facebook that it was going to open and deliver food. That's why many Palestinians approached distribution points in both Wadi Gaza and al-Mawasi, Rafah. Thousands of people approached these distribution points to try to collect whatever food they could.

As usual, Israeli forces used live ammunition to disperse Palestinians. They also used tear gas, injuring many people. In Rafah, at least four Palestinians were killed and some 100 people injured. They suffered wounds in their necks, chests and heads. The situation is very critical. Doctors are saying it's very challenging to treat their wounds. ▶ Page 5

## Ghadir celebration to be held in 500 cities, 20 countries

TEHRAN – The grand “10-Kilometer Ghadir Celebration” will be held in Tehran on June 14, concurrent with Eid al-Ghadir, and more celebrations will be organized in 500 cities across Iran as well as 20 countries on this occasion, Sasan Zare, spokesperson for the People's Headquarters of the event, said at a press conference in Tehran on Sunday.

Zare emphasized that the Ghadir celebration is an inspiring and replicable model. He stated that on Eid al-Ghadir, from Imam Hossein Square to Azadi Square in Tehran, over 2,400 temporary stations will be set up to host the public from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mehr reported. The stations will offer food and drinks to attendees. Some of the stations will provide children with playgrounds. Flowers and cultural gifts will be also distributed among the people. ▶ Page 8



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

America uses Europe as leverage to gain concessions from Iran

In an interview with Abolghasem Delfi, the former Iranian ambassador to Paris, Etemad examined the destructive and coordinated actions between Washington and the European troika to approve an anti-Iran resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors. He said: During the past five rounds of negotiations, several specific features have emerged. The first point is related to the composition of the negotiating actors. The Trump administration is inclined to consult only with Iranian representatives and to exclude other actors, especially the Europeans. This is while Europe has tools at its disposal that it can use in the negotiation process to influence them. Washington does not want Europe to enter new negotiations directly. The Americans' goal is to use all available tools, including European leverage, to pressure Iran and gain concessions at the negotiating table. The important point is that we should not consider Europe an absolute enemy. Europe is the only party that can activate the snapback mechanism against Iran in the current situation. Therefore, a tense confrontation with this group of actors is not in our interest. If regional capacities, economic relations, and diplomacy are used effectively, we can have the upper hand in negotiations.

Iran: Depth of Iran's intelligence penetration inside Israel

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the Islamic Republic's heavy intelligence blow to the Zionist regime's security services. It wrote: In the process of confrontation that has been going on for years between Tehran and Tel Aviv, this time the issue is related to the confrontation in the intelligence field; from the think tanks and analysis rooms of the Israeli security institutions, which are once again sounding the alarm for themselves with each new espionage case these days. As in the past year, the Israeli intelligence services were forced to admit a bitter reality, namely that in just 12 months, at least 20 espionage cases related to Iran were filed inside the occupied territories. What at first glance appears to be a collection of cases has a different face in the analysis of Israeli security institutions, because despite the differences in details, the behavioral pattern of the perpetrators, the recruitment plan, and even the target society of the Iranian intelligence services, it has taken on a repetitive and systematic form. The regime's internal security service (Shin Bet) reports a continuous increase in such cases. But what the media and official authorities try to

Constitutional procedures must be followed on Palermo: Expediency Council to MPs

TEHRAN – The Expediency Council of Iran has issued a detailed response to a letter signed by 150 members of the country's Parliament regarding the continued review of Iran's accession to the Palermo Convention, reiterating that the constitutional procedures—not informal appeals—determine the Council's jurisdiction.

In a statement released Saturday, the Council reaffirmed its role under Article 112 of the Constitution, emphasizing that a letter—regardless of the number of parliamentary signatories—can not substitute for a formal legislative resolution. The Council stressed that its decisions are based strictly on legal mandates and the overarching national interest.

The Council clarified that its involvement is conditional on formal procedures following a dispute between Parliament and the Constitutional Council. The statement reiterated that a signed letter, even by a majority of MPs, holds no legal standing in the legislative process.

Responding to concerns over potential financial transparency obligations, the Council underscored that neither the Palermo Convention nor the CFT (Combating the Financing of Terrorism) requires disclosure of sensitive financial information beyond the scope permitted by national laws.

The Council noted that while ratification may contribute to international cooperation, the key obstacles to financial and trade integration—namely sanctions and limited external engagement—must be addressed before any practical benefits can be realized.

make appear small and insignificant is a more worrying issue for Israeli security experts.

Arman-e-Emrooz: A major transformation in West Asia

In an analysis, Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the significant turn in Riyadh's policies and wrote: The restored relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia have changed the regional dynamics. Riyadh, in a complete turnaround from its previous positions, has expressed its willingness to facilitate a new nuclear agreement between Iran and the United States. Israeli attacks on Hamas and Hezbollah and the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government in Syria have also been influential factors. Saudi Arabia has made establishing relations with Tehran a less risky option for itself. The next factor is the emergence of Israel as a potential hegemonic force in the region. Israeli military operations have made Saudi leaders wary. Saudi leaders now see Iran as a balancing factor. This new strategic calculation has caused Riyadh to quietly oppose military attacks on Iran, because Iran, from the Saudi viewpoint, is a necessary factor for maintaining a multipolar balance in the Middle East.

Ettelaat: Will a possible Iran-U.S. agreement collapse in the future?

Despite the resumption of negotiations between Iran and the United States, the crisis of trust between the two sides remains one of the central challenges to Iran's foreign policy. The experience of the breakdown of the JCPOA and Europe's inability to offset the effects of sanctions has made Iran skeptical of the West's adherence to international obligations. This mutual distrust has made negotiations largely tactical, temporary, and fragile, preventing the formation of a stable framework for long-term cooperation. In such a situation, even if a new agreement is reached, the possibility of its collapse is high due to changes in government or unpredictable developments. Pressure from regional lobbies in Washington, such as Israel and some Arab countries, and the role of Congress in obstructing the path to lifting the sanctions have made it more difficult to reach a durable and reliable agreement. In this way, the crisis of trust with the West will not only be a technical obstacle to negotiations but also a strategic challenge for the future of Iranian diplomacy, which could keep foreign policy in balance between the two strategies of "maximum resistance and conditional negotiation."

The statement praised Iran's approach of conditional accession as a responsible model for nations with unique legal and political frameworks. It added that while the process took time, internal consensus has led to stronger and more stable legislation, consistent with national priorities.

Adopted in 2000, the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime—commonly known as the Palermo Convention—aims to coordinate international efforts against cross-border crime, money laundering, and human trafficking. It has been ratified by over 180 countries.

The Iranian Parliament approved accession to the Convention in 2017 with significant reservations. However, the Constitutional Council raised objections, and several rounds of revision followed, reflecting legal, religious, and national security considerations.

In early 2024, the administration submitted a revised version of the bill containing strengthened safeguards. Key improvements included the binding of reservations, ensuring full compliance with Islamic law, the Constitution, and national security requirements; having defined mechanisms for international legal cooperation, extradition, and data sharing, all limited by domestic authority; and having legal harmonization with updated anti-money laundering and anti-organized crime laws.

After approval by Parliament and confirmation from the Guardian Council, the final draft received the endorsement of the Expediency Council and was officially promulgated in June 2025.

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Iran's intelligence operation marks Israel's second major security failure after October 7th

With the backing of the United States and France, Israel is believed to have maintained an operational nuclear program since the 1960s and currently possesses at least 90 nuclear warheads. Despite repeated calls by high-ranking Israeli officials to use nuclear weapons against Palestinians or other populations in the region, no international body has ever produced a report on the scope or status of the regime's nuclear arsenal. To this day, much of the publicly available information comes from a former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility, who exposed the regime's concerning nuclear pro-



Photo shows a view of the Dimona nuclear power plant in the Negev desert in the southern part of the occupied territories

gram to the British press in 1986. He was subsequently convicted of treason and sentenced to 18 years in prison.

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Reactions in Israel

The regime's officials have yet to issue any comments on the reported infiltration. Israeli media, however, have tried not to sweep the matter under the rug.

Some Hebrew media outlets, including Haaretz and the Jerusalem Post, have drawn parallels between the recent operation and a hacking incident at the Negev Nuclear Research Center last year. The Tehran Times understands the two events to be unrelated. The earlier cyberattack granted access to some documents and erased information from several computer

systems.

Other Israeli outlets did not shy away from sounding the alarm bell. Calling the event "concerning," the Hebrew-language Maariv daily newspaper ran the headline: "A concerning report: Iran has stolen Israel's secret nuclear documents." Maariv reported that Iranian intelligence had "succeeded" in acquiring "thousands of confidential documents related to Israel's nuclear facilities and strategic projects," transporting them to secure locations inside Iran. Another Israeli Hebrew-language daily, Israel Hayom, citing Iranian media and the al-Mayadeen network, emphasized that the documents include highly sensitive information about Israel's nuclear program.

Israel's second major security failure in 20 months

Iran's latest intelligence operation marks potentially the second major security failure for Israel, following the regime's inability to foresee the Palestinian Resistance groups' Operation Al-Aqsa Storm on October 7, 2023. In that attack, Palestinian fighters breached what the regime had touted as highly complex security systems, entering the occupied territories from Gaza and controlling several Israeli settlements for hours. That event shattered the regime's long-held image of "invincibility," a myth further undermined by Tehran's recent success in penetrating Israel's highly protected nuclear sites.

Depending on what information Tehran chooses to reveal about Israel's nuclear program, the newly obtained records could also bolster Iran's position in ongoing nuclear talks with the United States.

E3's politicized IAEA gamble and Iran's possible countermeasures



IAEA Board of Governors meeting in March 2025

From page 1 ▶

The IAEA's double standards

The report's timing and substance reveal a transparent political agenda. It resurrects long-settled allegations about four Iranian sites—Lavisan-Shian, Varamin, Marivan, and Turqzabad—despite Iran providing documented explanations and access.

The report concedes two sites are "no longer considered outstanding issues," yet they are repackaged to inflate a dossier for political exploitation.

Crucially, no evidence suggests diversion of nuclear material for military purposes—a fact Iran underscored in its formal rebuttal: "The absence of any credible indication of military dimensions confirms the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities."

This stands in stark contrast to the IAEA's past leniency toward U.S. allies like South Korea and Egypt, both caught possessing undeclared nuclear materials yet spared punitive resolutions.

The agency's dependence on unverified intelligence agencies hostile to Iran, most notably those linked to Tel Aviv, obliquely cited as "third-party sources," further undermines its claims of impartiality.

In a glaring display of selective oversight, the IAEA also turns a blind eye to the Israeli regime's expansive nuclear program.

Estimates place its hidden arse-

nal at roughly 90 warheads, backed by fissile material sufficient to produce potentially hundreds more.

Moreover, the regime's capability to launch nuclear weapons from missiles, submarines, and aircraft only deepens the disparity, while its clandestine nuclear facilities—such as the IRR-2 research reactor—remain completely outside the ambit of IAEA safeguards.

This brazen double standard not only exposes the agency's hypocrisy but also subverts the very principles of global nuclear accountability by shielding politically favored states from the rigorous scrutiny they rightfully deserve.

'Has the E3 truly learned nothing?'

The E3—comprising France, Germany, and the United Kingdom—has reportedly drafted a resolution seeking to activate the UN snapback mechanism before its October deadline, automatically restoring all pre-2015 sanctions on Iran.

French Foreign Minister Jean Noel Barrot's threat—"We will not hesitate for a second to reimpose sanctions"—mirrors the hawkish stance of U.S. officials such as Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who pressure Europe to act where Washington legally cannot.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi minced no words in response: "After years of good cooperation with the IAEA, my country is once again accused of 'non-compliance.' When the E3 engaged in the

same foul conduct back in 2005, the outcome was the true birth of uranium enrichment in Iran. Has the E3 truly learned nothing in the past two decades?"

His warning is prophetic: politicized pressure only accelerates Iran's nuclear advancements.

Tehran has repeatedly reiterated that its nuclear program is anchored in its "immutable position" that nuclear weapons violate Islamic principles—a fatwa by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The program remains fully monitored, with 60% enrichment (though technically short of weapons-grade) conducted under IAEA cameras.

Iran has become the most inspected country by the IAEA: over 70 dedicated staff work on its dossier, and while Iran holds only 3% of the world's nuclear facilities, it accounts for 20% of the agency's annual inspections conducted by 125 inspectors—a commitment that costs the IAEA \$22 million per year, even as it continues to claim Iran is uncooperative.

Importantly, this 60% enrichment milestone was only reached after President Trump unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal, a move that spurred the Iranian parliament to pass a resolution authorizing a gradual increase in nuclear activity.

This measured escalation was not an abrupt shift but a cautious response to a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape—a response further compounded by the EU's failure to assume the robust alternative role promised under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Yet the Western powers' fixation on "zero enrichment" ignores Iran's sovereign rights under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its openness to negotiate caps and verification.

What future may hold

Iranian sources have informed

the Tehran Times that Tehran has determined that an anti-Iran resolution at the upcoming IAEA Board of Governors meeting is inevitable and has therefore prepared immediate countermeasures.

According to the sources, although the exact paths remain unspecified, Tehran could pursue a range of measures in response to mounting concerns.

One possibility involves a technical escalation that may see the installation of advanced centrifuges at the fortified Fordow site.

This approach could end the dilution of uranium enriched to 60 percent and push its enrichment to higher levels.

Alongside these moves, Iran might also accelerate research into uranium metal production, a technology with civilian applications that nations such as the United States, Russia, China, France, India, and Pakistan have long explored.

Another potential route could be a deliberate scaling back of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Tehran might limit inspections and disable surveillance cameras, contending that Western actions have compromised the spirit of voluntary transparency.

This recalibration of its openness could extend to suspending measures under the Additional Protocol and reducing features that exceed the core requirements of international safeguards.

Should the E3 proceed with snapback, Iran's response would be "far-reaching and not limited to nuclear measures," the sources told the Tehran Times.

Withdrawal from the NPT is also a potential option.

Therefore, the E3 may cause the collapse of the JCPOA framework permanently, eliminating constraints on Iran's program while they grapple with the Ukraine war and their own demise and geopolitical irrelevance. The ball is in Europe's court.



# Iran, Russia have elevated ties to ‘comprehensive strategic partnership’, says envoy

TEHRAN – Iran and Russia have officially elevated their bilateral relations to a “comprehensive strategic partnership,” marking a significant shift in Eurasian geopolitics, according to Russian Ambassador to Tehran Alexey Dedov.

In an exclusive interview with Mehr News, the ambassador outlined the key aspects of the up-graded alliance, which follows the signing of a landmark intergov-ernmental treaty during President Masoud Pezeshkian’s visit to Mos-cow in January 2025.

In his remarks to Iranian me-dia, the envoy expounded on the partnership’s key dimensions, em-phasizing its foundation in mutual opposition to Western hegemony.

“Our relations are built on tra-ditions of good neighborliness, mutual understanding and trust,” Dedov stated, noting that the two countries share nearly identical views on most global and regional issues.

The economic component of the partnership has shown remarkable



Russian Ambassador to Tehran Alexey Dedov

growth, with bilateral trade increas-ing by 13.29% in 2024. The ambas-sador highlighted the recent imple-mentation of a free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Eco-nomic Union as a major accelerator for future commerce.

“We’ve established an indepen-dent payment infrastructure that allows over 95% of transactions to be conducted in national curren-cies,” Dedov explained, describing this as a direct response to U.S.-led

sanctions.

Infrastructure development forms another pillar of coopera-tion, with both nations pushing forward on the Rasht-Astara rail-way project – a critical link in the In-ternational North-South Transport Corridor. Nuclear energy collabora-tion continues at Bushehr, where Russian engineers are construct-ing two additional reactor units.

Perhaps most significantly, the treaty formalizes military coopera-

tion at unprecedented levels. While maintaining that such collabora-tion complies with international law, Dedov confirmed provisions for joint exercises, personnel train-ing, and mutual security consul-tations. The agreement notably includes a clause prohibiting either party from assisting aggressors against the other.

When questioned about poten-tial impacts from U.S. policy shifts, particularly under Trump’s second administration, Dedov remained unequivocal: “Our strategic part-nership is not subject to external fluctuations.” He reiterated Rus-sia’s support for Iran’s nuclear rights and praised Tehran’s “bal-anced position” on Ukraine.

The ambassador also revealed ongoing efforts to integrate Iran more fully into multilateral orga-nizations, including organizations like BRICS. “No other non-CIS coun-try holds our level of institutional synergy,” Dedov noted, referencing Iran’s simultaneous participation in the SCO and EAEU observer status.

## Iran offers to broker peace in Pakistan-India dispute

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has voiced Tehran’s readiness to mediate be-tween Pakistan and India in an effort to help establish enduring peace between the two nucle-ar-armed neighbors.

President Pezeshkian made the offer during a phone call on Satur-day with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, emphasizing that Iran’s foreign policy remains root-ed in dialogue, de-escalation, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts — particularly within the Islamic world.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any initiative that con-tributes to sustainable peace be-tween Pakistan and India,” Pezesh-kian stated. “We are prepared to play a constructive mediating role in support of regional stability.”

The Iranian president also used the occasion to extend warm greetings to Sharif and the people

of Pakistan on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, the Islamic Feast of Sac-rifice.

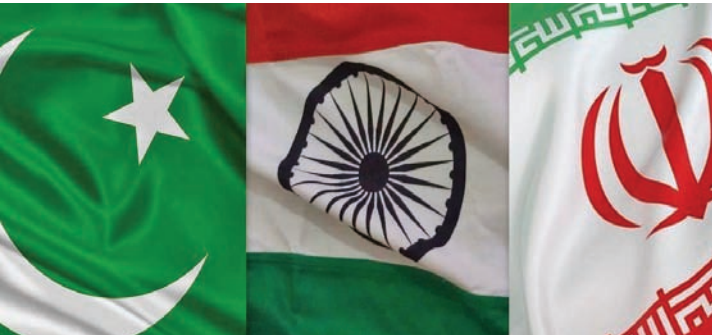
He underlined the importance of fostering unity among Muslim nations and strengthening bonds of brotherhood in times of growing geopolitical tensions.

Responding to an invitation ex-tended by the Pakistani premier, Pezeshkian confirmed that he has instructed his administration to prepare the groundwork for a future official visit to Islamabad, aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation.

He highlighted the significance of advancing Tehran-Islamabad re-lations across political, economic, and security domains.

Prime Minister Sharif, in return, conveyed Eid greetings to the Iran-ian nation and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Recalling his recent visit to Teh-ran, Sharif described his meetings with Iranian officials as “produc-



tive,” particularly in areas of de-fense, economic partnerships, and border security.

Sharif also reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to implementing the agreements signed during his Iran visit and proposed that an Iranian delegation visit Islamabad ahead of Pezeshkian’s anticipated trip.

Commending Iran’s balanced and principled stance on the long-standing Pakistan-India dispute, the Pakistani leader welcomed Tehran’s offer of mediation. “Pa-kistan remains open to dialogue

with India and appreciates Iran’s willingness to support efforts for a peaceful resolution,” he said.

Tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi have escalated sharp-ly in recent months. In May, the two rivals engaged in their most intense military confrontation in years, involving cross-border aeri-al strikes, missile exchanges, and drone attacks.

The four-day flare-up conclud-ed with a fragile ceasefire, but the underlying conflict remains unre-solved.

## Navigating the Trump era

### Iran must adopt a strategy of threat balancing and economic space management



By Dr. Mohammad Shekachian

TEHRAN – The specter of Nixon’s “Madman Theory” looms large over Donald Trump’s presi-dency—a strategy predicated on projecting irrational aggression to force concessions from adver-saries.

The premise is simple: by mak-ing seemingly incredible threats appear credible, a leader can in-timidate weaker states and ex-tract maximum strategic and economic-military gains.

For Trump, this approach was not just theoretical but a corner-stone of his foreign policy, particu-larly in dealing with West Asia and China.

Nowhere was this more evident than in his recent dealings with Persian Gulf states. During his May tour of the region, Trump’s administration extracted an es-timated \$3.2 trillion from Mus-lim nations under the banner of “Iranophobia,” funneling these funds into U.S.-Israeli defense industries, largely controlled by American Republicans and neo-conservatives.

What was sold as economic stimulus had darker implica-tions: Mohammed bin Sal-man openly framed these transactions as job creation for Americans, even as the weapons purchased were deployed to bolster the Zi-onist regime’s campaign in Gaza and Yemen, perpetuating geno-cide under the guise of security.

**Trump’s primary conflict: The clash with China**

Beneath the theatrics of West Asia diplomacy lay Trump’s ulti-mate challenge: containing Chi-na. As the West’s foremost eco-nomic and military rival, China’s ascent forced the U.S. to recal-ibrate its global strategy.

Trump’s negotiations with Iran, for instance, may have been less about Tehran and more about securing Israel’s safety, freeing American resources to confront Beijing through hard and semi-hard power plays.

Yet Trump’s erratic policymak-ing created an opening for small-er states to exploit. In this volatile landscape, a threat-balancing strategy emerged as the most

effective means for nations to extract concessions from Wash-ington.

**The threat-balancing strate-gy**

To understand why this ap-proach worked, we must exam-ine how Trump’s unilateralism backfired. His rise—embodying the hardline U.S. establishment—transformed America into a sys-temic threat to the international order. Global powers responded in kind: the U.S.-China tariff war, the push for a BRICS-linked cur-rency, and the exclusion of the dollar from Sino-Russian trade all signaled a world pushing back against American coercion.

This shift was inevitable. The U.S. establishment had long re-cognized that declining economic and military power made mul-tilateral hegemony unsustain-able—a reality later tacitly admit-ted by the U.S. Vice President.

Here, the work of Stephen Walt becomes pivotal. His revision of Kenneth Waltz’s Balance of Power theory argues that states count-er threats (a blend of power, in-tent, and proximity), not just raw power. States choose between:

- Balancing (allying against the aggressor) or

- Bandwagoning (submitting for short-term gain)

Walt’s insight explains why even weaker states resist: sub-jective threat perceptions, not just capability gaps, drive def-i-ance. This framework is key to understanding Iran’s resilience during the Trump years.

**Iran’s strategic posture during the Trump era**

Under the guidance of the Lead-er of the Islamic Revolution, Iran’s foreign policy has remained re-markably consistent from Raisi to Pezeshkian, with figures like For-eign Minister Araghchi and the late Amir Abdollahian advancing a doc-trine of dignified pragmatism. The Raisi administration’s outreach to rivals like Saudi Arabia paid off: Persian Gulf states, despite Israeli pressure, publicly rejected U.S.-backed attacks on Iran.

Simultaneously, indirect nego-tiations with Washington reduced confrontation costs. The Axis of Resistance came to view Iran as a steadfast negotiator—one that engaged without surrendering core interests.

The Leader’s red lines (enrich-ment rights, defense auton-omy, and regional influence) were non-negotiable, yet Tehran sig-naled openness by conditionally adopting global norms like the Pal-ermo Convention—a deft balance of resistance and reintegration.

But challenges remain. Iran’s economy, vulnerable to psycho-logical shocks from protracted talks, requires tighter coordina-tion between the Central Bank and Ministry of Economy to bol-ster diplomatic leverage. The calculus is clear: while resistance carries costs, they pale beside the humiliation of compromise. As the nation has shown for de-cades, sovereignty and martyr-dom’s legacy outweigh transient material burdens.

## Kartal A candidate to replace Mourinho at Fenerbahçe

TEHRAN – Turkish football giant Fenerbahçe is expected to bid farewell to head coach Jose Mourinho.

Recently, it was reported that President Ali Koç of Fenerbahçe has traveled to England and was going to meet with Mourinho there.

The Turkish media have reported that Fenerbahçe is going to reappoint Ismail Kartal as new head coach.

Former Borussia Dortmund head coach Edin Terzic is also a candidate to take charge of the team.

Kartal was the head coach of Fenerbahçe in the 2023-2024 season. He accumulated 99 points, becoming the coach with the most points in the club’s history.

He parted ways with the team due to the man-agement’s agreement with Mourinho and subse-quently signed with the Iranian club Persepolis.

## Azarpira wins gold at Matteo Pellicone

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Amirali Azarpira secured a gold medal at the Memorial Matteo Pellicone event.

He defeated Radu Lefter from Moldova in the 97kg category to clinch the gold.

The weight class was contested with only two wrestlers. A two-time world under-23 gold med-alist, Azarpira had been sidelined with a torn liga-ment injury following an impressive bronze med-al win in the 97kg category at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

## Ali Yazdani runner-up at ITF Turkey M15

TEHRAN – Ali Yazdani of Iran secured a silver medal at the ITF Turkey M15 tournament on Sun-day. Yazdani was defeated by Maxwell McKennon of the United States in the men’s singles final with a score of 2-0 (7-5, 6-1).

Meshkatolzahra Safi of Iran won a gold medal in women’s doubles alongside her English teammate Jasmine Conway on Saturday.

The 2025 ITF Men’s World Tennis Tour is part of the second-tier professional tennis circuit for men, organized by the International Tennis Fed-eration.

It is one level below the ATP Challenger Tour, featuring tournaments with prize money ranging from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

## Iran defeat New Zealand at 2025 AVC Women’s Volleyball Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran beat New Zealand 3-1 (23-25, 25-16, 25-12, 25-18) in the 2025 AVC Women’s Vol-leyball Nations Cup on Sunday.

Team Melli, who had defeated Indonesia 3-2 in their opening match, are scheduled to meet the Philippines on Monday.

Iran are drawn in Pool B, alongside the Philip-pines, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Indonesia, and New Zealand.

Pool A features Vietnam, Australia, Chinese Tai-pei, Hong Kong, and India.

The tournament will feature a round-robin preliminary stage from June 7–12, with a rest day scheduled for Tuesday. The top two teams from each pool after the preliminaries will advance to the cross semifinals on June 13.

The winners of the semifinals will meet in the final showdown on June 14, while classification matches will determine final standings.

Notably, the fifth-ranked team in Pool A will play the sixth-ranked team in Pool B for 10th–11th place, while the third- and fourth-placed teams from both pools will compete for their respective rankings.

The Nations Cup is being held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from June 7 to June 14.

## Tabiat defeat Zhejiang Guangsha

TEHRAN – Tabiat Basketball secured a spot in the Basketball Champions League Asia (BCL Asia) 2025 Quarter-Finals right in their very first game of the tournament on Sunday.

The recent FIBA WASL runners-up were able to tick off a box in their checklist by keeping Zhejiang Guangsha in search of a win following a 99-85 vic-tory at the Sheikh Saeed Bin Maktoum Sport Hall.

Coach Mehran Shahintab & Co. have also helped Ulaanbaatar Xac a great deal as the Broncos are also through to the next round afer the Lions fell to their second defeat in as many games in Group A.

Interestingly, the reigning BCL Asia-East cham-pions (1-0) are set to be Tabiat’s next assignment on Monday, June 9, in a battle for the pool’s no. 1 seed. Game time is scheduled at 15:00 local time, fiba.basketball reported.

Stedmon Lemon finished with 29 points, while Ivan Buva produced 27 alongside 7 rebounds and 6 assists as the reinforcements took turns in leading the Iran Basketball League outfit’s sec-ond-half surge.

## 2026 Para Volley World Championships to be held in Hangzhou

TEHRAN – The 2026 Sitting Para Volley World Championships for men and women will take place in Hangzhou, China, from July 11 to 21.

The winners in both categories will earn direct qualification for the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

“Iran’s men’s sitting volleyball team will com-pete as defending champions,” said Hadi Rezaei, head coach of Iran’s sitting volleyball team, to Iran’s National Paralympic Committee (NPC).

“The women’s team, currently participating in the 2025 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zonal Champi-onships (PVAO), will have the opportunity to qual-ify through that competition.”

He added: “If the women’s team finish as one of the top three teams in the tournament, they will qualify for the World Championship.”

The PVAO will feature teams from Iran, China, Mongolia, Japan, Thailand, South Korea, and Aus-tralia. The Iranian women’s national team will face Australia in their first preliminary match on Monday.

## Olfati makes history at Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships

TEHRAN – Mahdi Olfati of Iran won a gold medal at the 12th Men’s Artistic Gymnastics Asian Cham-pionships held on Sunday at Jecheon Gymnasium in South Korea.

This achievement marks Iran’s first-ever gold in the history of men’s vault.

Olfati secured the gold with a score of 14.5.

China’s Huang Mingqi (14.4) took silver, while two-time Olympic champion Carlos Yulo of the Philippines claimed bronze with a score of 14.333.

On Saturday, Iran’s Siavash Siahi Kolankouh had won a bronze medal on rings.

Iran sent a team of five gymnasts to the event.

## Iranian horse rider Amin Mohammadi dies

TEHRAN – Amin Mohammadi tragically passed away during a horse race in Bandar Torkaman on Saturday.

The dramatic incident occurred when his horse collided with the fence, causing him to collapse. Mohammadi was rushed to the hospital, but he succumbed to the severity of his injuries.

In mid-May, Iranian photographer and camera-man Hamidreza Darajati lost his life during the first round of Iran’s speed racing event at the Azadi Motor Racing Track after a race car went off the track and collided with a group of media personnel.



## Iran targets 893\$m savings through domestic production in mining sector



TEHRAN – Iran aims to save \$893 million in foreign currency through the domestic production of equipment and components in its mining and mineral industries during the current Iranian year (ending March 2026), according to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

As reported by IRIB, the target will be met through the efforts of 13 major mining and

metals companies, with IMIDRO leading the initiative. Key contributors include Khuzestan Steel Company (\$397 million), Mobarakeh Steel Company (\$250 million), National Iranian Copper Industries Company (\$70 million), Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company (\$34.1 million), and Iranian Mineral Production and Supply Company (\$33.7 million).

Other participating companies and their projected savings include: Gohar Zamin Iron Ore Company (\$30.1 million), Hormozgan Steel Company (\$26 million), Kurdistan Steel Company (\$18 million), National Iranian Steel Company (\$12.5 million), Sangan Steel Company (\$7.5 million), Khorasan Steel Company (\$5.3 million), Iran Alumina Company (\$4.3 million), and South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) (\$2.5 million).

Last year, the mining sector achieved \$882 million in foreign currency savings through domestic production, bringing the total value of such efforts from 2020 to 2024 to \$3.44 billion.

## Iranian banks pay \$152b in loans in a year: CBI

TEHRAN – Iranian banks disbursed 7.6 quadrillion rials (approximately \$152 billion) in loans during the last Iranian year (ended late March), a senior official with the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said, while criticizing the lack of a clear economic prioritization strategy to match the scale of financing with sustainable growth.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 17th Financial Industry Exhibition (Banking, Insurance, and Capital Market), Mohammad Shirijian, Deputy for Monetary Policy at the CBI, said the economy has not reaped the benefits of years of substantial rial- and foreign-currency financing due to an absence of sectoral prioritization.

“Despite a 70 percent increase in foreign-currency financing over three years – reaching \$65.5 billion last year, up from \$39 billion two years earlier – economic growth has not kept pace,” Shirijian noted.

Highlighting inefficiencies in the financial system, Shirijian stressed that the capital market must play a stronger role in funding long-term infrastructure projects, while banks – as

providers of short-term liquidity – should focus on working capital for businesses. “Financial markets must develop targeted tools to support the real economy and curb diversion of funds to non-productive paths,” he said.

Despite the massive credit disbursement by banks, Shirijian criticized the lack of transparency in how and based on which models or priorities loans were allocated. He warned that poor-quality financing could create structural imbalances in the banking system, placing pressure on the Central Bank’s balance sheet.

More than 90 percent of financing in Iran is carried by the banking system. Shirijian said the CBI is taking steps to improve loan quality, including the introduction of special purpose bonds for infrastructure projects. “Financing must lead to job creation and improve household livelihoods,” he said, adding that compulsory lending mandates have strained banks and that public financing must be redirected toward development projects rather than covering unavoidable government expenses.

## TEDPIX loses 5,700 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 5,700 points to 3,035,000 on Sunday, which is the second day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

The head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that the capital market’s share in the national financing system is going to increase to 50 percent over the next five years, positioning it as a key engine of economic activity, employment, and industrial growth.

Hojatollah Seyedi said the organization’s 14th development plan includes targeted measures to stimulate production, starting with fiscal incentives embedded in the national budget.

He outlined two additional pillars of the government’s production strategy: implementation of the Law on Supporting Production and a five-part economic development plan currently being drafted by the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO).

Seyedi said new investment funds have been created within the capital market to support production, including Murabaha bonds aimed at financing small- and medium-sized enterprises.

He said the Securities and Exchange Organization is targeting a “50-50” financing model, balancing bank loans and capital market resources, over a four- to five-year horizon. “Initial public offerings in project-based companies have already begun, and infrastructure for Murabaha bond issuance is in place,” he said, noting a surge in applications from producers seeking bond issuance licenses.

In late March, the official outlined the five major plans for enhancing efficiency and transparency in the capital market in the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21.

Seyedi outlined five initiatives for the capital market this year, which include expanding the market through initial public offerings (IPOs), especially company-project listings, and increasing the capital of listed companies.

He expressed hope that the number of companies in the capital market would exceed 1,000 this year (currently there are over 700 companies).

Entrepreneurs and private companies are encouraged to take advantage of capital market opportunities, he emphasized.

He continued by explaining the second initiative: enhancing transparency, efficiency, and timely information dissemination in the capital market.

The third program focuses on improving corporate governance systems to ensure listed companies are better managed, achieving higher performance and increased profitability, all aligned with supporting production, the official added.

Seyedi announced two other plans: one to strengthen structures and the other to upgrade and rebuild the capital market’s information technology system.

Regarding the capital market’s value this year, he clarified that it will ultimately depend on market participants and remains unpredictable. However, efforts will focus on increasing transparency, liquidity, and efficiency to grow and improve the market compared to last year.

He emphasized the importance of shareholder rights, stating, “Shareholders must feel their rights are respected and supported”, adding that safeguarding shareholders’ rights depends on enhancing the efficiency of listed companies.

The SEO head further stressed fair transactions, preventing asymmetry in the dissemination of company information, and ensuring shareholders have access to company performance data to make informed decisions, such as whether to hold or sell their shares.

# Iran offers to build 1m housing units in Kenya

TEHRAN – Iran has expressed readiness to help build one million social housing units in Kenya, according to the head of Iran’s Urban Regeneration Company during a meeting with Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development.

According to IRIB, on the sidelines of the UN-Habitat Assembly, Abdolreza Golpayegani, Iran’s Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development and head of the Urban Regeneration Company, met with Alice Wahome, Kenya’s cabinet secretary in charge of lands, public works, housing, and urban development.

In this meeting, Wahome outlined Kenya’s housing affordability strategy and its goal of constructing one million homes over the past five years (equivalent to 200,000 units per year) by leveraging government resources, private sector involvement, and foreign partnerships. She invited the Islamic Republic of Iran to contribute to achieving this target.

In early May, the secretary of the Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit said commercial and investment contracts were signed between African traders and Iranian business leaders in four key sectors—mining, agriculture, petrochemicals, and medical equipment—at the conclusion of the third Iran-Africa summit.

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini said African delegations left Iran with substantial results, noting that foreign businesspeople and Iranian economic operators both benefited from the international gathering.

According to Hosseini, the third summit was distinguished by its focus on specialized, results-oriented activity, which led to greater coordination, satisfaction among participants, and significant achievements.

He noted that the summit witnessed several key developments, including the signing of commercial and investment agreements in the mining, agriculture, petrochemical, and medical equipment sectors.

Hosseini explained that unlike the two previous summits, which were general in nature, this edition was structured around four economic sectors: oil and petrochemicals, mining, agriculture, and medical equipment. Accordingly, the invited foreign delegations had relevant experience and expertise. This specialization, he said, helped ensure the summit remained outcome-driven.

He added that these four sectors were chosen due to their interrelated nature, with comple-



mentary operations and aligned objectives. The structure of the summit helped produce substantial results, the details of which would be disclosed in the coming days.

Hosseini said a major feature of this year’s event was the shift away from centralization in Tehran. After initial visits and consultations in the capital, delegations were divided into 15 groups based on their sectoral focus and flown to Isfahan for field visits.

This targeted approach allowed each group to visit companies and institutions aligned with their interests. African delegates specializing in mining, for instance, met directly with Iranian miners and entered negotiations or agreements.

According to the summit secretariat, a major memorandum of understanding was signed between an African trading company and an Iranian firm in the pharmaceutical and medical equipment sector, described as significant in scope.

On Friday, May 2, coinciding with the final day of Iran Expo 2025, several African delegates departed Iran after concluding purchase agreements and visiting pavilions representing the four main sectors.

### Long-term impact and increased engagement expected

Hosseini emphasized that the positive experience of the attendees would turn them into “ambassadors” for Iran’s capabilities, increasing the likelihood of higher foreign participation in future events. He highlighted that 20 percent of the summit’s participants extended their stay to explore more economic opportunities in Iran.

Describing the summit’s outcomes as positive, Hosseini said approximately 600 African traders, officials, and economic experts participated, underscoring Iran’s strong capacity across var-

ious economic and commercial sectors.

He stressed that while this year’s summit focused on a few sectors, showcasing Iran’s full capabilities would likely attract more foreign participation in the future.

More than 1,000 Iranian companies displayed their achievements in petrochemicals, mining, agriculture, and medical equipment during the summit. Choosing Isfahan as a co-host reflected the broader geographical potential of the country, he said.

Hosseini announced that the summit’s secretariat has already begun pursuing the implementation of the agreements signed during the event.

In a separate interview with state media, Hosseini said the parallel hosting of Iran Expo 2025 allowed African business delegations to explore additional trade opportunities, further strengthening the summit’s outcomes.

He underscored that consistent follow-up is essential for turning summit agreements into tangible results. The secretariat, operational since February, is now tasked with ensuring the implementation of signed memorandums and deals.

Hosseini concluded by stressing the need for trade balance between Iran and Africa. While the current relationship is one-sided, he said sectors such as petrochemicals and mining—where Iran is a major exporter and Africa has mineral wealth—could help bring trade flows into equilibrium.

Trade between Iran and Africa is experiencing significant growth, with both sides actively pursuing new opportunities in key sectors such as energy, industry, and agriculture. The Iranian government has emphasized its commitment to enhancing commercial relations with African nations, leveraging strategic initiatives aimed at boosting trade volumes.

Speaking at the opening of the Third Iran-Africa Cooperation Summit in Tehran, Iran’s Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Mohammad Atabak highlighted the vast potential for cooperation between Iran and Africa and announced plans to increase trade value by tenfold, aiming for a target of \$10 billion.

Atabak emphasized that the friendship between Iran and Africa is a long-standing cultural and historical bond that has now evolved into a valuable asset.

While reflecting on the long-standing economic relations between the two parties, Atabak noted that current trade volumes are insufficient and stated, “At present, Iran’s trade with Africa constitutes only three percent of the country’s exports and one percent of imports, amounting to around \$800 million.”

The minister highlighted that the goal for the future is an annual exchange of more than \$10 billion in goods, services, technical expertise, and value chains. “We have large-scale plans to achieve this target,” he said.

Key initiatives outlined by Atabak to achieve this goal include: infrastructure development, the construction of industrial parks and refineries, expansion of renewable energy sources, overseas farming, the establishment of shipping lines to Southern and Southwestern Africa, launching air routes, facilitating banking exchanges, and setting up a settlement mechanism through a foreign exchange fund. Additionally, there are plans to create operational strategies for Africa’s strategic mines and allocate €2 billion in financing through the National Development Fund’s buyer-seller credit mechanism.

Atabak also announced plans to expand the number of joint chambers of commerce from 13 to 20 and increase commercial attachés to 12. Furthermore, the establishment of a joint Iran-Africa development fund was revealed, with the fund aiming to attract \$2 billion in investment and provide 75 percent insurance coverage to reduce commercial risks.

Also speaking on the sidelines of the summit, the spokesperson for the Trade Development Commission of the Iran House of Industry, Mine, and Trade Seyed Rouhollah Latifi, stated that the total foreign trade volume of the African continent stands at \$1.2 trillion. However, he pointed out that Iran’s share of trade with African countries is just one-thousandth, which is very insignificant, despite Africa being a golden opportunity for Iranian trade.

## NPC needs \$18b investment to fully utilize petchem industry capacity

TEHRAN – Iran’s National Petrochemical Company (NPC) requires nearly \$18 billion in investment to overcome challenges and unlock the full potential of its petrochemical industry, a senior official said, underscoring the critical need for a stable supply of feedstock.

Hassan Abbaszadeh, the company’s managing director and a deputy oil minister, said at a strategic meeting on the revival of the Dehloran petrochemical project that the country’s installed petrochemical capacity currently stands at about 97 million tons.

“We hope to surpass this figure and celebrate reaching 100 million tons this year,” he said.

Abbaszadeh noted that while over \$90 billion has already been invested in the sector, around 22 percent of the installed capacity remains idle due to feedstock shortages. “This is one of the key challenges facing the industry,” he said.

## Over 27m passengers traveled via public road transport in 2 months

TEHRAN – More than 27 million passengers used Iran’s public road transport fleet during the first two months of the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 21 to May 21, 2025), according to the country’s Road Maintenance and

Transportation Organization.

Dariush Baqerjavan, director general of the passenger transport office at the organization, told Mehr News Agency that a total of over 27.16 million pas-

sengers were transported via intercity road networks during Farvardin and Ordibehesht.

Of this figure, over 14.5 million passengers traveled on 14,194 buses, more than 9.8 million on

approximately 30,500 minibuses, and over 2.77 million passengers used more than 34,000 licensed taxis and rental cars across the country’s highway network.



# Make America quashed again

## Trump deploys 2000 National Guard troops to crack down on LA protesters

By Sahar Dadjoo

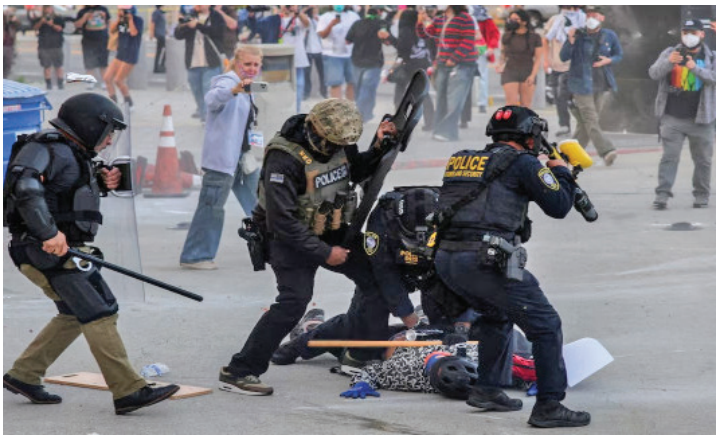
TEHRAN - When the Trump administration sent 2,000 National Guard members to Los Angeles on June 7, 2025, it significantly intensified its immigration enforcement strategy, making protests throughout the city a focal point of national discussion.

This unprecedented action, which the White House has presented as a necessary response to “lawlessness” and “rebellion,” has generated intense controversy regarding the boundaries of federal power, the degradation of civil liberties, and the use of military force to suppress domestic dissent. The Los Angeles crisis now serves as a crucial litmus test for the future of American democracy and constitutional limits.

### Federal-state collision: A battle for control

The immediate catalyst for the crisis was a series of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids on June 6-7 targeting workplaces in Los Angeles' Fashion District, South LA, and Paramount. Over 120 arrests—including union leader David Huerta—sparked protests that began peacefully but escalated into clashes with federal agents deploying tear gas, flash-bang grenades, and less-lethal munitions.

A purposeful use of federal power was demonstrated by President Trump's decision to federalize the California National Guard under Title 10 authority, despite Governor Gavin Newsom's protests. Newsom said local law enforcement had kept



protests inside the boundaries of Los Angeles and denounced the deployment as “purposefully inflammatory.”

However, White House aide Stephen Miller accused protesters of undermining U.S. sovereignty, framing the demonstrations as an “insurrection” that required military intervention.

### Legal and constitutional fault lines

The Trump administration's use of the Insurrection Act of 1807, suggested but not clearly stated by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, faces legal issues. This law allows the military to step in to control unrest only if local leaders can't handle it or ask for federal help. California's clear pushback and Governor Newsom saying local police managed the protests weaken the administration's argument for needing to act.

The Trump administration's use of

the Insurrection Act of 1807, which Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth mentioned but didn't really spell out, is facing some serious legal issues. This Act lets the military step in to handle civil unrest only when state leaders can't or don't want to take care of it. With California's clear pushback and Governor Newsom stating that local police managed to control the protests, the administration's reasoning for stepping in looks shaky.

Instead, Trump chose to send in the National Guard using Title 10 authority, which allows federal troops to be called up during rebellions or invasions. Many experts think the protests didn't meet that legal standard. Erwin Chemerinsky, who leads UC Berkeley's law school, criticized the move, saying it risks using the military to deal with domestic issues and sets a worrying precedent by mixing civilian leadership with military action.

The administration's actions also strain the Posse Comitatus Act, which bars federal military forces from domestic law enforcement unless expressly authorized. By threatening to deploy active-duty Marines, Defense Secretary Hegseth risked violating this principle, further eroding safeguards against militarized policing.

### Social impact: Fear, resistance, and polarization

Raids and subsequent action show simply deepen rifts within Los Angeles' immigrant communities. ICE's methods, including workplace raids and courthouse arrests, are consistent with Trump's promise to carry out “the largest deportation operation in history” in 2025. ICE and Trump's crusade to criminalize creativity and collaboration are assaulting trust among community members. For many, the presence of the Guard is akin to authoritarian governments, with community organizers reporting an enhanced fear of deportation or the loss of their family.

The power divisions exposed by the crisis reveal a fractured landscape: Local authorities, including LA Mayor Karen Bass and the City Council, openly defied federal actions by condemning the raids as “cruelty disguised as policy,” while the LAPD and Sheriff's Department refused to collaborate with ICE, prioritizing community trust over federal mandates.

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

## Hamas: Captive won't leave alive

### Two more Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Hamas warns the Israeli regime that its occupation forces will not retrieve a captive alive from a besieged area.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, has issued a warning to the Israeli occupation regime regarding its siege of a location in Gaza where Israeli captive Metan Tzengauker is being held.

In a statement released on the social media platform Telegram, al-Qassam spokesman Abu Ubaida declared that Israeli occupation forces (IOF) “will not be able to retrieve the captive alive,” holding the Israeli military fully responsible if Tzengauker is killed during any attempted rescue operation.

At the same time, Palestinian resistance factions continue to carry out operations against the Israeli occupation regime and its invading forces across multiple fronts in the Gaza Strip, as the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide against the

enclave persists.

The al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement, also announced that it had launched a mortar barrage at a concentration of IOF troops and vehicles northeast of Khan Younis.

They also reported ambushing an Israeli unit entrenched inside a house in the Tel al-Zaatar area, east of the Jabalia refugee camp, using booby traps and reverse-engineered explosive devices.

On Sunday, the IOF confirmed the deaths of two more soldiers, stating they had succumbed to wounds sustained during earlier clashes with Palestinian fighters.

Additionally, the IOF reported that another soldier had been evacuated from Gaza due to injuries, with a widely circulated image showing the soldier in critical condition.

The Mujahideen Brigades stated that their

fighters targeted an Israeli force east of Shuja'iyya near Gaza City with several mortar shells, achieving direct hits.

They noted that the IOF acknowledged the injury of one of its soldiers in the attack.

Meanwhile, the Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades, the armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), announced that its fighters had targeted IOF troop gatherings north of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza with two 107mm rockets.

The Brigades described the attack as part of their ongoing response to the genocide against the Palestinian people and shared footage of the operation via their Telegram channel.

Under the Israeli regime's media censorship regulations concerning the war in Gaza, Hebrew-language news outlets also reported another “security incident” in Khan Younis.

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

## Avichay Adraee, the Arabic spokesman of Israeli terrorism



From page 1 ► Immediately after the video went viral, angry comments poured in on Al-Rassi, with many dubbing her words as “low-level and inflammatory” and merely reflecting her obsession with fame during a tragic moment for Lebanon.

Some accused her of being a “traitor”. Some said: “Woe to you,

don't you have any shame when the children of Beirut's southern suburbs were terrified on Eid night!”

Critics unanimously agreed that Al-Rassi is like the rest of the anti-Resistance groups in Lebanon, which are fully subservient to the Israeli regime against the popular base of the Resistance.

Obviously, Al-Rassi's sole con-

cern is the comfort of tourists from Persian Gulf Arab and Western states, rather than solidarity with her compatriots who had been forcibly displaced from their homes.

Following the wave of harsh criticism, the Lebanese Ministry of Information warned citizens against communicating, directly or indirectly, with the spokesperson for the Zionist army or its affiliated media outlets.

“All honorable citizens, especially influencers, artists, and media professionals, are urged to completely refrain from any form of direct or indirect communication with the spokespersons for the Israeli enemy army or its affiliated media outlets, regardless of the pretext or justification,” the Ministry of In-

formation warned.

It also warned that “this type of interaction constitutes a clear violation of Lebanese laws, particularly those related to boycotting the Israeli enemy, exposing the perpetrator to legal accountability under applicable laws.”

The ministry stressed the need to “exercise national awareness and responsibility when dealing with digital content, in order to preserve Lebanese sovereignty and the supreme national interest.”

Despite fears that the ongoing U.S.-led Israeli aggression on Lebanon could expand into a full-scale war, the fame-obsessed individuals continue to fall into the traps of malicious Zionist propaganda run by Adraee on his virtual pages.

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

## UK and France abandon plans to recognise Palestinian state

The UK and France will abandon previous plans to recognize a Palestinian state at an upcoming conference, according to diplomats.

France had been lobbying the UK and other European allies to recognize a Palestinian state at the conference in New York, due to be held between 17 and 20 June.

President Emmanuel Macron had described the move as “a moral duty and political requirement”, suggesting it could come in return for Saudi Arabia recognizing Israel at the conference.

However, The Guardian has reported that French officials briefed their Israeli counterparts this week that the conference would

not be the moment for recognition.

Instead, it will now focus on outlining steps towards recognition, contingent on a series of measures and concessions from the Palestinians.

These will include a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of Israeli captives, reform of the Palestinian Authority, economic reconstruction and the end of Hamas rule in Gaza.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Friday that recognizing a Palestinian state at the conference would have been a “symbolic” decision and said they had a “particular responsibility” as a permanent member of the UN Security Council not to do so without the support of allies.



# INTERNATIONAL

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## Dozens wounded in necks, chests, heads from shootings near aid sites

Earlier Sunday morning, the GHF posted on Facebook that it was going to open and deliver food. That's why many Palestinians approached distribution points in both Wadi Gaza and al-Mawasi, Rafah. Thousands of people approached these distribution points to try to collect whatever food they could.

As usual, Israeli forces used live ammunition to disperse Palestinians. They also used tear gas, injuring many people. In Rafah, at least four Palestinians were killed and some 100 people injured. They suffered wounds in their necks, chests and heads. The situation is very critical. Doctors are saying it's very challenging to treat their wounds.

Also, here in the middle area, where Palestinians approached the second GHF distribution point, at least one Palestinian was killed and 20 others injured, also very critically.

Palestinians say the only reason they go [to the GHF aid distribution points] is that they are the only food sources for their families. But distribution points are not safe. Palestinians do not have a safe place to go to.

## Starving families queue all night for single meal

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation has no food distribution sites in northern Gaza.

For people living there, the closest aid point is on the other side of the Netzarim Corridor – an Israeli military zone that cuts off the north from the rest of the Strip. The aid it is giving out is nowhere near enough to serve the dire need there.

Every morning, thousands of Palestinians rush to the site, hoping for something to feed their families, Al Jazeera reported.

## Forces assault 63-year-old farmer in West Bank

Israeli forces have stormed the town of al-Khader, south of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank, and assaulted an elderly farmer, according to the Wafa news agency.

Wafa quoted a member of a local farmers cooperative who said the assault took place on the property of 63-year-old Muhammad Yaqoub Sabih, who was hospitalized after the incident.

The report also stated that Sabih's wife and daughter were briefly detained during the raid.

## Gaza health workers say four killed by Israeli gunfire near aid center

At least four Palestinians have been killed by Israeli gunfire as they were heading to an aid distribution center, health workers in Gaza have said.

It is the latest deadly incident to occur near aid distribution points in Gaza that have been set up by a new organization, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), which is backed by Israel and the U.S.

The latest incident occurred before dawn on Sunday, near an aid distribution site close to Rafah in the south of Gaza.

Palestinian paramedics said they had evacuated four people who were killed, as crowds gathered in the hope the aid center would open and they could get food.

One woman said her husband was shot in the head as he was waiting to collect food for their family.

## Trump says relationship with Musk is over

U.S. President Donald Trump has said his relationship with Elon Musk is over.

“I would assume so, yeah,” Trump told NBC News on Saturday, when asked if he thought the pair's close relationship had ended. He replied “No” when asked if he wished to mend the damaged ties.

The comments were Trump's latest since the epic fallout between him and Musk unraveled on social media.

It came after the tech billionaire, who donated millions to Trump's election campaign and became a White House aide – publicly criticized the president's tax and spending bill, a key domestic policy.

A majority of Republicans have fallen in line behind the president. Vice-President JD Vance said that Musk had “gone so nuclear” and may never be welcomed back into the fold.

Vance told podcaster Theo Von that it was a “big mistake” for the Tesla and SpaceX CEO to attack the president.

For weeks, Musk had been criticising Trump's signature legislation – dubbed the “Big Beautiful Bill” – as it made its way through Congress.

## Central Asia's tallest Lenin statue taken down



Kyrgyzstan has taken down a huge statue of the revolutionary Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin, which was thought to be the tallest in Central Asia, BBC reported.

First erected when Kyrgyzstan was part of the Soviet Union, the 23m-tall monument towered over the city of Osh for 50 years before it was quietly removed this week.

Photos emerged on Saturday showing the communist revolutionary – who features prominently in Soviet iconography – lying on his back on the ground, having been lowered by crane.

Many former Soviet republics have recently sought to recast their national identities with less emphasis on their previous ties to Russia, though local officials downplayed the decision to move the statue.

## Colombia presidential hopeful shot in head at rally

A Colombian presidential candidate is in a critical condition after he was shot three times – reportedly twice in the head – at a campaign event in the capital, Bogotá.

Miguel Uribe Turbay, a 39-year-old senator, was attacked while addressing supporters in a park on Saturday. Police arrested a 15-year-old suspect at the scene, the attorney general's office said.

Uribe's wife, Maria Claudia Tarazona, called on the nation to pray for his survival, saying: “Miguel is currently fighting for his life. Let us ask God to guide the hands of the doctors who are treating him.”



## Tehran hosts third tourism car rally for retirees



TEHRAN – The third edition of Tehran province's car rally for retirees was launched yesterday from the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex, with 160 retired individuals and their families taking part in the celebratory event.

Organized by the Civil Servants Pension Fund (CSPF), in honor of the National Family Day, the rally featured 65 vehicles and was

set to conclude at the Eisar Cultural-Sports Complex in the Kordan region of the neighboring Alborz province.

According to organizers, the event is a family-friendly and non-competitive rally aimed at promoting joy and engagement in retirement life.

"This rally is not about speed... It's about teamwork, navigation, obeying traffic rules, and most importantly, enjoying quality time with loved ones."

At the end of the rally, prizes were awarded to the top five participants based on adherence to route instructions, timing, and safety regulations.

"Our goal is to create opportunities for joy, recreation, and shared experiences for retirees and their families," an official with the fund said.

## Kermanshah holds 'World Wood Day' event



TEHRAN – A five-day event to mark "World Wood Day" started on June 6 in Kermanshah, which is a hub for woodworking and woodturning in western Iran.

This year's edition bears the motto of "Iran-China Cultural Exchange 2025," according to Dariush Farmani, the tourism chief of Kermanshah province.

According to Miras Arya (CHTN), Farmani said, "We hope that this event will be held with the presence of artisans from more countries."

Pointing to a 2,000-year-old history of Iran-China ties, he said, apart from economic relations, both nations have had cultural ties.

He mentioned that Iran is a country with a rich history, adding that sedentism started in Iran for the first time in the world. "In addition, the most comprehensive ancient inscription is located in Bisotun, Kermanshah province. This shows the rich history of Iran."

Farmani emphasized that Iran has always been a peaceful country. "We hope that this event will convey the message of our peace and brotherhood to the people of China and other parts of the world."

He also said the items that are created during the event, will be kept and put on display at Kermanshah Wood Museum.

## Archaeologists find new evidence of ancient slave labor in southern Iraq

International archaeologists have found new evidence in Iraq supporting the theory that a vast network of ridges and canals was built using slave labor.

A system of thousands of ridges and canals across a floodplain in southern Iraq has long been believed to be the remnant of a massive agricultural system built by slave labor.

The team undertook testing to determine the construction dates of some of the massive earthen structures and found that they spanned several centuries, beginning around the time of a famous slave rebellion in the 9th century CE. The research findings have been recently published in the journal *Antiquity*.

The enslaved people from that era are known today as the "Zanj," a medieval Arabic term for the East African Swahili coast, although there are different theories about where in Africa most of them actually came from.

They carried out a large-scale revolt in Iraq in 869 CE under the Abbasid state, known today as the "Zanj rebellion." The rebellion lasted for more than a decade until the Abbasid state regained control of the region in 883 CE.

Many descendants of those enslaved people

now live in the southern port city of Basra in modern-day Iraq.

While they are part of the fabric of modern-day Iraq, "their history has not been actually written or documented very well in our history," said Jaafar Jotheri, a professor of archaeology at the University of Al-Qadisiyah in Iraq, who was part of the research team.

Researchers from Durham and Newcastle universities in the UK, Radboud University in the Netherlands, and the University of Basra in Iraq also took part.

"So that's why this (finding) is very important, and what is next actually is to protect at least some of these huge structures for future work. It is minority heritage," he said.

The researchers first reviewed recent satellite imagery and older images from the 1960s showing the remains of more than 7,000 massive manmade ridges across the Shatt al-Arab floodplain.

The size and scale of the network indicate the "investment of human labor on a grand scale," the report in *Antiquity* said. Sites were selected across the system to be analyzed with radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence dating.

# Iranophobia must be neutralized through cultural diplomacy: tourism minister

TEHRAN--Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Reza Salehi-Amiri says that the U.S.-led project of Iranophobia must be effectively neutralized through a strategic approach rooted in cultural diplomacy, stressing Iran's unparalleled civilizational heritage and its distinguished position in human history.

Speaking in a TV interview on Saturday night, Salehi-Amiri elaborated on the ministry's programs, including long-term and strategic plans for a transformative shift in tourism and the preservation of Iran's cultural heritage, emphasizing the country's progress in achieving global objectives, IRNA reported.

Iran is more than just a land—it is a civilization woven into the heart of human history, shaping cultural foundations across the



Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Reza Salehi-Amiri

world.

Regarding Iranophobia, he said that this project must be effectively neutralized through a strategic approach rooted in cultural diplomacy.

Iran is expanding diplomatic relations with various countries, prioritizing not only the enhancement of cultural ties but also the facilitation of tourism, he added.

Highlighting his diplomatic

tours to Egypt, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey, he said these visits had focused on enhancing cultural cooperation and advancing the tourism sector.

Salehi-Amiri further pointed to the government and parliament's support for tourism investors, and said that through tax and customs waivers for investors, the government had paved the way for tourism growth.

He also revealed the ministry's goal to attract 15 million tourists – an aim set up by the Seventh Development Plan.

This plan is being implemented through infrastructure upgrades, such as duty-free imports of hotel supplies, he stressed.

Iran's tourism potential, especially in accommodation and hospitality services, is set to grow dramatically, he noted.

## Rare Sassanid-era inscription condemning break of promise discovered in Marvdasht, southern Iran

TEHRAN – A rare Sassanid-era inscription believed to condemn the act of betrayal and uphold the sanctity of loyalty and oaths has been discovered in the mountainous region of Marvdasht, Fars province, according to historian Dr. Abolhassan Atabaki.

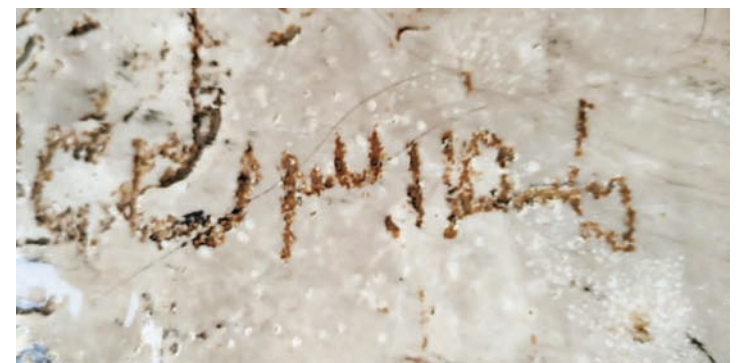
Atabaki described the inscription as advisory in nature, carved in line with ancient Iranian ethical principles associated with Mithra (Mehr), the Zoroastrian deity of covenants and justice. "This inscription is a remarkable example of how ancient Iranians viewed loyalty as a sacred value, and betrayal as one of the gravest sins," he said.

In ancient Iranian belief, betrayal was thought to bring divine wrath and social ruin. "When a person breaks an oath, Mithra becomes enraged, and the violator's land suffers—facing drought, disorder, and decline," Atabaki explained. These values

are also reflected in Zoroastrian teachings, where all adherents, regardless of faith or social status, are warned against oath-breaking.

The historian noted that even mythical covenants, such as the pact between Ahura Mazda and Angra Mainyu (Ahriman), were considered unbreakable, emphasizing the enduring power of sacred promises. "A person who breaks a vow or lies under oath is likened to one who renounces the Avesta and the teachings of Zoroaster," he said. Furthermore, dishonest judges or leaders who betray public trust were believed to cause natural and societal disorder, including reduced rainfall and weakened healing powers.

According to Atabaki, the moral implications of breaking promises extended across all relationships—between humans and the divine, between friends, co-workers, religious peers, and



even spouses. "In a diverse and vast land like ancient Iran, the foundation of the social order among kings, farmers, nomads, traders, and artisans was built upon the sacredness of pledges," he emphasized.

The discovery also highlights the elevated status of Mithra in Iranian mythology. The deity first appeared in inscriptions from Ardashir I in Susa and Ardashir III in Persepolis, and was similarly revered in Vedic literature in India as Mitra, the god of truth

and contracts. In Iran, Mithra held many roles: deity of light and justice, protector of nomadic pastures, guardian of warriors, and divine overseer of marital and social bonds.

Atabaki concluded that the discovery of this Sassanid inscription not only adds to the corpus of ancient Iranian texts but also reflects the high ethical standards and sophisticated legal thought that characterized the Sassanid era and earlier Iranian civilizations.

## Firuzkuh geological heritage nationally registered

TEHRAN--Firuzkuh geological heritage has recently been registered on Iran's natural heritage list, according to the tourism chief of Gilan province.

Vali Jahani told Khabar Online that the geological heritage of Firuzkuh, situated in the Siahkal region of Gilan province, was officially registered after going

through legal procedures.

He added that this registration has taken place based on Note 2 of Article 2 of the Law on the Establishment of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization, approved in January 2003, and its executive regulations approved in August 2005.

According to him, this valuable

monument which is located in heights of Lavali village in Deylaman district, was registered under the number 1372 in March 9, 2025. From now on, it is under the supervision and support of the Cultural Heritage Ministry, he added.

He emphasized that based on available laws, any interfer-

ence or actions that lead to the destruction or alteration of the originality of this work are prohibited.

Jahani recalled that this registration is an important step in line with preserving the natural heritage of the country and safeguarding the geological values of Iran's different regions.

## National plaque recognizing Bahmani as basket-weaving village to be unveiled



ni village in basket weaving art, he said the registration of this village as a national village will pave the way for promoting regional handicrafts, attracting tourists, and improving the livelihood and cultural level of local people.

This achievement is the result of the restless efforts of the region's artisans and crafters in preserving and promoting local arts, he said, adding this is an important step in line with safeguarding the traditional heritage.

Saying that registration of cultural artifacts is a specialized and expert process, he pointed out that Hormozgan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department always pursues the identification of registration capabilities in various fields, in line with its cultural mission.

He recalled that the dossier of registration of Bahmani village was sent to a specialized committee in 2020, but didn't achieve to final registration due to failure in gaining the required scores.

Mohseni continued that with efforts of Handicrafts Department, effective measures were made such as approval of a standard number for "Minab Mat", launching specialized basket weaving desk, forming mat cluster by the Industrial Townships Company, obtaining the National Seal of Authenticity for the work "Badil" from Bahmani village, and

registering a geographical indication of Minab mat which finally led to national registration of Bahmani village.

He said that previously in 2019, Bandar Lengeh was recognized as national city of Golabtoon. He mentioned that 19 handicraft works of Hormozgan province have been registered on Iran's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

The skill of making oud has also been registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List, he added.

The Director General of Hormozgan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department noted: Branding and registering works is an important step towards presence in global markets. Apart from preserving and promoting the handicrafts, it plays an effective role in attracting tourists and investment, he added.

At end, Mohseni appreciated the support of all institutions and influential individuals on this path such as Representative of the people of eastern Hormozgan province in Parliament, Minab Governor, the Industrial Townships Company, Hormozgan University, Bahmani Village Handicraft Cooperatives, artisans and art lovers.

He expressed the hope that this success will be a beginning for global registration of rich arts of this region.



# Iran attends 11th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting

TEHRAN –The deputy information, communication, and technology (ICT) minister, Meysam Abedi, has represented Iran at the 11th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting, which was held on May 29 and 30 in Brazil.

Addressing the meeting, Abedi expounded on the country's achievements in the ICT sector and highlighted the significance of promoting bilateral and multi-lateral collaborations, as well as benefiting from BRICS' capacities for the expansion of collaborative technological infrastructures, Mehr news agency reported.

Abedi went on to say that by utilizing defined mechanisms in the ICT sector and launching joint investments in development projects, member states can boost their cooperation and facilitate progress.

To enhance technology diplomacy, an approach seeking to benefit from international capacities to strengthen national capabilities in ICT sector, and consolidate Iran's role in global technology, Abedi held meetings with the head of delegations as well as representatives of other member states such as Brazil, Russia, India, South Africa, China, the UAE, Indonesia, and Ethiopia on the sidelines of the event.

During these meetings, the officials discussed the potential for enhancing technological ties in the field of ICT. Iran and Brazil have reached initial agreements



on fostering cooperation in fiber optic projects.

The participants discussed universal and meaningful connectivity, space sustainability, environmental sustainability, and digital ecosystems.

The BRICS Communications Ministers met on June 2 for the official signing of the declaration by ministers. During the 11th meeting, the officials conducted discussions on universal and meaningful connectivity, space

sustainability, environmental sustainability, and digital ecosystems with the vision to further strengthen cooperation in delivering an open, enabling, inclusive, interconnected, innovation-driven, development-oriented, equitable, and sustainable digital future for all.

### ICT status

The combination of talent, data, and innovation makes Iran a key player in the regional AI value chain, capable of driving meaningful cooperation and development. Iran is committed to fostering regional cooperation and building a future where AI drives prosperity and unity, ICT Minister Sattar Hashemi said in February.

Emphasizing that Iran is a major stakeholder in the regional digital landscape, Hashemi said that Iran is a major player in AI

in the Persian Gulf and that the country is ready to start cooperation with regional states on this matter.

The official made the remarks while addressing the Iran Corridor 2025 conference held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

He stated that the country's mobile phone operators, as well as its thriving digital service platforms such as Snapp! And Digikala, each serving more than 30 million users, provides an abundance of multifaceted data — an essential ingredient for AI development, Press TV reported.

Despite facing economic sanctions, Iran has successfully developed a resilient fintech ecosystem that continues to thrive and innovate, Hashemi noted.

“Our country's academic and research capabilities have propelled us to the forefront of AI advancements. In 2023, Iran ranked second in the region in terms of the number and quality of scientific papers in AI, demonstrating our commitment to cutting-edge research and development,” he added.

“Iran holds the second position in the region for AI developers, highlighting the depth of our skilled workforce, and stands fourth in the region in terms of the number of AI firms, showcasing our dynamic and rapidly growing ecosystem,” the Iranian minister continued.

## Iran forecast to enter aging phase from 2041 to 2046

TEHRAN –Due to the rapid growth in the number of older adults in the country, Iran is expected to enter a phase of population aging between 2041 and 2046, with nearly a third of the population being aged 60 and older by 2050, an official with the National Population Headquarters has said.

According to a recent report, the number of Iranians aged 65 and older is currently at 7.5 million, accounting for less than 10 percent of the country's total population, Press TV quoted Mehdi Malmir as saying.

However, the rate of population aging is growing rapidly in Iran, mainly because of lower birth rates, increased life expectancy, and other demographic trends, he added.

The official said that the Iranian baby boomer generation of the 1970s and early 80s, which currently accounts for a considerable part of the country's population, will be considered elderly in the next 15 to 25 years.

“This change of structure requires serious planning,” Malmir said.

He said that the single elderly account for 31 percent of Iran's total elderly population, saying the category will expand in the near future to significantly increase pressure on the Iranian health and pension systems.

The official said a bulk of Iran's population of seniors lives in rural areas of the country,



adding that the northern province of Gilan has the oldest population, while the southern provinces of Khuzestan, Hormozgan, and Sistan-Baluchestan are demographically better placed than the rest of the country.

He said that around 62 percent of female seniors and some 39 percent of male seniors in Iran live below the absolute poverty line.

### Population aging five times faster than population growth

According to the latest census, the number of aged citizens in the country is growing by 3.62 percent, which is five times faster than the total population growth rate, which is 1.24 percent. For the time being, elderly women account for 52.3 percent of the total population, outnumbering men (47.7 percent),

ISNA quoted Saber Jabbari, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

Despite offering incentives to encourage childbearing in line with the youth population law, the desired growth in the youth population has not been accomplished yet. It is one of the most important challenges facing the country.

“At best, Iran's population with a total fertility rate of 2.5 will reach 102,890,000 by the next seven years,” IIRB quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi, an official with the Civil Registration Organization, as saying.

## The rate of population aging is mainly because of lower birth rates, and increased life expectancy.

In the last two years, the fertility rate has stabilized around 1.6, which has intensified concerns over the decreasing trend in population growth in the coming years, and the probability of turning Iran into one of the oldest countries in the world, the official highlighted.

## Iran Health Expo kicks off in Tehran

TEHRAN – Tehran is playing host to the 26th international exhibition of medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and laboratory equipment (Iran Health Expo 2025), which kicked off on Sunday and will wrap up on June 13.

As one of the most important exhibitions in the health sector in the region, Iran Health Expo 2025 is bringing together leading healthcare professionals and companies, providing a great opportunity for domestic and international firms, from countries such as China, Russia, Indonesia, the UAE, and Czech Republic, Iraq, Afghanistan, Brazil, Turkmenistan, and Oman to showcase their latest achievements and boost their cooperation.

Some 600 knowledge-based companies are displaying over 70 percent of domestically-made medical equipment. There are an estimated 1,442 technology companies in the health sector, manufacturing over 1,800 pharmaceutical tools.

Iran Health Expo is displaying the country's latest products and achievements in the fields of biomedical engineering, pharmacology, mobile medical applications, hospital beds, respiratory medications, pediatric medical equipment, ophthalmic supplies, orthopedic equipment, pharmaceuticals, home care products, remote therapy, physiotherapy, surgical and medical emergency equipment, sonography and endoscopy, medical applications, electrical equipment, beauty products, and plastic surgery.

Iran Health aims to share experiences of health technology development as well as attract foreign investment in the field of health.

Enhancing the competitiveness of knowledge-based and technological companies for global markets, forming both domestic and foreign technological consortia to expand market presence, networking and sharing expertise in health technology development, commercializing technological achievements in the health sector, and developing health technology in the country are among the main goals of the exhibition.

The exhibition will also host expert meetings focusing on the role of artificial intelligence in the health sector.

Several technical tours are scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the exhibition to feature the health-oriented products of the knowledge-based companies to potential clients and help them expand their markets.

### Iran regional leader in health system

In May, 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 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).

WHO EMRO is working closely with the Iranian regulatory institutions to achieve regulatory maturity level 3 in the pharmaceutical regulatory system to pave the way for broader exports of Iranian health-oriented products to global markets; it will also contribute to promoting global health security, Balkhi added.

### Self-sufficiency in medicine, medical equipment a priority

The issue of medicine and medical equipment production and self-sufficiency in these areas is one of the government's priorities, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi said in March.

Medicine and medical equipment are two important areas related to people's health, he said, adding: “We are trying to reach self-sufficiency for the supply of medicine and medical equipment,” IRNA reported.

In 2024, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are operating in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

On May 12, 2024, Ahmad Moslemi, a health ministry official, said with 50 percent of medical devices being domestically manufactured, Iran holds the first place in West Asia for producing medical equipment both in terms of quantity and diversity, Iranian-made medical devices worth around \$50 million are exported to 40 countries annually, IRNA quoted Moslemi as saying.

Moreover, the official said, the number of products has increased fourfold. Equipment such as implants as well as advanced medical devices are manufactured in the country as well.

In addition, the country's medical centers have been equipped with some 15,000 new hospital beds have been added to with 90 percent of the equipment produced locally, Moslemi added.



## ‘Beautiful threat disguised’ water hyacinth

The water hyacinth wetland in Babol, northern Mazandaran province, attracts many travelers at this time of the year.

While visually appealing with its vibrant blue-purple flowers and green rosettes, it is an invasive plant that poses a significant threat to aquatic ecosystems.

Its rapid growth and ability to form dense mats can obstruct waterways, reduce water flow, and impact wildlife, making it a “beautiful threat disguised”.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Female Asiatic lion to join male companion

Iran will play host to a female Asiatic lion from Ireland to accompany the recently returned male lion under a population management program aiming at endangered species reproduction by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, a veterinarian at Eram Zoo has said.

The female lion, born 4 years ago, now is coming back to its motherland after being extinct for 8 decades, YJC quoted Iman Memarian as saying.

The lion has undergone genetic tests under the EAZA supervision, and the results have showed that the animal is completely healthy.

Both will be kept at Tehran Zoological Garden separately for a period, and then will live together.

## شیر ماده ایرانی به جفت نر خود می پیوندند

دامپزشک پارک پردیسان و مدیر باغ وحش ارم از پیوستن شیر ماده ایرانی از ایرلند به جفت نر خود تحت نظر برنامه تکثیر گونه‌های در خطر انقراض خبر داد.

ایمان معماریان در گفتگو با باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، اظهار کرد: شیرماده ایرانی که در باغ وحش دوبلین ایرلند به دنیا آمده و ۴ ساله است، پس از ۸۰ سال در راه بازگشت به وطن است.

شیر ماده ایرانی از نظر زنتیک و نبود بیماری چک شده و هیچ گونه مشکلی نداشته، این شیر پس از استانداردسازی مورد تایید اتحادیه باغ وحش‌های اروپا به ایران جابه جا شد.

دو شیر ماده و نر ایرانی مدتی جدا از هم زیست خواهند کرد و به صورت تدریجی این دوگونه به هم معرفی خواهند شد.





JUNE 9, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:04 Evening: 19:40 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

## Ghadir celebration to be held in 500 cities, 20 countries

TEHRAN – The grand “10-Kilometer Ghadir Celebration” will be held in Tehran on June 14, concurrent with Eid al-Ghadir, and more celebrations will be organized in 500 cities across Iran as well as 20 countries on this occasion, Sasan Zare, spokesperson for the People’s Headquarters of the event, said at a press conference in Tehran on Sunday.

Zare emphasized that the Ghadir celebration is an inspiring and replicable model. He stated that on Eid al-Ghadir, from Imam Hossein Square to Azadi Square in Tehran, over 2,400 temporary stations will be set up to host the public from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mehr reported.

The stations will offer food and drinks to attendees. Some of the stations will provide children with playgrounds. Flowers and cultural gifts will be also distributed among the people.

Zare also noted that the issue of Palestine, as the foremost concern of the Islamic world, will be highlighted during the event, with donation boxes set up along the entire celebration route to collect aid for the Palestinian people.

“Almost all stations in the 10-kilometer celebration are run by the people but are organized by coordinating committees. Based on surveys, we anticipate over 20 million attendees,” he noted.

Zare mentioned that when the event was first launched, they did not expect it to spread to all provinces and more than 500 cities. “No systemic effort was made to expand it, but its grandeur led most cities to join. Countries from the Axis of Resistance, like Syria and Lebanon, have requested to host booths in Tehran, and facilities have been made available to them,” he added.

Eid al-Ghadir is a source of unity for the Islamic nation. The event is the day on which



Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam of the Shia, was appointed as successor to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

On the way back home from Hajj in 632, which is known as the Farewell Pilgrimage, the Prophet (PBUH) asked for a stop in a region called Ghadir Khumm, where in his sermon, he announced his cousin Ali (AS) as his successor and first Imam based on a revelation from God.

Afterward, two tents were pitched, in one of which Muslims congratulated the Prophet (PBUH) for his excellent choice and, in the other one, Muslims from all tribes gave their allegiance to Imam Ali (AS).

According to the Holy Qur’an, this is the day when God Almighty perfected Islam as the religion by introducing Imam Ali (AS) as the next leader. That is why it is celebrated in honor of the first Shia Imam.

Imam Ali (AS) was the cousin of the Prophet (PBUH) and is known as the first man to embrace the Prophet’s call for Islam. According to Islamic sources, the Imam rooted out poverty and promoted an unprecedented justice system across the Muslim world during his 5-year rule based in the Iraqi city of Kufa.

Eid al-Ghadir is celebrated annually around the world by Shia Muslims on the 18th of Dhul-Hajjah.

## Russia’s Cultural Week to begin in Tehran, Isfahan with high-level diplomatic support

By Samaneh Aboutaleb

TEHRAN – Russia’s Cultural Week in Iran is scheduled to be inaugurated on Monday evening in Tehran and Isfahan, the organizers have announced.

The event aims to emphasize the deepening cultural ties and strategic cooperation between the two countries. Hossein Divsalar, Deputy for Scientific and Cultural Cooperation Development at Iran’s Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations (ICRO), announced this during a joint press conference with Russian Ambassador to Iran, Alexey Yurievich Dedov, held in Tehran on Sunday.

This week-long celebration coincides with a high-profile visit by Russian Minister of Culture Olga Lyubimova, highlighting the significance of cultural diplomacy in fostering mutual understanding and collaboration, Divsalar added.

The event is organized under the auspices of the Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, with the dedicated support of the ICRO and various governmental bodies, he noted.

He also expressed special appreciation for the efforts of the Russian Embassy in Iran, in facilitating this significant cultural exchange as well as Iranian Embassy and Cultural Attaché office in Russia.

Divsalar highlighted the importance of cultural diplomacy as a vital tool for long-lasting international relations. “Cultural events like the Russia’s Cultural Week are not merely symbolic or ceremonial; they are active cultural endeavors that serve as bridges between nations, promoting dialogue, mutual respect, and enduring partnerships,” he stated.

He emphasized that the week provides a valuable opportunity



to deepen familiarity between Iran and Russia, two ancient civilizations with shared historical, cultural, and artistic bonds. The event features a broad array of activities across Tehran and Isfahan, including art exhibitions, film screenings, concerts, and academic forums, marking one of the most extensive and diverse cultural exchanges hosted in Iran.

The presence of over 110 distinguished Russian artists and cultural figures across various disciplines—music, visual arts, cinema, and more—alongside additional officials and delegates, brings the total size of the delegation to over 130 members, underscoring the importance both countries place on this initiative.

Notably, the Russia’s Cultural Week includes the opening of exhibitions at Niavaran Cultural Center, the performance of Tchaikovsky symphonies in Tehran and Isfahan, and special film screening event.

For his part, Ambassador Dedov expressed his gratitude for

the warm reception and emphasized the significance of this cultural event as a response to Iran’s cultural initiatives in Russia, notably the Iranian Cultural Week held earlier in 2023. “This ongoing cultural dialogue underscores the respect and shared values between our peoples and paves the way for expanded cooperation in arts, education, and cultural industries,” he said.

The week also features strategic meetings, including the Cultural Committee of the Iran-Russia Joint Cooperation Commission at ICRO, and visits to key cultural and educational centers, fostering further collaboration in translation projects, joint film productions, and creative industries, he noted.

In addition to Tehran, the festivities extend to Isfahan, where traditional arts exhibitions, calligraphy displays, and performances by Russian artistic groups enrich the cultural landscape, he explained. “The event also includes the third meeting of the Iran-Russia Cultural Co-

operation Committee, aiming to establish long-term cultural and artistic partnerships.”

The Russia’s Cultural Week aligns with the broader framework of strengthening Iran-Russia relations, rooted in shared history and mutual respect, he mentioned.

It reflects the strategic importance placed on cultural diplomacy by both nations, as articulated by Iranian officials and Russian representatives alike, he asserted.

The collaboration aims to promote not only artistic exchanges but also significant initiatives like the proposed Russia House in Tehran—a dedicated cultural and educational hub that would serve as a focal point for promoting Russian language, arts, and scientific cooperation, he stated.

Concluding the event, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fostering cultural understanding and cooperation, viewing this week as a stepping stone toward a richer, more resilient bilateral relationship.

## Iranian storyteller Bahareh Jahandoost performs naqqali sessions in Kenya

TEHRAN – Acclaimed Iranian naqqal Bahareh Jahandoost participated in the 15th International Sigana International Storytelling Festival, which was held in Kenya from June 1 to 8, and performed narratives from Ferdowsi’s Shahnameh (Book of Kings).

The international storyteller and narrator, Jahandoost attended the event as a special guest, and performed in the festival’s opening ceremony as well as its main events, IRNA reported.

Her performances at Kenyan schools and cultural centers, including the prestigious Alliance High School, under the auspices of the United Nations, were warmly received by audiences.

Jahandoost also appeared live on Kenya’s national broadcaster KBC’s morning program “Good Morning Kenya,” where she performed two storytelling sessions in English during a 30-minute interview.

She also gave a special performance for Persian-speaking Iranians and Afghans at an Eid al-Adha celebration organized by the Cultural Attaché Office of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kenya.

Reflecting on her experience at the festival, Jahandoost said: “The biggest difference I noticed between Iranian and Kenyan storytelling is in the content. Their stories are often very simple, even their myths and traditional tales. I don’t mean this as a criticism; it’s simply a characteristic. Most of their stories are nature-based: tales of animals, talking trees, or magical flowers. This closeness to nature was intriguing, but their narratives had very linear and basic structures.”

“In Iran, even our children’s stories draw on literature that’s rich and layered, such as simplified versions of “Shahnameh,” or works by Saadi and Rumi. Iranian stories contain hidden layers that even adults can appreciate. I saw less of this depth in the festival’s stories. This experience deepened my appreciation for Iran’s vast and profound storytelling heritage,” she added.

Despite these differences, she emphasized the cultural significance of storytelling in African traditions: “Even under challenging economic and social conditions, storytellers are highly valued in Kenya. The festival’s opening ceremony lasted five and a half hours, and the children listened with full enthusiasm until the very end — it was astonishing to see how captivated they were by the stories. This made me question why, despite our deeper storytelling heritage, storytelling doesn’t have the same standing in Iran,” she noted.

“For the opening ceremony, I chose the story of ‘Zal and the Simurgh,’ narrating the birth of a child with unusual hair and skin color who is cast away but eventually finds value through wisdom, not appearance or race,” Jahandoost said. “This was an important message for the children of Kenya.”

Her second performance was “The Battle of Rustam and Akvan Div,” which she described as a more fantastical piece featuring non-human characters.

“I wanted a more imaginative setting and aimed to make it more child-friendly, aligned with the audience’s taste. The children were eager to engage; they



Bahareh Jahandoost performs during the 15th International Sigana International Storytelling Festival, held from June 1 to 8 in Kenya.

mimicked movements, called out, searched for characters, and even helped decide Rustam’s actions. It became an interactive performance and was warmly received,” she explained.

In the TV interview on “Good Morning Kenya,” Jahandoost spoke about the Shahnameh’s message, a humanistic, peace-seeking vision beyond borders, grounded in wisdom. She introduced naqqali as a cultural treasure and a registered intangible heritage in UNESCO.

“The host asked a striking question: ‘In today’s world of social media, where speed and superficiality dominate, how can we preserve ancient stories?’ I said that in my view, stories are powerful enough on their own; we just need to present them properly. Our greatest task is to maintain the traditional structure of naqqali while presenting it in a modern, relevant way that today’s audience can connect with,” she asserted.

Naqqali, or Persian epic storytelling, is the oldest form of narrating tales in Iran and has long played a significant role in society. A naqqal is a storyteller who recites epic tales, primarily revolving around the stories of Iranian mythological kings and heroes.

Bahareh Jahandoost, 40, has been involved in theater since she was seven years old, and she trained with the renowned Iranian naqqal, Morshed Vali-Allah Torabi. Using the traditional form of narrating stories through naqqali performance, she has performed in China, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Russia, and Turkey.

The Sigana Festival, launched in 2009 and now held biennially, is one of Kenya’s major cultural events. It celebrates traditional storytelling. The word “Sigana” refers to a style of African storytelling accompanied by music and song, which bears resemblance to Iranian naqqali, both using exaggerated gestures and performative narration.

## Cartoon of Day



Famine in Gaza

Cartoonist: Monireh Ahmadi from Iran