

Hearts Mourn Nation's Heroes

Millions attend the funeral in Tehran to say farewell to commanders and scientists martyred during Israel's war on Iran



Iran UN envoy reaffirms right to domestic enrichment

TEHRAN – Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Amir-Saeid Iravani, has emphatically restated Tehran's non-negotiable position that uranium enrichment for its peaceful nuclear program must take place on Iranian soil.

In remarks made to Al-Monitor in an interview published Thursday, Ambassador Iravani declared, "Iran continues to insist that enrichment must take place on its own soil." ▶ Page 2

No American will be safe if senior clerics are threatened: IRGC commander

TEHRAN – The deputy commander for coordination in the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) warns any attempt to harm Iran's senior clerics would provoke a harsh regional backlash against U.S. interests. ▶ Page 2

The failure of an offensive: Israel's unfulfilled objectives and Iran's strategic resilience

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – According to the official statement released by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, Israel achieved all of its stated objectives in its operation against Iran. "All the goals of the operation have been fulfilled," the text declared, thereby justifying Israel's acceptance of the ceasefire proposed by former U.S. President Donald Trump. ▶ Page 3

Iran will exit NPT if vital interests threatened, envoy warns UK Parliament

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ali Mousavi, issued a stern warning during a heated session of the British Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on June 17, emphasizing that Iran is a legitimate sovereign state, and declaring that Tehran reserves the right to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) under Article 10 if its vital national interests are jeopardized. ▶ Page 2

Package of supporting industries damaged by imposed war sent to cabinet

TEHRAN – Iran's deputy industry, mining and trade minister for the commercial affairs said: "Following the request of the minister of industry, mining and trade, a comprehensive package of support for industries affected by the Israeli-imposed war has been sent to the cabinet, and if approved, we will announce the details to production and industrial units." ▶ Page 4

Israel's doctrine of deception: A strategic tool facing diminishing returns

By staff writer

TEHRAN – For eight decades, Israel has orchestrated false flag operations—covert maneuvers disguised as enemy attacks—to manipulate global powers, ignite conflicts, and demonize adversaries. This entrenched doctrine of deception, rooted in strategic calculus, exploits chaos to advance geopolitical goals, as evidenced by declassified records, intelligence leaks, and international probes. ▶ Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

A September 11-style scenario was ultimately not carried out

In an article, Farhikhtegan analyzed an exclusive report by the Tehran Times, claiming that the Zionist regime had planned a destructive explosion on U.S. soil intended to be falsely attributed to Iran. According to the article, the alleged false flag operation sought to fabricate evidence, implicate Iran, and provide a pretext for a full-scale U.S. war against the country. The plan—reportedly aimed at manipulating American public opinion and legitimizing military aggression—was uncovered through intelligence received from a friendly nation. Upon learning of the scheme, Iran reportedly sent warnings to American officials, leading to the plan's disruption. Although the United States played a highly active role in Israel's 12-day war against Iran, the operation was designed to fully draw Washington into the conflict by replicating the shock and political consequences of the September 11 attacks.

Sobh-e-No: Iran must be vigilant as Israel doesn't honor ceasefires

In an analysis, Sobh-e-No highlighted Israel's history of breaching agreements and lack of commitment to ceasefires and the need for Iran to remain fully ready for violation of the ceasefire that went into effect on June 25. It wrote: Despite the official declaration of a ceasefire between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Zionist regime, historical evidence shows that the Israeli regime often does not commit to agreements. This ceasefire agreement has seemingly created hope for a temporary halt to attacks. The Islamic Republic of Iran must continue to maintain its vigilance at the highest level. Complete defensive and operational readiness, along with strengthening defense and intelligence systems, is necessary to deal with any betrayal or re-attack by the Zionist regime. At the same time, the country's diplomatic apparatus must reflect the regime's repeated violations of international rules and inform the global public opinion of the unreliable nature of Israel. In the current circumstances, trusting the Zionist regime's commitment to a ceasefire without deterrent measures and full readiness would be nothing more than naivety. This regime has repeatedly shown that it does not adhere to any of international rules and regulations. Therefore, staying prepared and alert is the only way to protect the country's national security.

Iran UN envoy reaffirms right to domestic enrichment

From page 1 ► He clarified that while regional cooperation, potentially including a consortium, could complement Iran's nuclear activities, it would never serve as a substitute for Iran's sovereign right to maintain domestic production capabilities.

These comments come on the heels of a halt in fighting that ended the Israeli regime's 12-day war on Iran, which raged from June 13 to 24.

Operating with direct U.S. coordination and support, Tel Aviv unleashed hundreds of airstrikes across Iran, martyring hundreds of citizens, as well as senior IRGC commanders and leading nuclear scientists.

In a grave escalation on June 22, the United States itself entered Israel's campaign, dispatching six B-2 Spirit stealth bombers armed with fourteen 13,600 kg GBU-57 "Massive Ordnance Penetrator" bunker-busters, plus 24 Tomahawk cruise missiles fired from a nuclear submarine, to attack Iran's civilian nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan.

Iran had engaged in five successive rounds of indirect nuclear negotiations with Washington, with a sixth session scheduled for June 15 in Muscat. Instead, the Islamic Republic was confronted with a war forcibly imposed on its soil.

Elsewhere in his interview, Ambassador Iravani underscored that Iran remains

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Intelligent silence

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtasad addressed Iran's intelligent silence towards the West and wrote: The ceasefire that was recently agreed between Iran and Israel with Washington's mediation was not out of moral concern or for peace, but to prevent the spread of tension to energy markets and America's global competition with China. America's military involvement in the recent war was limited and calculated. Trump has adopted an ambivalent position. In response to the recent conflict, he said: "Both Iran and Israel violated the agreement, and I am not happy with either of them." This artificial neutrality is precisely a reflection of the same cost-oriented view of the region. Therefore, now that neither Washington has an incentive to continue sanctions nor Tel Aviv - consciously or unintentionally - has maintained the image of a threat, Iran should not rush to prove that it is a danger. The best response at this moment is an intelligent silence. In politics, you don't always have to speak for yourself. Sometimes it is enough to wait for the other party to speak your language without knowing it, and make others doubt.

Iran: "Strategic solitude" a choice or fate of history?!

Theorists of "strategic solitude" believe that Iran can never be part of the orbit of the great coalitions of world powers, not because of political mistakes, but because of the country's particular characteristics, such as the Persian language, the Shiite religion, and its specific geographical location. From their view, the great powers of the region do not consider Iran as part of their strategic team. As a result, Iran is forced to rely on itself and follow the path of authority from within, by strengthening internal power and increasing popular legitimacy. Contrary to the common perception of strategic solitude, Iranian analysts see it as an opportunity for independent action in the region. They believe that Iran's historical experience has been filled with the betrayal of great powers, from Russia and Britain to today's America and China. According to this view, Iran can never rely on others, because others always make and break agreements in line with their preferences. Iran's strategic solitude is the result of its political system, prevailing discourse, and the Islamic Republic's deliberate orientation in foreign policy. This perspective views the phenomenon not as inherent, but as a political and discursive construct.



committed to peaceful resolution and its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), seeking only the rights accorded to all responsible members.

"We seek neither more nor less than the rights accorded to every other NPT member," he stated.

"Under the NPT, every state is entitled to conduct research, to produce, and to make peaceful use of nuclear energy. Accordingly, we intend to exercise all three pillars of that right, particularly the right to domestic production."

He reiterated Iran's openness to cooperation with regional countries on reactor safety and fuel supply within a consortium framework, but stressed this would be supplementary to Iran's national program.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran will exit NPT if vital interests threatened, envoy warns UK Parliament

From page 1 ► The session focused on regional escalation, Iran's nuclear activities, and diplomatic paths forward. Mousavi pushed back forcefully against the "hostile rhetoric, biased narratives, and double standards" from Western officials.

Asked about speculation that Iran may exit the NPT, Mousavi said such decisions fall under the authority of Iran's independent parliament.

"According to Article 10, if a signatory's vital interests are threatened, withdrawal is a legal option. There's no ambiguity," he said, holding up photos of Iranians killed in recent Israeli attacks. "We are accountable to these people."

He reiterated that Iran remains in the NPT for now, and that its religious doctrine and defense policy prohibit the development or use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms—citing a binding fatwa issued by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Emily Thornberry, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, later shared parts of Mousavi's remarks on social media platform X, stressing the need to return to diplomacy.



Iran's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ali Mousavi, addresses the lawmakers at a session of the British Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on June 17, 2025.

'Israeli attack violated international law'

Mousavi began his remarks by condemning Israel's recent military strike on Iranian territory as a "blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law," calling the action a serious threat to global security.

He described the strike as a "terrorist and criminal act" that crossed every red line, particularly by targeting a civilian nuclear facility operating under full IAEA supervision.

Rejecting Israel's claims of "targeted precision," Mousavi said the strikes hit civilian infrastructure,

homes, hospitals, and oil refineries.

"More than 220 civilians, including women and children, were martyred, and nearly 1,500 others injured," he said.

He condemned the direct attack on Iran's national broadcaster during a live broadcast as a "deliberate war crime" and "an attempt to silence the voice of truth," accusing Israel of being "the greatest enemy of media freedom."

Mousavi also criticized the United States, accusing Washington of direct complicity through its military, intelligence, and political support for Israel.

"The U.S. must be held legally accountable. Any country aiding Israel in this aggression is also responsible under international law," he said.

The ambassador noted that the Israeli assault came just days before scheduled indirect talks with the U.S. in Oman. "Iran came to the table with a constructive proposal, but the U.S., by backing Israel's attack, derailed the diplomatic process," he said.

He reiterated that Iran's missile response was defensive, proportionate, and lawful under Article 51 of the UN Charter, stressing that Iran did not target civilians.

Mousavi expressed frustration with the UN Security Council's failure to condemn the attack, saying its silence had weakened its credibility. He urged the UN and independent states to take concrete steps to halt Israel's aggression.

Asked whether Iran planned to escalate tensions or close the Strait of Hormuz, Mousavi replied, "Iran's consistent priority has been diplomacy. We've repeatedly said regional issues must be resolved through dialogue. But talks are meaningless while Israel continues bombing Iranian infrastructure and civilians."

Israel's primary target in war with Iran was police: Interior Minister



TEHRAN – In a televised interview Friday night, Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni announced that Iran's law enforcement forces became a primary target of Tel Aviv's 12-day war on Tehran, with nearly 150 police personnel martyred in attacks explicitly designed to "create internal chaos."

Momeni emphasized that the enemy's focus on police stations – unprecedented in conventional warfare – exposed its desperation to destabilize Iran after failing to achieve military objectives.

"The enemy attacked police centers with unparalleled hatred because our forces foiled their plot to incite social unrest," Momeni stated.

The minister's statement about Tel Aviv's failure to fracture the fabric of Iranian society was underscored by the funeral scenes gripping Tehran on Saturday, where over a million mourned martyrs of the war, including senior IRGC commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians.

"In most wars, police are the last to be targeted—after military sites and civilians," Momeni said. "But here, they were among the first."

He detailed that initial strikes deliberately targeted the Tehran Metropolitan Police Command (Police 110), followed by central and preventive policing units. This shift, he argued, aimed to paralyze public security infrastructure.

Analysts assert the Israeli regime's police targeting was integral to a broader "regime-change" strategy.

Even pro-Israel neoconservative think tanks such as the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) have stated that Israel's strikes on internal security institutions, like Iran's Law Enforcement Command (LEC), were intended to "demonstrate a credible threat to regime stability."

Momeni attributed the plot's failure to national unity, stating: "People recognized this was not about internal dispute, but about national security."

He cited public cooperation with checkpoints and economic stability, where civilians avoided hoarding and price gouging, as proof of solidarity. The minister also addressed the Israeli regime's "years-long investment in infiltration."

While praising public vigilance in reporting suspicious activity, he highlighted illegal aliens as a security challenge: "We are not neighbor-phobic, but we cannot accept individuals who enter our country and undermine its safety."

During the 12-day war, law enforcement publicly arrested sever-

al undocumented Afghan nationals accused of aiding the Israeli regime's operations on Iranian soil.

Momeni clarified that the issue does not implicate all Afghan nationals residing in Iran, emphasizing that many are "hardworking contributors to Iran's economy."

His statements regarding illegal aliens were echoed by other Iranian officials.

On Saturday, Iran's Prosecutor General, Mohammad Movahe-di-Azad, warned undocumented foreigners to leave promptly or face legal action.

The Prosecutor General reaffirmed Iran's hospitality but stressed that unauthorized presence wouldn't be tolerated.

Elsewhere in his interview, Momeni highlighted Iran's adoption of "non-passive defense" tactics, such as decentralization – "not placing all eggs in one basket" – to protect critical assets.

The minister closed by describing social cohesion as Iran's ultimate shield: "The people are our partners. Officials must protect this social capital; damaging it is treason."

No American will be safe if senior clerics are threatened: IRGC commander

From page 1 ► During a speech on Saturday, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi issued a warning to the United States and Israel over recent threats against the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and other high-ranking Shi'a religious authorities, denouncing the statements as dangerous, unlawful, and tantamount to state-sponsored terrorism.

"Even imagining aggression against the Shi'a religious authorities will place every single American military and civilian official in the region at risk," Naqdi said.

Referring directly to Trump's latest remarks, he added: "Because of his foolishness, Trump failed to grasp the meaning of Grand Ayatollah al-Sistani's message, and continues to repeat his idiotic threats. Let me explain the message clearly: any act of aggression—whether successful or not—against any Shi'a Marja will ensure that no American agent leaves the region alive."

He further warned that mere repetition of such rhetoric, even without action, would not go unanswered.

The statement comes in the wake of provocative threats made by Israeli War Minister Israel Katz during an interview with Israeli media on June 26, in which he directly threatened Ayatollah Khamenei and revealed that the Israeli regime had drawn up assassination plots against the Iranian Leader. His remarks followed

earlier comments by Donald Trump, who on June 18 described Ayatollah Khamenei as an "easy target," saying, "we are not going to take him out—at least not for now." Trump repeated the same rhetoric on Friday, claiming to have personally prevented either the Israeli regime or U.S. armed forces from targeting Iran's Leader.

The threats have triggered widespread condemnation in Tehran. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi urged Trump to adopt a respectful tone if he is genuinely interested in engaging with Iran diplomatically.

"If President Trump is genuine about wanting a deal, he should put aside the disrespectful and unacceptable tone towards Iran's Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei," Araghchi posted on social media.

He added: "The complexity and tenacity of Iranians is famously reflected in our magnificent carpets, which are the product of endless hours of patience and precision. But as a nation, our principles are simple: we know our worth, we value our independence, and we never allow others to define our destiny. The Great and Powerful Iranian People—who proved to the world that the Israeli regime had no choice but to run to 'Daddy' to avoid being flattened by our missiles—do not tolerate threats or insults. If illusions fuel further miscalculations, Iran will not hesitate to unveil its real capabilities. This would end any false assumptions about the power of Iran. Goodwill invites goodwill; respect

begets respect."

Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani, also formally lodged a complaint with the UN, calling on the international community to condemn the threats and hold those responsible to account.

In a letter sent Friday to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the President of the UN General Assembly, and the Security Council, Iravani described the remarks by Trump and Katz as a "clear and repeated incitement to assassination," and called them "unlawful, irresponsible, and terrorist in nature."

"These officials have openly and repeatedly threatened the Leader of the Islamic Revolution with assassination," the letter stated. "Such reckless and deliberate threats constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly Article 2(4), which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state."

The ambassador warned that such threats risk normalizing political assassination as a legitimate tool of foreign policy, thereby undermining the foundations of the international legal order.

"Iran, while reserving its inherent right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter, urges the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, to condemn in the strongest possible terms these assassination threats," the letter read.

Hearts mourn nation’s heroes

Millions attend the funeral in Tehran to say farewell to commanders and scientists martyred during Israel’s war on Iran

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Tehran, Iran’s beating heart, has witnessed centuries of tragedies as the nation’s capital. It has seen all the major events and dramas that have sculpted the ancient land’s modern history.

Tehran remembers the sting of foreign boots during the two World Wars, wars that brought deadly, man-made famines, costing millions of Iranian lives. It remembers the fall of the democratically elected government of Mosaddegh, orchestrated by the U.S. and UK. It remembers the missiles Saddam Hussein rained down during the brutal, eight-year invasion. And most recently, it mourned the loss of its brightest minds, commanders, and scientists, once again victims of the West’s enduring colonial ambitions, now channeled through its proxy, Israel.

But during the funeral procession taking place on Saturday, there were more emotions across each and every corner of Iran than just grief and sorrow. The millions who flooded the streets to honor their fallen commanders and officials were also brimming with pride. Pride that, after decades of bowing to foreign aggressors, the country had finally managed to punish the attacker, force it from its borders, and maintain its sovereign ground.

The funeral procession began at 8 AM in one of the city’s central squares, stretching 11 kilometers



to another. People from all walks of life joined the march: young and old, men and women, religious and non-religious. Tears streamed down many faces. A middle-aged woman, accompanied by her children, glanced at the coffin of Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the general hailed for significant contributions to Iran’s formidable missile power. She wept briefly, then wiped her eyes and began chanting slogans. “They thought killing Hajizadeh would stop his missiles from reaching them,” she told reporters. “But within 12 hours, those very missiles struck their strategic sites, left their cities in ruins, and crushed their spirits. His disciples will only forge even more deadly weapons to defend this nation.”

General Hajizadeh was among the several commanders assassinated by Israel at the start of the war on June 13th. In the twelve days that followed, the regime escalated its aggression with at-

tacks on Iranian nuclear facilities, military sites, more residential buildings, and civilian infrastructure. In total, 627 lives were lost during these Zionist attacks.

Israel claims its attack on Iran was to prevent the development of nuclear weapons – weapons the regime has been claiming for two decades that Iran is just “two weeks away” from acquiring. In reality, however, the decision for Israel to attack Iran is widely believed to have been made with the United States’ full support and eventual direct involvement, based on two key assumptions: first, that assassinating top military commanders would paralyze any Iranian retaliation; and second, that the attacks, coupled with a savvy propaganda campaign, would incite Iranians to rise up and overthrow their government. The people did eventually take to the streets, but their reasons were the polar opposite of what Israel

had envisioned.

Analysts suggest that the unwavering unity displayed by Iranians was even more decisive than the country’s military strength and its arsenal of missiles and drones in defeating the enemy. After centuries marked by foreign-backed humiliation and tragedy, Iranians now understand that their country is their ultimate sanctuary, and that the price of resistance will always be less than the “total surrender” demanded by U.S. President Donald Trump. During WWI, WWII, and the coup of 1953, fragmentation and disunity were some of the major reasons Iran was subjected, next to the impotence of the rulers. Iranians’ collective and historical memory has taken note of that.

“They can start a war again,” said a man in his 20s who told me he was getting ready to complete his mandatory military service. “But we’ll write the ending again this time. Those days are over when foreign powers could dictate what we can and cannot do. We will continue our peaceful nuclear program, and we will crush any force that tries to stop us.”

Iran ended up razing large swathes of the occupied territories to the ground during its war with Israel. It also attacked Washington’s biggest base in West Asia, the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Iranian officials say any new aggression against Iran will be met with even more forceful responses.

The failure of an offensive: Israel’s unfulfilled objectives and Iran’s strategic resilience



The ruins of a building in Hod Hasharon, occupied Palestine

From Page 1 ▶ However, beyond this triumphalist tone, the strategic balance presents a far more nuanced picture. What exactly was Israel aiming for? And to what extent can it be said to have reached those goals?

The first stated objective was to neutralize what Tel Aviv considers an existential threat: Iran’s nuclear program. According to Ori Goldberg, an Israeli analyst specializing in regional politics, the attack was justified on the premise that Iran was just days away from reaching uranium enrichment levels

Although the Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan facilities were bombed and damaged, the core of Iran’s nuclear program remains operational. Israel cannot omit Iran’s technological and scientific knowledge, nor can it affect the nation’s resolve to maintain a nuclear program.

Far from weakening Iran, the operation triggered a significant political shift: the Iranian Parliament passed—by an overwhelming majority—a law to suspend cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This decision not only marks a break with the Western oversight framework but also constitutes a sovereign gesture that redefines the balance of power. Moreover, it points to a potential withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, a move that would place Iran in a position of greater strategic autonomy vis-à-vis the West.

The second objective of the offensive was to destabilize the Islamic Republic’s political system, with the expectation—already openly stated

by former Israeli War Minister Yoav Gallant —of facilitating “regime change”. This logic underpinned actions such as the attack on Evian Prison, a symbol of Iran’s judicial apparatus, which generated widespread international condemnation, especially as it primarily affected civilians. This strategy was backed by figures from the Israeli establishment, such as Raz Zimmit from the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), who bluntly stated that “the long-term solution to the Iranian threat lies in regime change.”

Israel gained some tactical success, but the consequences it faced were unexpected and unprecedented

But that expectation quickly unraveled. As analyst Mouin Rabbani has noted, the Iranian political system demonstrated a structural solidity that refuted the forecasts of its detractors: institutional vacancies were filled quickly, the military chain of command was reinforced, and no cohesive opposition emerged capable of capitalizing on the crisis. On the contrary, the external aggression acted as a catalyst for social mobilization that reaffirmed the principle of national sovereignty. Far from fracturing the Islamic Republic, the foreign offensive ended up consolidating its internal legitimacy.

The third objective was to downgrade Iran’s ballistic missile program, which Israel regards as one of the main threats to its regional military supremacy. Despite Israeli efforts to destroy production, storage, and launch facilities, Iran responded with a series of coordinated attacks that penetrated Israel’s most sophisticated air defense systems, including the Iron Dome, David’s Sling, and Arrow-3. From a technical-military perspective, this episode represents a humiliating setback—not only because of the damage inflicted on strategic Israeli infrastructure, but also because of the blow it dealt to the credibility of systems in which the United States has invested billions of dollars.

The Iranian operation made it clear that deterrence is not the exclusive preserve of Western powers. The Islamic Republic responded with restraint, proportionality, and a strictly defensive logic, while simultaneously demonstrating its ability to strike key targets if its sovereignty is threatened.

Israel achieved “undeniable tactical successes,” such as the elimination of senior military commanders, but these did not translate into sustainable advantages or a real shift in the regional strategic balance. The correlation of forces in West Asia has not changed significantly, and the Israeli offensive—rather than weakening Iran—has reinforced its narrative of resistance, sovereignty, and self-determination in the face of international pressure.

On the other hand, the cessation of hostilities does not eliminate the Israeli threat. In this regard, attention has shifted to the “ceasefire” in Lebanon, which Tehran views as a pretext for Israel to continue bombing the country’s south—now without a symmetrical response from Hezbollah. Iranian authorities fear that Israel may try to replicate in Iran a model similar to the “informal demilitarized zone” in southern Lebanon: a space without effective sovereignty, vulnerable to military incursions under any pretext.

While Iranian officials insist that replicating such a pattern on Ira-

nian territory would be far more difficult—given the robustness of their defensive capabilities—they also stress that constant vigilance remains essential.

As for a possible resumption of negotiations with the United States, the Islamic Republic will remain firm in its demands: it will not accept talks that do not begin with an explicit recognition of its sovereign right to enrich uranium on its own soil. For Tehran, relinquishing that right would not only be counterproductive but outright suicidal. Historical experience shows that dismantling a strategic capability—such as the nuclear program—does not lead to sustained relief from external pressures. Rather, such pressures tend to be redirected toward other sensitive areas, such as the missile program or, ultimately, an attempt at regime change.

In this context, accepting “zero enrichment” would amount to dismantling Iran’s deterrent capacity and exposing itself to a perpetual cycle of pressure. The cases of Syria, Gaza, and Lebanon demonstrate that demilitarization does not guarantee security—and that ceasefires, far from representing lasting truces, often function as extensions of warfare by other means.

As Mahdi Mohammadi, adviser to the speaker of Iran’s Parliament, warns: “Everything depends on what happens next. If we remain skeptical and vigilant, correct our deficiencies, maintain unity, consolidate our network of influence, and retain the will to strike the enemy, this brief pause will be an opportunity. Otherwise, it will be nothing more than a trap for the enemy to regroup and launch an even greater war.”

In this light, the halt in fighting should not be interpreted as a definitive outcome, but as an intermediate stage that opens up both risks and possibilities. Its resolution will largely depend on Iran’s ability to turn external pressure into internal cohesion, strengthen its strategic deterrence, and shape a new regional balance more favorable to its sovereignty.

Iran not to compete at 2025 Sitting Dutch Tournament

TEHRAN – The head of Iran’s sitting volleyball team announced that the team will not participate in the 2025 Men’s Sitting Dutch Tournament.

Rezaei addressed the situation regarding the National Team’s intended participation in the event in the Netherlands.

He explained that the Dutch embassy is currently closed, and as a result, no passports have been issued.

Additionally, there are no available flights. More critically, the absence of training camps and practice sessions has effectively ruled out the team’s participation in this competition.

Rezaei also noted that last year, the team were unable to compete due to visa issues stemming from the Dutch embassy’s inability to issue visas. However, he remarked that this year’s circumstances have changed.

Iran crowned champions of 2025 World Deaf Futsal

TEHRAN – Iran secured the title by defeating Brazil 2-0 on Friday evening to win the 2025 World Deaf Futsal Championships.

Throughout the tournament, held in Monteseilvano, Italy, from June 14 to 27, Team Melli posted impressive results, including victories over Morocco (12-1), Italy (1-0), Uruguay (9-0), England (11-0), Poland (3-1), Kuwait (7-0), and Croatia (3-2).

Earlier in the day, Italy defeated Croatia 2-1 to claim third place.

This win marks Iran’s fourth championship title out of the five editions of the tournament. The event featured both men’s and women’s competitions, with teams from various countries participating.

Morteza Sharifi to miss reminder of 2025 VNL Week 2

TEHRAN – Iran outside hitter Morteza Sharifi will be absent from matches against Germany and the Netherlands in Week 2 of the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Sharifi sustained an ankle injury during the match against Argentina, which Team Melli won 3-1 (25-21, 22-25, 25-22, 25-22). His absence is a significant loss for the Iranian volleyball team.

Team Melli is scheduled to face Germany and the Netherlands on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

The 2025 FIVB Men’s Volleyball Nations League is the seventh edition of the FIVB Men’s Volleyball Nations League, an annual men’s international volleyball tournament.

It is currently held from 11 June to 3 August 2025, with the final round to take place at the Beilun Gymnasium in Ningbo, China.

Kartal no longer Persepolis coach

TEHRAN – Ismail Kartal has parted ways with Iran’s Persepolis football club.

According to media reports, the Turkish coach will not be returning to Tehran due to family reasons.

There are also rumors linking him with a potential move to the Saudi club Al Nassr.

Al Nassr have been without a head coach since parting ways with Stefano Pioli.

Possible candidates to replace Kartal include China national team head coach Branko Ivanković and Foolad’s Yahya Golmohammadi.

Esteghlal forward Kojo linked with Nasaf Qarshi

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan’s Nasaf Qarshi has expressed interest in signing Ghanaian forward Joel Kojo.

Kojo, who was named the 2024 Kyrgyzstan Player of the Year, joined Esteghlal from Dinamo Samarqand of Uzbekistan in January on a 3.5-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

He has represented Kyrgyzstan, scoring 10 goals in 23 appearances.

Kojo was a key player for Esteghlal, helping the club win the 2024-25 Hazfi Cup.

Ivankovic parts company with China

TEHRAN – Branko Ivankovic has left his role as head coach of the China national team after his side was eliminated from the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 earlier in June.

The 71-year-old Croatian was removed from his role as a result of his team’s fifth place finish in Group C, which ended the country’s hopes of a first FIFA World Cup appearance since its debut at the Finals in Korea-Japan in 2002.

“The Chinese Football Association expresses gratitude to Mr. Branko Ivankovic and his coaching staff for their dedicated efforts during their tenure with the men’s national team and their contributions to Chinese football,” the CFA said in a statement.

“We wish Mr. Ivankovic all the best in his future work and life.”

The Croatian coach has been linked with a move to Persepolis as Ismail Kartal’s replacement.

Persepolis to hijack Sepahan’s move for Moharrami

TEHRAN – Persepolis are reportedly interested in signing Dinamo Zagreb right-back Sadeq Moharrami.

Moharrami’s contract is set to expire at the end of June and is unlikely to be renewed.

Since joining Dinamo Zagreb in 2018, he has made 143 appearances, helping the team win six national championships, one Croatian Cup, and two Croatian Super Cups.

Iranian media previously reported that Sepahan had reached an agreement with Moharrami, but recent reports suggest Persepolis is now also pursuing the player.

Moharrami previously played for Persepolis from 2016 to 2018.

Germany beat Iran in 2025 VNL Week 2

TEHRAN – Germany defeated Iran 3-1 (25-22, 23-25, 26-24, 25-22) in the men’s Volleyball Nations League 2025 Week 2 on Saturday.

Team Melli had defeated Serbia and Argentina in their previous matches in Week 2 in Belgrade, Serbia.

Filip John led Germany with 22 points and Amirhossein Esfandiari earned 19 points.

Roberto Piazza’s team are scheduled to play the Netherlands on Sunday.

The 2025 FIVB Men’s Volleyball Nations League is the seventh edition of the FIVB Men’s Volleyball Nations League, an annual men’s international volleyball tournament.

It is being held from June 11 to August 3, 2025, with the final round to take place at the Beilun Gymnasium in Ningbo, China.

Tehran's electricity distribution network operates at full capacity during imposed war



TEHRAN – The managing director of Tehran Power Distribution Company said that Tehran's electricity distribution network worked at full capacity around the clock during the Zionist regime's imposed war against Iran.

Kambiz Nazerian said that the electricity industry, considering its mission in providing electricity, carried out a detailed planning of the state of the electricity distribution network.

Noting that the highest level of service was provided in Tehran's electricity distribution network, he stated: "Despite the problems that existed during the war, electricity industry employees were immediately present at the scene in the event of an incident to quickly resolve the problem."

"In this sector, we used all our strength and capacity to bring prosperity and comfort to citizens and serve the people", Nazerian further highlighted.

On June 22, Iran's Energy Minister Abbas

Aliabadi had said that the country's water and electricity services continued without disruption despite ongoing attacks, and praised utility workers for maintaining operations even during times of bombardment.

Speaking at a meeting with senior officials from the Energy Ministry, Aliabadi condemned what he described as the "aggression of the usurping and bloodthirsty Zionist regime," which he said had resulted in the deaths of several Iranian commanders, scientists, and civilians.

Quoting Iran's Leader, he added, "The Iranian nation will stand firm in the face of this imposed war and will not yield to the enemy."

Aliabadi stressed that Iran has not initiated any wars over the past two centuries and reiterated that the country's use of nuclear technology has been for peaceful purposes only. "We have never sought nuclear weapons, nor do we intend to," he said.

The minister emphasized that utility services are essential and cannot be suspended under any circumstances. "Throughout the recent attacks, employees and experts in the water and power sectors have remained at their posts to ensure that these critical services are delivered without disruption."

Aliabadi said the administration was working around the clock to manage the country and maintain normalcy. "Public services continue to operate on a 24/7 basis without interruption," he noted.

Ministries, CBI announce readiness to provide maximum support to capital market

TEHRAN- The deputy head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) for supervising the stock exchanges and publishers affiliated to the SEO announced the readiness of the ministries and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) to provide maximum support to the capital market.

Hamid Yari wrote in a message to the capital market activists: "Securities and Exchange Organization has made maximum efforts to protect shareholders' assets its main goal."

He noted that the majority of cabinet mem-

bers, including the minister of finance and economic affairs, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran, the ministers of industry, mining and trade, as well as cooperatives, labor and social welfare, and the Head of the Planning and Budget Organization (BPO), have also expressed their readiness to provide maximum support to the capital market in the coming weeks through various means, such as supporting subsidiary issuers and granting credit lines, adding: "It is hoped that, together with shareholders, we will witness a stable and sustainable situation in the capital market."

TEDPIX loses 62,540 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 62,540 points to 2.922 million on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week.

Iran's capital market was suspended for nine working days following the start of the imposed war against the country, to prevent shareholder losses.

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 com-

panies 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.

Package of supporting industries damaged by imposed war sent to cabinet

From Page 1 ► In an exclusive interview with IRNA's economic correspondent, Mohammad Sadeq Mofatteh presented a report on the status of units damaged in the imposed war by the brutal Israeli regime and stated: "This package includes banking facilities, tax discounts, and insurance support, which will soon be announced to support the country's production units after approval by the government."

He said this package seeks to enable affected manufacturing and industrial units to benefit from a higher foreign currency quota, the opportunity to repay bank installments, and bank facilities with low interest rates.

Stating that expert work has been carried out on a comprehensive package to support the affected industries, the official said: "Experts have presented expert measures with a report on the number of affected units, the extent of damage, and strategies for covering the damage, which will be announced after approval by the cabinet."

Mofatteh went on to say that the minister of industry, mining and trade, along with his deputies, recently visited several units damaged during the attack by the aggressive Zionist regime and was closely informed about their



situation.

Pointing out that the damaged production units will soon return to the production cycle, the deputy minister said that the minister of industry, mining and trade has emphasized the need to support the damaged private sector production units for reconstruction, providing their equipment and needs in cooperation with the relevant ministries and responsible agencies so that production is not interrupted.

He emphasized that the government is with the private sector in these difficult circumstances and will support these units.

On June 21, the industry, mining and trade minister had stated that the country's industrial and commercial sectors were fully prepared to support both the public and military during the

current conflict, and stressed the importance of maintaining normal production flows across the country.

"Given the breadth of responsibilities and the large portion of the population we must serve, the ministry bears a heavy burden during wartime," Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak said.

"We are fully committed, along with industry and trade sectors, to sustaining production and providing essential supplies for both citizens and the armed forces."

Atabak expressed confidence that the Iranian people, guided by faith, unity, and resilience, will impose a historic defeat on the Israeli regime.

"The Zionist occupiers have shown the world that they are not just enemies of the Iranian peo-

ple, but enemies of humanity," he said.

He praised the Iranian public for their response to the conflict, stating that "through solidarity and unified leadership, our people have strengthened their support for the armed forces."

We are confident that the Islamic Republic will emerge victorious and attain a more prominent global standing."

Acknowledging the damage and disruption caused by the conflict, Atabak said the country draws on valuable experience from the eight-year Iran-Iraq War.

"To confront these wicked and malicious acts by the enemy, we must fulfill our duties with self-sacrifice, ensuring that the supply, production, and service chains remain active so that daily life continues as normally as possible," he said.

He added that members of the ministry's deputy council, who serve as provincial coordinators, are required to monitor local conditions daily and address any arising issues.

During the meeting, deputy ministers and heads of specialized agencies presented updates and operational plans. Decisions were made to improve coordination and resolve challenges across the ministry's sectors.

‘Experience of 12-day war proves role of private sector’



TEHRAN- Mustafa Mousavi, the head of Khorramshahr Chamber of Commerce has argued in a note that the private sector played an active role in managing the economy and supplying goods during the 12-day war.

In his note, Mousavi wrote:

Following the 12-day conflict between Iran and the Zionist regime, clear economic lessons have emerged that show that in wartime conditions, a capable private sector can fill the government's role in managing the emergency economy and supplying goods to the market, provided that the government removes restrictive regulations."

* Heavy economic pressure on governments

The Zionist regime spends about \$725 million per day on military operations against Iran.

Iran's economy has also faced supply chain disruptions, rising inflation, and widespread power outages.

* Private Sector: Savior or Hero?

Companies and cooperatives can operate with great speed and expertise in the areas of goods clearance, foreign currency allocation, and distribution of necessities if the government reduces complex regulations and inappropriate tariffs.

* Government's Supervising Role

The government should directly monitor warehouses, import routes, and cleared goods, rather than directly intervene, to reduce the risk of smuggling and increase transparency.

* Centers of urgent action

Ministries: Accelerate customs procedures, eliminate unnecessary circulars, provide foreign currency quickly

Parliament: temporarily repeal or suspend laws that hinder official imports; impose proportionate tariffs

Private sector: prepare a robust logistics chain and supply network in case of emergency

The experience of the 12-day war showed that less government intervention and greater flexibility of the private sector can provide the conditions for economic reconstruction after the crisis while maintaining market stability. Now is a good opportunity to design an "emergency economy" that will support Iran

against the future shocks, whether war, sanctions, or natural disasters.

Mohammad Reza Bahraman, deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), has said the country must draw on its full social capital in response to the damage caused by the recent 12-day conflict, which he described as an "extraordinary situation."

Speaking to ICCIMA's official news outlet on June 24, Bahraman stressed the need for a context-specific strategy to address the consequences of territorial violations. "When an abnormal situation like an invasion occurs, we must mobilize all our social capital," he said, pointing to the solidarity of industrial producers as a key strength.

Private sector ready for reconstruction

Bahraman cited Iran's skilled workforce as a major asset for post-conflict development. "The human capital and the private sector are fully prepared to engage in large-scale reconstruction. The government must also align its structures to support national development," he said.

He urged the government and the three branches of power to work in unison to transform current conditions and harness the capacities of the private sector. He also underscored the pivotal role of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance in shaping adaptive and timely policies.

* War-affected businesses need immediate support

Referring to the damage sustained by businesses during the 12-day war, Bahraman called for short-term policy measures to mitigate losses. "Many enterprises were hit hard. With the right joint strategies from the government and ICCIMA, a large portion of these challenges can be addressed," he said.

He specifically pointed to bounced checks from manufacturing units, a problem that arose due to disrupted financial systems during the war. Bahraman called on the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) to ensure that industrialists and traders are not penalized under bounced check regulations, given the exceptional circumstances.

* Reducing bureaucracy and strengthening export infrastructure

Highlighting the need for faster export procedures, Bahraman stressed that the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade (MIMT) must simplify trade and production processes. "Cumbersome bureaucracy must be eliminated. The government should actively consult ICCIMA and economic associations to accelerate decision-making and implementation," he said.

Bahraman praised the public's cooperation during the recent crisis and called on the government to adjust its policymaking accordingly. He also urged parliament and the judiciary to define specific regulations tailored to

the post-war recovery phase.

* Call for foreign investment and economic coordination

"We need foreign investment now more than ever," Bahraman stated, expressing hope that upcoming negotiations would pave the way for attracting new capital into Iran.

He also emphasized ICCIMA's critical role in maintaining industrial continuity during the conflict. "In these 12 days, the chamber was instrumental in resolving key production issues promptly and providing practical solutions," he said.

Bahraman concluded by urging broader involvement of business associations in post-war rebuilding. "We hope that during the reconstruction period, the role of ICCIMA, joint chambers, associations, and specialized commissions will be significantly strengthened so that we can achieve our development goals more effectively," he said.

Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has reaffirmed its strong support for the government, the Iranian people, and the country's economic institutions amid heightened regional tensions and recent attacks by Israel.

Speaking to the Chambers newsroom on July 23, ICCIMA Deputy Head Payam Bagheri condemned the recent Israeli strikes on military and civilian infrastructure in Iran. He said the chamber is taking all necessary measures to prevent disruptions to the private sector and ensure economic stability.

"Despite the current circumstances, we are determined to maintain uninterrupted economic activities," Bagheri said, adding that regular meetings are being held with board members and departmental heads to coordinate efforts.

Bagheri noted that private sector players, local chambers of commerce, industry associations, and economic institutions are united in their response. "With coordination and solidarity, we are leveraging national capacities to navigate and manage the economic impact of the crisis," he said.

He also highlighted ongoing coordination with the government and the submission of proposals to maintain the flow of goods, services, and production, ensuring the economy remains resilient in the face of adversity.

Hossein Pirmoazzen, another ICCIMA deputy, said that customs offices across the country are operating without interruption, and there is full coordination between importers, traders, and regulatory bodies.

He stressed that essential goods and raw materials are being cleared continuously, and no shortages are anticipated in this area.

Pirmoazzen, referring to the country's production status, said that over 90 percent of manufacturing units are active, and some have even increased their production capacity to meet domestic market demand.

Israel’s doctrine of deception: A strategic tool facing diminishing returns

From page 1 ▶ From sabotaging civilian targets to fabricating digital evidence, Israel's tactics reveal a sophisticated playbook that undermines trust and escalates tensions.

Though historically effective, such operations are yielding diminishing returns in the face of enhanced counterintelligence measures and increased global scrutiny.

Early foundations: Sabotage and statecraft

In its formative years, Israel established a template for covert operations that relied on disguise, misdirection, and chaos. A notable example is Operation Susannah (1954), where Israeli military intelligence recruited Egyptian Jews to bomb U.S., British, and Egyptian civilian targets, including libraries, cinemas, and post offices. The attacks were designed to frame the Muslim Brotherhood and communist groups, destabilize Egypt, and prolong British occupation of the Suez Canal. Premature detonations led to the capture of 11 operatives, with two executed, two dying by suicide, and others imprisoned. Israel denied involvement for 51 years, only acknowledging and honoring survivors in 2005. Similarly, pre-state Zionist groups like the Irgun executed the King David Hotel bombing (1946), killing 91 British officials by disguising themselves as Arabs to accelerate Britain's withdrawal from Palestine. Another operation, the SS Patria bombing (1940), saw Zionist paramilitaries sink a ship carrying Jewish refugees, killing 267, to thwart British deportation plans. These early operations set a precedent for using deception to achieve strategic goals.

Cold War deceptions: Nuclear ambiguity and allied betrayal

During the Cold War, Israel refined its covert tactics by adopting deception ploys to secure strategic advantages. The



Dimona nuclear reactor program in the 1960s exemplifies this approach. With French assistance, Israel secretly developed nuclear capabilities while misleading U.S. inspectors through fake facilities, restricted access to plutonium-processing sites, and disguising the reactor as a “textile plant.” This allowed Israel to build an unacknowledged nuclear arsenal, leveraging ambiguity for regional dominance. Another controversial incident was the USS Liberty attack (1967) during the Six-Day War, where Israeli forces deliberately bombed a U.S. intelligence ship, killing 34 Americans. Survivors and intercepted communications confirmed the attack was intentional, aimed at preventing U.S. monitoring of Israeli military actions, though Israel claimed it was a case of mistaken identity—a narrative still contested today.

Modern tactics: Cyber warfare and proxy manipulation

Israel's false flag operations have evolved with technology, incorporating cyber tactics and sophisticated disinformation campaigns. Between 2007 and 2008, Mossad agents posed as CIA officers, offering U.S. passports and cash to recruit Pakistan-based Jundallah militants for attacks in Iran. In 2025, Iranian intelligence uncovered an Israeli plot on U.S. soil, designed to implicate Iran and provoke a U.S.-Iran

war through fabricated evidence. Iran's timely alert to U.S. authorities thwarted the operation.

In Syria, Israel exploited sectarian tensions through coordinated disinformation campaigns in 2025, spreading false narratives, such as fabricated executions, to incite violence against minorities and destabilize the region. These operations reflect a shift toward hybrid warfare, blending physical sabotage with digital manipulation.

From physical sabotage to hybrid warfare: The evolution of Israel’s tactics

For long years, Israel has used false flag operations as a strategic means to coerce allies and isolate domestic opponents to gain political support. These provocations are to induce action or assistance by other powers against alleged threats to Israeli interests. Examples of this include the 1967 attack on the USS Liberty and the 2025 plot on U.S. soil. The operations are conducted against adversaries, such as Iran, Egypt, or Syria, to justify sanctions or strikes, operating from a narrative that is coherent and acceptable to domestic audiences. Historically, these were actual acts of sabotage, such as the 1954 Lavon Affair, and so forth, but now they have morphed into hybrid warfare, digital fabrication of evidence, impersonation or otherwise. For example, Mossad

may use CIA officers as third-party actors to obfuscate direct action with help from third-party actors in ways consistent with deniability.

And yet, the doctrine of deception carries great risks. Incidents like the attack on USS Liberty have put a huge strain on the alliance with Israel, especially with the United States, gradually eroding the trust. Violations of international law through such attacks on civilian infrastructure have grave humanitarian consequences. For instance, dropping bombs on Iranian hospitals in June 2025. However, Israel enjoys the full diplomatic protection of the United States, allowing it to shield its officials from any form of accountability, including arrest warrants by the ICC against Bibi Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. However, such a veil of protection is not impermeable, as made evident by the failed plot in 2025 on U.S. soil, which underscores the growing dangers as well as the increased global counterintelligence operations. Iran's successful intervention in exposing such operations marks the declining fortunes of these tactics.

Over 80 years, Israel has institutionalized false flag operations, realizing institutional and strategic achievements such as Operation Susannah and the Dimona deception. Yet, the current international environment necessitates stringent forensic scrutiny of such operations and adherence to international norms. As the Tehran Times revealed on June 25, 2025, that Israel was plotting to carry out an explosion on U.S. soil and subsequently blame Iran—with the apparent aim of instigating a full-scale war between the United States and Iran—alertness and preemptive action against state-sponsored deception remain essential to safeguarding the global order.

Nearly 100,000 Palestinians killed in Gaza amid Israeli war: Haaretz

Nearly 100,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's genocidal war on Gaza, representing about 4% of the territory's population, the Israeli daily Haaretz said on Friday.

The death toll contradicts the number of fatalities given by Gaza's Health Ministry, which stood at over 56,300 since October 2023.

Haaretz said in addition to the high Palestinian deaths from Israeli attacks, many people also died from the indirect effects of the war such as hunger, cold and diseases amid a collapse of the health system in Gaza.

The daily said while Israeli spokespersons, journalists and influencers reject with knee-jerk disgust the death toll announced by Gaza's Health Ministry as exaggerated, more and more international experts “are stating that not only is this list, with all the horror it embodies, reliable – but that it may even be very conservative in relation to reality.”

Gaza authorities say drugs found inside US-dispatched flour bags



Palestinian authorities in Gaza said Friday that narcotic pills had been found inside US-dispatched flour bags in the Israeli-besieged enclave, Anadolu Agency reported.

In a statement, Gaza's government media office said prescription painkiller Oxycodone was found by Palestinians inside flour bags they received from US-run aid distribution points in Gaza.

“It is possible that these pills were deliberately ground or dissolved inside the flour itself, which constitutes a direct assault on public health,” it warned.

The media office held Israel fully responsible for this “heinous crime” aimed at spreading addiction and destroying the Palestinian social fabric from within.

“This is a part of the ongoing Israeli genocide against the Palestinians,” it said, calling Israel's use of drugs a “soft weapon in a dirty war against civilians.”

UN chief welcomes DRC-Rwanda peace deal

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday welcomed the signing of a peace agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, Xinhua reported.

“This agreement is a significant step toward de-escalation, peace and stability in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region,” said Guterres in a statement.

“I urge the parties to honor in full the commitments they have undertaken in the peace agreement and pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2773 (2025), including the cessation of hostilities and all other agreed measures,” he said.

He added that the United Nations remains fully committed to supporting the implementation of the agreement in close coordination with the African Union as well as regional and international partners.

It cited a study conducted by Professor Michael Spagat, an economist at Holloway College at the University of London, a world-class expert on mortality in violent conflicts, about deaths in Gaza.

The study surveyed 2,000 households in the Palestinian enclave, comprising almost 10,000 people.

“They concluded that, as of January 2025, some 75,200 people died a violent death in Gaza during the war, the vast majority caused by Israeli munitions,” it said.

According to the survey's data, 56% of those killed have been either children up to the age of 18 or women.

“That's an exceptional figure when compared with almost every other conflict since World War II,” Haaretz said.

Spagat said the survey's data positions the Gaza war “as one of the bloodiest conflicts of the 21st century.”

Trump says Gaza ceasefire possible ‘within the next week’, gives no details

United States President Donald Trump said he believes a ceasefire in Gaza between Israel and Hamas could be reached within a week, Al Jazeera reported.

Trump came out with the surprise comment while speaking to reporters on Friday, saying he was hopeful after speaking to some of the people involved in trying to get a truce.

I think it's close. I just spoke to some of the people involved,” Trump said.

“We think within the next week we're going to get a ceasefire,” the president said, without revealing who he had been in contact with.

Al Jazeera's Nour Odeh, reporting from Amman in Jordan, said Trump's comment will be “welcome news” to the starved and bombed population of Gaza, but she also cautioned that there are “no negotiations at this moment happening anywhere in the region”.

“What we do know is that talk of a ceasefire increased exponentially after the ceasefire between Israel and Iran. Israel does not want to talk about ending the war. In fact, the Israeli prime minister would be risking a lot if he did,” Odeh said.

Netherlands condemns illegal Israeli settlers’ violence in West Bank

The Netherlands on Friday condemned the recent surge in violence by illegal Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, calling on Tel Aviv to take immediate action, Anadolu reports.

“I condemn the increased violence coming from illegal settlements in the West Bank,” Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp said on X.

Veldkamp emphasized that the Netherlands has taken a leading role in addressing settlers' violence.

“The Netherlands has initiated and is a strong supporter of targeted sanctions against violent settlers,” he said.

He urged the Israeli government to take responsibility and act without delay to curb the ongoing violence.

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

Yemen targets “sensitive” Israeli site

By Wesam Bahraini

TEHRAN – Yemeni attacks against strategic Israeli targets continue in solidarity with Palestinians in response to the genocide in Gaza.

The Yemeni Armed Forces announced on Saturday that they carried out a precision military operation targeting a sensitive Israeli site in the “occupied city of Be'er Sheva”.

According to a statement, the strike was conducted using a “Zulfikar” ballistic missile and is part of what Yemen calls the “Promised Conquest and Sacred Jihad” campaign, aimed at supporting the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the spokesperson for Yemen's armed forces, stated that the missile struck its target accurately and achieved its objectives.

He explained that this operation comes as part of Yemen's ongoing military efforts to

stand with the resistant Palestinian people and respond to the ongoing U.S.-backed Israel's genocidal war against Gaza.

General Saree also noted that over the past week, Yemeni forces have carried out several operations targeting Israeli military sites and sensitive installations in Be'er Sheva, Tel Aviv, and Haifa.

These attacks, according to Saree, involved the use of ballistic missiles and drones and all successfully hit their designated targets.

He emphasized that Yemen considers it a religious, moral, and humanitarian duty to support the Palestinian people, regardless of the risks or consequences.

Saree further affirmed that Yemen's operations would continue until the Israeli occupation regime halts its genocide in Gaza and lifts the deadly blockade on the enclave completely.

Earlier, Israeli media outlets reported the detection of a missile launch from Yemen. They also noted that air-raid sirens were activated in several areas, including Be'er Sheva and hotels along the Dead Sea.

The announcement by Yemen's armed forces underscores their commitment to what they have vowed to be a broader struggle in defense of Gaza, signaling that further attacks may be forthcoming unless genocide in the Palestinian territory ends.

On Saturday, Gaza's Ministry of Health reported, “In the past 24 hours, 81 martyrs and 422 injuries have been received at hospitals across the Gaza Strip.”

It added, “Since 18 March 2025, the toll stands at 6,089 martyrs and 21,013 injuries,” referring to the date when the occupation regime unilaterally withdrew from a ceasefire agreement.

following international advice received from Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and Foreign Minister Youssef Rajai to ensure the renewal of UNIFIL in its current form, given Israeli incitement and American obstruction.

Informed sources revealed that the real reason for the delay in Lebanon's letter is that the foreign minister (a minister affiliated with the Lebanese Forces) is subservient to American dictates.

For his part, another minister affiliated with the Lebanese Forces, Minister of Telecommunications Charles Hajj, decided to halt restoration work on the telecommunications network in Beirut's southern suburbs, the South, and the Bekaa, which were damaged due to the ongoing U.S.-led Israeli aggression. Hajj relentlessly seeks to privat-

fire supervision committee, General Michael Lenny.

Analysts fear that UNIFIL will be replaced by a group of international observers serving one clear purpose: the forcible disarmament of Hezbollah.

In parallel, Washington continues to deprive the Lebanese Army of any military capabilities as it pushes the army to detonate Koranit missiles collected from Hezbollah's stockpiles to demilitarize the South.

Hence, the Lebanese Army would only assume a supervisory role, in preparation for the imposition of a “peace” treaty with Israel.

The Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the Lebanese mission to the UN submitted a request to UN Secretary-General António Guterres to renew UNIFIL mandate

How do the Lebanese Forces ministers implement US dictates?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON — Concern is growing over the U.S. position to renew the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon at the end of August, given the American pressure that only serves the interests of the Israeli enemy.

The move comes in the wake of a leaked report from Tel Aviv to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, in which investigators claim to have obtained confessions from resistance detainees alleging collusion between UNIFIL forces and Hezbollah. This also comes as part of Israeli diplomatic and military pressure on the international force to cancel its mission or introduce radical changes in favor of a direct U.S. military role through the head of the cease-

Imam Mosque's massive dome undergoes restoration



TEHRAN – A new restoration initiative has begun to address possible deterioration in the intricate tilework adorning the grand dome of the 17th-century Imam Mosque of Isfahan, also known as Masjed Jameh Abbasi.

The mosque, a masterpiece of Persian architecture, is situated at the southern edge of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Imam Square (Naghsh-e Jahan Square) in the historical city.

On Sunday, Amir Karamzadeh, Isfahan province's tourism chief, announced that the project focuses on comprehensive repairs to the tile decorations in the dome's central section.

"Funded with a budget exceeding 8.5 billion Iranian rials, the restoration work began recently and is expected to continue through the end of September." "The restoration includes a full overhaul of the tile mosaics and decorative elements in the dome's middle section, ensuring their longevity and aesthetic brilliance," Karamzadeh said.

"We are committed to preserving this iconic monument for future generations."

This latest phase follows a landmark restoration campaign that spanned 14 years and concluded last year with the removal of the scaffolding that had enveloped the mosque's dome.

That prolonged effort began in 2010 after extensive damage assessments revealed the need for urgent repairs. During the long restoration period, artisans painstakingly restored

thousands of the mosque's signature mosaic tiles and corrected structural distortions.

Despite the partial removal of scaffolding in 2022, further assessments indicated additional areas requiring intervention, prompting the current project. The Imam Mosque's dome, famously adorned with over 500,000 intricately patterned tiles, holds the distinction of being the largest tiled dome among historic mosques worldwide.

Its brilliant seven-color mosaics, predominantly in striking dark blue hues, alongside symmetrical calligraphic inscriptions, make it a defining symbol of Safavid-era art and architecture.

Constructed beginning in 1611 under the patronage of Shah Abbas the Great, the mosque has stood as a cultural and religious beacon at the heart of Isfahan for over four centuries.

It crowns the southern edge of Imam Square, which is flanked by other monumental Safavid structures including Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, Ali Qapu Palace, and the Qeysarieh Bazaar entrance.

Imam Square itself is not only a UNESCO World Heritage Site but also a historic hub that once pulsated with the cultural, economic, religious, and political life of the Safavid capital.

Its vast open space hosted celebrations, polo matches, military assemblies, and public events, underscoring Isfahan's nickname "Nesf-e-Jahan" — meaning "half the world."

Funding allocated to equip private museums in Sistan-Baluchestan

TEHRAN – Authorities in Sistan-Baluchestan have announced the allocation of dedicated funding to equip private museums in the southeastern province of Iran.

According to Mojtaba Sa'adatian, the deputy provincial tourism chief, the initiative aims to enhance the quality of museum services, promote private sector involvement in museum development, and enrich the province's cultural and artistic landscape.

Currently, Sistan-Baluchestan is home to nine public museums and three officially registered private museums, along with two additional private collections. These institutions primarily showcase the ethnographic heritage of the region, highlighting the diverse cultural identities of its various communities.

"This is the first time that equipment funding has been specifically allocated to privately run museums in the province," Sa'adatian said.

"It reflects our commitment to supporting both public and private museum initiatives."

He added that the provincial department is fully prepared to assist individuals interested in establishing private or specialized museums, and emphasized the unique potential of the province to host museums focused on a wide range of themes.

"We hope to see a rise in the number of private museums in the near future, contributing to the broader cultural and educational



development of the region," Sa'adatian concluded.

The collective Sistan-Baluchestan Province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran, with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions.

In ancient times, the region was a crossroads of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations. The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

Seb castle; mud fountains; Darak beach; Darren Negaran; Chabahar beach; and Martian mountains are some of the most notable historical and natural tourist attractions of the province.

Handicrafts training workshops held in Yasuj prison

TEHRAN—Handicrafts training workshops have been held in Yasuj prison, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province, the provincial tourism chief said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration of workshops for training handicrafts in Yasuj prison on Saturday,

Seyyed Mojtaba Amir-Hosseini said the measure has been taken in line with empowering the prisoners and generating jobs for them to prepare new opportunities for them, introduce and sell their products, Miras Arya (CHTN) reported.

He said holding these workshops can

help reduce the rate of return to prison and improve their living standard through teaching new skills and building motivation in prisoners.

Amir-Hosseini explained that the female prisoners undergo kilim-weaving art free of charge during the year, adding

that they will receive a skill certificate.

At present, a total of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as "world cities of handicrafts". The World Crafts Council is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that

was founded in 1964 to promote fellowship, foster economic development through income-generating craft-related activities, and organize exchange programs, workshops, conferences, and exhibitions.

Iran ranks first globally for the num-

ber of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council. For instance, Shiraz is named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts", Malayer is a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture, while Zanjan has gained the title of a "world city of filigree".

Taleqan dam lake: a gem of tranquility and adventure in Alborz Mountains

TEHRAN – Situated in the heart of the southern foothills of the Alborz Mountains in Alborz province, Taleqan dam lake is one of the most beautiful and underrated tourist attractions in the region.

Today, the lake is much more than a water reservoir. It is a serene and multifaceted tourist destination. The area surrounding the lake has transformed into a scenic escape that draws visitors from Tehran, Alborz, and beyond, especially during spring and summer.

It is a destination for both relaxation and adventure, including boating across its calm, crystal-clear waters; fishing, thanks to its rich aquatic life; camping in the vast green plains and hills that surround the lake; photography, particularly with the awe-inspiring backdrop of the Alborz mountain range; and wildlife observation, as the region supports diverse flora and fauna.

Located near the city of Taleqan, the capital of Taleqan county and just about 135 kilometers west of Tehran, the lake offers a perfect retreat for nature lovers, adventure seekers, and those in search of peace and quiet.

The lake is formed from the waters of the Shahrud River, which means "the great river" or "the river of kings."

Originating from the heights of the Alborz Mountains, the Shahrud flows for 175 kilometers and joins with the Alamut River before eventually emptying into the Caspian Sea.

The dam, and subsequently the



lake, were envisioned as part of a larger water management project aimed at supplying water to the Qazvin plains.

Each season offers a unique charm at the lake.

Spring (April-June) is perhaps the most stunning time to visit. Wildflowers bloom across the meadows, the air is crisp and refreshing, and the lake's surroundings are lush and vibrant.

Summer (July-September) provides a cool escape from the intense urban heat. While the area may be slightly more crowded, it remains a popular time for families and tourists to enjoy outdoor activities.

Autumn (October-November) is ideal for those seeking peace and natural beauty. The landscape turns into a canvas of red, orange, and gold, and the cooler weath-

er makes hiking and sightseeing more comfortable.

Winter (December-March) transforms the lake into a quiet, snow-covered wonderland. Though the cold and icy roads may deter some, winter attracts seasoned nature lovers looking for serene solitude and breathtaking views.

For a tranquil and cost-effective experience, midweek visits in spring or autumn are highly recommended.

How to get there

Reaching the dam lake from Tehran is straightforward. Drive west via the Tehran-Karaj highway, then follow the Karaj-Qazvin road.

Take the Taleqan exit, and continue along a scenic route through valleys and mountain roads to reach the lake. The entire trip takes approximately 2.5 to 3 hours by car.

Nearby villages and cultural richness

Beyond the lake itself, the region is dotted with charming villages such as Orazan, Minavand, Gooran, and Armut.

Each offers a glimpse into local rural life, traditional architecture, and regional customs. These villages, surrounded by pristine landscapes, enrich your journey with cultural depth and hospitality.

A perfect blend of nature, peace, and exploration

The serene lake stands as a remarkable symbol of harmony between human engineering and natural beauty.

The property offers an unforgettable experience, whether you are looking for an active getaway or a serene environment to disconnect from the bustle of city life.

Chabahar railway to boost tourism and economy in southeast Iran

TEHRAN – Mansour Bijar, Governor-General of Sistan-Baluchestan, has highlighted the vital role of the Chabahar railway, describing it as a key route linking southeast Iran with tourism and the national economy.

He also emphasized the province's efforts to fully leverage the potential of this project, Miras Arya (CHTN) reported.

During his visit to the Chabahar rail projects, he said the railways on the coasts of the Oman Sea have a role beyond transportation. They are like bridges that bring tourists, capital, and hope to the southeast of the country, he added.

He said the project has sought to have balanced development and establish sustainable infrastructure for national tourism. Bijar explained that the Chabahar-Zahedan railway has been planned to meet the logistical and economic concerns of the region and turn Chabahar into a top destination for domestic and international tourists and investors.

Apart from being a commercial port, Chabahar should have a status as a new space for boosting tourism industry along regional markets and transit potentials, he pointed out.



He said the railway links Makran coasts to a bright future. Each kilometer of railway which is constructed, is a chance for more prosperity, employment and hope in the southeast, he added.

Pointing to the physical progress of the project, the governor general called expanding the railway as an important factor in cooperation of tourism, trade and transportation sectors.

He emphasized that once the project is inaugurated, it will boost the connection between domestic and foreign parts of the country from the country's soil to the banks of Oman Sea and a new

future will occur to the region.

Chabahar railway is part of the government's macro project for boosting north-south corridor and turning this port into a regional trade and tourism hub.

Based on recent ratifications following President's visit to the province, 260,000 billion rials (\$35.8 million) worth of credit has been allocated to the project to accelerate its implementation, he mentioned. The project which is being conducted by Khatam al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters, will be completed by the end of current Iranian year, he said.

The 628-kilometer railway project which is aimed to connect Chabahar to Zahedan (the capital city of southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province) is an important part of the north-south transportation corridor. It began in 2013 and has seen a physical progress of 80 percent.

Connecting the ports to the railway network is an issue seriously emphasized and followed up by Iran over the recent years, as the country is strongly pursuing the objective of boosting exports and transit via its ports.

Tazieh performance in village added to tourism calendar

TEHRAN—Concurrent with the arrival of Muharram month, a certification has been issued for registration of Ashura-related ritual of Tazieh performance (passion play) of Karizno Village in Torbat-e Jam, Khorasan Razavi province, in Iran's national tourism calendar under the number 104101071, said the head of Mashhad Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department.

According to Miras Arya (CHTN), Faramarz Saber-moqaddam explained that the Tazieh performance in Karizno village is one of the greatest religious gatherings in the region.

He also said that the event is held with the participation of people from Karizno and other urban and rural regions for three days annually. It starts a day before Tasu'a and continues until the night of Ashura, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS).

"With the announcement of the policies for registering events in the country's tourism calendar by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, in order to realize the issue of orga-

nizing and professionalizing event tourism, we are identifying, documenting, and preparing a file of Torbat-e Jam's most important cultural and religious occasions with tourism potential."

Given the importance of tourism events of Torbat-e Jam and public interest in these intangible issues, he said, the registration of cultural-religious values, particularly in the country's tourism calendar and in the National Heritage List, is on a priority.

Tazieh in Iran designates a traditional religious theatrical genre, essentially commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hossein (AS) and the passions of the Ahlulbeyt (members of the family of the Prophet of Islam). In this theatrical genre, the recitation of the lyrics, which are almost always in verse, takes precedence over the directing and the action.

Registered on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010, Tazieh is a kind of drama that recounts the brave war and martyrdom of the grandson of the Prophet



Muhammad (PBUH) and other incidents that occurred on Ashura, the day Imam Hussein (AS) and his 72 companions were martyred by the oppressive Umayyad dynasty in 680 CE. Tazieh performance began during the Safavid era (1501-1736) and flourished during the Qajar era (1794-1925).

Tazieh presents religious events, historical and mythical stories and folk tales. Each performance has four components of poetry, music, song and motion.

Intl. Day of Tropics highlights climate, geography, and urbanization challenges

TEHRAN –The International Day of the Tropics, observed on June 29 annually, focuses on the significance of the tropics as hubs of the world’s biodiversity and the challenges faced by the regions due to climate, geography, and urbanization.

Covering nearly 40 percent of the Earth’s surface, the tropical zone hosts around 80 percent of the world’s biodiversity and a substantial portion of its cultural and linguistic richness.

The Tropics are a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn. Although topography and other factors contribute to climatic variation, tropical locations are typically warm and experience little seasonal change in day-to-day temperature.

An important feature of the Tropics is the prevalence of rain in the moist inner regions near the equator, and the seasonality of rainfall increases with the distance from the equator. The richness of the Tropics also makes them central to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By 2050, the region will host most of the world’s people and two-thirds of its children.

However, the tropical region faces several challenges such as climate change, deforestation, logging, urbanisation, and demographic changes.

Consistent with the higher levels of poverty, more people experience undernourishment in the Tropics than in the rest of the world.



The proportion of the urban population living in slum conditions is higher in the Tropics than in the rest of the World.

Countries within this region, spanning parts of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania, are witnessing rapid population growth and urbanization, but these developments come with pressing issues such as deforestation, habitat loss, pollution, and socio-economic inequality.

Moreover, the Tropics host nearly 95 percent of the world’s mangrove forests by area and 99 percent of mangrove species.

The mangrove tree, as a wonder of the marine environment, offers many benefits to various species, including birds, fish, crustaceans, and even some terrestrial animals, and stabilizes the soil, as well. Mangrove forests are rich ecosystems that support the planet and humanity in unique ways by providing conditions for fish growth, storing carbon, and fighting floods.

According to a study by researchers at the National Institute of Oceanography, mangrove ecosys-

tems in the northern Persian Gulf are facing a range of environmental and anthropogenic pressures.

Mangrove forests in Iran mostly consist of the Avicenna marina, known as Hara, named after the 11th-century great Iranian scientist Avicenna, or Abu-Ali-Sina.

The study assesses the ecological dynamics of the Mangroves of Dayyer City (MDC) in the northern Persian Gulf using a multidimensional approach involving satellite-derived, drone-based, and field-measured data.

Satellite imagery from Google Earth (2011–2022) reveals fluctuations in the MDC area, with notable afforestation efforts until 2018, followed by rapid degradation.

The mangrove forest, initially covering 2.2 hectares in 2011, expanded to 3.2 hectares by 2015 due to afforestation efforts but declined to 1.7 hectares by June 2022.

The construction of a nonstandard road and a bridge in 2018 obstructed freshwater flow from upper areas, emerging as a major factor responsible for the degrada-

tion.

Drone-based observations in March 2023 provided a detailed map, revealing that 44 percent of healthy mangroves had been damaged. Field measurements conducted in November 2023 showed higher salinity levels at MDC compared to other adjacent mangrove areas.

Principal component analysis (PCA) also demonstrated differences in the environmental conditions of the MDC compared to those of the two habitats sampled (Nayband and Melgonzeh).

The study suggests that long-term, multi-stressor monitoring, especially at different points within the mangrove ecosystem, is essential for effective management.

The research also stresses the critical need to address human-induced threats to mangrove ecosystems. Urgent conservation and management strategies are essential for mitigating the impact of anthropogenic pressures and ensuring the survival of mangrove ecosystems in the face of environmental challenges.

Moreover, the climate change impacts must be considered when planning conservation and management strategies.

Rising temperatures and sea levels, along with increased salinity, pose long-term threats to mangroves. Therefore, developing integrated conservation strategies that combine restoration efforts with the mitigation of both human-induced and climate-related stressors to enhance the resilience of mangrove forests is essential.

34 Iranian universities in THE Impact Ranking 2025

TEHRAN – The Times Higher Education (THE) has included 34 universities from Iran among the top universities pursuing sustainable development goals (SDGs), up from 33 universities in 2024.

THE ranking evaluated 2,526 universities from 130 countries to produce the overall Impact Ranking for 2025.

Key criteria for Times Higher Education Impact Rankings include research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching. It evaluates the universities' performance in 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indexes including no poverty; zero hunger; Good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice, and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals.

Iran University of Medical Sciences, with a global ranking of 301-400, is placed first in the country. Alzahra University, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401-600) are placed second. Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (AJUMS), Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University (601-800), University of Tehran, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modarres University (801-1000), ranked third.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, Bu-Ali Sina University, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman, Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences, University of Kurdistan, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, and University of Zanjan rank 1001-1500.

Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Golestan University, Hamedan University of Medical Sciences, Hormozgan University of Medical Sciences, Ilam University, Imam Khomeini International University, Kermanshah University of Technology, Payame Noor University, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, University of Hormozgan, University of Maragheh, University of Science and Culture, University of Sistan-Baluchestan, and Urmia University of Medical Sciences rank 1501+.

The overall Impact Rankings table identifies and celebrates universities that demonstrate comprehensive excellence in contributing to global sustainable development. By excelling in a variety of SDGs, these universities showcase their commitment to addressing the world's most pressing challenges, including environmental sustainability, social inclusion, economic growth, and partnerships.

Iran University of Medical Sciences ranks 48th in good health and well-being as well as reduced inequalities, and 62nd in quality education goals.

Alzahra University and Kerman University of Medical Sciences rank 85th and 89th in gender equality, respectively.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences ranks 30th in good health and well-being.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Shahid Beheshti University rank 46th and 60th in industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

The methodology for the overall Impact Rankings integrates scores across multiple SDGs to reflect overall performance and impact. The analysis shows that universities in East and Southeast Asia are improving rapidly when it comes to their contributions towards sustainable development.

There is more analysis on the results, including tables, charts, and interviews with university leaders in the Impact Rankings 2025 digital report.

Recent rankings

The 22nd edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings (WUR), 2026, has placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, unchanged from the 2025 ranking.

University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 322, ranks first among the Iranian universities.

Sharif University of Technology (ranking 375) and Amirkabir University of Technology (456) are placed second and third.

Iran University of Science and Technology (496), Isfahan University of Technology (571), University of Tabriz (578), Shiraz University (701-710), Shahid Beheshti University (741-750), and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (951- 1000) are other top universities included in this year's ranking.

Among Iranian universities, Shahid Beheshti University has improved its ranking by 100 posi-



tions, up from 851-900 in 2025, Mehr news agency reported.

QS World University Rankings being compiled by Britain's QS since 2024 – is a global indicator of higher education quality. Some 8,500 universities across the globe were nominated to be included in year 2026 rankings, and only 1,501 got their position in the final list.

The Round University Ranking (RUR) 2025 has placed 36 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world, up from 32 universities in 2024. RUR Ranking evaluates the performance of over 1200 leading world universities from 85 countries by 20 indicators within the framework of 4 key objectives: teaching, research, international diversity, and financial sustainability.

It is designed as an evaluation system aimed to provide sufficient information about university performance to address stakeholders' personal tasks: students, the academic community, university management, and policy makers.

Islamic Azad University, with a global ranking of 93, is placed first in the country.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (125), University of Tehran (202), Iran University of Science and Technology (355), Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (371), Sharif University of Technology (389), University of Tabriz (422), Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences (440), Qazvin University of Medical Sciences (445), and Shahid Beheshti University (454) ranked second to tenth.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Islamic Azad University are ranked third and fourth globally in terms of Teaching Ranking index; they are placed first and second in the country. Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (with a global ranking of 69) is placed third.

Based on the Research Ranking index, University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 138), Sharif University of Technology (252), Islamic Azad University (259) are placed first to third in the country, respectively.

Islamic Azad University (414), Graduate University of Advanced Technology (542), and Imam Hossein University (572) are ranked first to third in terms of the International Diversity Ranking index.

Based on the Financial Sustainability index, Imam Hossein University (155), Baqir al-Olum University (212), and Iran University of Science and Technology (245) are the top three universities in the country.

The Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2025 has placed 85 Iranian universities among the top Asian institutions, compared to 75 universities in 2024.

Sharif University of Technology is ranked first in the country, with a global ranking of 69.

Amirkabir University of Technology (70), Iran University of Science and Technology (77), University of Tehran (97), Tehran University of Medical Science (109), Isfahan University of Technology (115), Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences (121), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (154), and Shiraz University of Technology (155) are placed second to tenth in the country.

The 15th edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2025 has included 17 Iranian universities in 21 subject entries, compared to 17 Iranian universities in 17 subject entries in 2024.

Iranian universities are ranked among the top institutions in three faculty areas, including Engineering and Technology; Life sciences and Medicine; and Natural Sciences, Mehr news agency reported.

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (WUR) by international outlook 2025 has ranked 85 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world. Sharif University of Technology (with a global ranking of 301- 350) tops the universities of the country.

THE World University Rankings 2025 has placed 81 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 subject areas, compared to 73 universities in 2024. Iran's best rankings are in Computer Sciences, and Engineering.

Khwarizmi Intl. Award slated for January 2026



TEHRAN – The 39th Khwarizmi International Award (KIA) is scheduled to be held in January 2026, according to the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST).

The esteemed award aims to recognize and honor outstanding contributions in various fields of science and technology.

Researchers, scientists, inventors, and innovators from around the world are invited to showcase their ground-breaking work and achievements.

Key topics of KIA include industrial and technology management, water management, agriculture and natural resources, information technology (IT) and software engineering, biotechnology and basic medical sciences, metallurgical and metallurgy engineering, new energies, digital economy development, mechanical

engineering, artificial intelligence, electrical and computer engineering, mechatronics, aerospace engineering, civil engineering, architecture and urban planning, chemistry technology, nanotechnology, environment, basic sciences, and art.

The award ceremony for the 39th Khwarizmi International Award will take place in February 2026, honoring and celebrating this year's laureates. The event will be graced by the President of Iran, alongside high-ranking officials and distinguished scientists.

The deadline for submitting applications to participate in the Award is October 1, 2025.

Khwarizmi International Award

It is an established fact that a strong scientific and technological base today is quite essential for the economic development of a country. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, there was a growing concern in the country about the development of Science and Technology.

In 1987, the leading Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST), affiliated to the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, decided to institute an award, which acknowledges the Iranian outstanding achievements in the field of Science and Technology.

IROST proposed the creation of the Khwarizmi Award in memory of Abu Jafar Mohammad Ibn Mousa Khwarizmi, the great Iranian Mathemati-

cian and Astronomer (770-840 C.E).

In 1987, the first session of the Khwarizmi Award called for Iranian nationals to present their outstanding contribution, invention, or innovation.

The fifth session of the Khwarizmi Award saw the creation of the foreign section and the Khwarizmi Award became international.

In 1997, Iranian researchers and scientists residing abroad were invited to take part in this prestigious scientific competition.

International organizations such as APCIT, Colombo Plan, COMSATS, COMSTECH, ECO, ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), FAO, ICARDA, IOR-ARC (RCSTT), ISESCO, TWAS, UNESCO, UNIDO, WAITRO, and WIPO allocate special prizes to the KIA laureates.

Year by year, the area of participation in the KIA is extending, attracting more scientists from all over the world. Today, the Khwarizmi International Award is continuing to pursue its successful course with more participation and more international recognition.

The KIA seeks to recognize the efforts made by researchers, innovators, and inventors from all over the world and to appreciate their invaluable achievements and contributions to various fields of science and technology. The KIA is annually held.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Wildfire extinguished in northern forests

Wildfire, erupted in northern forests of Gilan province over the past 2 days, has been fully extinguished, commander of the protection unit of natural resources and watershed management organization of Gilan has stated.

According to the latest statistics, approximately 130 hectares of forests in Gilan province have been burnt in recent days, IRNA quoted Mohammad Qorbani as saying on Sunday.

He went on to say that 99 percent of fires in 13 cities of Gilan province have caused no serious damage to the trees.

In spite of the complete containment of fire, the protection unit is on full alert, he further noted.

آتش سوزی جنگل های گیلان مهار شد

فرمانده یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری گیلان گفت: آتش سوزی جنگل های استان گیلان پس از ۷۲ ساعت تلاش ، کاملاً مهار شد.

سرهنگ محمد قربانی لرد عصر روز شنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا اظهار داشت: بر اساس آخرین آمارها به صورت تقریبی حدود "۱۳۰ هکتار" از اراضی جنگلی استان گیلان در چند روز اخیر دچار آتش سوزی شدند. وی افزود: ۹۹ درصد از آتش سوزی جنگل های ۱۳ شهرستان استان گیلان سطحی بوده و خسارت جدی به درختان وارد نشده است. او خاطر نشان کرد: به رغم مهار کامل آتش در جنگل های استان ، نیروهای یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری در آماده باش کامل هستند.



JUNE 29, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

I wonder at a man who loses hope of salvation when the door of repentance is open for him.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:52 (tomorrow)

Iranian Series “Kufi Love”, “The Supreme Scribe” airing on international channels during Muharram

TEHRAN – The acclaimed historical romantic Iranian series “Kufi Love” began airing daily at 10 PM on the Iraqi channel Al Iraqiya on Friday, coinciding with the first night of Muharram.

The series offers a compelling narrative set against the tumultuous events of 61 AH (680 CE), highlighting themes of love, loyalty, and sacrifice amid the chaos of early Islamic history, Mehr reported.

“Kufi Love” is directed by Hassan Akhundpour, with a screenplay penned collaboratively by Faezeh Yarmohammadi and Yazdan Mohammad-Kazemi.

This Iranian television series immerses viewers in a dramatized retelling of pivotal events during the year 61 AH, a time marked by profound political and religious upheaval leading up to the Battle of Karbala.

The storyline centers around Hilal, a young archer from the Alawi family, whose heart is captured by Naila, a woman from the Ottoman lineage. Their love story unfolds amid the storm of events that shaped Kufa and Karbala, with their relationship transforming through the turbulent tides of political conspiracies and religious loyalties.

The narrative begins with the arrival of Muslim ibn Aqil in Kufa and culminates in the tragic events of Ashura, illustrating how personal love intertwines with historical destiny.

The Owj Arts and Media Organization is the producer of “Kufi Love”, which features an ensemble cast including Laia Zangeneh, Nader Soleimani, Saeed Sharif, Shabnam Ghorbani, Hossein Soleimani, Sogol Tahmasebi, Nader Fallah, Mahsa Mahjour, Maryam Kaviani, and Seyyed Javad Hashemi.

Al Iraqiya, recognized as Iraq’s official state broadcaster and the second most-watched channel in the country after Al Sharqiya, has included “Kufi Love” in its Muharram lineup, aiming to connect Iraqi viewers with profound historical narratives during the holy month.

In addition to “Kufi Love,” another significant Iranian production titled “The Supreme Scribe” is also being broadcast to commemorate the events from the morning until the night of Ashura.

This series has been dubbed into Urdu and is available on the NegahTV platform in Pakistan.

Produced by the Soore Series Center and written and directed by Mehdi Ghafouri, “The Supreme Scribe” is a seven-part miniseries based on the book “Confessions of the Killed Scribe” by Sasan Nateq, published by Soore Mehr Publishing House.

It offers a dramatized account of events from the early hours of Ashura until the evening, focusing on the enemies’ perspective from their camp. The series features prominent actors such as Amin Zendegani, Siamak Safari, Nader Fallah, Nazanin Farahani, Fatemeh Goudarzi, Hadis Miramini, Khosro Shahraz, Amin Miri, Amir Hossein Hashemi, Amir Shahrazi, Mohsen Alikhani, Mohammad-Mohsen Shafiei, Arash Rahimi, Mohammad-Reza Tajik, Amir Tak-Fallah, and Vahid Reza Qenaatian.

Both series underscore the enduring significance of Islamic history and the sacrifices made during pivotal moments in early Islamic civilization. As the month of Muharram unfolds, these productions serve to deepen understanding and reflection among viewers, emphasizing themes of love, loyalty, and resistance in the face of adversity.

Ashura is one of the most dramatic and meaningful events in Islamic history. It commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam and the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was killed along with 72 of his loyal companions in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

This tragic event represents the ultimate stand against tyranny and injustice, as Imam Hussein (AS) and his small group of followers rose up against the oppressive Umayyad dynasty led by Yazid.

Cartoon of Day



A Target Called Hope

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan

Maduro honors Iranian news anchor, IRIB martyrs at Venezuela’s journalism ceremony

TEHRAN- in a ceremony held on Friday at the Presidential Palace of Venezuela to mark National Journalism Day, President Nicolás Maduro awarded special journalism prizes to prominent figures in the field. Among the recipients was Sahar Emami, an Iranian news anchor at the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) News Network, who has become a symbol of bravery and resilience after recent Israeli strikes on Iran.

The awards also honored the memory of martyrs Nima Rojabbour, Head of the News Department, and Masoumeh Azimi, an administrative staff member of Iranian Television, who were killed by the Israeli regime during an attack on Iranian state TV while performing their duties.

The ceremony underscored Venezuela’s appreciation for their sacrifices and highlighted the strong bonds of friendship and solidarity between the two nations. Iranian Ambassador to Caracas, Ali Chegeni, received these honors on behalf of the awardees.

In a video message sent to the ceremony, Sahar Emami recounted the crimes committed by the Zionist regime, including the massacre of civilians, women, and children during the attacks on Iran.

She expressed gratitude to the Venezuelan nation and government for their steadfast support for Iran, praising Venezuela as a great nation with heroes like Simón Bolívar.



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro (left) presents a special award to Iranian Ambassador to Caracas, Ali Chegeni, on behalf of journalist Sahar Emami in Caracas, Venezuela, on June 27, 2025.

This gesture underscores the enduring bonds of friendship and solidarity between Iran and Venezuela, especially in the face of external threats and aggression, she noted.

On June 16, during a live broadcast, Iranian journalist Sahar Emami emerged as a symbol of courage and steadfastness after an Israeli missile targeted the headquarters of Iran’s state television.

The incident took place while she was delivering a news report on IRINN (Islamic Republic of Iran News Network).

As the studio trembled and chaos unfolded behind the

scenes, she momentarily stepped away for safety. Shortly afterward, she returned to her position at the desk with remarkable composure, continuing the live transmission and sending a clear message: the voice of truth cannot be silenced.

During her on-air statement, Emami addressed the attack with conviction, condemning it as “a reckless move by the Israeli government to suppress free expression.” She emphasized, “Even if the physical building is hit, the voice of truth will endure.

We will persist in our work, and our national media will continue broadcasting with resilience.”

Her remarks quickly garnered praise across social platforms such as X, Instagram, and Telegram, where many lauded her courage and referred to her as a “fighter for press freedom” and a “symbol of national resilience.”

Since that day, her image has become a common sight throughout Iran—appearing on television screens, social media posts, and public spaces.

A widely circulated video captures her condemning the attack as “a strike against the homeland’s integrity,” just before an explosion erupts behind her, prompting her to swiftly exit the set while maintaining her composure.

Iranian artists’ homes destroyed through Zionist regime’s attacks on Tehran



A picture of the late playwright Akbar Radi can be seen at his house in Tehran, which was destroyed during Israeli attacks on Iran.

TEHRAN – During the 12-day attacks of the Zionist regime on Tehran, the homes of several Iranian artists have been destroyed.

According to reports from several news outlets, the homes of the composer and musician Keyvan Saket and playwright Akbar Radi are among those damaged in the attacks that took place from June 13 to 24.

Additionally, the paternal home and office of actress Laleh Eskandari have also been destroyed.

The attacks, reportedly carried out as part of the Zionist regime’s aggression against Iran, have caused widespread destruction in various parts of Tehran, including Keshavarz Boulevard.

The home of renowned musician Keyvan Saket was destroyed in attacks. Saket, a master of the tar and setar, stated that he has always championed peace and love, and that war is the antithesis of everything he stands for.

Despite the destruction, he expressed a commitment to Iranian culture and a belief in the nation’s resilience.

Saket had learned that his home had been hit by an Israeli missile while sheltering with his family in a nearby town.

Yet, his neighbor’s call delivering the grim news did not keep him from rushing back after the ceasefire was declared.

According to Saket, one of the bombs fired at his residence failed to detonate, a stroke of fortune that spared further destruction. But it barred him and his family from entering their home due to safety concerns.

“Once the issue was resolved and we were allowed inside, we faced an unsettling scene,” he said.

“The doors and windows were shattered, the building’s facade was obliterated, and household appliances like the washing machine and refrigerator were severely damaged.

The attack was so intense that even the iron doors of the building were mangled,” he noted.

Saket’s voice carried a deep sorrow as he reflected on the toll of the conflict.

“With every fiber of my being, I despise war and those who ignite it,” he said, lamenting the loss of a home he cherished.

In a video showing the destruction of his home, Saket said: “My life has been destroyed, but my life is a sacrifice for Iran.

Ninety percent of the work I’ve done has been based on love for Iran, Iranian culture, and the people of Iran. My soul is a sacrifice for Iran’s culture, my house is nothing”.

“I am not a politician. I have always strived for peace, love, and friendship. War is the ugliest

thing one can impose on another. We are compelled to defend ourselves,” the composer added.

Keyvan Saket, 63, is the fastest tar and setar (traditional Iranian instruments) player in Iran. He has always believed in introducing Iranian traditional music to the world.

He has performed well-known pieces from classical composers like Beethoven, Mozart, Paganini, Vivaldi, Strauss, and more.

He established the Vaziri Band in 1996 and has since performed numerous pieces with them and held many concerts in Iran, Canada, and Australia.

Akbar Radi’s office and house, located on Keshavarz Boulevard in central Tehran, were destroyed due to recent attacks as well.

Radi’s home, which also housed his personal office, was part of a six-story building, all of which was demolished.

“On the evening of June 15, two explosions occurred near my family home.

My mother was inside, watching television, when suddenly our home was destroyed,” his son, Arash, said.

“Thank God my mother was not physically harmed, but she was affected by the shockwave and has now gone to stay at my brother’s home in northern Iran,” he added.

“Our house has been completely destroyed and is no longer habitable.

The only thing I could do was to gather my father’s handwritten notes, which hold historical and artistic value,” Arash stated.

Akbar Radi (1939-2007) was a well-known playwright, and some of his works have been compared to those of Anton Chekhov and Henrik Ibsen.

During the Zionist regime’s attacks on parts of the capital, the television and cinema actress Laleh Eskandari’s mother’s home was also damaged.

“My mother was at home, and

an explosion occurred very close to her residence. Thank God she wasn’t harmed, as she happened to be away from the windows at the time,” she said.

“My office was also near Sabounchi Street, and it was damaged due to an explosion that happened there.

We could have easily been victims of this war in any of these incidents,” she expressed.

“Seeing the images of explosions in various areas is truly painful for me, and it reminds me of my childhood and the Iran-Iraq war.

I still remember many scenes from the bombings during the Sacred Defense era.

When my mother’s house was damaged, those old images from the imposed war came rushing back to my mind,” Eskandari emphasized.

“Many of the videos and photos circulating these days look like scenes from the movies and series we act in.

In the series ‘Red Soil,’ there’s a scene where I return to my childhood home only to find it bombed and everything destroyed.

When my mother’s home was damaged, I had a strange feeling; it was hard to believe that this was actually happening,” she continued.

“I’ve always wished for peace and hoped for a world free from war and violence, but sadly, in recent years, peace has faded, and the intervals between tragic events have become shorter. I truly hope that peace will prevail soon,” she stressed.

Laleh Eskandari, 49, is an Iranian actress who has had an extensive career in film and television. During 25 years of artistic career, she has performed in more than 25 films and series.

She is also a professional painter and photographer. She has held many photography exhibitions around the world such as Sweden and the U.S., among others.