

Fatwas Draw A Red Line

No Tolerance for Threats Against Ayatollah Khamenei



Araghchi urges UN to hold Israel and US accountable for their aggression

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has formally called on the United Nations Security Council to recognize the Zionist regime and the United States as perpetrators of an act of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and to hold them accountable under international law.

In a detailed letter addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Security Council President Carolyn Rodriguez Burkett, Araghchi warned that the attacks carried out by Israel and supported by Washington between June 13 and 24 constitute “a blatant violation” of the UN Charter and multiple binding international agreements.

“The Israeli regime’s military aggression deliberately targeted residential areas, civilian infrastructure, and public services, including hospitals and relief centers,” the letter stated. Araghchi emphasized that such acts not only breach international humanitarian law but also represent serious violations of the fundamental right to life as enshrined in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. ▶ Page 3

Tehran doubts Israeli commitment to truce, warns of stronger retaliation if provoked

TEHRAN — The Chief of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces has issued a strong warning against any potential Israeli resumption of hostilities, stating that the Islamic Republic stands ready to deliver a decisive and powerful response if aggression resumes.

In a phone conversation on Sunday with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi expressed deep skepticism over the Zionist regime’s commitment to the U.S.-announced pause on hostilities, emphasizing that Iran did not initiate the conflict but responded with full military force when attacked.

“We were not the ones who began this war, but we answered the aggressors with all our strength,” General Mousavi said. “Given our serious doubts about the enemy’s willingness to abide by its commitments — especially the pause in hostilities against Iran — we are fully prepared to deliver a severe response if the aggression resumes.” ▶ Page 2

Gas exports begin from 3rd sweetening train of South Pars phase 14 refinery

TEHRAN – Iran has begun gas exports from the third sweetening train of the Phase 14 refinery at the South Pars gas field, marking a significant expansion in the country’s production and export capacity. The milestone follows the recent commissioning of the refinery’s fourth sweetening train, which became operational earlier this month.

Hamidreza Saghaei, head of Petropars Group, said the successful launch of both units demonstrates Iran’s technical self-reliance and determination to strengthen its energy infrastructure despite regional instability and external pressures.

“The launch of the third train enabled the start of gas exports from Phase 14,” Saghaei said. “This achievement, coming shortly after the fourth train was brought online, is a powerful symbol of Iranian expertise and organizational cohesion. It’s a reflection of our commitment to energy security and national resilience.”

Earlier this month, Petropars announced the successful commissioning of the fourth sweetening train, which added 14.2 million cubic meters per day to Iran’s processing capacity at Phase 14. At the time, the company said the unit had gone into operation months ahead of schedule, thanks to the round-the-clock efforts of engineers and workers. ▶ Page 4

Israel’s war sought rapid overthrow of Iran’s government: Leader’s aide

TEHRAN — Ali Larijani, senior adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, disclosed new details about the recent war launched by the Zionist regime and its American allies, saying they had devised a comprehensive plan to overthrow the Islamic Republic within five to six days — a plot that ultimately failed due to the Iranian nation’s resolve and the decisive response of the Armed Forces.

Speaking in a televised interview on Sunday, Larijani said the enemy had calculated that by targeting high-ranking Iranian officials during a leadership meeting, they could rapidly dismantle the state structure. According to him, their next step was to directly threaten the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

“At the start of the war, our military position was indeed weaker than that of the Zionist regime,” Larijani noted. “But by the sixth and seventh days, the field had changed.”

He added that the situation shifted significantly when prominent religious authorities — particularly Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali al-Sistani — issued stern warnings against any harm to the Leader. ▶ Page 2

Fox News fabricates story to justify Evin prison massacre

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Six days after the Israeli regime’s unprovoked and illegal airstrike on Tehran’s Evin Prison martyred 71 civilians, prisoners, and staff, the regime’s media machinery has resorted to a desperate campaign of disinformation to whitewash its war crimes.

In an “exclusive” published by Fox News, Israeli sources peddled a fantastical narrative claiming Hedayatollah Farzadi, Evin’s director, fled the facility minutes before the June 23 attack following a WhatsApp warning to his son.

Judiciary officials and chronological evidence now conclusively debunk this as a coordinated psyop designed to distract from the massacre of defenseless Iranians.

Fox News, citing unnamed Israeli sources, alleged that an Israeli agent contacted Farzadi’s son, Amir-Hosseini Farzadi, via WhatsApp.

The agent purportedly promised to spare Farzadi’s life if political prisoners were freed, instructing Amir: “Tell your father to open the prison’s doors. An attack will occur within a few minutes.” ▶ Page 2

Grossi not satisfied with extent of damage to Iran’s nuclear sites!

By Bahram Moradi

TEHRAN – The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said Iran could begin producing enriched uranium again in “a matter of months” as damage caused by U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear plants was “severe” but not “total.”

In an interview with CBS News, which was conducted on Friday and was set to be broadcast on Sunday, Rafael Grossi said, “They can have, you know, in a matter of months, I would say, a few cascades of centrifuges spinning and producing enriched uranium, or less than that.”

These dangerous remarks by Grossi are extremely amazing. One thing is quite evident in his interview: he is not satisfied with the degree of the damage to the nuclear sites, and he is encouraging more.

Instead of strongly condemning the strikes on nuclear sites, which are prohibited under international law, he is saying they are not completely damaged. Amazing!!! ▶ Page 2

Iran’s oil exports to China hit record high in June

TEHRAN – China’s imports of Iranian crude reached an all-time high in June 2025, according to data from tanker tracking firms, highlighting Tehran’s growing footprint in the world’s largest oil market despite U.S. sanctions.

Data from analytics firm Vortexa showed that Chinese imports of Iranian oil averaged 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) between June 1 and 20, marking the highest volume ever recorded in the history of bilateral oil trade between the two countries.

Figures from energy analytics firm Kpler confirmed a sustained surge, estimating that average daily imports from Iran between June 1 and June 27 stood at 1.46 million bpd—a 46 percent increase, or about 500,000 bpd higher than in May. ▶ Page 4



Protest by Palestinian and German activists against Israel’s war on Iran and Gaza on June 28, 2025.

A transnational uprising: Humanity stands with Gaza and Iran

By Staff Writer

TEHRAN – Iran and Gaza have been front and center for global protesters in the past few days, who have been taking to the streets to condemn the Israeli regime’s unchecked aggression plaguing the region since October of 2023.

After decimating significant parts of the besieged Gaza Strip in the past 20 months and creating an unprecedented humanitarian crisis there, Israel moved its gears towards Iran, launching a war against the country on June 13, 2025. While the regime was forced to ask for a pause 12 days after it began fighting, it still left hundreds of Iranian civilians, military leaders, and nuclear scientists dead across Iran.

Over the last days of June, demonstrators across Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America have called for peace, justice, and humanitarian aid, asking that the regime end its escalating violence before more innocent lives are taken. ▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

“The defeat” was product of aggression against Iran

In an analysis, Javan discussed the defeat of Israel and the United States in the 12-day war against Iran and wrote: The terrorist Zionist regime thought it could achieve a decisive victory with the assassination of some Iranian military commanders. But it found itself in a critical situation from which it would not be possible to escape so easily. As the United States clearly stated, the goal of the joint operation with the Zionist regime was to force Iran to surrender, a goal that Iran repelled by successfully launching missiles at Israel. Fearing destruction of its political and social fabric, Tel Aviv was forced to stop the war with Iran. In addition to the political and military defeat, the American-Zionist front is experiencing a defeat in public opinion. The Zionist regime's attacks on Iran have fueled the world's aversion of Tel Aviv. This is while the U.S. had been trying for years to present Iran as a violator of human values and rights through false propaganda campaigns.

Hamshahri: A costly miscalculation

Hamshahri examined Israel's mistakes and why it stopped the war with Iran that it triggered on June 13. It wrote: With the powerful response of the Iranian armed forces, the dream of a lightning battle that had been engineered by the Israeli generals quickly faded, and the terrorist aggressors became extremely concerned about the way the war was heading.

The Israeli regime's reliance on the capability of its air force eroded as the war lengthened. The next very important point was the inability of the Israeli air defense system, known as Iron Dome, to protect Israel against the advanced Iranian missiles and drones, which caused heavy damage in Tel Aviv and Haifa. In such circumstances, and by putting these points together, it seems that Netanyahu, to find a way out of this predicament, and despite his aggressive nature, was forced to agree to a halt to the war. Given the nature and course of Israel's aggression, one must be vigilant and careful about the enemy's overt and covert movements, because the current situation is fragile, according to many analysts.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: The failure of IMEC corridor

In a commentary, Vatan-e-Emrooz said Iran is challenging the West's macro-economic plans in the region as Israel started a war

against Iran. It wrote: Iran's missile and drone attacks on Haifa port, the largest commercial hub of the Zionist regime, marked a turning point in the geopolitical and economic equations of the region.

This port, which was supposed to serve as a highway connecting India to Europe within the framework of the strategic Arab-Mediterranean Corridor (IMEC) project, has now become one of the riskiest areas in the eastern Mediterranean. These missile and drone attacks are considered part of Tehran's decisive responses to the Zionist regime's repeated attacks.

The main goal is not merely physical destruction, but also disrupting the regime's security-economic structure, which is heavily dependent on Haifa port.

Recent developments show that geopolitical security is a fundamental element in the success of transit projects. Iran's attacks on Haifa were not just a military response to Israeli aggression, but a strategic move. It was able to challenge one of the most important economic and geopolitical projects of the Western-Hebrew-Arab axis.

Ettelaat: Israel is seeking another misadventure

In an interview with Seyyed Jalal Sadatian, an international affairs analyst, Ettelaat pointed to the shaky ceasefire between Iran and Israel. He said: A ceasefire or halt of war does not mean peace, and I think it is fragile. Israel is looking to carry out further assassinations. Israel is also making efforts to identify the location of the nuclear fuel that we had removed from Fordow.

Looking at the way Israel behaved toward Lebanon, we can conclude that the second phase of assassinations is probably on the way. So, we must be vigilant so that we do not take off-guard again. Both in military and offensive-defensive areas, as well as diplomacy and narratives, we must be able to maintain our authority in a possible new confrontation with the enemy.

This halt of war is not a ceasefire that Israel can easily accept despite its sense of defeat. In fact, Israel is looking for the first opportunity to make up for its losses because its plans have been disrupted. So, we must strengthen ourselves so that our vulnerability will be reduced as much as possible.

Israel's war sought rapid overthrow of Iran's government: Leader's aide

From page 1 ► “When Ayatollah Sistani declared that an offense against the Leader would alter the regional landscape, the Zionists and Netanyahu realized they had crossed a red line. They began seeking direct U.S. intervention,” Larijani said.

Referring to developments on the battlefield, he stated: “On the sixth day of the war, when Iranian missile strikes intensified, one Israeli officer reportedly said, ‘I feel like I'm in Khan Younis — the situation is chaotic.’ That's when it became clear that the balance had shifted.”

Larijani also pointed out that on the same day, Netanyahu publicly admitted that the ultimate objective of the war was to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

“He even referred to the historical figure of Cyrus and the Jews — a completely absurd comparison that reflects his ignorance. Even his appearance reveals how little he understands,” Larijani remarked.

He stressed that the Zionist regime and the United States had wrongly assumed that the Iranian people would quickly abandon the government amid conflict.

“But public unity proved to be a turning point,” Larijani stated. “It was the people's strong stance that forced Israel to reconsider its objectives.”

According to Larijani, by June 21, third-party intermediaries had entered the picture as it became clear that Israel was unable to



achieve its goals.

He further revealed that threatening messages had been sent by the Israeli regime to several Iranian political, military, and security officials during the conflict.

“I myself received a message telling me I had 12 hours to leave Tehran or I would face the same fate as late Commander Gholam-Ali Rashid and Major General Mohammad Bagheri. But I gave them a reply befitting someone like Netanyahu,” Larijani stated.

In conclusion, Larijani emphasized that it was Iran's missile capability and the unwavering support of the people that fundamentally changed the course of the war.

“The entire effort of Netanyahu was focused on making the Iranian people surrender. But as the strength of Iran's missile power became clear, the course of the war changed.”

Fox News fabricates story to justify Evin prison massacre

From page 1 ► The report claimed Farzadi then fled with his brother, evading the strike.

The timeline, however, collapses under scrutiny:

– The attack occurred at 10:30 AM Tehran time (09:00 AM Tel Aviv time) on June 23.

– Screenshots of the alleged WhatsApp messages show the warning sent at 12:56 PM Tel Aviv time (02:26 PM Tehran time)—four hours after the actual strike.

– Messages referenced an imminent attack “within minutes” at a time when the prison had already been reduced to rubble.

Judiciary investigators dismiss the story as chronologically impossible, noting Farzadi was conducting a routine inspection of prison wards alongside a visiting delegation during the strike.

Analysts believe the regime's lies aim to divert attention from their deliberate slaughter of families in a humanitarian space.

A ‘symbolic’ strike that martyred the innocent

While Israeli War Minister Israel Katz framed the bombing as a “symbolic strike” targeting “Iran's oppression machinery,” the missiles struck the prison's medical center, visitation halls, and administrative offices at 10:30 AM—peak hours for Monday family visits.

According to Judiciary Spokesman Asghar Jahangir, the attack led to the martyrdom of 71 individuals. Among the victims were members of the prison staff and security guards who were on duty at the time.

Young conscripts fulfilling their compulsory military service



Rescue teams comb through the wreckage of Tehran's Evin Prison on June 23, 2025.

were also tragically caught in the violence. In addition, the assault claimed the lives of several prisoners.

The devastation extended beyond the prison walls, affecting civilians as well: family members who had come to visit their incarcerated loved ones and neighbors living in the vicinity of the prison complex were also among those who lost their lives.

“The Zionists committed a wholesale crime. Even neighbors near the visitation hall were martyred. This reveals who truly threatens civilians in our region,” the spokesman said.

Hours after the bombing, Iran relocated surviving inmates to secure facilities.

Eyewitnesses described scenes of carnage. A sister of an inmate, present for visitation, recounted in an interview with

the Iranian newspaper Etemad: “Three missiles hit the prison entrance. Families and plaintiffs seeking dispute resolution were covered in blood.

Prison staff handed phones to inmates to call relatives—my brother called me, crying, ‘People died before my eyes!’”

Among the martyrs was Mehrangiz Imanpour, an artist and mother of two, who lived near the prison.

Her former husband, writer Reza Khandan-Mahabadi, mourned: “Mehrangiz was the beauty in my children's lives.”

Another life lost in the tragedy was that of Hajar “Hasti” Mohammadi, who had gone to Evin Prison on a charitable mission to help coordinate the release of several debt prisoners.

During the airstrike, falling debris from the bombing caused

Grossi not satisfied with extent of damage to Iran's nuclear sites! As IAEA chief, Grossi is not worried about nuclear contamination in Iran



From page 1 ► Is Grossi paving the ground for nuking the Iranian people and destroying their environment through radioactive material that would possibly leak through strikes on nuclear facilities?

Grossi is making these rash statements while it is still not clear whether nuclear radiation has leaked from the Iranian nu-

clear plants in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan due to the Israeli and U.S. airstrikes.

With his provocative report to the IAEA Board of Governors on June 29, which resulted in the adoption of a resolution against Iran on June 12, Grossi partly, if not wholly, facilitated the war against Iran's nuclear infrastructure by Israel, which was later

joined by the U.S.

In his highly suspicious report, he reopened issues that had already been resolved. Iran had cleared up misunderstandings and provided answers to the IAEA questions that finally led to the nuclear agreement between Iran, the 5+1 countries, and the European Union in July 2015.

Grossi is revealing his ulterior motives more openly. Now, some are asking: Is he the chief of the IAEA, or an agent of Mossad or CIA, or both?

He is acting in violation of the IAEA's legal and technical duties.

Targeted strikes against nuclear facilities are prohibited under Article 56 of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions.

But Grossi not only has not condemned the strikes on the nuclear sites in Iran, but also has

the entrance to the prison's visitation hall to collapse, claiming her life in the midst of her selfless service.

Why Evin?

The strike formed part of the Israeli regime's 12-day war on Iran, which killed over 600 Iranians, predominantly civilians.

Israel framed the Evin bombing as a “symbolic” effort to “free political prisoners,” yet its timing and targeting tell a darker story:

– Cover-up motive: Iranian security experts suggest Israel may have sought to eliminate captured operatives or spies who could have exposed Mossad networks in Iran.

– Foreign citizens in peril: The prison held foreign prisoners such as French citizens Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris, arrested in 2022 on espionage charges.

Their proximity to the blast site drew condemnation from Paris, even though France has supported the regime militarily and diplomatically throughout the conflict and is complicit in Israeli war crimes.

– Psychological warfare: Destroying Evin—a site synonymous with state sovereignty and order—signaled Israel's intent to humiliate Iran's governance institutions and create chaos in Tehran.

While some Western outlets amplified the Fox News narrative, Iran facilitated international media tours of Evin's ruins on Sunday.

Journalists from Reuters, AP, Al Jazeera, and Russia Today documented structural damage and bloodstained visitation halls.

indirectly provoked more.

Mohamed ElBaradei, who headed the IAEA from 1997 to 2009, was angered when the German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul did not condemn Israel's attack on Iran's nuclear facilities in a post on his X when on June 13 he said Israel had attacked Iran's nuclear facilities, calling on him, “You might want to familiarize yourself with the basic tenets of international law...”

But the current IAEA chief not only does not condemn the attack on Iran's nuclear sites, but also indirectly suggests more.

He is complicit in the attacks on the Iranian nuclear sites, and the world will remember him as a person who intentionally remained silent on the attack on the nuclear sites and is inciting more.

Tehran doubts Israeli commitment to truce, warns of stronger retaliation if provoked

From page 1 ► The top Iranian commander discussed regional developments and the 12-day war with Israel and the United States, stating that the attack on Iran — which targeted senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians — was carried out while Tehran was engaged in indirect negotiations with Washington.

“These two regimes have once again proven that they do not respect international norms or legal frameworks,” Mousavi noted. “This fact was made crystal clear to the global community during the imposed 12-day war.”

The aggression, launched by Israel on June 13, triggered a powerful Iranian retaliation under Operation “True Promise III,” during which the Armed Forces struck strategic Israeli military and industrial sites using advanced, precision-guided missiles that overwhelmed the regime's multilayered defense system.

Although Israel announced a halt to its military campaign last Tuesday following a pause declaration by U.S. President Donald

Trump, Iranian officials remain unconvinced. Former White House strategist Steve Bannon acknowledged in an interview that the pause — brokered with help from Qatar — was a desperate move to “save Israel” as it faced retaliation beyond its operational capacity. “They bit off more than they could chew,” Bannon said.

Iran's concerns are further reinforced by Israel's long-standing record of breaking ceasefires, particularly in Gaza. In previous conflicts — including those in 2008–09, 2014, and 2023 — Israel repeatedly violated truce agreements within days or even hours, resuming deadly airstrikes on civilian areas. This pattern, Iranian officials say, undermines the credibility of Tel Aviv's commitments.

Meanwhile, Prince Khalid reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's condemnation of the aggression and expressed condolences for the Iranian commanders martyred in the attack. He highlighted Riyadh's efforts to help end the conflict and emphasized the necessity of continued cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh to promote regional peace and sta-

bility.

In a separate statement, Brigadier General Esmaeil Kowsari, a senior member of Iran's Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, also warned of a forceful response to any renewed aggression or assassination attempts against senior Iranian officials.

“There is no actual ceasefire at the moment — only a temporary pause in hostilities,” Kowsari said. “Everything depends on when the enemy decides to resume its actions.”

“The Americans, the U.S. President, and the Zionists must know this: if they attempt to assassinate any of our senior officials, Iran's Armed Forces will respond with painful force. The next operation will be even harsher than ‘True Promise III.’ We have never taken enemy threats lightly.”

Both Iranian officials reiterated that the Islamic Republic remains vigilant and resolute in the face of threats — and will not hesitate to act decisively to protect its sovereignty and people.

Fatwas draw a red line: No tolerance for threats against Ayatollah Khamenei

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, is more than just a political leader; he is a deeply revered religious figure. As a Marja’ al-Taqlid in a position of power, people not only seek his guidance to resolve questions of Islamic law and ethics, but also view him as a central guardian of their faith and its values.

This religious standing of Ayatollah Khamenei is something U.S. President Donald Trump seems to have failed to take into account in the past few weeks, during which he has made several threats of assassination against the Iranian Leader.

Trump said during Iran’s 12-day war with Israel that he knew where Ayatollah Khamenei was located, but he had decided to refrain from assassinating him “for now”. Israeli media said the U.S. and Israel tried to harm the Leader but could not figure out his location. Trump threatened Ayatollah Khamenei again after the war ended, outraged by his declaration that Iran will never surrender to American politicians and warmongers.

The U.S. President, meanwhile, appears to believe that any assassination attempt against Ayatollah Khamenei would only trigger a military response from Iran, a price the U.S. military and American forces stationed in West Asia would have to bear.

However, there is also a separate price Trump himself would



Ayatollah Nouri Hamedani (L) and Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi (R) are prominent Shia clerics

pay, because he has dared to threaten a figure with a massive religious following and profound influence among not only the 200 million Shia Muslims, but also countless more Sunnis who have grown extremely fond of Ayatollah Khamenei for his staunch support of the Palestinian cause in the past 20 months.

The potential repercussions for Trump if he were to act on his outrageous threats were underscored in a statement released by a prominent Shia cleric on Sunday.

Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi, himself a Marja, responded to an inquiry regarding the U.S. president’s escalating rhetoric, stating unequivocally that anyone who harms Ayatollah Khamenei should be punished with death.

In a written note, Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi declared: “Any regime or individual threatening the leaders of the Islamic Ummah and

acting on those threats qualifies as a Muharib.”

Under Shia Islamic jurisprudence, a “Muharib” is defined as someone who wages armed rebellion, terrorism, violent crimes, or other unlawful acts that spread fear and disorder in society. The prescribed punishment for such offenses is death.

Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi’s remarks are being interpreted as a “Fatwa,” a religious edict. Iran’s Ayatollah Nouri Hamedani and Iraq’s Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani have published similar statements seen as Fatwas.

What is a Fatwa and how serious is it?

A Fatwa is an interpretation of Islamic law issued by a Marja. It is binding for all Muslims, meaning that even if Islamic governments are not able to act on it, individual Muslims should ensure its en-

forcement.

A well-known example of states failing to act on a Fatwa, prompting individual Muslims to take matters into their own hands, is the case of Salman Rushdie.

On February 14, 1989, Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, issued a historic Fatwa calling for the execution of Salman Rushdie, the British-Indian author of The Satanic Verses, a novel filled with blasphemy against Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

The fatwa stated: “I inform the proud Muslim people of the world that the author of The Satanic Verses book, which is against Islam, the Prophet, and the Quran, and all those involved in its publication who were aware of its content, are sentenced to death. I call on all zealous Muslims to execute them quickly, wherever they find them.”

Rushdie was forced into hiding immediately after the fatwa was issued. He was placed under 24/7 British police protection and lived in safe houses for nearly a decade. In 1989, a bomb exploded at a London hotel where Rushdie was scheduled to speak.

Over three decades after the Fatwa was issued, when Rushdie emerged from hiding and began living more openly, the threat had not faded, contrary to his and the police’s expectations. In 2022, Rushdie was stabbed on stage in New York by an attacker allegedly acting on the Fatwa. He has since retreated back into seclusion.

American support

North America also saw significant protests. On June 27, hundreds in New York City demonstrated against Israel’s actions in Gaza, joining the global movement. Mexico City hosted a solidarity rally for Palestine on the same day, reflecting Latin American support for the cause.

Public confrontations and religious dissent

Several incidents underscored the intensity of global sentiment. In Hamburg, on June 27, activists confronted Mayor Peter Tschentscher, accusing him of supporting genocide in Gaza after he defended Israel’s actions in a podcast.

Anti-Zionist Jewish groups, notably Neturei Karta, expressed support for Iran on June 29, arguing that Zionism is a political movement that has hijacked Judaism and that establishing a Jewish state before the Messiah’s arrival is forbidden by Jewish law. The Glastonbury incident highlighted the role of cultural platforms, with Bob Vylan’s chants sparking debates about free speech and media responsibility.

A shift in global public consciousness

The surge of global protests in late June 2025 reveals a profound shift in public consciousness regarding the ongoing crisis in Gaza and Israel’s military actions against Iran.

Far from isolated national responses, the demonstrations represent a transnational convergence of humanitarian concern, political awareness, and civil resistance. What distinguishes this wave of

dissent is its diversity—geographically, demographically, and ideologically. From Seoul to Sydney, Casablanca to Copenhagen, and Berlin to Mexico City, citizens took to the streets not only to denounce war crimes and civilian casualties but also to challenge what many perceive as a Western double standard in foreign policy and media coverage.

This global reaction also underscores the increasing inability of governments and mainstream institutions to suppress or contain public criticism through censorship, arrests, or selective narratives. The arrest of peaceful protesters in Berlin and the backlash against artists at the UK’s Glastonbury Festival illustrate the growing tension between official positions and public sentiment. At the same time, the active involvement of anti-Zionist Jewish groups complicates simplistic binaries and reframes the conflict as one of political ideology versus universal human rights.

Moreover, the use of cultural platforms—like music events, public art, and grassroots mobilization—demonstrates that traditional politics is no longer the sole arena of protest. The expression of solidarity has become deeply embedded in civil society, often led by marginalized or cross-cultural alliances that transcend borders and religious divides.

In essence, these protests signal not just a rejection of specific military actions but a broader demand for accountability, justice, and a reevaluation of international complicity in prolonged human suffering.

the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

“These condemnations reflect the bare minimum required to uphold the rule of law at the international level,” he noted, stressing that the Security Council must act under Article 24(1) of the Charter to maintain international peace and security.

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

Uncertain times for Tehran giants

TEHRAN - As the 2025/26 Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) season approaches, Iran’s football powerhouses — Persepolis and Esteghlal — find themselves in contrasting yet equally challenging situations.

Persepolis, the most decorated club in PGPL history, have been dealt a major blow as their head coach, Ismail Kartal, has unexpectedly decided to part ways with the club.

The Turkish manager, who took charge in Week 18 of the 2024/25 season and guided the Reds to a third-place finish, has reportedly chosen not to return to Tehran due to family reasons.

Multiple sources also suggest Kartal may be in talks with a Saudi club, though nothing has been officially confirmed.

His departure comes at an especially awkward time for the club, as several key transfers had been finalized under his guidance early in the summer window.

New signings such as Payam Niazmand, Reza Shekari, Thievy Bifouma, Mojtaba Fakhrian, and Mohammadamin Kazemian were brought in based on Kartal’s preferences — adding to the complexity of the current situation.

Club CEO Reza Darvish now faces the urgent task of appointing a new head coach, with less than two months remaining before the PGPL kicks off on Aug. 18.

Among the candidates being considered are Gol Gohar coach Mehdi Tartar, former Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi — currently with Foolad — and long-time assistant and club legend Karim Bagheri.

*Esteghlal begin new era under Sa Pinto

On the other side of the Tehran derby divide, Esteghlal are also navigating transitional waters, albeit with a clearer direction in place.

The Blues endured a turbulent PGPL campaign last season, finishing in a disappointing ninth place — their worst finish in over a decade. However, the campaign ended on a high note as they clinched the Hazfi Cup, under interim coach Mojtaba Jabbari.

Despite the cup success, the club opted for change and parted ways with Jabbari. After a prolonged search, Esteghlal announced the return of Ricardo Sá Pinto as their new head coach — marking his second spell with the club.

The 52-year-old Portuguese tactician previously managed Esteghlal in 2022 but left after receiving a four-month suspension from the Disciplinary Committee of the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI). His return signals a new chapter, though the club had already begun summer recruitment prior to his arrival.

Esteghlal finalized the signings of Aref Aghasi from Tractor and Amirmohammad Razaghinia from Gol Gohar without having a head coach in place, a situation that mirrors Persepolis — albeit in reverse.

*A curious case

In a curious twist, Persepolis find themselves with a squad shaped by a now-departed coach, while Esteghlal have a newly appointed manager working with players he did not personally select.

It’s an unusual — and potentially risky — scenario for both sides, particularly with high expectations from their passionate fan bases.

Persepolis supporters demand a return to the top of the PGPL, while Esteghlal fans are looking for domestic resurgence and a strong showing in the 2025/26 AFC Champions League Two.

Persepolis forward Serdar Dursun to continue in Iran

TEHRAN – Despite reports from Turkish media suggesting the end of Serdar Dursun’s cooperation with Persepolis, the forward will remain with the Iranian club.

Just yesterday, Dursun contacted a Persepolis club official to inquire about the exact schedule of the team’s training sessions and

whether their camp would be held in Iran or Turkey.

This indicates that the striker currently has no intention of leaving Persepolis. While the future remains uncertain, it can be confidently stated that Dursun has not yet made a decision to depart from the club.

Additionally, Persepolis coach ?smail Kartal will not be returning to Tehran due to family reasons.

Faraz Kamalvand named Nassaji coach: official

TEHRAN – Nassaji Mazandaran has officially begun its journey back to the Iran Professional League (IPL) by appointing Faraz Kamalvand as its new head coach.

With this appointment, the club aims to take a different path from what transpired in the 24th league season.

Kamalvand, who has a proven track record of returning teams such as Sanat Naft and Gostareh Foolad to the IPL, is now tasked with securing promotion for Nassaji.

He will begin his new role on July 9 at Nassaji’s home stadium in Qaemshahr.

Most recently, Kamalvand worked as the head coach of Sanat Naft.

Guendouz to leave Persepolis: report

TEHRAN - Algerian international goalkeeper Alexis Guendouz has decided to end his stint with Persepolis FC, just one year after joining the Iranian club.

Despite a successful season on a personal level — playing 37 matches, including 15 clean sheets—the 29-year-old goalkeeper has officially informed his club management that he wishes to seek a change during this summer transfer window, dzfoot.com reported.

The recent geopolitical tensions in Iran, have led to the suspension of numerous sporting activities, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty.

On the other hand, Guendouz is aware of the importance of his playing time and exposure in order to maintain his spot in Vladimir Petkovic’s squad for the 2026 World Cup qualifiers and the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.

Dates for 2025/26 PGPL season confirmed

TEHRAN – The 2025/26 Iran’s Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) season date has been confirmed, with the opening match round starting on Monday Aug. 18.

The new season of the league was originally set to start on Aug. 6, but the opening has been postponed due to the recent Israeli war on Iran.

Iran Super Cup between Hazfi Cup winners Esteghlal and PGPL championsTractor will be held on Aug. 11 in Isfahan’s Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium.

Iran edge Netherlands in 2025 VNL

TEHRAN – Determined to secure their third win in Week 2 of the Volleyball Nations League (VNL), Iran defeated the Netherlands 3-2 (25-19, 22-25, 21-25, 25-19, 15-9) on Sunday.

Amin Esmaeilnezhad led Iran with 21 points, while Michiel Ahji scored 22 points for the Netherlands.

Team Melli had previously defeated Serbia and Argentina but faced a loss to Germany.

The Persians face a challenging Week 3, where they will compete against VNL leaders Poland, Olympic champions France, China, and Bulgaria.

A transnational uprising: Humanity stands with Gaza and Iran



Bob Vylan perform on the West Holts Stage, during the Glastonbury Festival in England on June 28, 2025.

From page 1 ►

Cross-border solidarity in Asia and Africa

In Asia, solidarity was evident in several countries. On June 25, Kwon Young-guk, a former South Korean presidential candidate, rallied in front of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, criticizing the U.S. for escalating tensions.

In Sydney, Australian and Iranian activists protested on June 28 against U.S. and Israeli actions, showcasing cross-cultural unity.

In Morocco, on June 28, thousands marched in cities like Casablanca, Tangier, and Tetouan, organized by the Moroccan Commission for the Support of the Nation’s Causes. They condemned Israel’s actions in Gaza and demanded urgent humanitarian aid, chanting slogans in support of Palestine.

Symbolic acts to mass mobilization in Europe

Europe became a focal point for diverse demonstrations. In

Germany, Berlin police arrested peaceful pro-Gaza protesters on June 28, prompting concerns about freedom of expression. In France, Besançon’s mayor, Anne Vignot, raised the Palestinian flag over the city hall on June 28, symbolizing solidarity with Gaza. In Brussels, a man climbed a scaffolding to raise the Palestinian flag, cheered by crowds chanting for justice. Stockholm hosted a march on June 28, while Rotterdam saw an anti-Zionist demonstration on June 27. Copenhagen’s “Music for Palestine” event on June 29 used culture to express solidarity. In Vienna, thousands, including anti-Zionist Jewish groups, rallied on June 28 to support Iran and Palestine, condemning Israeli aggression. The UK’s Glastonbury Festival on June 28 became controversial when punk duo Bob Vylan led chants of “Free Palestine” and “Death to the IDF,” condemned by organizers and the BBC for crossing a line.

North American and Latin

Araghchi urges UN to hold Israel and US accountable for their aggression

From page 1 ► He further highlighted that several Iranian nuclear facilities under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — including sites in Qom, Arak, Natanz, and Isfahan — were attacked, adding that these actions also violate the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), IAEA regulations, and related UN resolutions.

Araghchi also pointed to the widespread condemnation of the Israeli-U.S. aggression by the international community. Statements denouncing the attacks have been issued by numerous regional and international bodies, including the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS, the Group of Friends in Defense of the UN Charter, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and

Gas exports begin from 3rd sweetening train of South Pars phase 14 refinery



TEHRAN – Iran has begun gas exports from the third sweetening train of the Phase 14 refinery at the South Pars gas field, marking a significant expansion in the country's production and export capacity. The milestone follows the recent commissioning of the refinery's fourth sweetening train, which became operational earlier this month.

Hamidreza Saghafi, head of Petropars Group, said the successful launch of both units demonstrates Iran's technical self-reliance and determination to strengthen its energy infrastructure despite regional instability and external pressures.

"The launch of the third train enabled the start of gas exports from Phase 14," Saghafi said. "This achievement, coming shortly after the fourth train was brought online, is a powerful symbol of Iranian expertise and organizational cohesion. It's a reflection of our commit-

ment to energy security and national resilience."

Earlier this month, Petropars announced the successful commissioning of the fourth sweetening train, which added 14.2 million cubic meters per day to Iran's processing capacity at Phase 14. At the time, the company said the unit had gone into operation months ahead of schedule, thanks to the round-the-clock efforts of engineers and workers.

Now, with both the third and fourth trains active, Phase 14 is approaching its full design capacity. According to Petropars, the refinery is expected to process 2 billion cubic feet per day of sour gas upon full completion, producing 50 million cubic meters per day of sweet gas for domestic consumption and export.

Saghafi praised the collective effort of Petropars staff, POMC management, and other stakeholders, noting that their "technical competence and sense of national duty" had turned an ambitious goal into reality.

"In the face of complex challenges, including sanctions and regional threats, we have not only maintained progress but accelerated it," he said. "This is not just an industrial accomplishment — it's a national triumph."

He emphasized that the recent milestones at Phase 14 are part of Iran's broader strategy to secure energy independence, enhance export capacity, and stabilize the domestic supply of gas, condensate, and petrochemical feedstock.

Iran's oil exports to China hit record high in June

TEHRAN – China's imports of Iranian crude reached an all-time high in June 2025, according to data from tanker tracking firms, highlighting Tehran's growing footprint in the world's largest oil market despite U.S. sanctions.

Data from analytics firm Vortexa showed that Chinese imports of Iranian oil averaged 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) between June 1 and 20, marking the highest volume ever recorded in the history of bilateral oil trade between the two countries.

Figures from energy analytics firm Kpler confirmed a sustained surge, estimating that average daily imports from Iran between June 1 and June 27 stood at 1.46 million bpd—a 46 percent increase, or about 500,000 bpd higher than in May.

The increase was driven largely by China's independent refiners—known as "teapots"—who ramped up purchases of Iranian crude due to its discounted price and the need to

replenish strategic inventories ahead of peak summer demand.

Industry analysts say a spike in Iranian oil loadings in May set the stage for faster deliveries in June. Lower oil prices in April and May also encouraged China to step up stockpiling.

The surge in shipments coincided with the first week of Israel's military strikes on Iran in early June, during which Iran's daily crude exports reportedly surged by 44 percent. Analysts predict that this upward trend could persist in the coming weeks as regional tensions continue and global markets seek supply flexibility.

Despite being under U.S. sanctions, Iran has steadily increased crude exports by leveraging regional alliances, alternative trade routes, and strategic pricing. China has remained its largest buyer, often receiving the oil through intermediaries or under the label of third-party crude.

Iran's envoy urges IMO to condemn assassination of martyred seafarer



TEHRAN— Iran's representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has formally requested the organization to condemn the targeted killing of an Iranian maritime official and his family in a recent Israeli military strike, the news portal of Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development published.

In a letter addressed to IMO Secretary-General, Seyed Ali Mousavi, Iran's Permanent Representative, described the 23 June missile strike as a "cowardly terrorist act." The attack struck a residential home in Astaneh Ashrafieh, a peaceful northern Iranian town, far from any military or nuclear site.

Twelve civilians were killed, including Hamed Saber — a senior officer and former seafarer who served in the Seafarers Affairs Division of Iran's Ports and Maritime Orga-

nization (PMO). He was widely respected in Iran's maritime sector for his dedication to the welfare and education of seafarers.

Saber was killed alongside his seven-year-old son, wife, elderly parents, sister, niece, brother-in-law, and other relatives. "This was not collateral damage but the deliberate assassination of an entire civilian family," Mousavi wrote.

He labelled the incident as "a calculated act of terrorism" in line with Israel's broader policy of targeting civilians, linking it to ongoing actions in Gaza.

Violation of International and Maritime Norms

Mousavi denounced the attack as a flagrant breach of international law and humanitarian principles. He expressed deep concern that such assaults are taking place with the backing of certain states, creating an environment of impunity and endangering the lives of seafarers and their families, even far from conflict zones.

IMO Asked to Act

In closing, the representative urged the IMO to formally condemn the killing of the Iranian maritime officer. He honored the memory of Hamed Saber and his family and expressed hope for accountability and justice against those responsible.

'Iranian industry withstands 12-day assault, swift support for affected factories urgent'

TEHRAN – The secretary-general of Iran's House of Industry, Mine and Trade said the country's industrial sector held its ground during the recent 12-day Israeli assault, maintaining production and preventing shortages across supply and distribution chains. He called for urgent support for factories and workers affected by the attacks.

Speaking to IRNA, Arman Khaleghi praised industrial producers for their resilience, comparing their commitment to that of the wartime years. "Despite several industrial zones being targeted, production never came to a halt," he said.

Khaleghi highlighted that during the conflict, the entire food and processing industries continued operations without interruption—from manufacturing to distribution—ensuring no disruption in the supply of essential goods. He said that even the logistics sector accelerated its delivery efforts during this period.

"There was no pause in the production of essential goods," he stated. "Basic commodities—from dairy to cooking oil—were quickly supplied with the help of relevant authorities and made available to the public."

Khaleghi emphasized that although the immediate danger has passed, factories damaged in the attacks must receive government support, and their workers should be swiftly reinstated.

He explained that while some production units were temporarily shut down due to sabotage risks, those that sustained damage now require



both financial assistance and policy intervention. "The disruptions came in late June," he noted, "and the industry is in dire need of compensatory and supportive policies."

The business leader expressed hope that by July 1—marked as Industry and Mining Day in Iran—a comprehensive aid package would be provided to industrial players to help revive the production cycle.

Khaleghi added that the House of Industry and Mine has already submitted proposals to the president, parliament committees, relevant ministries, and other responsible bodies. "We hope these suggestions are acted upon swiftly," he said.

The proposed support package includes bank debt deferrals, waivers of banking penalties, tax settlement delays, and deferred social security payments. "A grace period is necessary to give industrial units room to recover, and the government must step in to support production," he stressed.

Khaleghi also praised the gov-

ernment for accelerating customs clearance procedures during the 12-day conflict. "Faster unloading of goods from customs and ports allowed key raw materials to reach factories more quickly, helping sustain production."

Meanwhile, Iran's deputy industry, mining and trade minister for the commercial affairs said on Saturday (June 28): "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."

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.

Public-private synergy key to post-war economic resilience: TCCIMA official

TEHRAN – Strengthening collaboration between the government and the private sector is essential for building post-war economic resilience, a senior member of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce said, stressing the need for policy stability and targeted support.

Abbas Argon, a board member of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), said in an interview that Iran's economy has endured years of threats, but the recent conflict has brought national security and economic survival into sharper focus.

"In these circumstances, effective coordination between the government and private sector is more vital than ever," he said. "Resilience is now more important than development itself. The state must protect and support private enterprises, and in return, the private sector must take on its national responsibility."

Argon noted that while the immediate military threats may have subsided, economic risks still loom large. He outlined a set of expectations from the business community, including enhanced physical and economic security, protection of financial and trade infrastructure, easing of import-export restrictions, expedited access to essential goods and raw materials, temporary tax exemptions, low-interest loans, and extensions for debt repayments in the production and trade sectors.

"Production and trade go hand in hand. Stability in policymaking is a major concern for businesses," he added, warning against ad hoc decisions that create uncertainty. He proposed the formation of a coordination task force to facilitate the transmission of private sector recommendations to government authorities to ensure more realistic and effective decision-making.

Argon emphasized that the private sector, too, has a vital role to play—by helping stabilize the market, preventing profiteering, preserving jobs, investing in infrastructure, engaging in corporate social responsibility, and fostering social cohesion.

"Mutual trust and cooperation between the state and the private sector will be essential to navigating this critical juncture," he said.

Responding to concerns about potential layoffs in the post-conflict period, Argon suggested that deferring social security payments and providing additional support to struggling businesses could help safeguard employment and preserve economic capacity. "We need to provide businesses with enough breathing space to retain their workforce and rebuild," he said.

Meanwhile, 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."

Also, 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. 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.

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.

"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.

Elite diplomacy and the Iran–China strategic partnership

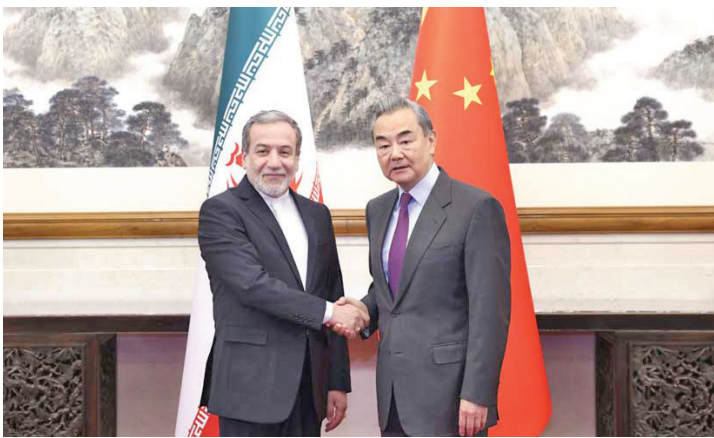
By Amir Mohammad Esmaeili

SHANGHAI – In the third decade of the 21st century, West Asia and the broader international politics are undergoing rapid and profound transformations. The Ukraine crisis, escalating tensions in West Asia, the twelve-day war between Iran and Israel, and the aggressive policies of the Trump administration—including the attack on Iran's nuclear facilities and the tariff war—are all part of this dynamic landscape.

As two influential actors in the evolving regional and global order, Iran and China possess the capacity to shape the emerging multipolar system. In this context, enhanced coordination and multifaceted cooperation between Tehran and Beijing are not only possible but essential. The bilateral relationship was significantly upgraded during President Xi Jinping's 2016 visit to Tehran, which resulted in the establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This framework was further institutionalized with the signing of the 25-Year Comprehensive Cooperation Agreement in 2021 by the foreign ministers of both nations.

For such a strategic partnership to succeed, both sides must develop a nuanced understanding of each other's capacities, limitations, and strategic priorities. The deeper this mutual understanding becomes, the broader and more sustainable the scope of cooperation will be. Historically, gaps in perception and mismatched expectations have occasionally strained the bilateral relationship.

One notable example is the nuclear issue, where divergence in expectations and policies led to some temporary frustrations. As the world enters a decisive and transformative phase, any misperception or strategic miscalculation could



impose considerable costs on bilateral ties. It is therefore more urgent than ever to strengthen elite-level diplomacy and foster institutionalized dialogue to enhance mutual understanding and strategic trust between the two countries.

In fostering mutual understanding between Iran and China, three primary categories of actors must be considered: academic elites, political elites, and public opinion. Among these, due to the dominant presence and influence of Western media narratives, countering distorted portrayals in the public sphere presents a significant challenge—one that requires long-term, incremental policy efforts. On the other hand, political elites are often influenced by academic elites, especially in shaping long-term strategic vision and policymaking.

Notably, there exists a strong and clear political will at the highest leadership level in both countries to deepen the strategic partnership. This suggests that the most effective strategy for cultivating comprehensive mutual understanding lies in strengthening academic and intellectual exchange between elite communities in both nations. By investing in such elite-level academic cooperation, a spillover effect can be expected: first influencing po-

litical elites, and gradually shaping public discourse as well.

Regrettably, in today's world, much of the mutual perception between Iran and China is mediated through the lens of Western media, which often presents distorted and politicized narratives about both countries. Despite the deep-rooted and largely positive historical and regional relations between the Iranian and Chinese peoples, Western powers—many of which have historically pursued hostile policies toward both nations—continue to obstruct the formation of a robust and friendly Iran–China strategic partnership.

The limited engagement between academic elites and institutions in Iran and China has, to some extent, facilitated the success of these external efforts to undermine bilateral trust.

Strengthening academic diplomacy and elite dialogue is thus essential to overcoming these misperceptions and building a resilient foundation for long-term strategic cooperation.

In the context of cooperation between great Asian civilizations, the role of academic elites is both pivotal and influential. In fact, throughout the millennia-old civilizational

histories of both Iran and China, intellectuals and scholars have consistently played a prominent role in shaping national decision-making processes. It is essential to create more opportunities for academic elites from both countries to engage in mutual dialogue, share knowledge, and exchange strategic insights. This process of strategic understanding should include not only seasoned experts but also the younger generation of scholars and intellectuals, who will shape the future of bilateral relations.

To enhance academic engagement, a variety of cultural diplomacy tools can be effectively utilized. These interactions should be framed as win-win cooperation with long-term potential. Practical avenues for strengthening mutual understanding include joint academic conferences, short- and long-term academic scholarships, online seminars and webinars, and other scholarly exchanges.

By deepening elite-level understanding, it can be expected that bilateral relations will progressively expand based on a realistic appraisal of each country's capabilities and constraints. This, in turn, will enable Iran and China to more effectively complement each other's roles within the emerging multipolar world order.

With their rich and enduring histories, the Iranian and Chinese nations are uniquely positioned to contribute to regional stability and global development, and to help usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for West Asia and beyond.

Amir Mohammad Esmaeili is an author, researcher, and PhD candidate in international relations at Shanghai International Studies University

Israel kills nearly 600 Palestinians at aid centers

Since May 27, at least 583 Palestinians have been killed and 4,186 injured while waiting for food at aid distribution sites operated by the Israeli- and United States-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), according to the Gaza Strip's Ministry of Health.

The killings have occurred daily as famine looms over the besieged enclave. International organisations have warned for weeks that Gaza's 2.1 million residents face catastrophic food shortages with markets emptied, clean water scarce, and aid deliveries sporadic and dangerous.

In the first eight days of the GHF's operation, more than 100 people were killed by gunfire from Israeli forces.

Al Jazeera's Hani Mahmoud, reporting from Gaza City, said the GHF remains the only source of food in the Strip as Israel continues to place severe restrictions on the entry of supplies by other groups.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Germany seeks Israeli partnership on cyber defence

Germany is aiming to establish a joint German-Israeli cyber research centre and deepen collaboration between the two countries' intelligence and security agencies, German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt has said.

"Military defence alone is not sufficient for this turning point in security. A significant upgrade in civil defence is also essential to strengthen our overall defensive capabilities," Dobrindt said on Sunday during a visit to Israel, according to Germany's Bild newspaper.

According to Bild, Dobrindt outlined a five-point plan aimed at establishing what he called a "Cyber Dome", as part of Germany's cyber defence strategy.

Earlier on Sunday, Bavarian Prime Minister Markus Soeder called for the acquisition of 2,000 interceptor missiles to equip Germany with an "Iron Dome" system similar to Israel's short-range missile defence technology.

Court postpones Netanyahu appearance in corruption trial

An Israeli court has postponed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's testimony in his corruption trial after he requested a delay with the support of President Donald Trump.

"Following the explanations given... we partially accept the request and cancel at this stage Mr Netanyahu's hearings scheduled" for this week, the Jerusalem district court said in its ruling, published online by the Likud party.

Netanyahu's lawyers had asked the court to

excuse him from testifying over the next two weeks so he could focus on security issues.

In one case, Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, are accused of accepting more than \$260,000 worth of luxury goods – including cigars, jewellery and champagne – from billionaires in exchange for political favours.

In two other cases, Netanyahu is accused of attempting to negotiate more favorable coverage from two Israeli media outlets. The prime minister has denied any wrongdoing.

Trump said on Saturday that he was "not going to stand" for the continued prosecution of Netanyahu. "The United States of America spends Billions of Dollar a year, far more than on any other Nation, protecting and supporting Israel. We are not going to stand for this," Trump said on Truth Social.

Protesters in Vienna demand ceasefire in Gaza

Dozens of people in the Austrian capital have protested in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza. In videos shared on social media and verified by Al Jazeera, they chanted slogans on Saturday such as "Ceasefire now!" and waved Palestinian flags and held banners in support of Palestinians. Several people also gave speeches, including activist Yasmine Acar, who this month boarded a Gaza-bound humanitarian aid ship in an unsuccessful effort to break Israel's siege on the enclave.

German police use force at pro-Palestine march in Berlin

Footage shared online by activists shows heated exchanges and violence between German police and pro-Palestine demonstrators in Berlin yesterday.

The footage, verified by Al Jazeera, shows police using force against a large group of protesters, including a 13-year-old boy and a veiled woman. In one video, officers confronted the child as he held up his scarf.

The video below shows police forcibly detaining a woman, causing her veil to be removed.

Al-Quds Brigades launches attacks on Israeli forces in Khan Younis

The armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group said on Sunday its fighters destroyed an Israeli army vehicle by detonating a barrel bomb in the Abasan al-Kabira neighborhood in the east of Khan Younis.

Separately, the group said it bombarded Israeli soldiers and vehicles in multiple locations in southern Khan Younis with mortar shells in conjunction with the Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing.

Lebanon is a strategic threat to Israel

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Amidst the complex political landscape, Washington is gradually revealing the extent of its blatant interference in Lebanon's internal affairs through statements that ignore reality and disregard the will of the people, of whom Hezbollah is an integral part.

On its X account, the U.S. espionage den (the embassy) in Beirut posted a photo of President Donald Trump, along with a quote from his recent statement in which he expressed his great appreciation for Lebanon and its people.

"Lebanon is a great place with brilliant people. You know it was known for their professors and doctors and it had an incredible history, hopefully we can bring it back again...We're with Lebanon all the way," Trump said.

These statements reveal nothing but the true face of American policy in West Asia, which seeks to impose its hegemony and influence by force, without the slightest regard for the rights and sovereignty of the people.

Despite its claims of commitment to Lebanon's stability, Washington is in fact seeking to fragment Lebanon and weaken its resistance force, serving the interests of the Israeli occupation entity.

Hezbollah MP Ali Fayyad revealed during an interview with Al-Mayadeen TV that America is exerting pressure on the Lebanese government regarding the issue of the resistance's weapons, noting that "the U.S. is seeking to impose a timetable for the withdrawal of these weapons in a bid to blackmail Lebanon."

"The Americans say they are awaiting an answer from the Lebanese government next week, applying the principle of step-by-step," Fayyad said, stressing that the issue of the resistance's weapons will be addressed with the Lebanese state "after the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories is completed."

Meanwhile, UNIFIL Sector West Commander, Nicola Mandolesi, revealed that the UN force's freedom of movement is "a prerequisite for implementing its mandate, including the ability to operate independently and impartially," noting that "supporting the Lebanese Army is a fundamental pillar of UNIFIL's work, through contributing to deployments and joint missions."

Throughout the history of conflict, Lebanon, without exaggeration, may be the next Arab country after Palestine to be harmed by the Israeli occupation entity, a real threat to Israel's entire existence.

Undoubtedly, the enemy is aware of this reality and even deals with Lebanon accordingly. This is why it firmly believes that Lebanon, as a strategic competitor, must not be stable or prosper!

This is why the enemy, with the help of Washington, is working in various ways to prevent the building of a capable state of institutions in Lebanon.

Hence, it is no coincidence that sell-out voices calling for normalization, federalism, and the resettlement of Palestinian and Syrian refugees are rising.

These local anti-resistance tools of the U.S. espionage den — forces and individuals — have recently been coherently and synchronously renewing the false claim that the Shebaa Farms are not Lebanese.

They are carrying out instructions aimed at dividing the country and carving out areas of it to serve Israel's expansionist colonialist vision, whenever possible.

Undoubtedly, and like most peoples of West Asia, the state of hostility between the vast majority of Lebanese and "Israel" is greater, more distant, and deeper whether the war is renewed or continues as a cold war.

Syrians reject Israeli "aid"



By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – As the Zionist regime expands its grip on southern Syria, locals are refusing to extend their hands to the occupation regime.

Residents of Abu Madhra'a village in the southwestern Quneitra province have refused to accept what they described as "aid" from the occupation forces.

This followed an incursion by occupation forces into the area on Saturday, according to local Syrian sources, in a bid to fortify the regime's illegal presence.

In another escalation on the ground, an Israeli patrol of about twenty soldiers advanced into the village of Ruwayhina in southern Quneitra.

Two Israeli tanks were stationed on the outskirts of the village while the patrol continued moving through residential areas, causing tension and concern among the local population.

These repeated Israeli movements in the region are seen as a clear violation of Syria's sovereignty, and part of ongoing attempts by the occupation regime to impose new realities on the ground in the Golan and surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, Israel's Kan TV reported that Syrian officials, speaking privately, confirmed there had been direct daily dialogue with Israelis in recent days.

A well-informed Syrian source also indicated that Damascus "does not rule out the possibility of reaching a peace agreement" with Tel Aviv before the end of U.S. Pres-

ident Donald Trump's term.

Hebrew media outlets have also reported that the government of Ahmad al-Sharaa will normalize relations with the Israeli regime and officially recognize the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights "before the end of 2025".

Several days ago, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt stated that "during President Trump's meeting with President al-Sharaa, one of his key requests was for Syria to join the Abraham Accords."

This comes as the Israeli military announced that its occupation forces from the Alexandroni Brigade (Brigade 3) carried out several raids this week in southern Syria, targeting weapons depots and arresting a number of individuals.

Thousands of children's shoes placed in Dutch square in Gaza protest



A woman stands in the town square of the Dutch city of Almere as the protest takes place [Mounab Taim/Anadolu]

Fasa to host giant Tazieh performance

TEHRAN—Head of Fasa Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Ebrahim Abdollahzadeh has said that a giant open-air Tazieh performance (passion play) will be held in Fasa of Fars province.

He explained that the event will be held in Saheb al-Zaman Hill in Sahraroud village, Miras Arya (CHTN) reported.

Tazieh is held in the village annually with an aim of depicting the events of Ashura, the tenth of Muharram month, when Imam Hussein (AS), his family members, and his companions were martyred in Karbala, he said.

He also said that since 2004, a special topic has been chosen for the village's Tazieh performance every year. This year, "Awakened Conscience" is the name of topic, he added.

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 Intan-



gible 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.

War threat should turn into opportunity for tourism infrastructure: official

TEHRAN—Tourism activists should not be passive during the war crisis, Isfahan's Governor-General Mehdi Jamalinejad has said.

Recent developments have shown that, even in the most challenging times, potential downturns can be averted through creativity and strategic planning, local media quoted the official as saying on Sunday.

Also, the ground can be prepared for an economic leap, he added.

Addressing the gathering of members of presiding board of travel agencies with focus on tourism problems in critical and war conditions, he said in a situation that security and economic threats have driven many cities toward recession, Isfahan as the Iran's tourism hub should turn the threats and challenges into new opportunities and take big steps for revival of tourism and sustainable economy.

Jamalinejad urged managers and activists of Isfahan's tourism industry to draw creative plans for attracting domestic and foreign tourists in critical conditions with cooperation of travel agencies.

Also, travel and tourism agencies of Isfahan should think about creative ideas and plan secure trip packages with focus on "Peace and Security", he added.

Pointing that travel agencies should not be closed, he called introduction of alternative routes and lesser-known destinations across the province for reducing the worries as the

other alternatives for activities during critical and war time.

He called planning virtual tours and online concerts as the other measures, adding that using artificial intelligence (AI) technology for planning virtual tours of Isfahan's historical attractions can be attractive for global audience.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to revival of International Handicrafts Fair in other countries, adding that Isfahan Handicrafts Exhibition can hold exhibition in combined form of in person and online) so that local artists can present their products to the global markets.

He called turning threat into opportunity through launching campaigns with focus on "Travel for Peace" as the other alternatives. Travel agencies with cooperation of nongovernmental organizations can launch campaigns for promoting sustainable tourism and cultural dialogue, he added.

Jamalinejad called supporting the local businesses as the other activities in war time, adding that promoting cooperation with ecotourism sites and traditional restaurants for rendering pure services to the tourists can generate income.

He pointed to the role of the youth and the elites in reforming the tourism industry. Given the emphasis of officials on using the potentials of the elites, many startups active in technology and AI sectors have entered the tourism field to make Isfahan a secure and attractive destination, he mentioned.



Shahpour told with a fatherly look: "If I reward you, then every day craftsmen and artists will make ornaments for me instead of paying attention to the real needs of the country, and this will be the beginning of the fall of Iran. My father taught me to live a simple life so that my rule will be more stable. So make swords for the soldiers, for great battles are coming."

(Dr. Seyedhossein Hosseinseddqi is an assistant professor of history at Islamic Azad University)

Tourism minister hails national resilience, calls for cultural renewal

TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, has praised the Iranian people for demonstrating unity and maturity during the recent 12-day war with Israel.

Speaking at a meeting with his deputies on Saturday, Salehi-Amiri described the moment as a major test of national strength while he called for collective efforts to rebuild and seize post-crisis opportunities.

He then reflected on the Israeli-imposed war its domestic aftermath, stating, "We have passed through a difficult historical turn, but the real peaks still lie ahead. Today, more than ever, we need national unity, cohesion, and a redefinition of the relationship between the people and the government."

He minister noted that while external and internal observers expected social disintegration, unrest, or psychological collapse during the conflict, the Iranian people instead displayed resilience and solidarity.

"This ability to withstand extreme pressure and turn crisis



into national unity is a remarkable strength," he said.

He emphasized that the Iranian society, despite economic limitations and other longstanding demands, chose to defend the nation's dignity and identity during a critical historical moment. "Our sociological assessments show that Iranians, regardless of hardship, respond to foreign threats with internal cohesion. That is a strategic asset we must not lose," he stated.

Referring to what he called a "golden moment" to consolidate

national strength, Salehi-Amiri warned that failure to address economic and livelihood issues transparently and decisively could turn this psychological victory into social disappointment. "Social capital is born in historical moments, but if not nurtured, it may be eroded," he cautioned.

The minister also highlighted the critical role of cultural heritage and national identity symbols in post-war moments and cultural resilience. "Now is the time to pass on concepts like unity, resistance, and Iranian

identity to future generations. Every historical site, national ritual, and handicraft market must now reflect this national solidarity and the historical intelligence of our people," he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi-Amiri thanked ministry staff across the country --from the province of Bushehr to Khorasan, Zahedan to Ardabil -- for continuing their duties without disruption during the conflict. He emphasized that while other institutions faced operational breakdowns, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage remained active and engaged throughout.

In a final message, he urged a shift from fear and uncertainty toward confidence and cohesion. "The enemy still wages a war of narratives. We must counter that with honesty, rationality, media coherence, and public diplomacy. Victory is not just on the battlefield --it lives in the minds of the people."

During the meeting, deputy ministers also presented field reports, outlining the ministry's performance over the twelve days of war, which was halted early on June 24.

Turkish Airlines to resume flights to Iran on June 30

TEHRAN - Türkiye's flag carrier, Turkish Airlines, will resume flights to Iran on Monday, June 30, after a temporary suspension prompted by regional conflict and security concerns.

The announcement was made Saturday by Turkish Airlines CEO Bilal Eksi, who confirmed on social media that the carrier's services to Mashhad, Iran's second-most populous city, will recommence.

This marks the national airline's first flight to Iran since Türkiye halted all routes on June 13 in response to Israeli airstrikes on Tehran and other Iranian cities, which led to a full closure of Iranian airspace.

The decision to resume flights comes days after a temporary ceasefire agreement was reached on June 24, following a 12-day escalation that disrupted air travel across the region.

"We are restarting our Mashhad flights on Monday, June 30," Eksi wrote, signaling a cautious re-engagement with Iran's aviation



network.

The Turkish Transport and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu also confirmed the partial restoration of flights between Istanbul and Mashhad. He noted that the airspace over western Iran remains closed and acknowledged ongoing efforts to return 11 Turkish aircraft that remain grounded in Iran and Iraq.

Iran's transport ministry spokesperson Majid Akhavan stated on Saturday that eastern, central, and western corridors of the

country's airspace have reopened for international overflights. However, commercial passenger flights to and from major hubs such as Tehran's Mehrabad and Imam Khomeini airports remain suspended. Travel restrictions are still in effect in the northern, southern, and western regions of the country.

Akhavan urged the public to avoid traveling to closed airports and follow official announcements for updates on flight operations.

Mashhad and Chabahar are among the few airports currently operational, as Iran undertakes a phased reopening of its airspace and airports following the ceasefire. These cities had been affected during the hostilities but are now gradually returning to limited civil aviation activity.

The resumption of Turkish Airlines' services is seen as a step toward regional normalization and signals cautious optimism for the restoration of broader international air connectivity in the weeks ahead.

Nehbandan's ancient windmills to be restored for tourism

TEHRAN—Nehbandan ancient Asbads, traditional vertical-axis windmills used for grain grinding, are to be repaired, a tourism chief of the city has said.

According to Miras Arya (CHTN), Hossein Shabani also said that Asbads located in villages of Chahar Farsakh, Khonik, and Khansharaf in Nehbandan, South Khorasan province, will go under restoration.

He explained that with allocation of 10 billion rials (\$11,765) worth of national credit, the valuable relics of Nehbandan will be renovated to be prepared for possible registration on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Shabani continued that studies and renovation of these structures have been conducted within several years, expecting that with allocation of more credits, the renovation process will be accelerated.

He pointed out that Asbads are considered masterpieces of architecture and lifestyle of Iranians particularly in east of the country for using the wind power for grinding the cereals.

Iran is making strides toward securing a possible UNESCO recognition for its centuries-old Asbads, traditional vertical-axis windmills used for grain grinding, as it works to complete a dossier for their inclusion on the World Heritage list.

These ancient windmills, which have played a crucial role in the lives of people in eastern Iran, particularly in South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces, are being docu-

mented as part of a serial property registration effort.

South Khorasan, considered the birthplace and primary hub of these ingenious structures, is home to approximately 79% of Iran's Asbads.

These windmills, some of the earliest known human-engineered industrial devices, were designed to harness the strong, seasonal 120-day winds that sweep across the region.

While the Asbads were once a common sight in the broader region of Greater Khorasan, including today's northeastern provinces, South Khorasan boasts the largest concentration, with over 310 windmills still standing, the report said.

Iran's Asbads are unique in their vertical design, a significant departure from the horizontal-axis windmills seen in Europe.

Each structure typically consists of two parallel 10-meter walls, spaced about four meters apart. Large wooden blades are mounted on a vertical axis within the northern part of the structure, and as the wind turns the blades, the movement is transmitted via a central shaft to a grinding stone below, where grains like wheat are processed.

These Asbads were particularly vital in areas such as Nehbandan and Darmian, where the steady seasonal winds were crucial for grain production. As of today, the towns of Darmian and Nehbandan hold the highest number of Asbads. However, there are a considerable



number of Asbads in Birjand, Sarbisheh, and Qaen.

Moreover, the historical city of Tabas-e Masina, known for its Parthian-era origins and fertile plains, alone houses 60 Asbads.

Given the dispersal of Iranian Asbads on a vast geographical area, the ongoing documentation efforts aimed to secure global recognition for these remarkable windmills, have turned into a time-consuming project.

Iran's Asbads are not only a testament to the ingenuity of the past but also a symbol of the region's cultural heritage and sustainable use of natural resources. The UNESCO submission will seek to preserve these windmills for future generations while showcasing their historical importance on the world stage.

Britannica says the earliest known references to windmills are to a Persian millwright in 644 CE and windmills in Seistan [Sistan], Iran, in 915 CE.

According to the UN cultural body, Robert Forbes, a technology historian, stresses the point that the Islamic era windmill was the invention of Iranian. He writes: "this invention which was initially an exclusive device for Iran and Afghanistan, turned into an important source of energy all over the Islamic territories in the 12th century, and not only it was used for the grinding of grains and operation of water pumps, but also the chopping of sugarcanes and other purposes.

Moreover, the UNESCO website says that such vertical-axis windmills were taken to China during the Mongol reign.

Furthermore, the know-how of windmills was taken to other Islamic territories and was used in Egypt as the main source for the chopping and grinding of sugarcanes. In the 11th century, windmills reached Spain, the Islands of the Aegean Sea, and Portugal.

How to cope with summer heat, Persian medicine answers

TEHRAN – Hot days of summer can cause heat-related illnesses and heat exhaustion, which can be life-threatening. The overexposure to heat leads to loss of body fluid through sweating and dehydration.

The hot, dry, and red skin, high body temperature, muscle pain, and even unconsciousness can be the symptoms of heat-related illnesses.

Several Persian beverages and herbal drinks can be helpful for individuals having heat-related symptoms.

Sekanjabin, a drink made of honey, mint, and vinegar, has great benefits in hot weather. Drinking it with ice cubes will cool the whole body, decreasing its temperature.

Boiling jujube in water with the addition of brown sugar is a great combination for hot days. Cool the drink and serve it.

Flixweed, known as Khak-e shir in Iran, as well as cucumber and watermelon, are very beneficial during hot summer days.

One of the best drinks is a combination of jujube and barberry boiled and added with some sugar to treat heat exhaustion. The iced flixweed drink, added with lemon juice, is also great.

Basil weed syrup is another option that heat exhaustion can also be cured with a syrup made of rose water and some ice cubes.

A healthy diet in summer

Persian medicine prioritizes prevention over cure, so to stay healthy in each season, it highlights the need



to be aware of what to consume and avoid. For summer with hot and dry temperaments (Mizaj), the following tips will help you make healthier choices.

People with hot and dry temperaments are more at risk in summer. Anyway, the key to a healthy diet is to avoid foods and drinks that increase body temperature and cause dryness. These include spicy foods such as pepper, ginger, cinnamon, saffron, hot sauces, and mustard; spicy vegetables like garlic, onion, tarragon, mint, leek, watercress, and dill, as well as salt and sweet.

It is recommended to eat raw or steamed vegetables without strong spices.

Portions of salads with ingredients like lettuce, cucumber, and lemon juice are useful because they have cooling features.

Also, cut down on salt, salty foods, and snacks such as salty chips or nuts.

Most nuts have a hot and dry temperament, so eat even salt-free and sugar-free nuts in moderation.

In summer, reduce your intake of sweets, chocolates, honey, raisins, and even sweet fruits such as figs, coconuts, bananas, melons, and pineapples.

Consume foods that are cooked or boiled rather than fried or roasted.

Cooling food, fruits, and drinks is the optimal choice for the summer season.

Choose fish and chicken, which have cold and wet temperaments, over red meat since it has warming characteristics or Mizaj.

Blackberry and blackberry juice, raspberry, sour apple, cherry, green plums, pomegranate, dill, peach, apricot, watermelon, and grapefruit are great choices for the season, as well as cucumber, yogurt, lettuce, zucchini, coriander, and spinach are great.

Moreover, don't forget to drink ad-

equate water and include dairy products in your diet.

As was said, Persian medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

It is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra'), and black bile (Sauda'). The concept of the four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

Surveys show that more than 80 percent of people in the country intend to benefit from Iranian traditional medicine.

Their interest in traditional medicine has never faded. Traditional medicine is being taught in universities.

Traditional medicine has its roots in the culture, customs, and traditions of Iranians and has always been of interest to them.

With over five hundred graduates in the field and numerous research articles that have been published, the country has been able to improve its position by being ranked fourth in the production of science in the field of traditional medicine in the world, following China, India, and the United States.

Traditional medicine and conventional medicine are complementary. Each of these medicines has unique capabilities that can be used together.

Blood donation campaign kicks off in Muharram

TEHRAN –With the beginning of Muharram, the first lunar month, a nationwide blood donation campaign commenced on June 27 and is scheduled to run for 60 days.

The campaign is primarily encouraging youth and women to donate blood, IRNA reported.

The average level of blood reserves in the country is sufficient for 10.56 days, and for more than 16 days in Tehran, according to Mostafa Jamali, an official with the Blood Transfusion Organization.

Blood donation in Iran has increased by more than five percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year, which started on March 21, compared to the same period last year.

Also, women's participation in blood donation has increased by one percent, in comparison to the year before, IRIB reported.

A total of 456,020 blood units were donated over the mentioned period.

The blood donation rate has reached 27.8 per thousand people, which is favorable.

The country's plasma production has reached roughly 400 liters. However, the country needs approximately one and a half million liters of the product.

Blood donation rises by 1.5% yr/yr

Some 2.36 million Iranians donated blood over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2024-March 2025), representing a 1.5 percent increase compared to the previous year.

Tehran and Fars, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Mazandaran, and Khuzestan provinces made the largest contributions, IRIB reported.

Over the past (Iranian) year, some four million blood units, including blood products, were transferred to medical centers, IRIB quoted Haji-Beigi, as saying.

Men made up 95 percent of blood donors, while women's contribution amounted to five percent. Women in Lorestan province, North Khorasan, and Sistan-Baluchestan had the highest share, he added.



Highlighting the need for negative blood types, the official said 90 percent of donors had positive blood.

WHO lauds IBTO's achievements

In January, the World Health Organization representative, Jaffar Hussain, admired the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization's (IBTO) leadership in blood safety and transfusion services, and highlighted their remarkable achievement of a 100 percent voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation system, a testament to the principles of universal health coverage in action.

He also thanked the blood donors, whose selflessness serves as an inspiration to all.

Admiring the IBTO's efforts and expertise in providing services to patients with rare blood types, the official underscored Iran's capacity to serve as a model for other nations in the realm of blood transfusion and rare blood management.

Addressing National Rare Blood Day on January 22, the official praised the country's steadfast commitment to equitable healthcare access, ensuring that no one is left behind, regardless of their blood type.

The official commended the country's unwavering dedication to tackling the unique challenges surrounding rare blood, emphasizing the critical importance of collaboration, innovation, and unwavering determination in this global endeavor, the WHO website announced in a press release on January 27.

UNHCR voices concern over sharp increase in Afghan returns from Iran



TEHRAN – Following the deportation of unauthorized Afghans, with the implementation of a return deadline by the Government on March 20, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has warned that returns on a massive scale have the potential to destabilize the fragile situation in Afghanistan.

Since March 20, over 640,000 Afghans have returned from Iran, with over 366,000 others deported, including refugees and people in refugee-like situations.

The sharpest rise was on June 26, when some 36,100 Afghans returned in just one day. The number of daily returns has continued to increase since June 13, the UNHCR website announced in a press release on June 28.

UNHCR Representative in Kabul, Arafat Jamal, has said that Afghans are returning home, but they are "scared about what awaits them in a country many of them have never even set foot in. Women and girls are particularly worried, as they fear the restrictions on freedom of movement and basic rights such as education and employment."

In total, over 1.2 million Afghans have re-

turned or been forced to return from Iran and Pakistan in 2025, worsening the already desperate situation inside Afghanistan. The UN estimates that over half the population in Afghanistan relies on humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR has been warning that dwindling international support is deepening the complex, overlapping crises in Afghanistan.

"We need to act fast. We urgently call on the international community to help us respond, not just with emergency aid, but with longer-term support. Funding for sustainable reintegration is essential to prevent cycles of instability and displacement," UNHCR's Jamal added.

UNHCR is responding in close coordination with sister UN agencies and partners to receive and assist returnees, delivering immediate and longer-term support to help people and communities.

UNHCR joins its partners in calling for immediate and substantial funding to ensure sustainable reintegration and prevent cyclical displacement inside the country and beyond its borders. UNHCR's response to the Afghanistan situation this year is so far only 23 per cent funded.

ENGLISH IN USE

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‘Organ donation rate grows 60-fold in 18 years’

Organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years, though the growth is not considerable compared to the global scale, head of the transplantation and treatment of diseases department at the Ministry of Health has announced.

Some countries including China have grown 122-fold in terms of organ donation over the past 10 years, ISNA quoted Mehdi Shadnough as saying on Monday.

Although, Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world, it can claim better ranks given some plans being implemented in this regard, he highlighted, adding, we will achieve better results certainly by the next year (March 2019-March 2020), as many barriers have been removed last year.

روند رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته ، ۶۰ برابر شده است

رئیس مرکز مدیریت پیوند و درمان بیماری‌ها وزارت بهداشت گفت: روند رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته در ایران ۶۰ برابر شده است البته در مقیاس جهانی شاخص قابل قبولی نیست. به گزارش ایسنا دکتر مهدی شادنوش اظهار کرد: کشوری مانند چین طی ۱۰ سال در زمینه اهدای عضو رشد ۱۲۲ برابری داشته است. وی خاطرنشان کرد: رتبه اهدای عضو ایران در رنکینگ جهانی ۲۶ است اما می تواند وضعیت بهتر داشته باشد و البته با توجه به فعالیت‌هایی که آغاز شده نتایج بهتری در انتظار خواهد بود و در سال ۹۸ نیز جهش خوبی را شاهد خواهیم بود چراکه چالش‌های موجود در سال ۹۷ رفع شده است.



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JUNE 30, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If a Muslim plants a tree or any plant and a human, bird, or any other animals use it, Allah counts it as an act of charity.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:52 (tomorrow)

“Umbilical Cord” returns to Turkish theater stage

TEHRAN – The play “Umbilical Cord,” written and directed by Iranian director Mostafa Pouryousef, was staged again in Istanbul, Turkey.

According to Sara Haddadi, the executive producer and head of public relations of the play, it was performed on June 28 and 29 at Ikincikat Theater.

The production was performed in Turkish. The Iranian cast includes Saghar Khamseh, Asma Jamshidi, Amir Janani, Mostafa Pouryousef, and Parla Ardabili, who is also the translator of the play into Turkish.

The synopsis of the play reads: A family lives in an unspecified area. To escape the surrounding conditions, they have locked themselves inside their home.

A military officer enters their home under

these circumstances and ends up living with them for years. Their supplies are running out, and they face a dilemma: whether to stay inside or go out.

Focusing on the experience of migration, identity, and emotional ties, the play aims to tell a universal story with a human perspective.

The play was earlier staged in Istanbul in November and December 2024 and February 2025, and was met with a warm reception from both Iranian and Turkish audiences and also earned praise from professors at Turkey’s theater universities.

So far, many artists and notable figures such as Professor Münip Melih Korukcu from Istanbul Aydın University, musician and visual artist Monika Bolanda, and actress Burcu Salihoğlu have attended the performance, among others.

Iraqi artists honor martyr Mansoureh Alikhani in symposium

TEHRAN – The Bait al-Jamal Lil-Funun art center in Baghdad is hosting a week-long symposium dedicated to the memory of martyred Iranian painter Mansoureh Alikhani.

Entitled “Art Facing War,” the event, which inaugurated on Wednesday in the Iraqi capital, has brought together artists from various Iraqi provinces, Mehr reported on Sunday.

It serves as both a tribute to the slain artist and a strong condemnation of the violence perpetrated by the oppressive Israeli regime, the report added.

The symposium explores the profound role of art in confronting conflict and emphasizes the importance of preserving the legacies of artistic figures who have fallen victim to aggression. It also aims to uphold the enduring spirit of art and to denounce violence.

Participants reflect on the universal themes such as peace, resistance, and the power of creative expression in the face of adversity. The event highlights the enduring bond between

Iraqi and Iranian artists, united in their shared commitment to artistic expression and the fight against injustice.

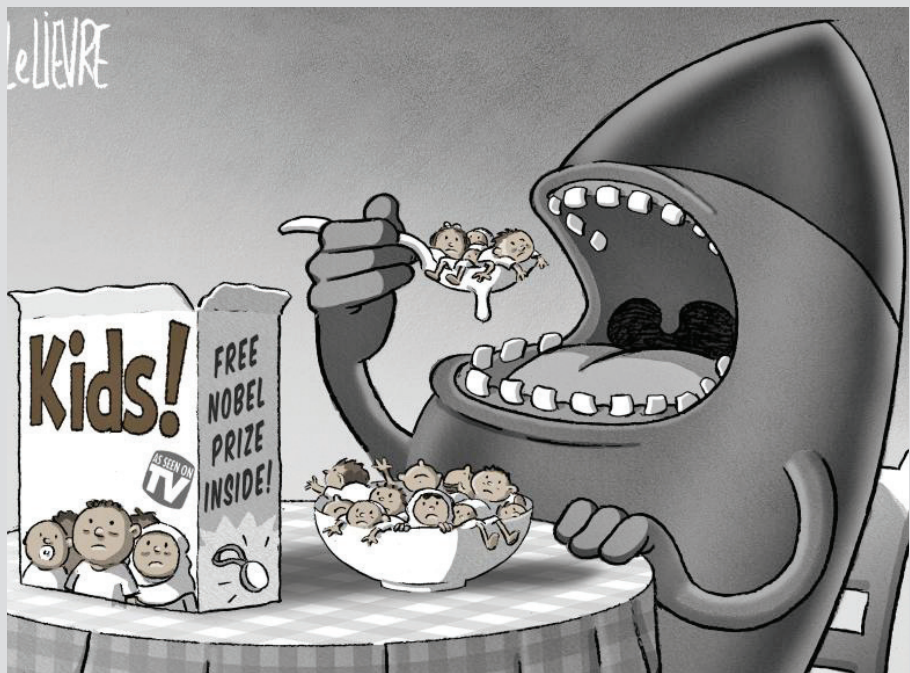
The initiative underscores the significant role of cultural exchange in fostering dialogue and understanding in a region marked by conflict.

Furthermore, a special exhibition of these artists’ works is scheduled to be held at the center’s gallery in Baghdad for interested visitors.

Following the Zionist regime’s aggressive assault on Iran, Mansoureh Alikhani lost her life during Israeli attacks on residential areas in Tehran.

Alikhani was a student of master Kazem Chalipa and a prominent figure in the field of painting who was involved in training and research as well. She was creating a painting about Ashura, the day Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions were martyred in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE, which remained unfinished due to her martyrdom.

Cartoon of Day



Breakfast of Champions

Cartoonist: Glen Le Lievre from Australia

Five Iranians invited to join Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

TEHRAN – There are five Iranians among the 534 artists and executives invited by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to join the organization.

Filmmakers Hossein Molayemi, Shirin Sohani, and Saeed Roustayi, actor Payman Maadi and cinematographer Ali Ghazi are the Iranians who have received the invitation. The invitees have all distinguished themselves by their contributions to motion pictures in the past years, ISNA reported.

“We are thrilled to invite this esteemed class of artists, technologists, and professionals to join the Academy,” said Academy CEO Bill Kramer and Academy President Janet Yang. “Through their commitment to filmmaking and to the greater movie industry, these exceptionally talented individuals have made indelible contributions to our global filmmaking community.”

Earlier in March, Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani won the 2025 Oscar for Best Animated Short Film at the 97th Academy Awards for “In the Shadow of the Cypress.” It was the first Iranian animated or live-action short film to win at the Oscars.

Molayemi and Sohani can choose between the Animation branch and the Short Films branch to join the Academy.

The pair hold master’s degrees in animation directing from the Tehran University of Art. Molayemi started his professional career in 2004. He has worked as a director, character designer, storyboard artist, animator, and university lecturer.

Sohani started her profession-



Payman Maadi (L) and Saeed Roustayi pose during a photocall for the film “Woman and Child” at the 78th Cannes Film Festival in France, on May 23, 2025.

al career in 2012 and has served as a director, concept artist, background artist, script writer, and production manager.

Saeed Roustayi, 35, is known for “Leila’s Brothers,” “Law of Tehran,” “Life and a Day,” and “Woman and Child.”

A filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer, Roustayi’s works primarily focus on issues of social injustice, as well as his portrayals of women in Iranian society.

He graduated from Soore University with a Bachelor of Film and Television in directing. He won two Crystal Simorgh awards for best directing and best screenplay at the Fajr International Film Festival for his debut feature film “Life and a Day” (2016). The movie also received

the 2016 Reflet d’Or for Best Feature at the Geneva International Film Festival Tous Ecrans.

Roustayi’s second feature film “Law of Tehran” (2019) was nominated for the César Award for Best Foreign Film. Also known as “Just 6.5,” it was well received by critics at the 76th Venice Film Festival and won multiple awards, including the Crystal Simorgh for Audience Choice of Best Film, at the 37th Fajr Film Festival.

His third and fourth films “Leila’s Brothers” and “Woman and Child” competed in Cannes Film Festival 2022 and 2025, respectively, with the former winning the FIPRESCI Prize as well as the Citizenship Prize at the Cannes 2022.

Payman Maadi, 54, is the star of the Oscar-winning drama “A Separation,” by Asghar Farhadi, who received the Silver Bear for Best Actor at the Berlin International Film Festival for his role in the film in 2011.

Maadi co-starred with Kristen Stewart in U.S. director Peter Sattler’s debut “Camp X-Ray” in 2014 and collaborated in Japanese director Kazuaki Kiriya’s action-adventure “Last Knights” in 2015. He has also appeared in all Roustayi’s films.

Ali Ghazi, 49, is a director of photography at cinema, known for “Life and a Day,” “A Hero” (2021) and “About Elly” (2009) both by Asghar Farhadi.

The Academy chooses members based on professional qualifications, with an ongoing commitment to representation, inclusion, and equity remaining a priority. Of the 2025 invited class, 41 percent are women, 45 percent belong to underrepresented communities, and 55 percent are from 60 countries and territories outside the United States. There are 91 Oscar nominees, including 26 winners, and three Scientific and Technical Award winners among the invitees.

If all the invitees accept, the total members, including emeriti, will be 11,120, and the number of voting members will be 10,143. In addition, 35 percent of the Academy would be women, 22 percent would be from underrepresented communities, and 21 percent would be international.

Veteran actor Jamal Ejlali passes away



TEHRAN – Renowned actor Jamal Ejlali passed away at his home in Tehran on Sunday, after a period of illness. He was 78.

Born in 1947, Ejlali became familiar with the arts from a young age. He was admitted to the Faculty of Fine Arts with a top-ranking in Theater Acting and began his official career.

He appeared in numerous acclaimed films, including “Taboo” and “Wind Blows in the Meadow,” both directed by Khosro Masoumi, “Guinness” by Mohsen Tanabandeh, “Thick Makeup” by Hamid Nematollah, “The

Blue” by Hamid Labkhandeh, “All the Temptations of the Earth” by Hamid Samandarian and “A Persian Melody” by Hamidreza Qotbi.

His portrayal of an addicted doctor in “Thick Makeup” (2013) garnered praise and attention.

After a two-year hiatus due to illness, Ejlali returned to acting in 2018 with roles in the series “The Secret of Lovers” by Mohammad Hossein Latifi and “The Soldier” by Hadi Moqaddam Doost, as well as the feature film “The Redstarts” by Arash Moayyerian, marking his comeback to the screen.

Irish band Kneecap shouts out to Palestine Action Group at Glastonbury



Irish-language rap group Kneecap has performed at the Glastonbury Festival in front of tens of thousands of fans chanting “Free Palestine,” defying United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer who said he did not think it was “appropriate” for the band to appear.

The group’s Liam O’Hanna on Saturday also gave a “shout-out” to Palestine Action Group, which UK Interior Minister Yvette Cooper announced last week would become a banned group under the Terrorism Act of 2000.

“The prime minister of your country, not mine, said he didn’t want us to play, so ... Keir Starmer,” said O’Hanna, who appeared on stage wearing his trademark Palestinian keffiyeh in front of the capacity crowd, including many people waving Palestinian flags.

“This situation can be quite stressful but it’s minimal compared to what the Palestinian people are [facing],” O’Hanna, who performs under the name Mo Chara, added, referring to the backlash the band has faced for its outspoken support of Palestinians in Gaza.

He is facing charges under the British Terrorism Act of supporting a proscribed organization for allegedly waving a flag of Lebanon’s Hezbollah group at a concert in London in November last year.

O’Hanna has said he picked up a flag that was thrown onto the stage without knowing what it represented.

The rapper is on unconditional bail before a further court hearing in August.

“Glastonbury, I’m a free man!” he shouted as the trio took to the stage at Glastonbury’s West Holts field, which holds about 30,000 people.

The trio also thanked festival organizers Michael and Emily Eavis for resisting pressure to cancel their appearance, including from Starmer.

Several Kneecap concerts have been cancelled since the band’s performance at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in California in April, where they accused Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinians, enabled by the United States government.

At least 56,412 Palestinians have been killed and 133,054 wounded in Israel’s war on Gaza, according to Gaza’s Ministry of Health.

Ireland’s people and government have been some of the most outspoken critics of the war, as well as Israel’s deliberate starva-

tion of Gaza’s population, which many people see as having parallels to the English occupation of Ireland.

The BBC, which broadcasts dozens of Glastonbury performances, did not show Kneecap’s set live, but said it planned to make it available online later.

The broadcaster said it would not be re-airing the live performance of British rap punk duo Bob Vylan who appeared on stage before Kneecap and led chants of “Free, free Palestine” and “Death, death to the IDF [Israeli army]”.

A BBC spokesperson said the comments were “deeply offensive”, and that they would not be available to rewatch on BBC iPlayer.

The BBC also reported that UK Culture Minister Lisa Nandy spoke to the BBC director general, Tim Davie, seeking an “urgent explanation” after the chants were aired live.

According to the BBC, Avon and Somerset Police also said that they would be reviewing footage of both Kneecap and Bob Vylan’s sets to “determine whether any offences may have been committed that would require a criminal investigation”.

The bands were among about 4,000 performers across 120 stages to appear at this year’s festival, which also featured headliners including Neil Young, Charli XCX, Rod Stewart, Busta Rhymes, Olivia Rodrigo and Doechii, as well as a surprise appearance by Britpop band Pulp.