

They Are Not Numbers



935 lives
38 children
102 women

► Page 3

Photo shows some of the women and children killed during Israeli airstrikes on Iran.

Did Azerbaijan help Israel's war against Iran?

TEHRAN – Throughout the Iran-Israel war, and in the days following the cessation of hostilities, considerable attention has focused on the Republic of Azerbaijan and its potential role in the regime's aggression against Iran.

Residents of the provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran, along the Caspian Sea, reported hearing what sounded like drones or fighter jets during the Israeli attacks. One resident in eastern Gilan told the Tehran Times that a location in the city of Rasht was struck shortly after she heard such noises.

These two provinces are in close proximity to Azerbaijan, which also shares a border with the Caspian Sea. Some residents in the province of Ardabil, which has land borders with the Caucasian country, also reported seeing drones flying from behind the mountains that separate the two nations.

All of these accounts and reports have originated from civilians. Iran's Armed Forces and its political figures have yet to officially confirm these allegations. ► Page 2

The AMIA case: When the roles of murderer and victim are reversed

By Staff Writer

TEHRAN – Since Javier Milei came to power in January 2024, Argentina's government has made a stark shift in its international relations policy, abandoning its traditional stance of neutrality and multilateralism in favor of aligning with the Zionist regime and the United States.

Over the past year and a half, Milei has built his foreign policy on hostility toward countries that oppose the hegemonic world order, challenge the status quo, or stand against Israel, deliberately turning a blind eye to the realities unfolding on the international stage, particularly in West Asia.

In one of his first official foreign trips, Milei visited the occupied Palestinian territories and announced that Argentina would move its embassy from Tel Aviv to al-Quds. ► Page 3

Iran establishes special courts to prosecute Mossad agents

TEHRAN – As Iran carries out a nationwide manhunt to catch mercenaries and spies working for the Zionist regime, the country's judiciary has ordered the immediate establishment of special courts across the country to prosecute the relevant detainees.

The judiciary spokesperson announced on Monday that these measures were taken following direct orders from the head of the judiciary to ensure national security and prevent further subversive activities. "The enemy sought to exploit the situation by activating its networks inside Iran, attempting to disrupt public order, spread chaos, and carry out cyberattacks and sabotage operations," Aghar Jahangir stated.

During the 12-day war between Iran and Israel, spies and mercenaries played an important role in targeting Iran's civilian and military infrastructure. At least 932 Iranians were killed throughout the war, the majority of whom were civilians. Israel, through its media outlets, has openly boasted of training these individuals for years. ► Page 3

Iran says it reserves right to peaceful uranium enrichment

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister has ruled out any possibility of halting uranium enrichment, insisting the country will continue to develop its nuclear program within the framework of international law and for peaceful purposes.

In an interview with the BBC Majid Takht-Ravanchi said Iran will not abandon its right to enrich uranium inside its own territory. "We insist on enriching uranium on Iranian soil for peaceful purposes," he said. "The level and capacity are negotiable, but to say 'you must have zero enrichment, and if you refuse, we will bomb you'—that is nothing but the law of the jungle."

Takht-Ravanchi added that if Washington wants to resume diplomacy, it must first rule out any further military action against Iran. "We are currently trying to understand whether another act of aggression will occur while dialogue is underway. That is the fundamental question," he said, calling for transparency from the U.S. on this point and any prospective diplomatic offer. ► Page 3

Religious outcry grows as West escalates rhetoric against Ayatollah Khamenei

TEHRAN – In response to escalating threats from U.S. President Donald Trump and senior Israeli officials against the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Akbar Hosseini Haeri, a senior Marja and prominent religious authority based in Najaf, issued a Fatwa declaring that any assault on Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei would be regarded as an attack on the entire Islamic world and met with severe consequences.

"Any harm directed at the Leader is tantamount to an attack on the entire Islamic Ummah," Ayatollah Hosseini Haeri declared in his statement.

Denouncing "the intensification of U.S. aggression" and the "barbaric violations of Iran's sovereignty," he said these actions represent not only clear breaches of international law but also a declaration of war against Islamic and human values. ► Page 2

IAEA's double standards threaten regional and global peace, Pezeshkian tells Macron

TEHRAN—In a scathing rebuke of the UN nuclear watchdog, President Masoud Pezeshkian declared Iran's suspension of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) a "natural reaction" to Director General Rafael Grossi's "biased, unconstructive, and destructive conduct," which paved the way for Tel Aviv's June 13 aggression and subsequent U.S. strikes on its civilian nuclear facilities.

During a Sunday phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron, Pezeshkian emphasized that Grossi's failure to condemn the attacks—and his agency's "politicized reporting"—had shattered Iran's trust. ► Page 2

Negotiations are meaningless under current conditions: Iran Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN – Iran says the negotiations with Europe are futile under the current conditions, urging European nations to reassess their conduct.

In a comprehensive press briefing on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei strongly criticized the positions taken by several European countries in support of Israeli aggression against Iran.

"Negotiating under such an approach is meaningless," Baghaei stated. "European governments must reconsider their behavior if they want to be taken seriously." ► Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Revealing the core of Western hostility

Arman-e-Melli discussed the enemy's defeat in an interview with Mohammad Hassan Asefri, a political analyst, highlighting attempts to divide the state and the nation. He said: First, we should point to the presence of citizens at the funerals of the martyrs from the 12-day attacks by the Israeli regime, which can serve as strong evidence for Western governments to comprehend the depth of national cohesion. The losers of this military operation against Iran were the subversives' movement, which, unfortunately, received maximum support from the leaders of the Israeli regime. However, we must emphasize that no matter how hard they tried, they failed to win the people over.

The opposition movement has consistently faced defeat in recent years and has come to realize that, despite internal factional and political differences, national cohesion is always preserved. Every plan that the enemies formulate to create division within society ultimately reveals their open hostility toward Iran. Whenever the enemies attempt to split the nation, they inadvertently reinforce national unity. We must continue to uphold this unity and remain steadfast in confronting our enemies.

Khorasan: Behind Trump's impudence

Khorasan analyzed Trump's nonsensical remarks and impudent behavior and said: Surprisingly and in an unusual tone, Trump said Israel was hit hard as Iranian ballistic missiles destroyed many buildings. Trump made the confession after the prudent Leader of the revolution said that the Zionist regime was left helpless under the strikes of the Islamic Republic. But Trump's reaction to the intelligence of the Leader of the revolution was neither diplomatic nor appropriate for the position of the president of a country, including a superpower. He claimed, in a ridiculous manner and with mocking gestures, that the Iranian Leader was lying. What angered Trump was the precise statements of the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Leader's congratulatory message was not just a political statement, but a redefinition of the playing field of narratives. Trump's anger is not because of a single sentence, but because of the collapse of the monopolization of narratives, a monopoly held by the Western media outlets for long years but now has been broken in the face of Iran's missile and verbal attacks.

Exclusive: Iran let US know it's attacking American bases 12 hours before strike



TEHRAN – An Iranian military source told the Tehran Times that Iran informed the United States 12 hours before its June 23 strike on Al Udeid Air Base that it intended to target U.S. installations in the region.

The source said no specific base was named in the warning.

“After our warning, they evacuated their bases in West Asia out of fear,” the source added.

On June 23, Iran launched a barrage of 14 ballistic missiles at Al Udeid Air Base in Doha, Qatar, Washington's largest military base in West Asia, deploying the same number of warheads that the U.S. had used

Jam-e-Jam: Why did Israel stop the war with Iran?

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam discussed why Israel stopped the war with Iran and wrote: At the beginning of the attack, the Israeli prime minister announced that the goal of the operation was to destroy Iran's nuclear program, destroy missile industry, and change the regional order in favor of Tel Aviv. However, the course of developments on the battlefield and in politics showed that achieving these goals was more difficult than he had imagined. Moreover, contrary to Tel Aviv's expectations, the military attack not only did not weaken the Iranian government, but strengthened internal cohesion and led to widespread support for the ruling system. Among the reasons why Israel stopped the war are Iran's rapid and devastating response with a large wave of missiles, infliction of extensive economic and military losses on Israel, inability to destroy the Fordow nuclear site, the need for direct American intervention, and serious American concern about the spread of the war and its impact on the world energy market, given possible closures of the Straits of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb. Iran showed that it not only has the ability to defend effectively, but also change the strategic balance through attacks.

Sobh-e-No: The people's response to Trump's impudence

In a commentary, Sobh-e-No discussed the magnificent participation of people at the funeral for national heroes and wrote: Tehran was not just the capital of a country, but the beating heart of a resilient nation that stood up to its enemies. People not only honored the memory of the martyrs but also sent a clear message to the world, the message that Islamic Iran is united, steadfast, and invincible. Certainly, the presence of various political and social forces with different political persuasions at the funeral ceremony is an important part of our national power in this battle, and opposing this solidarity is opposing the country's national defense. With their extensive, passionate, and meaningful presence at the ceremony, the people gave a decisive and humiliating response to Donald Trump's impudence and audacity. With their massive attendance people not only put on display national unity and support for the values of the Islamic Revolution, but also showed that the Iranian nation will never remain silent in the face of American insults, sanctions, and threats. They demonstrated the soft power of the Islamic Republic to their enemies.

Did Azerbaijan help Israel's war against Iran?

Baku rejects allegations, but reports show investigation is needed

From page 1 ► When asked about the possibility of Azerbaijan's involvement, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Esmail Baqaei, stated that all of Iran's neighboring countries had assured Tehran that they would not allow Israel to use their territory against Iran. “All these countries firmly asserted that such incidents have not happened and will not happen in the future,” he added. Baqaei also indicated that Iran's military and intelligence forces are independently investigating the matter.

During a phone conversation last week, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian asked his Azeri counterpart to launch his own investigation. Pezeshkian said he was concerned about reports suggesting some drones and micro-aircraft may have entered Iranian airspace through Azerbaijani territory. Ilham Aliyev rejected the reports, stressing that his government maintains full control over its airspace and



File photo shows Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev (L) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

would never permit it to be used against Iran.

Azerbaijan and Israel have cultivated a strong partnership, rooted in energy cooperation and military deals. Baku is a

major oil supplier to Israel, accounting for about 40% of its crude oil imports (via the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline). Israel is a top arms supplier to Azerbaijan, providing drones, missile systems, and intelligence

Religious outcry grows as West escalates rhetoric against Ayatollah Khamenei

From page 1 ► “These assaults are not merely an affront to the dignity of Muslim nations,” he said. “They are a direct war on Islam itself.”

Ayatollah Hosseini Haeri stressed that Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, is not only a political figure but also a spiritual symbol of resistance, unity, and global Islamic leadership. Any aggression toward him, he warned, would provoke a decisive response from the broader Muslim world.

“We caution the U.S. and the Zionist regime: the consequences of this reckless path of hostility will be severe. The Muslim Ummah will never permit desecration of its religious leadership.”

On Sunday, senior Iranian religious authorities, including Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi and Ayatollah Nouri Hamedani, have issued firm statements condemning threats against Iran's Leader as not only immoral but religiously punishable.

In response to a question about Trump's recent rhetoric, Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi issued what is called a Fatwa, stating:

“Any person or government that harms the leaders of the Islamic world is to be classified as a Muharib.”

Under Shia jurisprudence, a Muharib (literally “one who wages war”) is someone who instigates violent rebellion, terrorism, or social chaos. The traditional punishment for a Muharib is death.

The position was echoed by Ayatollah Nouri Hamedani, while Iraq's Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani has likewise issued religious rulings supporting the sanctity of Islamic leadership.

Ayatollah Alireza Araf, director of Iran's seminary network, also praised the positions taken by the Maraji (plural of Marja) and welcomed their firm stance.

Ayatollah Tabasi, a senior member of the Society of Seminary Teachers of Qom, expressed strong approval of the Fatwas issued by Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi and Ayatollah Nouri Hamedani, praising them as essential in defending the “lofty station of the Leader and the institution of religious authority.”

IAEA's double standards threaten regional and global peace, Pezeshkian tells Macron

From page 1 ► “Today, the position of Iran's government, parliament, and people is that the IAEA Director General, despite established cooperation, has acted with bias toward our nuclear program. This is absolutely unacceptable,” Pezeshkian stated.

He questioned why the IAEA relied on the “criminal Israeli regime,” not party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)—as a reference for its reports, warning that such double standards “create grave threats to regional and global security.”

President Pezeshkian emphasized that rebuilding trust requires the IAEA to “fully adhere to its own rules” and end its hypocrisy toward the Israeli regime's undeclared nuclear arsenal.

“When a country is bombed despite allowing inspections, what message does this send the world?” Pezeshkian asked Macron.

The president reiterated Iran's commitment to diplomacy but warned that without IAEA reform, the agency risks becoming irrelevant—or worse, an accomplice to aggression.

Pezeshkian's condemnation comes after Iran went through 12 days of Israeli-U.S. aggression on its nuclear, military, and civilian

Negotiations are meaningless under current conditions: Iran Foreign Ministry

From page 1 ► He recalled the recent escalation, noting that “our homeland, Iran, was subjected to military aggression by the Zionist regime and the United States.” He praised the unity and resolve of the Iranian people in the face of these attacks, adding, “We laid to rest some of the noblest children of this nation — commanders, professors, scientists — who were martyred defending their country.”

‘Justice must be served for victims of chemical weapons during Iran-Iraq war’

Baghaei marked the anniversary of the 1987 Sardasht chemical attack, saying that Germany and other Western countries had armed Iraq's chemical weapons program. “This remains a national demand of the Iranian people — to uncover the full truth and bring those responsible to justice.”

He said Iran had proposed a fact-finding mechanism two years ago to investigate German complicity and noted Germany's claim that its judiciary had addressed the matter. “They must now provide us with the verdict documents,” he said.

‘IAEA must not act under political pressure’

Baghaei criticized IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi, saying the agency's recent

report was used as a pretext by Israel and the U.S. to justify military actions.

He warned against the IAEA being influenced by political agendas.

‘Germany's rhetoric is a historical shame’

Baghaei denounced remarks made by the German Chancellor and Interior Minister, calling them a “historical shame” for Germany. “Using the same rhetoric once used by Hitler's regime to justify crimes is beyond disgraceful,” he said.

He warned that Germany and other influential European nations are holding the EU's credibility hostage. “They supported Saddam's chemical weapons program then, and they back Israeli aggression now.”

Baghaei said President Raisi recently spoke with his French counterpart and that talks with the E3 (UK, France, Germany) are ongoing, though no final date has been set.

‘Every site hit is a war crime — documentation underway’

Iran is documenting Israeli attacks as war crimes. “Every civilian or military site targeted qualifies as a war crime. A special legal committee has been formed at the Presidential Office,” he said.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

technology.

Azeri media outlets, most of which reflect the positions of the government, have not addressed the allegations of Azerbaijan's involvement in the recent war. But many of them have been rife with anti-Iranian sentiments in recent weeks, even calling Iran an “enemy” of Azerbaijan, and disparaging Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. A news website called Caliber, perceived to have connections with Aliyev himself, said the Leader “fears” the very existence of Azerbaijan. It also called Iran's ambassador to Armenia, Mehdi Sobhani, a liar and called for the toppling of the Islamic Republic.

Such reports and articles have long angered the Iranian public, who believe Baku is continuously crossing red lines. Iranian officials have mostly tried to calm the waters and advocate for the expansion of ties with Azerbaijan.

infrastructure, which many Iranian officials and analysts trace directly to Grossi's destabilizing actions.

On June 12, the IAEA Board of Governors—driven by the U.S., UK, France, and Germany—passed a resolution accusing Iran of “non-compliance” over its uranium enrichment levels.

Though Grossi later clarified the IAEA found “no evidence” Iran was building nuclear weapons, the resolution was weaponized to justify Israel's bombing campaign.

“Grossi obscured the truth in his biased report, which was then used by a genocidal regime to wage war on Iran,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei wrote.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) revealed in a formal letter that confidential IAEA documents were discovered in Israeli-occupied territories, suggesting the agency's collusion with Tehran's adversaries.

‘Grossi has blood on his hands’

As the Israeli regime bombed Iran's civilian nuclear sites and assassinated its scientists, Grossi's conspicuous silence—coupled with his refusal to condemn the strikes—was widely interpreted as tacit endorsement.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Judiciary declares 935 Iranians killed during Israeli aggression, including 102 women and 38 children

They are not numbers

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN - The toll of Israel's unprecedented and unwarranted aggression against Iran is still unfolding in the country, with new forensic data showing an increase in the number of people who lost their lives during the 12-day war.

Iran's judiciary spokesman, Asghar Jahangir, announced on Monday that some 935 people were killed during Israeli airstrikes, the vast majority of whom were civilians. Over 5000 people were left injured.

Israel initiated the war on June 13, claiming its primary objective was to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, a claim the regime has been making for two decades, while consistently stating that Iran is only "a few weeks away" from acquiring them.

Neither Western intelligence agencies nor the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have been able to substantiate claims that Iran was pursuing nuclear weapons prior to the attacks. This, combined with other indicators and pronouncements from the Israeli regime and the United States, suggests the war was, in fact, aimed at destabilizing and toppling the Iranian government through the assassination of key military and political leaders, intim-



15 members of one family were laid to rest in northern Iran after attack by Israel

idation of remaining officials, and incitement of popular unrest.

Israel assassinated several Iranian military commanders at the beginning of the war by striking their homes. It also attempted to eliminate Iran's president, judiciary chief, and parliament speaker by attacking their trilateral meeting in Tehran, an effort that failed, according to Ali Larijani, a top advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. Furthermore, Hebrew media reports show Israel sought to assassinate Iran's leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, but was unable to locate him.

Dozens of other officials, including Larijani himself, received phone calls

from the occupied territories, during which they were told to abandon the government and join the enemy regime if they valued their own lives and the safety of their families. None of the officials agreed to betray Iran.

The regime's attempts to instigate domestic unrest primarily involved propaganda campaigns. A key component of this effort was a Washington-based Persian channel, known for featuring Mossad agents as analysts, which disseminated the message that the war was not against the country itself, but against the government, and that civilian deaths were a necessary price to pay for "freedom."

Iran establishes special courts to prosecute Mossad agents

From Page 1 ► Individuals hired by Mossad carried out a host of activities inside Iran. They spread false narratives to incite panic among the public, gathered and leaked sensitive information, carried out explosions against power grids and communication networks, and detonated bombs near government buildings. Some military sites in crowded areas are also believed to have been damaged by the Mossad agents.

The judiciary emphasized that these special courts will operate with heightened efficiency to bring the perpetrators to justice. "The people played a crucial role in ex-

posing these traitors by providing real-time intelligence to security forces," the spokesperson noted. "Thanks to public vigilance, many infiltrators were quickly identified and arrested."

Western media outlets have been framing Iran's ramped-up counter-espionage and anti-terrorism efforts as a "crackdown" on "opponents." Numerous reports and articles by mainstream Western media have cited remarks by Narges Mohammadi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate who openly sided with Israel during the war, to support this narrative.



Photo shows six detained Israeli spies and their confiscated weapons

Iran says it reserves right to peaceful uranium enrichment

From Page 1 ► He also dismissed speculation that Iran would be willing to reconsider its nuclear program in exchange for economic incentives. "Why should we accept such a proposal?" he asked, reaffirming that even enrichment up to 60 percent remains entirely for peaceful objectives.

He noted that regional states, including Arab allies in the Persian Gulf, are "doing all they can to facilitate conditions for dialogue," but warned that Iran would remain alert. "We do not want war. We support diplomacy. But we must be prepared not to be caught off guard again."

Uranium enrichment is Iran's lawful right: UN envoy to CBS

In New York, Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, echoed similar remarks in an interview with CBS, asserting that uranium enrichment will "never stand under any circumstances."

He emphasized that there have been no threats from Iran against IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi or any of the agency's inspectors. "IAEA inspectors currently do not have access to our facilities," Iravani said. "We are ready for negotiations, but the environment is not conducive for talks with the United States."

He reiterated Iran's full legal right under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to continue its nuclear activities. "As a responsible NPT signatory, Iran is entitled to enrich uranium, conduct nuclear research, and benefit from technical cooper-

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself entered the fray, recording a message to the Iranian people in which he repeated the same absurd claims that he was not putting the "people" in his cross-hairs. He even chanted "women, life, freedom," a slogan used during the 2022 protests inside Iran that were quickly hijacked and transformed into deadly riots with the intervention of Israel and Western states. At least 102 women, some of whom were pregnant, were killed during Netanyahu's war on Iran. 38 children were also among the victims, the youngest being a mere two months old.

In its deadliest strike on Iranian soil, Israel hit the Evin prison in northern Tehran in an attack it called "symbolic". At least 79 people were killed during the strike, including dozens of women and children.

Civilians have been the biggest victims of Israel's war on Iran. Naturally, estimates show that anti-Israeli sentiment within the country has reached unprecedented levels since the establishment of the Zionist regime. Many young Iranians interviewed by reporters on the streets of Tehran said they believe Iran should have continued raining missiles on Israel.

Persepolis, Ismail Kartal part ways: official

TEHRAN - Ismail Kartal, who served as Persepolis' third coach after Juan Carlos Garrido and later Karim Baghri last season, has parted ways with the Iranian club.

The Turkish coach had hoped to achieve a major success to bring peace of mind to the fans, but he will not return to Tehran due to family reasons.

Unfortunately, as predicted, things did not unfold as expected. Under his leadership, the title-holders finished third in the Iranian league and experienced an early exit in the Hazfi Cup.

Potential candidates to replace Kartal include former China national team head coach Branko Ivankovic and Foolad's Yahya Golmohammadi.

Kheybar, Rabiei Part Company

TEHRAN - Mohammad Rabiei stepped down as the head coach of Iran Professional League (IPL) club Kheybar on Monday.

Rabiei, 43, has signed a two-year contract with Kheybar in late May but resigned from his post after one month.

He had succeeded Saeid Daghighi in Kheybar. Debutant Kheybar finished 11th in the 16-team league last season.

Iran's slogan for Asian Youth Para Games 2025 unveiled

TEHRAN - Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) has announced the team's official slogan for the Asian Youth Para Games 2025.

Iran will participate in the inaugural edition of the Games under the name "The Hopes of Iran, Ambassadors of Victory."

Maryam Kazempour has been appointed as the delegation's chef de mission.

The Games will feature 11 sports: athletics, weightlifting, badminton, taekwondo, archery, swimming, table tennis, wheelchair basketball 3x3, boccia, arm-wrestling, and goalball.

The Asian Youth Para Games 2025 are scheduled to take place in Dubai, UAE, from Dec. 7 to 14.

Ghoddos pens deal extension with Kalba

TEHRAN - Iranian international winger Saman Ghoddos extended his contract with Kalba for two years.

The Emirati club announced that the Iranian midfielder has renewed his contract for an additional two seasons, allowing him to continue wearing the yellow jersey of the club.

Ghoddos, who had a successful season in the UAE Pro League, appeared in 20 matches, scored four goals, and provided three assists, becoming one of the key figures of his team.

Earlier, Iranian clubs Persepolis, Esteghlal, Tractor, and Sepahan had expressed interest in signing Ghoddos.

Weightlifter Yousefi to miss 2025 Solidarity Games

TEHRAN - Iranian super heavyweight weightlifter Alireza Yousefi will not participate in the sixth edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games in 2025.

He underwent knee surgery in Tehran in late January due to a torn ligament and meniscus in his right knee.

The doctors had said that the surgery would keep him six months out but the weightlifter will not be fit for the Solidarity Games.

Yousefi, who secured a bronze medal at the 2024 IWF World Championships, had previously

missed the 2025 Asian Weightlifting Championships held in May.

The 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games are scheduled to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from November 7 to 21.

Sobhani wins gold at IWWF Waterski & Wakesports

TEHRAN - Soroush Sobhani of Iran claimed a gold medal at the 2025 IWWF Waterski & Wakesports Championships.

He finished first with 100 points.

Hong Kong's Kan Wong Yu and Wai Lee Shu came second and third with 80 and 65 points, respectively.

The 2025 IWWF Waterski & Wakesports Championships were held in Rabbit Lake, Min Buri, Thailand from June 25 to 29.

Osmar Loss shortlisted to lead Persepolis

TEHRAN - Brazilian coach Osmar Loss Vieira has been shortlisted to take over as head coach of Persepolis Football Club.

Turkish coach Ismail Kartal recently parted ways with the Iranian giants due to family reasons.

Osmar, who guided Persepolis to the championship in the 2023-24 Iran Pro League (IPL), left the team to assume the head coach position at Thai League 1 club Buriram United.

Other potential candidates to replace Kartal include former China national team coach Branko Ivankovic and Foolad's Yahya Golmohammadi.

2025 Asian U17 Handball Championship postponed

TEHRAN - The inaugural Asian Men's U17 Handball Championship, originally scheduled for July 1 to 11 in Amman, Jordan, has been postponed due to regional flight conditions.

The tournament will now be held from September 7 to 16 in the same country.

It is worth noting that the Iranian team have been drawn into Group D, alongside South Korea, Uzbekistan, and the Maldives.

This championship marks the first-ever continental competition for the U17 men's category in Asia. Additionally, it will serve as a qualification tournament for the 1st IHF Men's U17 Handball World Championship, which is scheduled to take place in Morocco from October 24 to November 1, 2025.

Iran and Cuba volleyball teams to hold joint training camp

TEHRAN - The Iran and Cuba volleyball teams will conduct a joint training camp in Belgrade ahead of Week 3 of the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Team Melli, achieved victories over Serbia, Argentina, and the Netherlands in Week 2, but suffered a loss to Germany.

Roberto Piazza's team will not return to Iran afterward; instead, they will stay in Serbia for a one-week training camp before traveling to Gdansk, Poland.

During the joint training camp, the Iranian team will also play friendly matches against Cuba.

In Week 3, Iran will face Poland in their first match on July 16. The Persians are also scheduled to play against China (July 17), France (July 19), and Bulgaria (July 20).

The AMIA case: When the roles of murderer and victim are reversed



From Page 1 ► Throughout this period, despite the Zionist regime's crimes in Gaza and the massacre of Palestinian women and children, he has framed its actions as "defending democracy" and repeatedly claimed that Israel stands "at the forefront of defending Western civilization." In line with this, his government took another step in appeasing Israel by designating Hamas as a terrorist organization in June 2024, absurdly claiming that Israel has not committed any extreme measures in Gaza.

Argentina's far-right government has also cast doubt on the rulings of international war crimes tribunals and opposed efforts to prosecute the Zionist regime's prime minister and war minister, effectively siding with Israeli war criminals. Its support for the Zionist regime's criminal actions at the UN General Assembly further demonstrated its unconditional allegiance to this ruthless, child-killing regime.

This irrational approach has reached such extremes that President Milei now considers any coun-

try critical of the Zionist regime's crimes as an enemy, framing such hostility as an ideological principle.

In this context, following the Zionist regime's aggressive attack on Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, Argentina's president, in a reckless and internationally abnormal move, distorted the facts and condemned Iran's decisive missile response—a legitimate act of self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter—as if Iran had attacked occupied territories, and as if Milei expected Iran to welcome Israeli soldiers with open arms.

This is not the first time Milei has stood against Iran in defense of the Zionist regime. After Operation True Promise I, he similarly condemned Iran for its defensive actions. Recently, in an interview with RT, he absurdly declared Iran an "enemy of Argentina," baselessly linking it to the suspicious 1990s bombings of the AMIA Jewish center and the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires—claims that have never been substantiated.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's industrial parks stay operational amid 12-day conflict with Israel



TEHRAN – Despite Israeli airstrikes damaging nine industrial parks during a 12-day conflict, Iran kept all its industrial parks operational, according to Reza Ansari, head of Iran's Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO).

Speaking on the state-run television program Economic Desk, Ansari said that over 80 percent of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in industrial parks, as well as large industries such as mining and automotive manufacturing, remained active throughout the conflict.

"Thanks to the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade's contingency measures, the production of essential goods had already ramped up," Ansari said.

"When the conflict began, demand for basic goods surged suddenly due to mass population displacement.

This required rapid distribution of essentials in new regions — a task that was met swiftly by the production and distribution sectors."

Industry minister: Iran overcame adversity with domestic capability

Industry Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak credited Iran's resilience to domestic capabilities and public solidarity, saying that coordination between the private sector and the Ministry of Industry led to swift crisis management in the early hours of the Israeli assault.

Addressing representatives of industrial associations and unions, Atabak described Iran's production and reconstruction efforts as essential pillars of national strength. "The way we managed decisions, field operations, and restored stability in recent days can now serve as a blueprint for future crisis response," he said.

Economy minister pledges support for businesses and financial markets

In a separate statement, Economy Minister Seyed Ali Madanizadeh highlighted the government's continued economic operations during the war and pledged further support for businesses and financial markets.

Speaking on the sidelines of a parliamentary Economic Committee session, Madanizadeh said a detailed report on the government's economic actions during the conflict would soon be shared with the public.

"Government services were uninterrupted, and strong backing is planned for both small and large enterprises as well as financial markets," he said. He also called for legal reforms, particularly in customs regulations, noting that a proposal for legislative amendments would soon be submitted to parliament. Stressing the importance of close coordination between the Ministry of Economy and the Economic Commission, he said such collaboration would be key to addressing structural weaknesses and preparing for future challenges.

Meanwhile, the secretary-general of Iran's House of Industry, Mine and Trade has 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."

shared with the president and his economic team.

According to Hassanzadeh, the meeting reflected the government's readiness and willingness to engage the private sector more actively in its economic strategy.

The session concluded with an expression of appreciation for the national solidarity that emerged in recent weeks. Participants stressed the need to use this momentum to reinforce social trust and align efforts to address the country's economic challenges.

On Saturday, a senior member of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce said that strengthening collaboration between the government and the private sector is essential for building post-war economic resilience, 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

Iran rises to 9th place among global steel producers: WSA

TEHRAN – Iran has moved up to ninth place among the world's top steel producers, surpassing Brazil, according to the latest report by the World Steel Association.

Data from the Iranian Steel Producers Association, citing figures from the World Steel Association, shows that Iran produced 14 million tons of steel in the first five months of 2025, including 3.4 million tons in May alone.

While Iran's steel output from January to May fell by 5.3 percent compared to the same period last year, production in May rose by 4.5 percent year-on-year.

Global steel production totaled 784 million tons during the first five months of 2025, marking a 1.3 percent decline compared to the same period in 2024. Output



in May stood at 158.8 million tons, down 3.8 percent year-on-year.

Iran's year-to-date production is now just 400,000 tons short of Germany, which currently ranks eighth among global producers.

China, the world's largest steel

producer, churned out 431.6 million tons from January to May, a 1.7 percent decline year-on-year. India, Japan, the United States, Russia, South Korea, and Turkey occupy the second through sixth positions in the global rankings.

According to WSA, Iran's crude steel production reached 3.3 million tons in March, marking a 3.7 percent year-on-year increase. The rise coincided with a broader global uptick in steel output during the third month of 2025.

The association's monthly report showed that worldwide crude steel output reached 166.1 million tons in March 2025—up 2.9 percent from March 2024.

Despite the rebound in March, Iranian steelmakers saw their quarterly output drop by 12.8 percent compared to the same period in 2024, producing a total of 7.3 million tons in the first three months of this year. The March recovery helped break a consecutive decline recorded in January and February.

Iran says foreign trade remains stable amid regional tensions



TEHRAN – Iran's foreign trade activities remain on track despite recent regional tensions, with no interruptions to services for traders and exporters, the head of the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said on Monday.

Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, who also serves as Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, emphasized that international trade is operating normally. "There has been no disruption in services to merchants and exporters over the past two weeks, despite the country's sensitive circumstances," he said, according to a statement from the TPO.

Dehghan Dehnavi reaffirmed the government's commitment to sustaining last year's growth in non-oil exports. He said the TPO has introduced special measures to facilitate exports and ensure the steady supply of essential goods.

"With operational restrictions gradually easing, we expect the pace of exports and imports to accelerate and stabilize further in the coming weeks," he added.

He also thanked those who continued working in trade and logistics during the past two weeks and called for a faster turnaround in commercial processes to keep trade flowing efficiently.

On June 26, the head of Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce had said that Iran's energy reserves and trade are favorable, adding, "Contrary to the enemies' perceptions, this war did not create any problems for the country's production and trade."

"The aggressive war by the Zionist regime has only strengthened national unity among the public, business community and the government," Mehrdad Saadat was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency. "Contrary to the expectations of our enemies, the war has not created any problems for production or trade."

Saadat said the conflict has inspired a wave of solidarity and resilience, with the private sector and manufacturers stepping up efforts to meet domestic demand and prevent financial instability.

"In recent days, everyone—from the public to officials—has played a role in safeguarding the country's territorial integrity. Many producers have added extra shifts to keep supply chains running and avoid unemployment or inflationary pressure," he said.

private sector. He also underscored the pivotal role of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance in shaping adaptive and timely policies.

War-affected businesses need immediate support

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

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

Reducing bureaucracy and strengthening export infrastructure

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

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

the post-war recovery phase.

Call for foreign investment and economic coordination

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

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

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

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

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

President Pezeshkian meets ICCIMA board, discusses industry support package

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met with the board of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) to discuss a new government support package aimed at helping industrial units recover from the economic shock caused by the recent 12-day war.

ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh told Iran Chamber Online that several senior economic officials—including the ministers of Industry, Economy, and Labor, as well as the Central Bank governor—also attended the Sunday evening meeting.

"The board of ICCIMA was briefed on the framework of the support package," Hassanzadeh said, adding that the chamber expressed support for the initiative while also offering suggestions to improve its implementation.

Hassanzadeh emphasized that the private sector believes the package should benefit not only large industries but also small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the country, particularly to preserve jobs.

He also highlighted the importance of maintaining the unity and solidarity demonstrated by the public, government, and private sector during the recent crisis. "We urged the president to safeguard this social capital and spirit of cooperation," he said.

Encouraging greater public participation in the economy, Hassanzadeh expressed hope that the government would leverage the capabilities of both the people and the private sector to further national development.

He added that private sector recommendations aimed at reducing volatility in the capital markets were also

Why is Washington pressing Lebanon to put Hezbollah weapons to vote in cabinet?

By Sondos Al-Asaad

BEIRUT — Israel's Channel 14 revealed a U.S. plan that “is not unlikely to materialize” to drag Arab and Islamic countries into normalization with the Israeli entity within a year at the latest.

The Hebrew channel predicted that Riyadh would sign the normalization agreement “after the end of the war in Gaza, taking into account the Saudi public opinion, and that Indonesia would automatically follow suit.”

The Saudi regime however “may be able to influence its closest ally, Pakistan, to normalize relations with Israel. This matter is more complicated due to the strong Islamist movements in Pakistan that are hostile to India and the latter's close relations with Israel.”

The Hebrew channel confirmed that “significant progress has been made in recent weeks in negotiations with the new regime in Damascus.”

As for Lebanon, “matters are



more complicated and depend to a large extent on the maturity of the process of disarming Hezbollah, a process that has not yet occurred.”

In an interview with Anadolu Agency, U.S. envoy to Syria Thomas Barrack said that the war between Iran and Israel is paving the way for a “new path” in the Middle East.

Barrack said, “What just happened between Israel and Iran is an opportunity for all of us to say: Stop, let's forge a new path,” not-

ing that Turkey “is a key element in this new path.”

In response to a question about whether an agreement was expected between Syria and Israel, Barrack said, “Yes, that's my hope. They must reach an agreement at some point.”

Barrack indicated that he believed a similar agreement could be achieved with Lebanon: “Why can't we live in peace?”

Meanwhile, Lebanon is considering Barrack's proposal to vote

on the Hezbollah weapons issue in the cabinet, coinciding with the adoption of a step-for-step mechanism, whereby the enemy would withdraw from one of the five occupied areas in exchange for every step the Resistance movement takes to hand over its weapons.

Commenting on the three-month timetable for handing over weapons, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri warned, according to sources, the current level of conditions is too much, as the Israeli enemy has not resolved any of its wars.

Hence, Tel Aviv cannot impose major conditions on Lebanon to the exclusion of other issues, especially since there is a danger of renewed Takfiri terrorism on the eastern border with Syria.

Barrack's proposal also includes controlling and demarcating the border between the two countries to completely encircle Hezbollah.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

US, Israel have failed to eliminate Iran's nuclear program: nuclear policy analyst

“You cannot destroy knowledge and technology”

TEHRAN – In an interview with Australasian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), a scholar specializing in Middle East security and nuclear policy says if Israel and the United States intended to destroy Iran's nuclear program they have failed.

“If the U.S.-Israeli objective was to eliminate Iran's nuclear program, I'm confident they have failed,” Sayyed Hossein Mousavian says.

Mousavian, currently a visiting research collaborator with the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University, says the attack on nuclear sites is “counterproductive”.

The text of the interview reads as follows:

What are you hearing from contacts on the ground in Iran about what's left of Iran's nuclear program after the U.S. strikes over the weekend?

There's no doubt that Iranian nuclear facilities were attacked, bombed, and damaged. Buildings, utilities, and possibly even some centrifuges were destroyed—partially, not completely. However, if the U.S.-Israeli objective was to eliminate Iran's nuclear program, I'm confident they have failed. Even if they launch another attack, or a hundred more, they will still fail—because you cannot destroy knowledge and technology. You can demolish buildings, but in the end, it's counterproductive. The Iranians have the expertise and technological know-how to rebuild everything, whether it takes one month, five months, or six. So, what is the U.S.-Israeli ultimate objective? They cannot destroy Iran's nuclear capability because the knowledge is already there. Iran's goal is to rebuild and return to its previous state. The fact remains: since the revolution, Iran's nuclear program has remained peaceful. Iran is a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has granted more access to the IAEA than any other member in its history.

I'll just jump in there, because the IAEA found that Iran was in breach of its obligations and has 400 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60%. How is that part of a peaceful program?

What you just mentioned is exactly the kind of fake and manufactured narrative we constantly hear in Western media.

This isn't from the media. This is directly from the IAEA—the organization you just referred to.

Let me explain. Yes, the IAEA stated that Iran has breached some of its commitments and currently possesses 400 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60%. But that's only half of what the IAEA said. Western media often presents half the truth but rarely the full picture.

So, what is the full story regarding the 400 kilograms of enriched uranium at 60%?

I'll explain—just let me finish the first point. Since 2003, the IAEA has issued over 100 reports and statements in the past 20 years, consistently confirming that there is no evidence of any diversion of Iran's nuclear program toward weaponization. That's fact number one.

Iran and the U.S. had agreed on “maximum transparency, international inspections, and verification measures.”

Fact number two: Even if such evidence were to exist, it should be addressed by the United Nations Security Council, not by any single country. The United States violated UNSC Resolution 2231 and the IAEA's Safeguards agreement. In response, Iran reduced its level of cooperation with the IAEA. Increased U.S. sanctions and pressures pushed Iran to expand its nuclear program, not to build a bomb, but as a bargaining tool. Enriching uranium to 60% is part of that strategy, meant to bring the U.S. back to the negotiating table.

So, the 400 kilograms are essentially a bargaining chip, as you say. Do you know if that stockpile was moved before the U.S. strikes this past weekend?

Everyone knows that President Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal during his first term and laid the foundation for the current crisis. Later, in his second term, he invited Iran to return to diplomacy. Iran accepted. Steve Witkoff represented the U.S., and Abbas Araghchi represented Iran. They held three rounds of meetings in Oman and Rome, and they agreed

on the main principles of a new nuclear deal. I was informed by Iranian sources that four major principles were agreed upon.

Let's focus on that. What can you tell us about the terms agreed upon between the U.S. and Iran before the Israeli strikes began?

First, both sides agreed on maximum transparency, international inspections, and verification measures. Iran accepted the highest standards available globally.

Second, they agreed that the 400-kilogram stockpile would be either diluted or exported, eliminating any potential risk of using it to build nuclear weapons.

Third, Iran agreed to lower enrichment levels to under 5%, which is within the limit for civilian use, thus removing concerns over 60% or 90% enrichment.

Fourth, Iran would cooperate fully with the IAEA to resolve all remaining technical issues.

These four principles were agreed upon in the first three rounds of talks. Israel was unhappy with the progress and launched attacks on Iran.

So, let me ask you this: in your view, will Iran remain in the Non-Proliferation Treaty or leave it?

That depends on the U.S. If the U.S. commits to international rules and norms, respects the NPT, and upholds Iran's rights under the treaty—just as it does for other members—then Iran will remain in the NPT and will not pursue nuclear weapons. Iran would also continue cooperating with the IAEA at the highest level of transparency to demonstrate the peaceful nature of its nuclear program.

And if Iran were to leave the NPT, would there be an incentive to accelerate efforts toward developing a nuclear weapon?

Again, that depends on the U.S. If the U.S. continues its hostility—war, assassinations, terrorism, cyberattacks—then why shouldn't Iran consider pursuing nuclear weapons?

That sounds like a threat!

It's a reaction to threats, mainly Israeli threats. Why are you reversing the narrative? Iran was attacked. Iran didn't initiate attacks. Israel attacked Iran. The U.S. attacked Iran. And yet you're asking about an “Iranian threat”?

Earlier, al-Qassam Brigades published footage of a close-range clash with the IOF east of Jabalia camp in northern Gaza.

Meanwhile, the occupation regime's channel 13 acknowledged the failure of Operation “Gideon Chariots” to achieve its declared objectives in Gaza, despite high human and material costs.

The channel stated that the prime minister and chief of staff had promised the operation would “decisively deal with Hamas,” but the results were the opposite.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

UK court allows export of F-35 components to Israel

A British court ruling rejected on Monday to halt the export of F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel as it continues its war on Gaza.

The High Court dismissed an argument brought forward last month by a human rights group called al-Haq that said the decision to allow UK to send the parts to Israel was unlawful and violates the UK's obligations under international law.

Britain supplies the components to an international defence program that produces and maintains the F-35 fighter jets.

Hundreds of cultural figures urge UK not to ban Palestine Action

A group of over 400 cultural figures from across the political spectrum has called on British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Home Secretary Yvette Cooper to halt the proscription of Palestine Action on free speech grounds.

The novelist Alan Hollinghurst, writer Reni Eddo-Lodge and musician Brian Eno are among those who have signed a joint statement organised by Fossil Free Books. “Whether we as individuals support Palestine Action is irrelevant: what is at stake here is the very principle of freedom of expression,” the statement reads.

Pankaj Mishra, whose recent book *The World After Gaza* responds to the impact of Israel's war on Gaza, has signed the statement, as have the journalist George Monbiot, economist Yanis Varoufakis, academic Kojo Karam, comedian Frankie Boyle and the writers Aja Barber, Max Porter and Afua Hirsch.

In a separate letter organised by Artists for Palestine UK, another group of high profile British cultural figures, including the actor Tilda Swinton and the musician Paul Weller, said: “The real threat to the life of the nation comes not from Palestine Action but from Home Secretary Yvonne Cooper's efforts to ban it.”

No painkillers to treat Gaza children for ‘extremely painful injuries’

Hospitals in Gaza are “completely overwhelmed; there's not enough beds; there's not enough staff to treat them; patients are on the floor”, Hannah Grace Pan, a paediatric nurse volunteer from the UK, tells Al Jazeera.

She said many patients and small children are being treated for “extremely painful, explosive injuries and burns with no pain treatment at all because it's not available”.

Grace Pan used the example of a three-year-old child brought to the hospital last week – the only survivor after his entire fam-

Australian injured protesting Gaza war could lose sight in one eye

A former political candidate from the Australian Greens says she may permanently lose vision in her right eye after her “interactions with police” at a peaceful pro-Palestine protest in Sydney last week.

Hannah Thomas, who ran against Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in his electorate at the recent federal election, recorded a video from hospital before undergoing surgery, saying that the “draconian anti-protest laws” in Australia “demonise protesters, especially protesters for Palestine”.

“They've emboldened the police to crack down with extreme violence and brutality,” Thomas said.

Thomas added that what she experienced “is obviously nothing compared to what people in Gaza are going through because of Israel”, including children “going through amputations without anaesthetic”.

In a separate statement, Greens state representative Sue Higgins called for an independent investigation into the incident.

Protesters have accused the Labor government of allowing weapons parts for Israel to be made in Australia.

Thomas was protesting outside SEC Plating, which protesters claim is making components for F-35 fighter jets and other weapons. SEC Plating has denied the allegation, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Israeli missile attack on Gaza City beach kills over 20

At least 21 Palestinians, including one journalist, were killed on Monday in an Israeli missile attack on al-Baq'a Cafe on Gaza City beach, according to eyewitness testimony and reporting from the Quds News Network.

Photos and videos posted online showed Palestinian children injured in the attack, as well as the wreckage of destroyed buildings.

Palestinian photojournalist Ismail Abu Hatab was among those killed, according to Gaza's government media office.



** Palestinians mourn loved ones killed in Israeli strikes on various parts of Gaza. Al Jazeera reported Israeli forces killed at least 80 Palestinians in Gaza since Monday dawn with dozens wounded including in an attack on Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah.*

Israel suffers more casualties

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Palestinian resistance forces have started more deadly operations against the Israeli occupation forces in Gaza.

Resistance fighters carried out specialized operations against the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) in Khan Younis.

These included detonating explosive devices and targeting IOF vehicles, while Hebrew media imposed a blackout on the incident in southern Gaza.

The Israeli occupation regime acknowledged one of its soldiers

had been killed and several others injured.

Resistance forces announced that they targeted a D9 military bulldozer with a Yassin-105 shell, east of Khan Younis, setting it on fire.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, also shelled IOF gatherings south of Khan Younis with mortar rounds, stating that these operations were part of their response to the ongoing genocidal war on Gaza.

The armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds Brigades,

confirmed they targeted gatherings of IOF soldiers and Israeli vehicles near Street 5, north of Khan Younis, with 60mm mortar shells.

They also detonated a powerful barrel bomb planted earlier, hitting an IOF military vehicle in the Abasan al-Kabira area, east of the city.

Hebrew media reported heavy gunfire exchanges in Khan Younis while maintaining a strict blackout on the details of the incident.

They mentioned a “security incident” occurred in the area but provided no further information.

19 Muharram-mourning elements made national heritage



TEHRAN – A selection of 19 religious and cultural traditions associated with the mourning rituals of Muharram in the northern Gilan province have been inscribed on Iran's National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, a local official announced on Monday.

Vali Jahani, the provincial tourism chief, told ISNA news agency that these rituals reflect the deep-rooted religious and cultural practices of the region.

He emphasized that Gilan possesses a rich potential for religious tourism, especially during Muharram, which continues to draw widespread attention from both domestic and international visitors.

“Each year during Muharram, mourning ceremonies for [the martyrdom of] Imam Hussein (AS) [and his local companions] are held across Gilan with a unique emotional and spiritual atmosphere,” Jahani said.

“These ceremonies not only hold religious value but also embody cultural and ritualistic dimensions that deserve national recognition and international appreciation.”

Jahani underlined the importance of safeguarding intangible heritage, stating that the official registration of these cultural elements is a significant step toward preserving, revitalizing, and promoting these valuable traditions.

“These rituals are not only a reflection of faith but also key cultural assets that can strengthen tourism and enhance Iran's global cultural image,” he added.

Virtual tours now available for Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex

TEHRAN - In response to the current closure of historical sites in Iran, the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex has launched a free 360-degree virtual tour, allowing users to explore the historic palace and its museums from anywhere in the world.

According to a statement from the complex's public relations office, the initiative comes amid ongoing restrictions on physical visits to museums.

The virtual tour, which features more than 360 high-resolution panoramic images, offers an immersive experience into one of Iran's most iconic cultural landmarks.

Designed to narrate key events in Iranian history from the Qajar to the Pahlavi era, the tour provides visitors with detailed information about the architecture, artworks, and historical artifacts housed in the complex.

Notably, the virtual platform also grants access to sections of the palace that are normally closed to the public due to structural or technical limitations.

The Niavaran Complex, which has been closed to in-person visits since June 13 following Israeli attacks on Iran, spans an area of approximately 11 hectares in northern Tehran.

It includes several royal buildings and museums constructed in the 19th and 20th cen-



turies, originally serving as a summer retreat for Qajar and later Pahlavi monarchs.

Highlights of the site include the Ahmad Shahi Pavilion and the main Niavaran Palace, which became a residence of Mohammad Reza Shah and his family.

With its blend of pre- and post-Islamic architectural styles, the palace is renowned for its intricate plasterwork, mirrorwork, and tilework.

Its lavish interiors are adorned with valuable paintings, sculptures, and furnishings by Iranian and international artists.

Access to the tour is available for free through the official website of the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex.

Children's tourism book unveiled in Kashan



TEHRAN— A tourism book for children was unveiled in Kashan, Isfahan province, in a ceremony attended by Isfahan Governor-General Mehdi Jamalinejad and several cultural heritage and tourism managers.

Speaking on the sidelines of the unveiling ceremony, Jamalinejad said that Kashan is more advanced in terms of tourism industry than many major cities in Iran, Borna news agency reported.

The coefficient of passenger stay in this city is higher than in Isfahan and many other regions of Iran and this is very valuable, he mentioned.

He appreciated tourism activists of Kashan and urged them to cooperate more with those involved in preparing the dossiers for global registration of monuments.

Located on the edge of the central deserts of Iran in Isfahan province, Kashan is one of the main destinations for tourists.

Kashan is known for manufacturing carpets, silk, and other textiles.

Today, the city houses most of Iran's mechanized carpet-weaving factories and has an active marble and copper mining industry. Kashan and its suburbs have a population of 400,000, Mehr news agency reported.

Kashan is situated on a route that connects Tehran to the giant destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd.

Moreover, the ancient town is a gateway to many sights, stories, and surrounding attractive villages to discover.

Amongst the highlights of the city are the lavishly decorated houses of Borujerdi, Tabatabai, Ameri, and Abbasi, as well as the UNESCO-listed Fin Garden to name a few.

Situated approximately 200 kilometers north of Isfahan, Kashan continues to grow as a key hub for tourism in Iran.

Cool escapes from Tehran's summer heat: destinations to visit

TEHRAN – As the summer sun blazes over Tehran, many residents and visitors alike search for refreshing retreats to escape the heat.

Fortunately, the bustling Iranian capital and its surroundings offer a variety of cool and scenic spots perfect for weekend getaways, nature excursions, and cultural exploration.

From mountainous trails to lush parks and historical estates, here are some of the top places to explore during the hot summer months:

Tochal recreational complex

Nestled in the Alborz Mountains in northern Tehran, Tochal is a favorite destination for those seeking cooler weather, clean air, and adventure.

The complex includes a gondola lift (telecabin), zipline, ski club, hiking paths, cafés, and even an escape room.

The area's high elevation offers panoramic views of the city and one of the cleanest climates year-round.

Location: End of Velenjak Street, off Chamran Highway, Tehran

Darband

Darband is one of Tehran's most iconic mountain neighborhoods.

Situated at 1,700 meters above sea level, it's not only a gateway for trekking to Mount Tochal but also a popular hangout spot with traditional teahouses, local snacks, a scenic cable chair lift (tele-siege), and a landmark mountaineer statue at Sarband Square.

Location: Darband Street, off Tajrish Square, Tehran

Darakeh

Located on the western edge of Tehran's northern mountains, Darakeh is a peaceful retreat known for its riverside cafés, fresh fruit stalls, and serene walking paths.

This historic village-like area offers a pleasant atmosphere for light hiking and weekend brunches by the river.

Location: North of Chamran Highway, via Yemen Street

Ab-o-Atash (Water & Fire) Park

Centrally located in Tehran's Abbasabad neighborhood, this modern urban park is an oasis of greenery, water fountains, and open spaces. Attractions include fire towers, amphitheaters, a light-house, and the iconic Pol-e Tabiat



Darband is one of the recreational places located in the north of Tehran.

Bridge, which is a famous pedestrian bridge connecting multiple green parks.

Location: East of Africa Blvd, near Haghani Highway

Niavaran palace complex

Situated in one of Tehran's breeziest districts, this former royal residence offers a mix of architecture, culture, and tranquility.

Visitors can explore the elegant interiors, lush gardens, and historical artifacts while escaping the summer heat under shady trees.

Location: Niavaran Square, North Tehran

Sa'dabad palace complex

Spread across 110 hectares in lush northern Tehran, Sa'dabad is a massive estate that houses several palaces and museums from the Qajar and Pahlavi eras.

Surrounded by forests and crossed by the Ja'farabad River, it's a perfect place to enjoy a mix of history and nature.

Location: Zafaraniyeh neighborhood, near Valiasr Street

Golabdereh Park

Located near Darband, this 22-hectare park offers a mountain trail, lake, waterfalls, and a popular alpine coaster ride.

With picnic areas, sport facilities, and even a horror-themed safari cinema, Golabdereh is a fun-filled spot for families and hikers alike.

Location: Golabdereh Street, Darband Area, North Tehran

Jamshidieh Park

Situated in the Kolakchal foothills, Jamshidieh is one of Tehran's

most beloved parks.

Its stone-paved paths, sculptures, and forested ambiance attract all age groups from casual walkers to mountain climbers heading toward northern peaks.

Location: Bahonar Street (Niavaran), Tehran

Qeytarieh Park

This well-known park in northern Tehran is a green haven with dense trees and walking paths perfect for light exercise or relaxation.

Its forest-like environment and calm ambiance make it ideal for a peaceful break from city noise.

Location: Qeytarieh district, off Pirouz square

Fasham

Just northeast of Tehran in the Shemiranat region, Fasham is a mountain town known for its fresh climate, green landscapes, and alpine charm.

On weekends, it's a favorite escape for Tehranis who come to enjoy its restaurants, villas, and river views.

Location: Rudbar-e Qasran district, Shemiranat county

Kan and Sulqan Villages

In the northwest of Tehran, these adjacent villages offer fresh air, traditional restaurants, and a semi-rural atmosphere.

The road beyond leads to Imamzadeh Davood shrine and other nearby nature spots like Varrish and Sangan, making it a great weekend drive.

Location: Kan district, west of Tehran

Kordan village

Located near Karaj and about 50 km from Tehran, Kordan is a quiet countryside village surrounded by orchards and villas.

It's popular for short vacations thanks to its clean air, relaxing atmosphere, and agricultural charm.

Location: Northwest of Karaj, Alborz province

Afjeh village

Just outside of Lavasan, Afjeh is a picturesque mountain village featuring the lush "Havij Plain" (Carrot Plain), natural waterfalls, and historical sites.

Its proximity to Tehran makes it a top choice for day trips and hikes.

Location: 5 km from Lavasan, north of Tehran

Tar and Havir Lakes

Located near the city of Damavand, these two natural lakes are nestled between mountains and offer breathtaking views and cool temperatures.

Ideal for camping and photography, the lakes are about 30 km from Damavand and make a fantastic summer nature escape.

Location: Near the village of Havir, 30 km from Damavand

Sangan waterfall

Northwest of Tehran in the village of Sangan, this picturesque 30-meter waterfall is hidden in a mountainous valley and attracts hikers and nature lovers.

The area is peaceful, scenic, and a popular destination on weekends.

Location: 27 km northwest of Tehran, near the village of Sangan

Tehran hotels shelter 1,100 people affected by war

TEHRAN—Some 13 hotels in Tehran accommodated 1,100 people affected by Israeli attacks, said the hoteliers in a gathering with Tourism Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri in Tehran.

Shahram Shirvani, a member of the Iranian Hoteliers Association, also said that hoteliers have been at work and involved as soldiers for the country. Some Tehrani citizens left the city, but hotel staff were besides the government, he added, Mehr news agency reported.

Jamshid Hamzehzadeh, head of the Iranian Hoteliers Association, said when war started, all hotels of the country paid all cancellations without any penalties.

“This means we didn't have any passengers who cancel the hotel booking and get fined.”

Also, Soltani, head of the Mazandaran Interstate Catering Units Association, said Mazandaran province hosted the war-affected Tehrani people.

“We provided them with the best conditions we could. We hope to get out of this crisis.”

Fariba Abbasi, managing director of one of the hotel groups, said: “We have 51 units active across the country. We have 3,900 beds. We formed crisis document in central office. Our staff were at work.

We divided the regions in provinces of Mazandaran, Golestan, and Semnan. We witnessed drop in number of tourists in Kerman, Yazd, and Shiraz. We had the highest number of occupancy rate in Alborz hotels, but the hotels have not become empty yet. We paid four billion rials

Iran's museums remain closed until conditions are normal: minister

TEHRAN—Iran's museums and historic sites will be closed until the government declares normal conditions for the country, said Cultural Heritage Minister Raza Salehi-Amiri.

He also said that there were worries regarding the museums and ancient sites, Mehr news agency reported.

“But we mobilized all our strength to move the precious artworks to the reservoirs. We tried to preserve this great cultural capital and the country's civilization. People should know that their soldiers are awake and preserve Iran's culture and civilization.”

On report of the hoteliers and tourism activists regarding post-war situation, he said, “Tourism activists presented a good report regarding the situation. I will present this report

to the government again.

They had problems resulted by the war. All bodies including the large tourism community naturally incur costs and losses in war that must be taken into account.

It was decided that a committee with Hoteliers Association and Tourism Department be formed and evaluated that what measures should be done for them so that it will be discussed in the cabinet.”

He pointed out, “War becomes bearable when a nation stands together. The government sought to reduce the pressures on people.

There are good decisions regarding the accommodation of those whose homes were bombed during this war, the wounded, and the families of war martyrs, which will be commu-

(\$4,706) to travelers for hotel cancellation.”

Kamyar Eskandarion, secretary of Iranian Hoteliers Association, said, “Please check the reservation systems.

In some cases, people have reserved the hotel and then cancelled it. But since they have reserved via online sites, the sites do not return the money.”

Mohammadpour, a travel agency consultant, said, “Call on the tax collectors to be fair.”

Meanwhile, Ebrahim Pourfaraj, a tour leader, said the conditions are not satisfactory for travel agencies and hoteliers. “I am constructor of Iran's biggest hotel.

We have decided to lower the construction trend. We are not in rush to construct the hotel.”

nicated to the public through the government spokesperson, he said.

The government tried to supply the things required by the society like providing hygiene and medical treatment, rendering services and supplying the basic goods.

“Fortunately, the country faced no serious shortage during the war. But we emphasized several times that war has its special problems. I apologize from people due to any shortage. We believe that this nation deserves the bests.

We promise that we stand with people with all our capacities and amenities. Our people opened the doors of hotels and accommodation sites to accept war-affected people during the war. This is good news. I hope we will witness the prosperity of the Iranian nation.”

Lake Urmia water level shrinks by 51cm yr/yr

TEHRAN – The current water level of Lake Urmia stands at 1270.09 meters, indicating a fifty-one-centimeter decline compared to the same time last year.

In comparison to the long-term average, it has dropped by 420 centimeters, IRNA quoted Yousef Ghaffarzadeh, an official with West Azarbaijan Water Company, as saying.

The volume of Lake Urmia has decreased from 1.44 billion cubic meters in the year 1403 (March 2024–March 2025) to 1.14 bcm in the current Iranian year, which started in March 2025. Compared to the long-term average, the amount has decreased by 15.19 bcm.

The Lake needs a minimum annual water intake of 3.1 billion cubic meters to maintain a healthy ecosystem and ecological function.

In case this water inflow is provided, the level of the lake is expected to reach 1274.1 meters in the long term, the official noted.

Since the beginning of the current water year, September 2024,



the volume of water in aquifers of the province has decreased by 63 million cubic meters due to a drop in precipitation and rainfall.

Currently, the cumulative groundwater deficit across the province amounts to 5.1 billion cubic meters, Ghaffarzadeh added.

Restoration efforts

Through a joint project led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the Government of Japan, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

and FAO.

Focusing on sustainable agriculture and climate-adapted livelihoods, the initiative seeks to deliver long-term benefits for local communities while preserving the biodiversity of wetlands as critical ecosystems.

Lake Urmia faces significant challenges due to the overconsumption of water resources, magnified by climate change impacts, which have severely impacted its ecosystem.

Agricultural activities in the region are increasingly vulnerable to water shortages, a situation exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

Studies indicate that these climatic changes could further disrupt agrifood systems and the lake's fragile environment in the future.

FAO with the support of the government of Japan, identified technical agricultural solutions to increase water efficiency in the agriculture sector at the Lake Urmia basin, which may be efficient in saving the internationally known biosphere reserves.

is going to join to promote sustainable agricultural practices and solutions for the conservation of Lake Urmia.

On December 1, 2024, the Government of Japan and UNDP signed an exchange of notes to launch "The Project for Developing Conservation Systems of Wetlands in Lake Urmia and Other Wetlands, Including

Their Surrounding Communities." The project, which runs from 2024 to 2028, will be implemented in partnership with the Department of Environment

Newborn foals give hope to Persian zebra's survival



TEHRAN – With the birth of four foals in Kavir National Park, the number of Persian zebras has reached eight this year, indicating the improved habitat condition and effective conservation management of the endangered animal.

The current population of Persian zebra is estimated at 50, ISNA reported.

The conservation efforts include a field program that encompasses strengthening natural infrastructures and promoting environmental sustainability, such as monitoring water resources.

The Persian zebra is a subspecies of onager, which is critically in danger of extinction.

Onagers used to have a large

population in West Asia, Central Asia, and China, but now it has become extinct in most areas.

Known as little Africa, Kavir National Park is a natural showcase of rare desert and desert plants and wildlife species.

In the Iranian year 1397 (2018–2019), 9 zebras were transferred from Turan National Park in Shahroud, Semnan province, to Kavir National Park, for the first time.

Four years later, 10 more zebras were taken to the same national park, and the number of zebras started increasing gradually.

The low population of zebras is due to several reasons. They have poor reproduction ability, with one out of every three foals of this species surviving,

The probability of male zebra foal survival is poor because the male zebra does not accept the male foal and kills it, causing a decline in the zebra population.

The long gestation period and a lack of twin pregnancies are the other effective factors in the low population of zebras in Iran.

Preserving endangered species

President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued an order, obligating the Department of Environment (DOE) to develop a strategic plan to preserve endangered species in the country.

According to the latest report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), some 154 species of Iranian vertebrates are critically endangered of extinction.

"The country needs a comprehensive and operational plan in the field of environment that covers different environmental sectors.

It must include goals, assumptions, operational measures, financial resources, and results," IRNA quoted the president as saying.

Iran is a rich country in terms of biodiversity, with about 37,500 animal species and more than 8,000 plant species. In addition, it is home to 579 bird species, 214 mammal species, 284 reptile

species, 23 amphibian species, 309 freshwater fish species, and 763 marine fish species in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Caspian Sea.

Also, some 35,283 species of invertebrates have been identified in the country, out of which more than 32,600 species are arthropods.

Over 94 percent of the country's animal species diversity belongs to invertebrates and less than 6 percent to vertebrates.

Insects, with at least 26,800 species, account for more than 70 percent of the country's total species.

The Asiatic cheetah and the ostrich, whose numbers in nature have dropped to less than 25, are among the critically endangered species.

Moreover, there are 5 species of Caspian sturgeon, unique in the world, that are disappearing from the Caspian waters.

According to experts, species extinction is a natural phenomenon, but the speed at which they are disappearing is concerning.

Unfortunately, the current rate of extinction has accelerated in the present era due to human activities; it will have serious consequences for ecosystems and the well-being of the planet.

Nationwide campaign aims to free 17,000 prisoners in Muharram

TEHRAN – A nationwide campaign was launched on June 27, the beginning of the month of Muharram, aiming to help release 17,000 prisoners of intentional crimes.

In this line, a total of 187 prisoners (11 women and 176 men) have been freed until June 30.

The campaign aims to help those imprisoned due to financial debts or inability to pay dues, resulting from accidents or other unintentional actions, Mehr news agency reported.

Last year, during Muharram and Safar, the first two lunar months, benefactors contributed to releasing 96 female and 1643 male prisoners; the total debt of released prisoners amounted to 40 trillion rials (almost 45 million dollars).

Also, during the holy month of Ramadan (March 2–30), benefactors helped release a total of 2,500 prisoners for unintentional crimes. The total debt of the released prisoners was 40 trillion rials (about 45 million dollars), ISNA reported.

Each year in the month of Ramadan, officials and benefactors hold gatherings and campaigns to raise money to help free prisoners of involuntary crimes. Since 1990, benefactors have contributed to the release of more than 180,000 prisoners of involuntary crimes during Ramadan,

Over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2024–March 2025), benefactors contributed to releasing 11,380 prisoners of unintentional crimes in the country. Also, 2,441 prisoners were pardoned during the same period, ISNA reported.

‘Nature, the silent part in wars’

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN –Nature is part of our community, but unlike people, it is silent, and this silence is the most dangerous sign of its suffering, an official with the Department of Environment has said.

Iran is a treasure trove of biodiversity, from the ancient Hyrcanian forests in the north to the mangrove forests along the southern coast, from the heights of the Zagros covered by oaks to a network of permanent and seasonal wetlands stretching across the land; these habitats are vital not only for Iranians but for the whole planet, IRNA quoted Iraj Heshmati as saying.

Referring to the UN Resident Coordinator in Iran, Stefan Priesner's sympathetic message following the 12-day war imposed by Israel on Iran, Heshmati said, these statements are humane, responsible, and deserve respect, but not enough concerning the fact that it has failed to include the environment. The support for Iranians will be sustainable once it takes into consideration the environment and nature, as well.

Sustainable development means meeting the present needs without destroying the resources and opportunities of future generations. Within this framework, human health and the environment are interconnected, and protecting both is essential to maintaining life and sustainable security in the country, he said.

When missile attacks and explosions targeted some of the country's energy infrastructure facilities, harmful pollutants—including particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, and toxic gases from fossil fuel combustion—increased.

Noise pollution generated by loud explosions and destruction of houses severely affected animals, including birds, killed some species, and impacted trees and vegetation in both urban and natural environments.

"The silence of the birds, collapsed trees, and a more polluted air signify that nature is wounded, although it does not scream. The environment is our silent citizen, with no right to vote, no shelter, and no voice to be reflected in the media, but it is the foundation of all our rights," Heshmati stressed.

Under UN General Assembly Resolution 47/37 and treaties such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as Ramsar convention, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) is required to impartially assess and report on the environmental impacts of conflicts in times of crisis. In



The number of released prisoners has increased by 22 percent compared to the Iranian year 1402 (March 2023 –March 2024). Of the total released prisoners, 682 were female and 10,698 were male, who were incarcerated due to their inability to pay financial debts.

The total debt of the released prisoners was over 270 trillion rials (about 270 million dollars).

Tehran, Fars, and Khorasan Razavi provinces ranked first to third with the release of 1,088, 878, and 829 prisoners of involuntary crimes, respectively.

Currently, there are 14,591 inmates of unintentional crimes nationwide. Tehran (with 2,536), Fars (with 1,331), and Isfahan (with 1,183) provinces have the highest number of prisoners of involuntary crimes.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways. The first way is granting prisoners leave, and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison. The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt.

other parts of the world, UNEP has responded and has provided independent reports within 48 to 72 hours. However, no report has been published to highlight war impacts on Iran yet.

Intentionally or unintentionally, the delay is a sign of double standards being applied in dealing with environmental crises in various countries, an issue that undermines public trust in the impartiality of international institutions.

International organizations are expected to use their legal capacities and properly fulfill their legal commitment towards Iran's ecosystem. If peace is not simply the absence of war, but the presence of justice, then the climate should not be ignored. And if nature is silent, let us, with the language of awareness and responsibility, be not only its voice, but also the awakened conscience of the global community.

‘deliberate creation of environmental crises’

The DOE strongly condemned the recent attacks by the Zionist regime on fossil fuel storage facilities as a deliberate creation of environmental crises and a clear violation of international principles and commitments to environmental protection.

The attacks on fossil fuel storage facilities and other destructive explosive actions have caused widespread pollution and environmental degradation, the DOE said in a statement.

These irresponsible actions, in addition to directly threatening public health and regional ecosystems, have led to the release of toxic substances and pollutants that will have long-term impacts on air quality, water resources, and natural habitats.

The deliberate creation of environmental crises is a clear violation of international principles and commitments to environmental protection.

The attack on energy infrastructure and the release of toxic pollutants pose a serious threat to regional biosecurity.

These acts of destruction occur at a time when countries in the region are striving to adhere to global treaties, including United Nations environmental agreements and conventions related to pollution control.

The Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and other regional and global environmental organizations to pay special attention to this environmental crisis and take necessary actions to stop the destruction and prevent the continuation of such environmental disasters.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Wildfire extinguished in northern forests

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

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

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

آتش سوزی جنگل های گیلان مهار شد

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

سرهنگ محمد قربانی لرد عصر روز شنبه در گفت و گوی اختصاصی با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: بر اساس آخرین آمارها به صورت تقریبی حدود "۱۳۰ هکتار" از اراضی جنگلی استان گیلان در چند روز اخیر دچار آتش سوزی شدند.

وی افزود: ۹۹ درصد از آتش سوزی جنگل های ۱۳ شهرستان استان گیلان سطحی بوده و خسارت جدی به درختان وارد نشده است.



JULY 1, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Time wears out bodies, renews hopes, brings death nearer and takes away aspirations. Whoever gets anything from the world lives in anxiety for holding it and whoever loses anything passes his days grieving over the loss.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:07 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:53 (tomorrow)

Pakistani poet condemns Israel's actions, emphasizes cultural security



TEHRAN – In a recent statement reflecting on Israel's strikes on Iran, Pakistani poet and scholar Ali Kumail Qazalbash highlighted the nature of Israel and emphasized the importance of cultural and diplomatic approaches to resolving disputes.

"Israel is neither a defined nation nor a country, nor does it possess any culture," he said, Mehr reported.

"Israel only knows the language of tyranny, crime, and war. We must speak to them in their own language," he added.

Qazalbash is also a translator and professor of Persian language at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences & Technology in Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

He has enduring Persian poetry and was present at one of the meetings of poets with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, where he recited one of his poems. He also served as the head of the Pakistan Persian Academy and as an assistant professor at Fatima Jinnah Women's University in Rawalpindi.

He described war and violence as the worst solutions for resolving disputes between countries, stating: "History bears witness that no

conflict or disagreement between nations and governments has ever been resolved through guns and bullets, nor will it in the future."

This poet added: "Problems are always solved through dialogue, and of course, such dialogue must be rooted in human and cultural security. In recent years, the United States and its allies have initiated dialogues based on the language of force."

He pointed out that war, besides causing material and human losses, also results in cultural damages. "The hypocritical culture, the culture of fear, injustice, silence against tyranny, selfishness, and strengthening the oppressor are all fruits that war brings with it."

This Persian language instructor in Pakistan also criticized the passive stance of Muslim countries towards Israel's aggression against Iran, saying: "Muslim countries have either remained silent or stood somewhat alongside Israel in this war. This conflict is spreading a culture of shame and distancing from humanity among the Muslim nations and the people of this region."

Early Friday morning, June 13, a series of terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Zionist regime targeted Tehran and several other Iranian cities, resulting in the martyrdom of numerous military commanders, scientists, and innocent civilians.

In response to the savage Zionist attack, the Islamic Republic of Iran launched Operation True Promise 3 on Friday night, unleashing a barrage of missiles against the occupied territories.

The Israeli attacks targeted areas within Iran that were not military installations, resulting in the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives including women and children. The incident has sparked outrage not only within Iran but also among international observers.

Iranian actors Parsa Pirouzfar, Hoda Zeinolabedin win awards at Cinema Jove

TEHRAN – The 2024 Iranian drama romance television mini-series "At the End of the Night" directed by Ida Panahandeh has won two awards from the 40th Valencia International Film Festival – Cinema Jove, which was held in Spain from June 19 to 28.

In its second international presence after the Series Mania festival in France in March, where it won the award for Best Directing, the Iranian series was selected for the Official Series Section of the festival and received the Jury Mentions for Best Actor and Best Actress for Parsa Pirouzfar and Hoda Zeinolabedin respectively, IRNA reported.

Written and produced by the real-life creative couple Panahandeh and Arsalan Amiri, the nine-episode series delicately and skillfully dissects the separation of a couple shattered by the disillusionment of their social situation.

After a decade of economic austerity, a middle-class couple has managed to buy an apartment on the outskirts of Tehran – but financial issues and the traps of married life catch them, and they must now face the consequences of their separation: divorce, and everything that it implies.

A powerful and bitter reflection on the sacrifices of a life together, the Iranian miniseries stands out for its deeply authentic characters and the exceptional performances of its two lead actors, Parsa Pirouzfar and Hoda Zeinolabedin.

The other cast members include Rayan Sarlak, Alireza Davoudnezhad, Reza Behboudi, Ehteram Boroumand, Siamak Safari, Kazem Hajirzad, and Nahid Moslemi, among others.

Parsa Pirouzfar, 52, is an actor, theater director, painter, play-



Hoda Zeinolabedin (L) and Parsa Pirouzfar in a scene from "At the End of the Night"

wright, and translator.

He has received various accolades, including the Best Actor Award in the Osian's Cinefan Festival of Asian Cinema in India and an Iran Cinema Celebration Award, in addition to nominations for a Crystal Simorgh and three Hafez Awards.

A graduate of painting from the University of Tehran, he made his film debut by playing a brief part in Dariush Mehrjui's "Pari" in 1994.

He has played in over 40 films, plays, and TV series. His most famous films include "Sheida," "Mum's Guest," "Mask," "Here Without Me," "TiTi," and "Intoxicated by Love". He is also known for the series "In the Eyes of the Wind," "Rebel," "Under Your Protection," "In My Heart," and "The Green Journey".

Pirouzfar made his directional debut in theater in 2001 with "Art," a play by Yasmina Reza.

In 2015, he directed the play

"Matryoshka," a Persian-language satire based on selected short stories of Anton Chekhov.

Matryoshka first premiered at Theater West in Los Angeles.

A solo performance, the play had over 30 characters all performed by Pirouzfar in its theatrical production.

"Matryoshka" subsequently ran for two years in the U.S. cities of Los Angeles, San Diego, and Berkeley as well as Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal in Canada in 2015 and 2016; and finally, after multiple performances due to its immense popularity, finished its staging in Tehran, Iran, in 2017.

"Matryoshka" earned Pirouzfar the Golden Statue Award for Best Actor in the 35th Celebration of the Fajr International Theater Festival in Tehran in 2017.

Hoda Zeinolabedin, 36, is an Iranian actress. She has received various accolades, including a Hafez Award, in ad-

dition to nominations for two Crystal Simorghs and an Iran's Film Critics and Writers Association Award.

Zeinolabedin has performed in 23 films and series in the past 13 years.

She has starred in the movies "Esrafil" by Ida Panahandeh and "Cold Sweat" by Soheil Beyraqi.

She has also appeared in the TV series "Dance on Glass" by Mehdi Golestane and the "Rhinceros" By Kiarash Asadzade. She is also active as a photographer.

The Valencia International Film Festival – Cinema Jove is a festival that takes place annually in Valencia in June. It is accredited by the FIAPF in the category of "Specialized Competitive Festivals".

The festival is a forum for young international filmmakers to meet, and its vocation is to showcase the best international cinema directed by young people.

“The Full Moon Coffee Shop” at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of Japanese author Mai Mochizuki's "The Full Moon Coffee Shop" has recently been published by Milkan Publications in Tehran.

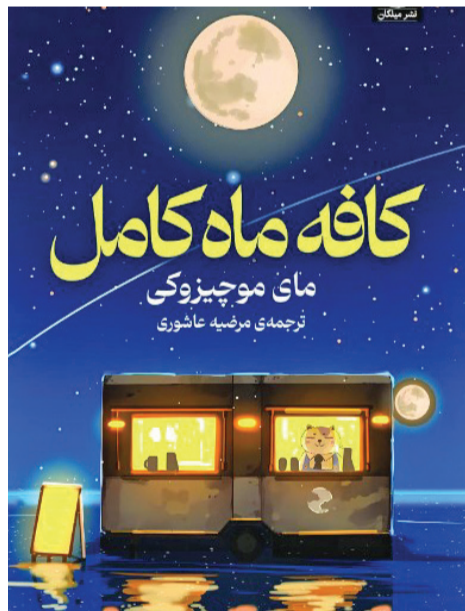
The book has been translated into Persian by Marzieh Ashouri.

"The Full Moon Coffee Shop," translated from the Japanese bestseller, is a charming and enchanting novel that weaves together magic, myth, and self-discovery.

Inspired by the traditional Japanese belief that cats symbolize good luck and that kindness to them will eventually be repaid, the story explores the idea that it's never too late to follow one's true star.

The novel centers around a mysterious, wandering coffee shop that appears unexpectedly to those at pivotal moments in their lives.

This extraordinary café, known as the Full Moon Coffee Shop, has no fixed location or hours; it materializes randomly, offering solace and guidance to young people feeling adrift.



The shop is uniquely run by talking cats who serve more than just coffee and cake—they act as wise, cryptic guides.

These feline companions delve into their

visitors' star charts, offering insight, advice, and sometimes, tough truths about how their lives have strayed from their destined paths.

Each visitor to the shop is in some way lost or uncertain about their future.

Among them are a down-on-her-luck screenwriter, a romantically stuck movie director, a hopeful hairstylist, and a technologically challenged website designer.

Through conversations with the cats, they receive subtle nudges and cryptic wisdom aimed at helping them rediscover their purpose and realign with their true stars.

As the story unfolds, the novel emphasizes that it's never too late to change course, pursue one's dreams, and embrace one's destiny.

The magical realism of the coffee shop, combined with themes of hope, kindness, and self-belief, underscores the idea that the universe often guides us in mysterious ways—sometimes through the most unexpected of friends, like a wise, talking cat under a Kyoto moon.

Cartoon of Day



Walking Under the Guise of Aid

Cartoonist: Muzaffar Yulchiboev from Uzbekistan

Australian band backs Glastonbury artists on Palestinians

Australian pub rock band Amyl and the Sniffers have criticized the British media's "frenzied" response to Irish band Kneecap and punk-rap duo Bob Vylan's performances at Glastonbury, following earlier comments about the United Kingdom and Australian governments not doing enough for Palestinians.

During their performance, Bob Vylan chanted "Death, death, to the IDF" in reference to the Israel Defence Forces, the formal name of the Israeli military, SBS News reported.

UK police said they were considering whether to launch an investigation, but did not name Bob Vylan or Kneecap, who also appeared on the same stage and criticized Israel at the music festival.

The comments were condemned by the Israeli embassy in the UK as "inflammatory and hateful rhetoric," while UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer labelled them "appalling hate speech".

Festival organizers said the Bob Vylan comments "crossed a line".

The lead singer of Amyl and the Sniffers, Amy Taylor, took to social media on Monday to criticize the media's response to the sets, suggesting there was a disconnect between public sentiment, governments, and the media on the issue.

"The British media in a frenzee (sic) about Bob Vylan & Kneecap but artists all weekend at Glastonbury from pop to rock to punk to rap to DJs spoke up on stage & there were tones of flags

on every streamed set," Taylor wrote on Instagram.

"Trying to make it look like a couple of isolated incidents and a couple of 'bad bands' so that it appears the public isn't as anti-genocide as it is, and trying to make it look like Bob and Kneecap are one offs, instead of that the status quo has shifted majorly and that people are concerned and desperate for our govts to listen," she added.

Israel denies accusations it is committing genocide or acts of genocide in Gaza.

Earlier, Taylor was among several artists at Glastonbury who used their platform to criticize the UK and Australian governments over their response to the treatment of Palestinians in Gaza.

"I'm thinking about the people in Palestine. I'm thinking about yeah, and all our governments, like we're from Australia, they ain't doing jack s--t. I know yours ain't doing jack s--t," she had said on stage.

"If we think about Palestine, then back home in Australia, we think about the Indigenous people there.

We think about the fact that us as whiteys, we're the colonizers, and that's so disgusting"

Among other artists who have spoken out on the issue at the festival were Elijah Hewson, the lead singer of Dublin band Inhaler and the son of U2 frontman Bono, and Irish singer Ciara Mary-Alice Thompson, known professionally as CMAT.