

From a Dollar-Filled Suitcase in 1953 to Illusory Bags in 2025

How the Israeli-American plot to topple the Iranian government failed



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A week into a pause in hostilities, Israel faces fallout of failed offensive against Iran

TEHRAN – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's vision of a swift and successful strike against Iran has turned into what many, including Israeli analysts, now describe as a strategic miscalculation of historic proportions.

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"After 12 days of war, the Iranian people are extremely angry. Even those who were previously opposed to the government are now writing on social media: 'We will fight any aggressor for the sake of our country,'" the Haaretz article noted. ▶ Page 2

Islamophobia, orientalism, and power: The Iranian case

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – In recent days, the coordinated attack by the United States and Israel on Iranian nuclear facilities—under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—has once again brought to the forefront a discursive framework deeply rooted in the colonial tradition: the portrayal of Iran as an irrational, unpredictable, and therefore dangerously uncontrollable actor.

Far from being a novel narrative, it draws on an orientalist genealogy that, since the 19th century, has constructed West Asia and Islam as the irrational "Other," incapable of self-governance and in need of external tutelage.

The Iranian case is paradigmatic. Although its nuclear program remains under international supervision and shows no signs of diversion toward military ends, official rhetoric continues to stress the need to "contain" a country that—according to this narrative—cannot be trusted due to its supposed theocratic "essence." This logic not only preemptively justifies aggression but also strips Iran of its sovereignty, history, and agency, reducing its political complexity to a dangerous caricature. ▶ Page 3

Germany resurrects its darkest legacy by offering Israel absolute support

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – In a display of moral bankruptcy, German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt declared Germany's "100% support" for the Israeli regime's military actions against Iran.

Accompanied by the regime's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, Dobrindt condemned Iran's act of self-defense during the regime's 12-day war against the country as an "attack on civilians" while ignoring Israel's systematic slaughter of Palestinians and its unprovoked aggression against Tehran.

"There is no justification for attacks on a civilian population," he proclaimed in Tel Aviv, a statement dripping with hypocrisy given Germany's enabling of Israel's genocide in Gaza and its support for the recent assault on Iran that killed over 935 Iranians, predominantly civilians.

The 'dirty work' of imperialism

Dobrindt's visit—the first by a foreign official since the Israeli-imposed war on Iran came to a halt—was not merely symbolic. It crystallized Germany's role as a patron of Israeli war crimes. ▶ Page 2

Iran, Iraq hold critical talks following delivery of Araghchi's letter on regional security

TEHRAN — Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein received a written message from Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Iraq, Mohammad Kazem Al Sadeh, on Monday.

The message, delivered at Iraq's Foreign Ministry headquarters, addressed "recent political and security developments in the region," with discussions centering on the repercussions of the Israeli regime's recent attacks against Iran and their implications for regional stability.

Both officials also reviewed bilateral relations and explored avenues to enhance cooperation across multiple fields. The diplomatic exchange follows reports of the Israeli regime using Iraqi airspace during the 12-day war on Iran.

Iraqi military spokesman Yahya Rasool confirmed these violations on June 18, stating: "We have detected unauthorized aircraft in our airspace coinciding with regional operations."

Senior security officials later acknowledged Iraq's inability to counter Tel Aviv's advanced jets, with Defense Minister Thabit al-Abbasi noting the "urgent need to modernize air defenses." Israeli aggression paralyzed regional aviation, with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) declaring parts of the region's airspace as "high-risk."

IRCS urges Red Cross societies to denounce Israel's violation of humanitarian laws in Iran

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in a letter to international communities as well as Red Cross societies, has urged them to slam the violation of humanitarian laws by the Zionist regime, demonstrated through killing IRCS members and targeting medical centers.

On Friday, June 13, Israel launched a large-scale military offensive against the Islamic Republic of Iran, marking a significant escalation in regional tensions and raising serious concerns over violations of international law. The war between Iran and Israel appeared to grind to a halt on June 24.

In his letter, Pirhossein Kolivand, underscored the need for moral courage and coordinated efforts, the IRCS website reported.

"It is with profound sorrow and grave concern that I bring to your attention the recent attacks carried out by the Zionist Regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, during which the fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law and the core values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have been flagrantly and repeatedly violated," the letter reads. ▶ Page 7

Over 100 leading global NGOs slam Gaza aid system

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Over 100 leading global NGOs fiercely denounce the Israeli occupation regime's "deadly" and "militarized" aid delivery system in Gaza.

In a joint statement, over 100 humanitarian and human rights organizations called for the immediate lifting of the blockade on Gaza and the dismantling of the "so-called Gaza Humanitarian Foundation," stating that "Palestinians in Gaza face an impossible choice: starve or risk being shot."

According to the groups, under the Israeli occupation regime's new distribution system "starved and weakened civilians are being forced to trek for hours through dangerous terrain and active conflict zones, only to face a violent, chaotic race to reach fenced, militarized distribution sites with a single entry point."

The statement warns: "There, thousands are released into chaotic enclosures to fight for limited food supplies. These areas have become sites of repeated massacres, in blatant disregard for international humanitarian law." ▶ Page 5

Why do the Lebanese Forces want to amend electoral law?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The anti-Resistance team, led by the Lebanese Forces party, failed on Monday to include in the urgent, duplicate draft law aimed at allowing expatriates to vote for the entire parliamentary seats, not just six seats (allocated for non-residents across the 6 continents, under the current parliamentary electoral law).

The Lebanese Forces attempted not only to politicize the parliamentary electoral law (a year ahead of the schedule, May 2026) but also to challenge the powers of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri in a bid to invest in what they think is a decline of the axis of resistance in region. ▶ Page 5



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Cartoon exhibition opens in Tehran as artistic response to external aggression

TEHRAN – A collective exhibition of cartoons and caricatures titled "Muzzle" ("Puzeband") opened on Monday at the Aali Gallery of the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran, serving as an artistic tribute to the resilience and resistance of the Iranian nation amid external threats and provocations by the Zionist regime and the United States.

The event showcases 82 impactful works by some of Iran's most prominent satirical artists, reflecting themes of patriotism, resistance, and defiance, Mehr reported. ▶ Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

‘National Unity’ is most important tool to neutralize future threats

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its headline to national unity in difficult circumstances and wrote: In recent weeks, Iran has faced one of the most complex and sensitive periods in its history. The Zionist regime, with the open support of the United States especially its president Donald Trump, launched a large-scale operation against Iran with aim of weakening the country's defense capabilities and creating division in Iranian society. The invasion, which included attacks on military, nuclear, and residential areas, not only sought to hit Iran's defense infrastructure, but also to incite the public to create internal unrest. Despite all these attacks, Islamic Iran, relying on its military power and social cohesion, is able to withstand the most complex external threats. Operations “True Promise III and Herald of Victory”, along with participation of millions of people at the funerals of the martyrs, were manifestations of Iran's national power and determination. However, given the challenges, especially the enemy's efforts to create social division, remain serious, and maintaining national unity and vigilance against the enemy's psychological warfare will be key to Iran's success on this path.

Javan: Shameless Europe

In an article, Javan said the European trio of Britain, Germany, and France are behaving shamelessly regarding issues related to Iran's nuclear program. It wrote: The three European countries that are members of the JCPOA have turned a blind eye to all the betrayals—especially by the IAEA—which paved the way for the Zionist regime's invasion of Iran. They have unanimously called for Tehran's continued cooperation with this institution and return to the negotiating table, and have accused Iran of threatening Grossi. Iranian diplomats, in response to such positions, have emphasized that Iran has not threatened Grossi, but the IAEA should know that there will be no prospect of Tehran's cooperation if the current situation persists—such as new threats of military strikes on Iran's nuclear plants, and the IAEA's continued disregard of its technical and legal duties. While Americans still disagree about how destructive the attack on Iran's nuclear facilities was, the Europeans fully defend the performance of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In their formal reactions, Iranian officials—while criticizing Grossi's political behavior—have only raised the issue of holding Grossi accountable for failing to fulfill his legal and technical obligations and have not made any threats against him.

Resalat: Political achievements after the war

In an analysis, Resalat reviewed Iran's achievements following Israel's war against Iran. It stated: During the 12-day war between Iran and Israel, Iran gained political support. The discursive atmosphere of Iranophobia, created by the enemy, shifted into Iranophilia. Even the people of America and Europe, as well as the governments of Islamic, Arab, and other countries around the world, expressed solidarity and support for Iran in the face of this open aggression (by Israel and the U.S.) For the second time, America and Europe demonstrated that they are not honest at the negotiating table and aim to deceive and strike (an open reference to Israel's and the United States' airstrikes on Iran's nuclear sites amid negotiations between Tehran and Washington). This experience can serve as a lesson for political officials both in Iran and abroad. Iran has practically demonstrated that it acts with power and dignity in the political arena and will not sign any agreement that does not serve its national interests. Nations that are friends and allies of Iran have distanced themselves from hostile states, and the dynamism of Iran's foreign diplomacy has been proven in action. Iran successfully defended its legitimate positions in the UN Security Council and the Board of Governors.

Ettelaat: Will Israel attack Pakistan after Iran?

Evidence suggests that Pakistan, as the only Islamic country with nuclear weapons, could be Israel's next target. For this reason, the need for cooperation between Pakistan and Iran will be important. In recent decades, the Middle East, as the hotbed of global tensions, has repeatedly witnessed direct and indirect conflicts between regional and international actors. In the meantime, Israel, as one of the military powers in the region, has played an important role in causing these tensions. After years of focusing on Iran's nuclear program and trying to weaken the country, recent evidence and statements indicate that Israel may turn its attention to Pakistan, the other nuclear power in the Islamic world that does not have friendly relations with Tel Aviv. Pakistan, feeling threatened by Israel, provided political support to Tehran during the Iran-Israel tensions. However, political support alone is not enough. Military cooperation with Iran can help Pakistan and Iran resist threats from Israel and its allies, especially India, and defend their national interests.

US betrayed diplomacy, Araghchi tells EU policy chief after attacks on nuclear sites



From page 1 ► TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says the United States betrayed the diplomatic process and undermined dialogue by attacking Iran's nuclear facilities while the two countries were in the middle of negotiations.

Araghchi made the remarks during a telephone conversation on Tuesday with European Union Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas where he discussed the latest regional developments following the joint military aggression by the Zionist regime and the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He further highlighted Iran's lack of trust in the United States, saying: “The Zionist

regime and the U.S. launched military attacks on Iran at a time when Tehran was engaged in diplomatic negotiations. It was the United States that betrayed the diplomatic process and undermined dialogue.”

During the call, Araghchi condemned the silence and inaction of certain Western governments in the face of Israel's clear violations of international law and war crimes. He stressed that all governments have a legal and moral duty to strongly denounce the military assault carried out by the Zionist regime and the United States against Iranian territory.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

A week into a pause in hostilities, Israel faces fallout of failed offensive against Iran

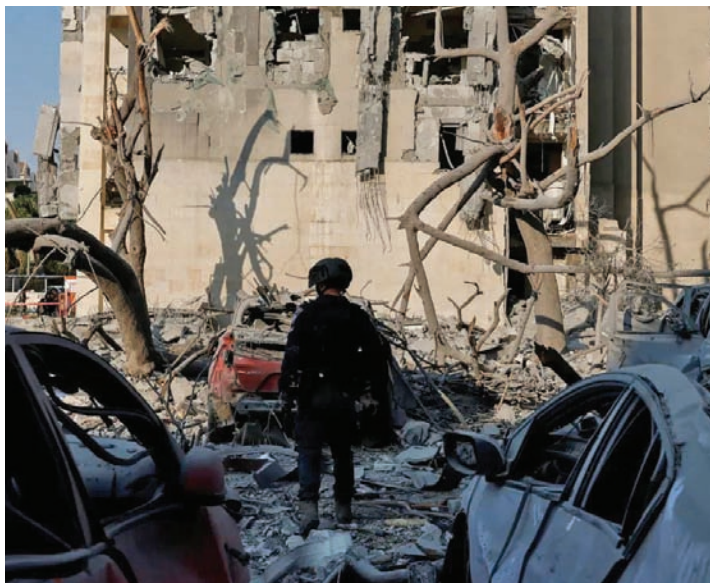
TEHRAN – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's vision of a swift and successful strike against Iran has turned into what many, including Israeli analysts, now describe as a strategic miscalculation of historic proportions.

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“After 12 days of war, the Iranian people are extremely angry. Even those who were previously opposed to the government are now writing on social media: ‘We will fight any aggressor for the sake of our country,’” the Haaretz article noted.

What Netanyahu had hoped



would be a demonstration of Israeli strength and deterrence has instead sparked widespread condemnation and revealed significant strategic flaws.

Now, even Netanyahu's closest allies are facing growing public scrutiny – widely seen across social media. The war has not only failed to deliver its intended outcome but has also exposed Israel to an unprecedented level of strategic and infrastructural vulnerability.

Meanwhile, the scale of physical destruction inside Israel has been unprecedented. Israel's retaliatory missile strikes

caused extensive damage in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and other key areas. According to Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection, an estimated 800,000 tons of construction debris have been produced – roughly 10 to 15 percent of Israel's annual construction waste, accumulated in less than two weeks. The figure reflects the collapse of dozens of buildings.

Amid this crisis, Israel has imposed strict media censorship, barring foreign journalists from reporting on or documenting the full extent of the destruction. The actual death toll, number of

injured, and losses to military and intelligence infrastructure remain undisclosed – widely believed to be far greater than officially acknowledged.

In response to the devastation, Israel has ramped up military imports at an extraordinary pace. A steady stream of Western cargo planes – primarily from the United States – continues to arrive at Israeli airbases, delivering advanced weaponry and equipment in preparation for a possible second phase of confrontation.

Yet despite this influx of support, the war has severely shaken public confidence and exposed deep vulnerabilities within Israel's strategic posture.

Even within Israeli society, the psychological toll has been staggering. Some of settlers have fled the occupied territories, and those who remain are grappling with the emotional trauma of a war they neither expected nor were prepared for – especially given the scale of Iran's retaliation.

The long-held fantasy of “regime change” in Iran – once promoted by figures close to Netanyahu – has also faded. Instead, the war has amplified Iranian resilience and national pride.

Germany resurrects its darkest legacy by offering Israel absolute support



German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt (L) and Israeli FM Gideon Sa'ar held a self-serving photo op on June 29 in Bat Yam, occupied territories, condemning Iranian retaliation while actively enabling Israeli genocide.

From page 1 ► Just days earlier, Chancellor Friedrich Merz admitted the quiet part aloud: Israel is doing the “dirty work for all of us” by attacking Iran.

Merz praised the “courage” of the regime's unprovoked aggression, framing it as a service to the West.

This admission lays bare the cynical division of labor within the Western imperialist project. Germany (alongside the United Kingdom and France), which has long portrayed itself as a champion of rationality and international law, has in practice revealed that it plays the same role the old colonial powers did in the 18th and 19th centuries: supporting blatant bullying to secure the supremacy of Western states.

This rhetoric echoes Germany's historical alignment with colonial violence, from arming Ba'athist Saddam Hussein's chemical attacks on Iran in the 1980s to shielding Israel from accountability today.

This precise, unwritten division of labor—shaped over decades—assigns the United States and the Israeli regime the primary role in kinetic warfare and bombardments, while Europe manages political pressure, media narratives, and dubious legal sanctions.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Esmail Baqaei, demolished Germany's moral posturing on this matter: “History reminder: Germany ignited two world wars. Iran

sheltered Jews fleeing Hitler.”

In a recent post on X, he urged German officials to “stay silent” rather than justify the Israeli regime's crimes, noting that those “perpetually on the wrong side of history” forfeit the right to lecture others.

Complicity and ‘Staatsrason’

While Dobrindt vowed solidarity with Tel Aviv, his government actively sabotaged efforts to hold Israel accountable.

On June 23, Germany blocked a move by Spain to suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement—a pact conditional on human rights compliance—despite the European Commission's finding that Israel breached its obligations in Gaza and the West Bank.

This decision coincided with the regime's relentless bombardment of Gaza City, a strike that tragically claimed 80 Palestinian lives in a single day and triggered widespread forced evacuations.

Germany's “Staatsrason” (reason of state)—invoked by Merz to justify unwavering support for Israel—has become a license for genocide.

When Merz claimed Germany's duty is to “defend the state of Israel in its existence,” he ignored that the regime's “existence” relies on erasing Palestinians and wreaking havoc across West Asia.

The Israeli regime has killed over 56,500 Palestinians since October 2023, with broader

estimates suggesting the true figure, including those missing and presumed dead, is considerably higher. Yet Germany increased arms exports to the regime to €161 million in 2024.

Dobrindt's visit even announced enhanced “cyber-defense cooperation,” further entrenching Germany's complicity in the very aggression it funds and shields politically.

Nuclear hypocrisy and the ghost of Saddam

Dobrindt said Iran's nuclear program “threatens” Europe—a claim amplified by Merz, who insisted Iran “must not have nuclear weapons.”

This division of labor led European officials, amid Iran's exercise of its right to self-defense, to fill global platforms with recycled claims about “Iran's nuclear and missile threat” instead of condemning the aggression.

This ignores three damning realities:

I. Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and, as the most inspected country in IAEA history, has remained under its strict safeguards, while Israel possesses undeclared nuclear weapons.

II. Israel brazenly attacked Iran and bombed Iranian nuclear facilities, killing scientists and violating international law—acts that Germany endorsed.

III. Germany armed Saddam Hussein with chemical weapons used to massacre Iranians in the 1980s, including the 1987 Sardasht attack.

As Iran's FM spokesman Baqaei emphasized, Germany bears “legal and moral responsibility” for enabling Saddam's war crimes.

Yet it now funds Israel's atrocities while lecturing Iran—a nation that has never launched a war of aggression—and dutifully performing its assigned role in the Western pressure campaign by amplifying baseless threats.

The wrong side of history, again

Berlin's alignment with Tel Aviv reflects a broader pattern of Western imperialism, where it actively upholds the colonial-era

division of roles.

Germany's function as an instrument of Western imperialism pervades various domains.

Culturally, the Berlinale film festival's censorship of pro-Palestinian voices—going so far as to report staff to police for solidarity with Gaza—reveals Germany's systematic repression of dissent, a mechanism used to uphold a veneer of rationality even as it facilitates barbarism.

This repression extends far beyond mere cultural censorship, however. Germany, in its perversion of the “Never Again is for everyone” principle, has, decades after the Luxembourg Agreement (1952) and the establishment of diplomatic ties (1965), warped its “special responsibility” for Holocaust victims into a blank check for Israeli crimes.

This insidious reality was further manifested in Dobrindt's Bat Yam performance, framing Iran's act of self-defense as terrorism while ignoring Israel's genocide, which proves Iran's FM spokesman's warning: “History does not forgive easily, and the memory of nations is long.”

While many nations of the Global South demand accountability for Israeli atrocities, Dobrindt and Merz, however, cling to a failed policy that stains Germany's moral standing and reaffirms its commitment to a neocolonial order.

By performing its designated role of political cover, sanctions enforcement, and narrative manipulation, Germany enables the worst excesses of US and Israeli aggression, proving its claims of championing law and rationality are nothing but a modern veneer for an age-old imperialist agenda.

Until Berlin confronts its complicity in Israeli terror, its own bloody history, and its active participation in this cynical Western division of imperial labor, it will remain on the wrong side of history, condemned by the very conscience it fraudulently claims to champion.

From a dollar-filled suitcase in 1953 to illusory bags in 2025

How the Israeli-American plot to topple the Iranian government failed

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared belated and euphoric as he addressed a camera on June 13, claiming he had averted a “nuclear holocaust” by attacking two of Iran’s nuclear sites, assassinating its top military officials and nuclear scientists, and targeting the country’s infrastructure.

12 days later, when the war had ended, he made the same remarks with a less jaunty expression. He said he had achieved a “great victory” by dismantling Iran’s nuclear program, and thanked U.S. President Donald Trump for joining his deadly campaign and dropping his own bombs on Iranian facilities. Trump, too, has been calling the war a victory based on the fact that Iran’s nuclear program has been “obliterated”.

But now, more than a week after the fighting ceased on June 24th at the behest of Washington and Tel Aviv, the facts and justifications presented by the two leaders simply aren’t holding up. Several American media outlets have cast doubt on the possibility of completely destroying Iran’s nuclear sites, the most critical of which are located underground and shielded by mountains. Most importantly, the whereabouts of Iran’s hundreds of kilograms of enriched uranium remain unknown.

Furthermore, even if Trump and Netanyahu have succeeded in abolishing Iran’s nuclear program, this wouldn’t prevent the country from rebuilding it. If anything, Iranians would face a far easier path should they decide to pursue nuclear weapons, given their newfound distrust of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the significant increase in domestic calls for nuclear armament.

The consequences the U.S. and Israel had to face for launching a war on Iran were not insignificant either. Large swathes of Israeli cities in the occupied territories now lie in ruins, marking the first time settlers have experienced life in a warzone, despite having waged several wars against Arabs in the past seven decades. Moreover, Iran pounded the United States’ most important military base in West Asia, the Al Udeid Airbase in Qatar, one day after Americans struck the country’s nuclear sites. Iran launched twelve missiles at the base, six of which hit their target, a fact Trump consistently tries to deny.

Despite the surprising turn of events for international observers, the truth of the matter is that none of these results and consequences were really unforeseen for analysts and officials, who have been warn-



ing for years that Iran’s nuclear program cannot be dismantled, even if the U.S. and Israel manage to physically damage it at some point. Also, Trump and Netanyahu most certainly knew that Iran has a large arsenal of sophisticated missiles, and that it has enough to consistently hit Israel for several months.

This all begs a crucial question: Why did Trump and Netanyahu initiate a war they knew would not dismantle Iran’s nuclear program? The answer, quite simply, is that their true objectives lay elsewhere.

The fantasy of replicating Syria in Iran

In December of 2024, forces of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) entered Syria’s capital Damascus, essentially putting an end to the government of President Bashar al-Assad, 24 years and five months after he rose to power.

Before his fall, Assad had weathered trials few rulers in the region have ever faced. He spent over a decade battling Daesh terrorists, successfully driving the majority of them from the country throughout the 2010s. He managed to keep his government functioning despite crippling U.S. sanctions that decimated Syria’s economy and created widespread shortages. Most recently, he had been welcomed back into the fold by Arab leaders, slowly but surely returning to the international stage after being shunned by many Arab countries in 2011.

Yet this government, which had endured so much, collapsed with surprising ease in December. To everyone’s astonishment, even the Syrian Arab Army, the much-vaunted force built over the course of 70 years, could not contend with a group of terrorists imported from China and Central Asia. The Syrian Army wasn’t less equipped than the HTS, nor was it outnumbered; it simply did not receive orders to engage.

Following the HTS’s formation of a semi-government in Syria, and once the dust had settled, regional media outlets that had maintained

contact with the previous state reported that a significant number of Syrian Army commanders, as well as key ministers and associates of Assad, had been bought off by the U.S. and Israel through Arab and Turkish intermediaries. Those who remained loyal to Assad ultimately fled when they realized that the president himself had no intention of staying. Assad now resides in Russia, many of his former commanders now work for the HTS, and his ministers have either vanished or have turned against him. A small number of those who stayed and fought are also believed to be dead.

As the war on Iran began, many speculated that Israel’s objective was to replicate its strategy with Hezbollah: decapitation. The argument was that the regime believed that by assassinating Iran’s top military leaders, it could indefinitely delay any retaliation and then seize the opportunity to devastate large swathes of Iran, eliminating any remaining commanders and officials. Ultimately, Israel would be left with a mere shell of a government in Iran, devoid of any real control over the country.

Back then, some of the information we possess today was unavailable. We now know that after assassinating generals and scientists on June 13, Israel contacted a large number of Iranian political and military officials, telling them that they should announce they were no longer part of the Islamic Republic or face death for themselves and their families. The Washington Post even published the audio of one such phone call, in which the unnamed official was instructed to send a video to Israel announcing his leave.

The idea was that these individuals would either side with Israel or simply flee Iran, mirroring the events in Syria. In doing so, Iran’s formidable military capabilities would remain untapped, allowing Israel and the U.S. to topple the government. Unlike Syria, there was no need for a figure like Al-Jolani, as the ultimate goal was to disintegrate Iran, creating new governments in

several provinces, the Tehran Times understands through its sources.

This plan was actually hinted at in the video message Netanyahu released on June 13. “We have indications that senior leaders in Iran are already packing their bags. They sense what’s coming,” he declared. Shortly thereafter, the Israeli regime disseminated a video purporting to show Tehran’s Mehrabad airport, with black cars heading toward a plane. “See how they are running away,” a female voice stated in the background. The caption accompanying the video circulating on social media claimed it depicted Iranian officials fleeing the country. The video was, of course, a fabrication aimed at stoking fear among the political and military dignitaries of Iran.

In the end, Iranian officials remained loyal and courageous. The military swiftly appointed new commanders within twelve hours, and all political factions, alongside the population, rallied behind Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who vowed to make the enemy “miserable.” Despite Israeli and American threats of assassination, Ayatollah Khamenei delivered on that promise.

We are now left with another question: Why did Netanyahu and Trump think they could pull off their Syrian moves in Iran? The answer: They’d already done it before, in 1953.

In 1953, the Iranian government was toppled by a U.S.- and British-backed coup that removed Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, who had nationalized Iran’s oil industry. Kermit Roosevelt Jr., a CIA operative and grandson of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, arrived in Iran that year with a suitcase containing millions of dollars. He used this money to bribe key figures in the military, media, and clergy, securing their support for the coup. He also funded anti-Mossadegh propaganda, paid protestors to stage riots, and financed pro-Shah groups to destabilize Mossadegh’s government. Mossadegh was ousted, arrested, and spent the rest of his days under house arrest.

Fast forward to the 2025 fight with Iran, and Netanyahu seemed to be dreaming about that suitcase again. Except this time, he said it was supposed to have the belongings of Iranian officials. That suitcase, it turns out, was just a dream.

There is one more question that needs to be answered: Why can’t the West, and its colonial project, Israel, accept that Iran changed in 1979 and that it won’t be subjugated by force, threats, or bribes?

racism directed at expressions of the Muslim identity, or at any public manifestation perceived as such. This discriminatory logic is reproduced across media, institutions, and international diplomacy. In the case of Iran, it manifests as a systematic hostility that does not necessarily respond to the country’s actions, but rather to its cultural and religious identity.

This form of symbolic violence—known as epistemic violence—operates by denying people the right to define their own ethical, political, and civilizational frameworks. By delegitimizing their own rationalities, global asymmetries are reinforced, and an international architecture is justified that is designed to exclude, isolate, and punish those who fall outside the liberal Western canon.

Overcoming this approach requires a critical revision of the language we use to describe Islam and actors like Iran. It is not about idealization, but about restoring the historical and political depth of these projects. Ultimately, dismantling Islamophobia—in all its forms—demands the construction of a new political vocabulary, one that does not associate difference with threat, nor religious discourse with irrationality.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

VNL 2025: Iran’s youngsters make their mark

TEHRAN – The Iranian national volleyball team have demonstrated a balanced and promising performance in the first two weeks of the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL). With a young roster and the absence of some seasoned stars, Team Melli’s results reflect both the challenges of rebuilding and the potential for a bright future.

After eight matches, Iran hold an even record of four wins and four losses. While the results have not been flawless, signs of mental growth and tactical progress are evident, signaling a positive trajectory for Iranian volleyball.

Under head coach Roberto Piazza, the team have embarked on a rebuilding phase, focusing on integrating young talents such as Porya Hossein Khazadeh, Arshia Behnezhad, and Bardia Saadat.

These players have not only showcased impressive technical skills but also brought a renewed energy and confidence to the squad, hinting at the emergence of Iran’s next generation of volleyball stars.

This youthful approach came with the unavoidable absence of two key veterans: Mohammad Mousavi and Milad Ebadipour. Their absence was felt particularly in leadership and composure during critical moments, pushing the coaching staff to emphasize teamwork and motivation among younger players.

*Key performances and close matches

Iran’s resilience has been one of the team’s strengths. The squad secured hard-fought 3-2 victories over Ukraine and the Netherlands, showing great determination and coordination.

Even in narrow defeats—such as the 2-3 loss to the U.S. after winning the first two sets, and a 1-3 loss to Germany where they lost a crucial 24-26 set—Iran maintained a competitive spirit.

These close results highlight areas for growth, especially in service errors and focus during decisive points.

However, the team’s services improved noticeably, with Hossein Khazadeh emerging as one of the tournament’s top servers, sharing the lead with Germany’s Jan Philipp at 15 direct service points in the first two weeks.

Amin Esmaeilnezhad has been a key scorer, ranking 13th in total points with 100, while setter Behnezhad ranks eighth in successful sets with 141 assists, demonstrating solid playmaking abilities.

*Challenging Week 3

Iran now face a demanding Week 3 stage in Gdańsk, Poland, where they will compete against top-tier teams including Poland, Olympic champions France, China, and Bulgaria. This group represents a stern test for the team’s young core.

Success in the upcoming matches will depend on the continued development of these young talents, maintaining mental toughness, and minimizing errors in crucial moments.

With the growing confidence and experience of their players, Iran aim to solidify their standing and build momentum for the remainder of the league and future international competitions.

Persepolis’s candidates revealed

TEHRAN – Four coaches have been shortlisted to take charge of Persepolis football club.

?smail Kartal, who served as Persepolis’ third head coach after Juan Carlos Garrido and Karim Bagheri last season, has parted ways with the Iranian club. The Turkish coach aimed to achieve major success to bring peace of mind to the fans but will not return to Tehran due to family reasons.

Currently, media reports suggest that Persepolis have begun negotiations with former China national team coach Branko Ivanković. The Croatian coach led Persepolis to three titles in Iran’s Persian Gulf Pro League and is highly regarded within the club.

Another candidate is Vahid Hashemian, a former forward for VfL Bochum, Bayern Mu-

nich, Hannover 96, and Hamburger SV. He also served as an assistant to Dragan Skocic with the Iran national football team from 2019 to 2022.

Brazilian coach Osmar Loss Vieira, who led Persepolis to the 2024/25 league title, is also among the contenders. He is currently coaching at Thai League 1 club Buriram United.

The fourth candidate is Yahya Golmohammadi, the head coach of Foolad. He has previously led Persepolis to three Iran league titles.

Patrice Carteron named Umm Salal coach

TEHRAN – Qatari club Umm Salal announced the return of French coach Patrice Carteron to take over the team for the new season 2025-26 season.

The club published a picture of the coach on its official Instagram account, commenting: “Look who has returned, Umm Salal is in the heart,” referring to his return to lead the team once again.

This is Carteron’s second term with Umm Salal, as he previously coached the team from July 2023 until November 2024, during which he played 46 matches, achieving victory in 20 games, drawing in 11, and suffering 15 defeats.

Carteron’s return to the Qatari league came after the end of his last experience with the Iranian team Sepahan, from which he departed in June.

Kresimir Krizmanic linked with Tractor

TEHRAN – Croatian defender Kresimir Krizmanic has been linked with Iranian football club Tractor.

The 24-year-old player currently plays for Croatian side Gorica. Following Aref Aghasi’s departure to Esteghlal during the summer transfer window, Tractor, based in Tabriz and managed by Dragan Skocic, are reportedly eyeing the signing of Krizmanic.

Tractor, the reigning champions of the 2024-25 Iran Pro League, will also participate in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Elite.

Sepahan complete signing of Arash Rezavand

TEHRAN – Sepahan football club have completed the signing of Esteghlal midfielder Arash Rezavand.

Rezavand, who had joined the Blues in 2019, has penned a three-year deal with Sepahan for an undisclosed fee.

Sepahan have recently hired Moharram Navidkia after parting ways with Patrice Carteron, who left the team to take charge of Qatari side Umm Salal.

Sepahan are to meet Al Duhail of Qatar on August 12 in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Elite play-off.

I’ll never forget the love you gave me: El Amloud

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team defender Ayoub El Amloud has shared a heartfelt message with the Iranian people.

El Amloud joined Persepolis at the start of the Iran league season and parted ways with the Reds this summer.

In an emotional message during these challenging times, he expressed his feelings to the fans.

“I hope you are doing well. Dear Persepolis fans, I hope you are safe during these days. My heart is with you. I will never forget the love, appreciation, and everything you have given me. Thank you very much. Take care of yourselves and your families. I love you,” El Amloud said.

Islamophobia, orientalism, and power: The Iranian case

From Page 1 ► A critical reading, however, allows us to deconstruct these stereotypes. Far from being a dogmatic system closed in on itself, Islam has cultivated over the centuries a rich and plural tradition of critical thought, aimed both at its own canon and at the social and political structures surrounding it. This critical practice is not the exclusive domain of intellectual elites; it is expressed in everyday life—in mosques, markets, homes, and public spaces. Muslims not only practice their faith, but interrogate it, debate it, and reformulate it within discursive frameworks that, rather than diluting doctrinal coherence, reinforce its ability to project into the future.

This approach makes it possible to dismantle one of the pillars of the orientalist imaginary: the representation of the Muslim—and by extension, of societies like Iran’s—as inherently irrational, trapped in “religious” passions and incapable of strategic logic. Through this lens, Iran is turned into the emblem of radical otherness, a kind of “absolute other” embodying the West’s most persistent “fears”: fanaticism, sacralized violence, and irrationality. This construction depoliticizes its international actions, empties its strategic decisions of meaning, and turns it into a legitimate object of intervention.

Reducing Iran to the paradigm of irrational political Islam reinforces a colonial matrix that denies the legitimacy of alternative forms of rationality. The aim is not to ignore the tensions, but to acknowledge that its political project responds to a historical, cultural, and geopolitical logic that must be understood on its own terms. To deny this is not only to reinforce Islamophobia but also to obstruct any serious understanding of political movements from the Global South that challenge the Western monopoly on the definitions of rationality and politics.

While Western powers retain and expand their atomic arsenals, the Global South faces threats, even when complying with international norms

Islamophobia as a structure of power

Islamophobia should not be understood merely as a cultural prejudice or religious phobia, but as a specific form of structural

Rebuilding areas damaged by Israeli aggression a priority of transport, urban development ministry

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh emphasized that rebuilding areas damaged by the Israeli aggression is one of the priorities of her ministry.

In a meeting with the governor-general of Tehran province and some members of parliament, the minister stated that the reconstruction of areas damaged in the 12-day war of the Zionist regime is the most important priority of the ministry and said: "The Damage Assessment and Housing Reconstruction Committee of the Crisis Management Headquarters of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development has developed a reconstruction plan for damaged areas, including residential, commercial, administrative, private areas, and government buildings, and will spare no effort to implement it."

The minister has also called for city master plans to incorporate passive defense principles, including revised construction standards for high-rise buildings to ensure greater public safety.

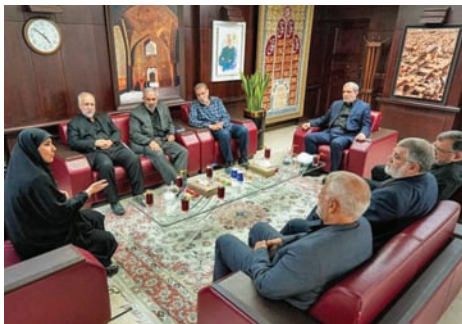
Speaking at the sixth session of Iran's Supreme Council of Urban Planning and Architecture this year, which focused on the Astara master plan, urban development in Gonbad-e Kavus, and the proposed addition of military training grounds to the city limits of Gorgan under the National Housing Movement, Sadegh emphasized the heightened need for urban resilience.

"On the eleventh day of all-out war with the enemy, it's evident that Israel's calculations have collapsed in the face of public solidarity," said Sadegh, who chairs the council. "They believed they could sway the people, but they have failed—and this failure increases the weight of our responsibilities as officials."

Sadegh urged council members and technical committees to ensure population centers are not located near high-risk facilities and to prioritize passive defense criteria in all comprehensive plans.

She also called for a review of construction practices for tall buildings, particularly regarding the integration of shelters and safety measures for residents.

The minister said the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center will lead



the review of high-rise construction protocols, with findings to be submitted for consideration and approval in upcoming sessions of the council.

On June 22, Sadegh ordered expediting the reconstruction of the residential units damaged in the war.

While visiting residential units damaged by the Zionist regime's aggression in Tehran, Farzaneh Sadegh announced efforts to expedite the operation of reconstructing these units, saying: "We will support the reconstruction of these units quickly."

According to a report by the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the minister visited areas damaged in the Israeli war in the capital, including the residential homes of the country's nuclear scientists destroyed in the Zionist regime's attacks.

During this visit, in order to implement the president's order on the necessity of reconstructing the damaged areas, facilitation for assessing the extent of the damage and facilitation in the reconstruction of these units were discussed.

The minister also referred to the start of recording damage to buildings damaged in the war, on Saturday, and announced the government's maximum support for the reconstruction and renovation of residential houses.

Sadegh said: "In coordination with the Governor-General of Tehran and the Disaster Management Headquarters, our colleagues at the Construction Engineering Organization and the Housing Foundation have begun field visits to identify and record the extent of damage to damaged buildings."

She said: "The government will provide maximum support in the renovation and reconstruction of residential homes."

Private investment in renewables fully backed by government: energy minister



Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi cuts the ribbon at the opening ceremony of a renewable facility in Mahallat county, Markazi Province.

TEHRAN – Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said the government fully supports private sector investment in renewable energy, as the country continues expanding its solar power infrastructure to address long-standing imbalances in the electricity sector.

Speaking at the inauguration of 316 megawatts of new solar capacity across 40 sites nationwide, Aliabadi praised local authorities, particularly in Mahallat County in Markazi Province, for their commitment to solar development.

"This is not a time to recount past achievements — it is a time to create them," he said, highlighting efforts such as cutting energy and water consumption and fostering a culture of solidarity.

Aliabadi pointed to a historic imbalance in Iran's electricity sector, where demand had long outpaced supply, at times by over 20,000 megawatts.

He said the situation has improved significantly, with power consumption falling by 4,700 megawatts compared to the same period last year, while production capacity has grown by over 4,500 megawatts. Forced

outages at power plants have dropped to just two percent.

He added that household blackouts have become virtually nonexistent this year, thanks in part to timely maintenance and improved performance of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, which was temporarily taken offline in spring to prepare for peak summer demand.

Aliabadi said the government will honor its financial commitments to solar power investors and reiterated its full backing for private players in the renewable energy sector. "With reliance on domestic capabilities and continued investment, we are determined to overcome challenges and demonstrate national resilience," he said.

Petropars begins building solar power plant

Separately, Hamidreza Saghafi, head of Petropars Group, announced the start of construction on the company's first solar power plant, named after the late General Hossein Hamedani, in the city of Saveh.

He described the project as a manifestation of the Oil Ministry's strategy to diversify Iran's energy mix and expand its use of renewables.

Saghafi said the project uses a novel investment model that minimizes reliance on domestic funds and leverages international financing — a potential blueprint for future clean energy initiatives.

He also unveiled plans to build a 200-megawatt solar plant in Yazd and a 1,000-megawatt facility in Arak. Energy Minister Aliabadi, also present at the ceremony, welcomed Petropars' entry into the renewable sector.

"Having proven its capabilities in South Pars, Petropars is now taking an important step toward sustainable development and national self-sufficiency," he said.

Iran's non-oil exports near \$11.7b in Q1

TEHRAN – Iran exported \$11.655 billion worth of non-oil goods in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–June 21), according to Faroud Asgari, deputy economy minister and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The volume of non-oil exports stood at 34.476 million tons, representing a 9.3 percent decrease in weight and a 14.4 percent drop in value compared to the same period last year.

The average customs value of exported goods was \$338 per ton, down 5.6 percent year-on-year.

Petrochemical exports during the quarter totaled 11.133 million tons, valued at \$4.684 billion, which marks a 28.7 percent decline in weight and a 24.5 percent decrease in value from the year before.

The top non-oil export items were liquefied propane at \$874 million, liquefied butane at \$611 million, methanol at \$576 million, petroleum bitumen at \$574 million, and natural gas at \$456 million.

China was Iran's largest export destination with purchases totaling \$3.511 billion. It was followed by Iraq at \$1.905 billion, the United Arab Emirates at \$1.592 billion, Turkey at \$937 million, Afghanistan at \$510 million, Oman at \$437 million, and Pakistan at \$420 million.



Iran's total non-oil trade during the quarter reached 43.489 million tons, valued at \$24.684 billion.

Imports accounted for 9.013 million tons of that volume, worth \$13.029 billion—down 4.35 percent in weight and 11.73 percent in value year-on-year.

The average value of imported goods was \$1,446 per ton, reflecting a 7.7 percent decline.

Key import items included unrefined gold at \$965 million, animal feed corn at \$883 million, rice at \$500 million, sunflower seed oil at \$493 million, and mobile phones at \$372 million.

The UAE was Iran's leading import partner with \$3.886 billion in shipments, followed by China at \$3.428 billion, Turkey at \$1.986 billion, India at \$514 million, Germany at \$454 million, Russia at \$354 million, and the Netherlands at \$340 million.

The head of the Trade Promo-

tion Organization (TPO) said on Monday that Iran's foreign trade activities remain on track despite recent regional tensions, with no interruptions to services for traders and exporters.

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.

Govt. develops sanctions response plan amid recent tensions, PBO head



TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (BPO) said the government, particularly its economic team, has remained fully operational and responsive during recent national developments, including by formulating a sanctions response package in anticipation of unfolding events.

Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi made the remarks in a joint meeting with the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and members of the Parliament's Budget and Planning Committee at the Planning and Budget Organization's headquarters.

He said Iran had recently faced one of the most significant events in its long history, claiming that Israel had sought to replicate its 1967 strategy during the 12-Day War in a bid to destabilize the Islamic Republic. "But that scheme was decisively defeated," Pourmohammadi noted.

He described the episode as historic, emphasizing that Iran's leadership, patriotic public response, and what he called the "miraculous unity" of the Iranian people—alongside U.S.-brokered mediation—led to a ceasefire. "This outcome reflects the depth of Iran's ancient civilization and national pride," he said.

As stated on Sunday by the secretary-general of Iran's House of Industry, Mine and Trade, 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 war-time years. "Despite several industrial zones being targeted, production never came to a halt," he said.

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

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

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

He explained that while some production units were temporarily shut down due to sabotage risks, those that sustained damage now require both financial assistance and policy intervention. "The disruptions came in late June," he noted, "and the industry is in dire need of compensatory and supportive policies."

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

Khaleghi added that the House of Industry

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

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

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

Meanwhile, Iran's deputy industry, mining and trade minister for the commercial affairs said on Saturday (June 28): "Following the request of the minister of industry, mining and trade, a comprehensive package of support for industries affected by the Israeli-imposed war has been sent to the cabinet, and if approved, we will announce the details to production and industrial units."

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

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

TEDPIX loses 57,410 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 57,410 points to 2.731 million on Tuesday, which is the fourth day of the Iranian calendar week.

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

The head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has

said that the capital market's share in the national financing system is going to increase to 50 percent over the next five years, positioning it as a key engine of economic activity, employment, and industrial growth.

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

He outlined two additional pillars of the government's produc-

tion strategy: implementation of the Law on Supporting Production and a five-part economic development plan currently being drafted by the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO).

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

He said the Securities and Exchange Organization is targeting a "50-50" financing model, balanc-

ing bank loans and capital market resources, over a four- to five-year horizon. "Initial public offerings in project-based companies have already begun, and infrastructure for Murabaha bond issuance is in place," he said, noting a surge in applications from producers seeking bond issuance licenses.

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

Over 100 leading global NGOs slam Gaza aid system

“Orphaned children and caregivers are among the dead”

From page 1 ► The organizations reported that “orphaned children and caregivers are among the dead, with children harmed in over half of the attacks on civilians at these sites.”

With Gaza's healthcare system in ruins, the groups warned that many of those shot by the Israeli occupation forces while trying to access aid are “left to bleed out alone, beyond the reach of ambulances and denied lifesaving medical care.”

They stated that these measures are part of a system “designed to sustain a cycle of desperation, danger, and death.”

“This is not a humanitarian response,” the statement pointed out.

The declaration, signed by over 100 organizations including Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, Oxfam International, Amnesty International and the Norwegian Refugee Council, warned that “concentrating more than two million people into further confined areas for a



chance to feed their families is not a plan to save lives.”

Since the occupation regime's military took control of food distribution in Gaza, the groups reported that more than 500 Palestinians have been killed and nearly 4,000 injured while attempting to access humanitarian aid.

The statement highlights how the former UN-run network of 400 aid points has been replaced by just four fenced, militarized sites. “These areas have become sites of repeated massacres,” it

warned, noting that children and caregivers are among the dead, and that ambulances are unable to reach the wounded.

Fuel, water, and medical supplies are rapidly running out, forcing families to survive without clean water, electricity, or functioning hospitals. “Families are sheltering under plastic sheets, operating makeshift kitchens amid the rubble,” the groups reported.

They underlined that “amidst severe hunger and famine-like conditions, many families tell us

they are now too weak to compete for food rations. Those who do manage to obtain food often return with only a few basic items, nearly impossible to prepare.”

The NGOs called on third-party states to take concrete action to “end the suffocating siege and uphold the right of civilians in Gaza to safely access aid and receive protection.”

They urged international donors not to fund militarized aid operations that violate international law and risk complicity in atrocities. Instead, they called for a return to a UN-led system inclusive of UNRWA and Palestinian civil society.

“We reiterate our urgent calls for an end to the pervasive impunity that enables these atrocities and denies Palestinians their basic dignity,” the signatories said.

“This normalization of suffering must not be allowed to stand,” they added.

Why do the Lebanese Forces want to amend electoral law?

Unfair law against Shiite diaspora

From page 1 ► The Lebanese Forces are seeking to amend Electoral Law 144/2017, under which the 2018 and 2022 parliamentary elections were held, to suit their political interests. This would add six expatriate seats (distributed across six continents) to the 128 parliamentary seats, bringing the total number of representatives to 134.

However, several parliamentary blocs object the Lebanese Forces' monopoly on expatriate votes, as the principle of equal political rights does not extend to Hezbollah and the Amal Movement voters abroad, particularly since Hezbollah is listed as a terrorist organization in several Arab and Western countries.

MPs from the Socialist Party expressed their rejection of changing the electoral law because it is “an internal targeting of a key sect,” and this is “in connection with what is being said about a peace process in the region, which requires changing the reality of Shiite parliamentary representation.”

They also warned of the risks this pro-

posals poses to Lebanon, stating, “A change in the electoral law must meet the aspirations of the Lebanese people and improve representation, not be tied to political developments or targeting any Lebanese component.”

In the 2022 session, the expatriate vote had a significant impact on the parliamentary election results favoring the anti-Resistance nominees, while the Shiite duo's voters withdrew in fear of losing their jobs or being harassed and harmed.

A political source representing the Lebanese diaspora in the United States commented on the Lebanese Forces' exploitation of their votes: “If they truly care about expatriates, let them return the funds squandered and looted by the oligarchy supported by the U.S. embassy.”

The pressure from the Lebanese Forces coincides with brazen calls to disarm Hezbollah, which could exacerbate the political dispute and threaten to derail the parliamentary elections!

Ahead of the return of U.S. Special Envoy to Lebanon Tom Barrack (likely within the next two weeks), consultations between the three presidents – President of the Republic, Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament – are focused on presenting a unified position on the U.S. proposal, coupled with a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the release of Lebanese prisoners, and the completion of the implementation of Resolution 1701.

They also emphasize that no additional commitments should be made until Israel takes corresponding steps.

Informed sources warned that Washington will cite numerous reasons to reject this Lebanese response, possibly through an escalation of ongoing Israeli aggression, as well as terrorist operations led by the HTS-led regime forces under the pretext of securing the eastern border between Lebanon and Syria, amid talk of imminent normalization with Israel, as well as the refusal of Lebanon's request to renew UNIFIL's mandate next August.

Trump's trade war on China: Implications on global trade

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN -- Economic conflict between China and the United States has been ongoing since January 2018, when the U.S. President Donald Trump began imposing tariffs and other trade barriers on China during his first term.

Trump's so-called “Liberation Day” tariffs enacted this April have sent another shockwave through the global trading systems.

During his second term, Trump has enacted a series of tariffs affecting nearly all goods imported into the U.S. tariffs were imposed on roughly 60 nations with which the U.S. has the largest trade deficits. Nevertheless, Trump declared trade war on China by imposing 145 percent composite tariff rate on Chinese-origin goods exported to the U.S. Beijing retaliated with levying 125 percent duties on U.S. goods.

China overtook the U.S. as the world's largest importer of crude oil for the first time in 2015 when Chinese crude imports hit 7.4 million barrels per day (bpd). Chinese crude oil imports stood at 11.96 million bpd in June. As the world's fastest growing economy and top crude buyer, China is the largest pur-

chaser of Iranian crude, importing more than 1.8 million barrels per day from June 1-20.

Trump's tariffs are meant to slow down Chinese economic growth and decline its growing global political influence. One reason for applying pressure on China by levying such high tariffs is to disrupt China's crude imports from Iran. China is also the primary destination for Venezuelan and Russian crude also sanctioned by the U.S. However, China has followed a logical and independent policy by purchasing from three sanctioned countries facing Western sanctions to save billions of dollars on its import bill in recent years due to discounted crude price.

China is known as the “world's factory”. Many things that the American consumers buy today have “Made in China” label on it. Implication of Trump's tariffs have been higher prices for the American consumers and applying pressure on China is to cut off its mainly independent buyers of Iranian crude and petrochemicals.

According to Vortexa, about 80 percent of crude exports originating from Iran, averaging 1.5 million bpd, have gone to China so far this year. Vortexa is a logistics firm that offers real

time information for tracking energy and freight markets.

Tehran Times reported an all-time Iran's crude export to China in March surpassing 1.8 million bpd, a 50 percent jump from the 2024 average. This also coincided with a rise of inventory levels in independent refining hub, also called teapot refineries, primarily located in Shandong province. Concerns regarding additional U.S. sanctions on Iran-linked tankers combined with the Israeli war of aggression has prompted Chinese refiners to accelerate stockpiling of energy resources.

Meanwhile, increase in the price of oil due to the recent Israeli aggression on Iran hasn't been substantial: seven percent within a few hours of the military escalation. After Trump gave a green light to Chinese import of Iranian crude, oil prices plummeted five percent (Brent at \$67.88, West Texas Intermediate at \$65) as market reacted to potential implications of the recent Israeli aggression on Iran, the so-called “12-Day War”. Crude prices now are lower than they were in January.

The Center of Strategic International Studies (CSIS) puts the annual U.S.-China goods trade at \$584 billion. With big stakes

on both sides Trump's tariffs could be an expensive war.

Tariffs vs sanctions

The tariff-based trade wars are different from secondary sanctions. First the secondary sanctions are meant to punish third-party buyers from doing business with the U.S. Department of Treasury and the dollar-based financial system. Pundits believe imposing tariffs work counter to the secondary sanctions because they undermine the economic interconnectivity that gives sanctions their strength.

Sanctions are designed to restrict economic engagement for a country, business, or individual actor. Tariffs, by contrast, are trade barriers aimed at protecting domestic industry by raising the cost of imports.

Tariffs, which Trump regards as a revenue-generating tools, are now replacing sanctions as America's primary tool to coercive diplomacy. For example, in March, Trump threatened to impose ‘secondary tariffs’ on any country continuing to import Russian oil if Moscow rejected a U.S.-brokered ceasefire in Ukraine. Also in March, the administration levied a 25 percent ‘secondary tariff’ on buyers of Venezuelan oil.

UN rapporteur: Tech firms and corporations profiting from Israeli ‘economy of genocide’

A UN expert has called on corporations to cut ties with Israel and for executives to be held accountable for enabling and profiting from crimes including illegal occupation, apartheid and genocide in the occupied Palestinian territories.

UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese's call for action comes in a scathing new report in which she names over 60 companies, including major technology firms like Google, Amazon and Microsoft, alleging their involvement in “the transformation of Israel's economy of occupation to an economy of genocide”.

“By shedding light on the political economy of an occupation turned genocidal, the report reveals how the forever-occupation has become the ideal testing ground for arms manufacturers and Big Tech . . . while investors and private and public institutions profit freely,” Albanese writes in the report.

“Too many influential corporate entities remain inextricably financially bound to Israel's apartheid and militarism.”

The detailed, 24-page report, which is set to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council on Thursday, identifies dozens of corporate actors, including those involved in the arms, technology, construction and energy sectors, which it says are complicit.

They range from companies which the re-



port says are destroying Palestinian life, including weapons companies Elbit Systems and Lockheed Martin, to heavy equipment manufacturers whose machinery is used in building illegal Israeli settlements, such as Caterpillar and HD Hyundai.

‘Unique testing ground’

The report also focuses on the historic and current role of technology companies which it says have profited from “the unique testing ground” of the occupied territories, highlighting how the repression of Palestinians has “become progressively automated”.

In October 2023, when Israel's internal military cloud overloaded, Microsoft Azure and the Project Nimbus Consortium, run by Google and Amazon, “stepped in with critical cloud and AI infrastructure”, the report says.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Netanyahu to travel to US for meetings with Trump, Vance

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will travel to the United States next week to meet with President Donald Trump and key members of his Cabinet, his office announced Tuesday.

Netanyahu said Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth are also included in the talks.

The meetings come after Israel and U.S. strikes in Iran damaged three key nuclear sites, though it remains unclear whether they were completely “obliterated” as

Trump originally claimed.

In an interview last week with CNN's Kasie Hunt, Israeli President Isaac Herzog said he was unsure of the exact details of communication and coordination between Netanyahu and Trump in advance of the strikes, but that there was “a very close and intimate dialogue” between the two, POLITICO reported.

Trump told reporters that he will discuss the situations in Gaza and Iran when he meets with Netanyahu at the White House.

Trump calls Japan ‘spoiled’ and hints at ending trade deal talks

Japan's hopes of securing a trade deal with the U.S. before the current pause on tariffs expires July 9 took another blow Monday, when President Donald Trump described the ally as “spoiled” and hinted that he will send a letter declaring the trade talks over, Nikkei Asia reported.

“To show people how spoiled Countries

have become with respect to the United States of America, and I have great respect for Japan, they won't take our RICE, and yet they have a massive rice shortage,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. “In other words, we'll just be sending them a letter, and we love having them as a Trading Partner for many years to com.”

Gaza's largest hospital forced to end dialysis services



Over 400 kidney patients have died due to war-related conditions in Gaza

Iraq pilgrimages proceed by land due to flight restrictions



TEHRAN – Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization has announced that pilgrimage trips to Iraq during the sacred lunar months Muharram and Safar are proceeding as planned, with land routes remaining operational despite ongoing flight limitations at several Iranian airports.

According to the organization, arrangements have been made to facilitate the pil-

grimage of 10,400 people to the holy shrines in Iraq. Of this total, 7,900 pilgrims will travel overland, while approximately 2,500 are expected to make the journey by air, depending on the availability of flights.

As of now, around 1,600 individuals have registered for land-based trips, and 180 for flights, pending final confirmation of air departures.

The organization also emphasized that travel packages, including affordable and budget-friendly options, are available to accommodate a wide range of applicants.

Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar, holds deep spiritual significance for Shia Muslims. Each year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from Iran and around the world travel to Iraq, particularly the holy city of Karbala, to pay homage to Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who along with his loyal companions was martyred in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

Mashhad airport resumes flights to 12 intl. destinations amid post-conflict recovery



TEHRAN – Mashhad's Shahid Hasheminejad International Airport has resumed flight operations to 12 international and 3 domestic destinations, as the region emerges from a tense 12-day conflict between Iran and the Zionist regime of Israel.

According to Mahmoud Amani-Bani, the director-general of airports in Khorasan Razavi province, flights have been restored following the reopening of eastern Iran's airspace.

International flights from Mashhad now operate to Beijing, Istanbul, Dubai, New Delhi, Shanghai, Kabul, Karachi, Lahore, Medina, Muscat, Moscow, and Doha, while domestic flights

serve Zahedan, Chabahar, and Kerman.

"After the lifting of airspace restrictions, operations to several domestic and international destinations have resumed, and some foreign airlines have submitted requests to reinstate their services," he said.

Amani-Bani also noted that three international carriers –Turkish Airlines, Flydubai, and Air Arabia–have already resumed services to Mashhad.

Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city and a major religious tourism hub, is the capital of Khorasan Razavi province.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Quebrada de Humahuaca

Quebrada de Humahuaca, situated in Argentina's province of Jujuy, follows the line of a major cultural route, the Camino Inca, along the spectacular valley of the Rio Grande, from its source in the cold high desert plateau of the High Andean lands to its confluence with the Rio Leone some 150 km to the south.

The UNESCO designated valley demonstrates essential evidence of its use as a major trade route over the past 10,000 years. It features visible traces of prehistoric hunter-gatherer communities, of the Inca Empire (15th to 16th centuries), and of the fight for independence in the 19th and 20th centuries.

According to UNESCO, the property is a highly representative example of the south Andean valleys, with an exceptional system of communication routes and economic, social, and cultural coordination.

This is the most important physical linkage between the high Andean lands and the extensive temperate plains in south-eastern South America. Its impressive natural environment is kept almost intact, with hundreds of archaeological and architectural sites that bear witness to its long and rich history. The valley shows substantial evidence of its use as a major trade route over the past 10,000 years. Scattered along the valley are extensive remains of successive settlements whose inhabitants created and used these linear routes. They include prehistoric hunter/gatherer and early farming communities (9000 BC to 400 CE), large

structured agricultural societies (400 CE–900), flourishing pre-Hispanic towns and villages (900–1430/80), the Incan empire (1430/80–1535), Spanish towns, villages and churches (153/93–1810), and traces of Republican struggles for independence (1810–20th century).

Of particular note are the extensive remains of stone-walled agricultural terrace fields at Coctaca, thought to have originated around 1,500 years ago and still in use today; these are associated with a string of fortified towns known as pucarás. The field system and the pucarás together make a dramatic impact on the landscape one that is unrivalled in South America. The valley also displays several churches and chapels and a vibrant vernacular architectural tradition.

The current population, on its part, keeps its traditions in an outstanding cultural landscape. Thus, Quebrada de Humahuaca is an extremely complex heritage system characterized by elements of various kinds inserted in a stunning, impressive and colorful landscape. The interaction between the geo-ecological system and the successive societies and cultures that have occupied it for the last 10,000 years shows space-time continuity that is hard to find in other areas. Separated from the ensemble, only a few properties can be considered unique and outstanding. However, the combination of natural and cultural elements has given rise to a site that is beyond comparison in every sense.

(Source: UNESCO)

Visit war machines on display at Tehran museum



F5 Tiger. American made

TEHRAN – Museum of the Islamic Revolution and Sacred Defense in Tehran offers one of the most comprehensive war tourism experiences in West Asia, inviting visitors to witness a remarkable open-air exhibition of heavy military equipment used during the Iran–Iraq War (1980–88), known domestically as the “Sacred Defense.”

Spread across a 22-hectare landscaped site, the museum's expansive outdoor spaces present more than 60 major war machines--tanks, aircraft, artillery, helicopters, and other military vehicles--set against a backdrop of



Naze'at Rocket (Surface-to-surface missile) Made in Iran

gardens, lakes, and architectural reconstructions that honor Iran's wartime resilience.

As recently reported by ICOMAM Magazine, an official publication of the International Committee of Museums and Collections of Arms and Military History, this curated display of military hardware offers insight not only into the tools of war but also into the cultural memory and national narrative surrounding one of the 20th century's most prolonged conflicts.

Highlights of the open-air spaces

Visitors to the outdoor exhibition can explore a wide range of historically significant military equipment, each representing different aspects of Iran's defense capabilities during the eight-year war.

Tanks and armored vehicles



Chieftain tank. British made

Chieftain Tank (UK): Once operated by Iran's army, this formidable tank features a 120 mm gun with a range of over 22 km, advanced night vision, and nuclear-biological-chemical (NBC) protective systems.

T62, T55, and T64 Tanks (Soviet-made): Captured from Iraqi forces, these tanks showcase Soviet military engineering and include stabi-

lizers, night-vision, and anti-NBC systems.

BMP-1 and MT-LB Personnel Carriers (Soviet-made): These amphibious vehicles carried troops across rough terrain and water, with onboard weapons capable of engaging infantry and armored targets.

Aircraft and helicopters

F-4 Phantom II & F-5 Tiger (USA): High-speed fighter jets equipped with a versatile arsenal for bombardment, interception, and reconnaissance.



Recovery vehicle. U.S. made

MiG-21 (Soviet-made, captured from Iraq): A classic Cold War jet fighter, notable for its speed and maneuverability in air-to-air combat.

Bell 206, 205 & Cobra Helicopters (USA): Deployed for reconnaissance, troop transport, and precision attacks. The Cobra, with its 20 mm cannon and rocket pods, was particularly effective against armored threats.

Artillery and rocket systems

203 mm Propelled Artillery (USA): Still in service, this massive gun is capable of firing 93 kg shells over 16 km.

107 mm Rocket Launcher (Iran-made): A domestically produced multiple-launch sys-



Cobra attack helicopter. U.S. made

tem, capable of firing 12 rockets in under 10 seconds.

Naze'at Rocket (Iran-made): Iran's first indigenous surface-to-surface missile, with a range of 150 km and mobile launch capabilities.

Air defense systems

14.5 mm Quad Anti-Aircraft Gun (North Korea) and 37 mm Anti-Aircraft Gun (Soviet/Chinese): Captured from Iraqi forces, these systems were used for low-altitude defense against enemy aircraft.

Recovery vehicles and support equipment

There are also a number of armored recovery vehicles including American-made ones, equipped with cranes and winches, that demonstrate the essential support role of military logistics.

A considerable experience

Beyond the open-air collection, the museum features immersive indoor exhibitions across seven halls. Visitors are introduced to the war's timeline with audio-visual aids, archival footage, and interactive projections. A notable centerpiece is the Panorama Museum, which virtually recreates pivotal moments such as the liberation of Khorramshahr. The Hall of



Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 Fighter and interceptor aircraft Russian made

Butterflies, meanwhile, serves as a poignant memorial to fallen soldiers, displaying personal effects retrieved from the battlefield.

The museum's Khorramshahr Mosque replica, adorned with turquoise and cream tiles, further embeds the spiritual and cultural symbolism of resistance into the visitor experience.

War tourism in Iran

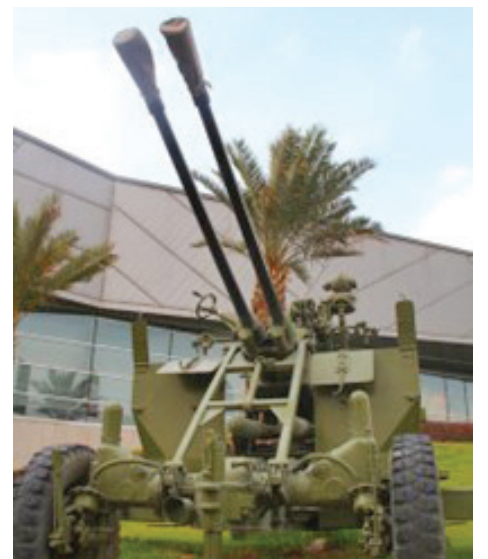
With the Iran–Iraq War being the second-longest conflict of the 20th century, Iran's war heritage sites are emerging as significant destinations for war tourism, dark tourism,



F4 Phantom II. American made

and cultural education. Once the domain of conflict photojournalists, such destinations are now recommended in major travel guides for their historical and emotional depth.

The Museum of the Islamic Revolution and Sacred Defense is at the forefront of this trend, combining historical documentation with national storytelling, all within an accessible urban setting in Tehran. Its sophisticated presentation, interactive exhibits, and impressive outdoor armory provide both domestic and international visitors a unique chance to reflect on the human, technological, and cultural dimensions of modern warfare.



Anti-aircraft 37 mm gun. Russian made

The museum is open year-round and is easily accessible from central Tehran. The vast grounds also include recreational areas, water features, and children's play zones, making it suitable for both history enthusiasts and families.

Alamut Castle nears UNESCO World Heritage status, tourism minister says

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced on Tuesday that the historic Alamut Castle is on the verge of possibly being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to Qazvin province on Tuesday, Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri confirmed that UNESCO evaluators may visit the region in late September or early October to carry out a final assessment.

Salehi-Amiri emphasized that Alamut's inscription would mark a turning point for tourism in the region. "With this recognition, Alamut will become a global destination for cultural travelers and

history enthusiasts," he added.

Located in the South Caspian region near the village of Gazor Khan in Qazvin province, Alamut Castle, also known as "the eagle's nest", sits atop a dramatic mountain ridge, about 200 kilometers northwest of Tehran.

It rose to prominence in 1090 CE when it was taken over by Hassan-i Sabbah, leader of the Nizari Ismaili sect.

For more than 160 years, Alamut served as the intellectual and strategic center of a semi-autonomous state, renowned for its extensive library, gardens, and scientific inquiry.

During his remarks, the tourism minister also stressed the

need to improve the region's infrastructure to accommodate future visitors.

"Qazvin enjoys high levels of safety and cultural appeal, but its accommodation capacity must be doubled within the next five years, in line with the Seventh National Development Plan," he stated.

To meet this goal, Salehi Amiri said the government is working on new incentives to attract private investment in the tourism sector. "Details of these incentives will be announced at the appropriate time," he noted.

The minister also commended ongoing efforts to preserve Qazvin's cultural assets, including the restoration of a historic urban

structure in collaboration with the city municipality.

He said such initiatives can elevate Qazvin's historical architecture to national prominence.

"From the Medes to the Sasanians, and from the Safavids to the Qajar era, Qazvin has always been a symbol of Iran's great civilization," Salehi-Amiri concluded.

"Much of its cultural heritage remains unexplored, but with the continued efforts of archaeologists, its treasures will gain broader global recognition."

In the 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book "The Valleys of the Assassins".

IRCS urges Red Cross societies to denounce Israel’s violation of humanitarian laws in Iran

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in a letter to international communities as well as Red Cross societies, has urged them to slam the violation of humanitarian laws by the Zionist regime, demonstrated through killing IRCS members and targeting medical centers.

On Friday, June 13, Israel launched a large-scale military offensive against the Islamic Republic of Iran, marking a significant escalation in regional tensions and raising serious concerns over violations of international law. The war between Iran and Israel appeared to grind to a halt on June 24.

In his letter, Pirhossein Kolivand, underscored the need for moral courage and coordinated efforts, the IRCS website reported.

“It is with profound sorrow and grave concern that I bring to your attention the recent attacks carried out by the Zionist Regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, during which the fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law and the core values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have been flagrantly and repeatedly violated,” the letter reads.

“These attacks have not only targeted civilian objectives but, in an unprecedented and shocking manner, directly and deliberately struck humanitarian relief vehicles bearing the distinctive emblem of the Red Crescent, as well as volunteer personnel engaged in humanitarian missions. Such actions constitute a blatant violation of the principle of protection of humanitarian personnel and equipment, the principle of neutrality, and the obligation to respect internationally recognized protective emblems. These acts clearly amount to war crimes.

Tragically, five of our dedicated relief workers were martyred in these assaults, and essential medical equipment — including ambu-



lances and a Red Crescent rescue helicopter marked with the official emblem of the Red Crescent — was deliberately targeted and destroyed. These incidents have severely threatened the safety and dignity of humanitarian operations in the region.

We firmly believe that silence or inaction in the face of such grave violations paves the way for the repetition of similar atrocities elsewhere in the world and undermines the trust placed in humanitarian institutions.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you and your National Society to:

1. Officially and unequivocally condemn these inhumane acts and express a clear and firm stance in safeguarding International Humanitarian Law;
2. Support the issuance of a joint and comprehensive statement calling for an immediate international investigation into these crimes, particularly the targeting of relief workers, the destruction of medical facilities, and humanitarian transport;
3. Request the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to undertake serious legal measures against the perpetrators of these violations, to hold them accountable and to uphold and defend the noble values

of our Movement.

Now, more than ever, our global Movement is in need of solidarity, moral courage, and coordinated action to uphold the fundamental principles rooted in humanity, neutrality, and the protection of the most vulnerable.

We envision a world where humanitarian workers are never targeted, and where the emblems of the Red Cross and Red Crescent remain sacred symbols of protection and peace. We are deeply grateful for your support and meaningful action toward this goal.”

IRCS tells ICRC of Israeli crimes in Iran

The head of the IRCS has told the President of the ICRC, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, that just saying ‘my heart is broken’ in reaction to the photos of innocent Iranian children killed in Israeli strikes is not enough.

“You must not remain silent, you have to follow up on that [and take action],” the IRCS head, Pirhossein Kolivand, said.

Israel’s blind attacks targeted children, women, the elderly, and the sick, the official added.

Kolivand urged her to condemn the Zionist regime’s act of aggression against Iran and utilize all available international mechanisms to prevent further aggression and ensure the safety of civil-

ians and humanitarian workers.

The Israeli attacks targeted Iran’s civilian nuclear facilities and residential buildings, resulting in the deaths of dozens of civilians, senior nuclear scientists, and high-ranking military officials.

“With profound grief and sorrow, I inform you that following the Israeli brutal and unlawful airstrike on the Islamic Republic of Iran, a number of innocent civilians, including women and children, have lost their lives, and many others have been injured,” Kolivand wrote to Ms. Spoljaric Egger.

“Tragically, one of the relief workers of the Iranian Red Crescent Society was also martyred while performing his humanitarian duties.

This hostile act constitutes a blatant violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, particularly the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols — most notably Article 51 of Protocol I, which pertains to the protection of civilians during international armed conflicts.

The attack further violates the principles of distinction and proportionality, clearly amounting to a war crime.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society strongly condemns this inhumane act and respectfully calls upon you and the institution under your leadership, as a neutral and humanitarian body, to formally condemn this attack and utilize all available international mechanisms to help cease such aggressions and safeguard civilians and humanitarian workers.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to the principles of neutrality, independence, and humanity, and we expect the International Committee of the Red Cross to act in accordance with these principles and fulfil its moral and historical responsibility to protect human rights and international humanitarian law in times of crisis.”

IFRC seeks intl. aid to support Afghans deported from Iran

TEHRAN – The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has appealed for increased funding, essential supplies, and long-term support to help Afghans returning home from Iran rebuild their lives.

Without a sustained international response, the situation may deteriorate further, deepening humanitarian risks and regional instability, the IFRC has said.

The organization has urged governments, donors, and humanitarian organizations to help refugees, highlighting that the Afghan Red Crescent and its partners are doing all they can, but the scale of need is immense.

The number of Afghans returning from Iran this year has surpassed 800,000, placing overwhelming strain on humanitarian resources and local communities, Amu TV

reported.

According to IFRC, more than 137,000 people crossed back into Afghanistan via the Islam Qala border in June alone, many of them arriving exhausted, dehydrated, and lacking basic necessities.

The ongoing surge comes from widespread poverty, ongoing conflict recovery, and natural disasters.

“This issue hasn’t received the attention it deserves,” said Alexander Matheou, IFRC’s regional director for Asia Pacific, following a visit to the border over the weekend.

“These individuals are not just statistics. They are mothers, fathers, and children returning to a country already facing enormous challenges.”

The returnees, many of whom have lived in Iran or Pakistan for years—sometimes de-

grades—are now arriving in an Afghanistan ill-equipped to absorb them.

In addition to the influx from Iran, more than one million people have returned from Pakistan since late 2023, further straining essential services and aid delivery.

At the border, mobile clinics treat at least 500 patients daily, including pregnant women, children, and the elderly.

Medical supplies remain scarce, and severe cases are referred to nearby hospitals already stretched to capacity.

After initial registration, returnees are transported to Herat City. But challenges remain steep, particularly for younger Afghans returning to a homeland they barely know.

Families face immediate needs for shelter, jobs, and education — all amid a struggling economy and limited state capacity.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Significant increase in refugee literacy

The literacy rate among refugees has increased significantly in recent decades. So that the literacy rate of Afghan immigrants in Iran is higher than the number of literate people in Afghanistan, according to a report published in June by the research center of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis).

According to the Population and Housing Census of the National Statistics Center in 2016, the population of refugees officially residing in Iran was 1,654, of which Afghan, Iraqi and Pakistani immigrants constitute the majority of international immigrants.

In fact, 95 percent of the immigrants in Iran are “Afghan”, 2 percent are “Iraqi” and about 1 percent are “Pakistani”.

افزایش معنادار باسوادی مهاجران

به طور کلی سطح باسوادی در میان مهاجران طی چند دهه اخیر به طرز معناداری افزایش پیدا کرده است. به طوری که میزان باسوادی مهاجران افغانستانی ساکن در ایران از تعداد افراد باسواد در افغانستان بیشتر است. براساس سرشماری نفوس و مسکن سال ۱۳۹۵ مرکز ملی آمار ایران، جمعیت مهاجران بین‌المللی که به صورت رسمی در ایران سکونت دارند، بالغ بر یک میلیون و ۶۵۴ هزار نفر بود که از این تعداد مهاجران افغانستانی، عراقی و پاکستانی اکثریت مهاجران بین‌المللی را تشکیل می‌دهند. در حقیقت ۹۵ درصد مهاجران حاضر در ایران «افغانستانی» و دو درصد «عراقی» و حدود یک درصد «پاکستانی» هستند.

National congress on AI in natural resources, environment slated for September

TEHRAN – The first national congress on artificial intelligence (AI) in agriculture, natural resources, and the environment is scheduled to be held on September 4–5 in Shiraz, Fars Province.

With the theme ‘intelligent technology, green land, and sustainable future,’ the two-day event will be hosted by Shiraz University, focusing on the role of AI in addressing challenges in the three fields of agriculture, natural resources, and environment, ISNA reported.

The congress will be centered around productivity and promotion of natural and agricultural industries, smart management of water resources and climate, meteorology, climate change and ecosystem, sustainable agriculture, smart agriculture, big data and agricultural development, biodiversity and pests, remote sensing of natural resources, nature management, improvement of food quality and security, smart robotics, technological education, as well as ethical research in agriculture.

It will also include presenting articles, technical lectures, posters, holding educational workshops, and panels to boost relations with industry. On the sidelines of the event, knowledge-based companies operating in AI and the environment fields will be able to showcase their latest achievements.

Some \$100 million allocated to develop AI

In April, the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy and the National Development Fund (NDF) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to create a 100-million-dollar fund for the development of the artificial intelligence (AI) sector in the country.

Signed by Hossein Afshin, an official with the vice-presidency of science and technology, and Mehdi Ghazanfari, the head of the NDF, the MOU aims to establish a framework for the development and implementation of AI in line with the seventh national development plan (2023-2027) and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei’s emphasis on investing in emerging fields, ISNA reported.

Accordingly, the projects introduced by the vice-presidency for science and technology will be funded through loans, partnerships,



and other ways of financing. To further boost cooperation between universities and the private sector, the NDF will grant specific loans to those companies that financially support AI-based projects in universities and scientific centers.

In return, the vice-presidency for science and technology will use financing tools for emerging technologies.

According to the latest report by Oxford Insights index, which measures government readiness for implementing artificial intelligence (AI) in public services, Iran ranks 91 among 188 countries, moving up three positions compared to 94 in 2023.

AI has a key role to play –not just in governing the technology, but in helping governments perform better.

In this year’s edition, the AI readiness of 188 countries at a time of growing complexity, where governments face evolving citizen needs and challenges like economic uncertainty, climate risks, and rising inequalities.

According to the index, the country’s best ranking is in the Data and Infrastructure pillar, 66.29 which has improved compared to 55.88 last year. It includes infrastructure (70), data availability (43), and data representativeness (121) indicators.

The country’s score in the Technology pillar is 38.82, it was 38.77 in 2023. It includes human capital (54), innovation capacity (62), and maturity (82) indicators.

Iran’s lowest score is in the Government pillar, 26.54, which has decreased compared to 31.56 in 2023. It includes vision (84), governance and ethics (145), digital capacity (92), and adaptability (177).

According to this year’s report, Iran’s ranking in the region has improved by one position, rising from 17 in 2023 to 16 in 2024.

Nationwide campaign launched to organize, facilitate volunteering



TEHRAN – These days, when the need to promote solidarity and social responsibility is felt more than ever in the country, a campaign titled “Hemmat (Effort) for Iran” has been launched all over the country to organize and facilitate public volunteering.

As a people-driven campaign, it provides a platform that brings together public volunteers to help them play a more effective role alongside other responsible institutions in the wake of the Israeli aggression on the country, IRIB reported.

It mainly aims to transform social concerns into practical actions to ease the problems of the people in need.

The campaign offers a wide range of community services such as protecting affected families, taking care of kids, providing temporary accommodation, transportation, as well as psychological and social counseling, supporting services, and security groups.

It demonstrates the path for the provision of services through collecting information and introducing implementable localized opportunities. Two other nationwide campaigns kicked off on June 27, the beginning of the month of Muharram.

The first aims 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).

The second is a blood donation campaign. It primarily encourages youth and women to donate blood, IRNA reported.

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

Blood donation in Iran has increased by more than five percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year, which started on March 21, compared to the same period last year. Also, women’s participation in blood donation has increased by one percent, in comparison to the year before, IRIB reported.

A total of 456,020 blood units were donated over the mentioned period. The blood donation rate has reached 27.8 per thousand people, which is favorable.

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



JULY 2, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever delights his/her parents, has delighted Allah and the one who displeases them has displeased Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

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

Iranian short animation “The Splint” to attend Dieciminuti Film Festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian short animation “The Splint” written, directed, and produced by Mehdi Sedighi is present in the official selection of the 20th Dieciminuti Film Festival, which will be held from September 22 to 27 in Italy.

A production of the Documentary, Experimental, and Animation Film Center (DEFC), the five-minute animation is about a robotic truck driver, on a dirt road, who is replacing old wooden power poles with new concrete ones when he hits two birds, Honaronline reported.

Mehdi Sedighi earned a Master’s degree in television production and is the director of three animated films selected by more than 50 international festivals.

Speaking about “The Splint,” he has earlier said in an interview, “The part that really speaks to me is the emotional arc of the protagonist, which mirrors many of the challenges I’ve faced. It captures the essence of resilience and personal growth,

themes that are deeply personal to me”.

On how he made the flick, Sedighi said: “I came up with the project about three years ago. The motivation to finish it came from a desire to share the story with others and see it come to life. The support and enthusiasm of my team and the feedback during early screenings also pushed me to complete it.” Dieciminuti Film Festival was created in 2005 and soon became one of the most important events dedicated to short films in Italy.

The first 19 editions of the festival were attended by more than 18,000 short films involving a total of nearly 23,000 spectators.

The thing that is unique about the festival on the national scene is to be a real school for young people who want to explore the world of cinema. It is also very much appreciated the Section Esplorazioni, which allows viewers to get in touch with the short film coming from a different country each year.

Arts performances resume with safety measures

TEHRAN – Deputy for Artistic Affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance Nader Rezaei has announced that performances across the country are set to resume following recent disruptions, emphasizing the vital role of art in fostering societal resilience during challenging times.

Addressing the recent circumstances, Rezaei highlighted that restoring the flow of cultural activities is essential for community endurance. “Arts play a significant role in navigating through crises, and we have decided to restart performances to pass the period of interruption,” she stated, IRNA reported on Monday.

She further noted that enhancing security around the Tehran City Theater Complex has been prioritized in the process of reopening. While some aspects of ensuring public safe-

ty fall outside the ministry’s direct authority, necessary coordination has been made with relevant authorities, and safety measures have been implemented. Rezaei also expressed gratitude to audiences for their cooperation and adherence to safety protocols, underscoring the importance of public participation.

Looking ahead, she expressed hope that performances will continue smoothly and that more public and street performances will be organized to invigorate cultural life in the streets and community spaces.

With the arrival of the month of Muharram, she revealed plans to stage performances related to Ashura rituals and mourning ceremonies, aiming to enrich the cultural atmosphere during these sacred days with active participation from artists.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza Genocide

Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Cartoon exhibition opens in Tehran as artistic response to external aggression

TEHRAN – A collective exhibition of cartoons and caricatures titled “Muzzle” (“Puzeband”) opened on Monday at the Aali Gallery of the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran, serving as an artistic tribute to the resilience and resistance of the Iranian nation amid external threats and provocations by the Zionist regime and the United States.

The event showcases 82 impactful works by some of Iran’s most prominent satirical artists, reflecting themes of patriotism, resistance, and defiance, Mehr reported.

The opening ceremony was attended by cultural officials, artists, and media representatives.

The gathering underscored the importance of art as a means of resistance and a tool to convey powerful messages during challenging times, the report added.

In his opening remarks, curator Seyyed Masoud Shojai Tabatabai emphasized the significance of cartoons and caricatures as accessible and universal languages capable of transcending borders. “Cartoons are a direct, impactful medium that can communicate profound messages with humor and clarity,” he stated.

“Especially these days, when society faces external pressures and threats, the role of satirical art becomes even more vital.

Our artists have responded wholeheartedly, producing works that narrate the story of resistance, sacrifice, and national dignity.”

He highlighted that many of the works are inspired by directives from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and serve as responses to baseless claims and threats made by Israeli and American officials.

“This exhibition is a tribute



to the days when our nation stood tall, narrated its own truth, and refused to be silenced,” he said.

“Many artworks here are rooted in the directives of our leader, emphasizing strength, resilience, and the importance of standing firm.”

“Even Iranian artists abroad contacted us after seeing these works and expressed their willingness to collaborate,” he said and added: “This exhibition could be the beginning of a broader presence of satirical artworks in public spaces such as the metro, city billboards, and national media.”

“We have many capacities in urban advertising and digital media. We are working to deliver these artworks in various formats to both domestic and international audiences,” he mentioned.

Over the past 12 days, a large volume of works has been created, some of which have been presented in this exhibition and will be made accessible to the public in future projects, he explained.

He also announced that, in ad-

dition to the gallery space, these works will be released through motion graphics, promotional teasers, and short animations across different media in three languages of Persian, English, and Arabic.

The “Muzzle” (“Puzeband”) exhibition features artworks by notable artists including Seyyed Masoud Shojai Tabatabai, Hossein Youzbashi, Mohammad Hossein Niroumand, Maziar Bijani, Seyyed Mohammad Javad Taheri, Mohammad Ali Rajabi, Abdolmajid Gheibi, Mohammad Hossein Sasani, Majid Adibi, Reza Hamidi, Salar Eshratkhan, and Seyyed Mohammad Salem.

Their pieces depict a myriad of themes related to resisting external pressures, responding to propaganda, and showcasing the indomitable spirit of the Iranian people.

Poet and cultural figure Nasser Faiz, who suggested the title “Puzeband,” highlighted the importance of humor and satire as tools to challenge and mock the false narratives propagated by enemies.

“Many of these artworks are responses that combine humor with sharp critique, effectively

undermining propaganda and misinformation,” he said.

In a statement issued by the organizers, the exhibition is framed as a tribute to the days when Iran demonstrated resilience during the Iran-Iraq war and other instances of external aggression.

It underscores that the current wave of art is rooted in a long history of resistance, patriotism, and faith.

“The works presented are more than mere caricatures—they are a reflection of the national spirit that refuses to surrender to threats or misinformation,” the statement reads.

“They echo the words of the Leader, emphasizing that Iran does not seek conflict but will respond decisively if attacked.”

The exhibition will run until July 15, with visitors invited to explore the powerful messages conveyed through these artistic responses.

The organizers also announced plans for wider public display, including collaborations with Tehran’s Beautification Organization, to ensure these messages reach a broader audience.

Farhadi’s “A Separation” ranked among best movies of 21st century

TEHRAN – A new list titled “The 100 Best Movies of the 21st Century” was published by The New York Times this week, with the 2011 Iranian drama film “A Separation” written and directed by Asghar Farhadi among the top 50.

Farhadi’s Oscar-winning movie is the only film from Iran that has found way into the list and is ranked 33rd, Honaronline reported.

“A Separation” is placed above famous films in the list such as “Amélie” (2001) by Jean-Pierre Jeunet (at 41st place), “Inception” (2010) by Christopher Nolan (55th), “Kill Bill” (2003, 2004) by Quentin Tarantino (61st), and “The Lord of the Rings” (2001-2003) by Peter Jackson (87th).

Starring Leila Hatami, Peyman Maadi, Shahab Hosseini, Sareh Bayat, and Sarina Farhadi, “A Separation” is a compelling drama about the dissolution of a marriage.

Set in contemporary Iran, the film revolves around an Iranian middle-class couple. Simin wants to leave Iran with her husband Nader and daughter Termeh. Simin sues for divorce when Nader refuses to leave behind his Alzheimer-suffering father.

Her request having failed, Simin returns to her parents’ home, but Termeh decides to stay with Nader.

When Nader hires a young woman to assist with his father in his wife’s absence, he hopes that his life will return to a normal state.

However, when he discovers that the new maid has been lying to him, he realizes that there is more on the line than just his marriage.

The film premiered on 9 February 2011 at the 29th Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran and won the Crystal Simorgh awards for Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematographer, and Best Sound Recorder. It also received the Audience Favorite Film award.

“A Separation” won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2012, becoming the first Iranian film to win the award.

It received the Golden Bear for Best Film and the Silver Bears for Best Actress and Best Actor at the 61st Berlin International Film Festival, becoming the first Iranian film to win the Golden Bear.

It also won the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film and the Asia Pacific Screen Award



for Best Feature Film.

The film was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, making it the first non-English film in five years to achieve this.

The film has been met with universal acclaim from film critics. It currently holds a 99 percent “fresh” rating on Rotten Tomatoes, based on 176 reviews with an average rating of 8.90/10.

The website’s critical consensus states, “Morally complex, suspenseful, and consistently involving,

A Separation captures the messiness of a dissolving relationship with keen insight and searing intensity”. The site ranked it 24th on their “300 Best Movies of All Time” list in 2025.

It has a score of 95 on Metacritic based on 41 reviews, making it the best-reviewed film of 2011.

Sight & Sound magazine included the film in its list of “30 great films of the 2000s”. “A Separation” was later named the ninth-greatest film of the 21st century in a 2016 BBC critics’ poll.

In 2018, the film was ranked 21st in the BBC’s list of “The 100 greatest foreign language films of all time”.

In 2019, The Guardian ranked the film 36th in its “100 best films of the 21st century” list. In 2022, Sight and Sound ranked the film 72nd in its “Directors’ 100 Greatest Films of All Time list”.

The New York Times polled more than 500 people while compiling this list. The participants were described as people who work in and around the film industry, such as screenwriters, directors, actors, and critics from around the world.

Each was asked to name the 10 best movies released since January 1, 2000. Their votes were compiled to create a ranked list of the 100 films that have stood the test of time.

The top three films in the list include “Parasite” (2019) by Bong Joon Ho, “Mulholland Drive” (2001) by David Lynch, and “There Will Be Blood” (2007) by Paul Thomas Anderson.

The list is not just a celebration of beloved titles; it is a reflection of where cinema has gone in the last 25 years, across languages, borders, and genres.