

# CIA and Mossad Blinded

## Pezeshkian signs bill requiring Iran to suspend cooperation with IAEA into law



Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the IAEA, presents a surveillance camera at the International Atomic Energy Agency's headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on December 17, 2021.



In memory of three-year-old, martyr Zahra Barzegar

### Culture, ethics, and martyrdom

By Kurosh Alyani, Iranian cultural critic

TEHRAN – Talk of Iranian warfare often brings to mind the country's long and rich history of conflict.

From the campaigns of Cyrus the Great to the fierce resistance against invaders, Iran's past is filled with stories of valor and combat. But can pride in the past really help us understand war today? As a gently humorous Persian proverb says: "Suppose your father was a wise man— how much of his wisdom remains in you?" The phrase underscores a key truth: inherited legacy is hollow if not understood, reinterpreted, and embodied in the present.

Contrary to common belief, war is not merely the expression of raw instinct; it is a profoundly cultural act. Conflict only becomes war when instinct is shaped by planning, coordination, and strategy. It is culture that transforms primal aggression into a human pursuit of survival—a pathway between chaos and meaning, between destruction and preservation. ▶ Page 2

### IRGC spokesman says next war on Israel will be more 'destructive'

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeini, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesman and deputy head of the Public Relations Department, says if Israel dares attack Iran again, it will receive a response far more "destructive" and "crushing" than previous military actions by Tehran.

Naeini said the response will be different from the one Iran delivered during its recent war with Israel, during which the Iranian Armed Forces pounded Israel relentlessly for 12 days before the fighting halted at Tel Aviv's behest on June 24. Large swathes of Israeli cities now lie in ruins, with settlers questioning why the regime began a war that would have such devastating consequences.

The spokesman also pointed out that Iran used its domestically made weapons throughout the war, adding that there is still a significant amount of weaponry that remains untapped. In its latest missile barrages raining down on the occupied territories, Iran used missiles it had not previously utilized during its 2024 operations against the regime. The missiles that hit Israel during the 12-day war are also believed to have been among Iran's older-generation projectiles.

### Grossi could face trial in absentia for role in war against Iran

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian judiciary official has said that Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), could potentially face prosecution in absentia for his role in enabling recent U.S. and Israeli military aggression against Iran.

The official emphasized that the case would require review and action through international legal mechanisms.

Speaking on the sidelines of the "American Human Rights from the Viewpoint of the Leader" congress, Hojjatolislam Ali Mozaffari, Deputy Head of Iran's Judiciary, addressed a range of legal and political concerns stemming from the recent 12-day war launched by Israel with U.S. backing.

Mozaffari asserted that the hegemonic powers, particularly the United States, have consistently demonstrated hostility toward any independent nation's progress — especially that of the Islamic Republic of Iran. "The American-led hegemonic system cannot tolerate the scientific, political, ▶ Page 4

### Government prepares supportive packages for war-damaged units' return to production cycle

TEHRAN- Iranian minister of industry, mining and trade described the government's support for industries damaged by the enemy's invasion, in the form of the Ministry of Industry's production support plan, as an important step in returning damaged units to the production cycle.

On Tuesday evening, July 1, coinciding with the "National Industry and Mining Day," Seyed Mohammad Atabak said while commemorating this day: "Industry and Mining" has always been a true companion of the country and the people throughout the history of the revolution and is the creator of a large part of Iran's proud honors. "Industry and Mining" left behind a brilliant and courageous record in supporting the livelihood and welfare of the people in the recent days of the invasion of the Zionist enemy, along with all the bravery.

In a meeting with producers and industry owners affected by the enemy's cowardly attack on civilian centers, he said: "The aggressor enemy targeted production centers with the aim of shutting down production and employment, and this conspiracy was met with resistance from the industry and production front." ▶ Page 6

### Fordow nuclear site 'seriously damaged', declares Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has stated that the recent U.S. airstrikes on the Fordow nuclear site have caused severe damage to the facility, though the full extent remains unclear.

"No one exactly knows what has transpired in Fordow. That being said, what we know so far is that the facilities have been seriously and heavily damaged," Araghchi told CBS News in an interview aired Tuesday. He added that Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI) is assessing the damage, and a report will be submitted to the government.

U.S. President Donald Trump joined an Israeli war against Iran on June 24, dropping bunker buster bombs on the Fordow facility and firing cruise missiles at two other Iranian nuclear sites in Esfahan and Natanz. The attacks, deemed illegal under international law, landed Trump airstrikes on the most important American base in West Asia, the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, which Iran targeted with missiles less than 48 hours after the US offensive on its soil.

Trump has since been in full swing to prove to Democratic and some Republican Congress members that his attacks "obliterated" Iran's nuclear sites, particularly Fordow. ▶ Page 2

### 'The enemy of my enemy is my friend'

By Mustafa Kamal

CARIO – Amid the recent military escalation between Israel and Iran, Egypt has adopted a balanced position reflecting its comprehensive strategic vision. Politically, Cairo condemned Israeli strikes on Iranian territory, warning that further escalation could plunge West Asia into chaos, threatening regional security and stability.

This aligns with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty's emphasis on dialogue as an alternative to military options—a stance underscoring Egypt's determination to avoid being dragged into an open confrontation between two regional powers while preserving its mediating role in a manner that safeguards its interests and those of its allies.

**Military preparedness and economic vulnerabilities**

Militarily, Cairo is bolstering its defensive capabilities along its borders with Gaza and the Persian Gulf. Ongoing upgrades to its air force and air defense systems—including advanced fighter jets, IRIS-T missiles, and HQ-9B systems—serve as a deterrent against spillover into Sinai or Red Sea waters. Egypt complements this with open security coordination with Washington and Tel Aviv to prevent accidental military incidents that could trigger tensions beyond its regional capacity to manage. ▶ Page 4

### Israel intensifies concerns on the Lebanon-Syria border

By Sondos Al-Asaad

BEIRUT — Day after day, concerns about potential threats to Lebanon's eastern borders with Syria are growing. This is due to the failure of security and military meetings between the two countries to end recurring attacks on Lebanese villages by the HTS gangs.

Indeed, the issue is not only limited to these attacks that Damascus attributes to its lack of full control over the borders, but also arms smuggling and continuous flow of Syrians (individuals and not families) through illegal crossings.

While Lebanon has been striving to secure the return of displaced Syrians, the government of al-Jolani (currently known as Ahmed al-Sharaa) has been obstructing their return, citing the difficult economic situation in Syria. ▶ Page 5



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### Top officials honor war victims in Tehran ceremony, vow no backdown against Israel

TEHRAN – A grand commemoration ceremony was held in a large Tehran venue on Wednesday, where thousands of civilians as well as several military and political officials gathered to announce they were not backing down against the Zionist regime.

Israel killed some 935 people during its 12-day war against Iran. High-ranking military officials, nuclear scientists, and civilians are among the victims. Tel Aviv asked for a halt in fighting on June 24 after Iran pounded large swathes of Israeli cities. ▶ Page 4

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

### Iran facing more than NATO

Writing an article in the Etemad newspaper, ex-diplomat Nosratollah Tajik said: “Regarding the alleged objectives of Israel's aggressive attacks on our country's territorial integrity, it must be said that the main goal of Israel and the United States is to disrupt regional balance. In this context, these two countries have defined specific objectives regarding Iran, including the claimed attempt to halt Iran's nuclear program and eliminate nuclear capabilities. However, evidence and indicators—especially the nature of the selected targets and operations—clearly show that these countries, particularly Israel, are pursuing goals that go beyond nuclear discussions. For example, during these operations, a wide range of civilians were targeted and more than 900 people were martyred; this indicates that the objectives of the recent aggressions are much deeper and more dangerous than what is officially claimed. It seems that the selection of such methods—particularly the first day's operation, which had a complex, combined, and multilayered nature—could have been designed with objectives such as toppling the government and even disintegrating the country. In fact, the enemy's goals are directed not only at the national level but also regionally at weakening Iran's position and dismantling the Islamic Republic's levers of power. Therefore, it can be said that in this confrontation, Iran is facing more than NATO: Israel, U.S., some European assistance have all played a role in this alignment. Nonetheless, it is notable that despite having no hope of reaching an agreement with the Trump administration, Iran decided to enter negotiations—an action indicating a preference for diplomacy over direct confrontation. However, what Trump did was essentially a blow to diplomacy—even before any dialogue took shape. This decision not only lacked international legitimacy, but also had no legal foundation within the global order or international law. The U.S. action effectively trampled and discredited the legal structures and institutions that were established after World War II.

#### Iran: Moving towards strategic ambiguity

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper addressed the ambiguities in the post-war Iran-U.S. negotiations and wrote: This war may ultimately strengthen Iran's position in the region and in diplomacy. Trump and his envoy Steve Witkoff continue to insist that Iran must completely abandon uranium enrichment, but Tehran has firmly stated that enrichment is non-negotiable. At the same time, Trump has offered to ease sanctions and even allow China to buy Iranian oil. These conflicting signals reflect a deeper reality: both Washington and Tehran seem increasingly focused on stabilizing the situation rather than resolving the fundamental nuclear differences. In practice, both

sides may now be willing to accept strategic ambiguity. Rather than calling for the destruction of Iran's nuclear infrastructure, which Trump claims has been destroyed, the United States appears prepared to de-escalate through diplomacy and economic incentives. Iran, on the other hand, appears content to maintain its existing capabilities in a non-transparent manner and avoid further escalation.

#### Kayhan: Missiles, not negotiations

Keyhan said it is missiles and not negotiations that protected Iran in Israel's 12-day war against Iran. It wrote: What enabled Iran to endure the current critical situation in this war was the country's missile power. Missiles that not only targeted the enemy's defense systems but turned their secret bases in the region into hell. This was only a fraction of Iran's defense capabilities. The enemy, who thought it could undermine Iran with a few bombs and media war, now sleeps with the nightmare of Iranian missiles roaring over Tel Aviv and Haifa. It was these missiles that paralyzed the enemy, not negotiations. The Islamic Republic of Iran pushed the enemy back with military power, active resistance, and missile deterrence. Now the enemies themselves have revealed in official confessions that the bombing of Iran was carried out in complete coordination. This is just the beginning, not the end. Because Iran has not yet revealed its main power. Israel should be prepared for darker and scarier days.

#### Khorasan: Multipolar order and the crisis of trust

In an article, Khorasan addressed the biased behavior of the International Atomic Energy Agency toward Iran's nuclear program. It wrote: In the current tense situation in the world that trust is the most important asset in nuclear diplomacy, regulatory bodies must be impartial and trustworthy. The International Atomic Energy Agency, once known as a technical and impartial authority, has now come under criticism and is accused of bias and political activity. Today's world is no longer unipolar. In such a world, multilateral institutions can only survive by remaining impartial. However, the Agency has lost some of its trust capital in recent years. When a country like Iran has the highest level of cooperation and inspection, but a regime like Israel remains immune from any supervision, it shows that justice in supervision has become a victim of politics. If the Agency wants to regain its status in the international community, it has no choice but to be a technical, transparent, and impartial institution, otherwise it will become an ineffective organization and a symbol of failure in global trust-building in the not-too-distant future.

### IRGC reports operation against sabotage elements in southeast Iran

TEHRAN – The Southeastern Regional Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Ground Forces announced that 52 members of a terrorist network involved in acts of sabotage were either killed or apprehended during a recent security operation in Khash County, located in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

It was noted that five of these individuals were members of a Zionist-linked terror cell, identified as foreign operatives involved in drone sabotage.

According to the statement issued by the Quds Regional Headquarters of the IRGC Ground Forces, the operation was part of a broader campaign to dismantle networks linked to foreign intelligence services, particularly the Zionist regime. The operation, which involved close coordination with Iranian security and intelligence units, was launched in the early hours of Tuesday after surveillance confirmed the presence of hostile elements in the region.

During the pursuit, a number of local civilians sustained injuries after failing to comply with security advisories issued by the forces on the ground.

The IRGC statement noted :“As part of our ongoing efforts to confront mercenary elements affiliated with the Zionist regime, five individuals—most of them foreign nationals



with confirmed ties to Israeli intelligence services—were identified as participants in sabotage plots, including drone-based operations aimed at undermining Iran's internal stability.”

“Despite extensive on-the-ground efforts, these five individuals managed to flee and are currently at large. Efforts to locate and apprehend them are ongoing. Regrettably, several local residents were injured after disregarding repeated warnings from security personnel regarding the operational zone.”

This latest development comes amid the Islamic Republic's intensified efforts to detect and dismantle espionage and sabotage cells operated by hostile foreign powers.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

## Fordow nuclear site ‘seriously damaged’, declares Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has stated that the recent U.S. air-strikes on the Fordow nuclear site have caused severe damage to the facility, though the full extent remains unclear.

“No one exactly knows what has transpired in Fordow. That being said, what we know so far is that the facilities have been seriously and heavily damaged,” Araqchi told CBS News in an interview aired Tuesday. He added that Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI) is assessing the damage, and a report will be submitted to the government.

U.S. President Donald Trump joined an Israeli war against Iran on June 24, dropping bunker buster bombs on the Fordow facility and firing cruise missiles at two other Iranian nuclear sites in Esfahan and Natanz. The attacks, deemed illegal under international law, landed Trump airstrikes on the most important American base in West Asia, the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, which Iran targeted with missiles less than 48 hours after the US offensive on its soil.

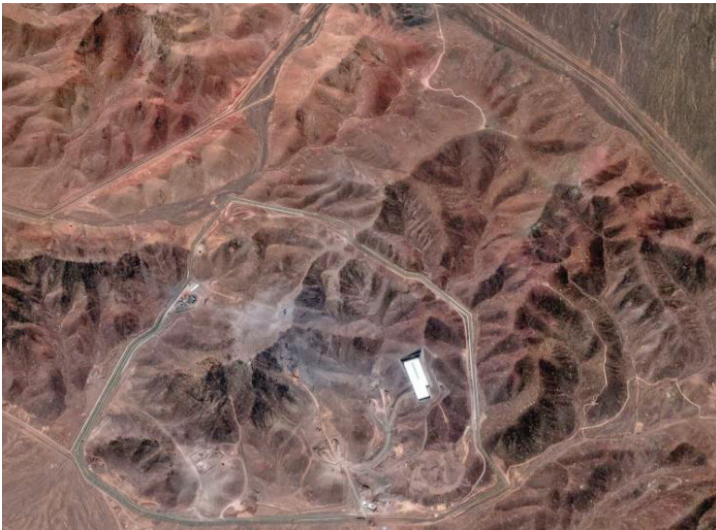


Photo shows the Fordow nuclear site following US strikes

Trump has since been in full swing to prove to Democratic and some Republican Congress members that his attacks “obliterated” Iran's nuclear sites, particularly Fordow.

When asked if Iran could resume uranium enrichment within months, Araghchi emphasized that while infrastructure may be damaged, the knowledge and technology remain intact. “If

there is this will on our part, and the will exists there, in order to once again make progress in this industry, we will be able to expeditiously repair the damages and make up for the lost time,” he said. “No one at the moment says that the facilities have remained intact; it is the technology and know-how that is still there.”

Araghchi also pointed out that Iran's nuclear program has

### Culture, ethics, and martyrdom Understanding Iran’s approach to war



Sculpture of soldiers of the Persian empire in the building of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

From page 1 ► Contrary to common belief, war is not merely the expression of raw instinct; it is a profoundly cultural act. Conflict only becomes war when instinct is shaped by planning, coordination, and strategy. It is culture that transforms primal aggression into a human pursuit of survival—a pathway between chaos and meaning, between destruction and preservation.

Therefore, evaluating war through a proper, human-centered, and cultural lens is not about counting the dead, but about assessing its effectiveness in preserving life. The claim that “we killed many” is not a valid metric. We're not wolves or hyenas whose sole aim is slaughter. Even if we are forced to kill, we never lose sight of the true objective: to deter the adversary, dismantle its anti-human war machine, and ultimately safeguard life—not to boost casualty figures.

The aim is to strike a balance: minimal cost, necessary outcome—not maximal gain at any cost, especially not the cost of human life. Our philosophy on the war economy is also distinct. The goal is not to sustain a flourishing war economy like the American military-industrial complex, but to shrink the war-driven economy to near-zero. This reflects a fundamental difference between Iran's approach and that of certain regional and global powers toward the very meaning of war.

Iran, unlike Israel, evaluates war based on culture, not damage. This means that Iran intentionally keeps casualties low. This behavior is of particular importance when contrasted with

a regime that not only commits genocide but, in its genocidal acts, specifically targets children, families, and influential civilian populations such as medical staff, journalists, and academics.

The presence of war ethics in Iran's approach to war comes from a deeply rooted perspective, not from hypocrisy or empty moral posturing. Israeli news sources have published limited images of the extent of destruction caused by Iranian missiles. Even considering these censored images, the intensity of destruction is evident, yet surprisingly, the number of casualties announced by Israeli entities is very low compared to the high volume of destruction. This point clearly demonstrates Iran's fundamental approach to war ethics. In various stages of the twelve-day war, Iran showcased new and somewhat unknown missiles each time, each possessing higher destructive power than the previous ones, yet kept the number of Israeli casualties as low as possible. This approach not only indicates technical capability but also testifies to adherence to ethical principles at the height of conflict.

Israeli propaganda, along with the broader hasbara machine, has largely failed to provide visual evidence supporting claims about attacks on hospitals and residential areas. While Iran's strike on the Weizmann Institute left the facility in ruins, the only images circulating of hospital damage show little more than broken windows and a fallen ceiling panel—hardly the hallmarks of missile impact. These are not the traces of a missile strike; rather, they represent a

flimsy falsehood about hospital targeting.

This divergence in conduct extends beyond the battlefield into the realm of narrative and public perception. Iran, grounded in reality and ethics, seeks to demonstrate the legitimacy of its actions; meanwhile, its adversary relies on propaganda and the manipulation of truth to justify inhumane operations and attribute them falsely to Iran.

Another cultural component that Israel and its aggressive, lawless ally—the United States—are fundamentally unable to grasp or interpret is the concept of “martyrdom.” They often mischaracterize its presence as evidence of a so-called “death cult.” This interpretation is categorically false and arises from a profound lack of cultural depth and historical awareness. The idea of martyrdom predates Islam and is deeply rooted in the culture of first-century Christians. Those who were killed defending the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth—whether by anti-Jesus Jews or by the pagan Roman Empire—were regarded as having offered their deaths as a document, a testimony, affirming the righteousness of the Christian path.

In Semitic languages such as Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, and Arabic, the words for “martyr” (shahid) and “witness” (shahed) derive from the same linguistic root. This is because the martyr is considered not a tragic casualty, but a bearer of evidence to be presented in the divine court. In this worldview, martyrdom is not an end, but a testimony and a beginning: a testimony to the truth of the path, and the beginning of a different life in the spiritual and social dimension.

Martyrdom does not stem from a desire for death, but from a deep longing for life. Christian martyrs did not seek death; they sought Chayyim Tov—a good and meaningful life. When, despite this love for life, the adversary imposes death upon you, a conscious cultural calculation known as martyrdom emerges. In such moments, the continuation of an individual's life becomes possible within the broader body of society's struggle for survival and the pursuit of a good life. The individual transfers all their social capital to the community so that, following the death of their solitary body, their life and effort to protect life persist through the

always been peaceful, calling it a source of “national pride and glory.” He reiterated Iran's commitment to convincing the international community of its peaceful intentions, despite recent hostilities.

“We'll definitely continue to convince the international community and the countries concerned that our nuclear program will remain absolutely peaceful,” he said, referencing Iran's sacrifices, including enduring the 12-day war against Israel.

He also cited a religious decree (fatwa) by Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, which bans nuclear weapons on religious grounds, as further proof of Iran's peaceful stance.

The U.S. and Israel began their aggression against Iran based on claims that the country was moving towards the development of nuclear weapons. However, Western intelligence agencies had previously concluded that Iran lacked such intentions, a view also supported by IAEA reports that found no evidence of nuclear weaponization.

collective spirit.

This is not merely symbolic. Alongside its symbolism, it embodies a vital and functional dynamic. It may be likened to organ donation: through donating their organs, a person grants life to others and continues to exist within them. In the same way, martyrdom allows an individual's life to flow into the body of society and its ideals.

The Iranian way of war rests upon the concept of martyrdom itself—on the reclamation of individual lives lost to the adversary's savagery through their reintegration into the collective body of society. Such a worldview dramatically reduces the fear of death while simultaneously amplifying hope for a good life in the future. This approach instills a fearless spirit in Iranian fighters, empowering them to stand with unwavering resolve and profound faith against an adversary focused solely on killing and destruction. This fundamental difference in the philosophy of war influences more than the battlefield: it shapes societal resilience and collective morale. A society that embraces martyrdom responds to the trials and devastations of war with greater cohesion and endurance.

In short, in its war with Israel, Iran has defended not only its territorial integrity and national security, but also culture, ethics, and a dignified, human-centered way of life—standing against primal savagery and the adversary's deliberate refusal to understand war within a cultural framework. Iran has introduced a new paradigm of warfare to the world: one in which ethics and humanity retain their place even in the most intense moments of military conflict.

This mode of warfare conveys a clear message—not only for Iran, but for all of humanity: war can, and must, be conducted with adherence to ethical and human principles. Such an approach not only preserves human lives, but also safeguards human dignity and noble values. This note is an effort to shed light on the often-overlooked dimensions of this new approach to warfare, and to invite deeper reflection on the nature of war and peace in the modern world. It is a perspective that may inspire alternative approaches to global conflicts—offering a path toward a more just and humane future.

## Pezeshkian signs into law bill requiring Iran to suspend cooperation with IAEA

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian's pen may have traced the contours of Iran's break with an institution increasingly seen not as a guardian, but as a geo-political saboteur—one with the blood of hundreds of Iranians on its hands.

On Wednesday, the Iranian President formally enacted the “Law Mandating the Government to Suspend Cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),” a legislative thunderclap echoing through the halls of nuclear diplomacy.

This isn't merely a bureaucratic pause; it is Tehran's declaration that the IAEA, under Director General Rafael Grossi, has shed its impartial mantle to become a combination of an intelligence-gathering and political-pressure instrument wielded by the U.S. and the Israeli regime against Iran.

### What the law demands

The law mandates the immediate “suspension of all cooperation” with the IAEA conducted under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its associated safeguards agreements.

This step is a direct response to the “violation of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Zionist regime and the United States of America” through their attacks on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, actions that have endangered Iran's “supreme national interests.”

Crucially, the suspension may not amount to a permanent disengagement. Cooperation will remain frozen until two non-negotiable conditions are met, as detailed by Ebrahim Azizi, Chairman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee:

I. Guaranteed security: Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) must verify the restoration of absolute security for the nation's nuclear facilities and the scientists who operate them – a shield against further aggression.

II. IAEA's fundamental reformation: The Agency must undergo a demonstrable transformation, end its discriminatory practices, and unequivocally recognize Iran's inalienable rights under international law, particularly Article IV of the IAEA Statute, which explicitly guarantees all member states the right to develop peaceful nuclear technology.

Azizi underscored the gravity in a Tuesday interview, stating plainly: “How can we cooperate with an organization that pre-



Iran's parliament approved the bill on suspending cooperation with the IAEA on June 25

pares biased and political reports and ignores Iran's inherent rights? The Agency must behave without discrimination and within the framework of international law towards Iran. Until this behavior change is realized, the suspension law will remain in force.”

The law further stipulates that “any action or omission leading to a violation of this law is considered a crime and punishable.”

### A nation's fury codified

The law's journey reflects a nation reeling from betrayal and an imposed war.

Following the unprovoked U.S. bombing of Iran's civilian nuclear sites at Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan on June 22– itself a brazen escalation after the Israeli regime launched its war on Iran on June 13, targeting commanders, scientists, and civilians – Iran's Parliament (Majlis) moved with volcanic urgency.

The bill, introduced with “double emergency status,” was a direct response to the attacks and the role of the IAEA in enabling them.

On June 25, the bill was put to a vote in the Iranian Parliament. Reflecting the national consensus and fury, it passed with overwhelming, likely unanimous, support.

The legislative process progressed swiftly, and Iran's constitutional watchdog, the Guardian Council, reviewed and approved the law the very next day.

This rapid ratification underscored the profound breach of trust Tehran perceives. President Pezeshkian's enactment on July 2nd was the final, decisive seal on this legislative bulwark.

### The IAEA's descent

Tehran's damning indictment paints a picture of an agency that has catastrophically abandoned its mandate. The core assertion is stark: the IAEA, particularly under Director General Rafael Grossi, has morphed into a dual-purpose instrument of espionage and political coercion, serving the agendas of Washington, Tel Aviv,

London, Paris, and Berlin. This transformation is evident in a chain of destructive actions:

### I. Politicized reporting as pretext

Grossi's May report on Iran, while later conceding in a CNN interview that the IAEA possessed “no evidence or indication that Iran's nuclear program was moving toward weaponization,” was laced with ambiguity and unverified assertions.

Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, contend this was deliberate: “Through this malign action, [Grossi] directly facilitated the adoption of a politically-motivated resolution against Iran by the IAEA Board of Governors (BoG) as well as the unlawful Israeli and U.S. bombings of Iranian nuclear sites. In an astounding betrayal of his duties, he has additionally failed to explicitly condemn such blatant violations of IAEA safeguards and its Statute.”

This June 12 BoG resolution, pushed by the E3 (UK, France, Germany) and the US, became the diplomatic fig leaf for aggression.

### II. Enabling war through omission and action

Tehran sees a direct line from Grossi's flawed report and the subsequent BoG resolution to the military attacks.

The June 13 Israeli strikes and the June 22 U.S. bombardment were not just violations of international law and the UN Charter, but, in Iran's view, the physical manifestation of a process the IAEA enabled.

Critically, Grossi's refusal to condemn these brazen attacks on safeguarded facilities—a flagrant breach of the Agency's safeguards agreements and Statute—amounts to tacit endorsement and renders him complicit in the offenses.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei articulated the depth of the betrayal: “We had a modest expectation from the

IAEA, the Director General, and the BoG to unequivocally condemn the Israeli and American attacks on our peaceful nuclear facilities. This condemnation did not occur, and we still expect them to do so. It is their responsibility to respond to such injustices.”

This follows Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) head Mohammad Eslami's formal correspondence condemning Grossi.

### III. Post-attack access: Espionage masquerading as safeguards?

Iran views Grossi's immediate demands for access to the bombed sites with profound suspicion and alarm.

Framed as necessary for safeguards verification, Tehran decodes these requests as thinly-veiled intelligence-gathering missions for the very aggressors who carried out the strikes.

Based on Grossi's abysmal past performance, the objectives appear chillingly clear:

- Damage assessment for the aggressors: Providing the U.S. and Israel with detailed, on-the-ground evaluations of the effectiveness of their strikes – critical intelligence they currently lack.

Despite boasts from figures like U.S. President Donald Trump claiming the sites were “obliterated,” U.S. and Israeli intelligence face a black hole regarding the actual damage inflicted, as evident by Washington's Defense Intelligence Agency's leaks to their stenographers masquerading as journalists in CNN and the New York Times. The IAEA's access would help them assess the extent of the damage to report back to the aggressors.

- The uranium hunt: Discovering the current location of Iran's highly enriched uranium (HEU), which the AEOL explicitly stated was moved before the attacks. Pinpointing this material is a top priority for Western and Israeli intelligence, determined to stop Iran's civilian nuclear program.

- Targeting intel for future strikes: Gathering granular intelligence on Iran's reconstituted civilian nuclear program – its vulnerabilities, new locations, defensive measures – to facilitate planning for potential future military action.

Thus, from Iran's point of view, granting access to the same organization that actively facilitated the recent, unprovoked bombardments now amounts to inviting the very spies who orchestrated the attack back in to blueprint future assaults on your vital civilian infrastructure.

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Iran prepare for VNL Week 3 in Gdansk amid challenges

TEHRAN – As Iran's men's volleyball team concluded the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) on a high note, securing three victories and only suffering one loss, the team now face significant challenges ahead of their upcoming Week 3 matches in Gdansk, Poland.

The team's impressive performance earlier in the tournament has bolstered national pride and demonstrated their growing strength on the international stage. However, recent geopolitical tensions and injuries among key players threaten to disrupt their strong momentum.

One of the major issues confronting the team is the inability of players to travel to Iran. The ongoing Iran-Israel conflict has created complex diplomatic and logistical obstacles, preventing the players from returning to their home soil after about one month. This situation raises concerns about the mental health and morale of the athletes. Being unable to return home can weigh heavily on players' minds, potentially affecting their focus and performance in upcoming games.

Adding to the challenge are injuries sustained by some of Iran's key players. Notably, Morteza Sharifi, a vital member of the squad, has suffered a foot injury, which might limit his mobility or sideline him during the matches. Injuries such as these can significantly weaken the team's overall strength, especially during critical stages of the tournament.

Despite these hurdles, Iran are scheduled to face formidable opponents in Week 3, including Poland, France, Bulgaria, and China. These matches will be crucial for Iran's standings in the tournament and will test the resilience and adaptability of the team. Facing powerhouse teams like Poland and France requires not only tactical prowess but also mental resilience—qualities that Iran have demonstrated throughout this tournament.

Coaches and team officials are likely working hard to support the players, focusing on mental preparedness and strategic adjustments to compensate for any absences. The team's leadership understands that overcoming both mental and physical setbacks is essential for maintaining their competitive edge.

Ultimately, Iran's volleyball team have proven themselves as a resilient and talented squad throughout the VNL. While the challenges ahead are significant, the players' determination and team spirit will be key to navigating this difficult phase. Fans across Iran and around the world will be watching closely, hoping that their heroes can perform strongly in Poland and continue their impressive run in the tournament.

### Iran, U.S. match-up more than a few headlines

TEHRAN – There is a possibility that Iran and the US national football teams could face each other in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

In the 1998 World Cup, Team Melli secured a memorable 2-1 victory over the U.S. in what was dubbed the “Match of the Century.”

Iran have sealed a place at the World Cup for the seventh time when they finished top of their group in the third round of AFC qualification, fourfourtwo.com reported.

The Iranians have never made it out of the group stage, with their most notable win being a 2-1 victory against the USA in 1998.

Given the current political climate, another match-up between these two sides would make more than a few headlines.

### Piazza will continue with Iran volleyball team: Taghavi

TEHRAN – Milad Taghavi, head of the Iran Volleyball Federation, announced that Rober-

to Piazza will remain as Iran's head coach.

Despite reports suggesting that the Italian coach might step down due to the Iran-Israel conflict, Taghavi dismissed these speculations.

He also expressed satisfaction with the national team's performance during the first two weeks of the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

“We are progressing game by game. I've repeatedly emphasized that our goal is not to achieve all our objectives in the first year, but rather to reverse the downward trend of recent years — which saw our ranking fall from eighth to 15th and 16th in the world — and to bring it back to around 10th to 12th,” Taghavi stated.

“I believe we have achieved our initial goals. Of course, Week 3 will be very challenging, and the results we saw in Week 2 may not be repeated in the third. While I hope they will be, we need to stay realistic. Our players still require more coordination. We've planned good training camps in Serbia and Poland, and I hope the friendly matches we've organized will positively impact their preparation and help foster greater team cohesion,” he added.

Regarding rumors about the possible termination of Piazza's contract, Taghavi said: “There has been no discussion about this at all, and Mr. Piazza has not even mentioned such a thing. He is truly dedicated to the Iranian volleyball team. I don't see him as just a foreign coach; he is a member of the team, and he has not spoken about or considered any of this.”

### Iran's fixtures at 2025 FIVB U19 and U21 World revealed

TEHRAN – Iran's match schedule for the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's U19 and U21 World Championships has been announced.

The Iran U19 team are placed in Pool C, where they will compete against Spain, Egypt, Italy, Tunisia, and Poland.

Their first match will be against Spain on July 24. The team are also scheduled to face Poland on July 25, Tunisia on July 26, Egypt on July 28, and Italy on July 29.

The 2025 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship will take place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from July 24 to Aug. 3.

Meanwhile, the Iran U21 team will compete in Pool B and face Kazakhstan on Aug. 21. They are also scheduled to play Puerto Rico (Aug. 22), South Korea (Aug. 23), Canada (Aug. 25), and Poland (Aug. 26).

The 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship, which marks the 23rd edition of the tournament, will be held in China from Aug. 21 to 31, 2025.

### Iran's women's basketball to travel to China on Thursday

TEHRAN – Iran's women's basketball team will depart for Shenzhen, China, to participate in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division B.

The eight teams in Division B are divided into two groups.

The competition will be held in Shenzhen from July 13 to 20.

Groups:

\* **Group A:** Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan, India, Tahiti

\* **Group B:** Iran, Thailand, Mongolia, Cook Islands

## Israel lost on the battlefield — and also in the diplomatic arena

### Israel and its Western allies humiliated by the large number of countries condemning the regime's war on Iran

TEHRAN – Although the Iran-Israel war began in the early hours of Friday, June 13, with the Zionist regime's blatant aggression against Tehran—an act any fair-minded observer would condemn—it nonetheless drew mixed reactions from world leaders.

According to international news agencies, between June 13 and June 23, 2025, countries' positions fell into three categories: those condemning the attacks, those supporting Israel, and those remaining neutral or silent.

Many governments worldwide unequivocally condemned Israel's early-morning military assault on Iranian territory. Some issued independent statements, while others endorsed joint declarations through alliances or international forums. Several nations, acting within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(SCO), denounced Israel's attacks. Others voiced their outrage in a joint statement at an extraordinary Islamic summit. Additionally, some countries, through the recent BRICS coalition declaration in Brazil, condemned the assault on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to Nemaifar's studies and statistics, over 30 countries across multiple continents condemned Israel's June 13 attack on Iran. These include: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Kuwait, Yemen, Venezuela, Indonesia, Cuba, North Korea, China, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Japan, Brazil, Algeria, South Africa, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Libya, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan, and the United Arab Emir-



A residential building in Tehran attacked by Israel in the early hours of June 13

ates.

While these nations shared a common stance in condemning Israel, their level of support for Iran varied significantly. Some, like Japan, limited themselves to con-

demning the attack and urging diplomatic solutions. Others, such as Yemen, went as far as expressing readiness for military cooperation against the aggression.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

# Grossi could face trial in absentia for role in war against Iran

From Page 1 ► or economic advancement of any other nation. Our peaceful nuclear and missile achievements, as well as the broader development that has taken place since the Islamic Revolution, are viewed by them as intolerable threats,” he said.

He argued that Washington and its allies seek to monopolize scientific and technological progress by tying it to their own strategic interests. “Scientific progress is a universal human value — it should not be subject to the political agenda of any regime. But the West only acknowledges such progress when it serves their interests,” Mozaffari stated.

“When Iran, as an independent Islamic system, proves that it can succeed on its own terms, it becomes a model for neighboring countries — and that is exactly what the hegemonic powers fear.”

Mozaffari also criticized efforts to tarnish Iran's international standing through baseless accusations of human rights violations and nuclear weapons development. “These accusations have long lacked evidence, but were nonetheless used as pretexts to justify the brutal 12-day military assault on Iran — an aggression that led to the martyrdom of senior Iranian commanders and nuclear scientists, as well as the deaths of inno-



cent civilians, including women and children,” he said.

He condemned the bombing of Iran's national broadcaster, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), noting that it violates international conventions protecting independent media. “This institution was targeted precisely because it was ex-

posing the atrocities of the aggressors. It was an attempt to silence the voice of justice — but they failed. The truth was heard, and the resistance of the Iranian people stood strong.”

On the legal front, Mozaffari revealed that various departments within the Iranian Judiciary, particularly the International Law Division,

are now actively gathering documentation to pursue international legal claims. “We are preparing formal complaints to present to international bodies, seeking material and moral compensation for the damages inflicted on Iran as a result of the U.S.-Israeli aggression,” he said.

Addressing the possible prose-

cution of Rafael Grossi, Mozaffari stated that the matter falls under the jurisdiction of Iran's international legal affairs and must be carefully examined within that framework. However, he emphasized that Grossi must be held accountable if it is proven that his conduct and reports facilitated acts of aggression.

“When someone prepares the ground for war crimes through biased and deceptive reports, they cannot expect immunity. Accountability is essential,” he said.

Mozaffari expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of international organizations in defending the rights of oppressed nations. “Unfortunately, history shows that global institutions have rarely taken meaningful action in defense of the oppressed. But despite this track record, Iran has a legal duty to pursue justice, and we will fulfill that duty,” he concluded.

As Israel launched strikes on Iran's civilian nuclear infrastructure and carried out targeted assassinations of its scientists, Rafael Grossi's failure to condemn the attacks—and his continued silence—was widely seen as implicit approval.

When the United States entered the conflict on June 22, deploying bunker-buster bombs and Tomahawk

missiles against Iran's key nuclear sites in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, Grossi again refrained from issuing any criticism. Instead, he demanded that Tehran grant IAEA inspectors immediate access to the damaged facilities.

Tensions escalated further following a June 25 interview Grossi gave to Fox News, in which he speculated that around 900 pounds of enriched uranium were missing. He also refused to dismiss the possibility that the material could be hidden at a so-called “ancient site” near Isfahan—a remark that many Iranians interpreted as an attempt to justify future strikes on cultural heritage locations.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf condemned Grossi's remarks, describing his call for inspections of bombed facilities as “provocative and absurd,” and accused the IAEA of having compromised its integrity on the global stage.

In direct response, Iran's parliament voted unanimously on June 25 to suspend all inspections by the IAEA until the agency can provide credible guarantees for the safety of Iran's peaceful nuclear infrastructure.

## ‘The enemy of my enemy is my friend’ A look at Egypt’s stance on the Israeli-Iranian confrontation

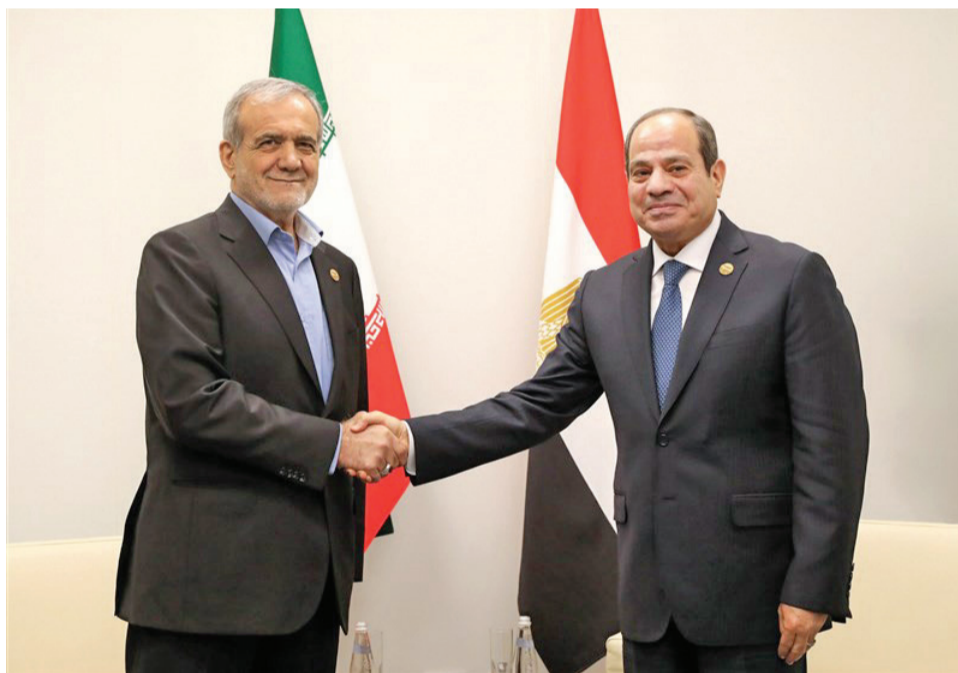
From Page 1 ► Economically, reports reveal fragility in Egypt's energy sector due to reliance on Israeli supplies. The suspension of gas exports during tensions with Iran disrupted fertilizer plants and power stations, inflicting heavy losses. Weak domestic gas production and dependence on imported energy loans expose structural vulnerabilities, pushing the government to accelerate self-sufficiency plans and reduce reliance on volatile partners.

### Diplomatic mediation and strategic balancing

Logically, Cairo is cautiously pursuing regional stability through diplomatic channels. Its mediating role has become pivotal in de-escalation efforts between Iran and Israel, as well as in Gaza, where Egypt collaborates with the U.S. and Qatar to leverage truces into halting broader hostilities. Egypt relies on soft power and its unique position as a negotiation conduit among regional actors, bolstered by its economic leadership and historical mediator status.

This three-pronged strategy reflects a calculated balancing act:

1. Public and diplomatic condemnation of military escalation to protect regional stability.
2. Enhanced military readiness to defend vital borders and strategic resources.
3. Commitment to mediation as a tool to



Iran's Pezeshkian (L) and his Egyptian counterpart El-Sisi during a meeting in October of 2024

contain conflict and expand regional influence while avoiding uncontrolled chaos.

This approach underscores Egypt's conscious effort to solidify sovereign roles without sacrificing ties with Washington or Tel Aviv—or jeopardizing core economic and security interests. Below, we dissect the dimensions of Egypt's stance on the Israeli-Iranian

confrontation.

### The backdrop of Egypt's official and popular support for Iran

Egyptian-Iranian relations have warmed notably, as seen in official statements following Israel's June 13 attack on Iran. Cairo's foreign ministry denounced the strike as a violation of international law and a threat to

regional peace—a principled position reflecting gradual high-level dialogue, including bilateral presidential meetings and intensified foreign minister contacts in recent months.

Support extended beyond diplomacy: Al-Azhar's Grand Imam Ahmed El-Tayeb condemned Israel's “repeated aggression.” These moves signal a strategic vision linking U.S.-Israeli pressures on sensitive issues (e.g., Palestinian displacement) to the need for a strong regional partner capable of counterbalancing Israel's dominance.

### Public sentiment and solidarity narratives

On the grassroots level, social media and influencers expressed solidarity with Iran, invoking painful memories like the 1970 Bahr al-Baqar massacre and the 1967 war. Such narratives describe Israel as an untrustworthy historical enemy, fueling public support for a regional counterbalance. With traditional Arab allies weakened, Egyptian opinion increasingly favors non-traditional partnerships, including with an Iran seen as capable of inflicting strategic damage on Israel.

### Military and strategic dimensions

The Egyptian-Iranian convergence serves as a tactical counterweight in a volatile region. Cairo recognizes that unchecked Israeli military supremacy threatens its national security, especially amid the collapse of traditional Arab fronts (Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jor-

dan) that once dispersed Israeli focus. Iran's military prowess thus offers Egypt strategic leverage, complicating Israeli calculations and creating space to secure its interests.

This implicit alliance—despite ideological differences—reflects Egyptian pragmatism: it cannot afford direct confrontation with Israel without strong allies, nor can it abandon Palestinian rights or accept Israeli displacement schemes into Sinai.

### Future trajectories and regional implications

Egypt's response to the Israeli attack hints at a shifting regional order. While no formal alliance with Tehran has been declared, on-the-ground cooperation suggests deeper ties may emerge, particularly if Israeli escalation and U.S. pressures persist.

Regionally, stronger Egyptian-Iranian relations could redraw strategic maps, weakening Israeli hegemony and reshaping the Palestinian issue. This shift may force Israel and the U.S. to recalibrate policies, especially as Washington realizes Egypt cannot remain isolated without seeking powerful allies.

This phase reaffirms the adage “the enemy of my enemy is my friend” in international politics. Despite historical and ideological complexities, shared challenges are driving Egyptian-Iranian coordination—a dynamic that could restore strategic equilibrium in a chronically unstable West Asia.

## Top officials honor war victims in Tehran ceremony, vow no backdown against Israel



TEHRAN — A grand commemoration ceremony was held in a large Tehran venue on Wednesday, where thousands of civilians as well as several military and political officials gathered to announce they were not backing down against the Zionist re-

gime.

Israel killed some 935 people during its 12-day war against Iran. High-ranking military officials, nuclear scientists, and civilians are among the victims. Tel Aviv asked for

a halt in fighting on June 24 after Iran pounded large swathes of Israeli cities.

Among the attendees of the Tehran ceremony, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces was one of the first dignitaries to speak to reporters. “Those who were martyred were many great men and unparalleled human beings. Perhaps it will not be easy to meet men like Martyr Bagheri, Martyr Salami, Martyr Rashid, etc., and the nuclear martyrs,” Major General Abdollah Mousavi stated. “Those martyrs had fought for 45 years, but the enemy thought that by hitting them, it would destroy the nervous system of the armed forces, without knowing that the armed forces are under the command of the Commander-in-Chief [Ayatollah Khamenei] and will never fall apart.”

Taking the podium, Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher

Ghalibaf said Israel would not have been able to fight against Iran even for the 12 days that it did without direct support from the U.S. and other Western governments. He also said that Washington betrayed diplomacy the minute it decided to fund an Israeli war against Iran. “The Americans betrayed the negotiating table and attacked our nation, but the coherent response of our armed forces was rooted in national unity, and the enemy saw that this nation stood united in confronting the enemy,” he explained.

Iran and the U.S. engaged in five rounds of indirect talks on Iran's nuclear program before the war, which the U.S. subsequently joined directly by attacking Iran's nuclear sites on June 22. The two countries were set to attend a sixth round of talks before the war broke out. Analysts say U.S. President Donald Trump may



have used the negotiations as a cover-up.

Others present at the ceremony were Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ali Larijani.

In a message posted on X, Pezeshkian said the Islamic Republic will continue to defend its people, territory, and security in the face of foreign threats. “Iran advocates peace but remains steadfast in defending its people,” he wrote.

# Israel intensifies concerns on Lebanon-Syria border

From page 1 ► Al-Jolani's government, however, has shown great interest in closing illegal crossings suspected of being used to transport weapons or funds to Hezbollah!

Lebanon's concerns about the involvement of Damascus in pressuring Hezbollah increased after U.S. President Donald Trump met with al-Jolani in Riyadh.

While Washington demanded that he deport foreign fighters (foreign militants fighting alongside the Jolani group against the Assad government), al-Jolani has greenlighted to grant them Syrian citizenship after he claimed that they "sacrificed and fought for the Syrian revolution against the former regime."

Al-Jolani warned Trump that these foreign fighters belonged to countries who refuse to leave Syria or their countries of origin refuse to accept them, and this leaves them stateless. This, he said, would open the way for ISIS to recruit them that would threaten security in Syria and the West alike.

What greatly raised concerns in Lebanon was al-Jolani's reference to the possibility of using them to confront "common enemies," i.e. the Axis of Resistance, including Hezbollah, the Popular Mobilization Forces, Yemen and Iran.

Lebanon's concerns reached a peak after a terrorist attack on the Mar Elias Church in central Damascus, and after the arrest of members of a terrorist cell in



Beirut's southern suburbs linked to ISIS and Mossad.

On Monday, the Lebanese General Security conducted a security raid in the Burj al-Barajneh suburb, resulting in the arrest of a group of seven Syrians divided into: (1) a section affiliated with ISIS and tasked with carrying out specific missions; (2) a section that solely supports ISIS but has no direct organizational affiliation.

Lebanese security services are intensifying their preemptive operations to dismantle terrorist networks. A few days ago, they arrested one of the most dangerous ISIS leaders in Lebanon, nicknamed Qasoura, who admitted during investigations to leading a group operating between Baalbek and the south.

According to security sources, most of these terrorist groups are led outside Lebanon, particularly in Turkey, while others operate within Lebanon on their own initiative.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Gen-

eral Security announced the provision of additional facilities for Syrians and Palestinians (refugees in Syria) wishing to leave until the end of September, particularly after the political and security situation in Syria improved and there are no reasons for displacement.

Israel's Channel 12 revealed that their political echelon is very preoccupied with Syria signing the Abraham Accords before the end of this year.

The Hebrew channel suggested a so-called update to the Disengagement Agreement (signed on May 31, 1974) and enhanced intelligence-security coordination against Hezbollah and Iran, allegedly to prevent them from establishing resistance cells in southern Syria.

Accordingly, Syria would relinquish the occupied Golan Heights, and Israel would recognize Lebanon's Shebaa Farms as Syrian in a joint plot to strip Hezbollah from the legitimate resistance to liberate it.

For his part, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar claimed that the occupied Syrian Golan Heights "will remain part of the State of Israel," adding, "We have an interest in including new countries, such as Syria and Lebanon [...] in this circle, while preserving the security and fundamental interests of the State of Israel."

In Lebanon, talks have yet to yield a final response to U.S. envoy Tom Barrack's proposal, which not only addresses Israel's interests but also links all internal issues to the disarmament of Hezbollah within a specific timetable (three months at most).

Barack's proposal stipulates the surrender of weapons as a prelude to signing an "agreement" under which Israel would withdraw from occupied Lebanese territory. Beforehand, Lebanon must demarcate its borders with Syria.

Reportedly, Barrack hinted that the Trump administration may resort to imposing sanctions on anyone who obstructs the approval of reform or prevents their implementation (this includes isolating Shiites and closing Hezbollah's banking institution, Al-Qard Al-Hassan).

Barrack also threatened that no Western, Arab, or Islamic country would be willing to provide any kind of financial assistance to Lebanon, and that the reconstruction file would not be possible unless Lebanon committed to these so-called "reforms."

## Gaza court gives Israeli-backed gang leader 10 days to surrender

A court in Gaza has given Yasser Abu Shabab, the leader of a criminal group backed by Israel, 10 days to surrender himself for trial.

In a statement, the Revolutionary Court of the Military Judiciary Authority in Gaza said Abu Shabab would be considered a fugitive from justice and tried in absentia if he doesn't surrender.

He was thrust into the limelight last month when Netanyahu said his government had "activated" powerful local clans in Gaza on the advice of "security officials".

Abu Shabab's group, which reportedly consists of about 100 armed men, later said online that its members were involved in guarding aid shipments sent to distribution centers run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). Mass killings of aid seekers near the GHF distribution centers have become a routine occurrence.

The court said Abu Shabab faces three charges: treason and communicating with hostile parties; forming an armed gang; and armed rebellion. It said anyone who knew of his whereabouts and failed to report him would be considered to be concealing a fugitive from justice.

## Hamas says it wants an agreement that ends the war

The Palestinian Hamas group says it is reviewing a ceasefire proposal from mediators and that it seeks an agreement that will lead to the end of the war and withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza – demands that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long rejected.

Hamas official Taher al-Nunu said the group is "ready and serious" about reaching an agreement and will accept "any initiative that clearly leads to the complete end to the war".

## Switzerland to dissolve GHF's Geneva branch

Switzerland has initiated proceedings to dissolve the Geneva branch of the controversial Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) aid group, citing legal shortcomings in its establishment.

The U.S. and Israeli-backed GHF, based in the state of Delaware, registered an affiliate in Geneva on February 12 this year.

"The ESA may order the dissolution of the foundation if no creditors come forward within the legal 30-day period," the Federal Supervisory Authority for Foundations (ESA) said in a creditors' notice published in the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce.

ESA told Reuters news agency that GHF had not fulfilled certain legal requirements, including having the correct number of board members, a postal address or a Swiss bank account.

"GHF confirmed to the ESA that it had never carried out activities in Switzerland ... and that it intends to dissolve the Geneva-registered (branch)," ESA said in a statement.

Last week, authorities in Geneva issued a separate legal notice to GHF to remedy within 30 days "deficiencies in the organization" or face potential action. More than 600 people have been killed near GHF distribution hubs in Gaza or along access roads guarded by Israeli forces since the controversial group started operating there, according to Palestinian authorities.

## Egypt asks US to pressure Libya's Haftar not to back Turkey maritime deal

Egypt has asked the United States to intervene to prevent Libya's eastern parliament from ratifying a maritime deal with Turkey, multiple regional officials have told Middle East Eye.

An Egyptian official told MEE on Wednesday that Cairo is concerned that if Libya's eastern parliament ratifies the deal, initially inked by eastern Libya's rival western government in 2019, it could spark tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean at a time when Egypt grapples with the fallout from the wars in Gaza and Sudan.

One Egyptian official and one official in the region told MEE that Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty raised the topic of U.S. intervention in a phone call with Massad Boulos, the U.S. senior adviser on Africa, last month.

They said that Boulos said he would call Khalifa Haftar, the de-facto ruler of eastern Libya, to discuss the issue.

## Israeli army kills Indonesian Hospital director, family

Marwan al-Sultan, the director of the Indonesian Hospital, has been killed along with his family in an Israeli attack in Gaza City, Al Jazeera Arabic reported.

The attack took place on a residential building southwest of Gaza City. His wife and children were also killed in the attack.

## Prime warmonger Netanyahu wants forever war Forever war keeps Netanyahu in power and out of jail

TEHRAN – Simon Tisdall, a Guardian columnist, says "forever war keeps" Prime Minister Netanyahu "in power" and "out of jail".

Tisdall says peace is the enemy of Netanyahu, whom he refers to as prime warmonger.

Tisdall's article focuses on Israel's war on Iran, which started on June 13 and lasted for 12 days. However, he believes the lull in the war will not last long.

Following is an excerpt of his article:

The war is over! Except it's not, not by a long chalk. The verbally agreed Iran-Israel ceasefire could be ripped to shreds at any moment.

In Washington, a president whose stupidity is matched only by his vanity prattles about making peace. Meanwhile, hundreds of civilians lie dead, thousands are wounded and millions have been terrorised.

The war is over! Except only the naive

believe that Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister and prime warmonger, is done fighting. Even if Donald Trump is right and Iran's nuclear facilities have been "obliterated" ("severely damaged" appears more accurate), its nuclear knowhow and elusive stockpile of enriched uranium have not. At the first sign, real or imagined, of rebuilding, Netanyahu and his cronies will surely attack again. Trump called them off last week. But this is a man who can change his mind three times before he's even had breakfast.

It's unlikely he will be able to resist the temptation to target Iran again, if fresh attacks are politically advantageous. Netanyahu is now reportedly weighing up the possibility of a snap election.

Since March, when he unilaterally wrecked the Gaza ceasefire, Netanyahu has sought to subjugate the territory. Palestinian civilians have been gunned down in repeated Israeli army and settler atrocities around

Gaza food centers and in towns in the West Bank. In places such as Rafah, Bloody Sunday takes place almost every day. In Lebanon and Syria, Israel has dropped bombs with impunity. Netanyahu's military grinder never stops. Why imagine that he will be any different with Iran?

Most people deplore "forever wars", typified by dismal, multi-year Western entanglements in Afghanistan and Iraq. Not Netanyahu. Peace is his enemy. Forever war keeps him in power, in the limelight and out of jail.

Despite Netanyahu's video appeal to the Iranian public in which he encouraged them to "stand up" against the rulers, he cares little for their freedom. What he wants is what imperialist powers always want: a permanently weakened, divided, degraded country that poses no challenge to Israel's strategic interests and can be punished at will.

## Will Syria and Israel normalize ties?

TEHRAN – The new government in Syria is resetting its regional relations, and a lot of focus is on what will happen with Israel, Al Jazeera said in an explainer on July 1.

There are reports of talks between Syria and Israel, with timelines even being floated for potential normalization between the two countries, which have technically been at war since the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

Syria and Israel have held direct talks, according to Israeli media, about potentially entering into a normalization agreement.

Communication between the two states has reportedly been facilitated by the United Arab Emirates, which established a backchannel for contact.

Any agreement would likely be an extension of the Abraham Accords, an agreement brokered by the United States between some Arab states and Israel.

The Abraham Accords were a top-down approach by Donald Trump during his first term as U.S. president to get Arab states to formalize relations with Israel.

They were signed in August and September 2020 by the UAE and Bahrain, and soon followed by Sudan and Morocco.

Since then, Trump has worked to expand the accords by pushing more countries to sign agreements with Israel.

Trump visited three countries in the Middle East in May, and, while in Saudi Arabia, he met Syria's new president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, and reportedly encouraged him to normalize relations with Israel.

Possibly down the road, analysts say, but right now it would be nearly impossible, according to Syrian writer and author Rob-in Yassin-Kassab.

There is a deep enmity between Syria and Israel, which

heightened during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said his country would insist on its occupation of the Golan Heights in any deal with Syria, and the Israeli army has gone deeper into the Golan, occupying homes and expelling people from the area.

The normalization agreements with Israel remain deeply unpopular in the Arab world.

"We have an interest in adding countries such as Syria and Lebanon, our neighbors, to the circle of peace and normalization, while safeguarding Israel's essential and security interests," Saar said at a press conference in Jerusalem on Monday.

"The Golan will remain part of the State of Israel," he said, according to Reuters.

While most of the international community regards the Golan

## photo of the day



A boy at the site of an Israeli attack on tents sheltering displaced Palestinians, in Khan Younis [Hatem Khaled/Reuters]

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))

## Government prepares supportive packages for war-damaged units' return to production cycle



TEHRAN- Iranian minister of industry, mining and trade described the government's support for industries damaged by the enemy's invasion, in the form of the Ministry of Industry's production support plan, as an important step in returning damaged units to the production cycle.

On Tuesday evening, July 1, coinciding with the "National Industry and Mining Day," Seyed Mohammad Atabak said while commemorating this day: "Industry and Mining" has always been a true companion of the country and the people throughout the history of the revolution and is the creator of a large part of Iran's proud honors.

"Industry and Mining" left behind a brilliant and courageous record in supporting the livelihood and welfare of the people in the recent days of the invasion of the Zionist enemy, along with all the bravery.

In a meeting with producers and industry owners affected by the enemy's cowardly attack on civilian centers, he said: "The aggressor enemy targeted production centers with the aim of shutting down production and employment, and this conspiracy was met with resistance from the industry and production front."

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

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

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

"When the conflict began, demand for basic goods surged suddenly due to mass population displacement. This required rapid distribution of essentials in new regions — a task that was met swiftly by the production and distribution sectors."

Industry minister: Iran overcame adversity with domestic capability

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

Addressing representatives of industrial associations and unions, Atabak described Iran's production and reconstruction efforts as essential pillars of national strength.

"The way we managed decisions, field operations, and restored stability in recent days can now serve as a blueprint for future crisis response," he said.

## Comprehensive support for shareholders on agenda of Supreme Council of Stock Exchange



TEHRAN- A member of the Supreme Council of the Stock Exchange said that the necessary measures are being taken to return stability to the market by utilizing all available capacities, adding, "Comprehensive support for shareholders has been placed on the agenda of the Supreme Council of the Stock Exchange."

Referring to Tuesday's meeting of the Supreme Council of the Stock Exchange, Ma-

soumeh Aghapour Alishahi announced: "This meeting was convened at the request of the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and in the presence of the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Organization and other members of the council, in order to make serious and effective decisions to support 100 percent of shareholders, both real and legal entities.

The member of the Supreme Council of the Stock Exchange further emphasized: "The Minister of Economy clearly stated in this meeting that the government and all its organizations are standing by to support the capital market and not allow shareholders to suffer in these circumstances.

Fortunately, by using all available capacities, the necessary measures are being taken to manage the situation and return stability to the market."

## 'Iran's commercial infrastructure resilient during tension, crisis'

TEHRAN- The acting head of the Commercial Services Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) referred to the resilience of the country's commercial infrastructure during periods of tension and crisis, and announced the development of a package of commercial solutions during the period of tension and post-war by the TPO.

As reported by the Public Relations Department of the TPO, Mohammad-Sadeq Qanadzadeh stated that the level of aggression was greater in the air sector and that the least disruption and challenge was experienced in maritime, rail, and road infrastructure, adding: "Foreign trade did not stop during the 12-day war, because one percent of Iran's trade is carried out by air.

During this period, the country's customs



were active, but when tensions arise, the level of caution and risk increases, so it is natural to see a decrease in trade.

However, it is not yet possible to make a definitive judgment on the volume of trade reduction during the recent war, and it seems that we will see a small decrease in trade this month."

# New packages to be unveiled soon for construction of household solar power plants

TEHRAN- Iranian energy minister announced that next week, three new packages, one conventional and two more technical models, will be unveiled for the construction of household solar power plants.

Abbas Aliabadi said that according to plans, by the end of this year, about 3,800 megawatts will be added to the capacity of renewable power plants in the country, adding, "In the previous period, as a result of previous years, the capacity of our renewable power plants was about 1,200 megawatts, which has now exceeded 2,000 megawatts, which is a significant figure. God willing, by the end of this month, this number will reach about 3,000 megawatts, and by the end of the government, the goal is for this figure to reach 30,000 megawatts."

The minister has said that the government fully supports pri-



vate 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.

## Iran, China reach near \$7b quarterly non-oil trade



TEHRAN - The value of non-oil trade between Iran and China stood at \$6.939 billion during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Foroud Asgari said that China was Iran's top non-oil export destination in the mentioned three-month period, importing \$3.511 billion of goods from Iran.

Exporting commodities valued at \$3.428 billion to Iran, China was Iran's second source of non-oil import in the first quarter, the IRICA head added.

According to the data recently released by China's customs, Iranian exports to China reached \$266 million in May 2025, marking a nine percent increase compared to the same month last year, despite an overall decline in bilateral trade during the first five months of the year.

Total trade between the two countries from January through May stood at \$3.676 billion. China exported \$3.22 billion worth of goods to Iran in this period, down 21 percent from a year earlier, while its imports from Iran amounted to \$1.456 billion, showing an 18 percent decrease.

In May alone, bilateral trade grew by three percent year-on-year to \$873 million. Chinese exports to Iran reached \$607 million, up one percent from May 2024, while imports from Iran rose by nine percent, climbing from \$245 million to \$266 million.

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of IRICA for planning and international affairs, the value of non-oil trade between Iran and China stood at \$34.1 billion in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

He said that importing non-oil goods worth \$14.8 billion from Iran, China was the first destination of Iranian products in the past year.

He also announced that by exporting non-oil products valued at \$19.3 billion to Iran, China was the second source of import for Iran in that year.

On May 4, Iran-China Business Development Forum convened at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), with the participation of China's ambassador to Iran, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, and senior officials from the Tehran Chamber.

A large number of business leaders from both countries attended the event, where state, legislative, and private-sector strategies for deepening bilateral trade ties were outlined, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Opening the event, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab welcomed Chinese delegates who traveled to Iran for the Iran Expo. He expressed gratitude for the Chinese ambassador's continued efforts to expand economic ties between the two nations.

Najafi Arab said Iran and China share thousands of years of cultural and commercial relations, which have entered a new phase in recent decades, marked by growing partnerships across multiple sectors. He said the two countries could serve as a model for sustainable cooperation based on mutual respect in today's increasingly interdependent world.

He also highlighted recent visits of Iranian private sector delegations to various Chinese provinces and exhibitions, emphasizing the need to identify investment opportunities and facilitate financial exchanges. The Chamber, with over 140 years of history, is prepared to host expert meetings, present economic opportunities, support joint ventures, and activate professional networks between Iranian and Chinese businesses, he said.

China's Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu, thanked Iranian participants and the Tehran Chamber for organizing the event. He expressed hope that the forum would help strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Referencing the recent meeting between the two presidents at the BRICS summit in Russia, Cong said China is fully committed to enhancing cooperation across all sectors in ways that benefit both peoples.

Also speaking at the forum, Ruhollah Nejabat, chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, said Iran's non-oil exports to China surpassed \$14.8 billion last year, making China the largest destination for Iranian goods and accounting for about one-quarter of Iran's total non-oil exports. Imports from China reached approximately \$19.3 billion, or 27 percent of Iran's total imports, making China Iran's second-largest import partner after the United Arab Emirates.

These figures, he said, demonstrate the resilience and strategic importance of Iran-China trade, even amid global economic slowdown, with both countries supplying a significant portion of each other's needs.

Nejabat noted that Iran's Seventh National Development Plan emphasizes industrial modernization and attracting foreign capital and technology. He said Iran aims to upgrade its industries—from automotive and textiles to pharmaceuticals and medical equipment—and that this will be achieved more quickly with partners like China, now a global industrial superpower.

He added that technology transfer and joint investment are two strategic priorities for Iran. Chinese firms, he said, could take advantage of Iran's market size and skilled labor to establish production lines and access broader regional markets.

Conversely, Iran could supply intermediary goods and industrial components needed by Chinese industries. Nejabat said Iran will offer special incentives for foreign industrial investment and provide a secure legal environment for Chinese companies. Infrastructure development—including rail networks, highways, and ports—is also a priority, and many of these projects will require Chinese expertise and participation.

He also pointed to Iran's largely untapped mining sector, including vast reserves of iron, copper, aluminum, and rare earth elements, as an area ripe for development and export growth.

Speaking at the forum, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion

Organization (TPO), outlined four key strategies for expanding trade with China. The first is technology transfer. He said Chinese companies have made major investments in research and development, much of which has not yet been fully commercialized. Iran, as a long-time partner, seeks deeper collaboration in these cutting-edge sectors.

The second strategy, he said, is increasing trade in high value-added goods. Currently, much of the bilateral trade consists of raw or semi-processed materials. The average value of Iran's exports stands at less than \$400 per ton. "We want to change that," he said, calling on Chinese importers to prioritize Iranian products with higher added value. He welcomed the Chinese ambassador's praise for the competitiveness of Iranian nanotechnology and biotechnology products.

The third strategy is joint production through co-investment. Dehnavi said Iran offers a secure investment climate, with legal guarantees allowing foreign investors to repatriate both capital and profits. "There are many documented cases of investors successfully exiting after profitable ventures," he said.

Iran offers highly competitive costs, a wide range of investment opportunities, and strong security for foreign capital, he added, expressing hope for increased joint ventures with Chinese firms.

The fourth strategy is mutual market access. Dehnavi said Iran produces many goods that are well-suited for the Chinese market and that joint production could also help both countries expand into third-country markets. "This kind of cooperation can make our trade ties deeper and more sustainable," he said.

Fereydoun Vardinejad, secretary general of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, said China had stood by Iran during both stable and turbulent times, and that the two peoples share a strong emotional bond.

However, he warned that a lack of information exchange and mutual understanding of economic capacities had led to a wide gap between political relations and economic realities. "Our ties are excellent in potential but need significant work in practice," he said.

Vardinejad called for a "win-win partnership" and proposed several actions: holding specialized business meetings, promoting bilateral trade missions, introducing market opportunities, ensuring trade balance, and supporting private-sector cooperation in areas like creative industries, digital economy, nanotechnology, and biotechnology.

"These steps," he said, "can build deeper and mutually beneficial ties between Iran and China."

Meanwhile, Hossein Eyvazlou, a member of the executive board of Iran's National Development Fund (NDF), has announced plans for collaboration with China in the field of foreign investment in Iran.

Speaking at a press conference on January 4, Eyvazlou highlighted the importance of attracting foreign capital to boost Iran's economic projects, emphasizing the role of strategic partnerships with countries like China.

Details on the scope and nature of the cooperation were not disclosed, but it is expected to focus on key sectors that align with Iran's long-term development goals.

## UN in Iran expects doubling of funding to meet emerging needs

TEHRAN – The UN resident coordinator in Iran, Stefan Priesner, has said Iran's aid budget will need to be increased, at least doubled, following the war imposed by Israel on Iran.

On June 13, Israel launched a major bombing campaign against Iran, killing top military commanders and nuclear scientists.

The Israeli strikes hit military bases, nuclear sites, and residential areas across Iran.

Iran retaliated with waves of missiles and drone strikes, hitting cities in Israel. A ceasefire took effect on June 24.

"We are now doing the budgeting" for 2025, Priesner told a press briefing in Geneva, the Sun Malaysia reported.

"It's a significant increase," he said. "It's a bit early to say how much we exactly need. But we certainly would expect a doubling of the funding."

He hoped the international community would step up with more funding.

The official said that last year's UN budget for development and humanitarian affairs in Iran was \$75 million – roughly \$50 million for refugees and \$25 million for the development program.

Iran hosts the largest number of refugees in the world – around 3.5 million -- most of them from Afghanistan.

Speaking from Tehran, Priesner said he hoped aid and development would be seen as separate from other issues and the situation would trigger the international community to increase its support. Priesner said that in 2022, the UN and the Iranian government agreed on a five-year programme on public health, socio-economic resilience, environmental protection, disaster reduction and management, and drug control.

The UN is now in talks with Tehran on "how to adapt the program to meet emerging needs" following the conflict with Israel.

Priesner indicated that the UN normally has 50 international staff in Iran and about 500 local staff.

Although some employees and their families had to leave their homes when Israel's bombardment began, he said normal operations had resumed on Sunday.

**UNSDCF 2023-27**  
In March 2023, the priorities for the work of the United Nations in Iran, which constitute the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-27, were officially announced, paving the way for the next five years of activities by UN entities in the country.

The UNSDCF was the focus of a meeting on March 12, 2023, with the participation of UN agencies, funds, and programmes, and government ministries of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With some 130 participants, the meeting brought together more than 80 representatives from 30 government entities, joined together by about 50 officials from 18 UN entities present in the country.

The meeting was co-organized by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the aim of enhancing collaboration and coordination between UN entities and relevant line ministries.

The signing of the UNSDCF is not the end of our collective work. "Now the implementation phase of the document has started," Said Mr. Mohammad Hassani Nejad Pirkouhi, the Director-General for International Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting's co-chair.

"In the next 5-year period, coordinating and maintaining an interactive approach in defining and implementing joint activities will be the most important factor for our collective success," he added.

Priesner also reaffirmed the alignment of the cooperation framework with the country's development aspirations.

"The new cooperation framework aligns well with national plans, especially with socio-economic resilience approaches, and it places emphasis on joint inter-sectoral programs," said Priesner. "The UN in Iran can use its convening role to facilitate regional and international cooperation, including south-south and triangular cooperation."

In this difficult time, we believe that transformative and innovative policies are needed to tackle complex challenges and support better and smarter, those most vulnerable," added the UN Resident Coordinator.

# Experts discuss ways to strengthen national immunization program

TEHRAN – Participating in a consultative workshop, national experts and international partners explored the potential to promote the country's immunization programmes.

The two-day workshop to develop Iran's National Immunization Strategic Plan was held from 9-10 June 2025 at the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

The consultative workshop provided stakeholders with a platform to review and update national immunization strategies, identify challenges, and discuss ways to improve vaccine coverage across the country, the WHO website announced in a press release on June 30.

Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, universities of medical sciences, the Iran Food and Drug Organization, the Pasteur Institute of Iran, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Head of the Communicable Diseases Department at WHO Country Office in Iran Omid Zamani shared insights drawn from successful global immunization experiences and emphasized the importance of aligning with Immunization Agenda 2030 targets and adapting international best practices to the Iranian context and local health infrastructure.

Focusing on country ownership and local adaptation helps ensure that the resulting strategic plan is evidence-based, practical and sustainable, and can be effectively implemented within the country.

The workshop also heard from national leaders, including the head of the NIHR, Ali Akbari Sari, who highlighted the Institute's scientific sup-



port role, and Essential Program on Immunization Manager at the Ministry of Health and Medical Education Seyyed Mohsen Zahraei who reiterated the need for operational plans to be tailored to local conditions.

Participants engaged in specialized group discussions, delving into goals, implementation strategies, and key assessment indicators. The outcomes of these collaborative sessions will form the foundation for the final version of the National Immunization Strategic Plan. Once finalized, the plan will be submitted to the relevant authorities for approval.

Another focus of the workshop was to establish effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress and impact.

WHO's participation underscores its commitment to supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran by leveraging global knowledge for national health priorities. WHO is a committed partner to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, providing technical guidance and support to strengthen essential health services, including robust and equitable immunization programmes that

protect the population from vaccine-preventable diseases.

The workshop was supported by a grant from GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.

### Recent vaccination program

On May 6, the health ministry started distributing domestically made pentavalent vaccines across the country, according to the head of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Pentavalent vaccine is a combination vaccine with five individual vaccines conjugated into one. It protects infants against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenzae type B.

"The distribution of the first shipment of the locally-made five-in-one combination vaccine will officially commence tomorrow, on Tuesday, all over the country," IRNA quoted Mehdi Pirsalehi as saying.

"So far, about 800,000 units of the vaccine have been developed, and this number is expected to reach 1.2 million units in the next 2 to 3 days," he noted.

In line with the polio eradication campaign that kicked off in winter, around 300,000 more children under five years of age are getting vaccinated in two phases in high-risk areas in the country's northern half in spring, according to the health ministry.

In the current Iranian year that started on March 20, the first phase was conducted from April 12 to 14, and the second phase is planned to be implemented from June 17 to 19, the health ministry reported.

Polio eradication campaign is among the remarkable achievements of the health ministry.

However, in Iran's two neighboring countries, namely Afghanistan and Pakistan, endemic transmission of wild poliovirus is still prevalent. In 2024, the number of wild poliovirus positives in Afghanistan and Pakistan increased by four and twelve times, respectively, compared to 2023.

To prevent the outbreak of the disease in the country, in the past Iranian calendar year which ended on March 20, the annual door-to-door polio vaccination campaign was implemented in two phases, with a month interval between them, targeting children under the age of five in high-risk regions in the southern part of the country.

The first phase was conducted from January 4 to 6, and the second phase started on February 15 and concluded on February 17. During the campaign, some 840,000 Iranian and foreign national children under the age of 5 were immunized against polio by medical universities in Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, Fars, Hormozgan, Bushehr, Khuzestan, South Khorasan, and Yazd provinces.

## Some 9,000 ha of forests devastated in Israeli assaults

TEHRAN –According to a report by the Department of Environment (DOE), around 9,000 hectares of forests and protected areas in the country have been set on fire and severely damaged during the attacks by the Zionist regime on June 13-24.

The imposed war has led to vegetation destruction, soil degradation, and animal species loss in areas that exhibit high biodiversity, ISNA reported.

Due to its significant climatic and typographic diversity, Iran is one of the most biodiverse countries. Nine out of eleven types of ecosystems, and 41 out of 42 known wetlands, are identified in the country.

The country is home to 8,660 plant species, about a third of which are endemic and unique. In addition, some 35,000 invertebrate species and 2,362 vertebrate species live in the country.

Unfortunately, the twelve-day war has caused significant and irreparable damage to these natural resources, with 13 protected forests and areas being severely destroyed in Fars, Ilam, Kermanshah, Isfahan, Khuzestan, Hamedan, Lorestan, Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad, and Gilan provinces.

The war has resulted in vast wildlife species

migration, increased mortality due to road accidents, hunger, and illegal hunting. Apart from the mentioned direct consequences, the indirect impacts of the war, like ecological and food-chain disturbance, as well as loss of biodiversity, have to be assessed in detail.

DOE manages approximately 20 percent of the country's territory, including 327 four zones, 211 no-hunting areas, 13 biosphere reserves, and 226 wetlands (26 of which are of international importance).

Hence, it has approved the necessary measures to deal with environmental crises caused by the Zionist regime in the country. It has decided to establish technical committees in all provincial organizations and departments.

Documenting environmental damages, managing perilous wastes, testing soil in affected areas, and developing an integrated information system were among other decisions.

### 'Nature, the silent part in wars'

Nature is part of our community, but unlike people, it is silent, and this silence is the most dangerous sign of its suffering, Iraj Heshmati as saying, an official with the DOE, has said.

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

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

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

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## ‘Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%’

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said.

The major salt particle hotspots in the West Azarbaijan province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghān, Urmia, Chooapanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation, ISNA reported on Saturday.

## کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریای ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریای ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریای ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار افزود: خارج از بستر دریای ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سپورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میان‌دواب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند.



JULY 3, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

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

## Jean Teulé's "The Suicide Shop" to return to Homa Theater Hall



TEHRAN – The second round of the performance of "The Suicide Shop" directed by Hossein Nasiri will be staged at Homa Theater Hall in Tehran from July 8.

A loose adaptation of French novelist Jean Teulé's book of the same name, "The Suicide Shop" was earlier performed in February at the same venue, Mehr reported.

Davoud Geravand, Mahtab Keyvanjou, Arezou Sarraf Rezaei, Reza Hemati, Yeganeh Vaeqi, Elnaz Shakeri, Arezou Akbari, and Mojdeh Mokhtari are in the cast among others.

"The Suicide Shop" is a black comedy novel, published in 2006. Set in a near-apocalyptic city grappling with the severe consequences of climate change, the narrative unfolds in a world where pervasive sadness reigns, reflecting the grim atmosphere surrounding its characters.

At the core of this novel is the Tuvache family, whose name draws inspiration from three renowned suicides: the father, nicknamed Mishima, pays homage to the Japanese author Yukio Mishima; the eldest son, Vincent Tuvache, takes his name from the troubled artist Vincent van Gogh; and their daughter, Marilyn Tuvache, mirrors the iconic actress Marilyn Monroe. Their younger son, Alain, named after the brilliant mathematician Alan Turing, stands out as the sole ray of hope in a family entrenched in despair. The Tuvaches run a shop specializing in suicide paraphernalia, offering grim products and instructions to customers aiming to end their lives amid an environment characterized by hopelessness.

However, Alain is born with an unwelcome spark of optimism that disrupts the family's embrace of melancholy. His siblings, Vincent and Marilyn—each grappling with their own existential issues—struggle to thwart Alain's positivity. Vincent is an emaciated figure, consumed by his creativity in designing the shop's morose inventory, while Marilyn battles obesity and loathing for her existence.

As the story unfolds, Alain's intrinsic joy gradually transforms the family dynamics, challenging the pervasive gloom that envelops them. The family's attempts to pull Alain back into their cynical worldview ultimately fail.

In a surprising twist, over time, the Suicide Shop evolves into a novelty store, shedding its morbid roots and finding unexpected vitality. Paradoxically, despite his uplifting influence on the family, Alain's journey culminates in tragedy; he decides to take his own life, recognizing that he provided a purpose for others to reject despair and embrace life.

The novel's unique premise also inspired an animated adaptation directed by Patrice Leconte. Critics have praised Teulé's work, noting its careful balance of humor and somber themes. In a review for Le Figaro, Mohammed Aissaoui remarked on the author's deft touch, combining derision and imagination to address such a weighty subject matter.

Jean Teulé (1953–2022) was an illustrator, filmmaker, and television presenter. He is also the prize-winning author of over 20 books, including "Monsieur de Montespan".

## Cartoon of Day



Titans CRONOS NETANYAHU

Cartoonist: Manuel Macias Avila from Spain

# Iranian short film "Raana" wins at Social World Film Festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian short film "Raana" written and directed by Ahmad Monajemi won an award at the 15th Social World Film Festival, which was held from June 22 to 29 in Sorrento, Italy.

Competing in the short films section of the festival, Monajemi won the best screenplay award for his flick, ILNA reported.

"Raana" is about a teacher who faces a moral challenge when she discovers a dark secret within her educational community.

Deciding to ignore the truth is painful for her, as she firmly believes in the importance of not remaining silent.

However, the implications of revealing the truth are enormous and could cause serious problems. With her heart torn between her professional duty and her personal ethics, she ultimately decides to face the situation and expose the truth, even if it means facing the consequences.

Afsaneh Kamali, Shaghayegh Farahani, Alireza Ostadi, Amir Sam Mosavi, Amir Miar, Faramarz Roshanaei, and Mahsa Shakouri are in the cast.

Born in Tehran, Ahmad Monajemi, 36, began his career in the



world of theater and cinema in 2004.

He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in theater direction in 2017

and a Master's Degree in cinematographic direction in 2019 at La Sapienza University in Rome.

He began by working in theater,

staging several plays in Iran and curating two works as an assistant director in Rome at the Sala Document.

In Paris, he prepared the show "Ordisse Iranian" at the Sala Les Enfants Du Paradis. During these last years, he has made three short films which have participated in numerous international festivals.

Social World Film Festival is the most emotional festival in the world with events, movies, previews, innovative activities, jury of young people and professionals, workshops, competitions, presentations and thousands of visitors.

Participating in the International Festival of Social Cinema "Social World Film Festival" offers some specially selected works the exclusive possibility to be presented in events organized worldwide.

In the last 10 years, The festival organizers has involved 28 cities in 40 events on five continents including Los Angeles, New York, Rio de Janeiro, Wien, Washington DC, Seoul, Busan, Berlin, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Cannes, Monte Carlo, Paris, Istanbul, San Francisco, Tokyo, Sydney, Marseilles, Palma, Tunis, Hong Kong, Jakarta.

## Iranian filmmaker Kasra Tirsahar to serve on jury of Genesis International Film Festival for 3rd time

TEHRAN – Iranian film director and producer Kasra Tirsahar will serve as a juror at this year's edition of Genesis International Film Festival (GIFF).

He has been selected for the third consecutive year as a member of the jury at the GIFF.

Several countries including Russia, China, Greece, and Brazil will host the festival in October, with the opening and closing ceremonies of the event set to be held in Greece, IRNA reported.

Tirsahar holds a Master's degree in cinema from the University of Arts in Tehran, and has also served as a jury member in the international section of the RIFF (Austria) and several other international festivals in the U.S. and Colombia. He is known for his short film "Gallu," which has won several international awards.

"It's an opportunity to get acquainted with the latest voices in independent cinema," he said about the festival.

"In recent years, GIFF has es-

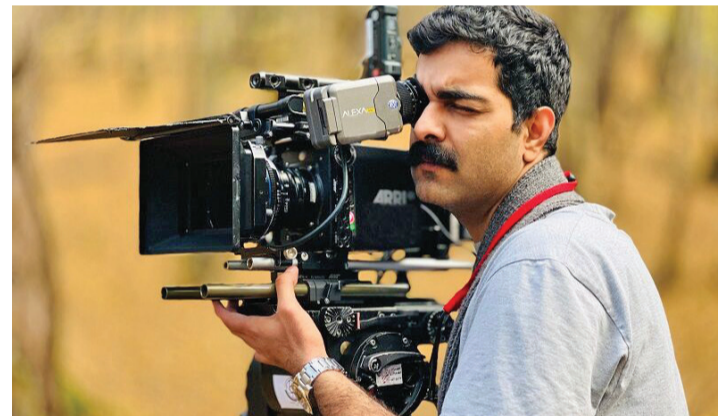
tablished itself among the leading short film festivals and, with its global perspective, has successfully built a bridge between different cultures and languages," the filmmaker added.

"So far, the entries this year have shown remarkable diversity — both in terms of geographical origin and in form and narrative. It was gratifying to see that many of the films took fresh approaches in addressing human and social issues," Tirsahar asserted.

According to him, one of the unique features of the GIFF is the simultaneous screening of selected films in multiple countries.

"This not only gives films a chance to be seen on a global scale, but also creates a multicultural experience for both audiences and filmmakers.

For me, judging at the GIFF has always been a chance to discover the latest voices in independent cinema. It's not just a judging experience, it's an ongoing cultural dialogue," he noted.



Genesis International Film Festival is not just an international short film festival, but a global platform dedicated to showcasing and nurturing creative cinema talent.

To push this envelope further, the GIFF actively promotes the films of its victorious talents in a variety of countries, ranging from the Americas' majesty to Russia's rugged charm, China's immerse tradition, Reunion's tropical allure, Chile's scenic splendors, Brazil's vibrant soul, Greece's ancient elegance, India's cultural wonders, and Turkey's historical marvels.

Besides connecting these talented authors with film screening platforms, streaming services, and TV channels, the GIFF is also instrumental in organizing international film screenings that reach audiences worldwide.

GIFF's core mission revolves around creating a vibrant platform that showcases each participant's unique artistic perspective, rewarding the finest works with deserved attention, and building a community for creative individuals to exchange meaningful contacts.

## Turner Prize winner Mark Wallinger's Glastonbury installation focuses on deaths of children in Gaza

Politics reigned at the UK's Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts (commonly referred to as Glastonbury Festival) this year.

The punk duo Bob Vylan stirred controversy—and reprobation from Prime Minister Keir Starmer—for leading the crowd in a chant of "Death, death to the IDF," while aging Canadian rocker Neil Young attempted to block the BBC from broadcasting his headline set, accusing the outlet of being "under corporate control." Meanwhile, Belfast rap group Kneecap—who experienced backlash for displaying pro-Palestine messages during its Coachella set in April—performed as scheduled, despite calls for their removal by members of Parliament, as well as Starmer.

But the politics extended beyond the musical acts at Glastonbury to the visual art, with 2007 Turner Prize winner Mark Wallinger putting on an anti-fascist art installation at the Terminal 1 Stage, ARTnews reported.

Wallinger's work, "Jungle Gym," was presented as part of the exhibition "No Human is Illegal" curated by Oriana Garzón. The work foregrounds the suffering of children in Gaza, with Wallinger noting in a statement that children "in this world have no say or no power."

At Terminal 1, which debuted at Glastonbury last year with a show rumored to have been curated by Banksy, festivalgoers entered by answering a question from the British citizenship

test.

Those who answered incorrectly were sent to the back of the line. From there, visitors passed through a cabin styled as a refugee camp before reaching "Jungle Gym."

"The installation binds this vision of childhood and play, with a jungle gym at the center of it, but the whole thing has been occluded by a maze of chainlink fencing," Wallinger said.

"I wanted to make something that had an ideal of childhood, but then [contrasted by] the actuality for so many people."

The labyrinthine installation also comments on the challenges faced by migrants, including the Kafkaesque bureaucracy they often face. Wallinger used only one color in the work: cyan, or "Unicef blue." "Unicef presents some kind of hope in the midst of this all," he said.

The charity estimates that some 50,000 children have been killed or injured in Gaza in the nearly two years since the Israel-Hamas war began.

Wallinger added that, while making the installation, he "was thinking about the children in all this... And at the same time, I was thinking about the UN and Unicef, and some bodies of hope that have impact, but also these superpowers that attempt to stymie that at every turn."

Garzón told The Art Newspaper that this year's curatorial message is more urgent than

ever.

"This is the first generation in humanity that has seen a genocide being televised," she said. "I feel that we are in a state of shock, because we didn't see this kind of fascism coming so fast, but we need to wake up really quickly."

Many artists performing at Terminal 1 were migrants themselves. "Our space here is a safe space for the migrant community, and we cannot have a better canvas than Glastonbury Festival in the middle of the [British] empire," Garzón said.

Before Glastonbury opened to a crowd of 210,000 at Worthy Farm in Somerset, organizers received a "private and confidential" letter signed by 30 leading figures in the music industry, urging them to remove Kneecap from the lineup.

One of the group's members, Liam Óg hAn-naidh (a.k.a. Mo Chara), was recently released on bail after being accused of raising a flag in support of Hezbollah.

Garzón added: "Organizers are very conscious about it all; Kneecap represents how divided the music industry is. The festival has never had to have a big meeting to talk about a band, and they have had to do that [with Kneecap]. We are in a very critical moment for lots of reasons—now more than ever. That's why we must deliver our message that 'No Human is Illegal.'"