



© File photo

Iran, Qatar affirm commitment to defense ties following 12-day war

TEHRAN – In a high-level exchange, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, held a phone conversation with Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah, Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs, solidifying bilateral strategic coordination in the wake of the Israeli regime's 12-day aggression against Iran.

General Mousavi opened by lauding Qatar as a "friendly nation" with which Iran shares "exceptionally close political relations."

He explicitly thanked Doha for its "principled stance condemning the violation of Iran's sovereignty" during the June conflict, further acknowledging Qatar's "consistent support for the struggles of the oppressed Palestinian people."

The Iranian commander emphasized that Tehran's "righteous position during the imposed 12-day war became undeniable to the world," with Muslims, Islamic governments, and freedom-seekers globally rallying behind Iran.

"The U.S. and the Zionist regime," he stressed, "respect no international norms or principles," underscoring the hypocrisy of Western powers.

Reflecting on the war, General Mousavi condemned the U.S. for providing "unrestricted intelligence, logistical, and operational support" to the Israeli regime during Iran's retaliatory missile and drone operations. ▶ Page 2

Iran says no talks scheduled with US

TEHRAN – Iran has flatly denied claims by U.S. President Donald Trump that nuclear negotiations are back on the table.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei asserted that Iran has made absolutely no requests to the U.S. for any such meeting, shooting down Trump's lie about a meeting supposedly planned in Oslo. "They want to talk," Trump had claimed while speaking to reporters on Monday night.

Iran and the U.S. were scheduled to meet for a sixth round of indirect nuclear talks back in June, before Israel, backed by Washington, launched a war against the country, essentially squandering any opportunity for a diplomatic solution. The war that lasted for 12 days resulted in the martyrdom of at least 1,060 Iranians and heavy damage to Iran's nuclear sites.

In a recent interview, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the American side had promised that no war would emerge while the two countries are engaging in negotiations. He said Iran is always open to dialogue, but currently finds it extremely difficult to trust Washington again.

How Israeli air defense systems backfired

TEHRAN – A newly surfaced video has raised serious questions about the integrity of Israel's air defense systems, suggesting that the recent strike on central Tel Aviv may not have been a technical failure, but an act of internal sabotage.

The footage, published online by a group identifying itself as "The Sons of Ruhollah," appears to show real-time operations inside an Israeli air defense command center during the early hours of June 17, 2025, when Iran launched its tenth wave of missile and drone attacks on the Zionist entity. In the video, screens display altered interceptor paths and remote access activity consistent with deliberate tampering. The group accompanying the footage stated: "We were in the control room during the attack. We guided the system from within. The self-strike wasn't a mistake; it was a decision."

Independent analysts have pointed to the authenticity of the footage, noting accurate interface designs, live telemetry feeds, and command-line sequences consistent with operational Israeli defense consoles. If verified, the breach would represent a historic penetration of the regime's most protected military infrastructure. ▶ Page 2

Scan this QR code to watch the video.



Family of martyred aerospace commander expresses support for new chief

TEHRAN – The family of martyr Lieutenant General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the assassinated commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, has issued a heartfelt message to Brigadier General Majid Mousavi, the newly appointed commander of the force, expressing full support and confidence in his leadership.

In their statement, General Hajizadeh's wife, children, and relatives extended their congratulations to General Mousavi and prayed for his success, affirming their hope that the IRGC Aerospace Force would achieve even greater strength and readiness under his command, particularly in missile and drone capabilities, in line with the expectations of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

"God willing, under your leadership, we will witness the further advancement of the IRGC Aerospace Force's comprehensive capabilities and ever-increasing readiness," the message read.

The family emphasized that the trust placed in General Mousavi by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, brought solace amid their grief, particularly as General Mousavi had been a long-time companion of both Martyr Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam and Martyr Hajizadeh from the early days of the IRGC's missile development program. ▶ Page 3

Pezeshkian defends Iranian sovereignty in a key interview with Tucker Carlson

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The online interview between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and American journalist Tucker Carlson in July 2025 goes far beyond a media spectacle. It becomes a political act of high symbolic voltage.

At a time when West Asia teeters on the edge, and the Western narrative continues to reduce Iran's complexity to a monolithic threat, Pezeshkian's appearance on Carlson's platform—one of the most watched and hotly debated political shows worldwide—creates a rupture in the usual frameworks of interpretation. It's not merely a testimony; it is a disruption of the dominant narrative, an invitation to nuance and critical reflection.

This analysis aims to unpack the meaning of Pezeshkian's intervention, the context in which it occurs, and the broader significance of the interview as a symptom of the crisis afflicting contemporary international politics. It does so by acknowledging the legitimacy of Iran's concerns and the importance of hearing its voice, without falling into apologetics or demonization. ▶ Page 3

Gaza turning into occupation soldiers' graveyard

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli occupation regime's soldiers have been caught up in a sophisticated ambush described as one of the "deadliest" since October 7, 2023.

The occupation regime's military has officially confirmed the deaths of at least five soldiers from the Netzah Yehuda brigade and reported 14 others wounded in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza.

Hebrew media reported dozens of casualties and in a rare move criticized the occupation regime's military censorship.

The "difficult incident," as described by Israeli regime media, raises more questions than answers for the government of war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu. ▶ Page 5

AMIA case and the demand for a fair trial: a response to president Milei

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – In response to the June 30, 2025 article titled "The AMIA case: When the roles of murderer and victim are reversed", Argentine President Javier Milei took to the social media X to repost messages from two representatives of the families of AMIA bombing victims.

Milei also wrote: "We've been waiting for you for over 30 years. If you are truly innocent, come and place your trust [in a fair trial]"

President Milei speaks of judicial proceedings in Argentina as though he is entirely unaware of how that very judiciary has handled the AMIA case—destroying evidence and obstructing investigations in ways that prevented the truth from emerging. ▶ Page 2



Dimitri Lascaris talking to Tehran Times:
Israel would have been destroyed had it attacked Iran without Western backing

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – In an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Dimitri Lascaris, a prominent Canadian lawyer, journalist, and human rights activist, offers a powerful critique of the recent Israeli and U.S. military strikes against Iran.

Renowned for his sharp analysis of international law and global power structures, Lascaris challenges prevailing Western narratives, arguing that the attacks were not isolated Israeli actions, but rather a coordinated campaign of aggression orchestrated by the United States and its allies.

Drawing on international legal frameworks, Lascaris contends that the bombings targeting Iranian nuclear scientists and civilian infrastructure constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. He criticizes the failure of international institutions—particularly the UN Security Council and the IAEA—to respond effectively or uphold their legal obligations, framing this inaction as part of a broader pattern of Western impunity.

The interview further delves into Iran's potential withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the erosion of global disarmament efforts, and the strategic considerations behind Iran possibly pursuing a nuclear deterrent. Lascaris also scrutinizes the limited responses of Russia and China, urging them to take a firmer stance by imposing sanctions on Israel under international legal conventions. ▶ Page 5

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

The Revolutionary Leader’s strategy reinforces unity

In an analysis, Farhikhtegan highlighted the failure of Israel's attempt to create a rift between the Iranian people and the ruling system. The publication noted that the Israelis had designed a comprehensive plan: to launch attacks that would ignite widespread protests, exploit public discontent, and rally people to their cause. They assumed that the aggression would deepen the divide between the people and the establishment. However, the result was quite the opposite. When the aggression began, it only served to strengthen empathy and unity among the populace. Alongside this setback for the Zionists, the Revolutionary Leader's presence at the Ashura ritual in the Imam Khomeini Hosseiniyeh sent a calculated and resonant message to the socio-political climate. His participation played a key role in healing internal divisions that had recently surfaced. With these disputes now resolved, the nation stands more unified than ever. This national solidarity—along with the opportunities arising from it—will be crucial in safeguarding this victory and reinforcing the country's social capital.

Jam-e-Jam: Love of Iran

In an article, Jam-e-Jam discussed the presence of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in the Ashura night mourning ceremony and wrote: The presence of the Leader of the Revolution in the Ashura night ceremony, in a situation where the Zionist regime and some American officials had made threats against him, was a strategic and multifaceted action. This presence was considered not only a religious event but also a political, emotional, and symbolic action to consolidate national solidarity and neutralize the enemy's psychological operations. This strategic presence, amidst the enemy's military, security, and psychological threats, had profound effects on Iranian society and regional equations. From a domestic view, this action helped strengthen social cohesion and the spirit of resistance, especially in a situation when the country was rebuilding the damages resulted from the war and confronting the enemy's psychological operations. This action sent a clear message to the people at home and abroad that Iran will not surrender to pressures and threats. Domestic and international reactions, from the message of the president and foreign minister to the analysis of the global media, indicate the importance of this event in redefining Iran's position in regional and global equations.

Sobh-e-No: The enemy wants to turn defeat into victory in media

In an interview with Sobh-e-No, university

professor Saeed Abdolmaleki addressed ongoing efforts to whitewash the actions of the Zionist regime. He stated that the recent war was accompanied by attempts from the United States to broker a ceasefire—an initiative that, according to Abdolmaleki, was in fact imposed on both America and Israel due to Iran's demonstration of power and the near-collapse of the Israeli front. He argued that the U.S. intervened primarily to rescue Israel from an impending failure, but ultimately, what he described as “the arrogance front led by the West” was overcome by the Islamic Revolution. Abdolmaleki outlined a multi-stage plan that he said was intended to overthrow the Iranian system: beginning with the assassination of key elites, followed by attacks on nuclear and missile infrastructure, and then a societal polarization campaign aimed at triggering internal collapse—akin to the strategy used in Syria. He alleged that the final objective was to divide Iran, a goal that was ultimately not achieved. Now, following their military failure, Abdolmaleki contends that opponents are turning to the media battlefield—spreading false and distorted narratives on virtual platforms in an attempt to rewrite the outcome and obscure the reality of their defeat.

Arman-e-Melli: A place for convergence or confrontation?

In a note, Arman-e-Melli dealt with the Iranian President's presence at the ECO summit in Baku and wrote: In the days when order in Eurasia and the Middle East has undergone transformative changes, this trip had multi-layered messages for regional and trans-regional actors. On the one side, Pezeshkian's official visit to Baku was of political importance, and on the other, the location of the meeting (Khan-Kandi) itself carried a special geopolitical message that strengthened the Tehran-Baku alignment and sent a clear message to external powers that they cannot count on the differences between Iran and Azerbaijan, some of which are natural, and lead Azerbaijan towards hostility towards Iran. Pezeshkian's presence in this city also showed that Iran no longer intends to be a mere observer of the conflicts in the South Caucasus, but rather, by accepting the new geopolitical realities, has entered a phase of re-adjusting relations with Baku. Aliyev's official welcome of the Iranian President showed that the problems between the two countries are not going to become a dead end, so the extra-regional powers should no longer count on an increase in the differences between Iran and Azerbaijan.

Devastating civilian toll in Iran’s capital; 3,600 homes damaged in Israeli aggression



Northern Tehran was among the districts left scarred by direct Israeli airstrikes on civilian infrastructure

TEHRAN – Tehran's Mayor Alireza Zakani has laid bare the human cost of the Israeli regime's 12-day military aggression against Iran, disclosing that 3,600 civilian residential units across the capital were damaged in the assault.

In a somber address on Tuesday, Zakani confirmed hundreds of families remain displaced from their homes, underscoring a “defining experience” for the city's crisis management infrastructure.

“According to documented statistics, 3,600 residential units suffered damage during this imposed war,” Zakani stated.

“Among these, 200 units require complete reconstruction, 250 need fundamental reinforcement, and 1,500 necessitate repairs.”

Minor damage, including shattered windows and doors, affected the remainder. The mayor emphasized that municipal teams are mobilizing

to complete minor repairs, such as window and door replacements, by late July.

The Israeli assault that took place in June plunged ordinary citizens into profound hardship, with some communities bearing the brunt of the impact.

Currently, 350 displaced families are sheltering in hotels leased by the municipality, with another 450 households urgently requiring temporary housing while their homes undergo rebuilding.

For those whose residences were fully destroyed or require major reconstruction, Zakani outlined a support package: “Affected families will receive 1.5 billion tomans for deposits and 30 million tomans monthly rent assistance” to alleviate their burdens.

Beyond housing, the mayor reported extensive ancillary damage. “Claims have been formally registered for 875 civilian vehicles struck during the attacks,” he said, adding that municipal teams are now documenting losses of household belongings for future compensation.

The devastation unfolded during the 12-Day War — a coordinated U.S.-Israeli assault launched on June 13, 2025, targeting Iranian nuclear facilities, civilian infrastructure, and military compounds. The offensive extended to the assassinations of senior commanders and scientists, many executed in residential areas.

Iran's human toll has been severe. At least 1,060 Iranians were martyred, according to Saeed Ohadi, head of Iran's Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, who said the figure could rise to 1,100 given the critical condition of many wounded.

How Israeli air defense systems backfired

From page 1 ► The incident in question took place during a major Iranian missile barrage that targeted Tel Aviv and surrounding military installations in a retaliatory move against the war that began on June 13, when Israel launched an unprovoked attack targeting Iran's civilian nuclear sites and assassinating senior military and scientific figures.

In response to the Iranian missiles, Israeli air defenses, including the Iron Dome and David's Sling, were activated. However, one interceptor missile inexplicably veered off course and struck inside Tel Aviv—prompting immediate speculation.

Initial Israeli reports attributed the failure to a “path analysis algorithm error,” while other outlets cited “signal interference” and “system anomalies.”

Yet the emergence of this video has drastically shifted the narrative, with many now viewing the



self-inflicted strike as the result of deliberate internal sabotage.

The incident is not isolated. Observers are now reexamining previous failures in Israel's air defense history.

In May 2023, over 40 rockets launched from Gaza bypassed interception, and one Israeli interceptor missile crashed into a civilian area. Officials at the time

blamed a “trajectory miscalculation.”

A month later, in June 2023, Israel's Arrow missile system mistakenly downed a friendly reconnaissance drone over the Golan Heights—a case dismissed as a “friend-or-foe signal error.”

Security analysts now argue these events may represent a broader pattern of covert inter-

Iran, Qatar affirm commitment to defense ties following 12-day war

From page 1 ► “Iran's Armed Forces stood resolute against bullying,” he declared, “responding to the aggressors with full might.”

Al-Attiyah reciprocated by offering condolences for the martyrdom of Major General Mohammad Bagheri and other Iranian commanders killed in Israeli strikes, reiterating Qatar's “immediate condemnation of Israel's aggression.”

He affirmed Doha's refusal to allow its “airspace or territory to be used for hostilities,” advocating instead for “diplomatic engagement.”

Both commanders concluded by endorsing enhanced defense cooperation, signaling continued alignment against external threats while navigating postwar diplomacy.

On June 13, the Israeli regime—backed by full U.S. military and intelligence support—launched airstrikes on Iran, igniting a fierce 12-day war.

Iran's Armed Forces first executed comprehensive defensive maneuvers before unleashing Operation True Promise III, a swift counteroffensive that deployed hundreds of ballistic missiles alongside waves of kamikaze drones.

Precision strikes tore into critical military and industrial sites across the occupied Palestinian territories and pounded Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Be'er Sheva.

In parallel, following the U.S. bombing of Iran's Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear facilities with B-2 Spirit stealth bombers deploying GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator “bunker buster” bombs, as well as Tomahawk missiles, Iran retaliated for U.S. attacks on its nuclear facilities by targeting the al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

Despite the Israeli regime's once-thought-to-be impregnable U.S.-supplied missile-defense

systems, Tehran's relentless barrage forced Tel Aviv to request a halt in fighting after 12 days.

Throughout the crisis, Qatar was believed to have maintained a delicate balancing act.

As host to al-Udeid—the United States' principal regional air hub—it condemned violations of its airspace even as it underscored “warm and historic” ties with Tehran.

Doha's mediation reportedly helped bring the ceasefire to fruition, reflecting its unique role: championing Palestinian causes while deepening strategic and economic partnerships with Iran, from joint ventures in aviation and ports to shared development of the South Pars gas field.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has described Iran as “a pivotal regional actor,” while Tehran has championed Doha's independence from Saudi influence.

AMIA case and the demand for a fair trial: a response to president Milei

From page 1 ► Before calling on Iranian citizens to stand trial in Argentina, he should first prove the integrity and fairness of his country's judicial system.

President Milei's long absence from political life over the past three decades may explain why he seems unaware that Argentina's intelligence agency (SIDE) gave \$400,000 to Judge Juan José Galeano—later dismissed for corruption—and asked him to bribe Carlos Telleldin, one of the accused in the AMIA case who allegedly sold the car used in the bombing, to falsely testify against Buenos Aires police officers and Iranian diplomats.

That testimony resulted in Officer Juan José Ribelli and his colleagues spending 115 months in prison—wrongfully.

The bribe occurred with the full knowledge of then-President Carlos Menem and the then-head of SIDE, Hugo Anzorreguy. Moreover, during the trial into the cover-up of the AMIA bombing, it was proven that Judge Galeano, under political pressure, deliberately destroyed documents that might have implicated members of Menem's family with Syrian roots. He discarded leads involving Syrian nationals and instead focused solely on accusing Iran.

If President Milei is sincere about seeking justice, shouldn't he demand that Argentina's intelligence services reveal the fate of the 19 audio cassettes from the day of the bombing, which contained wiretaps that mysteriously disappeared?

Has President Milei forgotten that just last year, the cover-up of the AMIA case led to the conviction of Judge Galeano and prosecutors Mullen and Barbaccia, and that the court confirmed the existence of systemic corruption in the handling of the case? It was

proven during the trial that these judicial officials conspired with political actors and intelligence agencies such as SIDE to derail the investigation and shield those truly responsible. These actions were described as serious human rights violations.

Does President Milei have the courage to reopen the case concerning the harassment and pressure placed on the families of AMIA victims—measures aimed at silencing them and preventing their participation in legal proceedings?

Is he willing to declassify surveillance audio from the Iranian embassy and cultural office from the days before and after the bombing?

Will he go so far as to demand that Argentina's intelligence agency release the initial CIA report on the AMIA explosion?

And above all, is there anyone in the Argentine government bold enough to acknowledge the possibility that the explosion originated from within the building—and that neither Iranians nor Lebanese were involved? Could this have been a case of internal political score-settling? Perhaps that is why the footage from the moment of the explosion has conveniently vanished.

The scope of corruption surrounding the AMIA investigation extended beyond Judge Galeano and the prosecutors. Former President Carlos Menem and former DAIA (Jewish umbrella organization) head Rubén Beraja were also accused, but escaped prosecution due to political interference.

These individuals were accused of applying unlawful pressure on the judiciary to manipulate the case, further exposing a network of corruption that pervaded Argentina's legal and political insti-



tutions.

The judicial manipulation included the destruction of evidence, falsification of testimony, bribery, and coordinated disinformation campaigns—supported by SIDE and even DAIA—aimed at framing specific suspects and diverting public attention from the truth.

These actions severely damaged the credibility of Argentina's judicial system.

So grave was the misconduct that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled against Argentina's judiciary and government, holding them responsible for failing to conduct a proper investigation.

The court condemned the Argentine judges and prosecutors not only for negligence but also for actively tampering with the case to shield those responsible—directly contributing to a culture of impunity surrounding the AMIA attack.

Given all this, what guarantee can President Milei offer that future defendants in the AMIA case would not face the same miscarriage of justice? Does he expect Iran to hand over its citizens to a judiciary so riddled with corruption that its own judges and prosecutors are on trial for tampering with the investigation of

ference within Israel's defense infrastructure. Taken together, they suggest that the once-vaunted Iron Dome may have been vulnerable to internal compromise for far longer than previously admitted.

The psychological effect of these revelations is already being felt. The possibility that Israeli defense systems could be hijacked and turned against their own population—not by overwhelming enemy firepower but by silent, internal command—has deeply shaken Israeli confidence.

As investigations continue, critical questions remain: Who orchestrated the infiltration? How long has the system been compromised? And could similar breaches occur again?

For now, the Iron Dome may still be operational—but in the eyes of many observers, its credibility has collapsed not from external pressure, but from a rupture within.

the country's deadliest terrorist attack?

Would Argentina be willing to cooperate with Iran's judiciary to finally uncover the full truth?

Was it not Argentina that unilaterally withdrew from the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding with Iran, intentionally closing the door on legal cooperation and delaying any chance of progress?

Instead of inviting Iranians to appear in Argentine courts, President Milei should focus on addressing the rot within his own judicial system.

Is President Milei even aware that Iran's prosecutor in the Emtrasur plane case—regarding the arbitrary detention of Iranian nationals—has summoned several Argentine judges, government officials, lawmakers, and others involved in what Iran considers an act of abduction? And that, should they fail to appear in an Iranian court, they may soon be tried in absentia?

Can Iranian citizens who were harassed and tortured by Argentina's police and judiciary hope to one day confront those responsible—in a courtroom in Tehran?

These are the questions the Argentine president must answer before claiming the moral high ground on justice and demanding cooperation from others.

Germany’s ‘dirty work’ scandal

Petition calls for Merz to be held accountable over remarks on Israel’s war against Iran

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Controversy is still swirling around the German chancellor’s remarks on the Iran-Israel war, with a rapidly growing online petition calling for Friedrich Merz to be held accountable in Germany’s Federal Court after he stated that Israel was performing the West’s “dirty work” by striking Iranian nuclear, military, and civilian infrastructure.

Merz made the comment amidst the war back in June while answering a question from a German public television journalist at the G7 summit in Canada. He praised Israel for being “courageous enough” to attack Iran, calling it the “dirty work” done for the West.

The online petition, so far signed by over 1,200 German-Iranians, says the chancellor’s pronouncement was a “consent to a war of aggression that violates international law.” “His statement is part of a derogatory jargon of lawlessness that has become widespread within extremist circles – circles that currently threaten democracies in many countries,” the petition read.

The Iranian diaspora isn’t alone in its outrage over Merz’s words. German media outlets swiftly criticized him following



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz

the controversial remarks. Some German analysts have called it “shameful” that the chancellor would endorse an illegal war initiated by a regime responsible for the deaths of over 60,000 Palestinians in the last 20 months.

Days after endorsing Israel’s aggression against Iran, Merz defended his initial comments, claiming they had garnered widespread support. “These remarks have found overwhelming approval, and I’m pleased about that,” he told reporters after a meeting with state premiers in Berlin. “It is shared by many others, and I don’t need to comment on the few critical voices that have emerged.” The basis for his claim of “overwhelming approval” remains unclear.

Israel initiated its war against

Iran on June 13th with airstrikes targeting both nuclear sites and residential areas within Tehran. Over the subsequent twelve days, at least 1,060 Iranians perished, with the majority of casualties being civilians. One of the most devastating attacks struck a prison in northern Tehran, resulting in the deaths of 79 individuals, including bystanders. Another harrowing incident that deeply impacted the Iranian public occurred in Tehran’s Tajrish Square, where footage captured the moment a missile deliberately struck vehicles at a red light, sending them flying into the air.

The regime said its war was aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Analysts, however, believe the primary goal was to topple the

Iranian government. In the initial days of the conflict, Israel assassinated key Iranian military leaders, launched a failed attack targeting a trilateral meeting between Iran’s president, parliament speaker, and judiciary chief, and, according to the Israeli war minister’s own admission, attempted to locate and assassinate Iran’s Leader.

The Israeli attacks were against the UN Charter, which bans the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, said Dr. Hesamuddin Boroumand, a law expert and scholar. “Israel, which possesses nuclear weapons, attacked a country that has no nukes and is part of the NPT. This is against international law and every lawyer or scholar can agree on that,” he explained. “The German government is essentially backing a terrorist force while claiming that Berlin is a defender of human rights.”

The scholar also argued that if the German court were to hold hearings on the matter, it should find the chancellor guilty of violating both international and German law. The Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany explicitly states the country’s commitment to “promoting world peace as an equal partner in a united Europe.”

Family of martyred aerospace commander expresses support for new chief



TEHRAN – The family of martyr Lieutenant General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the assassinated commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, has issued a heartfelt message to Brigadier General Majid Mousavi, the newly appointed commander of the force, expressing full support and confidence in his leadership.

In their statement, General Hajizadeh’s wife, children, and relatives extended their congratulations to General Mousavi and prayed for his success, affirming their hope that the IRGC Aerospace Force would achieve even greater strength and readiness under his command, particularly in missile and drone capabilities, in line with the expectations of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

“God willing, under your leadership, we will witness the further advancement of the IRGC Aerospace Force’s comprehensive capabilities and ever-increasing readiness,” the message read.

The family emphasized that the trust

placed in General Mousavi by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, brought solace amid their grief, particularly as General Mousavi had been a long-time companion of both Martyr Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam and Martyr Hajizadeh from the early days of the IRGC’s missile development program.

“The Leader’s decision to entrust this vital position to someone who stood shoulder to shoulder with our martyr, from the formation of Iran’s missile tree to the very moment of his martyrdom, is a source of comfort for us,” they wrote.

Highlighting General Mousavi’s decades of service and foundational role in Iran’s missile program, the family expressed strong faith in his ability to continue the strategic path set forth by his predecessors.

The family closed their message by expressing gratitude for the Leader’s wise selection and presented General Mousavi with Martyr Hajizadeh’s personal ring, a symbolic gesture of allegiance and continuity.

Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, who played a pivotal role in transforming Iran’s missile and aerospace capabilities into a formidable regional force, was martyred in a Zionist airstrike in Tehran in the early hours of June 13, 2025.

Over the years, General Hajizadeh was central to developing Iran’s indigenous missile programs and strengthening its strategic deterrence. His visionary leadership helped shape a modern, self-reliant aerospace doc-

trine that shifted the regional balance in favor of the Islamic Republic.

Appointed commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force in 2010 by Ayatollah Khamenei, General Hajizadeh elevated the unit into a strategic pillar of Iran’s defense architecture, especially through innovations in precision-strike technology and drone warfare.

Among his most significant military achievements was leading Iran’s retaliatory missile operations against the Israeli regime in 2024 — including Operation True Promise I and Operation True Promise II — in response to the targeted killings of Resistance figures. These operations struck sensitive Israeli military and intelligence centers and were widely hailed in Iranian media as a powerful demonstration of Iran’s deterrent capability.

General Hajizadeh was also responsible for overseeing earlier operations such as the 2017 Laylat al-Qadr missile strike against Daesh positions in Syria, following the ISIS attack on Iran’s Parliament and Imam Khomeini’s shrine.

In recognition of his leadership and strategic acumen, Ayatollah Khamenei awarded General Hajizadeh the Order of Fath, one of Iran’s highest military honors.

With his martyrdom now marking a new chapter in the Aerospace Force’s history, his family’s message to General Mousavi affirms the resilience of the institution and its enduring commitment to defending the Iranian nation and the broader Islamic world.



In the face of accusations of opacity, the president underscores that Iran has allowed IAEA inspections at all facilities under its supervision and has been willing to negotiate even under extreme pressure.

His claim that Israel has used inspection intelligence to carry out sabotage and targeted assassinations introduces the element of betrayal—one that, from the Iranian perspective, justifies caution and resistance to further openness.

Far from being a mere pretext for confrontation, the nuclear is-

sue becomes the terrain on which the dignity and autonomy of the Iranian state are at stake. Pezeshkian maintains that Iran does not seek nuclear weapons, citing the religious decree forbidding their development. He notes that the destruction of monitoring equipment following recent attacks has complicated verification, but not Iran’s commitment to transparency. Here, Iran does not present itself as a country evading accountability, but as a state demanding assurances that international monitoring mechanisms will not be weaponized against it.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Pezeshkian defends Iranian sovereignty in a key interview with Tucker Carlson

From Page 1 ▶ The interview takes place amid a volatile backdrop: Israeli and American attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities, followed by Tehran’s military response.

The regional climate is defined by uncertainty, fears of escalation, and a sense that diplomacy has been supplanted by brute force.

Against this backdrop, Pezeshkian emerges as a leader who, without sacrificing firmness, emphasizes dialogue and negotiation.

His insistence that Iran “has never started a war” and “does not want any war to continue” operates both as a declaration of principle and a strategic effort to dismantle the image of Iran as a destabilizing power. The president presents himself as a ratio-

nal actor, open to engagement, yet deeply shaped by a structural mistrust of the West.

Pezeshkian’s narrative pivots on three key axes: sovereignty, transparency, and betrayal.

The interview reveals urgent need to rethink terms of engagement between U.S. and Iran

The defense of national sovereignty is not empty rhetoric, but a response to decades of foreign interference, sanctions, and threats.

We just aim for FIBA Women’s Asia Cup Division A: Vakili

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s basketball team power forward Delaram Vakili says that they just focus to win FIBA Women’s Asia Cup Division B.

Iran have been drawn in Pool B along with Mongolia, Cook Islands and Thailand.

Pool A consists of Chinese Taipei, Tahiti, Kazakhstan and India.

Iran will start the campaign with a match against Cook Islands on Sunday.

Vakili believes that the two-week training break due to Iran-Israel conflict has hurt the team’s preparation.

“We were at the peak of our team’s performance when we had a 15-day break in our work due to war conditions. We were set to travel to Russia and Lebanon, but the camps were unfortunately canceled.

I think we suffered a bit of a physical and mental setback due to the circumstances. However, all the players continued their individual training, although training at Azadi Stadium under the supervision of coaches is different,” Vakili said.

“Considering that we missed two camps in Russia and Lebanon, we left for China early to continue our preparation there. We will hold preparatory games in China so that we can enter the competition with more preparation. I think we will gradually return to our ideal conditions and achieve full preparation during this 10-day period that we are camping in China,” she added.

In response to the question of how much knowledge they have of the opponents in this period of the competition, she stated: “We have good knowledge about our opponents and as we get closer to the games, the technical staff will do the analysis and we will definitely gain more knowledge.

“Our main rival in the campaign are Chinese Taipei, who have entered the competition from Division A, and of course other teams such as Thailand, Cook Islands and Mongolia are also strong, however, we will face them with good analysis,” Vakili said.

“Our main goal is to advance to Division A and we don’t think about anything else. Two years ago, we were on the verge of obtaining a place in Division A, but our job was undone, and this time we want to finish the job. In the previous period, we lost to Indonesia in the final on a penalty. This year, we have tougher opponents, but we have also had good training and we are doing our best to advance to Division A,” Vakili concluded.

Iran’s women’s basketball team defeat Guangdong

TEHRAN – The Iranian women’s national basketball team defeated China’s Guangdong Vermilion Birds 72-61 on Monday.

Team Melli Banovan had defeated the Chinese team 69-63 on Saturday.

The friendly match served as part of preparation for the FIBA Women’s Asia Cup 2025 Division B. The competition will be held in Shenzhen, China, from July 13 to 20.

Group A includes Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan, India, and Tahiti, while Group B consists of Iran, Thailand, Mongolia, and Cook Islands.

The winner will qualify for Division A.

Alvarez named Persepolis’s goalkeeping coach

TEHRAN – Emilio Alvarez has been named as Persepolis football team goalkeeping coach on Monday. The 53-year-old started his coaching career in 2003 in Real Madrid B.

He has also worked as goalkeeping coach in Manchester United, Valencia, Atletico Madrid, Al Wasl, Benfica, and Tractor.

Former Iran U23 football team head coach Amirhossein Peyrovani was also named as assistant coach in the club.

On Friday, former Iran forward Vahid Hashemian took charge of Persepolis.

Persepolis to travel to Turkey on Wednesday

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team will travel to Turkey on Wednesday to hold its pre-season training camp.

The Iranian team will hold a 16-day training camp in Erzurum.

The Reds have recently hired former Iran forward Vahid Hashemian as their head coach.

Persepolis will also play several friendly matches in the training camp.

Iran to play Afghanistan in 2025 CAFA Nations Cup opener

TEHRAN – The Iran national football team will play Afghanistan at the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup opener. Team Melli have been drawn in Group B along with Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Malaysia.

Group A consists of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Oman.

Team Melli will begin the campaign on August 29 and meet Malaysia and Tajikistan on September 1 and 4, respectively. The 2025 CAFA Nations Cup will be the second edition of the CAFA Nations Cup, the biennial international men’s football championship of Central Asia organized by the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

The event will be held in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan from August 29 to September 8.

Esteghlal linked with Odiljon Hamrobekov: report

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team have been reportedly linked with Uzbekistan international midfielder Odiljon Hamrobekov.

The 29-year-old player currently plays for Bunyodkor football club.

Media reports suggest that the Blues have previously reached an agreement with Rubin Kazan defender Rustam Ashurmatov.

Esteghlal will represent Iran in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two.

Tractor to hold training camp in Istanbul

TEHRAN – Tractor football team will hold a training camp in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Tabriz-based football club will play several friendly matches with Turkish football clubs.

Dragan Skocic’s Tractor will represent Iran in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Elite.

Tractor won 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL) for the first time ever.

Fitness coach Losada returns to Persepolis

TEHRAN – Spanish fitness coach Jose Augusto Losada, known as “Pepe”, returned to Persepolis football club. He will work as assistant of Vahid Hashemian, who was named Persepolis coach on Friday.

Losada, 49, served as fitness coach in the Iranian club from 2022 to 2024.

The Spanish fitness coach has a long resume, which includes multiple sports science degrees in an ongoing PhD at the University of Cadiz. He also holds a UEFA “A” license which he earned through the Spanish Royal Football Federation.

Losada’s professional career started in Cadiz CF where he was the Fitness and Sports Rehab Coach starting with the youth teams which ultimately led to the first team that was participating in the Spanish Segunda B & A. Coach Pepe later had a stint in Hungary for two years before moving back to Spain to different Segunda B teams.

Iran ranks as OPEC's second-largest oil refiner

TEHRAN - Iran has become the second-largest oil refiner among OPEC member states, with a daily refining capacity of 2.237 million barrels — accounting for 16 percent of OPEC's total and 2.1 percent of global refining capacity, according to the latest OPEC Annual Statistical Bulletin.

The 60th edition of the bulletin, released last week by the OPEC Secretariat, highlights the refining capacities of member states as of 2024. The combined refining capacity of OPEC countries last year stood at 14.139 million barrels per day (bpd), while global capacity reached 103.769 million bpd.

These figures indicate that OPEC countries held 13.6 percent of the world's refining capacity in 2024. Globally, refining capacity increased by 1 percent year-on-year, while OPEC's capacity grew by 0.5 percent.

Saudi Arabia topped the list among OPEC members with a daily refining capacity of 3.291 million barrels, representing more than 23 percent of the organization's total. Iran followed in second place with its 2.237 million bpd capacity,



capturing roughly 16 percent of OPEC's share and 2.1 percent of global capacity.

Iran's position is notable considering that it ranks third in crude oil production within OPEC, behind Saudi Arabia and Iraq. However, thanks to its advanced refining infrastructure, Iran processes around 69 percent of its crude domestically into high-value petroleum products — a strategy that not only curbs crude exports but also meets internal demand. In contrast, Saudi Arabia refines 39 percent of its output, while Iraq refines just over 30 percent.

TEDPIX loses 51,000 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 51,275 points to 2.658 million on Tuesday, which is the fourth day of the Iranian calendar week.

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

On Monday, the TSE head said that Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) is rolling out a revamped stabilization package aimed at improving liquidity and investor confidence following recent market volatility.

Mahamoud Goudarzi, head of the TSE, said a series of coordination meetings between regulators, stakeholders, and capital market institutions have paved the way for a gradual market recovery. The updated plan includes continued direct support for listed stocks, enhanced fund and portfolio management, the use of derivatives such as put options and futures, and regulatory reforms.

"This package is part of our efforts to shift the market from volatility toward a phase of equilibrium and ultimately growth," Goudarzi told IRNA, adding that in recent sessions, the market showed signs of stabilization after a turbulent 12-day period marked by geopolitical tensions.

Goudarzi explained that the market's priorities have evolved from asset protection during the crisis to enhancing liquidity last week, and now to reinforcing price stability.

"Over the past four days, consistent engagement among regulators, market operators, and experts has laid the groundwork for restoring balance and improving tradability," he said. "If this trend continues, the market will soon be positioned to enter a phase of

ICCIMA is legal representative of private sector, says board member

TEHRAN - Hossein Pirmoazzen, deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), has emphasized the importance of unity among economic operators and respect for ICCIMA's legal status as the country's official representative of the private sector.

In an interview with ICCIMA Online, Pirmoazzen underscored the Chamber's legal mandate as the voice of Iran's private sector and an advisor to all three branches of government, warning that parallel and unauthorized institutions pose a serious threat to the cohesion of the private sector.

"According to the law, ICCIMA is the formal and legal authority representing the private sector in Iran," he said. "The emergence of parallel organizations undermines the integrity of the private sector."

Highlighting the Chamber's critical role in liaising with the government, Pirmoazzen stat-

ed that ministries and state bodies are legally obliged to engage with the private sector exclusively through ICCIMA. "Government support for parallel associations is not only illegal but also weakens private sector unity," he said.

While reaffirming the Chamber's support for broad-based participation, Pirmoazzen stressed that all business associations must operate within the legal framework and under the supervision of official institutions. "We must prevent duplication of roles so that the private sector's strength is directed toward national development and production," he added.

Pirmoazzen concluded by calling for greater convergence among private sector players, saying: "Today, more than ever, we need solidarity. ICCIMA is fully committed to supporting production, trade, and the national economy, and it invites all economic actors to unite and collaborate."

sustainable recovery."

Meanwhile, Hamid Mirmoayeni, a capital markets analyst, said that while government agencies and large listed firms have fulfilled their support roles effectively, long-term investor sentiment hinges on broader political developments.

"The flow of capital back into the stock market depends less on technical factors and more on easing political tensions," he told the Securities and Exchange News Agency (SENA). "Recent interventions by the Central Bank, the Securities and Exchange Organization, and major state-owned companies have stabilized concerns around liquidity, particularly for large-cap stocks."

Mirmoayeni said there is no need for a new round of measures at this stage, as the existing support framework has been well received by investors. "The authorities have done what's needed. Now, with reduced geopolitical uncertainty, we could see a revival in investment flows," he added.

Market observers noted a more optimistic tone in recent trading sessions, reflecting renewed institutional confidence. The TSE's stabilization strategy, combined with derivatives tools and liquidity support, is expected to boost risk management and cushion the market against future shocks.

Iran's stock exchange had come under pressure amid regional unrest and sharp outflows, but authorities are now banking on policy continuity and improved transparency to chart a path toward recovery.

Previously, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for monetary policy has said the banking network supports the capital market and shareholders through the stock market management, and the use of monetary and credit policy tools

Overhaul operations of 11 South Pars platforms completed

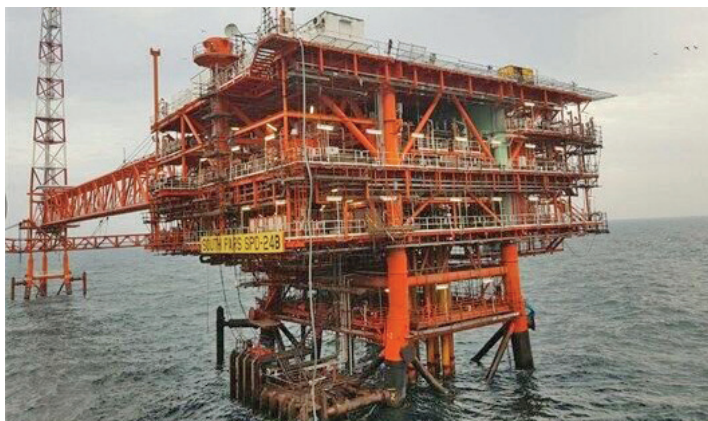
TEHRAN - Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) has successfully completed major overhauls on 11 offshore platforms in the South Pars gas field, as operations continued without interruption during a recent 12-day regional conflict, according to the managing director of the company.

Speaking to Shana, Touraj Dehghani said the platforms remained fully operational throughout the hostilities, ensuring uninterrupted gas production while scheduled maintenance proceeded as planned.

Highlighting the strategic importance of timely overhauls, Dehghani noted that the work was essential to maintain offshore readiness ahead of the colder months. "Thanks to coordinated and intelligent efforts across operations and support teams, maintenance continued seamlessly alongside steady gas output, even under crisis conditions," he said.

He confirmed that overhauls on 11 platforms in the shared South Pars field have now been completed, in line with the company's strategic timeline.

Pars Oil and Gas Company, which oversees operations in the giant gas field shared with



Qatar, remains focused on ensuring consistent gas extraction to meet domestic demand. "We are fully committed to providing stable energy for the Iranian people and will spare no effort in this national mission," Dehghani added.

He also praised the resilience and dedication of the company's onshore and offshore staff, especially those in operations and logistics, for maintaining production continuity despite flight restrictions and logistical challenges.

As reported on June 10, Iran has increased daily natural gas production from Phase 11 of the South Pars gas field by 60 percent over the past 10 months, raising output from 12 million cubic meters to 20 million cubic

meters per day under the current administration.

According to state broadcaster IRIB, Hamidreza Saghafi, head of Petropars, provided an update on the progress of Phase 11 development in its first and second stages, including the drilling of the ninth well at platform SPD11B, the scheduled loading and installation of the SPD11A jacket, procurement of drilling rigs and essential equipment, and construction of the second deck at SPD11A. He also discussed the outlook for the project's final completion phase.

In this regard, Touraj Dehghani, head of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), emphasized the need for regular coordination meetings between Petropars, the project's general contractor,

Iran's quarterly non-oil export to Iraq hits \$1.905b



TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$1.905 billion to Iraq 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 Iraq was Iran's second top non-oil export destination in the mentioned three-month period.

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of IRICA for planning and international affairs, Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$11.9 billion to Iraq in the past Iranian calendar year 1403, which ended on March 20.

Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of IRICA for planning and international affairs, said that Iraq was Iran's second top non-oil export destination in the previous year.

Considering Iran's vast export capacity and Iraq's large market for Iranian goods, both sides want to expand the volume of bilateral economic exchanges.

Iran and Iraq have set a target of \$20 billion in annual trade, and businessmen and authorities of both countries are determined to meet that target.

In late May 2024, the head of the Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Planning of the Iranian Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) said that Iran exports some 2,200 products, valued at \$12 billion, to neighboring Iraq annually.

Speaking in a meeting entitled "Reviewing opportunities and challenges of attracting Iraqi investors and strengthening trade relations between the two countries in line with demarcating Iran in the regional value chain", Jafar Hosseini said that Iraq, benefiting from \$85 billion foreign currency reserves, 130 tons of gold reserves, and 147 billion barrels of proven reserves of crude oil, is among the richest countries in West Asia.

Currently, Iran exports over 2,200 various types of goods and products to Iraq, he said, adding that more than half of the active Iranian traders are present in the Iraqi market.

Developing the trade infrastructures to facilitate trade between the two countries, encouraging traders to invest in Iraq, promoting trade through dispatching and admitting trade delegations and participating in exhibitions of the two countries, etc. are suggested to strengthen the trade and economic relations between Iran and Iraq, he underlined.

In an interview in mid-December last year, the ambassador of Iran in Iraq praised the economic relations between the two sides and expressed hope that these relations will

be more and better.

Mohammad Kazem Ale-Sadeq announced the value of commercial exchanges between the two countries, and stated that economic relations between Iran and Iraq are very good, and expressed hope that these relations will improve.

The envoy further noted: "Iraq is an important country in the region, and we have very important economic, political, and social relations with this neighbor."

In early May 2024, Tehran hosted the 6th meeting of the Iran-Iraq Joint Economic Committee.

The two-day event was co-chaired by the former Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi and Iraqi Minister of Commerce Atheer Daoud Al-Ghurairi.

On the first day of the meeting, specialized committees including commercial, industrial, agricultural, standardization and quality control, energy, finance, banking, investment and Insurance, shipping, transport, and Customs, scientific, educational, tourism, health, as well as sports consulate held meetings to discuss areas for cooperation.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

INTA reports 52% surge in annual tax revenues as digital reforms take hold

TEHRAN - Iran's tax revenues rose by 52 percent in the previous Iranian year (ended in late March), driven by sweeping digital reforms and improved transparency, according to the head of the Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA).

Mohammad-Hadi Sobhanian, who also serves as deputy economy minister, said on Tuesday that the tax authority has taken major steps toward economic justice and reducing reliance on oil revenues by facilitating compliance for taxpayers, digitizing tax systems, and increasing taxation's share in the country's GDP.

Speaking on the occasion of National Tax Day, Sobhanian highlighted several reforms introduced in the previous year, including deadline extensions, en-

hanced digital services, targeted tax exemptions, and closer cooperation with business guilds.

Sobhanian noted that INTA extended the deadline for submitting tax returns and making payments under Article 100 of the Direct Tax Code until late August 2025.

He also announced improvements to the national taxpayer system, including features such as invoice status checks, batch payment registrations, and optimized tax payment tables — all scheduled to go live from December 21, 2025.

INTA has also made efforts to reduce the administrative burden on small taxpayers and minimize concerns in the retail sector. "By leveraging Article 100 exemptions and organizing public service desks, we've fostered

greater alignment between the tax system and businesses," Sobhanian said.

The ceiling for simplified tax filings under Article 100 has tripled, and taxpayers can now benefit from installment plans and online platforms that eliminate the need for in-person visits to tax offices.

Sobhanian said income tax exemptions for the last fiscal year more than doubled, rising from 470 million rials (\$9,400) to 1.0 billion rials (\$20,000), with a cap of 1.44 billion rials (\$28,800) for businesses using the official taxpayer platform.

According to the official, Iran's tax-to-GDP ratio has increased from 5.7 percent in 2021 to 8.3 percent in 2024.

The share of taxes in the national budget has also grown,



rising from under 30 percent to about 50 percent.

The tax share of the government's current expenditures climbed from 40 percent to nearly 70 percent, he said — still below the near-100 percent seen in developed countries. When including payments to social security institutions and municipalities, Iran's ratio stands at 12 to 13 percent, versus over 20 percent globally.

Israel would have been destroyed had it attacked Iran without Western backing: expert

The Canadian lawyer says attacks on Iran’s nuclear sites were a ‘violation of international law’

From page 1 ► Finally, also high-lights the miscalculations made by the U.S. and Israeli administrations in their efforts to undermine the Islamic Republic, emphasizing the unity and resilience of the Iranian people in the face of military aggression and external pressure.

His commentary serves not only as a legal and geopolitical analysis but also as a call for the international community to confront the double standards that define today’s global order.

The following is the text of the interview:

How do you assess the role of Western media in shaping public understanding of Israel’s attack on Iran, especially through the framing of such actions as primitive strikes?

Well, the first problem for a quite intentional misrepresentation in the Western media about this war is that it is a war by Israel against Iran. It is not a war by Israel against Iran, because Israel is a pipsqueak of a country, which, if it was acting independently, without the support of the entire West, would never have attacked Iran. Israel would have been destroyed immediately had it done this on its own.

What this actually is is a war by the United States and other Western powers, most notably Britain and possibly also Germany, using Israel as a proxy to wage war on Iran. It’s very clear about this, and this is a mistake that I make all the time. I refer to it as the Israeli attack on Iran, but it isn’t.

It’s a Western war on the Islamic Republic. The second thing is that, as a matter of international law, the idea that these Western attacks on Iran were preemptive is without any kind of legal foundation.

First of all, the whole question of whether preemptive strikes are permissible in international law is very debatable, but if they are permissible, they’re only permissible when they are done in the face of an imminent attack by the country that is being targeted with the preemptive strikes.

There is no evidence that Iran was preparing to attack Israel imminently or ever. There’s no evidence. So even if the theory of preemptive strikes is valid, which is debatable, it would not apply here.

The third thing is that there was no real attempt made by the Western media to examine the legality of the attacks under the UN Charter. So we heard repeatedly repetition of Western government claims that Israel has a right to defend itself, but in fact this was a war of aggression. It is the supreme crime in international law, as the Nuremberg Tribunal observed, and not only was the Western-backed attack on Iran a crime of aggression, but the way in which it was carried out also involved multiple war crimes and crimes against humanity, and particularly I’m talking here about the attacks on Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Even if the United States acting through Israel had a legal right to attack Iran, and it didn’t, the attacks on the nuclear facilities were a violation of international law.

They are barred by the rules of the International Atomic Energy Agency by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and clearly were a crime against humanity. And then, of course, there were the attacks on civilians.

Many civilians were targeted and killed, hundreds of them, in instances where the Israelis killed nuclear scientists, claiming them to be legitimate military targets. That is false. These nuclear scien-



Rescue workers and military personnel inspect the scene after an Iranian missile strike in Ramat Gan, Israel. [Oded Balilty/AP Photo]

tists were not legitimate military targets, even if they had some involvement in Iran’s nuclear energy program.

There was no evidence that Iran sought to develop a nuclear weapon, in other words, to militarize its nuclear energy program. So the attacks on the nuclear scientists were a violation of international law. The killing of the family members of nuclear scientists and of military figures, actual military figures in Iran, those were crimes under international law.

The attacks on the nuclear scientists were a violation of international law. The killing of the family members of nuclear scientists and of military figures were crimes under international law.

So this was one unrelenting crime spree, committed by the West through its Israeli proxy, and at no time did the Western media convey any sense of the illegality of these atrocities. And finally, I think the other great deception that the Western media has been perpetrating from day one is that Israel, through the United States, has won this war, or is winning this war. Israel did not achieve any of its objectives.

Israel tried to overthrow the Islamic Republic. It failed miserably. If anything, the government is stronger now.

Israel tried to destroy Iran’s ability to enrich uranium. It failed to do that. Israel tried to partition the country.

It clearly has failed to do that. And in the process, Israel expended massive amounts of money, sacrificed many of its own citizens, and has suffered devastating damage. And I’m quite confident that a lot of people are going to end up leaving Israel because of this. Zionists that the genocidal entity needs in order to maintain dominance over the indigenous Palestinian population. So all of this, this catastrophic defeat that the West has suffered in this war, is being presented by the Western media as a victory. It’s as though they’re calling black white and white black.

To any objective observer, we can see that the West, through Israel, failed to achieve all of its objectives, and is much weaker as a result.

What legal and moral responsibilities do international bodies like the UN bear when a member state is widely accused of violating the UN Charter, as in the case of Israel’s recent action?

Well, the United Nations, if it were compliant with its responsibilities, particularly the UN Security Council, would have adopted a

resolution immediately condemning the attacks on Iran.

Not just, again, not just Israel, but attacking the backers of Israel. You know, the United States has supplied the weapons. The United States supplied the intelligence.

The United States supplied the air defense batteries and the air defense missiles to protect Israel from the retaliatory attacks. The United States probably provided fuel that was used by these war planes. So it is the United States that should be condemned by the UN Security Council, not just Israel, and also Britain, because Britain participated as well.

So that’s the first thing. The second thing, they should have ordered an immediate cessation of the hostilities. Thirdly, they should have ordered all those states that participated in this illegal attack to make reparations to Iran, to compensate Iran.

And if they refused to do those things, the United Nations Security Council should have imposed punishing sanctions, not just on Israel, but on the states that participated in this crime against humanity with Israel. Instead, the United Nations Security Council has done none of those things, and has yet again proven that it is another failure.

The Iranian people have proven to be much more cohesive, much more devoted to the nation of Iran than the Western foreign policy elites have believed.

Given the past warning about the dangers of Israel’s potential nuclear escalation, what diplomatic or strategic option does Iran have to deter such a scenario, particularly in light of the significant military imbalance between Iran and all the Western allies?

Well, I think the first thing that Iran should do, which it has apparently done, is that it should terminate all cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The International Atomic Energy Agency, like the United Nations, like so many other international institutions, has been co-opted and corrupted by the West, and particularly by the United States.

There are good reasons to believe that the IAEA under the Argentinian Grossi has been secretly cooperating with the genocidal Israeli entity, and that information provided by the agency was used to murder nuclear scientists in Iran and to target its nuclear facilities. So I certainly understand and endorse the decision of the Islamic Republic to suspend all cooperation with the IAEA.

The second thing is, I think that Iran has every right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, and it

should exercise that right.

It has every right to employ nuclear energy, and it should exercise that right. I think as a practical matter, it’s going to have to take greater care to protect its nuclear facilities in the future. I don’t agree with the claim that Iran’s nuclear facilities have been destroyed.

I don’t think we have enough evidence, and certainly I don’t have enough evidence to say what condition they’re in. But if I were in the position of the government, I would be looking at ways of protecting our nuclear facilities even more than they were already protected. And to continue to lobby international organizations to hold the United States and Israel accountable for these crimes against Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Given increasing criticism of NPT’s effectiveness and talk of Iran’s possible withdrawal, do you believe the pursuit of a nuclear deterrent has become a rational or even necessary strategy for Iran?

I don’t know whether it’s necessary, but it may be advisable for Iran to have a nuclear deterrent.

And I say this as somebody who believes that no country should have nuclear weapons. And the countries that I trust the least to have nuclear weapons are Israel and the United States. The United States is the only state in the history of humanity to use them.

It used them in circumstances where there was no military justification, and it used them on civilian populations. The United States at the end of World War II intentionally massacred tens of thousands of Japanese children. When it dropped those atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it knew that it was going to cause the awful deaths of tens of thousands of children.

This is one of the greatest atrocities in human history. So anybody who thinks that the United States can be trusted with nuclear weapons needs psychotherapy. The second thing is Israel has demonstrated that it is capable of any crime, any atrocity.

It understands no limits to its conduct, and therefore it is the last country on Earth that we should trust with a nuclear arsenal. Quite apart from that, all of the nuclear-powered, all of the nuclear-armed states, every one of them, is violating the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Because the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty requires the deal that was struck when states entered into this was the states that didn’t have nuclear weapons said, we will undertake not to develop them.

And the states that had them undertook to disarm, to engage in nuclear disarmament, and to slowly wind down their nuclear arsenals, so we arrived at a point where no country had nuclear weapons. No nuclear power in the world today is engaged in a serious disarmament initiative. And in fact, what they’re doing is they’re modernizing their nuclear arsenals, expanding them, making them more lethal, more difficult to defend against.

This is a blatant violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. So like the UN Charter, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is a failure. It’s another failure, and it’s been discredited by the existing nuclear powers.

And of course, I didn’t even mention the fact that Israel is not a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It doesn’t subject its nuclear facilities to, it’s the only state in West Asia that isn’t a member. All other states are.

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



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Concern over Barrack’s political storm

Will the trick of former US envoys be repeated?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Observers took note of the unusually optimistic tone expressed by U.S. Special Envoy to Syria, Thomas Barrack, particularly in light of the heightened rhetoric suggesting that Lebanon could face major escalation if it failed to comply with his proposal to disarm Hezbollah.

Upon receiving the official Lebanese response, Barrack affirmed that he was “grateful and satisfied”. So how can this be understood?

Informed sources pointed out that these positive compliments do not necessarily mean the end of the threat, as the U.S. demand has not changed pending the outcome of the looming meeting between the U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The sources revealed that Barrack sought, through his soft diplomacy, to portray the issue of the Resistance as a purely local crisis, with the Lebanese government either doing what is necessary or being left to an unknown fate!

The most notable was the U.S. envoy’s meeting with Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea, who described the Lebanese response as “un-constitutional,” demanding that the U.S. proposal be discussed within the government.

Geagea had urged Barrack to intervene to prevent the Lebanese authorities from stalling the disarmament of Hezbollah. Barrack assured him that “this issue concerns you, the Lebanese.”

Barrack was frank in not counting on a role for Lebanon’s anti-Resistance team, but rather bluntly declared his country’s “unwillingness” to fight their battles on their behalf.

During his first visit to Lebanon, Barrack appeared to be under the illusion that the U.S. administration—acting in alignment with Israeli interests—was on the brink of toppling

Gaza turning into occupation soldiers’ graveyard



From page 1 ► It marks a significant blow to the image of military control that the occupation regime seeks to project.

Beit Hanoun, the northeasternmost town in the Gaza Strip, was among the first areas to be devastated during the initial phase of Israel’s genocidal war on October 7, 2023.

Within the first 20 days, the town was subjected to indiscriminate airstrikes, reducing it to rubble. It was also the first urban area to face a full-scale ground invasion.

The town’s strategic significance lies in its proximity to Israeli occupation settlements, less than three kilometers from Sderot. This makes full control over Beit Hanoun a priority for the occupation regime.

Now, after 21 months of U.S.-backed genocidal war in Gaza, one of the deadliest incidents since the initial invasion has occurred in this very area, a major embarrassment for the Netanyahu regime that has also unsettled the settler population.

Abu Ubaida, the spokesperson for the al-Qassam Brigades, stated that the operation took place in a battlefield the occupation army mistakenly believed was secure, “after it had left no stone unturned.”

This incident underscores a broader truth: Israel’s officially declared objective of eliminating the Palestinian resistance has proven to be a colossal failure.

Despite imposing a suffocating blockade and employing a range of brutal tactics, the Israel occupation force (IOF) continues to suffer

the Islamic Republic in Iran, and by extension, bringing about the downfall of Hezbollah.

However, after Iran’s victory, and automatically the victory of its allies, including Hezbollah, Barrack’s government realized fully well that Hezbollah would not accept a humiliating surrender.

Thus, they tried to push Riyadh’s envoy, Yazid bin Farhan, to urge the Lebanese government to confront Hezbollah; nevertheless, bin Farhan failed.

When he stated that he could not provide guarantees that Israel would not resort to a new war, Barrack hinted that Israel would deal with Hezbollah in its own way!

Meanwhile, Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul Latif Derain and the accompanying scholarly delegation met with al-Jolani, Syria’s self-appointed president (currently known as Ahmad al-Sharaa), who heard from the Mufti of Hasbaya and Marjayoun, Sheikh Hassan Dali, regarding the Lebanese identity of the Shebaa Farms.

Dali confirmed that the Lebanese Waqf owns approximately 30 million square meters within these farms.

Al-Jolani responded, “At the present time, we cannot discuss whether these farms are Lebanese or Syrian as long as they have not been liberated from Israel. After the liberation, we will discuss the matter.”

Off-topic, al-Jolani expressed his dissatisfaction with the continued detention of his terrorists in Lebanese prisons, claiming that they “were fighting the former regime,” noting that his foreign minister would soon visit Lebanon to discuss the matter.

Concurrently with Derain’s visit, Hebrew media reported that Damascus was demanding the annexation of the Lebanese governorate of Tripoli to Syria; hence, what kind of war is being planned against Lebanon in the coming days?

daily casualties. They are killed or wounded by Palestinian resistance fighters who are fighting bravely.

The attempt to sustain a long-term occupation in Gaza is becoming increasingly unsustainable and deadly for Tel Aviv.

What has emerged is a full-blown war of attrition between the IOF and a highly resilient Palestinian resistance.

So what happened in Beit Hanoun?

Palestinian resistance fighters executed a carefully coordinated ambush. The first explosive device targeted an IOF tank. A second device struck a rescue team that arrived on the scene. A third explosive targeted an additional rescue force, and finally, a fourth device, combined with light weapons fire, targeted those already wounded in the initial blasts.

Amid the chaos, three IOF soldiers went missing; one of them was later found dead. There are fears in the IOF that at least one may have been kidnapped. Five Israeli military helicopters transported the dead and wounded to Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv.

According to Hebrew media, the actual number of wounded in this “difficult incident” could be in the dozens, far higher than what was officially acknowledged.

The al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, which Netanyahu has vowed to eradicate, claimed responsibility for the highly sophisticated operation.

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

11,000-year-old secret revealed: Boars transported across Zagros for ritual feasts in western Iran

TEHRAN – A study by an international team has revealed that pre-agricultural communities at the Early Neolithic site of Asiab, near Kermanshah in western Iran (~9660–9340 cal BCE), engaged in complex logistical efforts to provision large-scale ritual feasts.

Isotopic analysis of five wild boar molars from a ceremonial deposit containing 19 individuals demonstrates these animals were transported significant distances. Scientists employed sophisticated dental analysis techniques, treating teeth as chemical diaries.

By analyzing oxygen and strontium isotopes within sequential enamel layers, researchers tracked the boars' geographical origins and movements during their lives, as these isotopes vary with landscape and geology. Mapping barium concentrations across tooth cross-sections identified abrupt dietary changes, indicating seasonal migrations or shifts in foraging grounds. Crucially, the microscopic study of daily dental growth lines provided precise chronological control, allowing researchers to connect chemical signatures to specific weeks or seasons.

The analysis showed that four of the five boars originated at least 70 kilometers away from Asiab, requiring transport across the rugged intermountain plain of Kermanshah. Variations in oxygen signatures within their teeth indicate the boars lived at elevations differing by over 500 vertical meters, confirming hunters sourced animals across extreme mountain terrain. Dietary markers further revealed the boars came from separate herds and were captured in different seasons, between February and September, proving they weren't hunted in a single expedition but gathered from multiple locations throughout the year.

Transporting just one 70 kg boar carcass across 70 km of rough terrain path would



take at least two days, representing a massive investment of time and energy far exceeding basic subsistence needs and highlighting the cultural importance of these feasts.

This constitutes the earliest documented evidence of long-distance animal transport for ritual purposes in pre-agricultural societies. The deposit of nineteen wild boars (approximately 700 kg of meat) reveals Neolithic communities leveraged feasting for profound social functions. This orchestrated event likely cemented alliances between distant groups through shared ritual participation, showcased hunting prowess in procuring dangerous game, and expressed spiritual connections with wild animals. The boars served as a symbolic bridge between communities and nature, foreshadowing pig domestication in the region.

The findings are expected to transform our understanding of early social complexity, demonstrating sophisticated organizational capabilities and landscape-scale social connectivity that required coordinated effort long before agriculture. The special status of wild boars here, echoed in ritual art at sites like Göbekli Tepe, highlights a shared Neolithic cultural tradition centered on powerful wild animals, setting the stage for domestication in Southwest Asia.

Gomrok caravanserai in Shiraz renovated

TEHRAN--Gomrok Caravanserai in Vakil Bazaar, Shiraz, Fars province, was renovated with a credit worth 49.5 billion rials (\$55,078) secured from the Oil Ministry, said a provincial tourism chief.

According to IRIB, Mohsen Ziaei added that as part of this restoration plan, the remaining sections of the dilapidated thatch roof was dismantled with the aim of lightening the roof and the renovations were also conducted on brick arches.

Other restoration measures for this historic building include waterproofing the roofs of the southern and western sides and repairing and restoring the brick wall on the upper part of the southern and western facades, he said.

He explained that Gomrok caravanserai is one of the buildings pertaining to Zand dynasty. This historic monument boasts 70 rooms in two floors, he said, adding that the



ground floor is used as warehouse.

The building was registered on National Heritage List under the number 924 in 1925. The former renovation was conducted in Qajar era.

Experts believe that the remarkable architecture of this building and its location can be a valuable opportunity for domestic and foreign tourism in Fars province.

Japan expands rural destination development project

Three more destinations – the foothills of Mount Fuji, Niigata, and Yamagata – have been added to the Japan Tourism Agency (JTA) and Japan National Tourism Organization's (JNTO) project to develop model destinations aimed at spreading the consumption of high-yield inbound travelers. This brings the total number of beneficiary destinations to 14.

The commitment to intensively support the development of rural destinations for quality tourism was initiated last year. The project aims to address challenges in tourism product offerings, accommodation supply, human resources, and connections with overseas trade partners, with support provided by both JTA and JNTO, TTJ Asia reported.

Ryo Ito, manager, luxury travel promotion office, global projects department with JNTO, told TTG Asia during ILTM Asia Pacific last

week that Mount Fuji, Niigata, and Yamagata were selected for the project based on their strong potential for further tourism development, which will create more reasons for travelers to visit and return.

Niigata, while renowned for its top-quality rice and sake, also boast a rich arts movement. The Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, held once every three years, is Niigata Prefecture's signature modern art event, with installations displayed across various sites, including town centers and rice fields.

Ito noted that the Triennial could elevate Niigata's appeal as an art destination, similar to how the Setouchi Triennale has raised the profile of the Seto Inland Sea islands.

The focus on Niigata will also highlight Sado city, known as the habitat of the Japanese crested ibis.

Rab'-e Rashidi:restoration campaign, land acquisition drive launched

TEHRAN – A fresh phase of restoration and archaeological work has begun at the historic Rab'-e Rashidi complex in Tabriz, north-west Iran, alongside significant efforts to acquire surrounding lands for preservation and tourism development, a provincial heritage official announced.

Speaking during a planning session on Monday, Ahmad Hamzehzadeh, the tourism chief of East Azarbaijan province, said over 24,000 square meters of land -- equivalent to 2.4 hectares -- have been acquired around the ancient site over the past year.

Reviving Rab'-e Rashidi, widely regarded as one of the world's first international universities, is a top priority, Hamzehzadeh said, outlining the objectives of a five-year management plan. "Our primary focus is on liberating and securing the lands around the site to protect and expand the historical zone."

Hamzehzadeh also announced the start of a new excavation season at the complex. "Our ultimate aim is to provide public access to the site for tourists, while simultaneously advancing efforts to inscribe Rab'-e Rashidi on UNESCO's World Heritage list."

He emphasized the importance of continued scientific research and fieldwork, noting that such efforts over the past two decades have helped preserve the site's



historical and academic significance.

The official highlighted a renewed opportunity to complete archaeological surveys and capitalize on the site's untapped tourism potential. "We must accelerate the implementation, organization, and revitalization processes," he added.

Hamzehzadeh stressed that conservation and restoration currently take precedence over archaeological excavations. "Each stage of excavation demands immediate preservation measures. Without that, the project cannot continue safely or scientifically."

Improving access for visitors is also a key element in the new phase, Hamzehzadeh noted. "To attract both domestic and inter-

national tourists, we need to design suitable access routes and develop supporting infrastructure, including lighting systems and visitor amenities."

The official underlined that all activities at Rab'-e Rashidi must comply with international guidelines to ensure the site's eligibility for [a possible] UNESCO recognition. "A specialized team should monitor progress to align our actions with World Heritage criteria from the outset," he stated.

Rab'-e Rashidi was founded in the early 14th century by the renowned statesman and scholar Rashid-al-Din Hamadani under the reign of Ilkhanid ruler Ghazan Khan. Originally conceived as a university-town.

The historical architectural elements of Rab'-e Rashidi can no

longer be clearly identified. What survives are primarily masonry bases from fortifications that were either part of the original 14th-century complex or were added later in the 17th century. The most prominent of these remaining structures features a rectangular projection, which may have served as the foundation for an astrological observatory, an element mentioned in the writings of Rashid al-Din. Additionally, mosaic fragments uncovered at the site may date from Rashid al-Din's era through to the Safavid period.

The site had already fallen into ruin when Shah Abbas, the renowned Safavid king who reigned from 1587 to 1629, selected it as the location for a fort, which included a governor's palace. By the late 17th century, these newer structures had also deteriorated, as noted by contemporary travelers.

Today, only a small portion of the once vast complex remains above ground, while much of its structure is likely buried. Archaeologists continue to excavate and study the site in an effort to better understand its original layout and significance.

Rab'-e Rashidi was registered in the national list for cultural heritage in 1975 as one of Iran's most significant cultural and educational landmarks.

Iran, Tajikistan should be pioneers in unifying Persian-speaking world

TEHRAN—Iran and Tajikistan, as two wings of Persian culture, should be pioneers in unifying the Persian-speaking world, said Hojjatollah Ayyoubi, head of Tourism Ministry's Center for International Affairs.

In a meeting with Tajikistan Culture Minister Matlubakhon Sattoriyon on the sidelines of gathering of Culture Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), both sides emphasized on unbreakable cultural and civilizational bonds between two nations, rooted in joint history, language and thinking, IRNA reported.

Ayyoubi pointed to remarkable status of Persian language in both nations and emphasized on the formation and strengthening of the union of Persian language and culture.

He said: "Just as Turkic-speaking countries have established far-reaching cooperation in form of joint cultural unions, it is appropriate



for Iran and Tajikistan to build a sustainable structure for cultural, scientific, and civilizational convergence, relying on their shared treasures."

Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran, Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda, said last May that the bond of affection and sympathy between Iran and Tajikistan is currently at its highest

level.

He told CHTN that following the visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Dushanbe, a new season has begun in mutual ties.

Emphasizing on historical and cultural depth of ties between two nations, the ambassador said Tehran-Dushanbe ties is rooted in a shared history and cultural heritage.

From the distant past to the present, these relations have continued, he said, adding, "Currently, "We take steps in line of development of cultural, economic and social cooperation."

He recalled that Iran was among the first countries that recognized the independence of Tajikistan. "It is a matter of pride for us that the first foreign ambassador to present his credentials in Dushanbe was the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Sistan-baluchestan ready to host Pakistan's pilgrims traveling to Karbala

grims as a big honor.

Love for Imam Hussein (AS) and remembering the epic of Karbala have driven Sistan-Baluchestan people to serve the pilgrims with all their might and resources. This heartfelt devotion has caused not only Mookes (service centers with a religious nature where Shia Muslims come together and conduct religious rituals during Arbaeen) and pilgrimage centers, but also to the people's homes being opened to the pilgrims and welcoming them with special warmth and intimacy.

Apart from being a religious ritual, Arbaeen is a symbol of unity, brotherhood and resistance against joint enemies particularly the Zionist regime for Sistan-Baluchestan people.

This province does its best to pave the way for pilgrims and leave an unforgettable memory of Iranian-Islamic hospitality in their hearts.

Reza Bakhtiari, an official of Sistan-Baluchestan province, said 55 Mookes have been launched for rendering services to Pakistani pilgrims across the province. Also, there are five pilgrimage centers in Zahedan, he added.



He said that it is predicted that Pakistani government will impose restrictions on the borders this year. In this regard, it has been planned that only pilgrims traveling by private vehicles will be allowed to cross the Rimdan border and continue their journey to Chabahar without stopping via the Rimdan route, he added.

Shia and Sunni Muslims of Sistan-Baluchestan particularly in cities of Dalgan and Iranshahr made their homes available to pilgrims last year, he said, predicting that more people will host Imam Hussein (AS) pilgrims this year.

Today, nine cities across the province render services to pilgrims during Arbaeen, he said, adding that the number of host cities will rise in coming years.

He explained that annually close to 2,000 honorary servants are organized to serve Pakistani pilgrims throughout the province in the fields of logistics, cleaning, media, support, and transportation, and specialized servants are organized for mobile phone repairs.

Arbaeen, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, marks the end of a 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions at the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

Each year, millions of Shia Muslims from around the globe undertake this pilgrimage to Karbala, walking hundreds of kilometers as an expression of their faith and devotion.

Iran Digital National Plan wins WSIS Champion Award

TEHRAN – The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has awarded the Iran Digital National Plan project as one of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) champions 2025 in the E-Business category.

The WSIS Prizes 2025 recognize outstanding projects that leverage information and communication technologies to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. The awards focus on projects aligned with the WSIS action lines and are presented in 18 categories, including the role of governments, infrastructure, access to information, capacity building, and more.

The achievement is the result of the country's ongoing efforts in utilizing ICTs to achieve sustainable development and the strategic goals of digital transformation in Iran. It also indicates the country's commitment to developing infrastructure, promoting electronic services, and strengthening the digital economy at the national and global levels.

The WSIS Forum, which includes the WSIS Prizes 2025 Ceremony, is taking place in Geneva from July 7-11. The 18 winning projects of the WSIS Prizes 2025 will be announced alongside the 72 champion projects at the WSIS Prize Ceremony.

The Forum serves as a platform for multi-stakeholder discussions on the progress and challenges in building an inclusive and development-oriented



information society, according to the World Federation of Engineering Organizations.

The national digital transformation document is one of the key programs of the ICT Ministry developed to enhance the digital economy and transformative technologies to address the country's major issues.

The document focuses on three main aspects, including empowerment, application, and effects, aiming to improve the country's key infrastructures in various economic, social, and cultural sectors.

The main objective of the document is to build digital infrastructures such as digital identity, data security and protection, digital literacy and skills, and transparency in access to digital data.

It also focuses on improving key indicators, like developing e-government, expanding inter-

net penetration, and facilitating digital businesses.

Status of ICT in Iran

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is the highest authority in the field of ICT in the country. All activities related to the information and communication technology industry are directly related to the ministry.

The government pays special attention to plans and policies in this sector in order to maximize the use of ICT to facilitate people's lives.

The successful designing, building, and launching of a satellite show the growth of the national technology and scientific power of a country.

Space technology has been considered a tool to expand prosperity, peace, scientific-cultural development, and economic progress in human societies.

Different nations of the world exploit this technology in some way based on their capacity, capabilities, and efforts.

Currently, 13 universities and a research institute affiliated to the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology are offering aerospace majors, thus Iran has a high capability in training specialists and experts in the aerospace sector and is a leading country in the region.

Access to telecommunication services in rural areas of the country had improved over the period as the overall number of villages with access to communication services rose to 52,182, around 93 percent of all villages, while 47,837 villages had access to home landline services.

Moreover, the number of Iranian mobile users reached nearly 135,890 million, according to the CRA which put the mobile phone penetration rate in the country at 161.67 percent.

The figures showed, however, that fixed broadband adoption in Iran had stalled at 14 percent with nearly 11,921 million customers having access to the Internet via those services.

This statistic shows that fixed broadband internet has grown by less than 2 percent compared to last year and mobile internet has experienced a growth of 10 percent. However, it can be said that the speed of mobile internet expansion is 5 times the speed of fixed internet.

Sanctions and geopolitical tensions undermine climate cooperation: FM Araqchi

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi has said that sanctions and geopolitical tensions undermine climate cooperation and hinder coordinated action.

“Climate change is no longer just a threat to the future but a current reality whose effects are increasingly being felt every day,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website quoted Araqchi as saying.

“Rising temperatures, water scarcity, widespread wildfires, destruction of ecosystems, and climate-induced migrations have become the lived reality of millions,” he said while addressing the 17th BRICS Summit Session on “Environment, COP 30 and Global Health, held in Brazil, on Monday.

Underlining the crucial role of BRICS as a symbol of South-South cooperation and the independent voice of nations, Araqchi said, “Today, humanity faces a series of interconnected crises, from the profound impacts of climate change and environmental degradation to increasing threats to global health, and ultimately the unjust structures that hinder the progress of developing countries”.

The official then spoke about Iran's position in a climate-vulnerable region, saying, “We have implemented domestic programs focused on water resource management, renewable energy development, and restoration of native ecosystems”.

The top Iranian diplomat stressed that an effective climate crisis response requires climate justice, acknowledging the historical responsibility of developed countries for environmental destruction and their vital role in providing financial resources and transferring clean technologies to developing nations.

Meanwhile, Araqchi voiced concern over the failure of industrialized and developed governments to fulfill their commitments, attributing a large share of global environmental challenges such as greenhouse gas accumulation, global warming, and various pollution to actions by developed countries.

He noted that these countries must not only lead in reducing emissions and combating pollution but also, given their historical responsibility, provide financial resources, technical assistance, and environmentally compatible technologies to compensate for damages inflicted on developing countries.

The foreign minister pointed out that sanctions and geopolitical tensions undermine climate cooperation and hinder coordinated action.

“Unjust sanctions and unilateral coercive measures imposed by some developed countries on developing nations, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, under political pretexts, pose serious obstacles to these countries' efforts,” said Araqchi.

He went on to note that this contradicts the global community's goals for joint action against the harmful effects of climate change and achieving sustainable development goals, especially poverty and hunger eradication.

Araqchi also touched upon the recent acts of aggression by the Zionist regime, followed by US involvement, on Iran's nuclear facilities, describing these acts as violations of international law, the UN Charter, and the IAEA statute. “It is a worrying situation where two nuclear-armed regimes attack a non-nuclear-armed nation that is a signatory to the NPT whose nuclear activities are under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. These reckless and aggressive actions entail severe human, environmental, and irreparable ecological damages”.

Iran's foreign minister further stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran, endowed with vast natural resources, human capacities, and a strategic geopolitical position, insists that decisions must be participatory, equitable, and based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. “Accordingly, we call on BRICS to become the unified voice of the Global South on climate and environmental issues”, Araqchi said.

Climate change impacts

By affecting rainfall patterns, pollination, flowering, and even harvest time, climate change has greatly affected the agriculture sector and food security in many countries, most significantly in Iran, according to the



country's former permanent representative and ambassador to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

In some parts of the country the air temperature has increased by 2 degrees while the highest temperature set in the world amounts to 1.5 degrees, IRNA quoted Mohammad-Hossein Emadi as saying.

Studies have shown that for a degree increase in temperature on the planet, the amount of evaporation rises by 23 percent which negatively affects agriculture and animal husbandry sectors.

Climate change also alters plant growth patterns, disturbing the nutritional values of crops, he stressed.

In addition, unexpected effects of climate change like drought, flood, and landslides have all affected food security.

The biggest threat to public health

Climate change is the biggest threat to public health, and is forecast to cause five million additional deaths from 2030 to 2050 globally, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Some 80 percent of the land area of Iran occurs in arid and semi-arid regions. The country is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, Alireza Raisi, an official with the health ministry, has said.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Environmental Health Day which is observed on September 26 every year.

“In the past 50 years, the temperature in Iran has increased, while the annual precipitations have declined. Climate change affects individuals' health and wellbeing by affecting weather, water, and food. It changes rainfall pattern causes flood, extreme heat, drought, and storms,” Raisi added.

Heat stress is associated with illnesses such as heat exhaustion, diarrhea, heart attack, stroke, lung cancer, as well as cardiovascular diseases. Moreover, climate change significantly intensifies food, water, as well as vector-borne infectious diseases. These changes can threaten the forty-year health achievements of the country, the official further noted.

In fact, climate change and disaster risks are a fundamental threat to sustainable development, the living and health conditions of all humans on the globe, and the reduction of poverty.

World Environmental Day aims to raise awareness about environmental health issues and promote actions to improve and protect the environment for the wellbeing of all living creatures.

This year, it is observed under the theme of ‘Environmental Health: Creating Resilient Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation’.

Building resilient and sustainable communities means addressing both climate change and disaster risks, and integrating these risks, as well as potential opportunities, into development planning and budgeting.

Besides combatting climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels and CO2 emission – driving climate change- we must strengthen our initiatives in terms of mitigation and adaption – as climate change is already here – and natural hazards driven by climate change increasingly go into full disasters.

The needed response to avoid disasters is Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives and planning which include climate change mitigation and adaptation and for future policy action to promote successful coordination to create resilient communities.

Over 80% of Afghan refugees voluntarily return home

TEHRAN – From the beginning of the current Iranian year, March 21, till June 27, a total of 717,658 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan; more than 80 percent of them were dispatched voluntarily.

According to the head of the National Organization for Migration, Nader Yar-Ahmadi, there has been no change in the residency and the kind of services provided to documented Afghans residing in the country. On the contrary, they will benefit from more services as illegal nationals leave the country, IRNA reported.

“The majority of these nationals are employees or students; we normally consider employment as a foundation for residency in our long-term planning,” IRNA quoted Yar-Ahmadi as saying.

The official went on to say that the presence of illegal migrants in any country poses many challenges, and in critical situations, they will be the main suspects. Their presence negatively impacts the economy, social, and security sectors.

Global experience has shown that migrants at most can account for three percent of the population of any country. With Iran's population estimated to reach around 90 million next year, the figure will amount to three million migrants. Currently, there are more than 6.1 million nationals living in the country,

which should gradually decrease, Yar-Ahmadi added.

According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the number of Afghans returning from Iran this year has surpassed 800,000. More than 137,000 people crossed back into Afghanistan via the Islam Qala border in June alone.

The IFRC has appealed for increased funding, essential supplies, and long-term support to help Afghans returning home from Iran rebuild their lives.

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

“This issue hasn't received the attention it deserves,” said Alexander Matheou, IFRC's regional director for Asia Pacific, following a visit to the border over the weekend. “These individuals are not just statistics. They are mothers, fathers, and children returning to a country already facing enormous challenges.”

Which Afghan nationals are allowed to stay in Iran?

Afghan nationals who are university students, vulnerable women heads of households, children with an Iranian parent, and

those who have a job code are allowed to live in the country.

Students whose parents do not have legal permission to reside in the country have to return to Afghanistan by July 6. However, the case is different for university students. Having passports, they can extend their stay in the country, IRNA quoted Nader Yar-Ahmadi, the head of the National Organization for Migration, as saying.

Women heads of households whose life is confirmed to be threatened by their return will be able to stay temporarily in the country and benefit from treatment services.

According to the law, being born in Iran does not grant Iranian citizenship. If the child's father is Iranian and the parents' marriage is legally registered, the child will be considered Iranian and will have an identification (ID) card.

In cases where the mother is Iranian and the father is a foreign national, even if the marriage is not registered, the child will receive an ID card with the mother's last name.

If undocumented nationals who have worked under a job code leave the country voluntarily, they can receive a visa to get back to their work, in case their employers agree. However, if they are arrested and deported, they will be banned from applying for a visa.

ENGLISH IN USE

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‘Climate change impact on Iran doubles world average’

The effects of climate change on Iran has more than doubled on average compared to other parts of the world, while southern provinces of the country are more likely to bear the consequences, secretary of environmental policy at the center for strategic studies affiliated to the presidential office has said.

“The Hoomand-Absard station in Damavand county in northeast of Tehran experienced a temperature increase of 2.7 °C over the past 50 years, while over the past 100 years, the temperature rise was about 0.76 °C,” ISNA quoted Mohammad Darvish as saying on Tuesday.

Climate change impact is increasing in southern part of the country, among which Yazd province's condition has raised concern.

تغییرات اقلیمی در ایران دو تا سه برابر جهان

محمد درویش، دبیر سیاست محیط‌زیست مرکز بررسی‌های استراتژیک نهاد ریاست جمهوری گفته، ایران با تأثیرات تغییر اقلیمی دو تا سه برابر بیشتر از تأثیرات ایجاد شده در کره زمین روبرو شده است.

محمد درویش، در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به گزارش‌های منتشر شده توسط سازمان هواشناسی، وزارت نیرو و سازمان آب، اظهار کرد: ایستگاه هومند آبسرد در دامنه‌های کوه دماوند طی نیم قرن اخیر افزایش دمایی حدود ۲.۷ درجه سلیوس را نشان می‌دهد و این مسئله در حالی رخ داده است که در ۱۰۰ سال گذشته، حدود ۰.۷۶ درجه سلیوس افزایش دما داشته‌ایم.

وی اضافه کرد: هر چقدر به شهرهای جنوبی‌تر کشورمان نزدیک می‌شویم، تغییرات اقلیمی هم بیشتر می‌شود به طوری که از این میان یزد وضعیت نگران‌کننده‌ای دارد.



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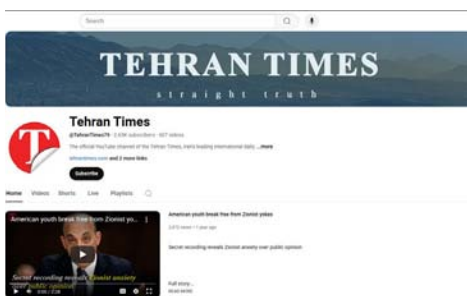
JULY 9, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Loving humanity is second only to having faith in Allah as one of the best deeds in Islam.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:44 Dawn: 3:13 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:57 (tomorrow)

YouTube bans Tehran Times channel



TEHRAN - YouTube has restricted Tehran Times' access to its account, claiming its videos are "supporting terrorism" whilst it was showing aftermath of Iran's retaliation against Israeli regime's aggression.

During the 12-day war, Tehran Times became one of the main sources for English speaking audience to find the narratives of Iranian side. Throughout this period, not only did its website attract a wide range of view-

ers, but its accounts on X, Instagram, and YouTube also experienced significant traffic.

On the latest attempt of supporting the genocidal regime of Israel, YouTube has restricted Tehran Times from accessing its account to shut down yet another truth voice about Israelis' aggressions and slaughtering of innocent men, women and children not only in Iran but in other parts of West Asia.

This comes at a time when Israelis have been killing innocent people of Gaza, displacing them and cutting aids from arriving in the Gaza Strip for 21 months, where more than 57,000 people have been killed in Gaza, about a 1000 in Iran and a lot more in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen as well.

Genocide-supporting social media has deleted contents that were questioning Israelis legitimacy and its existence, in the past without any other explanation other than "It supports terrorism".

Rappers call for ceasefire in Gaza

Omar Bounoua, an Afghani-Algerian-British rapper from Greenford, UK, who goes by Workrate, has created a hip-hop/rap song titled "Charbu Darbu Reply". The song boasts lyrics that condemn violence against Palestinians and call for a ceasefire in Gaza. The song's catchy title, however, references and is a direct response to "Charbu Darbu," a popular hip-hop song from Israeli duo Ness Ve Stilla that, unlike "Charbu Darbu Reply," is recognized for advocating Palestinian genocide.

"Charbu Darbu" was the No. 1 song in Israel at the end of 2023. It features death threats to public figures like Dua Lipa and Bella Hadid who have been vocally advocating for peace in Palestine. This is why artistic efforts like "Charbu Darbu Reply" are significant. They use hip-hop and rap to spread messages of peace like wildfire, reflecting the United

Nations Sustainable Development Goal of Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, Arts Help reported.

"Charbu Darbu Reply" is one out of four songs in Workrate's EP, "4 Months in Gaza," that's especially directed at calling for peace in Palestine. Before releasing the EP in early 2024, Workrate had already released a four-part song titled "Gaza" as early as October 2023 to call for the ceasefire.

The words "charbu darbu" themselves are Syrian Arabic. They translate into English as "swords and strikes," referring to a Hebrew slang term that means to give their all in a fight. When lyrics in the original "Charbu Darbu" call for people to give their all to the war, lyrics in "Charbu Darbu Reply" call for people to unite in solidarity with Palestine.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Cartoon of Day



Nobel Peace Prize

Cartoonist: Luc Descheemaeker from Belgium

IRIB initiates intl. action against Zionist regime's attack on national media

TEHRAN - The legal department of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) is actively pursuing legal measures regarding the Zionist regime's attack on the state media headquarters in Tehran.

Some measures have been taken by this department during the 12-day war, and efforts are underway to compensate for the damages, Mehr quoted the IRIB legal deputy as saying on Tuesday.

Continuing its unjust and brutal attacks, the Israeli regime targeted the IRIB building on June 16, resulting in the death and injury of several journalists and staff members.

The Israeli regime bombed the main building of IRIB while journalists were still in the complex covering the ongoing Iran-Israel war that began with the regime's unprovoked aggression in the early hours of June 13.

"This department is actively pursuing legal measures regarding the Zionist regime's attack on the building and the compensation for damages inflicted on the national media. Correspondence has also been made in this regard," Ahmad Heidari explained.

He condemned the Zionist regime's assault on the building, emphasizing: "Such actions violate international laws, human rights, and media rights. We have submitted our documentation to



international legal authorities. International treaties place significant emphasis on this matter, with stringent laws and regulations."

According to the UN General Assembly, based on the UN Charter and all international conventions, during wartime, national media and journalists must be protected at all costs, he added.

"Any attack or violation against journalists or media outlets is explicitly considered a war crime under all legal frameworks. When such crimes are identified, reputable international bodies and involved parties are obliged to

hold the perpetrators accountable through legal proceedings."

He also mentioned that, to ensure that parliamentary representatives are closely informed about the Zionist regime's crimes against IRIB, members of the Cultural Commission of the Iranian Parliament visited the destroyed building and the News Channel's studio. During these visits, they expressed their readiness to support IRIB and enhance its media authority. Several other MPs have also requested separate visits to the building, some of which have already been scheduled and conducted.

"Moreover, approximately 60 MPs participated in special programs on IRIB during the 12-day war. Due to the country's exceptional conditions, communication channels between the media and MPs were temporarily disrupted, and in some cases, telephone contact was impossible. However, through coordinated efforts by the Legal and Parliamentary Department, MPs were invited to participate via alternative means, such as through their offices or contacts, ensuring their presence was broadcast live and their voices heard on national media," he concluded.

"The Last of the Whale Shark" wins award at SCO film festival



TEHRAN - In the inaugural edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Film Festival, Iranian filmmaker Ramtin Balef's documentary "The Last of the Whale Shark" received the festival's Special Jury Award.

The festival was held from July 3 to 7 in Yongchuan district of Chongqing, in China, following

the BRICS Summit and the first Asian Countries Meeting, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

"The Last of the Whale Shark" follows the journey of a whale shark in search of its soul mate in the ocean.

Iranian films "The Orange Forest" directed by Arman Khansa-

rian, "No Prior Appointment" by Behrouz Shoaibi and "In the Arms of the Tree" by Babak Khajepasha were also on screen at the festival.

Organized by the China Film Administration and Chongqing's municipal government, the festival aims to enhance people-to-people exchanges among SCO member countries.

Under the theme "Technology & Film · Charm of the SCO," the five-day event showcased a vibrant blend of cultural exchange, technological innovation, and cinematic excellence.

The festival featured a variety of activities, including forums on international cooperation, exhibitions highlighting cutting-edge technologies, tourism initiatives, and spectacular drone light shows.

This year also marked significant milestones—the 130th anniversary of world cinema and the 120th anniversary of Chinese cinema—underscoring the festival's importance as a cultural platform. Alongside the SCO Summit, the SCO Film Festival serves as a vital event for storytelling, fostering collaboration, and promoting mutual understanding among participating nations.

It featured 11 main activities, including screenings, forums, a film technology expo, and a gala concert. Awards were presented in ten categories, such as Best Film and Best Director.

In total, 27 films from SCO countries were submitted, with a carefully selected lineup being screened throughout the festival.

Tehran's City Theater to host Edward Albee's "The Zoo Story"

TEHRAN - The one-act play "The Zoo Story" by American playwright Edward Albee will be staged at the Qashqai Hall of Tehran's City Theater Complex from July 9.

Directed by Khosrow Khorshidi, the play has Masoud Sakhaei and Masoud Mirhosseini in the cast, Honaronlie reported.

Written in 1958 and completed in just three weeks, "The Zoo Story" explores themes of isolation, loneliness, miscommunication as anathematization, social disparity and dehumanization in a materialistic world.

The play concerns two characters, Peter and Jerry, who meet on a park bench in New York City's Central Park. Peter is a wealthy publishing executive with a wife, two daughters, two cats and two parakeets. Jerry is an isolated and disheartened man, desperate to have a meaningful conversation with another human being. He intrudes on Peter's peaceful state by interrogating him and forcing him to listen to stories about his life and the reason behind his visit to the zoo.

The elements of ironic humor and unremitting dramatic suspense are brought to a climax when Jerry brings his victim down to his own savage level.

Eventually, Peter has had enough of his strange companion and tries to leave. Jerry begins pushing Peter off the bench and challenges him to fight for his territory. Unexpectedly, Jerry pulls a knife on Peter, and then drops it as if inviting Peter to grab it. When Peter holds the knife defensively, Jerry

charges him and impales himself on the knife.

Albee uses his spokesman character to relay the importance of communication since throughout the play Jerry tries to establish contact with Peter by telling him stories. If Jerry can make his stories "real" to Peter or members of the audience, then Jerry can escape his feelings of loneliness and isolation. Albee ultimately uses the shock of the violence at the play's conclusion in order to "instill in his audience the idealistically American call to action to change the world for the better."

Edward Albee (1928-2016) was an American dramatist and theatrical producer best known for his play "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (1962), which displays slashing insight and witty dialogue in its gruesome portrayal of married life.

Among Albee's early one-act plays, "The Zoo Story" (1959), "The Sandbox" (1959), and "The American Dream" (1961) were the most successful and established him as an astute critic of American values. But it is his first full-length play, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?", that remains his most important work. In this play a middle-aged professor, his wife, and a younger couple engage one night in an unrestrained drinking bout that is filled with malicious games, insults, humiliations, betrayals, savage witticisms, and painful, self-revealing confrontations. The play won immediate acclaim and established Albee as a major American playwright.



In addition to writing, Albee produced a number of plays and lectured at schools throughout the country. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1996. A compilation of his essays and personal anecdotes, "Stretching My Mind," was published in 2005. That year Albee also received a Tony Award for lifetime achievement.

"The Zoo Story" will remain on stage till August 6 at the City Theater, located in Daneshjoo Park, at the intersection of Valiasr and Enghelab streets.