

# Round Two? No Red Lines

Remarks by officials and demands by public show Iran has already devised surprise plans for new potential war with Israel



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## Media censorship in the name of sensitivity: BBC's failure on Gaza coverage

By Staff Writer

TEHRAN- The recent decision by the BBC to pull several senior staff and issue a formal apology after airing Bob Vylan's Glastonbury 2025 performance marks a troubling chapter in media censorship and the suppression of legitimate protest against the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

The rap-punk duo's outspoken condemnation of Israel's military actions and their call for dismantling what they termed a "violent military machine" was met not with support for free speech or acknowledgment of Palestinian suffering, but with accusations of antisemitism, internal BBC disciplinary actions, and criminal investigations against the artists.

This reaction exposes a deep-rooted bias within mainstream Western media institutions and raises serious questions about their role in shaping public discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. ▶ Page 5

## Strait of Hormuz and the strategic calculus of Iran's deterrence doctrine

By Fatemeh Kavand

TEHRAN – For decades, the Strait of Hormuz has remained one of the most sensitive geopolitical chokepoints in the world. This narrow waterway, which links the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman and extends beyond to international waters, serves not only as a major artery for global energy flows but also as a flashpoint for regional and international security dynamics.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), more than 20 million barrels of crude oil pass through the strait each day, accounting for approximately one-fifth of global oil trade. It is also a key conduit for liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments, further enhancing its strategic importance.

Yet the significance of Hormuz transcends oil flows. As tensions rise between Iran and Western-aligned powers—particularly with continued Israeli military activities targeting Iranian assets in Syria, Lebanon, and even within Iranian territory itself. ▶ Page 2

## Israel denied harming Iranians—700 dead civilians tell a different story

TEHRAN – Iranian Health Minister Mohammadreza Zafarghandi announced on Wednesday that the Israeli regime's 12-day military aggression against Iranian cities resulted in the martyrdom of nearly 700 civilians and injuries to more than 5,000 citizens, overwhelmingly non-combatants.

The figures starkly contradict Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claims that the regime "does not want to kill Iranian people" and that its conflict is solely with Iran's government.

During a visit to a Tehran medical center where he met with 5-year-old Kian Ghasemian—a burn victim whose family perished in the attacks—Zafarghandi condemned the strikes as "a savage and unjustifiable assault on defenseless people."

He emphasized that Tel Aviv directly targeted seven hospitals and 11 ambulances, violations that "contradict all international norms, human rights, and humanitarian law."

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## Iran urges easier admission of new members to BRICS Development Bank

TEHRAN – Iran's Central Bank delegation at a BRICS finance summit in Brazil called for simplifying the admission process for new members to the New Development Bank (NDB), while emphasizing the bank's role in financing infrastructure and sustainable development projects.

According to a statement from the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the delegation, led by Deputy Governor Asghar Abolhasani, attended the third meeting of BRICS deputy finance ministers and central bank governors, as well as the first meeting of BRICS finance ministers and central bank chiefs under Brazil's rotating presidency. The events were held on July 3 and 4 in Rio de Janeiro.

Representatives from BRICS countries—including Brazil, China, India, Russia, South Africa, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, and Ethiopia—delivered remarks focused on multilateralism, reducing reliance on unilateral systems, the development of an integrated payment system among members, climate change, and enhanced economic cooperation.

Iran's delegation highlighted the Central Bank's ongoing efforts to curb inflation and stabilize the national currency through coordinated monetary policy, despite the challenges posed by international sanctions. It also pointed to Iran's sustained positive economic growth over recent quarters. ▶ Page 4

## Normalization process between Syria and Israel accelerating

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Israeli i24news revealed that an upcoming meeting in September—sponsored by President Donald Trump at the White House—will bring together Abu Muhammad al-Julani, Syria's self-appointed president (currently known as Ahmed al-Sharaa), with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to sign a security agreement that will pave the way for a "peace" agreement.

The announcement came shortly after al-Julani's visit to Abu Dhabi, which—according to the Hebrew channel—is playing a mediating role in the rapprochement between al-Julani's government and the Israeli occupation regime.

i24news quoted an Arab Persian-Gulf source as claiming that the main obstacle to this Syrian-Israeli rapprochement is Tel Aviv's unwillingness to commit itself to withdraw its forces from the areas it recently occupied in the Golan Heights, especially since al-Julani has not yet eliminated all the armed factions, particularly in southern Syria. ▶ Page 5

## Cultural heritage is a voice against hostile narratives, Iran tourism minister says

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – In a press conference held on Tuesday afternoon, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, along with his deputies, addressed the ministry's role in shaping cultural resilience during the recent 12-day conflict with Israel.

The minister described the country's current status quo as "neither an all-out war nor lasting peace," calling for "cultural rationality, social cohesion, and a civilizational narrative" to help Iran navigate ongoing crises. ▶ Page 6



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## Araghchi engages Saudi Crown Prince, top officials in 'fruitful' talks on bilateral, regional issues

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a series of high-level meetings with senior Saudi officials on Tuesday, including Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, and Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, to discuss bilateral relations and the evolving regional situation following recent Israeli and U.S. attacks on Iran.

The Israeli regime launched in the early hours of June 13 an unprecedented wave of aggression on Iran's military and civilian infrastructure that claimed hundreds of lives, including women and children as well as a dozen top military brass. ▶ Page 3

## Hezbollah leader opens up fully

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – In his first TV interview, the Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem spoke extensively about the Lebanese resistance movement, the ceasefire with the Israeli regime, Gaza and more.

### The battle to support Gaza

Sheikh Qassem began by framing Hezbollah's support operations as a natural response to the Israeli occupation's onslaught in Gaza. He stated that Hezbollah's Shura Council convened shortly after the outbreak of the war and unanimously decided to join the battle in a support role.

During the exclusive interview with Al Mayadeen, he emphasized that this decision was not made via phone or informal communication due to the urgency and complexity of the situation. The initial response was to target the occupied Shebaa Farms area on October 8, 2023. ▶ Page 5



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

## “Economic satisfaction” as a pillar of deterrence

In a recent editorial, Arman-e-Emrooz addressed a crucial yet often overlooked aspect of national deterrence amid escalating regional tensions and the ongoing confrontation—direct or indirect—between Iran and Israel. While much attention is rightfully given to military strength, missile capability, geopolitical maneuvering, and regional alliances, another powerful deterrent lies closer to home: the satisfaction and trust of the people. Deterrence is not confined to weaponry or strategy alone—it also unfolds in the minds and morale of the population. History consistently shows that nations bound by solidarity and trust in their leadership demonstrate greater resilience in times of crisis. Public contentment, manifesting as widespread acceptance of the legitimacy of a government's defense policies, fosters national unity and strength. As Iran navigates one of the most sensitive geopolitical periods in its recent history, the importance of an engaged, hopeful, and economically secure population cannot be overstated. No missile or military strategy offers as much lasting security as a citizenry that believes in the direction of its country. To this end, economic revitalization, the fight against corruption, and the rebuilding of public trust are not merely domestic concerns—they are strategic imperatives. These pillars are vital for both national cohesion and for bolstering Iran's standing in negotiations with external powers.

### Khorasan: Iran at crossroads of seizing opportunity or repeating past trade policies

In a recent analysis, Khorasan examined Iran's persistent struggle to tap into the vast economic potential offered by its Persian Gulf neighbors. Over the past decade, Iran's trade relations with the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council have remained limited—an outcome that cannot simply be attributed to natural trade fluctuations or market dynamics. Structural obstacles, including underdeveloped infrastructure and a private sector ill-equipped to meet the specific demands of regional markets, have significantly widened the trade gap between Iran and these countries. These factors reflect systemic shortcomings rather than circumstantial limitations. Despite its geographical proximity and cultural ties to the region, Iran has yet to secure a meaningful share in the booming markets of the Persian Gulf. This missed opportunity not only represents a loss in economic value but also hinders the country's broader strategic positioning in the region. To reverse this trend, Iran must prioritize pragmatic economic reforms, invest in trade infrastructure, and cultivate a more competitive and responsive private sector. Otherwise, it risks remaining on the sidelines of one of the world's most dynamic economic corridors. While Turkey, India, and China are expanding their economic influence in the region, Iran is still engaged

## IRGC foils major terror plot in SE Iran, six terrorists killed in Chabahar operation



Servicemen with IRGC Ground Force take part in the “Martyrs of Security” counterterrorism exercise at an unknown location in Sistan and Baluchestan province

TEHRAN – Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has announced the successful neutralization of a terrorist cell in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, dealing a significant blow to hostile groups operating near the border with Pakistan.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the IRGC Ground Force's Quds Base confirmed that six members of a terrorist group were killed in a swift counterterrorism raid in the coastal city of Chabahar. The operation coincided with the ongoing Martyrs of Security military exercises being con-

ducted across the region. According to the statement, the militants' hideouts were discovered with the help of vigilant local residents. A cache of light and heavy weaponry, along with a large quantity of explosives, was seized during the operation.

### Shargh: From lifting sanctions to damage compensation and enrichment ceiling

In a recent article, Shargh explored Iran's stance on returning to nuclear negotiations with the United States, amid a backdrop of mounting tensions and stalled diplomacy. The talks—which inched forward in Oman—now lie dormant, eclipsed by military confrontations against Iran and deep distrust. Speculation is growing about the possibility of renewed dialogue, yet Tehran has made clear that it will not re-enter negotiations without concrete preconditions. These include the full lifting of sanctions, a defined cap on uranium enrichment, and compensation for the damage caused by military strikes. These demands reflect a major shift in tone—indicating that Iran seeks more than symbolic gestures. It wants verifiable guarantees that its nuclear rights will be respected. The current debate extends far beyond technical details such as centrifuge counts. At stake is the credibility of diplomacy itself, conducted under the looming threat of force. While Washington pushes for a swift return to talks, Tehran insists that an agreement must be reached on equal footing—not with one party holding a gun at the table. This conditional posture signals that Iran remains open to negotiation—but only one grounded in mutual recognition, accountability, and assurance.

### Siasat-e-Rooz: We should stand strong

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz emphasizes the importance of projecting strong and authoritative power in the aftermath of a 12-day war involving Iran. It wrote: Israel, the United States, and several European nations entered an unequal war against Iran. Ultimately the United States called for a ceasefire. There is a prevailing sense of national pride within Iran about the war. People viewed Iran's performance as a victory despite extensive propaganda and psychological warfare by the adversaries. This triumph fostered public confidence in Iran's defensive power. However, any discussion of negotiations with the U.S. lacks political credibility as Trump keeps claiming to have destroyed Iran's nuclear infrastructure. In such an environment, the rationale for future talks comes under question. If such claims were true, it suggests, there would be nothing left to negotiate. A lack of assertive language and action only emboldens adversaries to demand submission in exchange for concessions. When we do not speak strongly it will embolden Trump to say, “If Iran listens like Syria, I will lift the sanctions!”

ducting across the region. According to the statement, the militants' hideouts were discovered with the help of vigilant local residents. A cache of light and heavy weaponry, along with a large quantity of explosives, was seized during the operation.

The IRGC noted that the neutralized terrorists had been planning a series of coordinated attacks targeting crowded public areas. Their elimination is believed to have averted a potential wave of deadly violence.

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

# Israel denied harming Iranians — 700 dead civilians tell a different story

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Netanyahu's assertion that Israel sought to avoid Iranian civilian casualties unraveled as residential neighborhoods, nuclear facilities, and public infrastructure faced coordinated Israeli bombardment starting during the 12-day War.

In an interview with ABC News, Netanyahu defended Israeli aggression, stating, “We are doing what we need to do.”

Yet the attacks killed over 1060 Iranians, according to Saeed Ohadi, head of Iran's Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs.

Among them were Niloufar Gha-



Aftermath of an Israeli airstrike on a residential area in Tehran on June 14, 2025.

lehvand, a 32-year-old Pilates instructor, and her parents, killed in their northern Tehran home near a military site.

### Tehran's structural carnage: 3,600 homes damaged

Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani detailed the devastation in the capital, revealing that “3,600 residential units were damaged during the imposed war.”

He stated Tuesday that 200 homes require complete reconstruction, 250 need structural reinforcement, and 1,500 necessitate repairs.

Minor damage—shattered windows and doors—affected the remainder. Municipal crews aim to complete minor repairs by late July,

but full rebuilding could take 18–24 months.

The assault displaced 800 families in Tehran, with 350 sheltered in municipal-leased hotels and 450 others awaiting temporary housing.

### Two symbols of Israeli barbarity

Two attacks epitomized the aggression's focus on non-military targets. On June 23, Israeli missiles struck Tehran's Evin Prison, killing at least 80 people. Judiciary spokesman Asghar Jahangir confirmed the dead included administrative staff, guards, prisoners, visiting relatives, and nearby residents.

The prison saw its medical center and visitation areas obliterated. An imprisoned prisoner issued a state-

ment, describing shattered windows and a damaged hospital wing, asking, “What kind of madness and villainy is this?”

A midday explosion in Tajrish, a bustling northern Tehran district, killed freelance photographer Ehsan Bayrami, 35, and 11 others while injuring 59.

Water pipes burst, flooding streets and amplifying destruction. Bayrami, who specialized in sports photography, had reassured a colleague hours earlier that daytime strikes were unlikely.

Health Minister Zafarghandi noted the attack killed a pregnant woman and exposed Israel's “direct targeting of civilians.”

## Strait of Hormuz and the strategic calculus of Iran's deterrence doctrine



### By Fatemeh Kavand

TEHRAN – For decades, the Strait of Hormuz has remained one of the most sensitive geopolitical chokepoints in the world. This narrow waterway, which links the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman and extends beyond to international waters, serves not only as a major artery for global energy flows but also as a flashpoint for regional and international security dynamics.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), more than 20 million barrels of crude oil pass through the strait each day, accounting for approximately one-fifth of global oil trade. It is also a key conduit for liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments, further enhancing its strategic importance.

Yet the significance of Hormuz transcends oil flows. As tensions rise between Iran and Western-aligned powers—particularly with continued Israeli military activities targeting Iranian assets in Syria, Lebanon, and even within Iranian territory itself, coupled with U.S. military build-up in the region—Tehran has consistently warned that no act of aggression will go unanswered. One of the strategic options frequently cited in both official and unofficial channels is Iran's ability to disrupt or suspend maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz as part of a calibrated deterrence or retaliatory response.

Contrary to some portrayals in Western media, Iran is neither a fragile state nor a loosely organized militia actor. It is a sovereign nation of over 89 million people with a vast territorial expanse, more than four decades of post-revolutionary institutional resilience, and an increasingly sophisticated indigenous

defense industry. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Iran possesses one of the region's most robust missile programs, with operational ranges exceeding 2,000 kilometers. The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy has developed asymmetric naval capabilities—including fast attack craft, sea mines, and coastal missile systems—that allow Iran to contest maritime superiority in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's military doctrine centers on the concept of “active defense”—a commitment to avoid initiating war while retaining the capacity for rapid, multilayered, and proportionate response to aggression. This principle is rooted in historical experience, especially the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988), which saw Iran repelling a full-scale invasion with minimal international support, while ultimately preserving its territorial integrity despite massive casualties and economic hardship.

Iran's threats to disrupt traffic through the Strait of Hormuz should not be dismissed as irrational brinkmanship. In strategic literature, the use of geopolitical chokepoints as leverage is a recognized and often utilized deterrent tool. Tehran has stated repeatedly that it will honor its international commitments as long as its sovereignty and rights under international law are respected. However, in the face of a direct military attack by the U.S., Israel, or other actors, Iran may resort to asymmetric measures—of which Hormuz remains a central node—in order to shift the strategic equation.

From a legal standpoint, the right to restrict or suspend innocent passage through territorial waters is

recognized under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Article 25 of the convention allows coastal states to regulate transit for security reasons, while Article 51 of the UN Charter explicitly affirms the right to self-defense in the event of armed attack. Therefore, any Iranian measure to limit passage through Hormuz in response to a foreign military incursion could be interpreted not as a violation of international norms but as a lawful act of collective self-defense.

Importantly, Iran does not require large-scale kinetic action to disrupt shipping through the strait. Even the hint of hostilities or a limited skirmish in the vicinity can cause insurance premiums to spike, reroute cargo traffic, and send oil prices soaring. For instance, following attacks on two oil tankers near the strait in 2019, global crude prices surged by over 10%, according to World Bank assessments.

### Article 25 of UNCLOS allows coastal states to regulate transit for security reasons

A disruption of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz would have immediate ramifications for major energy importers. Countries like China, India, South Korea, and Japan rely heavily on crude oil that transits the strait. Even oil-exporting nations such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait would suffer significant losses, as their seaborne exports predominantly depend on access through Hormuz. The ripple effects would reach global shipping lines, insurance providers, and international financial markets, each highly vulnerable to disruptions in maritime flow.

Beyond economics, the closure or militarization of the Strait of Hormuz would stress existing regional alliances. The U.S. currently maintains military bases in Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the UAE. In the event of a major escalation, domestic political pressure within these host countries may rise to reassess their alignment, or at the very least, demand a more neutral posture. A full-scale Ameri-

can military intervention to forcibly reopen the strait would drastically raise the risk of region-wide conflict—an outcome that few, if any, stakeholders would welcome amid ongoing global economic instability.

It is also worth noting that Iran has, on several occasions, proposed regional cooperation initiatives aimed at reducing tensions and fostering collective security. The most notable among them is the Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE), introduced by Tehran as a framework for Persian Gulf security based on non-aggression, mutual respect, and the exclusion of foreign military powers. However, these overtures have often been sidelined, as Israeli sabotage operations, targeted assassinations, and clandestine strikes against Iranian interests have continued unabated, with tacit Western support or silence.

In this context, Iran's deterrence messaging—including the credible threat of closing or disrupting Hormuz—is not driven by adventurism but by a calculated awareness of its strategic leverage. The Islamic Republic is not a rogue actor; it is a structured state with institutional depth, popular support, and an evolving deterrent posture designed to raise the cost of aggression. Its adversaries should not assume that targeted airstrikes, covert operations, or economic warfare will go unanswered. Any direct assault on Iranian territory—whether through Israeli proxy attacks or an overt U.S. campaign—risks triggering a range of asymmetric responses, with the Strait of Hormuz as one of the most consequential theaters.

In conclusion, the international community must recognize that security is not a one-way street. No nation, regardless of power, can expect immunity from consequences when it violates another's sovereignty. The Strait of Hormuz remains not only a vital channel for the global energy market but also a symbol of Iran's strategic depth. Should Iran's territorial integrity or political sovereignty come under attack, the repercussions will reverberate far beyond its borders—and no waterway, however essential, will remain untouched.



# Round two? No red lines

*Remarks by officials and demands by public show Iran has already devised surprise plans for new potential war with Israel*

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – A quiet has settled over Iran in the weeks since the fighting with Israel stopped. But talk to people in Tehran, whether they're high-ranking officials or just going about their daily lives, and you'll find the war isn't really over for them. The unprecedented and illegal attacks of June 13 left a mark. The feeling is the military phase could reignite at any moment.

Life in the capital, Tehran, largely returned to normal soon after the cessation of hostilities. The city's notorious traffic jams are back, and the streets remain vibrant late into the night. However, despite resuming their daily routines, citizens feel a distinct change in the atmosphere. In conversations with people from various walks of life, a common sentiment emerges: a lack of trust in the United States and a fear of renewed Israeli aggression. "I think the Armed Forces should not be unalert for even one second," said Amir Hossein, a young bread baker in central Tehran, where bread is a staple food. He continued baking even during the attacks. "America and the Zionist regime did the same in Gaza and Lebanon. They announced cease-fires and attacked again. They will do the same with Iran."

During the 12-day war, Israel targeted nuclear, military, and civilian infrastructure within Iran, killing at least 1,060 people, the



majority of whom were non-combatants. American bombers later joined the offensive, deploying bombs and missiles against Iranian nuclear sites. The war ended after Tel Aviv and Washington called for a ceasefire, reportedly taken aback by the damage inflicted by Iranian missiles on Israeli cities, and by the Iranian strike against the most important American base in West Asia, located in Qatar.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed their objective was to eliminate Iran's nuclear program, which they asserted to have accomplished, despite lingering doubts regarding the veracity of these claims.

While this might seem to diminish the rationale for Iranian skepticism, it stems from a deeper-seated belief that the true objective was the overthrow of the Iranian government and the ultimate disintegration of Iran. "This is

a common theme in modern history," said Sarah, a PhD student majoring in History. "Western states say they want peace and do not see the people as the enemy," she explained. "But once they get rid of the central government, they start funding separatists and terrorists in that country. Look at what happened to Libya, and what's now happening in Syria. Before that we had the nations in Eastern Europe."

Furthermore, Iranians increasingly believe that the collective West nor international organizations can shield them from Israeli and U.S. aggression.

Controversial remarks of the German Chancellor, suggesting Israel was doing the West's "dirty work" by targeting Iranian commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians, coupled with what many perceive as the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) complicity in enabling the attacks, have fueled this distrust.

Mohammad Quchani, an Iranian journalist with years of experience covering Iran's foreign policy, stated in an interview that he has never held such a negative view of the West. "I was never a particularly anti-West person. But when I saw the audacity of some of these Western states during the war, and the sheer ineffectiveness of international bodies like the United Nations, I think my views changed a lot," he said.

It appears that Iranian officials are of the same mind as the people. Several officials have taken to the public stage in recent days, warning that Iran only used a fraction of its military capabilities during the 12-day war, and that it has many surprises left for the enemy.

"The Israeli regime suffered a heavy defeat in its recent aggression against Iran, and we warn that if it repeats any such mistake, it will get an even harder slap in the face from the Iranian nation and Armed Forces," said Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi in a recent interview.

An IRGC spokesman has also said that in a new war, Iran will observe no "red lines".

It is not clear what the red lines Iran may be crossing are. But analysts believe that if Iran wants to omit what could become an existential threat, it must make the next war with Israel the last one.

## Araghchi engages Saudi Crown Prince, top officials in 'fruitful' talks on bilateral, regional issues



FM Araghchi (L) shakes hands with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan in Jeddah



FM Araghchi (L) shakes hands with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman on July 8, 2025

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**U.S.-Israeli attacks against Iran placed West Asia at unprecedented risk: Araghchi**

In a significant diplomatic engagement, Foreign Minister Araghchi met with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman on Tuesday evening. The two sides reviewed the current trajectory of bilateral relations and explored avenues to strengthen cooperation.

Araghchi emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's firm commitment to enhancing relations with Saudi Arabia and other neighboring countries based on principles of good neighborliness and mutual interest. He underscored Iran's readiness to expand cooperation in economic, commercial, and cultural fields.

The Iranian foreign minister thanked Saudi Arabia for its responsible stance in condemning the recent acts of aggression against Iran. He also presented Iran's perspective on the regional security environment following the criminal military attacks by Israel and the United States, which he noted as flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"These attacks have placed the entire West Asia region at unprecedented risk," Araghchi stated, highlighting the importance of a unified regional response. He noted that the strong and coordinated condemnation from regional countries reflects a growing consensus on the need for collective action to counter the Zionist regime's expansionist and militaristic policies.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman welcomed the improving climate of cooperation between the two Islamic powers and affirmed Saudi Arabia's determination to continue this path. He stressed Riyadh's commitment to expanding ties across all sectors and reiterated Saudi Arabia's condemnation of any military aggression against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Crown Prince emphasized that maintaining regional security and stability depends on dialogue and collaboration among neighboring countries. He added that Saudi Arabia will utilize all its capacities to prevent further escalation and pursue diplomatic solutions, expressing readiness to assist wherever possible.

**Araghchi thanks Riyadh for Hajj assistance amid crisis, urges regional unity**

On Tuesday evening, Foreign Minister Araghchi also held talks with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, in Jeddah.

The two top diplomats exchanged views on bilateral ties and key regional developments. Araghchi expressed gratitude to the Saudi government for its excellent organization of this year's Hajj pilgrimage and its valuable assistance in facilitating the return of Iranian pilgrims following logistical disruptions caused by recent Israeli attacks.

Reaffirming Iran's determination to deepen ties with Saudi Arabia in all areas of mutual interest, Araghchi referred to the unified stance of regional and Islamic nations in condemning the Israeli-American military aggression against Iran. He

stressed the shared responsibility of regional countries in countering the threat posed by the Israeli regime's militarism and hegemonic ambitions.

Araghchi also condemned the continued massacre and genocide of the Palestinian people, the occupation of Islamic lands, and ongoing Israeli attacks on Lebanon and Syria—all occurring amid the silence and inaction of the UN Security Council. He described this situation as a key factor driving regional instability and held supporters of the apartheid regime accountable for enabling its crimes.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal reiterated Saudi Arabia's principled stance, alongside other regional states, in condemning the violation of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He emphasized the need to prevent further escalation and confirmed Saudi Arabia's readiness to provide assistance toward regional de-escalation.

**Iran FM, Saudi Defense Minister hold strategic security talks**

Earlier on Tuesday, Araghchi met with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman. The discussions focused on the positive momentum in bilateral relations and the security implications of recent Israeli and U.S. military strikes against Iran.

Araghchi welcomed the continuation of constructive security and defense consultations between the two countries, describing Prince Khalid's recent visit to Tehran as a major step toward deepening cooperation aimed at enhancing regional peace and stability.

He strongly condemned the Israeli regime's attack on Iran, including the targeting of peaceful nuclear facilities, calling it "an unforgivable crime and an unprecedented assault" on regional and global peace. Araghchi expressed appreciation for Saudi Arabia's clear and firm condemnation of the aggression.

He warned that the attacks were a direct result of the Israeli regime's longstanding impunity for its crimes against the Palestinian people and its persistent assaults on neighboring countries. Araghchi called on regional states to take seriously the dangerous consequences of Tel Aviv's expansionist agenda and strengthen indigenous mechanisms for regional security.

Defense Minister Prince Khalid reiterated Saudi Arabia's rejection and condemnation of Israel's military aggression and extended condolences over the deaths of Iranian military personnel and civilians during the attacks.

He also warned of the serious consequences of Israel's recent violations of international law, stressing the urgent need for greater cooperation among regional countries to effectively address the sources of insecurity and instability.

Following the meetings, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson posted on social media platform X:

"FM Araghchi held fruitful conversations with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, FM Amir Faisal bin Farhan and Defense Minister Amir Khaled bin Salman about Iran-Saudi bilateral relations and latest developments in the region."

## Mission Division A: Iran women's basketball team begin final push

Iran's Women's National Basketball Team is gearing up for the FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division B competition, scheduled from July 13 to 20 in China. The tournament features eight teams, with only the champion earning promotion to the highly competitive Division A. Iran has been drawn into Pool B alongside Mongolia, Cook Islands, and Thailand.

After a challenging preparation phase interrupted by regional conflict, the team has focused on regaining momentum through a dedicated training camp in China. Early departures to the camp allowed the full roster, including key addition Roxana Barahman who joined from the United States, and Greek head coach Eleni Kapogianni, to train cohesively for the first time in weeks. The camp has been crucial in restoring the team's physical and mental readiness ahead of the tournament.

The preparation process included two friendly matches to sharpen tactics and build match fitness. The coaching staff has conducted detailed video analyses of opponents, particularly those coming from the William Jones Cup, to tailor strategies accordingly. While knowledge of the Cook Islands team is limited, they are known to feature players with New Zealand and Australian backgrounds, which suggests a physical style of play that Iran will need to counter.

The Division B tournament is fiercely competitive, with some teams having recent experience in Division A. This raises the stakes for Iran, whose players and staff are determined to perform at their best and secure promotion to the top tier. The Division A level approaches the standard of global competitions, making advancement a significant milestone for Iranian women's basketball.

Power forward Delaram Vakili emphasized the team's focus: "Our main goal is to advance to Division A, and that's all we are thinking about." She highlighted the disruption caused by a 15-day training break due to regional instability but expressed confidence in the team's gradual return to peak form during the camp in China.

Iran earned their spot in Division B by winning the West Asia championship earlier this year, defeating Jordan and Syria. This victory secured the region's sole qualification place for the upcoming tournament. Iran's first match is against the Cook Islands, followed by games against Mongolia and Thailand, which will be crucial in determining their advancement.

With strong determination, a full squad, and appropriate preparation, Iran's women's basketball team aims to make a historic breakthrough at the FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division B and step closer to the global stage.

## Mobin Dehghan joins Al Wahda

TEHRAN – Iranian young defensive midfielder Mobin Dehghan joined Emirati side Al Wahda.

The 19-year-old player has joined Al Wahda on a three-year deal for an undisclosed fee.

"This is a big step in my life, and I thank Al Wahda for trusting me. I hope I can meet the expectations here. I am very happy to join this great club at this stage of my football career. I promise to give my best effort in Al Wahda," Dehghan said.

He has joined his countrymen Ahmed Nourollahi and Mohammad Ghorbani.

The talented player had been linked with Iranian teams Persepolis and Tractor.

## Iran's women's basketball coach Kapogianni arrives in China

TEHRAN – Greek coach Eleni Kapogianni arrived in Shenzhen, China on Wednesday.

She will return to Iran after the end of the FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division B.

Iran is drawn into Pool B alongside Mongolia, Cook Islands, and Thailand.

Pool A features Chinese Taipei, Tahiti, Kazakh-

stan, and India.

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

## Salmani signs extension with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Yasin Salmani has signed a two-year contract extension with Persepolis football club.

The 23-year-old winger joined Persepolis from Sepahan as a free agent in 2023.

Salmani, who primarily plays as an attacking midfielder, is also the captain of Iran's U23 national team.

However, he has struggled to meet expectations at Persepolis and has been linked with potential moves to Tractor and Sepahan.

## Iran to face Singapore in AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran will be seeking a winning start when they take on Singapore in their AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 Qualifiers Group A tie on Thursday.

Aiming to reach a second successive Finals, Iran will aim to hit the ground running against a Singapore side who are under pressure following their 3-2 defeat to Bhutan on Monday, the-afc.com reported.

Head coach Marziyeh Jafari left her 13-year trophy-laden stint at Bam Khatoon FC to lead the Iranian team and has the core of the club side at her disposal.

Goalkeeper Raha Yazdani, defender Atefeh Ramezanizadeh, midfielder Melika Motevalli and forward Zahra Ghanbari form the spine of the team as they look to transfer their understanding built at the club level to the international stage.

Singapore, however, cannot be taken lightly – especially as a second defeat will be detrimental to their hopes of qualifying for the continental showpiece. There are, however, injury concerns for Lionesses head coach Karim Bencherifa with Ardhra Arul, Farah Nurzahirah, Syazwani Ruzi and Nurhidayu Naszri all forced off early in the Bhutan match.

## Karim Bagheri extends contract with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Karim Bagheri has signed a one-year contract extension with Persepolis football club on Tuesday.

Earlier, Spanish coach Emilio Alvarez was appointed as Persepolis' goalkeeping coach.

Amir Hossein Peyrovani was also named as the club's assistant coach.

Additionally, Spanish fitness coach Jose Augusto Losada, known as "Pepe," has joined Persepolis on a contract.

Former Iran forward Vahid Hashemian took charge of the team as head coach on Friday.

## Iran's women's basketball fall short against Guangdong

TEHRAN – The Iranian women's national basketball team were defeated by China's Guangdong Vermilion Birds with a score of 65-52 in a friendly match on Wednesday.

Prior to this, Team Melli Banovan had secured victories over the Chinese team in two matches, winning 69-63 and 72-61, respectively.

These friendly matches are part of Iran's preparation for the upcoming FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division B. The tournament is scheduled to take place in Shenzhen, China, from July 13 to 20.

In the competition, Group A comprises Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan, India, and Tahiti, while Group B features Iran, Thailand, Mongolia, and the Cook Islands.

The team that emerge victorious will earn a spot in Division A.



## Iran warns energy producers must not be targeted, citing threat to global stability

TEHRAN – Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad warned that military aggression against energy-producing nations violates international law and threatens global stability, urging a commitment to peace and co-operation to ensure secure and sustainable energy supply.

In a video address to the opening ceremony of the 9th OPEC International Seminar, Paknejad said he was unable to attend in person due to the current “unfavorable conditions,” and emphasized the critical importance of the seminar's theme: “Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Energy Future.”

“Energy, especially oil, is part of an interconnected global system. For this industry to fulfill its role in advancing national, regional, and global welfare, peace and stability are essential,” he said.

Paknejad pointed to growing instability in West Asia, calling it the cradle of global energy, and condemned what he described as “the naked militarism of the Zionist regime and the United States.”

He criticized the recent 12-day Israeli military assault, which he said killed over 1,000 people, including women, children, and energy sector academics, and injured more than 5,000 others. He called it a “blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter,” especially given that diplomatic negotiations over Iran's nuclear program were underway at the time.

### Energy security tied to peace and international cooperation

Paknejad emphasized that a secure and stable energy supply—an objective OPEC and OPEC+ have pursued for nearly 65 years—depends on peaceful and friendly international relations.

“Any form of instability, whether through war or aggression, disrupts the smooth flow of oil and gas to international markets, increases uncertainty for both producers and



consumers, and poses economic risks globally,” he said.

Calling on OPEC and OPEC+ members to adopt a principled stance against the use of war as a political tool, Paknejad said, “History has shown that such approaches benefit no one.”

### Commitment to OPEC values and future investment

The minister reaffirmed Iran's founding role in OPEC since 1960 and its continued commitment to the organization's principles of unity, stability, and mutual respect. He urged fellow members to uphold these values in all interactions.

Paknejad said future energy planning must be grounded in transparency and realism, requiring broad investment across all energy types, adoption of technologies to enhance efficiency and cut emissions, and recognition that there is no single path to a secure energy future.

“This seminar comes at a critical moment,” he said. “It sends a strong message in defense of sovereignty, stability, and peace—and in support of our shared regional and global interests.”

He concluded by thanking the OPEC Secretariat and event organizers, saying he looked forward to the insights shared by high-level speakers during the two-day event.

## Spring auto output slows as production falls by 39,000 units

TEHRAN – Iran's three largest automakers produced 192,725 passenger vehicles during the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21 to June 21), marking a decline of 39,290 units compared with the same period last year.

According to data from Iran Khodro, SAIPA, and Pars Khodro, the spring output represented a 16.9 percent year-on-year drop. The decline is attributed to several factors, including the destruction of imported auto parts in a recent incident at Shahid Rajaei Port, ongoing energy supply imbalances,

and the impact of the latest round of hostilities that escalated in late June.

Despite the quarterly decline, production rose slightly in the early months of the year. In April (Farvardin), the automakers increased output by 1.5 percent, producing 787 more vehicles than the same month last year. Combined production in April and May (Farvardin and Ordibehesht) totaled 137,337 vehicles, up 3.6 percent from 132,497 units in the same period a year earlier. However, output slowed in June (Khordad), reversing the upward trend.

## Beijing hosts 106th general assembly of International Union of Railways

TEHRAN – The 106th General Assembly of the International Union of Railways (UIC) was held in Beijing, China, with the participation of Iran's Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI).

According to IRIB, the UIC Director General presented a comprehensive report on the organization's activities during the first half of 2025, and plans for 2026 were reviewed and approved.

On the sidelines of the summit, Iran's railways Chief Jabarali Zakeri, held bilateral meetings with heads of railway organizations from several countries, particularly regional partners, to discuss enhanced cooperation in freight and passenger transit, as well as technical and operational exchanges.

In his address to the General Assembly, Zakeri outlined Iran's recent achievements in railway infrastructure development, fleet modernization, and expansion of transit capacity.

The UIC General Assembly is the most sig-



nificant biennial meeting of the union, attended by the majority of its member states. The event serves as a platform for global railway leaders to exchange views on key issues including standardization, safety, and the sustainable development of rail transport.

Hosting the assembly in China, a global leader in railway technology and development, underscores the growing international focus on rail transport as a strategic mode of mobility.

# Iran urges easier admission of new members to BRICS Development Bank

TEHRAN – Iran's Central Bank delegation at a BRICS finance summit in Brazil called for simplifying the admission process for new members to the New Development Bank (NDB), while emphasizing the bank's role in financing infrastructure and sustainable development projects.

According to a statement from the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the delegation, led by Deputy Governor Asghar Abolhasani, attended the third meeting of BRICS deputy finance ministers and central bank governors, as well as the first meeting of BRICS finance ministers and central bank chiefs under Brazil's rotating presidency. The events were held on July 3 and 4 in Rio de Janeiro.

Representatives from BRICS countries—including Brazil, China, India, Russia, South Africa, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, and Ethiopia—deliv-



ered remarks focused on multilateralism, reducing reliance on unilateral systems, the development of an integrated payment system among members, climate change, and enhanced economic cooperation.

Iran's delegation highlighted the Central Bank's ongoing efforts to curb inflation and stabilize the national currency through coordinated monetary policy,

despite the challenges posed by international sanctions. It also pointed to Iran's sustained positive economic growth over recent quarters.

In its address, the Iranian delegation underscored the strategic role of BRICS as a major economic alliance and outlined Iran's strengths, including abundant natural resources, a strategic geographical position, and

## Iran exports non-oil products valued at \$420m to Pakistan in a quarter

TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$420 million to Pakistan 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 Pakistan was Iran's seventh top non-oil export destination in the mentioned three-month period.

Speakers at a seminar on the future of Iran-Pakistan relations and regional connectivity emphasized the need for constructive dialogue between officials from both countries to navigate administrative and logistical complexities. They stressed that securing mutual benefits and improving the well-being of the Iranian and Pakistani people require strong political will and reciprocal practical measures.

The seminar, titled “Iran-Pakistan Relations: Trade Outlook and Strengthening Connectivity,” was held on March 1 with the participation of the Iranian Embassy and hosted by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

The event brought together prominent experts from Pakistan's diplomatic, media, economic, and political spheres, along with several foreign diplomats.

Among the keynote speakers were Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam, Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, ISSI Chairman Sohail Mahmood, and former Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Riffat Masood.

They underscored the \$10 billion trade target and key energy projects as crucial steps toward strengthening bilateral relations.

Acknowledging the challenges hindering smooth trade between the two nations stemming from administrative complexities, logistical barriers, and regional and global developments speakers emphasized that structured engagement, fostering trust, and mutual respect form the foundation for a resilient and adaptable partnership between Tehran and Islamabad.

Pakistani experts highlighted the importance of enhancing border security, building mutual trust, and advancing projects such as linking the Gwadar and Chabahar ports and collaborating on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to unlock greater trade potential.

Addressing the seminar, Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam stated that trade and connectivity are two fundamental pillars of both global and domestic economies, significantly influencing each other. Reliable and secure transportation, he noted, is a facilitator of sustainable trade, making investment in transit corridors both essential and highly beneficial for investors.

In today's rapidly evolving landscape, the international community faces two new concepts: tariff wars and corridor wars, both targeting key economic pillars, he said. “Tariff wars, aimed at disrupting supply chains and obstructing trade among Global South nations, threaten international trade and the livelihoods of millions. Meanwhile, corridor wars through the creation of competing routes, destructive rivalries, economic terrorism, insecurity, and instability are designed to sustain unilateralism and hinder sustainable development goals.”

Amiri Moghadam highlighted the strate-

gic geographic position of Iran and Pakistan, which play a vital role in connecting the vast networks of Asian and European countries. He stressed that developing transportation infrastructure and strengthening bilateral connectivity would facilitate broader regional interactions.

“With their transit capacities, diverse production sectors, and complementary economies, Iran and Pakistan can enhance their bilateral supply chains as well as those with other countries,” he added. Iran serves as the gateway to Eurasia and the Caucasus, while Pakistan is the entry point to South and Southeast Asia. This unique positioning distinguishes the two countries from their other neighbors.”

The Iranian envoy further noted that the two nations share a 1,000-kilometer land and maritime border, with markets and border crossings fostering interdependence. The Rimdan-Gabdb and Pishin-Mand border crossings have been activated to ease trade and facilitate smoother movement, while plans for additional border terminals and marketplaces are underway. However, he pointed out that bureaucratic and logistical hurdles remain, requiring joint efforts to address.

“Iran's Chabahar Port and Pakistan's Gwadar and Karachi ports hold immense potential for strengthening economic linkages between the two nations and the broader region”, Amiri Moghadam said. “Strategic and geopolitical concerns from certain external actors have led to misleading narratives portraying these ports as rivals, whereas, in reality, they are complementary according to all economic, geological, and strategic indicators”.

He reaffirmed Iran's support for any initiative that fosters regional integration, strengthens bonds of peace and friendship among nations, and promotes economic prosperity. “Iran has consistently welcomed China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and related projects in line with this policy and is prepared to actively participate”, he added.

Amiri Moghadam highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance transit routes, including the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) freight train, as well as port cooperation and infrastructure development for East-West and North-South corridors. “These initiatives hold immense strategic and economic significance for both countries”, he said.

Under the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) framework, the ITI freight train is currently operational, offering significant opportunities for Iran and Pakistan to expand transit and transport collaboration through these corridors. He also pointed to the near-term completion of Iran's railway link to Herat in Afghanistan and the Rasht-Astara railway connection, which are expected to transform transit in the region.

Despite a post-pandemic recovery in bilateral trade volume, Amiri Moghadam noted that current trade levels remain below potential. “Senior officials from both countries have set a \$10 billion trade target, and achieving this goal requires intensified efforts,” he stated.

He emphasized that the Iranian and Pakistani markets are complementary rather than competitive. “Pakistan's economy is driven by its textile and agricultural industries, while Iran's economy is based on oil and

a skilled labor force. It called for deeper financial, banking, and economic ties among BRICS nations, reduced dependence on traditional financial systems, and a more balanced global economy.

Tehran also reaffirmed its commitment to active participation in achieving BRICS goals, promoting the use of local currencies in trade to reduce dollar dependency and enhance financial sovereignty, and advancing integrated payment systems.

On the sidelines of the meetings, Iran held bilateral talks with finance and central bank officials from key countries to gain support for its membership in the NDB and to expand banking cooperation.

The BRICS leaders' summit was held on July 5, with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi attending on behalf of Tehran.

semi-industrial production. Even in agriculture, the two countries are not competitors. Pakistan produces crops such as corn, sugarcane, rice, tropical fruits, sesame, and animal fodder, while it relies on Iran for petroleum products, gas, and agricultural and industrial machinery.”

“If Pakistan needs energy, Iran has an abundance of it. If Iran needs water management solutions, Pakistan is a fertile land with vast agricultural and livestock resources,” he explained. “These comparative advantages and complementary sectors strengthen economic ties between the two nations”.

With a combined population of over 340 million, Amiri Moghadam stressed that Iran and Pakistan must take concrete steps to fully harness their economic potential. “Strengthening ties with neighbors is a fundamental policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a key roadmap for our government”, he stated.

Amiri Moghadam concluded by emphasizing the need for further steps to enhance bilateral ties, including resolving bureaucratic barriers, expanding direct flights, improving transport infrastructure, and launching leisure cruise lines. “These measures will help strengthen connectivity, expand trade, and drive economic growth between the two nations”, he said.

In a meeting between Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh and Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu in Tehran in late June 2024, the officials stressed the need for Iran and Pakistan to exercise barter trade and free trade to materialize a \$10 billion trade target.

Also, during a meeting between Iran's Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in mid-October 2024, the two sides discussed trade ties between the two countries, with both agreeing that economic exchanges should be promoted further.

The two ministers met in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Atabak told IRNA that he and the Pakistani minister discussed trade ties between the two countries and agreed to hold further talks in order to explore ways to remove obstacles to the promotion of bilateral trade.

“Considering the historical and cultural commonalities of the two countries, we should take advantage of the strong potentials to expand trade exchanges between Iran and Pakistan,” the minister stated.

He stated that the current amount of trade exchanges between the two countries is not acceptable from the point of view of both Iran and Pakistan, and considering the strong relations and common links of the two countries, the two sides are confident that they will be able to increase the volume of trade exchanges several times.

The Pakistani minister spoke with IRNA as well. He described his talks with the Iranian minister as constructive, adding, “We had good talks with my Iranian counterpart and reached constructive agreements, and we believe that there are many remaining tasks that the two countries are determined to pursue”.



# Media censorship in the name of sensitivity: BBC’s failure on Gaza coverage

From page 1 ► Bob Vylan's performance, which included the chant "Death, death to the IDF," was framed by the BBC Chair Samir Shah and Director-General Tim Davie as "unconscionable antisemitic views" and "offensive and deplorable behavior." The BBC's apology specifically singled out the Jewish community, while ignoring the context in which these words were spoken — a protest against Israeli forces' brutal military campaign in Gaza, which has resulted in massive civilian casualties and widespread destruction. The band clarified that their remarks were not targeted at any ethnic or religious group but were a denunciation of systemic violence, a nuance lost in the BBC's narrative and subsequent punitive measures.

The BBC's editorial failure to cut



the live stream immediately, followed by a decision to ban "high risk" acts from future live broadcasts, reflects a broader institutional unwillingness to confront uncomfortable truths about Israel's actions in Palestine.

Instead of facilitating open dia-

logue or highlighting the humanitarian crisis, the BBC chose to prioritize appeasing political pressure from British officials and media regulators, who condemned the broadcast as a "problem of leadership" and demanded accountability at the high-

est levels.

This political interference undermines journalistic independence and silences voices that challenge dominant geopolitical narratives.

Moreover, the backlash against Bob Vylan extended beyond the BBC. The band was dropped from multiple festival lineups across the UK and Europe, faced criminal investigations by police forces, and had their US visas revoked.

Such coordinated efforts to suppress dissenting voices reveal an alarming trend where artists and activists are penalized for speaking out against the genocide in Gaza, while the media largely fails to cover the scale of Palestinian suffering adequately.

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



southern Lebanon.

## Hezbollah is now recovered and ready

When asked about Hezbollah's current strength, Qassem declined to share detailed numbers on personnel or weapons. He simply stated: "Hezbollah is healing and now ready. If Israel attacks, we won't sit by, we will fight."

## Why Hezbollah accepted a ceasefire

Sheikh Qassem revisited events leading to the ceasefire agreement. He recalled that before the two-month war, Sayyed Nasrallah had expressed a desire to avoid such a scenario.

A French-American proposal for a 21-day ceasefire in Lebanon, independent of Gaza, was circulating for weeks before fighting began.

Martyr Nasrallah had conveyed Hezbollah's willingness to accept the proposal, pending improvements through negotiation. However, just two days after the proposal's announcement, Nasrallah was martyred. This triggered a new phase of conflict, which Hezbollah later named the "Battle of the Steadfast."

## Concerns over regional maneuvering

The Hezbollah chief expressed hope that recent reports about regional developments are merely speculative and not indicative of actual plans.

However, he cautioned, "We must remain vigilant. Lebanon needs to be aware that some countries engage positively in dialogue but offer no real support, while harboring intentions to use Syria against Lebanon."

He warned that certain forces believe past patterns can be replicated in a new form.

These forces, he explained, include both Arab and international powers, though he did not name specific countries. He expressed hope that these ideas would not be implemented and called on Lebanese officials and political parties to be wary of those who speak supportively but fail to offer tangible help.

## Hezbollah and the question of disarmament

When asked if Hezbollah could exist without weapons, Qassem rejected the premise. "Hezbollah is a movement, an ideology, a path. The party does not rely on weapons for its existence, but removing its arms weakens Lebanon."

He insisted that Hezbollah is Lebanon's largest party and enjoys broad popular support. "The resistance is what gives Lebanon its strength."

## Loyalty to Nasrallah and resistance legacy

Sheikh Qassem spoke emotionally about his deep bond with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, describing him as a historic leader who turned Hezbollah's vision into a powerful regional force.

In a touching personal reflection, Qassem shared: "Every year or two, we'd meet privately. One time, I said, 'Sayyed, I want to tell you I love you,' and he replied, 'You beat me to it, I love you too.' That's a love rooted in faith and loyalty, beyond formalities."

## Final thoughts: Resistance, unity, and Iran

Qassem reiterated Hezbollah's unwavering principles, liberation of Palestine, unity among Muslims, and rejection of sectarian strife. "We stand with the Islamic Republic of Iran out of conviction, not obligation." He expressed admiration for the broader Axis of Resistance, praising the sacrifices of Yemen, Iraq, and others who stood by Gaza. He concluded by affirming that Arab nationalists are natural allies of Hezbollah, and that Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah is "a once-in-a-generation leader who reshaped Lebanon's destiny through courage, vision, and sincerity."

## European heatwave caused 2,300 deaths in 10 days

Some 2,300 people are likely to have died of heat-related causes across 12 European cities during a severe heatwave that ended last week, with two-thirds of the deaths directly linked to climate change, according to a new study, Al Jazeera reported.

The analysis, published on Wednesday, focused on the 10-day period between June 23 and July 2, during which large parts of Western Europe were hit by extreme heat, with temperatures breaching 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in Spain and wildfires breaking out in France.

It covered 12 cities with a combined population of more than 30 million, including Barcelona, Madrid, London and Milan, where the study said climate change had increased heatwave temperatures by up to 4C (39.2F).

Of the 2,300 people estimated to have died during this period, 1,500 deaths were linked to climate change, which made the heatwave more severe, said the study conducted by more than a dozen researchers from five European institutions in the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Denmark and Switzerland.

"Climate change has made it significantly hotter than it would have been, which in turn makes it a lot more dangerous," said Ben Clarke, a researcher at Imperial College London, one of the institutions involved in the study.

## Kuwaiti student sues Bangor University over Gaza

A Kuwait student is suing her former UK university for violating her free speech after it prevented her from peacefully protesting the institution's investments in Israel during her graduation ceremony, MEE reported.

Aishah AlBader has filed a legal claim against Bangor University in Wales for assault, battery, false imprisonment and breach of her human rights.

The claim stems from an incident that took place during her graduation ceremony last year. AlBader planned to walk across the stage as she graduated with a pillowcase bearing the message "Bangor University invests in genocide". But AlBader, who was part of a local student group that campaigned for Bangor University to divest from companies complicit in possible Israeli war crimes, was stopped by four security guards who dragged her off the stage before removing her from the building. Multiple videos of the incident that gained more than 150,000 views showed several security guards dragging AlBader off the graduation stage from behind in front of hundreds of people.

## Dozens of military bulldozers arrive in Israel following Trump admin. approval

A delivery that consisted of dozens of D9 bulldozers and other equipment for the Israeli Ground Forces were received and unloaded on Wednesday at Haifa Port as part of a joint op-

## Normalization process between Syria and Israel accelerating

From page 1 ► This matter prompts analysts to discuss the possibility of deploying American forces instead of Israeli ones, specifically in southern Syria, and forcing Israel to pay "rent" fees for one-third of the Golan Heights, with its "sovereignty" over the remaining two-thirds being recognized, where it seeks to establish a demilitarized zone.

Trump had already demanded that al-Julani end the activity of Palestinian resistance factions in Syria, amid his ongoing push to plunge as many Arab governments into the throes of normalization with the occupation regime, hoping to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

eration led by a Ministry Defense procurement delegation in the United States, the Israeli forces Planning Wing, and the Procurement Directorate's unit for international transport, Israel National News reported.

The equipment was loaded onto dozens of trucks belonging to the transport unit in the "Emun" Directorate and the IDF Technological and Logistics Directorate, and taken to be equipped with armor.

Since the war began, 100,000 tons of military equipment have arrived in Israel on 870 flights and 144 ships, in what is the largest airbridge in the occupation regime's history.

According to the Director General of the Ministry of War, "The shipment of the D9 bulldozers is part of a broad force buildup effort, involving munitions and weaponry worth billions of shekels, which the US administration has approved and the Ministry of War has procured and transported to Israel. In recent weeks, we have received numerous cargo ships and planes in the country."

## Trump meets Netanyahu for a second time amid cautious hope for a Gaza ceasefire

President Trump met with Israel's Netanyahu for the second time in two days on Tuesday at the White House, CBS News reported.

They discussed efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and, Netanyahu stressed, to secure the release of the 50 Israeli hostages still thought to be held in the decimated Palestinian territory — 20 of whom the Israeli leader recently said were still alive.

Netanyahu, in a video message shared on social media after his second meeting with Trump, said Israel would not relent in its mission to "achieve all of our goals," which he said include "the elimination of Hamas's military and governing capabilities, thereby ensuring that Gaza will no longer pose a threat to Israel."

Delegations from Israel and Hamas are in Qatar negotiating over the precise terms of a potential deal. But while the talks continue, so does the war.

## Russian foreign minister to pay -3day visit to North Korea

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will pay a three-day visit to North Korea starting Friday, according to ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, Anadolu Agency reported.

Lavrov will carry out negotiations within the framework of the second round of strategic dialogue at the level of foreign ministry heads, Zakharova told a Wednesday press briefing in Moscow.

In a separate statement, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said during his visit to the capital Pyongyang, Lavrov will deliver a message from Russian President Vladimir Putin to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"Each time our high-ranking officials, especially the head of the Foreign Ministry department, visit Pyongyang, they convey a message from Putin to the country's leadership," said Peskov.

The Korean Central News Agency, a state outlet, separately confirmed the visit, saying Lavrov will meet with his counterpart Choe Son-hui.

From page 1 ► When asked why Hezbollah chose a supportive role instead of launching a full-scale war, Qassem explained that total war requires extensive preparation, which was not available at the time. Hence, the decision was to engage in limited support operations while observing the evolving situation before committing to a larger conflict.

After weeks of engagement, the party leadership concluded that a support war was sufficient to achieve its goals without escalating into a full-blown conflict. These goals were threefold:

- Draw significant numbers of Israeli Occupation forces to the northern front.
- Causing the displacement of settlers, creating social, economic, and security turmoil in "northern Israel".
- Inflict maximum casualties on Israeli occupation soldiers to relieve pressure on Gaza and signal to "Israel" that it is facing a multi-front war, thus encouraging it to end the Gaza genocide.

## No prior coordination with Gaza

Sheikh Qassem clarified that Hezbollah had no prior knowledge or coordination regarding the October 7 attack. He stated, "We were not informed, and without such knowledge, we could not have joined a full-scale war."

A "message" from Hamas military leader Mohammad Deif later reached Hezbollah through intermediaries in Lebanon.

Meetings with Hamas political figures, including Khalil al-Hayya, took place in Beirut. Hezbollah and the Palestinian resistance movement ultimately agreed that limited support would suffice.

Throughout the first two months of the war, Hezbollah debated whether more extensive involvement was necessary.

However, the conclusion was that increased participation would not change the outcome due to the Israeli regime's overwhelming aggression, American support, and shifting battlefield dynamics. Therefore, support operations were deemed effective in meeting their objectives.

Qassem also revealed that Iran was not informed in advance and that even some senior Hamas leaders abroad were unaware of the plans. Nevertheless, Iranian military, financial, political, and intelligence support for Palestine has continued uninterrupted.

## Investigating security breaches

Regarding internal breaches, Sheikh Qassem disclosed that a central investigation committee is still working. Subcommittees were also formed to investigate specific incidents, including the pager explosion and the targeted killings of key Hezbollah leaders. In the pager incident, it was found that the procurement process in the past 18 months was compromised. Hezbollah was unaware that the supply chain had been infiltrated. The explosives used were of an advanced type that evaded standard detection methods, raising questions about oversight and procedural gaps.

Days before the explosion, unusual activity around the devices raised suspicions. Qassem suggested that the Israeli occupation regime may have accelerated its operation for fear of being discovered.

He also confirmed that 1,500 similar explosive devices were intercepted in Turkey. After contacting Lebanon's then-Prime Minister Najib Mikati, who in turn reached out to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the devices were destroyed. Qassem denied knowledge of other alleged infiltrations, such as booby-trapped body armor. However, he acknowledged serious vulnerabilities in Hezbollah's communications network and widespread Israeli surveillance, including geospatial data collection spanning 17 years.

Despite this, he stressed that there is no evidence of widespread human infiltration. "There has been no breach involving senior figures," he said, adding that if any were found, the party would be transparent about it.

## Hezbollah's post-war position

Sheikh Qassem assured that Hezbollah remains resilient. "A people, a nation, and a resistance like this cannot be defeated."

He pointed to the organization's ability to bounce back after the pager attack, the loss of key leaders, and other severe blows, ultimately leading to a ceasefire with the Israeli occupation, which he considered a sign of success.

He identified key elements of victory:

- Preventing Israeli forces from advancing deep into Lebanese territory or reaching major cities like Beirut or Sidon.
- Maintaining Lebanese internal unity and avoiding civil strife.
- Withstanding attempts to dismantle the resistance and ensuring the Israeli military failed to achieve its objectives.

He declared that Hezbollah is entering a new phase with different tools, strategies, and capabilities.

## We will not wait forever"

Commenting on the ongoing Israeli regime's strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, Sheikh Qassem warned that Hezbollah's patience is not unlimited. "There is a limit," he said, though he refrained from specifying the time or manner of Hezbollah's potential response. He reiterated that the party is currently in a phase of recovery and restructuring but stands ready for confrontation if necessary: "If Israel attacks, we will fight. We are people of the battlefield."

## The shock of Sayyed Nasrallah's assassination

Sheikh Qassem described the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as a profound shock, saying, "Even we did not expect him to depart at that moment. If you had asked me before, I would've said we might all fall before he would."

He described Nasrallah's martyrdom as an immense loss. "We don't weep because he left. We cry because we don't know how to replace his strength, tone, and leadership."

Qassem recounted his disbelief upon hearing the news. "I was in denial. I thought maybe the explosion missed him."

But the next day, it was confirmed that his body had been recovered. That was when the truth hit." Despite the grief, he insisted that martyrdom fuels the resistance, noting, "Our challenge now is to live up to this sacrifice and carry the path forward with determination and sincerity."

## Assuming leadership responsibilities

After the martyrdom of Sayyed Nasrallah and Sayyed Hashem Safieddine, Qassem assumed the role of Secretary-General, becoming head of the Jihad Council and responsible for overseeing military operations.

He explained that his long-standing experience, as a Shura Council member and deputy secretary-general for 32 years, prepared him for this leadership role. He had been involved in all major strategic discussions, including Hezbollah's involvement in Syria and responses to the Israeli occupation regime's military actions.

Qassem emphasized that Hezbollah's structure allows for collective decision-making, even in wartime. Major actions like striking Tel Aviv and launching 370 missiles and drones on what the Israeli regime called "Black Sunday" (November 24) were based on organized internal planning.

## Striking Tel Aviv and the frontline's resilience

The decision to strike Tel Aviv was not impulsive but part of an established plan. Qassem said the entire military leadership remained intact, with no vacancies, and backup plans were implemented swiftly. He acknowledged Iranian advisory support but stressed that final decisions were made within Hezbollah's own leadership. The resilience of the front, he said, was due to two main factors: the fighters' readiness and deep understanding of their missions, and the sustained military and logistical support, even to areas as far as Khiam in

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



## Historic Persian-Georgian documents of Iran's Afsharid era digitized with British Library support



*An equestrian statue of Nader Shah Afshar, sometimes referred to as the Napoleon of Persia, near his mausoleum in Mashhad, northeast Iran.*

TEHRAN – A significant cultural heritage preservation initiative has culminated in the digitization and cataloguing of rare Persian and Georgian-Persian historical documents from the Afshar period, preserved at the Korneli Kekelidze National Centre of Manuscripts in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Led by Dr. Tamar Abuladze, the project was implemented under the Endangered Archives Programme, supported by the British Library. The electronic catalogue resulting from this extensive research was officially published earlier this year on the library's website, marking a major step in preserving and promoting understudied archival materials related to Iranian-Georgian history.

The project focused on documents from a politically charged era during which Iranian influence under the Qizilbash extended into East Georgia, particularly during the reign of Nader Shah Afshar, aka Nadir Shah (1736–1747). These historical materials offer critical insights into the military, administrative, and social dynamics between Iran and the Georgian territories in the 18th century.

The documents were carefully selected based on their chronological relevance to the period and the extent of physical deterioration. The digitized corpus comprises firmans, decrees, administrative orders, tax records, appointment documents, letters, legal judgments, and other official communications. These were issued by prominent figures such as Nader Shah, his successor Ibrahim Shah, high-ranking Iranian officials like Sefi-Khan and Azad-Khan, and Georgian royalty, including King Erekle II of Kartli-Kakheti and King Teimuraz II.

Addressees of the documents range from

## Emergency protection of Ayatollah Taleqani house, library planned

TEHRAN—Managing director of Tehran Municipality's Cultural Spaces Development Company, Mohammad Nazem Razavi, gave news of holding a strategic session for renovation of the building facade and emergency protection of the museum house and personal library of late Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleqani.

Pointing to the registration of Taleqani house on National Heritage List, he called this house a remarkable building in terms of architecture and particularly in terms of cultural and religious status of Ayatollah Taleqani, Mehr news agency reported.

He said after holding several sessions with the presence of the deputy head of Tehran Cultural Heritage Department and making coordination, other strategic sessions were held with participation of cultural heritage experts, counseling company and managers of Cultural Spaces Development Company to study the ideas and preliminary plans for renovation of the monument.

In addition, preliminary and urgent mea-

Iranian monarchs and Georgian rulers to local nobles, begs, and governors of Kartli-Kakheti and surrounding regions. Collectively, they illustrate the interconnectedness of Iranian and Georgian administrative systems during the Afsharid period.

### Napoleon of Persia!

Born Nader Qoli Beg, Nader Shah created an Iranian empire that stretched from the Indus River to the Caucasus Mountains. He is widely considered one of the most powerful rulers in the history of the nation. He assumed power when a period of chaos overwhelmed Iran.

Nader endeavored to reunite the Persian realm while repelling invaders. He is sometimes referred to as the Napoleon of Persia or the Second Alexander.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, Nader Qoli Beg had an obscure beginning in the Turkish Afshar tribe, which was loyal to the Safavid shahs of Iran. After serving under a local chieftain, Nader formed and led a band of robbers, showing marked powers of leadership.

With the navy he proceeded to build, Nader Shah was able not only to take Bahrain from the Arabs but also to invade and conquer Oman. In February 1739, after capturing several cities of the Mughal Empire of northern India, he moved against the main Mughal armies at Karnal, India. He won the battle and entered Delhi, returning to Iran with vast amounts of loot, including the fabulous Peacock Throne and the Koh-e-Noor Diamond. He then attacked the Uzbeks around the cities of Bukhara and Khiva; his empire had reached its furthest expansion and rivaled the territorial extent of the ancient Iranian empire.

sures were taken for emergency protection of the building including renovation of arches, walls and accessible stairways, he said. Also, the damaged windows have been collected and sent for renovation, he added.

Razavi continued that close to 900 historical monuments have been registered across Tehran province, of which 33 pertain to cultural, religious and scientific personalities. He pointed to houses of Martyr Motahhari, Martyr Chamran, poet Mehdi Akhavan Sales and writers Simin and Jalal which have been renovated by Cultural Spaces Development Company and have been open to visitors.

He mentioned that Ayatollah Taleqani's house is considered a valuable and important monument given the events of contemporary history and the role of Taleqani as one of pioneers of the Islamic Revolution. Therefore, its renovation has been put on agenda with an aim of improving its quality and preserving the authenticity and integrity of the building, he added.

# Cultural heritage is a voice against hostile narratives, Iran tourism minister says

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – In a press conference held on Tuesday afternoon, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, along with his deputies, addressed the ministry's role in shaping cultural resilience during the recent 12-day conflict with Israel.

The minister described the country's current status quo as “neither an all-out war nor lasting peace,” calling for “cultural rationality, social cohesion, and a civilizational narrative” to help Iran navigate ongoing crises.

He further described the recent conflict as a “test of national maturity,” during which the Iranian people opted for steadfast resistance, drawing on their deep cultural, national, and religious identity.

He then condemned Israel's shift from targeted assassinations to direct attacks on Iran's infrastructure, including energy, defense, and communications. Despite this, he said, Iranian society foiled their enemy's plots by displaying restraint, favoring strategic rationality over emotional reactions, and distinguishing between internal critique and external confrontation.

During the event, which included provincial tourism chiefs via virtual participation, the minister also outlined three key responses by the Islamic Republic to the recent military escalation: understanding the overt and covert messages of war, the government's rapid efforts to maintain social calm, and the ministry's proactive role in preserving cultural identity.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi-Amiri emphasized the importance of cultural diplomacy, stating that over 100 Iranian academics, artists, and intellectuals had submitted formal objections to global organizations following Israel's attacks. The ministry also sent official communications to UNESCO and the United Nations, demanding urgent responses.

He then described Iran as the foundation of national unity in an era of narrative fragmentation and urged stronger connections between youth and the nation's cultural legacy. He echoed three guiding concepts: Iran, Iranian civilization, and cultural Iran (Greater Iran).

“Iran is not merely land -- it is



*Iran's tourism minister, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, addresses a press conference in Tehran, July 8, 2025.*

a living spirit embodied in Hafez, Sa'di, Ferdowsi, in our architecture, art, mythology, and museums, to name a few,” he declared.

Referring to the importance of the tourism industry for the government, the minister noted that President Masoud Pezeshkian was personally overseeing the removal of barriers to tourism, and that demands from industry stakeholders are being actively pursued across three main areas.

Moreover, Salehi-Amiri highlighted the government's mobilization to protect everyday life, noting that more than 800,000 tons of essential goods were distributed from southern ports. He added that during this period, over nine million people traveled to Mazandaran province, and the country's tourism sector received only 30 service-related complaints.

He noted that the Iranian cabinet has approved a resolution requiring all government entities to prepare damage assessments and submit legal drafts for potential international lawsuits against the Zionist regime of Israel. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage has already compiled its own detailed report, the minister added.

Furthermore, he praised the private tourism sector's exceptional conduct, revealing that accommodations from Mashhad (the capital of Khorasan Raza-vi province in northeast Iran) to Gilan [province in the north of the country] opened their doors to citizens, offering discounts of up to 90% -- in some cases, free stays. “This was not a commercial gesture, but a social and ethical one,” the minister said.

Discussing the current tourism scene, the minister underlined that 2,700 tourism projects are currently underway nationwide, adding that a 14-point strategy to revive the tourism sector has been drafted and is being transformed into an actionable plan. He also announced the addition of a special war insurance category in government legislation to support damaged tourism sites.

He also clarified that the ministry's ongoing long-term rentals of historical properties to eligible private investors are driven by the goal of preservation, not revenue generation. So far, 41 historical buildings have been transferred under 90% leasing schemes.

Salehi-Amiri added that cultural diplomacy has extended to neighboring countries, with new ties forming with Azerbaijan, Armenia, Tajikistan, and Egypt. “Had the recent military escalation not occurred, [the current year] 1404 (which started on March 20) would certainly have been a golden year for Iranian tourism,” he noted.

### Deputy ministers share sectoral insights

Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi spoke of the ministry's efforts to protect heritage sites during the 12-day conflict and warned that the withdrawal of the U.S. and Israel from UNESCO has disrupted international cooperation. However, Iranian heritage experts and ICOM have remained engaged through formal correspondence.

Darabi added that Iran helped launch the Ancient Civilizations Forum... One of its key outcomes was an agreement on the repa-

triation of historical artifacts among member countries. Tehran's Intangible Cultural Heritage Center, with 11 permanent members and coverage of 24 countries, plays an active role in cultural diplomacy.

Tourism Deputy Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey, for his part, highlighted the impact of the recent Iran-Israel war on the tourism sector. “A full return to pre-crisis levels will take time,” he said, adding that the ministry has adopted a 14-pronged approach to recovery.

The deputy minister emphasized that many provinces remained unaffected by the conflict and saw increased domestic travel. Religious tourism, he noted, has provided stability during difficult times.

Regarding tourism pricing, he denied rumors and confirmed that all services are priced based on Iranian rials for both domestic and foreign visitors.

Mohseni-Bandpey also outlined Arbæen pilgrimage plans, including the creation of religious markets and eco-lodges along the walking route to Karbala.

“Religious tourism remains the most active and strategic segment of international tourism in Iran,” he stressed, adding that Arbæen represents a major opportunity for bilateral and multilateral engagement.

He added that over 3.5 million pilgrims --mainly from Iraq-- have visited Iran this year for religious purposes.

Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi, Deputy for Handicrafts, explained the ministry's cultural strategy during Arbæen. She said that prior to the outbreak of hostilities, preparations were underway in Ilam and at the Mehran border for special craft markets and displays.

Permanent bases for showcasing Iranian handicrafts are also being planned in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, and Basra, she said.

The Israeli-imposed war began on 13 June 2025, when the Zionist regime launched surprise attacks on key military and nuclear facilities in the Islamic Republic. In the opening hours of the war, Israeli forces assassinated some of Iran's prominent military commanders and nuclear scientists.

## Anniversary of Yazd's UNESCO designation: a reminder for preserving its rich heritage

TEHRAN – Concurrent with the anniversary of the UNESCO registration of Yazd city on July 9, the deputy governor general of Yazd province called the registration an “exceptional opportunity” for preserving this valuable heritage.

Mehdi Talaee-Moqaddam added that the global Yazd can turn into a precious model for Iran's and world's historical cities through its authenticity and balanced and sustainable development, ISNA reported.

He said that July 9 as the anniversary of Yazd registration, is symbol of identity, authenticity and efforts of people who, for centuries, have left behind a valuable and unique legacy for Iran and the world with their love for life in the heart of the desert.

“This global registration doubles our responsibility for safeguarding this valuable texture and improving the quality of life in

heart of this world heritage. With participation of people and cooperation of officials, we seek to take steps in line of preserving and reviving the historical texture of Yazd, improving urban infrastructures in keeping with the dignity of this heritage and materializing goals of Sustainable Yazd program. “

Yazd, known as city of aqueduct and contentment, city of work, kariz and thatch, house of worship, the house of knowledge, and the Hosseinieh of Iran, has throughout history, with its hardworking, noble, and faithful people, been able to demonstrate a valuable model of life in the heart of the desert, balanced development, contentment, justice, and spirituality, he said. Today, with its world registration, a unique opportunity has been provided to preserve this valuable heritage alongside sustainable development, he added.

## Zarand to hold second meteorite market in December

TEHRAN—The second meteorite market will be held in Zarand, Kerman province, during December 2025, said Abdolhossein Hemmati, an MP representing Zarand and Kouhbanan in the Iranian parliament.

He expressed the hope that the event will draw Kermani visitors and even draw domestic and foreign tourists, IRNA reported.

The lawmaker recalled that the national festival of meteorite was held in Zarand earlier this year, which led to the emergence of the first local market of meteorite.

“We will support this in Majlis, and the governor-general's approach to this field is very valuable.”

“We plan to hold the local me-

eteorite market twice a year.”

During his meeting with the Head of Zarand Cultural Heritage Department Mohammad Eslami, Hemmati appreciated the efforts made in holding the first meteorite festival in Zarand successfully. “The successful holding of this festival, with the dynamic participation of activists of these sectors from different regions of the country, and the reflections

of this event, which led to the visibility of other tourism capabilities, including the geotourism area of Zarand and the existence of traces of the life of dinosaurs as the largest and oldest prehistoric animals, has created a double duty for us to help together so that Zarand city and Kerman province can benefit maximally from the results of such an event.”



# From smart agriculture to rescue operations: Iranian-made drones booming

TEHRAN – Over the past two decades, Iranian knowledge-based companies have made notable efforts and contributed significantly to designing, building, and utilizing various types of drones for civilian purposes, including smart agriculture, cargo transport, maritime missions, as well as rescue and relief operations.

Drones have become one of the most intelligent tools in the military, security, industrial, agricultural, and municipal services. The technology has revolutionized operations management, data collection, and risk reduction by enabling complex missions to be performed remotely, without human presence on site.

With the rapid advancement of remotely piloted aircraft technologies in the country, drones have transitioned from purely military tools and are now recognized as key players in agriculture, relief and rescue operations, mapping, and environmental protection.

Currently, Iran is not only self-sufficient in the drone industry but is also among the countries at the forefront of drone technology.

Knowledge-based companies in cooperation with universities and the Vice-Presidency for Science have managed to develop specific drones to be used in agriculture. These drones are designed with aerial imaging capabilities; they are capable of monitoring fields, identifying pests, measuring plant health



with infrared spectrum, as well as soil and vegetation temperature, mapping agricultural lands, spraying pesticides, and even seeding.

These drones are usually equipped with multispectral cameras, normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) sensors, precise GPS systems, and tanks to spray liquids.

One of the main goals is to increase land productivity, reduce water and pesticide consumption, lower human costs, and increase precision in farm management.

About 225 knowledge-based companies are operating in designing and building drones for civilian purposes in Iran, and these companies have official licenses for production and operation. In the agricultural sector, more than 500 knowledge-based companies, including start-ups and technology companies, are

operating in various agricultural sectors, with over 10 of them being specialized in manufacturing agricultural drones and providing related services.

## Notable growth in knowledge-based companies

The significant and fast-paced growth in the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the Iranian year 1402 year (March 2023 – March 2024), shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and technology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

The current administration underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies. The number of companies, which was around 5,000 before

the current administration took office in August 2021, has now reached 10,000 with a total value of two billion dollars.

Iran's knowledge-based companies exported over 3.6 million tons of products, valued at \$2.506 billion, in the Iranian calendar year (ended March 19, 2024), according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, some 1.158 million tons of goods, valued at \$5.141 billion were also imported by knowledge-based companies into the country from March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024.

About 85 percent of the goods imported by the knowledge-based companies came from China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Germany, and India, IRNA reported.

The domestic knowledge-based companies exported their products to China, Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, and Russia in this period, IRICA said.

In this period, the knowledge-based companies accounted for 2.6 and 5 percent of the country's total exports in weight and value respectively.

Advanced materials and products based on chemical technologies accounted for about 80 percent of the export value of these companies.

China was Iran's first buyer of knowledge-based products in this period.

## Documented refugees have no problem attending Arbaeen pilgrimage

TEHRAN – Authorized foreign nationals and refugees residing in Iran will be able to participate in the Arbaeen pilgrimage without any problems, the deputy interior minister has said.

The Arbaeen pilgrimage, which is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims, and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Each year, a huge crowd of people flocks to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform mourning rituals.

They can also be provided with health insurance, but undocumented nationals won't receive any services, IRNA quoted Ali-Akbar Pourjamshidian as saying.

The country will also help Pakistani and Afghan pilgrims who want to attend this year's rituals. They will be allowed to enter the country with their vehicles to pass the borders, the official added.

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 docu-



mented 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 popu-

lation 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.

## 5th Intel. Congress on "Health in Arbaeen"

The 5th International Congress on "Health in Arbaeen" was held in Tehran from May 26 to 27 with the participation of six countries.

This year's event brought together participants as well as 24 international lecturers from Italy, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, IRNA reported.

"The main goal of the congress is to make physicians familiar with the issues of health care and treatment during the Arbaeen pilgrimage. It mainly focuses on endemic diseases that may spread by Afghan and Pakistani pilgrims who pass Iran on their way to Iraq," IRNA quoted Abdolreza Pazoki, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

They also discussed guidelines for treating skin, musculoskeletal, and other diseases, as well as needed medicines and medical equipment.

The same as previous years, medical universities on the borders will monitor infectious diseases by taking preventive measures.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Special clinic to relieve families during coronavirus pandemic

A special clinic will be opened for the first time in the country to provide free psychological services to families who have lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The clinic is called "Soog" (literally meaning mourn) will be inaugurated at Shahid Beheshti Educational and Medical Center in Zanjan province on Wednesday.

The outbreak of coronavirus has changed the lifestyle of many families, Ehsan Fakoor, head of the mental health department of Zanjan University of Medical Sciences said.

Sudden changes in life cause stress, while the coronavirus itself has doubled the stress due to its contagion and the number of lives it has claimed in the world to date, he regretted.

## کلینیک خاص برای افرادی که اعضای خانواده را بر اثر کرونا از دست داده‌اند

نخستین کلینیک مخصوص ارائه خدمات رایگان روان‌شناختی به خانواده‌هایی که اعضای خانواده خود را به دلیل ابتلا به کرونا از دست داده‌اند افتتاح شد.

شیوع ویروس کرونا باعث شده است تا سبک زندگی بسیاری از خانواده‌ها دچار تغییر شود. ایجاد تغییرات ناگهانی در زندگی باعث ایجاد استرس می‌شود، این در حالی است که خود ویروس کرونا به دلیل واگیردار بودن و نیز آمار فوتی‌هایی که تا به امروز در دنیا به جا گذاشته، این استرس را دوجندان کرده است.

## IEEE Iran section grabs outstanding Section Award

TEHRAN – The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) organization has designated the IEEE Iran section as the Outstanding Section Award 2025.

As one of the IEEE's most prestigious global honors, this award is granted to the sections that have excelled in educational, technical, research, and social fields, and played an effective role in the development of science and technology, ISNA reported.

The award highlights Iran's resilience, capabilities, talents, and determination to build a brighter future.

The IEEE Outstanding Section Award recognizes IEEE Sections that demonstrate excellence in fulfilling the organization's objectives through their programs and activities.

This award acknowledges the Section's success in organizing technical, professional, and geographic activities for the benefit of its members and in supporting Student Branches, Chapters, and Affinity Groups. The award is given to Sections that have shown outstanding performance in fulfilling the educational and scientific goals of IEEE.

Sections nominated for this award have to meet certain criteria in terms of the quality of their programs and activities such as providing outstanding educational and technical programs like conferences, seminars, workshops, and specialized webinars; supporting research and innovation projects by facilitating new research projects; supporting scientific elites and holding scientific challenges and competitions; developing and improving social infrastructure by expanding social and professional networks and interacting with industrial and academic communities; boosting social activities and impacts on society through projects and initiatives that promote science and technology at public level and develop scientific culture in society; participating in IEEE global and regional programs through collaboration with other IEEE sections at global and regional levels; and sharing their best practices and experiences.

## Iran ranks 72 in technology, innovation

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Technology and Innovation Report 2025, Iran is ranked among upper middle-income countries, ranking 72 among 166 countries.

The country's ranking has improved by one position compared to 2022.

UNCTAD has categorized 17 types of technologies as frontier technologies including artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, big data, 5G, 3D printing, robotics, drone technology, solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, biofuels, biogas and biomass, wind energy, green hydrogen, electric vehicles, nanotechnology and gene editing.

The Technology and Innovation Report 2025: Inclusive Artificial Intelligence for Development surveys the complex artificial intelligence landscape, aiming to help decision-makers design science, technology, and innovation policies that foster inclusive technological progress.

The Report 2025 calls for AI that puts people first and is shaped through global cooperation in which all countries have a say. The Report identifies three key leverage points – infrastructure, data, and skills – offering a



broad socioeconomic perspective on AI while analyzing requirements and policies to promote sustainable industrialization and innovation.

The sub-indices of readiness for frontier technologies in 2025 show that Iran's best ranking is in the research and development sub-index (35th in the world).

In the finance sub-index, the country's ranking has improved from 62 in 2022 to 56 in 2025. In other sub-indexes like skills, and the establishment of information and communication technology, its ranking has lowered from 74, and 78 in 2022 to 82, and 94 in 2025, respectively.

## Iran moves up in technology output, business sophistication

According to the 2024 edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) report, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ranking in knowledge and technology output, as well as business sophistication has improved from 55 and 117 in 2023 to 49 and 110 in 2024, respectively.

Also, the country's ranking in market sophistication and infrastructure has risen by two positions from 19 and 97 in 2023 to 17 and 95 in 2024.

However, Iran's ranking in creative output, human research, and capital, as well as institutions has lowered compared to 2023.

The Global Innovation Index ranks the world's leading economies according to their innovation capabilities.

According to this year's report, Iran ranks second among the countries of the Central and Southern Asian region, unchanged compared with the last two years.

India and Kazakhstan ranked first and third, respectively.

Iran ranks 5 among the 38 lower-middle-income group economies, which has improved compared to the 2023 ranking (6).

However, the country's ranking, among the 133 economies featured in the GII 2024, has dropped from 62 in 2023 to 64 this year.

Switzerland secured the first rank in the GII 2024 report with a score of 67.5 for the 14th consecutive year, closely followed by Sweden and the U.S. at the second and third positions with scores of 64.5 and 62.4, respectively.

As stated in the 2024 edition, over the past four years (2020-2024), the statistical confidence interval for the ranking of Iran in the GII 2024 is between ranks 56 and 80.

Iran performed better in innovation outputs (48) than in innovation inputs (85) in 2024.

Published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the report ranks Iran first in Market capitalization, and Trademarks by origin.

## IFRC proud of cooperation with IRCS: MENA director

TEHRAN – The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is proud of cooperating with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Hossam Elsharkawi, the director of the Mediterranean and North Africa (MENA) Region at IFRC, has said.

In a message to the head of the IRCS, Pirhossein Kolivand, Elsharkawi commended the IRCS efforts in providing humanitarian services to those affected and injured by the brutal attacks of the Zionist regime.

"Your efforts in providing relief services to those affected in the recent war were unparalleled. You showed the world the true leadership and management of a humanitarian institution while you, yourself, were in great

danger," the official noted.

"It is a great honor for me to cooperate with you and the other members of the Iranian Red Crescent Society," Elsharkawi highlighted.

The 12-day war, imposed on the country by Israel, started on June 13 and came to a halt on June 24.

About a week ago, Kolivand, in a letter to the international communities as well as Red Cross societies, urged them to slam the violation of humanitarian laws by the Zionist regime, demonstrated through killing IRCS members and targeting medical centers.

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



TEHRAN TIMES



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**Tehrantimes79**

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JULY 10, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Lying would negatively influence your livelihood.*  
**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

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

## Arasbaran Cultural Center reviews “Thunderbolts”

TEHRAN – American director Jake Schreier’s 2025 movie “Thunderbolts” was screened during a session at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Wednesday.

Iranian film critic Kourosh Jahed attended a screening of the film followed by a review session.

“Thunderbolts” is a superhero film based on Marvel Comics’ team of antiheroes. The story centers on a group of morally ambiguous characters who find themselves caught in a deadly trap, forcing them to unite on a perilous mission that could determine their futures and perhaps the fate of the world.

The story begins in Malaysia, where Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh) destroys a secret laboratory on behalf of CIA director Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus). De Fontaine is scrambling to hide her involvement with the O.X.E. Group’s “Sentry” super-human project, which has become a political threat.

Facing potential impeachment, she secretly sends mercenaries—Yelena, John Walker (Sebastian Stan), Ava Starr (Olga Kurylenko), and Antonia Dreykov—to a covert O.X.E. facility with orders to eliminate each other. During the chaos, Ava kills Antonia, and an amnesiac man named Bob is released from a suspended-animation pod. Recognizing they were sent to be wiped out along with evidence of de Fontaine’s misconduct, the group decides to work together to escape.

As they flee, contact with Bob causes Yelena and Walker to experience disturbing visions of their worst memories. De Fontaine quickly learns the group survived and that Bob was a presumed-dead participant in the Sentry trials. She arrives at the facility, where Bob creates a diversion by drawing enemy fire, allowing Yelena, Walker, and Ava to escape. Despite being shot, Bob seemingly remains uninjured, then unexpectedly ascends into the air before crash-landing back at the compound. He is captured and taken to the former Avengers Tower in Manhattan, now called the “Watchtower.” De Fontaine plans to introduce Bob to the public as a super-powered protector, hoping this PR stunt will prevent her impeachment.

Meanwhile, Alexei Shostakov (David Harbour), who overheard de Fontaine’s plans while working as a chauffeur, rescues the team. He calls them the “Thunderbolts,” a nostalgic nod to a childhood soccer team Yelena once played on. As they regroup, they are pursued by de Fontaine’s agents. Congressman Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan), who’s investigating de Fontaine, joins them to infiltrate the Watchtower. They discover that Bob has been manipulated by de Fontaine and that he easily overpowers the team under her influence.

However, Bob’s delusions of superiority grow, and he turns against de Fontaine. Her assistant Mel disables him with a failsafe kill switch, which triggers the emergence of the Void—Bob’s destructive alter ego embodying his depression and fractured psyche. The Void engulfs New York City in supernatural darkness, trapping residents in pocket dimensions. Desperate, Yelena enters the darkness to reach Bob’s subconscious. Inside, she confronts her past as a Black Widow and finds Bob hiding in a recreated childhood bedroom, where he endured his father’s abuse.

The team travels to Malaysia, where Bob first volunteered for the Sentry procedure to escape his drug addiction and aimlessness. Confronted with the Void’s destructive power, the Thunderbolts rally behind Bob, reaffirming their belief in his humanity. Their support helps him regain control, banishing the Void and restoring light to the city. The immediate danger is resolved, and the victims are freed.

The team prepares to arrest de Fontaine, but she stages a press conference, claiming credit and rebranding the team as the “New Avengers,” subtly asserting control. Yelena quietly tells her, “We own you now,” signaling their independence.

On Rotten Tomatoes, 88 percent of 351 critics gave “Thunderbolts” a positive review, praising it as a refreshing MCU adventure with Florence Pugh shining. Metacritic reports a “generally favorable” score of 68 out of 100 from 53 critics. The film received a nomination for Best Picture at the Astra Mid-season Movie Awards, with Florence Pugh winning Best Actress.

# Iranian short animated film “Travelous” wins at SFN Loutraki Animation Festival

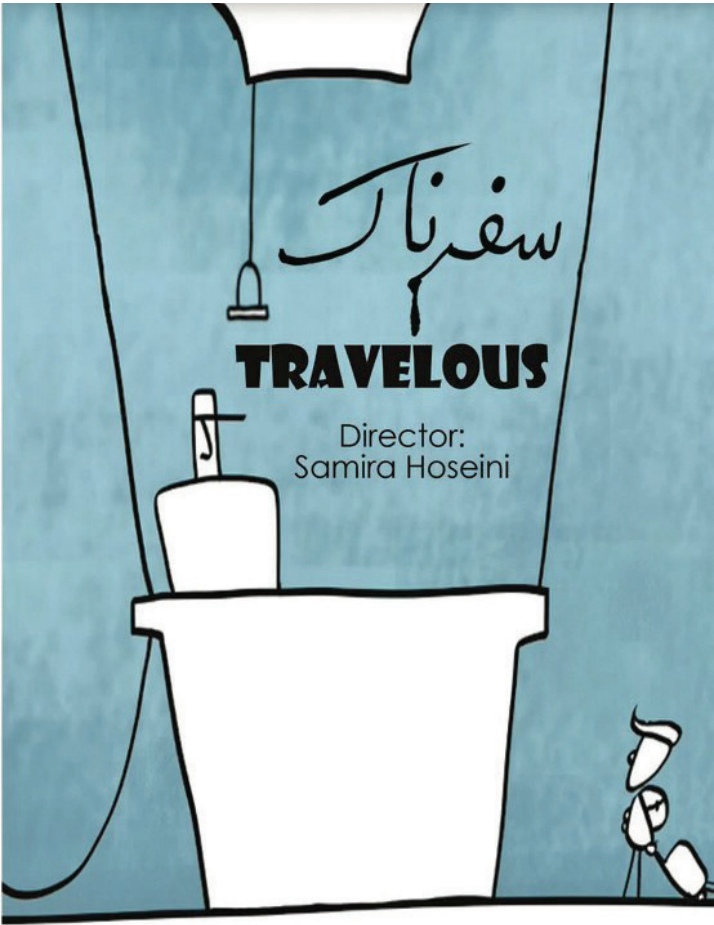
TEHRAN – The Iranian short animation “Travelous” directed by Samira Hoseini won the top award at the 8th Short Film Night (SFN) Loutraki Animation Festival, which was held in Corinth, Greece, on July 6.

According to the festival website, as every year, the festival featured a curated selection of original, bold, and emotionally resonant short animation films from around the world. One of the highlights of the closing night was the announcement of the Audience Award, a beloved tradition that reflects the viewers’ immediate connection with the films they experience.

“Travelous” was announced to be the 1st among the three winners of the Audience Award as it presented a sensitive and original narrative from Iran that moved the audience. “Storytelling” from Switzerland and “In Between” from France were placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively.

“A dynamic and at the same time sensitive animated film from Iran, which takes the viewer on a personal and poetic journey. The film won first place thanks to its originality and deeply emotional storytelling,” the festival wrote about “Travelous”.

The 6-minute short animation is a dark comedy about migration. It was presented as Hosei-



ni’s Master’s thesis at Soore University.

The story is about a young man who intends to leave his homeland by hot air balloon. One by one, he cuts the ties to his fam-

ily, relatives, friends, and beloved one, as well as the cultural attachments within himself that he must also let go of. In the end, he reaches his destination — but it, too, is not what it seemed to be.

## Autistic talents take center stage at Tehran’s Molavi Hall

TEHRAN – The play “The Actor of Shadows” will go on stage at Tehran’s Molavi Hall on Friday, featuring talented actors with autism and other special needs.

Written and directed by Amir Farzam Dehnavi and produced by Sajad Afsharian, this innovative production aims to showcase the abilities of gifted individuals with diverse abilities on the theatrical stage, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

This production explores therapeutic approaches such as theater therapy, music therapy, and art therapy, featuring a talented group of artists with autism, Down syndrome, and other special abilities, the report added.

Main cast members include Hesam Zarnouesh in the role of Carl Gustav Jung, Abdolreza Baqeri and Mohammad Qarakhannlou sharing the role of William Shakespeare, Hanifeh



Ahmadi as Shadow, and Amir Ali Mohammadi as Hamlet.

Inspired by Carl Gustav Jung’s Shadow theory in psychoanalysis and utilizing Method Acting techniques, the play offers a profound, human, and inner experience of confronting darkness and light within—depicted through humor and art.

## Exhibition raising funds, awareness for Palestinians to open in London

An exhibition dedicated to raising awareness and support for Palestinians is set to open in London on July 10.

In a collective act of solidarity, more than 200 artists from 35 countries have come together for a show opening at London’s Studio 1.1. A catalogue describes it as “an act of resistance, an act of solidarity and a rejection of the art world’s silence and complicity in Israel’s genocide of the Palestinian people”.

Organized in collaboration with the artist-led activist community Artists Supporting Palestine (ASP) and titled “GAZAGAZAGAZA,” the exhibition will run from July 10 to 27 and feature more than 400 donated works. To allow wider public participation, around 140 pieces have been produced at postcard size and priced at £20. All proceeds from sales will go to Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), a UK-based charity providing medical aid in the occupied Palestinian territories and to Palestinians refugees.

Michael Keenan, the co-founder and director of Studio 1.1, and Gavin McIntosh, a Leeds based artist and co-creator of ASP, tell The Art Newspaper that although both had long considered a show, once connected, they pulled the exhibition together within a month. “The really important and exciting thing is that this gives us the opportunity to make our position clear. To make a protest and to show the anger and the bewilderment about the situation,” Keenan says.

McIntosh says the contrast between the

art world’s strong support for Ukraine and its relative silence on Gaza has been deeply frustrating for him and other artists—making the overwhelming response to the exhibition’s open call since its announcement in early June a clear sign of how eager many artists are to be heard on the subject. “What we’re seeing coming out of Gaza, it should be absolutely melting people’s brains and hearts,” he says.

“We wanted this to be an absolute riot of diverse voices from the art world, to say ‘look, the art world isn’t silent’. The top tiers of the art world are silent but the day-to-day artists they’re not silent. They’ve got something to say,” he adds.

McIntosh explains that it was his anger and frustration at the lack of initiatives and spaces he found where artists could freely express support for Palestinians that led to the creation of ASP in early 2024. The platform allows artists to sell works online, with payments made directly to MAP via JustGiving. Once the artist receives confirmation of the donation, they post the works to the buyer.

“Once Artist Support in Palestine launched, we immediately started getting lots of people getting in touch and saying, ‘I’ve been looking for this for ages, this is so good,’” says McIntosh.

To date ASP has raised over £50,000 for MAP and with the announcement of the London exhibition, McIntosh says the initiative’s support has grown exponentially.

Sam Salmasi is the animator of the work and the music is composed by Mohammad Darvishi. The animation features the song “Khareji” by Bomrani music band.

The active participation of the audience and its warm presence is the soul of SFN. The Audience Award is not just a distinction; it is a mirror of the connection created between the work and the viewer.

At the 2025 festival, dozens of short animations by creators of all ages and nationalities were screened, offering a rich puzzle of artistic approaches, techniques and stories.

Short Film Night (SFN) is an exciting annual event that celebrates the art and craft of animation. It is carried out in the picturesque town of Loutraki, Corinth, Greece in July. SFN showcases a diverse range of animated films from around the world, including stop-motion, 2D, 3D, and experimental animations.

Short Film Night is organized under the umbrella of FestivArt. In addition to the films themselves, visitors are to attend a series of events and activities such as workshops, masterclasses, exhibitions and concerts, organized by Festivart for an immersive and unforgettable experience.

creativity or spontaneity.

Integrating the Shadow is essential for achieving psychological wholeness, a process Jung called “individuation.” This involves becoming aware of and accepting these hidden aspects, rather than suppressing them, which can lead to inner conflict or projection—where individuals attribute their unwanted traits to others.

Recognizing and confronting the Shadow allows for personal growth, authenticity, and self-awareness. It encourages individuals to accept their whole selves, including the less desirable parts, leading to a more balanced and integrated personality. Jung’s Shadow theory remains influential today, emphasizing the importance of self-examination and embracing one’s entire being to attain psychological harmony and deeper understanding of oneself.

Among the artists who joined the initiative are France-based British artist Steph Goodger and French graphic designer Cedric Bousquet, both of whom had been seeking ways to support Gaza beyond their own platforms. They have also played a central role in planning and designing the London exhibition and are contributing parallel fundraising projects.

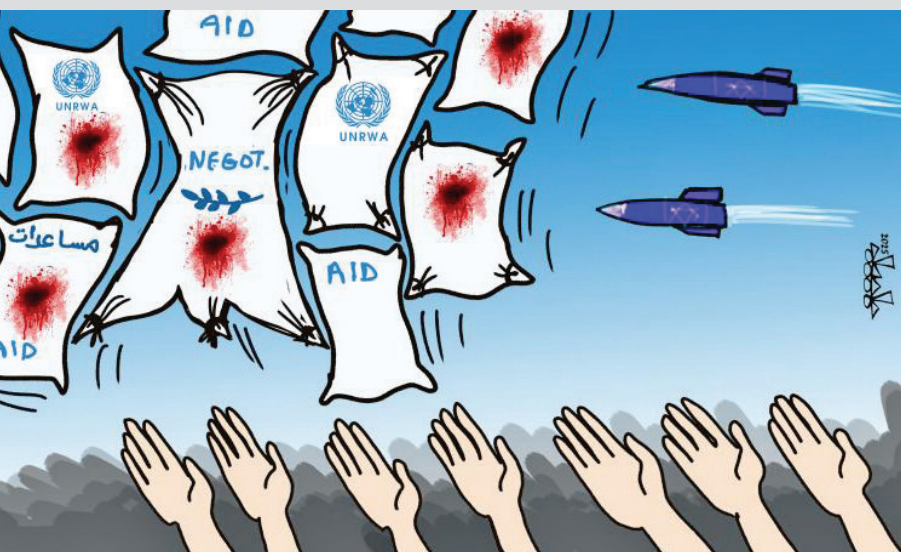
Bousquet has created a loop of short artist animations, including a short film by Goodger, with donations encouraged to view the screening. Goodger’s “Badges for Gaza Project” offers badges, tote bags and t-shirts featuring drawings by children in Gaza, with all proceeds going directly to their families.

Goodger says she often sends the families pictures of people wearing the products. “It gives them a sense of contact with the outside world, that people care about them,” she says.

Additional fundraising initiatives at the show include sales of prints by Gaza-based artists Zainab Shhair and Ahmed Muhanna, with all proceeds going directly to the artists. London artist Tom Loffill is contributing with a booklet of drawings of Palestinian writers, including a foreword written by 27-year-old Ghadheer Ebrahime in Gaza. Proceeds will support Ebrahime’s family.

Live performances and other events are also planned throughout the exhibition.

Cartoon of Day



PEACE TALK IN GAZA!!!  
**Cartoonist:** Hassan Bleibel from Lebanon