

Ayatollah Khamenei Personally Commanded War Room

Parliament speaker reveals details of Iran's war management during 12-day fight with Israel



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'Firmier reprisal' awaits aggressors, Pezeshkian warns while demanding IAEA reform

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian delivered a stark warning to Israel and the United States on Wednesday, declaring that any renewed act of transgression against the Islamic Republic would be met with a "firmer and more chastening reprisal."

The statement came during a phone discussion with European Council President Antonio Costa, underscoring Tehran's posture of strength in the wake of the U.S.-Israeli 12-day war on Iran.

Pezeshkian stressed that Iran's resolute retaliation to the Israeli aggression last month, which resulted in over a thousand martyrs, including top commanders, showcased its steadfast determination. ▶ Page 2

CBI praised for ensuring economic security during 12-day conflict

TEHRAN – A senior member of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) said the rapid allocation of foreign currency for essential imports played a vital role in maintaining economic security during the recent 12-day conflict, praising the Central Bank of Iran (CBI)'s performance in stabilizing markets and preventing panic.

Seyed Yousef Hosseini told IRNA that the coordinated response from the government and the Central Bank helped manage the foreign currency market effectively, ensuring the timely supply of basic goods and medicine while avoiding a surge in demand for hard currency. ▶ Page 4

US move against UN Gaza investigator comes as a shock

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – The United States' decision to impose sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, has ignited a global outcry and intensified debates over international justice, the independence of UN mechanisms, and the limits of state power.

Announced by Secretary of State Marco Rubio on July 9, the sanctions mark an unprecedented punitive measure against a senior UN official for her investigations and outspoken criticism of Israel's military actions in Gaza.

Ridiculous accusations

Francesca Albanese, an Italian human rights lawyer, has been a vocal critic of Israel's 21-month military campaign in Gaza, which she has characterized as "genocide" and a violation of international law. ▶ Page 5

Is Geagea pushing his ministers to resign?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea continues to prioritize the slogan of "disarming Hezbollah," particularly following the diminished influence of U.S. envoys in Lebanon's political landscape.

Simultaneously, Geagea has often expressed his annoyance with President Joseph Aoun's rational approach on this matter, accusing him of being "excessively afraid of a civil war."

"If the Lebanese state disarms any armed faction, this is not considered a civil war; rather, it is a natural action taken by the state to extend its authority over all its territory," Geagea has said.

What Geagea and his ministers speaks of have failed to achieve anything noteworthy. ▶ Page 5

Russia's Lavrov denounces US strikes on Iran as brazen NPT violation

TEHRAN – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov condemned recent U.S. military strikes against Iran during his address at the East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Thursday, labeling the attacks a "violation of international law and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)."

Lavrov's remarks follow the U.S.-Israeli 12-day war on Iran, which started on June 13 with Israel launching surprise strikes on Iranian nuclear, military, and civilian sites.

"The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must ensure the security of Iran's nuclear facilities and resolve disputes through dialogue," Lavrov declared, emphasizing that Iran—unlike Israel—is a signatory to the NPT and thus entitled to peaceful nuclear technology.

His statement echoed a formal Russian Foreign Ministry protest issued days earlier, which slammed the U.S. for a "blatant violation of the UN Charter" and warned the strikes "dealt a substantial blow to the global non-proliferation regime." ▶ Page 2

US-backed Israeli aggression a gross violation of intl. law: Iran envoy to UN

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, has strongly condemned the Israeli regime's U.S.-supported military offensive on Iran, describing it as a flagrant breach of international law and the UN Charter.

In a formal letter submitted Thursday to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Security Council President Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Iravani enclosed a detailed report from the Iranian Foreign Ministry documenting the "illegal and coordinated attacks" by Israel on Iranian soil in June.

"In the early hours of June 13, 2025, while Iranian families were asleep, the Israeli regime—with extensive military, intelligence, and political backing from the United States and certain Western countries—launched a series of air, missile, and drone strikes targeting residential neighborhoods, civilian infrastructure, and peaceful nuclear facilities," Iravani wrote. ▶ Page 3

VP says Leader, public unity key to Iran's resilience in 12-day war

TEHRAN – Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref says the government's rapid response, strategic planning, and the leadership of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei enabled the country to effectively manage the 12-day conflict with Israel.

In an interview with KHAMENEI.IR, Aref detailed the government's handling of the war, outlined contingency planning, and warned of potential post-ceasefire threats, stating that Iran remains on high alert despite the temporary pause in hostilities.

Aref said the administration had been operating under "wartime assumptions" well before the conflict erupted, citing the assassination of a foreign guest in Iran as the trigger. "By October, we had shifted internally to a wartime framework while projecting calm to the public," he said.

Two economic scenarios were drafted: one based on daily oil exports of 500,000 barrels and one assuming zero exports. ▶ Page 3

Over 20 musicians honor BDS anniversary with powerful album for Palestine

More than 20 musicians supporting the Palestinian cause released a 13-track double album titled "Unboundable" on Tuesday, marking the 20th anniversary of the launch of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

The release, the third in the Amplify Palestine series, comes as Israel's brutal war on Gaza continues, with human rights experts warning that the military campaign, alongside the ongoing starvation and suspension of aid entry, amounts to genocide, The New Arab reported.

These include the 2023 cancellation of a concert by "Unboundable" contributor Gabby Fluke-Mogul by the Fuse Factory, and Cornell University's recent cancellation of concerts by singer Kehlani. ▶ Page 8



IRNA (Rasoul Shojafel)

Pezeshkian inaugurates 1st phase of Iran's largest CSP plant

TEHRAN— Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian inaugurated the first phase of the country's largest concentrated solar power (CSP) plant in Isfahan province via video conference on Thursday.

The first phase of the 600-megawatt Aftab-e Shargh solar power plant project of Mobarakeh Steel Complex has the capacity of 120 megawatts.

The project is being implemented on an area of 1,200 hectares and with a final capacity of 600 MW in five 120-MW zones. Installation, operation, and synchronization of 11 MVTs equipment only 15 days after entering the site was one of the records registered in this project.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Undermining the enemy's calculation

Farhikhtegan wrote in an analysis: The recent war, despite all the costs, it brought us two important treasures: internal cohesion and external unity. As the internal cohesion is valuable and needs to be protected, the external unity must also be preserved. The enemy attacked Iran with assumption to weaken unity at home and strategic depth abroad. Therefore, we must precisely undermine the enemy's strategy. Just as military exercises are carried out to demonstrate power and authority, we also need to demonstrate the power of our cohesion and unity. The Iranian people's resentment against the invaders and traitors has, to some extent, destroyed the illusion of the loss of the Islamic Republic's social capital. Measures have also been taken to strengthen the strategic depth of the Islamic Republic abroad. Foreign individuals, groups, and institutions must plan and prepare the ground for expressing support for the Islamic Republic.

Keyhan: Leader presence at Ashura ritual a manifestation of authority and resilience

Kayhan dedicated its editorial to the presence of the Revolutionary Leader in the Ashura night ritual and wrote: This presence won worldwide attention in global media, astonished the world leaders and shocked the Zionists and the American and European leaders. This shows consequential developments in the region and the world in the midst of the unfinished war against Iran. Analysts and global media are now focused on several important propositions that the presence of the Leader proved: First, the threat of the Islamic Republic to Israel until its destruction still remains. Second, Trump lost the gamble, and the situation has become much more complicated for him. Third, Iran's missile and nuclear programs and enrichment activities have remained in place, and the path its nuclear activities will take has become clearer. Also, the Iranians did not fail, and the 24-hour and maximum one-week plan to collapse the Islamic Republic and destroy Iran and the resistance front failed. With the recent war, the Iranian nation has come to understand that in this world, the law of the jungle prevails, and if the country is not strong, it cannot continue to exist. Iran has decided to remain strong with a strong leadership and to stay strong until the end.

Russia's Lavrov denounces US strikes on Iran as brazen NPT violation



Russian FM Sergey Lavrov takes part in the 15th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the countries participating in the East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 11, 2025.

From page 1 ▶ The June 22 U.S. bombing targeted nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, with President Donald Trump claiming he "obliterated" Iran's enrichment capabilities, even though intelligence leaks and expert assessments cast doubt on that claim.

Lavrov also called for an immediate extension of the fragile "ceasefire between Iran and Israel," which took effect on June 24 after 12 days of hostilities.

Moscow has consistently described the U.S.-Israeli actions as destabilizing "gunboat diplomacy," particularly criticizing Washington's justification of "preventive self-defense"—a concept former President Dmitry Medvedev dismissed as legally indefensible.

Iran: Israeli threat is a regional common concern

In an interview with Abbas Khomeini, an expert on West Asia issues, the Iran newspaper discussed an unprecedented shift in the Arab governments' position toward Iran in Israel's 12-day war against Iran. He said: The countries of the region expressed support for Iran in Israel's 12-day war against Iran, while in previous years we witnessed an ambivalent position by these countries. The starting point of this change of positions should be seen for the first time in Operations True Promise I and II. Israel revealed weak image of itself in the Arab and Islamic world. The second point is that after the events in Syria (the fall of the Assad government in December 24), the possible defensive shield of the Arab nations (against Israel) has gone in the air. The third point is that the Americans and Israelis are talking about changing the face of the Middle East, that is to say creating "new Middle East." With this situation, Arab countries see their territorial integrity is under threat and realized that it is Iran and its military power that has and will stand up to covetous eyes on the territory of Arab countries.

Jam-e-Jam: Coup not possible in Islamic Republic

In an interview with Jam-e-Jam, former diplomat Mohammad Hassan Ghadiri addressed the issue of Iran-U.S. negotiations. He said: Negotiations with the U.S. were never beneficial for Iran. Even when the JCPOA negotiations were underway, it was clear that even if an agreement was reached, the U.S. would not honor it. These indirect negotiations that have been held to date will not yield results because the U.S. is fundamentally an enemy of Iran and will use any trick, including negotiations, to undermine Iran. We must know that negotiations with the U.S. have not had any positive results. The aggression that the U.S. committed against Iran made the public more aware of the nature of the U.S. and the Zionist regime and made the public more united. The Zionist regime carried out a multilateral program in Iran in coordination with the U.S. and Europe. They were thinking of a coup to overthrow the establishment. However, a coup is not possible in the Islamic Republic system.

'Firmer reprisal' awaits aggressors, Pezeshkian warns while demanding IAEA reform

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The statement came during a phone discussion with European Council President Antonio Costa, underscoring Tehran's posture of strength in the wake of the U.S.-Israeli 12-day war on Iran.

Pezeshkian stressed that Iran's resolute retaliation to the Israeli aggression last month, which resulted in over a thousand martyrs, including top commanders, showcased its steadfast determination.

He pointedly noted that the Israeli offensive, conducted with U.S. coordination despite ongoing indirect nuclear talks, was ultimately halted only after Iran's powerful retaliatory strikes under Operation True Promise III forced a halt in fighting declared by Washington on Tel Aviv's behalf on June 24.

The U.S. had escalated by attacking Iranian nuclear facilities on June 22, prompting an immediate Iranian strike on a major U.S. base in Qatar.

Turning to Iran's peaceful nuclear program, the President



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) and European Council President Antonio Costa holding phone talks.

laid out Tehran's conditions for re-engaging with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He firmly stated that the "resumption of cooperation hinges on the correction of the double standards regarding Iran's nuclear case."

This demand builds upon Iran's latest legal actions. In late June, the Constitutional Council ratified a parliamentary bill mandating the suspension of all cooperation with the IAEA, which was subsequently signed into law by Pezeshkian.

This move, President Pezeshkian explained, was a necessary "reaction to the biased and un-

professional performance" of the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi.

The suspension law cites the agency's compromised credibility due to its lack of impartiality in reports, its silence over attacks on Iran's sovereign nuclear facilities, and its failure to condemn blatant violations of international law.

It mandates that cooperation will only resume once Iran receives full assurances regarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, specifically the security of its nuclear sites and scientists, and the recognition of its inherent rights under Article 4 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including ura-

nium enrichment.

President Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's fundamental commitment to "constructive interaction and effective dialogue with the world," stressing Tehran's dedication to regional and global peace and security.

He pointed to the Israeli regime as the source of the recent disruption, describing its actions as coordinated with the U.S. "Undoubtedly, the Zionist regime would not have been able to carry out such an action without coordination and permission from the United States," he stated.

Despite the tensions, President Pezeshkian expressed Iran's readiness to improve relations and resolve issues with the European Union through "constructive and respectful dialogue."

European Council President Costa, in response, conveyed the EU's condolences for the Iranian lives lost in the Israeli attacks and affirmed the bloc's insistence on resolving issues diplomatically.

Costa also said he urges international organizations to avoid double-standard policies, aligning with a key Iranian demand regarding the IAEA.

Iran's Army Chief surveys units, stresses steadfast defense



Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami (center) during a meeting with Air Force personnel in Shahid Lashgari Airbase in Tehran on July 11, 2025.

TEHRAN – Major General Amir Hatami, Commander-in-Chief of Iran's Army (Artesh), conducted an unannounced visit on Friday to Shahid Lashgari Airbase (First Tactical Air Base) in Tehran, accompanied by Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, Deputy Coordinator of the Army, and Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi, Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF).

The high-level delegation toured key operational units, with General Hatami personally evaluating the combat capabilities of one of Iran's most important

air Force bases.

General Hatami, recently appointed to his role by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was Iran's defense minister from 2017 to 2021.

His Friday inspection included air defense batteries, mechanized brigades, and logistics hubs.

His recent appointment highlighted a directive from the Leader calling for "a transformative and revolutionary approach" to military readiness in the face of evolving regional threats.

Silence is complicity: Iran envoy to Denmark slams Israeli attacks on hospitals

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador to Denmark has condemned the Israeli military's attacks on Iranian medical facilities, warning that the silence of the international medical community in the face of such assaults is not an act of neutrality but one of complicity.

In a letter to Danish Health Minister Sophie Løhde Jakobsen, Ambassador Mohammad Reza Sajadi described the strikes as clear violations of international law and fundamental humanitarian norms.

"The deafening silence of the global medical community in the face of such assaults is both alarming and revealing," Sajadi wrote.

In the letter, the ambassador pointed to Israel's repeated bombings of hospitals in Gaza in recent months, which he said resulted in the deaths of countless civilians, including patients, doctors, nurses, and displaced persons seeking shelter. Many of the medical centers were left in ruins or rendered inoperable.

He rejected Israeli justifications for the attacks—such as claims that Hamas used hospitals as command centers or civilian shields—as baseless excuses that failed to convince any reasonable observer. "The destruction left behind spoke louder than any justification," he noted.

Referring to Israel's recent military strikes on Iran, Sajadi wrote: "Targeting healthcare facilities during military operations removes any doubt about the regime's true intentions: maximizing human suffering. Hospitals are meant to save lives. Destroying them only ensures greater loss of life."

According to the ambassador, in just 12 days of Israeli attacks on Iran, eight hospitals, 11 ambulances, a Red Crescent building, and numerous emergency responders were directly hit, causing widespread civilian casualties.

In addition, Sajadi reported that several nearby medical buildings—including the clin-

ic at Evin Prison—were seriously damaged or completely destroyed. At least 18 medical staff, including six doctors, were killed or injured in the attacks.

The ambassador emphasized that none of the individuals Israel claimed to be targeting—such as military commanders or nuclear scientists—were present at any of the medical centers that came under fire.

"These attacks are not only morally indefensible but also constitute flagrant breaches of international law, the UN Charter, and the core principles of humanitarian conduct," Sajadi wrote.

He called on the international medical community—particularly in Western countries that claim to uphold human rights and the rule of law—to take a firm and public stance. "Remaining silent in the face of such brutality is not neutrality—it is complicity," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei personally commanded war room

Parliament speaker reveals details of Iran's war management during 12-day fight with Israel

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – In an interview addressing the recent Iran-Israel conflict, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf disclosed that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, played a pivotal role in orchestrating Iran's decisive strikes, which forced both Israel and Washington to seek a ceasefire after just 12 days of war.

Iran was thrust into shock in the early hours of June 13 when Israel, backed by the United States, carried out airstrikes on residential buildings in Tehran, assassinating several top Iranian generals in an attempt to cripple any immediate retaliation. The Tehran Times understands that American officials had previously assured Iran that no war would erupt as long as indirect nuclear negotiations continued—talks that were set to resume just days before the sudden Israeli attacks. The U.S. directly joined the war on June 22, bombing nuclear sites that had already been attacked by Israel in the initial days of the war.

"The Leader appointed new commanders 3 or 4 hours after the assassinations. He summoned the newly appointed officials, briefed them, in person, gave them directives and deployed them to the battle-



Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf addressing the Iran-Israel war in an interview

field," Qalibaf explained after stating that Ayatollah Khamenei played the same role he did in the 1980s, when southern Iran had been invaded by Iraq under Saddam Hussein.

Ayatollah Khamenei was also swift in addressing the Iranian nation. A few hours after the initial Israeli airstrikes, the Leader issued a video message, telling Iranians that Israel was going to pay for its crimes and become "miserable".

Iran's retaliation began on day 1 of the war, as barrages of missiles rained on the occupied territories and hit strategic Israeli sites. That saga continued until the very last minutes of the war.

The regime has been in full swing

to hide the aftermath of Iran's attacks, but reports emerging during and after the war show the casualties and damage is significantly higher than that which has been reported by Hebrew media. One American analyst and former military figure with ties and connections in the occupied territories has said that at least one-third of Tel Aviv has been damaged by Iranian missiles. A recent report by The Telegraph also revealed that at least five important Israeli military sites have been destroyed or badly damaged. Other information says Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office located at the Kirya compound — the Israeli military's nerve centre — was hit and

will be under re-construction for several months. Some of the other destroyed sites include the Amman and Mossad headquarters, the Weizmann Institute, as well as oil refineries and power plants in Haifa.

In his interview, Qalibaf said Israel suffered significantly greater damage than publicly acknowledged. "In the final days of the war, 90% of our missiles successfully struck their targets," he stated, adding that Israel's true death toll probably reached at least 500—far higher than the officially reported figure of 29.

Addressing the indirect negotiations with the U.S., Ghalibaf condemned Washington for attacking Iran during active diplomacy. In response to American aggression, Iran struck the region's most critical U.S. military installation – Qatar's Al Udeid Airbase. Of the 14 missiles launched at the target, six found their mark. U.S. President Donald Trump had claimed that all the missiles were intercepted, and one landed in an open area. A recent report by the Associated Press showed that at least one geodesic dome in Al Udeid was destroyed. The structure reportedly contained critical American communications equipment used for secure operations.

US-backed Israeli aggression a gross violation of intl. law: Iran envoy to UN

From Page 1 ▶ According to the Iranian envoy, the attacks left 1,100 civilians dead, including 132 women and 45 children, and wounded over 5,700 others.

"These heinous crimes represent serious violations of the UN Charter, international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions, and multiple human rights instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)," he stated.

Iravani further noted that a second round of U.S. military attacks on June 22 compounded the violations, targeting Iranian nuclear sites amid the broader escalation.

He emphasized that Israel's deliberate targeting of homes, hospitals, ambulances, energy infrastructure, and nuclear facilities under IAEA supervision constitutes war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression under international law.

Describing the report as "a glimpse into the suffering endured by Iranian civilians, particularly women and children," Iravani called for urgent accountability and the enforcement of international legal norms.

Addressing the UN Security Council during an emergency session convened in response to the Israeli strikes, Iravani demanded "concrete and immediate action" from the international community to hold the perpetrators accountable and prevent further deterioration of global peace and security.

He also criticized the "shameful double standards" of Western powers—particularly the United States, the United Kingdom, and France—for turning a blind eye to Israeli attacks not only in Iran, but also in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.

The Israeli assault on June 13 marked one of the most extensive military campaigns against Iran to



date, claiming hundreds of civilian lives and targeting both military personnel and infrastructure, including several high-ranking Iranian commanders.

In retaliation, Iran launched Operation True Promise III, a sweeping military response that struck strategic Israeli military, intelligence, industrial, and energy sites deep inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

The conflict escalated further on June 22, when the United

States—despite ongoing nuclear talks with Tehran since April—joined the fighting by targeting multiple Iranian nuclear facilities. In response, Iran hit a major U.S. military base in Qatar with precision strikes.

The hostilities came to a halt on June 24, when U.S. President Donald Trump, speaking on behalf of the Israeli regime, announced a unilateral cessation of attacks, effectively signalling Israel's withdrawal from further aggression.

VP says Leader, public unity key to Iran's resilience in 12-day war

TEHRAN – Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref says the government's rapid response, strategic planning, and the leadership of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei enabled the country to effectively manage the 12-day conflict with Israel.

In an interview with KHAMENEI.IR, Aref detailed the government's handling of the war, outlined contingency planning, and warned of potential post-ceasefire threats, stating that Iran remains on high alert despite the temporary pause in hostilities.

Aref said the administration had been operating under "wartime assumptions" well before the conflict erupted, citing the assassination of a foreign guest in Iran as the trigger. "By October, we had shifted internally to a wartime framework while projecting calm to the public," he said.

Two economic scenarios were drafted: one based on daily oil exports of 500,000 barrels and one assuming zero exports.

Following the first Israeli strike, the government convened an emergency session, delegating full authority to provincial governors under Article 127 of the Constitution and activating four crisis task forces on economy, infrastructure, security, and public messaging. Each was granted executive power to manage its respective domain.

Despite Israeli bombardments, Aref said the



country avoided supply shocks and panic buying. "We did not tap into strategic reserves. The system held," he said.

Gasoline consumption briefly surged to nearly 200 million liters—up from the daily average of 120 million—but was quickly stabilized. Aref credited calm public behavior, swift logistical response, and the commitment of truck drivers and wholesalers. "In some cases, goods were sold below cost in solidarity with the people," he noted.

According to Aref, Israel's military campaign failed to achieve its goals: crippling Iran's defense command, triggering domestic unrest, and forcing Iran to the negotiating table.

"None of these materialized," Aref said. "The Iranian people stood firm. The Leader's messages shaped public confidence and solidarity. What Israel encountered was a unified, resilient nation."

Aref cautioned that the pause in hostilities should not be mistaken for lasting peace. "Fig-

ures like Netanyahu and Trump are not reliable. Lebanon's experience taught us that the largest number of martyrs can come after a ceasefire," he said.

All ministries have been instructed to submit detailed wartime reports to assess gaps and reinforce national readiness. "If conflict resumes, our response will be faster and more forceful," he said.

In response to U.S. President Donald Trump's call for unconditional negotiations, Aref said Iran rejects any notion of surrender.

"The word 'surrender' has no place in Iran's political or defense doctrine. We are not aggressors—but we will finish any war forced upon us."

He added that Iran's foreign policy is based on dignity, wisdom, and national interest, and that the country will not compromise its principles under pressure.

Aref praised Ayatollah Khamenei's decisive wartime leadership, especially his swift appointment of new commanders following battlefield martyrdoms. He also highlighted the Leader's unexpected appearance at the Imam Khomeini Hosseiniyeh on Ashura night as a turning point.

"His presence changed the national mood and sent a message of defiance and calm. It was a moment that reminded the world—and ourselves—that Iran's strength lies in faith, unity, and leadership."

Yazdani expected to be fit within two months

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani is expected to recover and be fit within two months.

Yazdani underwent shoulder surgery following his silver medal achievement at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Iran's freestyle wrestling coach, Pejman Dorostkar, announced that Yazdani should be ready to compete within this timeframe.

The wrestler missed the 2025 World Championships, scheduled for September in Zagreb, Croatia, to minimize the risk of re-injury.

Yazdani won a gold medal in the 74kg weight class at the 2016 Rio Olympics and secured two silver medals at subsequent Olympics—Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024—in the 86kg category. Nicknamed "The Greatest," Yazdani plans to continue his career in the 97kg division.

Iran fall in FIFA rankings

TEHRAN – Iran moved down two spots in the latest FIFA world rankings published on Thursday.

Team Melli have moved down to 20th place in the rankings.

Japan are still the best Asian team in FIFA rankings, sitting in 17th place.

Argentina retained top spot in the latest FIFA rankings published on Thursday. Spain and France complete the top three, while England and Brazil occupy the fourth and fifth places, respectively.

The next edition of the FIFA Men's World Rankings will be published on Sept. 18.

Iran kick off AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 qualifier on high

TEHRAN – Iran kicked off their AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 Qualifiers Group A campaign with a 4-0 win against Singapore on Thursday.

Iran will next face Bhutan on Sunday while Singapore – who suffered a second consecutive defeat – will meet Jordan on the same day.

Iran broke the deadlock in the 18th minute after Singapore failed to deal with Zahra Ghanbari's corner after Yasmine Zaharin nodded her clearance into the path of Fatemeh Shaban whose left footed shot sailed past Shakira.

The second half resumed with Iran extending their lead two minutes in when substitute Zahra Alizadeh evaded her marker at the edge of the area before setting up Sara Didar to slot the ball home.

Shakira then had to be on her toes six minutes later to keep out Negin Zandi's glancing header off Ghanbari's set-piece but Iran's pressure was too much for Singapore to take as they conceded again in the 77th minute.

Atefeh Imani played the ball into space for Zahra Sarbali, whose shot from an acute angle led to Singapore's Yasmine Zaharin turning the ball into her own net.

Iran capped their fine start in the 86th minute courtesy of Ghanbari, who exchanged passes with Didar before storming into the box and executing a composed finish.

Esteghlal complete signing of Rustam Ashurmatov

TEHRAN – Iran's Esteghlal football team completed the signing of Rubin Kazan defender Rustam Ashurmatov.

Ashurmatov has penned a two-year deal with Esteghlal.

The 28-year-old player has been a member of the Uzbekistan national team since 2017.

The Blues will represent Iran at the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two.

Iran volleyball team leave for Gdansk

TEHRAN – The Iran volleyball national team left Belgrade for Gdansk, Poland Wednesday night.

Team Melli will play two friendly matches with Poland as part of preparation for the Week 3 of the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Roberto Piazza's side achieved victories over Serbia, Argentina, and the Netherlands in Week 2, but suffered a loss to Germany.

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

Ex-Real Madrid keeper Adan on Esteghlal's radar

TEHRAN – Iran's Esteghlal football club have reportedly set their sight on signing Spanish goalkeeper Antonio Adan.

A youth product of Real Madrid, where he acted mainly as a backup, Adan spent most of his career with Betis.

He totaled 129 La Liga matches for those two clubs, as well as Atletico Madrid for whom he signed in 2018.

Esteghlal, headed by Portuguese coach Ricardo Sá Pinto, are going to find a replacement for Hossein Hosseini.

Khosro Heydari named Esteghlal assistant coach

TEHRAN – Former Esteghlal right back Khosro Heydari was named the team's assistant coach.

He has penned a one-year deal with Esteghlal.

Heydari simultaneously leads Esteghlal's U-23 football team.

Esteghlal have recently hired Ricardo Sá Pinto as head coach.

The Blues will represent Iran at the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two.

Persepolis eye Ahmad Nourollahi

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club have reportedly set their sights on signing Al Wahda midfielder Ahmad Nourollahi.

Although Persepolis previously expressed interest in signing the 32-year-old midfielder, their request was rejected by the Emirati club. However, recent media reports suggest that there is now a possibility Nourollahi could join the Iranian team.

Nourollahi was a member of Persepolis from 2014 to 2021 before leaving to join Shabab Al Ahli. He was transferred to Shabab Al Ahli after two years.

The Iranian club has also appointed Vahid Hashemian as the new head coach, replacing Ismail Kartal.

Reza Ghandipour signs for Shabab Al Ahli

TEHRAN – Emirati football club Shabab Al Ahli completed the signing of Iranian rising star Reza Ghandipour.

The 19-year-old winger joined Shabab Al Ahli from Paykan.

Ghandipour had also been linked with a move to the Russian side Akhmat Grozny and French football club Le Havre.

He will join his countrymen Sardar Azmoun and Saied Ezatollahi in the Emirati side.

Purchasing 15 new drilling rigs for oil, gas industry on agenda

TEHRAN- The managing director of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) said that purchasing 15 new drilling rigs for the oil and gas industry is on the agenda.

Mehran Makvandi said that a plan to purchase 15 onshore drilling rigs with different capacities and a value of over \$800 million has been prepared, which is being implemented with the support of the Ministry of Oil and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

Pointing out that last year, the company was able to drill, repair, and complete 100 oil and gas wells using 62 active drilling rigs and the return of two more rigs to operational lines, he added: "Of this number, 24 were development and explanatory wells and 76 were dedicated to repair and completion operations."

He attributed this success to careful planning, interdepartmental coordination, increased operational efficiency, and strengthened integrated technical services, and noted: "This performance is a significant leap compared to previous years, given the economic and sanctions conditions."

Makvandi stated that the reactivation of idle rigs played an effective role in this success, adding: "Increasing productivity, reducing unproductive times, and relying on domestic capacity are the main pillars of this achievement."

The managing director of the NIDC further emphasized: "These rigs are designed for descriptive and exploratory purposes and will be equipped with the latest technologies. Specialized technical service equipment including high-pressure pumps, and well testing are also on the purchase list."

He continued: "The convergence of this equipment with the current fleet and the integrated planning management of the National Iranian Oil Company is underway in the form of a joint supervisory working group and in coordination with the Ministry of Oil."

As previously announced by the NIDC deputy managing director for drilling operations, the company has completed the drilling and development of 20 onshore oil and gas wells during the first two months of the current Iranian year (March 20 – May 21).

Hamidreza Shafiee Makvandi said the wells included four development and appraisal wells and 16 workover or completion wells.

Of the total wells drilled, 16 were located in oilfields operated by subsidiaries of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), one in the Central Iranian Oil Fields Company's operational area, one for the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), one for Pars Oil and Gas Company, and one as part of a project completed and handed over to the client, he added.

Shafiee Makvandi said total drilling depth during the period reached 21,773 meters, marking an increase of 1,619 meters compared to the same period last year.

He also noted that 12 drilling rigs were relocated across operational zones during this period.

Also as announced by the NIDC managing



director, National Iranian Drilling Company completed the drilling and finalization of 100 oil and gas wells across onshore and offshore fields in the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20).

Mehran Makvandi said the company's primary mission is to provide drilling services and specialized operations for oil and gas producers, describing drilling as "the front line of production" and a vital step in preserving and boosting output.

Of the 100 wells completed in the past year, 24 were development wells and 76 were workovers. A total of 74 wells—14 development and 60 workover wells—were handed over to the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), he said.

Makvandi added that 11 wells were drilled in fields managed by the Central Oil Fields Company, three by the Iranian Offshore Oil Company, seven under development projects run by the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company, and five were completed on a project basis.

He emphasized the strategic role of the National Drilling Company as one of the upstream arms of the National Iranian Oil Company, contributing to hydrocarbon supply and helping reduce Iran's energy imbalance. A portion of the company's resources is currently allocated to drilling gas wells, he said.

The total drilling footage reached 113,520 meters in 1403, up by 28,863 meters from the previous year, which Makvandi attributed to a more than fivefold increase in development well drilling. During the same period, the company carried out 4,538 technical service operations and 1,473 special service operations across more than 20 specialized service categories—marking a significant rise compared to the previous year.

Makvandi also noted that 17 drilling rigs were relocated across operational zones. Of the company's 74 land and offshore rigs, 64 are currently active in 10 provinces, engaged in development, appraisal, exploration, and repair-completion projects.

Looking ahead, Makvandi said the company aims to accelerate drilling operations and fulfill the strategic plans issued by NIOC in the Iranian year 1404 (starting March 21, 2025). This includes the continuation of equipment modernization efforts that began in 1403.

"With the strengthening of our fleet, rig upgrades, and the adoption of new technologies, we expect to see a major leap in productivity, reduced drilling downtime, improved efficiency, and increased revenue," he said.

South Pars 8th refinery launches major overhaul

TEHRAN – The eighth refinery of the South Pars Gas Complex has begun a major overhaul, with more than 250,000 man-hours of work scheduled, according to the refinery's director.

Hadi Chabok said Thursday night that the overhaul started on July 1 with the shutdown of Phase 21 and will continue through July 19.

This year's maintenance program includes planned shutdowns of Phases 20 and 21, as well as an 11-day complete shutdown of the refinery. During this period, 3,829 maintenance operations will be carried out, requiring approximately 256,000 man-hours of labor.

Key technical activities include internal inspections of 104 critical units, repair and calibration of hundreds of industrial valves, preventive testing and maintenance on over 2,000 mechanical and instrumentation systems, as well as upgrades to electrical and control infrastructure across various units.

"With strict adherence to safety protocols and operational standards, we aim to complete this year's overhaul without incident and on schedule," Chabok said.

South Pars, located in southern Iran, is the world's largest gas field, shared between Iran and Qatar. The Iranian section is divided into 24 phases, each comprising onshore refineries and offshore platforms. The complex is a critical component of Iran's energy infrastructure, supplying over 70 percent of the country's domestic gas needs.

The eighth refinery, which processes gas from Phases 20 and 21, plays a key role in meeting peak seasonal demand and ensuring stable supply to households and industries. Regular overhauls are essential for maintaining the operational integrity of the aging facilities and maximizing output from the high-pressure gas reservoirs in the Persian Gulf.

Iran has invested heavily in expanding and maintaining the South Pars complex despite sanctions, which have complicated access to foreign equipment and services. Officials say these annual maintenance shutdowns are scheduled to minimize disruption and ensure the sustainability of the field's long-term production.

Iran leads global oil output growth with 13% rise in 2024

TEHRAN – Iran recorded the highest increase in crude oil production among all countries in 2024, boosting its daily output by 374,000 barrels, while top producers like Saudi Arabia and Russia saw significant declines, according to the latest OPEC statistics.

Data published in the 60th edition of the OPEC Annual Statistical Bulletin shows Iran's crude output surged 13 percent from 2.884 million barrels per day in 2023 to 3.257 million barrels per day in 2024, marking the largest production gain globally.

The United States ranked second, increasing its daily crude output by 274,000 barrels — a two percent rise. Nigeria, Venezuela, and Argentina followed with respective increases of 158,000, 138,000, and 65,000 barrels per day.

In contrast, Saudi Arabia experienced a sharp production drop



for the second consecutive year, cutting output by 651,000 barrels per day — a seven percent decline. Russia also reported a decrease of 404,000 barrels, while Iraq's output fell by 256,000 barrels per day.

OPEC data reveals that global oil production dropped by 767,000 barrels per day in 2024 compared with the previous year. Of that total, 572,000 barrels per

day of the reduction came from OPEC member states.

The rise in Iran's oil production aligns with its continued efforts to expand exports, despite U.S. sanctions that restrict direct access to global markets. According to recent government data, Iran's crude oil and condensate exports have reached their highest levels in over five years, with China remaining the main des-

tinuation. Analysts estimate that Iran has been shipping more than 1.5 million barrels per day in recent months, aided by discreet logistics networks and reflagged tankers.

Energy officials say the increased output and export volumes reflect improved infrastructure, enhanced refining capabilities, and the use of non-dollar financial channels to facilitate transactions.

These developments have bolstered Iran's foreign currency revenues, offering a crucial buffer to its sanctions-hit economy.

The production surge also signals Iran's intention to reclaim market share within OPEC and strengthen its regional influence. While negotiations over the country's nuclear program remain stalled, Tehran has increasingly relied on oil diplomacy to deepen ties with Asian buyers and maintain economic resilience.

CBI praised for ensuring economic security during 12-day conflict



From Page 1 ▶ "In times of crisis and high currency volatility, it is typically expected that the dollar rate will soar. But during the 12-day war, the Central Bank's decisive intervention prevented instability and maintained market calm," said Hosseini.

He noted that the dollar experienced only limited fluctuations, and even returned to a lower range shortly after the ceasefire — a result he attributed to sound policymaking and timely execution.

Public restraint helped stabilize the market

Hosseini emphasized that public behavior

was another key factor in preserving market stability.

"The Iranian people acted rationally and avoided panic-buying or hoarding foreign currency."

Their calm response greatly reduced pressure on the market," he said. "This unity among citizens and economic managers ensured the continued availability of essential goods without major disruption."

Currency supply for essential goods prioritized

The ICCIMA official credited the CBI with giving top priority to supplying currency for medicine and essential imports, helping to avert shortages and sharp price spikes.

He also acknowledged the close cooperation of relevant ministries, which oversaw the distribution of goods and maintained regulatory oversight throughout the conflict.

Hosseini highlighted the hands-on approach of the Central Bank governor, who visited bank branches in Tehran during the early days of the conflict to ensure continuity of

banking services.

Despite cyberattacks and minor technical disruptions, the banking system remained operational with minimal interruption, thanks to round-the-clock efforts by senior managers and frontline staff.

Confidence in new economy minister boosts stability

Hosseini, a former head of the foreign exchange committee at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, also pointed to growing public confidence in the new Minister of Economy.

"With his experience and expertise, the new minister has met the expectations of both the public and the business community, implementing sound policies in challenging times," he said.

He concluded that the Central Bank's performance during the 12-day war was a successful example of crisis management.

"This experience proved that with careful planning, national unity, and decisive leadership, economic security can be preserved even under the most difficult circumstances."

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$937m to Turkey in a quarter

TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$937 million to Turkey 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 Turkey was Iran's fourth top non-oil export destination in the mentioned three-month period.

Exporting commodities valued at \$1.986 billion to Iran, Turkey was Iran's third source of non-oil import in the said time span, the IRICA head added.

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of IRICA for planning and international affairs, Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$6.8 billion to Turkey in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

Akbarpour said that Turkey was Iran's fourth top export destination in the previous year.

Exporting commodities valued at \$12.4 billion to Iran, Turkey was Iran's third top source of import in that year, the official added.

On April 14, the secretary of Iran's Free Trade and Special Economic Zones High Council said that Iran is pursuing the creation of a joint free trade zone with Turkey, as part of broader efforts to resolve long-pending investment challenges and boost cooperation with neighboring countries.

Speaking to Tasnim News Agency, Reza Masrouf said a special task force has been formed to resolve unresolved projects that have lingered in Iran's free zones for over 15 years.

"We are actively following up on the establishment of a joint free trade zone with Turkey," he noted, adding that a joint working group between Iran and Turkey will take charge of advancing the plan.

Masrouf stressed the need for a major shift in investment strategy across the country's free trade zones, stating, "We must move decisively beyond what was done in the past."

Investment incentives should be swiftly approved and implemented by each zone's board of directors."

To facilitate bilateral cooperation, a joint forum is planned for July this year, bringing together Iranian and Turkish free zone officials and investors in one of Iran's free trade zones.

The official said that each zone must update its investment offerings and identify sector-specific priorities to attract investors based on its unique capacities.

He added that investor satisfaction is critical, and new investment decisions are often influenced by the experiences of previous investors.

He criticized prolonged unresolved projects, noting that some have remained inactive for up to 15 years.

"Creating task forces is necessary, but not enough. Problems must be addressed fundamentally."

CEOs must be personally involved, and outcomes should be achieved within six months."

On March 11, Iran's ambassador to Turkey announced a significant rise in bilateral trade between

Tehran and Ankara, stating that the trade volume between the two nations reached \$11.8 billion last year and has surpassed \$17.5 billion as of February this year. The figure is expected to hit \$19 billion by year-end.

According to IRNA, citing Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Mohammad-Hosseini Habibollahzadeh made the remarks during a virtual session of the Iran-Turkey Joint Transport Committee, emphasizing the importance of transit development.

He noted that transit and transport volumes between the two countries have increased by \$7.0 billion this year, though further infrastructural improvements are required in rail, air, maritime, and port sectors.

Habibollahzadeh highlighted the significant traffic between Iran and Turkey, stating that six million passengers and approximately 330,000 trucks crossed the two countries' borders last year.

In response to the growing trade volume, both countries have agreed to increase border crossings from three to five.

Expanding rail connectivity and increasing flights are also part of the agenda.

The envoy welcomed the swift follow-up on recent meetings between the two countries' transport ministers, which reflects a strong commitment to expanding transport and logistics cooperation.

He expressed hope that key decisions would be made to further advance transport ties between Iran's Ministry of Trans-

port and Urban Development and Turkey's Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

Iran's Deputy Transport Minister Saeed Rasouli, emphasized the strategic importance of Iran and Turkey in the southern Caspian Sea corridor linking China to Europe.

He said that transit would remain a key subject in upcoming ministerial talks between the two countries.

Turkey's Deputy Transport Minister, Durmuş Enver reaffirmed Ankara's commitment to expanding transport and transit cooperation, underscoring the need for modern infrastructure and necessary investments.

He also stressed the importance of completing the Iran-Turkey railway connection at the Cheshmeh Soraya border crossing.

The meeting focused on maximizing road, rail, maritime, and air transport cooperation, as well as resolving existing transit challenges.

Other key issues included facilitating border crossings, addressing restrictions and tariffs on Iranian and Turkish fleets, and adjusting fuel pricing for Turkish trucks in Iran.

Discussions also covered the recently launched Tehran-Van passenger train and the possibility of extending the route to Ankara and Istanbul.

Both sides reviewed rail freight operations, plans to boost cargo transport, and the status of empty freight wagons in both countries.

US move against UN Gaza investigator comes as a shock

From page 1 ▶ In her recent report to the UN Human Rights Council, she named over 60 companies—including major US firms—as complicit in supporting Israel's military operations and occupation. Albanese has called for investigations and prosecutions by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of Israeli and US officials and business leaders involved.

The Trump administration justified the sanctions by citing a February 2025 executive order accusing Albanese of engaging in "biased and malicious activities," "unabashed antisemitism," and "support for terrorism."

It further alleged she sent "threatening letters" to US companies, urging ICC prosecutions—claims Albanese and her supporters have strongly denied. The sanctions bar Albanese from entering the US and freeze any assets she or her family may hold in the country. This move follows earlier US sanctions on ICC officials after the court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant.

Global reactions

The United Nations leadership swiftly condemned the sanctions. UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric called them "unacceptable," warning they set a "dangerous precedent" that undermines the independence of UN experts. Jurg Lauber, president of the UN Human Rights Council, emphasized the essential role of special rapporteurs and urged all states to avoid intimidation or reprisals. The Special Procedures Coordination Committee denounced the US action as an attack on the UN's core values.

Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International described the sanctions as an attempt to "silence a UN expert for doing her job," warning that such measures threaten the international system of accountability for serious abuses. Civil society groups worldwide rallied in support of Albanese, cautioning that this move could chill



advocacy for Palestinian rights and justice.

Switzerland, through its UN ambassador Jürg Lauber, called for restraint and respect for the independence of UN experts. Other governments expressed concern about the precedent set by the US, fearing it could erode international human rights protections.

Tehran's response has been particularly forceful. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei condemned the sanctions as an attempt to "suppress truth by sanctions." He highlighted the stark contrast between Albanese's treatment and the warm reception Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu received in Washington despite ICC arrest warrants. Baghaei described the US action as "mafia intimidation techniques" and blatant hypocrisy, underscoring Iran's view of Western double standards.

Francesca Albanese's response

Albanese defiantly rejected the sanctions, calling them "obscene" and reminiscent of "mafia intimidation techniques." She asserted that the sanctions would not deter her "quest for respect for justice and international law" and urged the international community to

"stand together" against action to silence human rights defenders. In interviews she reaffirmed that she was committed to exposing the serious violations and holding all those who committed those violations accountable, regardless of political pressure.

Nobel peace prize nomination

Francesca Albanese has been officially nominated for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize by Aodhan O Riordain, a member of the European Parliament, along with colleagues, in recognition of her courageous work exposing human rights abuses and advocating for peace and justice, particularly in Palestine. Supported by multiple petitions, her nomination highlights her fearless dedication to human rights and embodiment of Nobel values such as courage, dignity, and conflict resolution. Despite facing political opposition and US sanctions accusing her of bias and terrorism support—claims widely dismissed by human rights groups—Albanese remains resolute. Her reports condemn actions in Gaza as genocide and call for an immediate ceasefire.

The Nobel Peace Prize will be

announced on October 10, 2025, with public endorsements raising awareness of her significant role in international human rights.

A critical turning point

The sanctions on Albanese raise serious concerns about the weaponization of unilateral measures to silence dissent. By targeting a UN expert for her mandated work, the US risks legitimizing similar actions by arrogant countries.

The timing, coinciding with Netanyahu's visit to Washington, suggests a strategic alignment with Israel's interests, particularly as it faces ICC arrest warrants for its leaders. The lack of transparency about the sanctions' scope and the reliance on vague accusations of "antisemitism" further erode their legitimacy.

Moreover, the US move contradicts its stated commitment to a rules-based international order. By punishing Albanese for engaging with the ICC, the US undermines the court's independence and the broader framework of international justice.

This aligns with a pattern of selective human rights enforcement, where violations by allies like Israel are shielded, while dissenting voices are suppressed. The sanctions also distract from the substantive issues raised in Albanese's reports, such as corporate complicity in occupation and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which demand urgent attention.

The move risks undermining the UN's human rights mechanisms and emboldening other states to target independent experts. As the international community grapples with the Gaza conflict's toll, the focus should shift from silencing critics to addressing the root causes of violence and ensuring accountability for all parties.

As the international community grapples with Israel's gruesome crimes in Gaza, the focus should shift from silencing critics to bringing the Gaza war criminals to justice.

Rubio, Lavrov discuss Ukraine at ASEAN meeting



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio have met again at the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur, according to Russia's state-run TASS agency, with the war in Ukraine the key focus.

The conversation followed a longer 50-minute meeting between the two top diplomats the previous day.

While no details have yet emerged from Friday's exchange, Rubio told reporters after Thursday's talks that the two sides had discussed a possible "new and different approach" to reviving peace efforts over Ukraine.

"I wouldn't characterise it as something that guarantees peace," he said, "but it's a concept that I'll take back to the president."

Lavrov said on Friday that he set out the Kremlin's position on settling the war. "We discussed Ukraine. We confirmed the position that President [Vladimir] Putin had outlined, including in his July 3 conversation with President [Donald] Trump," Lavrov told Russian media on the sidelines of the ASEAN gathering.

UK protestors to defy Palestine Action ban

Activists are set to stage a second wave of protests this weekend across the UK demanding the government reverse its proscription of the direct action group Palestine Action, MEE reported.

On Saturday, groups of activists will gather for a series of protests coordinated by the campaign group Defend Our Juries (DOJ) in London, Manchester and Cardiff. An independently organised protest will also be staged in Derry in Northern Ireland.

The protestors plan to hold signs reading: "I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action."

This follows the arrest of 29 people under Terrorism Act Section 13, including an 83-year-old retired priest and an emergency worker, for holding the same signs in Parliament Square last weekend.

UN warns strikes in West Bank escalate damage

Ongoing Israeli attacks on towns in the occupied West Bank are causing widespread destruction and severely worsening the humanitarian situation, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Thursday, according to MEMO.

In its daily update on 10 July, OCHA stated that Israeli assaults operations "are causing massive destruction, driving further humanitarian needs and dampening hopes of thousands of displaced families that they will eventually be able to go back home."

The report also noted that settler attacks and harassment against Palestinians have become a daily reality. It highlighted an incident on 3 July in which Israeli settlers attacked and forcibly displaced the Bedouin community of East Al-Muarrajat, located in central West Bank.

OCHA confirmed that "This is the ninth community to be fully displaced in the Ramallah and Jericho areas since January 2023 following the recurrent attacks by Israeli settlers."

Trump imposes 35% tariff on Canada

US President Donald Trump revealed on Thursday that his administration plans to implement a 35% tariff on Canadian imports, set to take effect beginning August 1, Al Mayadeen reported.

"It is a Great Honor for me to send you this letter in that it demonstrates the strengths and commitments of our Trading Relationship, and the fact that the United States of America has agreed to continue working with Canada, despite Canada having financially retaliated against the United States," Trump said in a post on his social media platform Truth Social.

Israel kills Palestinians receiving nutritional aid for children in Gaza

Israeli strikes have killed at least 16 Palestinians, including 10 children and three women, and wounded many others as they attempted to collect nutritional aid for children in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, according to MEE.

The attack occurred near the Tayara roundabout, where crowds of families gathered to receive supplements for their children at a medical point, amid a critical humanitarian crisis that has rendered many in the enclave suffering from malnutrition, Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

EU 'has no money except for war': Hungarian official

The EU is placing Ukraine's military needs above the priorities of the bloc's member states, Hungarian government adviser Balazs Orban has said. He accused EU leaders of always finding money for "war" but not other causes, RT reported.

Leaders of EU nations are considering the creation of a new €100 billion (\$117 billion) fund under the bloc's upcoming seven-year budget to cover expenses for the Ukrainian government, Bloomberg reported this week, citing people familiar with the discussions. Budapest, however, has been a vocal critic of the bloc's approach to the Russia-Ukraine conflict since its onset.

UN says fuel delivery to Gaza in 130 days not sufficient

The UN announced the first delivery of fuel into the Gaza Strip in 130 days on Thursday, but said it was far from sufficient to sustain humanitarian operations, Anadolu Agency reported.

Citing the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said at a news conference that "yesterday, a UN team managed to bring in about 75,000 liters of fuel from Israel into the Gaza Strip. This is the first such provision in 130 days."

He warned, however, that "the amount entered yesterday isn't sufficient to cover even one day of energy requirement."

"Fuel is still running out, and services will shut down if greater volumes do not enter the Gaza Strip immediately," Dujarric stressed, adding that the UN and its partners need "hundreds of thousands of liters of fuel each day to keep essential life-saving and life-sustaining operations going."

Saying that a humanitarian partner in the enclave reported this week that within days fuel shortages could cut off clean drinking water for around 44,000 children, Dujarric noted that it would also "further increase" the risk of water-borne illnesses such as cholera, diarrhea and dysentery.

Is Geagea pushing his ministers to resign?

From page 1 ▶ As he fears missing the opportunity ahead of the May 2026 parliamentary elections, Geagea is exploiting the slogan of disarming the Resistance as propaganda, and may not hesitate to press his ministers to resign and disrupt the government's work for the sake of Lebanon's enemies.

"There is a reality that must be corrected, and if it is not corrected, they will force us to Syria, Israel, or another country," Geagea said, adding, "If the government decides to seize 'illegal weapons,' anyone who violates this must be jailed."

Meanwhile, the government concluded an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to establish the so-called "Resident Representative Office in Lebanon."

The agreement grants employees an extensive range of privileges and immunities, including unlawful exemptions from taxes and customs duties; unrestricted rights to buy, sell, and transfer gold and currency; and immunity from state inspections, confiscation, or arrest.

This non-sovereign agreement exposes the

Western claims of reform as it did not obtain the approval of Parliament, which undermines what remains of sovereignty; if some in Lebanon believe that these alleged reforms are designed to serve the Lebanese, then they are delusional.

The anti-Resistance faction actively promotes the narrative that Lebanon is teetering on the brink of civil war, attributing the crisis to Hezbollah's refusal to relinquish its weapons needed for defending the country.

Pending the U.S. envoy's return before the end of this month, Lebanon will not be given a free hand, as Thomas Barrack has repeatedly asserted in talks with those whom he has met in Beirut that Washington will exert greater pressure on

Lebanon, especially after the failure of the U.S. and Israel's aggression against Iran.

Reportedly, during his recent visit, Barrack listened seriously to the remarks of officials, explaining that the ongoing aggression, the prevention of the return of residents of the border villages, and the obstruction of reconstruction are matters that will complicate the task of disarming Hezbollah.

Informed sources reveal that Barrack will strive to persuade the Israeli side to cease its daily violations of Lebanon's sovereignty in order to convince Lebanon that something is changing; he was frank by admitting that the war has not stopped at all, even if it is being waged by one party.

When the U.S. envoy was asked in surprise about his insistence on hurling the ball of fire at Lebanese officials, he replied: "Without a broad, firm, and stable agreement with Iran, and a complete cessation of the war on Gaza, it will be difficult to reach a solution in Lebanon."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

More occupation casualties in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli occupation army has confirmed the death of a commander during a battle in the southern Gaza Strip.

The occupying regime identified the soldier as Captain Rei Biran, a team commander in the Golani Brigade.

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) say he died when an improvised explosive device was set off inside a building in the southern city of Khan Younis.

Earlier, Israeli media reported that at least one soldier was killed and several others were injured in varying degrees when a booby-trapped building exploded in

Khan Younis, targeting an IOF unit that had advanced into the area.

Meanwhile, reports have surfaced that intense clashes broke out following the explosion between Palestinian resistance fighters and the IOF near the targeted building.

Israeli media described the incident as a "difficult event," highlighting that the "reports coming from Gaza are grim," a reference to the scale of IOF casualties.

A military helicopter reportedly landed at the site of the explosion to evacuate the wounded soldiers.

These developments come amid ongoing ground confrontations across the Gaza Strip, as Palestin-

ian resistance forces repel IOF incursions.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, has released footage of a raid on IOF vehicles and soldiers east of Khan Younis.

The footage shows the targeting of two bulldozers and attempting to capture an IOF soldier identified as Abraham Azulay, but ultimately killing him and seizing his weapons.

Hebrew newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth described the video released by al-Qassam Brigades as a "security scandal" affirming that the "army" had failed to protect its soldiers.

The paper noted that this is the second time in just one month that

IOF soldiers have been left exposed, without cover fire, adequate protection, or any visible support forces nearby, at point-blank range.

Al-Qassam Brigades also shelled a gathering of IOF soldiers and military vehicles with heavy and medium-caliber mortars north of Khan Younis, as part of their continued operations against IOF military advances.

Separately, al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, announced that they destroyed an IOF military vehicle using a pre-planted anti-armor explosive device. The incident occurred during an IOF incursion in the eastern part of the al-Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza City.

Tourism minister visits Great Wall of Gorgan in northern Iran

TEHRAN - Iran's tourism minister, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, paid a visit to the Great Wall of Gorgan on Thursday, where he inaugurated construction on the site's first official visitor information center, which is regarded as a key milestone toward the wall's eventual nomination for UNESCO World Heritage status.

Located in the village of Qaleh-Jiq-e Bozorg in Golestan province, the new center aims to promote historical awareness, support cultural tourism, and lay the groundwork for international recognition of this ancient Sasanian-era marvel.

"The Great Wall of Gorgan is not only a physical monument but a living testimony to the ingenuity and civilizational depth of the Iranian people," Salehi-Amiri said during the visit. "This initiative reflects our strategic commitment to preserve and elevate our heritage, while making it accessible to both domestic and international audiences."

The visitor center, spanning a 900-square-meter piece of land with a 332-square-meter structure, is being constructed with inspiration from Sasanian military architecture. It is designed to integrate research, conservation, education, and tourism services.

Planned features include film and lecture halls, archaeology exhibits, photo and document galleries, handicraft stalls, cultural product shops, as well as prayer and tea rooms, offering visitors a rich experience of the site.

Accompanying the minister on the visit were Golestan Governor-General Ali-Asghar Tahmasebi, parliamentary representative Abdoljallal Eiri, and provincial heritage chief Feyzoun Fa'ali, along with other local officials.

The Great Wall of Gorgan, also known as the "Red Snake" due to its distinctive red bricks,

stretches nearly 200 kilometers across northeastern Iran from the Caspian Sea to the Pishkamar Mountains. Constructed during the Sasanian Empire, it is the second-longest continuous defense wall in the world after China's Great Wall, and an unparalleled example of ancient Iranian engineering.

Archaeologists believe the wall served as a strategic defense line against northern incursions, likely by nomadic groups such as the White Huns, while safeguarding a key corridor of the Silk Road. With over 30 forts spaced at regular intervals, supported by an intricate water management system, it represents one of the most complex and ambitious frontier fortifications of its time.

"The wall is a vital link in the broader story of the Silk Road and an architectural achievement that underscores Iran's role as a bridge between civilizations," the minister added.

In recent years, Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage has prioritized archaeological research, emergency restoration, digital documentation, and community engagement to prepare the site for global recognition. The launch of the visitor center in Qaleh-Jiq-e Bozorg is expected to mark a pivotal step in these efforts.

"This project helps transform a once-overlooked monument into a hub of cultural exchange and national pride," Salehi-Amiri concluded.

Also known as the Gorgan Wall, this massive fortification is believed to have been built in the 5th or 6th century CE. It includes a sophisticated array of mudbrick and fired-brick constructions, forts, and water canals. It is one of the most important surviving military structures of the ancient world and stands as a testament to the engineering prowess of the Sasanian Empire.

Milestone recognition marks Iran's first Paleolithic World Heritage site

TEHRAN - In a landmark announcement during the 47th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on Friday, in Paris, the Prehistoric Sites of the Khorramabad Valley were officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

This marks a historic first for Iran -- the first time a cluster of sites primarily representing the Paleolithic period has received this prestigious recognition -- and a transformative moment for the global archaeological community.

Dr. Ata Hassanpour, Director General of Lorestan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, emphasized the significance of the nomination. He explained to Tehran Times that "the dossier was prepared by a multi-disciplinary team of archaeologists, tourism experts, and heritage professionals from key institutions including the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the Office for the Inscription, Preservation and Revitalization of Intangible and Natural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts (MCCHT), the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Office (CHTH) of Lorestan, Shahid Beheshti University, and the National Museum of Iran."

He added: "Situated in the heart of the western Zagros Mountains, the Khorramabad Valley has long served as a cultural and ecological corridor linking Mesopotamia, the Iranian Plateau, and Central Asia. Its dramatic karstic landscape is home to caves, rock shelters, and archaeological sites that preserve a continuous sequence of human occupation spanning more than 60,000 years, from the Paleolithic through the Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Bronze Age."

Dr. Jebrael Nokandeh, General Director of the National Museum of Iran, welcomed the UNESCO inscription and underscored the museum's active role in the nomination process: "The National Museum of Iran takes great pride in contributing to this historic achievement, particularly in the preparation of the UNESCO nomination dossier for these remarkable prehistoric sites." He noted that in 2024, the museum selected key artifacts from Yafteh Cave, Kunji Cave, Gar Arjeneh, Ghamari Cave, and Tappeh Abdol Hossain to support the creation of a new Prehistoric Gallery and the redesign of the Historical Gallery at the Lorestan Archaeology Museum.

The exhibition, inaugurated in September 2024 in the presence of the ICOMOS evaluator, Dr. Hatice Pamir, highlights cultural transitions across thousands of years in



the Khorramabad Valley. Dr. Nokandeh also emphasized that archaeologists from the museum's Paleolithic Department played a direct role in the scientific documentation of the caves for the nomination. He concluded: "With this inscription, the Khorramabad Valley stands as a globally recognized reference point for the preservation and interpretation of Iran's Paleolithic heritage and the wider prehistoric landscape of the Zagros."

Professor John D. Speth, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology and Curator Emeritus at the University of Michigan, who excavated Kunji Cave in 1969, stated to Tehran Times:

"The addition of Iran's Khorramabad Valley Paleolithic Cave sites to UNESCO's World Heritage List is truly wonderful news and significant recognition of their importance for understanding the origins and global spread of anatomically and behaviorally modern humans. Archaeological, fossil, and genetic evidence converge to indicate our species—modern humans or Homo sapiens—first emerged in sub-Saharan Africa ca. 300,000 years ago, spreading into Asia and Europe after about 65,000 years ago. Well-watered regions like the Levant, Anatolia, and the resource-rich highlands of Khorramabad Valley became critical homelands for these arrivals. As our ancestors expanded into Eurasia, they encountered, interbred with, perhaps fought, and ultimately replaced Eurasia's native inhabitants—Neanderthals, Denisovans, and other 'archaic' populations. This period of encounter and interaction is among the most pivotal in human history. One of the most precious records of these foundational events is spectacularly preserved in Khorramabad's caves."

He added warmly, "I am deeply honored that our 1971 work at Kunji Cave—documenting its rich Middle Paleolithic layers alongside later Chalcolithic and Bronze Age burials—contributed to this dossier. To see it recognized as a component of Iran's first Paleolithic

World Heritage Site fills me with profound pride. This milestone also rekindles cherished memories of Khorramabad's majestic valleys and the enduring kindness and hospitality of the Lur people who welcomed us half a century ago."

Dr. Fereidoun Biglari, Head of the Paleolithic Department at the National Museum of Iran, who contributed to the UNESCO nomination and led recent excavations at Ghamari Cave, one of the key sites in the Khorramabad Valley, underscored the scientific value of the newly inscribed sites: "All five caves and rock shelters display strong evidence of Middle Paleolithic occupation, offering crucial data on Neanderthal lifeways, including their material culture, subsistence strategies, and potential interactions with early Homo sapiens, who entered the Zagros region around 45,000 years ago. These sites are central to understanding one of the most pivotal chapters in human evolutionary history."

As Dr. Mohammad Hassan Talebian, Technical and Scientific Supervisor of the dossier, stated: "The inscription not only celebrates Iran's rich prehistoric legacy, but also reaffirms its growing leadership in archaeological research and heritage protection. It signals a commitment to safeguarding sites of global significance and sharing their stories with the world — now and for generations to come." He concluded, "The Khorramabad Valley stands as a global reference point for early human history, offering a model for the preservation and interpretation of prehistoric cultural landscapes."

Among the valley's most significant sites is Yafteh Cave, revealing some of the region's earliest evidence of symbolic behavior by Homo sapiens. Equally notable, Ghamari Cave preserves remains from Neanderthal occupation followed by Chalcolithic pastoral communities, offering critical data on shifting human populations and evolving cultures in Southwest Asia.

Second Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

IN THE NAME OF GOD

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER

No.: 498803

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE

REFRACTORY MATERIALS FOR STEEL-MAKING PLANT

This Company Intends to Purchase the Refractory Items Required for Its Steel-Making Shop by Holding a Public International Tender By selecting One Or More Companies from Top Domestic or Foreign Manufacturing Companies That Have the Appropriate and Acceptable Abilities in Terms of Records and Experience.

Therefore, The Applicant Companies Are Invited To Send The Official Letter Announcing Their Readiness To Participate In The Tender To The Following E-mail Addresses: sh.nami@ksc.ir; da.iranparast@ksc.ir

Note1: The Closing Date for Declaration of Readiness to Participate in The Tender Is 11.JUL.2025. Deadline For Receipt the Tender Documents Is 15.JUL..2025. All Financial and Technical Bids Must Be Delivered to The Address: RAW MATERIAL PURCHASING DEPARTMENT-KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)- KM10 AIIVAZ & BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD- AHWAZ-IRAN P.O.BOX: 1378- POST CODE: 61788-13111 On Before the Closing Date 3.AUG.2025. The Opening Date of Technical Offer Envelopes Will Be At 11:00 AM On The 5.AUG.2025

Note 2: THE OFFERED PRICE SHOULD BE VALID UP TO 4 MONTHS AFTER OPPENING DATE.

Note 3: Terms of The Guarantee Of Participating In The Tender:

- 1-The Foreign Companies That Participate Directly In The Tender Must Provide A Corporate Guarantee.
- 2- Foreign Companies That Participate By The Domestic Agent In The Tender Must Provide A Bank Guarantee.
- 3- The Domestic Companies That Participate Directly In The Tender Must Provide A Bank Guarantee.

Note 3: FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT TO BELOW CHANAL:

Tel No.: +98-61-32136123 EMAIL: SH.NAMI@ksc.ir WEBSITE: WWW.KSC.IR

Agricultural Support Services Company

INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Second Announcement

55/04/7789

12/07/2025

Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 3x50000±5% MTS of **Granular Triple Super Phosphate** through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Wednesday** dated 9/7/2025 until **Tuesday** dated 15/7/2025 (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 3390397822635006500000000000008

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday** dated 16/8/2025 (During official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on **Sunday** dated 17/8/2025 at 14:00 with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

- 1- The bid bond value should be at €568004 or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer rate of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on 30/6/2025 for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.
- 2- The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% will be **IRR 189,243,589,281** which must be only submitted by the bidders.
- 3- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)

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Intl. Congress on Biotechnology slated for October

TEHRAN –The sixth international, and the 14th national congress on Biotechnology is scheduled to be convened in Tehran from October 22 to 24.

Shahid Beheshti University will host the three-day event which is planned to be held with the theme of 'biotechnology, a key driver in development of a modern economy positively impacting health, agriculture, and industry', IRNA reported.

The event will serve as a platform for the exchange of the latest scientific and technological achievements, enhancement of interactions between researchers and policymakers, promotion of the pivotal role of biotechnology and bioeconomy in addressing environmental, industrial, agricultural, health and food challenges.

It will also provide the opportunity to build a network between national and global science and industry communities to develop biotechnology science and bioeconomy.

The congress also aims to lay the ground for connecting science, industry, and market by highlighting the significance of fostering modern strategic biotechnologies such as genetic engineering, genome editing, synthetic biology, omics technologies, bioinformatics, and artificial intelligence. It will also



review the latest findings, share expertise, introduce investment opportunities, and facilitated paths towards commercialization.

Specialized meetings between professors and students, as well as educational workshops are among the other programs to be conducted on the sidelines of the event.

Advancements in the field of biotechnology over the past few decades have sparked astonishment and intense competition among companies and countries.

Decades of rigorous research and development, as well as meticulous and comprehensive strategic planning have contributed to significant breakthroughs in novel therapeutics, such as gene therapy for various diseases and cancers.

These treatments often come with a cost ranging from one to several million dollars per patient. Next-generation sequencing (NGS) technologies continue to evolve daily, driving a competitive race to enhance accuracy, increase throughput, and reduce costs. This dynamic has been a catalyst for the development of innovative methodologies, making these techniques standard practice in laboratories and research institutions worldwide.

Iranian biotech products target 35 countries

Over the past Iranian year (March 2024 – March 2025), biotechnology products were exported to 35 countries worldwide, an increase from 33 countries the previous

year.

The pharmaceutical biotechnology industry saves some two billion dollars in foreign currency annually, covering 60 percent of the country's pharmaceutical exports, IRNA quoted Hossein Amirazodi, the secretary general of the association of pharmaceutical biotechnology producers and exporters, as saying.

The official made the remarks on Tuesday, addressing the 4th International Conference and Exhibition on Iranian Medical Biotech Products and Related Industries (Iran Bio) being held from February 4 to 6 at the Olympic Hotel in Tehran, IRNA reported.

Currently, the country produces 40 out of 150 pharmaceutical biotechnology products that are manufactured in the world, he said, adding that the achievement has been made over the course of 30 years.

Iran Bio aims to feature the capabilities and potentials of the national biotechnology industries, provide an opportunity for information and technology transfer, increasing synergy among researchers, experts and active members, showcase the latest achievements in biotechnology, support domestic manufacturers by expanding markets and export opportunities.

National social security week being marked



TEHRAN – Iran is observing the national social security week, registered on the national calendar month, from July 10 to 16 across the country with the theme 'transformation and development along with social partners'.

The event is being held concurrent with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Social Security Organization.

The days of the week are named as follows:

Thursday, July 10, 'social security; supporting employment, production and investment'

Friday, July 11, 'social security: boosting social asset by developing insurance and medical services'

Saturday, July 12, 'social security: law and general policies, supporting the realization of justice and social welfare'

Sunday, July 13, 'social security: a pioneer in digital transformation and smart service development'

Monday, July 14, 'social security: reform with the active participation of the insured, employers, and retirees'

Tuesday, July 15, 'social security: depository of intergenerational reserves by managing resources and expenses'

Wednesday, July 16, 'social security: implementation of twenty plans for development and transformation'

Implementing referral system and family physician program, electronic processing of medical documents, reforming the structure of the treatment management, centralized insurance and the integration of insurance branches, organizing insurance for

new businesses, fostering digital transformation and smart insurance services, managing insurance commitments, and improving resource collection management developing a new social security perspective, organizing harmful jobs and reforming job titles are among these plans.

Leader outlines social security policies

In April 2022, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei outlined policies for materializing the goals of social security in line with the objectives of the Constitution.

The policies aim to improve social welfare, remove poverty, and support vulnerable strata of society, mainly the elderly, the disabled, and people without caretakers.

Reaching the goals entails an efficient, justice-based, and comprehensive administrative system consistent with Islamic-Iranian patterns and powered by public participation that will expand services to underprivileged people living in urban and rural areas.

Filling social gaps through reforming subsidy schemes, promoting job creation culture, removing barriers to public resource access for all, and providing fertility services to families aims to in-

crease the population growth rate.

In his New Year message, Ayatollah Khamenei called on the government and the nation to work hard to boost knowledge-based production and create new jobs.

The social security policies aim to improve welfare, remove poverty, and support the elderly, the disabled, and people without caretakers.

The Leader reemphasized the importance of boosting domestic production, as he had done in past years, saying the reason he placed so much emphasis on production was "because it boosts economic growth, it creates employment, it reduces inflation, it increases per capita income, and it improves public welfare."

"Furthermore, it also brings about psychological effects since it boosts national self-confidence and creates a sense of dignity in the nation.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Green taxes not used for environmental development'

While the Municipality of Tehran receives green taxes paid by pollutant industries, the money is not used for developing the environment or improving the industries, Ali Moridi, head of department of environment's (DOE) soil and water office has said.

The DOE is trying to revise the law and receive green taxes to use it toward eradicating air and water pollution, wastewater treatment and environmental issues, along with technology and industries improvement, he said, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Referring to proper laws adopted on waste management, he stated that there are rules which obliges the waste management affairs of the DOE to make the manufacturing and import industries pay taxes and spend the taxes on waste management and recycling.

عوارض آلاینده‌گی صرفاً ارتقای محیط زیست

نمی‌شود

مدیرکل دفتر آب و خاک سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: عوارض اخذ شده از صنایع آلاینده در محل خودش و با هدف رفع چالش محیط زیست هزینه نمی‌شود.

به گزارش خبرنگار علمی ایرنا، «علی مریدی» سه شنبه افزود: در سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست در تلاش برای بازنگری این قانون هستیم تا زمینه ای فراهم شود عوارض آلاینده‌گی به حساب صندوق ملی محیط زیست وارد و صرف حل مسایل زیست محیطی شود و بتوانیم به صنایع برای ارتقای فناوری و تصفیه پساب ها کمک کنیم.

مدیر کل دفتر آب و خاک سازمان حفاظت ادامه داد: البته قوانین خوبی در زمینه مدیریت پسماند تصویب شده است که سازمان محیط زیست را مکلف کرده تا از صنایع تولیدی و وارداتی درصدی را به عنوان مالیات اخذ و به صندوق ملی محیط زیست واریز کند تا صرف هزینه پسماند و بازیافت شود.

World Population Day: fears about future impacting fertility rates

TEHRAN –Fears about the future—such as climate change, environmental degradation, wars, and pandemics—are impacting fertility decisions, leading some to have fewer children than desired.

As global fertility rates are falling, prompting warnings about population collapse, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)'s State of World Population report shows the real issue is a lack of reproductive agency—many people, especially youth, are unable to have the children they want.

World Population Day 2025 highlights this challenge, focusing on the largest-ever generation of young people.

This year's theme, "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world," calls for ensuring youth have the rights, tools, and opportunities to shape their futures.

Young people are already driving change, but face major obstacles like economic insecurity, gender inequality, limited healthcare and education, climate disruption, and conflict.

Economic factors, including housing, childcare costs, and job insecurity, are major limits on family size; 39 percent reported financial issues affecting their ability to have their desired number of children.

A UNFPA–YouGov survey of over 14,000 people in 14 countries found most wanted more children but were prevented by social, economic, or health barriers.

To respond to global population trends effectively, leaders must prioritize young people's needs and voices. They need more than services—they need hope, stability, and a future worth planning for.

As one youth activist told UNFPA, "Young people are not just thinking about their future children—they are thinking about the world those children will inherit." Supporting their rights is key to sustainable development, peace, and human dignity.

In Iran, the national population week is observed from May 14 to 20 under the theme 'children, life assets'.

This year, the days of the week were named as follows: Wednesday, May 14, 'Father, mother, good sense of life'; Thursday, May 15, 'Motherhood, elixir of youth'; Friday, May 16, 'Desiring a child'; Saturday, May 17, 'My lonely child'; Sunday, May 18, 'I want to stay alive'; Monday, May 19, 'My life in old age'; Tuesday, May 20, 'Child-friendly society'.

Enacting the youth population law has stabilized the total fertility rate, slightly increasing the general fertility index over the past two years. After experiencing seven years of decline by about 20 percent, the fertility rate is now stabilized at around 1.6.

The total fertility rate has experienced a sharp decline since the Iranian calendar year 1394 (2015–2016), as the number of births reached 1.057 million in 1402 (2023–2024) from 1.570 million in 1394. However, since the Iranian calendar year 1401 (March 2022–March 2023), the downward trend in fertility came to a halt.

However, it has intensified concerns over the decreasing trend in population growth in the coming years, and the probability of turning Iran into one of the oldest countries in the world, IRIB quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi, an official with the Civil Registration Organization, as saying.

"At best, Iran's population with a total fertility rate of 2.5 will reach 102,890,000 by the next seven years," Mahmoudi said.

An important factor contributing to lower birth rates in the country is the cost of living. Indeed, due to the high inflation rate and the expensive real estate sector, many families are choosing to have a smaller family size.

The current one-child trend is prevalent in many young Iranian families, many of whom also have to support their aging parents.

Due to the financial constraints, late marriage is another new trend. Delayed marriage, along with extended intervals between childbirth, is another factor.

Many incentives have been introduced to encourage childbearing by the Iran

Welfare Organization and the Ministry of Health.

First, health care and medical benefits that are offered to childbearing mothers include:

Free or subsidized prenatal care. Public healthcare centers provide free or low-cost check-ups, lab tests, ultrasounds, and supplements (like folic acid and iron);

Insurance coverage: Most health insurance plans cover the majority of pregnancy-related expenses, including delivery (normal and cesarean)

Significant strides have been made in infertility treatment. Today, 100 percent of infertility treatment costs are covered by health insurance, and Iran has emerged as a regional leader in this field.

Under certain programs, especially for low-income families, a monthly allowance is provided for children; and

Maternal health programs: Government health centers offer maternal training and support (breastfeeding, infant care, etc.).

Secondly, maternity leave and workplace rights:

Maternity leave: Women are entitled to 9 months (270 days) of paid maternity leave, fully covered by social security.

Job security: Iranian labor law ensures a woman's right to return to her job after maternity leave, and

Reduced working hours: In some sectors, pregnant women may receive reduced working hours or lighter duties.

Despite offered incentives to encourage childbearing in line with the youth population law, the desired growth in the youth population has not been accomplished yet. It is one of the most important challenges facing the country.

According to the latest census, the number of aged citizens in the country is growing by 3.62 percent, which is five times faster than the total population growth rate, which is 1.24 percent.

For the time being, elderly women account for 52.3 percent of the total population, outnumbering men (47.7 percent).

The aging of individuals signifies increased life expectancy. However, population aging demonstrates a shift in the distribution of a country's population towards older ages which is not a favorable indicator.

Due to lower birth rates, and the rapid growth in the number of older adults in the country, Iran is expected to enter a phase of population aging between 2041 and 2046, with nearly a third of the population being aged 60 and older by 2050, Mehdi Malmir, an official with the National Population Headquarters said in June.

According to a recent report, the number of Iranians aged 65 and older is currently at 7.5 million, accounting for less than 10 percent of the country's total population, Press TV quoted Malmir as saying.

However, the rate of population aging is growing rapidly in Iran, mainly because of lower birth rates, increased life expectancy, and other demographic trends, he added.

The official said that the Iranian baby boomer generation of the 1970s and early 80s, which currently accounts for a considerable part of the country's population, will be considered elderly in the next 15 to 25 years.

"This change of structure requires serious planning," Malmir said.

He said that the single elderly account for 31 percent of Iran's total elderly population, saying the category will expand in the near future to significantly increase pressure on the Iranian health and pension systems.

The official said a bulk of Iran's population of seniors lives in rural areas of the country, adding that the northern province of Gilan has the oldest population, while the southern provinces of Khuzestan, Hormozgan, and Sistan-Baluchestan are demographically better placed than the rest of the country.

Around 62 percent of female seniors and some 39 percent of male seniors in Iran live below the absolute poverty line, he further noted.



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JULY 12, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The best among you is the one who doesn't harm others with his tongue and hands.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:42 Dawn: 3:15 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:59 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries

Painting

* An exhibition of paintings by a large number of artists is currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

The exhibition titled "Homeland" will run until July 18 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.



* Paintings by Maryam Vand are on display in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

The exhibit named "There Was Never A Plan" will be running until July 21 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 5, Bahrami alley, Mashahir Street, Qaem Maqam Farahani Avenue.



* Paintings by Ali Beheshti are currently on view in an exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until August 1 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.



* Javid Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Afsaneh Parchakani.

The exhibition runs until July 21 at the gallery that can be found at 17 Zartosht St., Vali-e Asr Ave.



* Mehrdad Jafari is putting his latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until July 28 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.



* Nian Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists including Amir Esfandari, Aqiq Afkhami, Gandom Amiri, Qasem Mohammadi, and Sara Kazemi.

The exhibition entitled "Abstinence" will be running until July 28 at the gallery located at 5 Abhari Alley, Vafai St. off Tur St. off South Mofatteh St.



* A collection of paintings by Hamidreza Afshar is on view in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

The exhibit named "The Hidden Surface" will run until July 21 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.



* A collection of paintings by Arsia Moqaddam is on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibition named "The Important and Eternal Paper World" will be running until July 22 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Maziar Tahouri is showcasing a collection of his latest paintings in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibition named "Endless Joy" will run until July 22 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Paintings by Salimeh Afsari are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled "Pink Is Better Than Red", the exhibition runs until July 21 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



New mural of Ayatollah Khamenei unveiled, celebrating resistance, patriotism

TEHRAN- The latest mural at Valiasr Square in central Tehran was unveiled on Thursday, illustrating the image of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, alongside the message "O shining love."

Created by the Owj Arts and Media Organization, the mural reflects national themes such as the Iranian-Islamic way of life and resistance against arrogance. It uses media art to convey these ideas, IRNA reported.

According to graphic designer Mikael Barati, the concept behind "O shining love" is that the Leader and the family of Imam Hussein (AS) are like the life flowing through the heart of the homeland, the report added.

Coinciding with the eve of Ashura, a mourning ceremony was held at the Imam Khomeini Husseiniyeh in Tehran, attended by Ayatollah Khamenei and a diverse crowd of people. The event focused on themes of resistance against op-



pression, especially in the context of the 12-day Israeli aggression on Iran.

During the ceremony, prominent eulogist Mahmoud Karimi recited poetry and mourned Imam Hussein

(AS) and his martyrs. At the end, the Leader encouraged Karimi to sing "O Iran," to which he responded with the patriotic chant "O Iran, O shining love," eliciting widespread positive reactions on social

media. The Leader's composed and confident presence at the event was widely praised by political figures, who described it as reassuring and empowering for the nation.

IAF to show Chris Marker's "Description of a Struggle"

TEHRAN - The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen the documentary "Description of a Struggle" directed by Chris Marker on Sunday.

The movie will be shown at 6 p.m. and will be followed by a review session in the presence of film critic Amin Hamikah, ILNA reported.

In the 1960 French film, Marker's idiosyncratic style, combining location footage with archival material, builds a complex and personal portrayal. Israel's demography is explored, from the kibbutzim to the Arab minorities, the Orthodox Jews, and the tourists.

Working primarily in the arena of nonfiction, Marker rejected conventional narrative techniques, instead staking out a deeply political terrain defined by the use of still images, atmospheric soundtracks, and literate commentary.

The "struggle" in the title does not refer to the tank-and-artillery variety, but to the inner struggle of Israeli citizens to adapt to a new view of themselves, in a new country.

A meditative commentary on how a new state is built hovers over elusive impressionist images, hiding opportunities to make discoveries, which, albeit short-lived, are penetrating the limits of illusion. A literary essay is combined with a documentary image to make a hypnotic film, which was awarded Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival.

Memories are at the core of Chris Marker's work. The vague connections between recorded history, communal memory and personal reminiscences, the myriad of political factors, ideological agendas and cultural filters that invariably shape our body of recollections, the



ethical dilemmas and psychological repercussions triggered by the traumatic events of the past, all emerge as intriguing poetic motifs in his films.

The film was made at the time when the Israeli state was 12 years old, and borrows its title from Kafka's short story.

It explores the historical, social, cultural and ethical contexts at the heart of Israel's existence, and the impact of the tragic and not so distant past on the collective psyche of the nation.

Marker uses highly stylized material to magnify the seemingly insignificant details and examine the fragile bonds between memory, history and identity. He explores the miracles and paradoxes of Israel's existence using

black-and-white and color film stock and the combination of poetic yet detached voiceover narration and diegetic sound.

He looks for the signs of Israel's existence in the everyday lives of locals; the dynamic meetings of kibbutznicks, the bemused looks of children in Mea Sharim quarter, the prattle and cacophony of the marketplace, the camels lethargically crossing the road, the owls inhabiting the "Biblical Zoo" in Jerusalem.

And, as the film "tunnels into the complex strata of Israel's history, invoking the need for an x-ray vision that can penetrate and decipher the physical and historical landscape", Marker gradually intertwines the seemingly disconnected but deeply engaging voices resonating through the dynamic and reserved, joyful yet deeply traumatized Israeli society.

Most film scholars and reviewers agree that in Marker's elegiac, reflexive works, subtext is everything.

The filmmaker positions the viewer amidst the transient and disorienting world of the Middle East, and pointedly reminds the audience that his documentary subjects are constantly surrounded by fragments of history.

He suggests that the citizens of the young state of Israel, scarred by their horrific past and hopeful about the future, are particularly sensitive to injustice.

The signs of the past are revealed at every step of Marker's journey; from kibbutz meetings, that ultimate demonstration of participative democracy ("How long will their purity last?"), to careless enjoyment of Israeli teenagers and beachgoers, to the Bedouin gathered in small circles, resting on their journey through the desert.

Over 20 musicians honor BDS anniversary with powerful album for Palestine

From Page 1 ▶ Amplify Palestine, founded in 2023 as a campaign and production platform aimed at building cultural power for Palestinian liberation, said its BDS Mixtape series was inspired by "Sun City," the 1985 anti-apartheid album that supported the boycott of South Africa.

"As repression intensifies against Palestinian solidarity, it's our duty as musicians to raise our voices. We reject fear, silence, and complicity in genocide," musician and co-curator Sonny Singh said.

Violinists Trina Basu and Arun Ramamurthy dedicated their piece "Roots in the Sky," inspired by Mahmoud Darwish's poem "The Second Olive Tree" to "the Palestinian people, whose lives are marked by destruction, yet whose spirit remains unbroken."

Sami Abu Shumays, director of the band Dikrayat, said he wrote the poem "Ya Walad" (Oh Boy) following Israel's 2024 torching of refugee tents in Rafah, where many children were burned alive.

Though he used mawwal, a

traditional form of Arabic vocal music, he chose to sing the song in English over Arabic.

"Though I'm of Palestinian origin, I grew up in the U.S. not speaking Arabic, so English is the language I express myself best in," he said.

Musicians Alia Hajjo and Ziad Abdel Aal said their contribution was inspired by "the children of Gaza, who continue to fly their kites in the face of brutal aggression".

"Unboundable" blends improvised jazz, Indian classical, Arabic music, and electronic sounds across its 13 tracks, with proceeds from the sales going to support Palestinian cultural efforts.

In a statement, BDS said artists and musicians endorsing the cultural boycott are part of a growing global current defying "attempts to silence solidarity in the arts," with tens of thousands of cultural figures and institutions refusing to collaborate with "complicit" Israeli events.

The movement, inspired by struggles such as South Africa's

anti-apartheid fight, has created what it describes as a "global, Palestinian-led anti-apartheid network across some 120 countries," and insists that true solidarity means ending complicity, not charity, and "doing no harm".

Despite the devastation in Gaza, BDS said it was "too grieved and too enraged to celebrate" the milestone anniversary but remains committed to "march on until Israel's regime of oppression is entirely dismantled".

Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) is a nonviolent Palestinian-led movement promoting boycotts, divestments, and economic sanctions against Israel.

Its objective is to pressure Israel to meet what the BDS movement describes as Israel's obligations under international law, defined as withdrawal from the occupied territories, removal of the separation barrier in the West Bank, full equality for Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel, and "respecting, protecting, and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties".

The movement is organized and coordinated by the Palestinian BDS National Committee.

BDS supporters describe it as a human rights movement, and compare the Palestinians' plight to that of apartheid-era black South Africans.

Protests and conferences in support of the movement have been held in several countries. Its mascot, which features on its logotype, is Handala, a symbol of Palestinian identity and right of return.

Some critics accuse the BDS movement of antisemitism, a charge the movement denies, calling it an attempt to conflate antisemitism with anti-Zionism.

The Israel lobby in the United States has made opposing BDS one of its top priorities.

Since 2015, the Israeli government has spent millions of dollars to promote the view that BDS is antisemitic and have it legally banned in foreign countries.

Multiple countries and the majority of U.S. states have passed anti-BDS laws.