

'I Gave Up My Son, Will Give Up My Wealth Too, Build Missiles to Hit the Heart of Tel Aviv'

Father of Ehsan Qassemi, 16-year-old victim of Israel's war on Iran, asks military to use his deceased son's savings to fight the Zionist regime



The funeral procession for Ehsan Qassemi, 16, at the shrine of Hazarat Masoumeh (AS) in Qom. Qassemi was martyred in a June 24 attack by the Zionist regime on Qom.

Iran's Judiciary says no Israeli spies harmed in Evin Prison strike

TEHRAN – Iran's Judiciary Spokesman Asghar Jahangir categorically dismissed claims justifying the June 23 airstrike on Tehran's Evin Prison, revealing that not a single Israeli spy held at the facility was harmed in an attack that instead martyred 80 Iranians.

"No Israeli operatives held at Evin were harmed. This was a terrorist attack on humanitarian spaces," he said at a press briefing on Saturday.

The Israeli regime had framed the bombing as a "symbolic strike" targeting "Iran's oppression machinery," yet precision missiles struck the prison's medical center, visitation halls, and administrative offices at 10:30 AM—peak hours for family visits.

The assault transformed a humanitarian zone into a bloodbath, martyring prison staff, young conscripts completing compulsory military service, inmates' relatives, and neighbors residing near the complex. ▶ Page 2

Industry Ministry unveils production support package

TEHRAN – The Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade has unveiled a production support package focused on sustaining industrial output, particularly for sectors affected by the recent war. Deputy Minister of Mining and Mineral Industries Vajiollah Jafari, said the package has been designed around two key pillars, with special assistance allocated to units damaged by the conflict, including access to foreign currency and financial resources.

Jafari said the ministry has held intensive meetings with private-sector industry associations to assess their conditions and formulate targeted measures. These sessions, he noted, are ongoing and include separate talks with groups such as the Lead and Zinc Industries Association, the Refractories Industry Association, and the Cement Employers' Association.

The key topics raised in the consultations included securing stable electricity supplies, maintaining fuel safety for mining industries, addressing foreign currency concerns, expediting import order registrations, supporting domestic production, and boosting resilience in the face of potential crises. ▶ Page 4

Why does Jolani threaten Lebanon over his henchmen?

By Sondas al-Asaad

BEIRUT — Recently, the Foreign Ministry of the HTS-led government of Abu Mohammed al-Jolani leaked news about a "Syrian" intention to take punitive measures against Lebanon over the case of its terrorists kept in Lebanese prisons.

In parallel, a suspicious report prepared by Syria TV circulated that the case of these more than 2,000 terrorists has become "a tinderbox that could ignite a political crisis between the two countries."

The Qatari-funded channel quoted the al-Jolani regime's accusation that Lebanon is "procrastinating and stalling," noting that Damascus is considering imposing restrictions on the movement of Lebanese trucks crossing Syrian territory as a punitive measure.

Al-Jolani, the self-appointed Syrian president (currently known as Ahmed al-Sharaa), expressed during his meeting with the Grand Mufti of the Lebanese Republic, Abdul Latif Derian, that the Lebanese government's "delay" in addressing the issue of his terrorists is no longer acceptable.

Derian was informed that it is a top priority, ahead of any cooperation, the restoration of diplomatic relations, or even the return of Syrian refugees. ▶ Page 5

What comes after the 12-day war on Iran?

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – When U.S. President Trump says, "We destroyed, crushed, and ended the Iranian nuclear project," and uses expressions of victory, the message behind it contradicts reality and carries defeat. However, when Iran declares that its nuclear facilities were significantly damaged, that too carries a contradictory message, one of victory, as in, Iran cannot be stopped and will pursue its interests.

America's statement reflects incapacity — a recurring failure where major goals are set but not achieved, only to be masked by such statements. This happened in Yemen, when Trump declared he would unleash hell and end the Yemeni challenge in the Red Sea. Yet, after seven weeks, he declared victory without achieving any of his goals. Similarly, when he reached a point of inability in facing what he calls the "Iranian threat," he came out with statements that reflected the opposite of strength.

After experiencing and discovering the true power balance on the ground, a new equation has been established. The threshold and momentum required to start any new war have now risen — perhaps to a level where nuclear weapons would only be used in the most extreme madness of war under absolute desperation. ▶ Page 5

Iran, the US base at Al Udeid, and the logic of calibrated deterrence

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – On June 23, 2025, as tensions between Iran and Israel reached their highest point in years, several Iranian ballistic missiles struck the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. This was no ordinary target: it is the main hub for U.S. military operations in West Asia and a key symbol of American power projection in the region.

Iran informed the U.S. about the attack 12 hours before it was to happen, according to information previously disclosed by the Tehran Times. The official American response was swift and predictable: both Washington and Doha downplayed the incident, claiming there were no casualties or significant damage. However, reality soon overrode the narrative. Satellite images published days later confirmed the destruction of a geodesic dome that housed critical communication systems of the U.S. Central Command.

Far from being anecdotal, this episode marks a strategic turning point. Iran has shown it can strike critical infrastructure under American protection, redrawing the contours of deterrence in the Persian Gulf. The missile ceases to be merely a weapon of war; it becomes a tool of sovereignty and strategic assertion. ▶ Page 3

Tel Aviv struggles to counter Ansarallah strikes amid growing military failures

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Israel's escalating conflict with Yemen's Ansarullah movement has intensified, with recent reports highlighting Tel Aviv's growing desperation to counter persistent missile attacks targeting occupied Palestinian territories.

As Ansarullah's military operations continue to challenge Israel's defense capabilities, the regime is reportedly exploring non-military solutions, including potential ceasefire agreements, to halt the barrage of ballistic missiles and drones launched from Yemen.

This shift reflects the limitations of Israel's military responses and the strategic complexities posed by Ansarullah's solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

Military campaign and tactical challenges

On the night of July 6-7, Israel launched a major military campaign targeting key The Ansarallah-controlled infrastructure in Yemen. ▶ Page 5

Aid workers' sacrifice to inspire future generation: IFRC tells IRCS

TEHRAN – The self-sacrifice of the aid workers will inspire the future generation who want to follow the same path and provide humanitarian assistance, officials with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have said in a letter to the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

Following the martyrdom of the fifth IRCS aid worker, Seyyed Ali-Akbar Mir-Mohammadi, who lost his life in Israeli brutal attacks against Iran while performing his duty, Kate Forbes, the president, and Jagan Chapagain, the secretary general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), jointly expressed their condolence in a letter to Pirhossein Kolivand. ▶ Page 7



Snapback will end Europe's engagement on Iran's nuclear program, FM warns

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has cautioned European powers that activating the so-called "snapback mechanism" to restore United Nations sanctions would mark the end of their involvement in Iran's nuclear dossier.

Speaking during a meeting on Saturday with ambassadors, chargés d'affaires, and heads of diplomatic missions in Tehran, Araghchi stated, "If European countries proceed with the snapback mechanism, resolving Iran's nuclear case will become far more complex." ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Norway is not a suitable venue for Negotiations

In a recent analysis, Ettelaat argued that resuming nuclear negotiations in Norway is not advisable, citing the openly hostile stance taken by the Speaker of the Norwegian Parliament, who has called for the ouster of the Islamic Republic system. It wrote: Over the past few days, Western media outlets, White House officials, and foreign ministries have reported that the United States and the European Union are making repeated overtures to Iran for restarting nuclear talks. Given the ongoing military aggressions against our country by the United States and the Zionist regime, it is imperative that we adopt firm and principled positions in response to these developments. Of particular note is the West's preference for Oslo as the venue for potential negotiations. However, Norway is not considered a neutral or appropriate host. In a political climate where a senior Norwegian official has publicly advocated for regime change in Iran and repeatedly expressed anti-Iranian sentiments, accepting Oslo as the location for diplomatic engagement is neither rational nor strategically sound. Iran's foreign policy establishment must safeguard national interests and uphold the dignity of its people. This means taking into account not only the substantive dimensions of negotiations and the adversary's underlying objectives, but also the symbolic significance of their form and location.

Shargh: Destruction of US geodesic dome on Al Udeid Air Base

In a note, Shargh discussed satellite images of Iran's attack on the Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar. It wrote: Iran's attack on the Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar on June 23, which plays a key role in U.S. military operations, targeted some of the advanced U.S. communication equipment. Satellite images recently reviewed by the Associated Press show that Iran's attack likely targeted the geodesic dome that housed the U.S. military's secret communication equipment. The attack was carried out in response to the U.S. bombing of three nuclear sites in Tehran that immediately led to a Trump-brokered ceasefire in the 12-day between Iran and Israel. Although there is evidence that a piece of debris or other object may have hit the dome, the extent of the destruction and type of damage reinforce the possibility of an attack by a drone carrying a bomb, because other parts of the base remained relatively intact. The attack once again exposed a serious difference in the narratives and claims of the two sides, with Iran insisting that it had inflicted

ed a serious blow to critical U.S. infrastructure, while American officials are trying to limit and downplay the extent of the damage.

Kayhan: Snapback mechanism is a piece of paper, don't be fooled!

In an article, Kayhan addressed the threat by three European countries - France, England, and Germany - to trigger the snapback mechanism and wrote: These days, following the threat of the three European countries to use the snapback mechanism, this matter has once again resurfaced. These countries emphasized in a statement that Iran should not obtain nuclear weapons. They warned that if a satisfactory agreement is not reached, they will consider activating the snapback mechanism. Europe's threat to use the snapback mechanism is invalid and an empty threat. The JCPOA is a collective agreement, with the Islamic Republic of Iran on one side and the 6 countries known as the 5+1 on the other. Since not all members are present with the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, the JCPOA has lost its legal validity and no longer exists. It is expected that Mr. Araghchi, citing the aforementioned legal documents, declare the JCPOA invalid to international bodies, especially the UN Security Council, and not allow them to activate the snapback mechanism and threaten the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Sobh-e-No: BRICS, a turning point in multilateral diplomacy

In a commentary, Sobh-e-No addressed the recent BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It said: The final statement of the Rio de Janeiro summit can be considered a turning point in the history of BRICS. This statement, beyond economic issues, has entered the arena of defending peace, condemning aggression, and supporting the sovereignty of countries such as Iran in an unprecedented way. Iran, by actively participating and welcoming this new path, has consolidated its position in the emerging global order. Donald Trump's hostile reaction to these developments also confirms that BRICS is seen as a real threat to Western hegemony, not just a marginal economic pact. In this direction, the Islamic Republic of Iran, by actively participating in multilateral mechanisms such as BRICS, has the opportunity to present its voice in international circles and, by allying with emerging powers, benefit from global capacities to defend its rights. BRICS is now not only a platform for the countries of the global South, but is also becoming a serious alternative to the Western liberal order.

Iran's envoy to Russia: Tehran's nuclear rights non-negotiable

TEHRAN – In an interview with Russian media, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali stated that recent U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities have solidified the country's resolve to maintain and develop its nuclear program.

"The attacks strengthened Iran's determination to build a desirable future for the country, and as we go toward that goal, our intellectual and scientific elite will continue to adamantly defend its nuclear program as an indisputable and legitimate right," Jalali told Tass.

The ambassador's remarks follow a 12-day war on Iran ignited by the Israeli regime's attacks on Iranian nuclear and military sites beginning June 13, which assassinated top commanders and scientists. Over a thousand Iranians were martyred in the conflict, most of them civilians.

The U.S. later joined the offensive, deploying massive ordinance penetrators and Tomahawk missiles against Iranian nuclear sites at Natanz, Esfahan, and Fordow.

Jalali emphasized that rebuilding "trust in the dialogue process" remains Tehran's sole precondition for resuming nuclear talks with Washington.



Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali

He stressed that no negotiations can take place under active Israeli aggression and condemned the U.S. for bombing the Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear sites.

"We have never walked away from the negotiating table," the ambassador said, reaffirming Iran's commitment to diplomatic resolution.

He also questioned the sincerity of Washington's approach, rhetorically asking why the U.S. would strike Iranian nuclear sites if it truly sought meaningful negotiations.

Snapback will end Europe's engagement on Iran's nuclear program, FM warns

From page 1 ► He warned that the UK, France, and Germany (E3) are making a serious misjudgment by believing the snapback mechanism gives them strategic leverage over Iran's nuclear program. Despite ongoing indirect talks with the U.S., Iran has maintained contact with the E3, with Araghchi stressing that Europe still "has a role to play in diplomacy." However, he cautioned that triggering snapback would severely hinder diplomatic efforts.

The mechanism would reinstate six previous UN Security Council resolutions from 2006 to 2010, including an arms embargo on Iran and restrictions on weapons exports. It would also reimpose sanctions such as asset freezes, travel bans, and export controls.

While Iran remains under severe U.S. "maximum pressure" sanctions, officials argue that restoring UN sanctions would have minimal additional impact, as Tehran has already weathered multiple economic challenges.

No halt in IAEA cooperation

Araghchi clarified that Iran has not ceased cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) but will now manage its engagement through the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) under a revised framework.

As a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iran re-



FM Araghchi (R) speaks to foreign diplomats in Tehran on July 12, 2025

mains committed to IAEA collaboration, though each request will be assessed individually based on national security considerations.

This follows Iran's recent parliamentary bill, approved in late June, suspending IAEA cooperation after the agency's reports were exploited to justify Israeli aggression.

The bill mandates a halt to all IAEA engagements until Iran receives guarantees protecting its sovereignty, nuclear facilities, and scientists, as well as its rights under the NPT—including uranium enrichment.

Iran's Judiciary says no Israeli spies harmed in Evin Prison strike

From page 1 ► "The Zionists committed a wholesale crime," Jahangir declared. "Even neighbors near the visitation hall were martyred. This reveals who truly threatens civilians in our region."

Additionally, the spokesman vehemently denied claims families couldn't contact prisoners, revealing: "Immediately after the attack, judicial authorities provided phones so all inmates could assure relatives of their safety. Buses then relocated them securely."

While "an insignificant number" of inmates fled during the attack, Jahangir emphasized most voluntarily aided rescue efforts: "Many prisoners collected the pure bodies of martyrs and cooperated with authorities."

Among the 80 martyrs was Mehrangiz Imanpour, an artist and mother of two residing near the prison. Her former husband,

writer Reza Khandan-Mahabadi, mourned: "Mehrangiz was the beauty in my children's lives."

Also killed was Hajar 'Has-ti' Mohammadi, a humanitarian volunteer coordinating debt-prisoner releases. She perished when debris crushed the visitation hall entrance—a site she frequented for charity work.

Eyewitnesses described apocalyptic scenes: "Three missiles hit the prison entrance. Families and plaintiffs seeking dispute resolution were covered in blood," recounted one inmate's sister to Etemad. Her brother called her screaming: "People died before my eyes!"

The attack occurred during the Israeli regime's 12-day aggression against Iran, which martyred over 1,060 Iranians according to Saeed Ohadi of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs.

Another Iranian-American arrested as US intensifies crackdown on Iranian diaspora

TEHRAN – The Trump administration detained Baram Mohammad Ostovari, a 66-year-old Iranian-born and lawful resident of the United States, at Los Angeles International Airport on Friday.

Ostovari faces a four-count federal indictment, including one count of conspiracy and three counts of violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

The Trump administration's Justice Department is pushing to imprison this senior citizen for up to 20 years over ambiguous allegations tied to business dealings with Iran.

Washington's indictment claims Ostovari, who allegedly holds residences in Santa Monica, California, and Tehran, "orchestrated a scheme" from May 2018 through July 2025, procuring and exporting items like advanced computer processors and railway equipment.

Ostovari pleaded not guilty to the charges at his arraignment in United States District

Diplomacy the only path forward

Reaffirming Iran's preference for dialogue, Araghchi stated, "There is no option but a return to diplomacy and a negotiated solution. Recent events have only reinforced this."

While open to building mutual trust, he stressed that other parties must prove their commitment to genuine negotiations rather than using talks as a tactical ploy.

Araghchi also emphasized that any nuclear talks must uphold Iran's right to uranium enrichment, calling it a "major

scientific achievement" that Tehran will never relinquish. He reiterated that discussions with the West would be strictly limited to the nuclear issue, with no broader agenda.

The warning comes after Israel's June 13 attack on Iran, which killed military officials, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The U.S. further escalated tensions on June 22 by striking Iranian nuclear facilities, violating international law.

These developments unfolded as Iran and the U.S. were preparing for a sixth round of nuclear talks in Oman, now indefinitely postponed.

'Ice has broken' in Iran-Egypt relations, says outgoing Iranian diplomat

TEHRAN – Relations between Iran and Egypt have reached a turning point and the two countries are currently engaged in intense diplomacy despite having yet to officially restore diplomatic ties, said Mohammad Hossein Soltanifar, the outgoing head of Iran's Office for the Protection of Interests in Egypt, which functions as a de facto embassy in the absence of formal ties.

Soltanifar announced the end of his mission on X as he expressed content over diplomatic engagements between the two countries in recent years. "At the conclusion of a three-year mission marked by complex ups and downs, by the grace of God, the ice in relations has been broken, and the two countries are now engaging in unrestricted dialogue and consultations." He added that "commonalities and shared interests are more visible and significant than ever before."

Iran and Egypt, two of the West Asia's most influential nations, have had a turbulent relationship since the toppling of the Shah and victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Since then, efforts at reconciliation have been sporadic. In recent years, however, both nations have expressed keen enthusiasm for re-engagement. High-level meetings, including talks between Egyptian and Iranian presidents and foreign ministers are now common, and the head of both countries have travelled to each other's home multiple times. Tehran and Cairo have also cooperated on regional issues, such as the war in Gaza.

"I extend my deepest gratitude to the Egyptian government and officials, especially those at the Foreign Ministry, as well as media friends and managers, party leaders, and public figures. Hoping for days filled with peace and stability for the region," Soltanifar concluded in his X message.



U.S. Department of Justice headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Court in downtown Los Angeles, where a federal magistrate judge ordered him released on \$1.3 million bond and scheduled a September 2 trial date.

The case is being jointly investigated by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), and IRS Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI).

Ostovari's arrest comes amidst what crit-

ics describe as a sweeping escalation of anti-Iranian policies by U.S. authorities.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has reportedly detained hundreds of Iranian nationals nationwide.

Human rights advocates and critics have denounced the recent actions as racially motivated profiling driven by Iranophobia.

In Los Angeles, ICE agents reportedly stormed the homes of Iranian migrants, including congregants of Pastor Ara Torosian's Farsi-speaking church.

Reuters witnesses described officers pinning a woman to the ground during her arrest, triggering a violent panic attack. "She's sick! Call 911!" Torosian shouted, later demanding, "Why are you guys doing this?"

ICE Director Todd Lyons has defended these tactics as "targeted enforcement" against nationals of "high-risk countries, including Iran."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

‘I gave up my son, will give up my wealth too, Build missiles to hit the heart of Tel Aviv’

Father of Ehsan Qassemi, 16-year-old victim of Israel's war on Iran, asks military to use his deceased son's savings to fight the Zionist regime

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – For Israel and the U.S., the war on Iran was all but sure to rack the political system, get the disaffected population on the streets, and eventually bring about the collapse of the Iranian government.

That explains why they decided to undercut the very negotiations Donald Trump had been wanting for years, attack Iran while the country was getting ready to attend a sixth round of talks, and send a clear message to the world: Americans are not to be trusted. They could launch an aggression against you any second, no matter how committed you stay to diplomacy and cooperation with international bodies, which in Iran's case had been the IAEA.

Analysts believe Iran did in fact demonstrate remarkable and unprecedented success when it comes to the way it managed to maintain its political and military cohesion. A number of Iran's most senior military officials and nuclear scientists were assassinated in the initial hours of the war. Shortly after, those in politics received calls from Israeli agents, who told them that they should leave the country if they don't want to get killed along with their family members.



An illustration of Ehsan Qassemi, a 16-year-old boy who was killed inside a residential building during Israeli strikes on Qom

Experts now say they did not expect the Islamic Republic to manage the crisis so effectively. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei personally took charge at the war room, appointed new commanders within hours, and deployed them to the battlefield. Retaliation began soon, with the first barrage of Iranian missiles raining on the occupied territories on the first day of the war. At least 22 waves of missile and drone attacks ended up pummeling Israel, leaving behind a large trail of destruction across the occupied Palestinian lands, a reality Israelis had never had

to endure despite having waged war across the region since 1948.

Furthermore, other senior Iranian officials like the president, parliament speaker, and judiciary chief continued to heed their duties and connect with the public in person, even though they had already been targeted in a failed Israeli attack while holding a trilateral meeting.

From the beginning of the war, what was more evident than the fact that the Islamic Republic was going to hold it together was that Iranians were not going to rally behind Netanyahu. The Israeli Prime Minister is-

sued a message on the first day of the war, telling Iranians that his fight was not with the “people”, and that they should “rise up” and ensure their “freedom”. It's unclear why it didn't occur to him that the Iranian people would find it extremely difficult to trust a convicted war criminal responsible for the deaths of over 60,000 Palestinians in the past 20 months. In Iran, Netanyahu ended up murdering around 1,000 people in the span of 12 days, the majority of whom were civilians, including women and children.

Netanyahu's actions fostered not support or empathy among the Iranian public, but unprecedented hatred for the Israeli regime and its patrons. This sentiment was on full display this week when the father of a 16-year-old boy killed in Israeli airstrikes on Qom stated on Iran's national TV that he wanted the government to use the money he had saved up for his son's future to fight Israel. “I had planned to sell a piece of land to provide for my son's future. Now, I want to donate that land's value to the government. I don't know how many missiles that money can produce, but even if it's enough for just one, I want that missile used to strike the heart of Israel.”

Iran, the US base at Al Udeid, and the logic of calibrated deterrence

From Page 1 ► **Between official denial and satellite evidence**

The U.S. version was clear and firm from the outset: “No casualties, no damage,” repeated Pentagon spokespeople. But satellite evidence, analyzed by international media and independent agencies, told a different story. Images taken between June 23 and 25 showed the disappearance of a \$15 million communications dome, debris, and collateral damage to surrounding structures. Although the base remained operational, the loss of a key component for electronic warfare cast doubt on the effectiveness of U.S. missile defenses—and on the credibility of the official account.

Washington's refusal to acknowledge the strike follows a dual logic: maintaining control over the media narrative and avoiding the perception of vulnerability before an actor—Iran—that, despite sanctions and isolation, has reached a notable level of technological sophistication.

Al Udeid: A symbol of hegemony in question

Located about 30 kilometers from Doha, Al Udeid is more than just a military base. It serves as the forward headquarters of CENTCOM and is the nerve center for coordinating operations in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. Its symbolism goes beyond the military: it is the cornerstone of the security architecture the United States has built in the region since the First Persian Gulf War.

The fact that Iran managed to strike such a site—and that U.S. forces reportedly evacuated aircraft and sensitive personnel beforehand—does not diminish the

significance of the attack. On the contrary, it indicates that Tehran sent a precise warning and that Washington took it seriously. Deterrence, long monopolized by the U.S. and Israel, is no longer a one-way street.

The missile as national strategy: Evolution and autonomy

The strike on Al Udeid was not an isolated act but the result of a deliberate evolution. For over two decades, Iran has systematically invested in ballistic missile development as an asymmetric response to the air and nuclear superiority of its adversaries. Faced with Western restrictions, Tehran adopted a doctrine of defensive self-sufficiency based on three pillars:

- * Diversification: Short-, medium-, and long-range missiles like Shahab-3, Ghadr, Qiam, and Sejil, capable of reaching Israel, U.S. bases, and parts of southern Europe.

- * Mobility: Mobile launch systems that are hard to detect and neutralize.

- * Precision: Advanced guidance systems that have reduced the margin of error to levels that even Western analysts now acknowledge.

Unlike other regional missile programs, Iran's development is overwhelmingly domestic. This technical and logistical autonomy has allowed the country to bypass embargoes and threats, turning the missile into the backbone of its defense doctrine.

Following Israel's offensive against nuclear, military, and civilian sites inside Iran, Tehran responded with a large-scale launch



This satellite image from Planet Labs PBC shows damage after an Iranian attack at the Al Udeid Air Base outside of Doha, Qatar, June 25, 2025.

of over a hundred ballistic missiles and suicide drones targeting Israeli military positions. For the first time, Iran's ballistic arsenal was used en masse in open conflict.

Despite the Iron Dome and other Israeli defenses, several missiles penetrated and struck Tel Aviv, Haifa, and military bases. The missile attacks not only caused physical damage but also had a strategic impact: saturating defenses, prompting emergency deployments, and creating unprecedented internal pressure on Israeli authorities.

The Al Udeid strike was the culmination of a graduated strategy: to hit Israel, neutralize its offensive capacity, and send a direct message to the United States. The ceasefire that followed days later cannot be understood without factoring in the missile component as a deterrent force.

Sovereignty and independence: The Iranian perspective

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolu-

tion, Iran's foreign and defense policy has been rooted in the principle of non-negotiable sovereignty. In a hostile environment—surrounded by foreign bases and under sanctions—the development of ballistic missiles has not been framed as a belligerent impulse, but as a survival strategy.

Tehran maintains that its only guarantee in the face of threats like the U.S. “maximum pressure” campaign or Israeli targeted strikes is its ability to respond. Effective deterrence, it argues, is only possible when there is certainty that any aggression will come at a high cost.

The attack on Al Udeid follows this logic: it was calibrated, precise, and deliberately non-lethal. Its aim was not to trigger a regional war but to underscore that Iran has both the capacity—and the resolve—to defend its vital interests. The missile, in this vision, is not a threat; it is a political argument.

Women's coach Jafari content with win over Singapore

TEHRAN – Iran started the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 Qualifiers Group A campaign on the right note with a 4-0 win against Singapore, much to the delight of head coach Marziyeh Jafari.

Having had to cope with less than perfect preparations coming into the Qualifiers, Jafari was understandably pleased to have passed their first test with flying colors as the Central Asian side bid to reach the Finals for only the second time.

“We achieved the result we wanted,” said Jafari. “The first game always has its own special challenges – from weather issues to the team having to be in match conditions.

“It should also be taken into account that we did not have a warm-up game but our players nevertheless played with high concentration and commitment.

“The first game is always a bit difficult, because there is a need for more coordination, and we will certainly appear better and more coordinated in the future,” she added.

Iran certainly did not look rusty as they peppered the Singapore goalmouth with attempts from the opening whistle, leading to Fatemeh Shaban's opener in the 19th minute with only the woodwork denying them a bigger lead going into the break.

The second half saw more clinical finishing from the Iranians, Sara Didar struck two minutes into the restart with further goals from Shaban (77th) and Zahra Ghanbari (87th) sealing an impressive start.

The win took Iran into second place, three points adrift of Bhutan who secured yet another memorable result, this time a 2-1 victory against Lebanon in the later game to stay perfect. Kim Tae-in's side faced stiffer opposition than the one they encountered in their opening win against Singapore but showed plenty of fighting spirit against the West Asian side.

Amirhossein Esfandiar joins InPost ChKS Chelm

TEHRAN – Iranian international outside hitter Amirhossein Esfandiar has become the newest member of the newly promoted team — InPost ChKS Chelm. He is the second Iranian to have the opportunity to debut in the PlusLiga.

Esfandiar, 26, has not previously played in Poland.

Standing at 210 centimeters, he has played for several clubs during his career, including Kalleh Mazandaran (Iran), VC Greenyard Maaseik (Belgium), Labanyat Haraz Amol (Iran), Ural Ufa (Russia), Tianjin Food Group (China), and Foolad Sirjan Iranian (Iran).

Esfandiar has won two gold medals with Iran's national team at the Asian Championships (2019, 2021). He also triumphed at the Asian Games (2022). Earlier, in 2018, he won gold at the Asian Junior Championships, where he was also named MVP of the tournament, and the following year, he helped his team win the Junior World Championship, earning the MVP award once again.

In the 2024/25 season, he won the Iranian championship with his former club Foolad Sirjan Iranian. In 2024, his team also secured a bronze medal at the FIVB Club World Championship, and later that year, they won the Asian Club Championship. Esfandiar was named the best outside hitter of the tournament.

He has competed in the Champions League with the Belgian team VC Greenyard Maaseik and in the Volleyball Nations League with Iran's national team.

Iran's women's basketball need one step further

TEHRAN – Iran's women's basketball team will kick off the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025

Division B on Sunday with a match against the Cook Islands. The team have gained valuable lessons from two years ago, when they failed to qualify for Division A.

The 2025 Division B is more than just a competition – it's a proving ground. From July 13-20, eight national teams will converge in Shenzhen, China, each with a unique story but a shared goal: earn that single golden ticket to Division A.

The stakes couldn't be higher. Only one team will move up to the elite level in the next cycle. For some, it's about reclaiming lost status. For others, it's about announcing themselves on the continental stage for the very first time.

Iran came within inches of history in 2023, falling in the Division B Final by just one point to Indonesia. It was a heartbreaking end, but also a campaign that earned them respect.

If they can bring back the core from 2023 in this year's lineup, Iran will be one of the most motivated squads in Shenzhen. They've already proven they can beat top-tier Division B teams – now they just need to go one step further.

Faghani picked to officiate Club World Cup final

TEHRAN – Alireza Faghani was picked to referee Sunday's Club World Cup final between Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain.

Faghani, a 47-year-old who was born in Iran, worked Brazil's penalty kicks win over Germany in the 2016 men's Olympic soccer final.

The Iranian-Australian official worked this year's Club World Cup opener between Miami and Al Ahly, Bayern Munich's group stage game against Boca Juniors and Chelsea's quarterfinal victory over Palmeiras.

He also refereed at the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

Iran, Poland volleyball friendly match canceled

TEHRAN – The friendly match between Iran and Poland volleyball national teams was canceled.

The match was scheduled to be held Saturday night in Olsztyn.

Team Melli will travel to Gdansk on Sunday.

Iran will face Poland in Gdansk in the coming days as part of preparation for the Week 3 of the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

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).

Iran beat Indonesia at 2025 Asian U16 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Indonesia 3-1 (21-25, 25-21, 25-19, 26-24) in the Asian Men's U16 Volleyball Championship Thailand 2025 on Saturday.

Iran, headed by Arash Sadeghiani, will face Hong Kong and Kazakhstan in following days in Pool B.

This top-tier continental event is being held from July 12 to 19 in Nakhon Pathom and Ratchaburi, Thailand.

This tournament serves as a qualification tournament for the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U17 World Championship.

The top three teams of the tournament qualified for the 2026 World Championship as the AVC representatives.

Three Iranian security forces martyred in southeast terrorist ambush

TEHRAN – Three members of Iran's security forces have died from injuries sustained during a fierce confrontation with terrorists near the Pakistan border on Friday.

The attack targeted a patrol unit of the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FARAJA) in Chabahar County, according to a statement issued by the provin-

cial police media bureau.

The statement detailed that armed outlaws ambushed the patrol unit on Friday afternoon, unleashing gunfire that critically wounded three officers.

The fallen personnel, who succumbed to their injuries on Saturday morning, were

identified as Hossein Jafarnia, Abbas Bairaqui-fard, and Hamidreza Mirshahi.

The martyrs included both draftees and official police servicemen. During the intense exchange of fire, security forces reportedly killed one terrorist and seriously wounded another.

IMIDRO sets \$893m domestic production target for mining, mineral industries



TEHRAN – Iran’s state-owned mining development agency, IMIDRO, has announced a target of \$893.2 million in foreign currency savings through domestic production in the mining and mineral industries during the current Iranian year ending March 2026.

The initiative, aimed at reducing reliance on imports, will involve thirteen major companies.

The planned savings will be realized through the domestic production of parts, equipment, and technologies. According to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the largest contributions this year are expected from Khouzestan Steel Compa-

ny with \$397 million, Mobarakeh Steel Company with \$250 million, the National Iranian Copper Industries Company with \$70 million, Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company with \$34.1 million, and Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company with \$33.7 million.

Additional participants include Gohar Zamin Iron Ore Company with \$30.1 million, Hormozgan Steel Company with \$26 million, Kurdistan Steel Company with \$18 million, National Iranian Steel Company with \$12.5 million, Sangan Steel Company with \$7.5 million, Khorasan Steel Company with \$5.3 million, Iran Alumina Company with \$4.3 million, and South Aluminum Corporation with \$2.5 million.

Last year, Iran recorded \$882 million in foreign currency savings in the mining sector through the localization of components and equipment. Between 2020 and 2025, total savings from such efforts reached approximately \$3.44 billion.

Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries in the world. Having 15,000 mining areas, Iran has the sixth largest zinc, seventh largest copper, ninth largest iron ore reserves, and fifth largest gypsum and barite reserves globally.

Govt. eyes 3,000 MW renewable energy capacity by Mar. 2026

TEHRAN – Iran’s push to expand renewable energy capacity is gaining momentum, with Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi unveiling a new 100-megawatt renewable energy project and expressing hope that total installed capacity will exceed 3,000 megawatts by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2026).

According to IRNA, under the Seventh National Development Plan, Iran aims to build 12,000 megawatts of new renewable energy capacity over five years. In line with this, President Masoud Pezeshkian’s administration has set a more ambitious target of 30,000 megawatts within four years.

Since the beginning of the current administration in mid-2023, roughly 800 megawatts of new renewable capacity has come online, bringing the total installed renewable capacity in Iran to 2,000 megawatts. This unprecedented growth reflects the government’s commitment to addressing the country’s chronic power imbalance. The latest report from the Energy Ministry shows a 30 percent increase in renewable energy production as of late June 2025, compared to the previous



year.

According to the Renewable Energy and Distributed Generation Monitoring Center, Iran’s grid-connected renewable power plants generated 836 gigawatt-hours of electricity in the first three months of the Iranian year (March–June 2025). Solar power led the way with 469 gigawatt-hours, marking a 77 percent year-on-year increase.

Wind farms generated 275 gigawatt-hours, followed by small hydro with 76 gigawatt-hours, expansion turbines at 12 gigawatt-hours, and biomass at 4.0 gigawatt-hours.

Industry Ministry unveils production support package

TEHRAN – The Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade has unveiled a production support package focused on sustaining industrial output, particularly for sectors affected by the recent war.

Deputy Minister of Mining and Mineral Industries Vajiollah Jafari, said the package has been designed around two key pillars, with special assistance allocated to units damaged by the conflict, including access to foreign currency and financial resources.

Jafari said the ministry has held intensive meetings with private-sector industry asso-

ciations to assess their conditions and formulate targeted measures. These sessions, he noted, are ongoing and include separate talks with groups such as the Lead and Zinc Industries Association, the Refractories Industry Association, and the Cement Employers’ Association.

The key topics raised in the consultations included securing stable electricity supplies, maintaining fuel safety for mining industries, addressing foreign currency concerns, expediting import order registrations, supporting domestic production, and boosting resilience in the face of potential crises.

South Pars platforms undergo major overhaul to sustain gas output

TEHRAN – Iran has completed major maintenance work on the offshore gas platforms of Phases 5 and 6 of the South Pars gas field, aiming to ensure stable gas production amid regional conflict. Mehdi Rajabi, head of production operations at Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), said the overhaul was carried out without incident, registering over 12,734 person-hours of labor.

Rajabi praised the continuous efforts of the company’s workforce, calling them the frontline of the country’s economic resilience. The heavy maintenance program, which took

place from June 9 to July 2, coincided with a 12-day conflict, but was successfully implemented through continuous coordination and safety measures.

A total of 1,163 maintenance tasks were executed on platforms SPD5 and SPD6. These included the repair and replacement of 32-inch, 15-ton motor-operated valves (MOVs), cleaning of storage tanks, calibration and repair of safety valves, and various electrical and technical inspections. Following completion, both platforms were brought back online.

Global Gold at the Crossroads of Crisis

By Amir Reza Etasi

An Analytical Study of Gold Price Dynamics Amid Wars, Inflation, and Monetary Policy (1973–2025)

1. Introduction: The Current State of the Gold Market

Over the past half-century, the global gold market has repeatedly asserted itself as the most sensitive barometer of crisis—from geopolitical shocks and energy upheavals to global monetary and fiscal policy shifts.

From the oil crises of the 1970s and the Iranian Revolution, to the 2008 financial meltdown, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the present-day tensions in the Middle East, gold has persistently emerged as the premier safe haven in times of uncertainty.

Its price surges have often mirrored widespread distrust in fiat currencies, structural financial weaknesses, or fear of political instability.

This article adopts an analytical and comparative approach, revisiting the most significant events of the past fifty years to illuminate how macro shocks and policymakers’ responses have continually redrawn the trajectory of this precious metal.

2. Gold Price Volatility in Major Wars and Crises of the Past 50 Years

As the archetypal safe-haven asset, gold has historically responded to nearly every major global war and crisis.

This section reviews gold’s price action in the wake of critical geopolitical events—from the Yom Kippur War and the 1979 Iranian Revolution, to the Gulf Wars, 9/11, the 2008 financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing Ukraine and Middle East conflicts. The analysis seeks to answer: Has gold reliably functioned as a safe harbor in each episode, and how have its price patterns reflected the nature and depth of each crisis?

Key Case Summaries

* 1973 Yom Kippur War:

The Arab–Israeli conflict triggered an oil shock and global inflation. Central banks faced a deluge of liquidity and a weak dollar, prompting investors to flock to gold. In less than a year, gold prices soared over 115%, forever altering the structure of the global gold market.

* 1979 Iranian Revolution:

The Revolution drove oil shortages, geopolitical instability, and worldwide inflation. Gold surged over 160% within two years, touching a historic \$850 peak. While Iran’s energy shock was critical, the Federal Reserve’s monetary response ultimately capped gold’s advance.

* Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan (1979):

Overlapping with the Iranian Revolution and oil shock, this invasion elevated geopolitical risk to multi-decade highs, catapulting gold to its \$850 record. The episode confirmed gold’s status as the asset of choice in systemic crises.

* Iran–Iraq War (1980–1988):

Despite an initial price spike, gold soon corrected and fell by more than 70% over the decade. The primary driver: aggressive Fed tightening, higher real rates, and renewed confidence in the US dollar. Regional crises alone could not sustain gold’s rally in the face of global monetary force.

* 1990–91 Gulf War:

Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait lifted gold by about 20% in the short term, but rapid crisis management by the US and allies quickly restored equilibrium. This episode underscored the US role in limiting geopolitical risk.

* US–Afghanistan War and 9/11 (2001):

Terrorist attacks and the subsequent US war in Afghanistan jolted markets, initiating a secular bull run in gold. Expansionary Fed policy, falling rates, and liquidity injections drove investors into gold as a safe haven.

* Iraq War (2003):

US military intervention and energy uncertainty triggered a fresh wave of demand for gold, breaking the \$400 barrier. Emerging market central banks ramped up gold purchases, fueling a rally that persisted into 2011.

* 2008 Financial Crisis:

Bank collapses and stock market crashes spurred an exodus into safe-haven assets; gold doubled within three years. Quantitative easing and inflation fears further powered this ascent.

* Arab Spring, Libya, Syria, Yemen (2011–2015):

Regional instability produced only brief rallies in gold, with Western central banks’ policy tightening restoring balance. This pattern confirmed that regional crises lacking global economic spillovers have limited, short-lived effects.

* Ukraine (2014, 2022), COVID-19, Iran–Israel (2023–25):

Gold reached new historic highs during the Ukraine crises and COVID-19, with rallies of 15–30%.

However, tighter monetary policy and a strong dollar moderated these surges. In the latest Iran–Israel crisis, gold remains elevated as markets await either a genuine supply shock or a decisive central bank policy shift.

Historical Pattern

Gold’s historical behavior confirms its role as a safe haven during periods of geopolitical tension, financial crisis, and structural instability.

From the 1973 oil shock and 1979 Revolution to the 2008 crisis and COVID-19, gold’s greatest rallies have coincided with diminished faith in fiat currencies, weakened geopolitical security, or an uncertain economic outlook.

Conversely, in more localized conflicts—Yemen, Syria, or other brief regional shocks—gold’s reaction has been muted and typically short-lived.

The key variables behind gold’s response: severity of uncertainty, global reach of the crisis, dollar weakness, and the monetary policy stance of major central banks.

Crucially, after every major crisis, gold has re-established a structurally higher price base. Since 2001, gold has persistently scaled new highs, and even now, amid the latest geopolitical tensions, hovers near \$3,400 per ounce.

3. Structural Shifts and Market Psychology: Gold in the Short, Medium, and Long Term

The psychology of the gold market over the past 50 years demonstrates that changes in monetary policy, economic and geopolitical crises, and collective waves of investor fear or greed have all triggered significant bull and bear cycles.

Analysis of transaction volumes and price dynamics reveals that gold’s defensive role is maximized whenever trust in monetary and financial systems erodes.

Major cycles:



1. The Great Rally (1976–1980): +773%

This era saw gold surge from \$112 to \$850 in under four years—an explosive response to the collapse of Bretton Woods, oil shocks, geopolitical crises (Yom Kippur, Iranian Revolution), and US inflation. Investor panic and a collective flight from fiat to gold created vertical price action and unprecedented liquidity. This was the first true “age of the safe haven.”

2. The Long Decline (1980–1999): –70%

After peaking in 1980, gold entered a two-decade bear market, dropping over 70%. Aggressive Fed policy (under Volcker), high real rates, dollar strength, and central bank gold sales drove capital into equities and bonds. This period marked a turning point, as trust in US monetary policy and the dollar was restored.

3. Second Bull Market (1999–2011): +654%

Gold rebounded from its historic low of \$250, reaching \$1,920 by 2011 (+654%). Catalysts included expansionary monetary policy, repeated shocks (9/11, 2008 crisis), and rising central bank and ETF demand—especially from China, Russia, and emerging markets. Disillusionment with the dollar and systemic uncertainty drew a new wave of global investors.

4. Correction (2011–2015): –45%

Following the 2011 peak, gold dropped nearly 45% in four years, retracing to \$1,050. The drivers: Fed tapering, rising rates, equity rallies, and restored market confidence. Despite continued high trading volume, investor psychology shifted from defensive to risk-on.

5. New Highs (2015–2025): +225%

In this period, gold’s price action reflected unprecedented monetary policy, historic inflation, and rolling geopolitical shocks. From \$1,077, gold soared to \$3,450 by spring 2025. High liquidity, record central bank buying, and persistent risk aversion powered each rally. Every dip became a buying opportunity, every surge drew institutional flows. The dominant psychology: systemic risk aversion and global fear dynamics.

4. Conclusion & Gold Price Scenarios: Between Doubt and Hope

The global gold market now stands at a critical juncture, with both fundamentals and technical indicators suggesting a pivotal

crossroads.

Historically, gold’s behavior during major geopolitical shocks—Yom Kippur, Iranian Revolution, Iraq War, Ukraine, now Iran–Israel—has combined surges of uncertainty and price spikes with subsequent corrections.

Drawing on transactional data, chart analysis, and parallel developments in interest rates, the dollar, and macro trends, the following scenarios emerge:

Scenario 1: Sharp Correction if \$3,300 Support Fails

Should gold breach its key short-term support at \$3,300, daily and weekly chart analysis suggests a rapid decline to \$2,660 or even \$2,470 is plausible in the next 2–3 months (a correction of 18–31%). Historical precedent shows that after every fear-driven rally—such as the Iraq War (2003) or initial Ukraine shock (2022)—stabilization and the absence of new shocks has triggered outflows and price retreats.

Downward pressure will be intensified if:

* The dollar index (DXY) strengthens on higher US real rates and continued Fed hawkishness, undermining gold’s yield-free appeal (as seen post-2011 and late 2022).

* A sharp fall in oil prices (from Middle East stabilization or supply growth) tames global inflation, reducing the urgency of inflation hedges.

* If the Iran–Israel crisis remains regional and political stability returns, gold’s risk premium will evaporate quickly, deepening the correction.

* Heavy central bank (e.g., China, Turkey) or fund selling accelerates downward momentum.

In this scenario, gold could spend several months ranging between \$2,470–2,660. However, the primary trend remains bullish, and this would represent a short-term correction within a larger secular uptrend.

Scenario 2: Bullish Breakout Above \$3,509

Conversely, a decisive break above the historic resistance at \$3,509—with strong volumes and technical confirmation—would activate a new bullish phase, targeting \$4,000 and beyond in coming months.

For this scenario to unfold:



* Persistent or escalating Iran–Israel tensions, or expansion of the crisis to other regional players (closure of the Strait of Hormuz, major power intervention), could inject fresh geopolitical risk and spark record-breaking rallies, as seen during the Iranian Revolution or Iraq War.

* Continued or intensified monetary stimulus: If major central banks resist raising rates in the face of recessionary pressure, investors will redouble their gold allocations as an inflation hedge.

* US dollar weakness: Should the dollar decline due to historic deficits, debt concerns, or heightened rate-cut expectations, gold will rise even faster.

* Unexpected shocks in oil or commodity markets: A renewed spike in oil from crisis escalation or new sanctions (on Russia, Iran) could push more safe-haven flows into gold.

In this scenario, even brief corrections will serve as springboards for new highs, and targets above \$4,000 become plausible.

Strategic Takeaway

Gold’s response to historic geopolitical crises demonstrates that while “big fear” is rapidly priced in, the durability of rallies—or the depth of corrections—depends on a confluence of monetary policy, dollar valuation, oil prices, and the genuine scale of the threat.

At present, the gold market sits squarely between global “fear of instability” and “hope for de-escalation.” Divergent signals from the Fed, global central banks, and oil markets only deepen volatility, making investor decisions more complex.

As previous wars (Iran–Iraq, Ukraine) have shown, gold is prone to both scenarios, but its long-term direction will be shaped by a mix of economic, policy, and psychological factors.

New ambushes hit occupation regime's military

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Palestinian resistance forces have conducted two major ambushes in Gaza, inflicting heavy losses on the Israeli occupation regime's military.

The Israel occupation forces (IOF) have begun evacuating their military casualties from the battlefield, with the regime's military helicopters deployed to provide urgent assistance.

Preliminary reports indicate that a number of IOF soldiers have been wounded, as Hebrew media sources confirm the occurrence of another "security incident" in Khan Younis, located in southern Gaza. Helicopters were observed transporting the injured from the area.

A similar "security incident" was also reported in the Shujaiya neighborhood of northern Gaza City.

The armed wing of Hamas, al-Qassam Brigades, released footage showing their fighters



shelling an IOF gathering of soldiers and military vehicles with heavy mortar fire in Khan Younis.

The video also includes scenes of a surveillance drone being captured while conducting reconnaissance over the city.

In a separate operation, al-Qassam Brigades reported that their fighters targeted an IOF Merkava

tank with a pre-planted high-explosive landmine southwest of Khan Younis.

Meanwhile, the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds Brigades, published video evidence of their resistance fighters targeting a newly established IOF command and control center north of Khan Younis.

They also attacked an IOF special forces unit that had taken cover inside a residential building in the city center. These strikes were reportedly carried out using 107-type rockets.

In another confrontation, al-Quds Brigades claimed responsibility for destroying an Israeli regime D9 military bulldozer during an IOF incursion into the Sheikh Nasser area, east of Khan Younis. The bulldozer was reportedly struck by a barrel-shaped "Thaqib" explosive device.

It remains unclear whether these incidents are connected.

Before the latest ambushes, an IOF military radio reporter confirmed that two Israeli soldiers were wounded when their tank was struck by anti-armor fire during clashes in northern Gaza.

Palestinian resistance forces continue to expand their operations against the IOF throughout the Gaza Strip.

Tel Aviv struggles to counter Ansarallah strikes amid growing military failures

From page 1 ▶ including the ports of Ras Isa, Hudaydah, As-Salif, and a power station in Ras Kanatib. According to the Israel occupation force (IDF), around 20 aircraft deployed 50 bombs and missiles in the strikes, aiming to degrade Ansarallah's ability to threaten Israeli maritime routes and territory. One notable target was the Galaxy Leader, a vessel seized by Ansarallah two years prior and converted into a radar platform to monitor shipping toward Israel's port of Eilat.

However, despite the scale of these operations, Ansarallah's air defenses, including advanced domestically produced surface-to-air missiles, reportedly forced several Israeli squadrons to abort their missions (Caliber.az, 2025). This resilience reflects a significant tactical evolution that complicates Israel's efforts to achieve decisive military results.

Persistent missile threat and Israeli vulnerabilities

While Israel has intercepted many incoming missiles and drones, Ansarallah's attacks continue unabated, striking sensitive Israeli infrastructure such as Ben Gurion Airport and triggering widespread air raid sirens. These attacks have caused operational disruptions and heightened public anxiety across Israel.

Israeli military analysts acknowledge that the sheer volume and precision of these

strikes expose the limitations of Israel's missile defense systems and raise doubts about the long-term effectiveness of air campaigns against Yemen's rugged terrain and dispersed targets.

Moreover, Israeli intelligence reports suggest that Ansarallah is manufacturing missiles at a rapid pace, maintaining a stockpile capable of sustaining ongoing attacks. This continuous replenishment undermines Israel's attempts to degrade Ansarallah's capabilities through airstrikes, creating a protracted conflict dynamic.

Strategic and diplomatic implications

Faced with the inability to decisively neutralize the threat militarily, Israeli officials are reportedly exploring diplomatic options. One scenario under consideration links a ceasefire in Gaza with a halt to missile attacks from Yemen, reflecting a recognition that regional conflicts are interconnected and that military action alone cannot resolve the multidimensional crisis. Concurrently, Israel is lobbying the United States to intensify pressure on Ansarallah and form a regional coalition to contain the threat, though achieving consensus remains challenging.

This strategic dilemma is compounded by the fact that Israeli military and intelligence officials express skepticism about the long-

term impact of airstrikes given Yemen's geography and Ansarallah's adaptive tactics. The conflict thus risks becoming a prolonged war of attrition with no clear exit.

Humanitarian and economic fallout

Israeli strikes on Yemeni ports and infrastructure have worsened Yemen's humanitarian crisis, damaging civilian facilities and disrupting essential services. Yet, Ansarallah's attacks on Israeli-linked ships in the Red Sea are unnerving Israeli officials and putting economic pressure on Israel's economy.

A persistent and complex challenge

Israel's confrontation with Yemen's Ansarallah has exposed significant vulnerabilities in its defense posture and highlighted the limits of military power in addressing asymmetric threats.

Despite intensified air campaigns and expanded intelligence operations, Ansarallah's sustained missile and drone attacks continue to challenge Israeli security and strain its strategic calculus. The emerging diplomatic overtures indicate Israel's recognition of the need for broader regional solutions, yet the path to de-escalation remains uncertain.

Without a viable political framework, Israel risks becoming entrenched in a costly and open-ended asymmetrical conflict with Ansarallah.

What comes after the 12-day war on Iran?

From page 1 ▶ This new ceiling presents the West with new challenges: either to acknowledge the new balance of power on the ground — which has now been tested in a way it never had before — or continue this hostile approach toward the Islamic Republic. This has also proven to be a failure after 45 years of sanctions that backfired and produced this kind of resilience, despite a full and comprehensive embargo.

Iran has been tested, and it has become clear that it is impossible to eliminate its current form, structure, and direction — and the inherent power it possesses. At the regional level, regarding its influence and its relationship with resistance forces that share Iran's orientation and goals for regional security and rejecting foreign

intervention — here comes the bigger question: What will be the limits of this Axis of Resistance's presence, capabilities, and strength. What is the space it will occupy, now that things have reached this point?

Whilst parts of the Axis of Resistance may have been weakened, with the threats having reached the heart of Iran, and whilst the Axis of Resistance previously had theoretical excess power — it however had not been tested. Things are clearer after this test, especially with the U.S. and the Israeli occupation entity throwing in all their weight, through 40 years of accumulated intelligence effort, that is enough to undermine any other system. Despite the huge disparity in military strength and weaponry, af-

ter this record-breaking period of warfare, the Axis of Resistance — although appearing weaker in image — proved to be more stable in real terms of actual power.

Now that it has been tested, it turns out it did not break on any front, and is now feared more than before, not because of perceived excess power, but because of proven resilience. What remains now is the true power, and if given time to rebuild during peacetime, the region will shift into a new phase — one in which the resistance forces have the upper hand and the final word.

Another question arises: Can the Israeli occupation entity, and behind it the U.S., adapt to and deal with this new reality, which is not in their favor? They are un-

likely to tolerate it for long. Out of recklessness and impatience to assert unilateral influence across the region, these foolish actions may lead to another confrontation. They will test the waters and try to enter into confrontation gradually — like they are doing in Lebanon — and this might lead, at the level of dealings with the Islamic Republic, to a larger confrontation.

Something unforeseen by the U.S. and the Israeli occupation entity might occur — due to the entity's inability to endure this kind of confrontation — which could ultimately lead to its end. Iran has emerged strong, and it must boldly present its vision for the region, in all its components of resistance.

fear of the al-Jolani terrorists, among them, Lebanese families holding Lebanese identity cards.

The threats by the HTS-led government placed the region (already extremely impoverished) on the brink of a humanitarian disaster due to deliberate and systematic official neglect, which prompted Hezbollah's service institutions, in cooperation with Iranian and Iraqi relief organizations, to shelter these helpless refugees.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Gaza talks at risk as Israel demands Rafah occupation and GHF continuation

Hamas negotiators are increasingly skeptical that a Gaza ceasefire agreement with Israel could be reached in the current round of talks in Doha, Middle East Eye has learned.

Sources close to Palestinian negotiators said talks remain deadlocked over at least two of four key issues.

The first is the extent of the proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip during the 60-day truce. The second is the method of aid distribution.

The United States has reportedly proposed postponing discussions on these two points and instead focusing on the names of Palestinian prisoners to be released by Israel in exchange for the remaining Israeli captives.

However, Palestinian negotiators believe this approach is a trap.

60 Labour MPs urge UK to recognize Palestinian State

Nearly 60 Labour MPs have called on the UK government to immediately recognize Palestine as a sovereign state, warning that "Israel's" latest actions in Gaza amount to ethnic cleansing, Al Mayadeen reported.

In a public letter to Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Saturday, the MPs cited "Israel's" announced plan to forcibly relocate all Palestinians in Gaza to a displacement camp in the ruins of Rafah. They described the move as "an operational plan for crimes against humanity," and unequivocally labeled it as part of the ethnic cleansing of Gaza.

The signatories urged the UK to break from its cautious approach and take urgent action, not only to stop the forced transfer but also to recognize Palestinian statehood as a necessary step toward viable peace.

The intervention follows mounting international pressure, including recent calls by French President Emmanuel Macron for European nations to collectively recognize Palestine. The MPs warned that continued inaction sends the wrong signal and undermines Britain's long-stated support for a two-state solution.

Dozens killed at aid site in Gaza, children dying of malnutrition

At least 79 Palestinians have been killed since Saturday dawn in Israeli attacks across Gaza, with dozens of children dying from malnutrition during Israel's punishing months-long blockade, as ceasefire talks reportedly stall.

Among the victims on Saturday, 14 were killed

in Gaza City, four of them in an Israeli strike on a residence on Jaffa Street in the Tuffah area, which injured 10 others.

At least 30 aid seekers were killed by Israeli army fire north of Rafah, southern Gaza, near the one operating GHF site, which rights groups and the United Nations have slammed as "human slaughterhouses" and "death traps".

According to Al Jazeera's Mubasher, Israeli forces fired directly at Palestinians in front of the aid distribution center in the al-Shakoush area of Rafah.

Israeli militarized zones, forced evacuation orders take up 86% of Gaza: UN

The latest report by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) says 86.1 percent of the Gaza Strip now falls within Israeli militarized zones or forced evacuation orders.

Four displacement orders were issued by the Israeli army between July 2 and July 8, including three affecting a total of 37 UNRWA installations that assist displaced Palestinians.

"At least 188 UNRWA installations — or over half of all UNRWA installations in the Gaza Strip — are located within the Israeli militarized zone, under displacement orders, or where these overlap," the report stated.

The UN estimates that more than 725,000 people have been displaced yet again since Israel violated the ceasefire agreement with Hamas in mid-March. Most have been displaced several times, some more than 10 times.

State Department starts firing more than 1,350 workers

The State Department began firing more than 1,350 U.S.-based employees on Friday as the administration of President Donald Trump presses ahead with an unprecedented overhaul of its diplomatic corps, a move critics say will undermine U.S. ability to defend and promote U.S. interests abroad, Reuters reported.

The layoffs, which affect 1,107 civil service and 246 foreign service officers based in the United States, come at a time when Washington is grappling with multiple crises on the world stage: Russia's war in Ukraine, the almost two-year-long Gaza conflict, and the Middle East on edge due to high tension between Israel and Iran.

"The Department is streamlining domestic operations to focus on diplomatic priorities," an internal State Department notice that was sent to the workforce said. "Headcount reductions have been carefully tailored to affect non-core functions, duplicative or redundant offices, and offices where considerable efficiencies may be found," it added.

The total reduction in the workforce will be nearly 3,000, including the voluntary departures, according to the notice and a senior State Department official, out of the 18,000 employees based in the United States.

photo of the day



Gaza's government says at least 650,000 children are facing famine in Gaza [AFP]

Why does Jolani threaten Lebanon over his henchmen?



From page 1 ▶ Reportedly, the self-appointed Syrian president revealed that he had decided to ask his Foreign Minister, Asaad Sheibani, to visit Beirut specifically to discuss the issue.

Al-Jolani stressed that this visit would be the last diplomatic opportunity before Damascus introduces its punitive measures against the Lebanese government.

With the fall of the former Syrian regime on December 8, the northern Bekaa Valley was flooded with more than 62,000 displaced people, who had fled their border villages in

Zij-e Manijeh, a unique opportunity to draw visitors to Kermanshah



TEHRAN—Zij-e Manije, sometimes referred to as “Manijeh Castle,” is one of the ancient charms located near the city of Sarpol-e Zahab in Kermanshah province, western Iran.

Investors and, in particular, local people, can use the capacity of this ancient monument and its proximity to many other historical sites to draw tourists, said Director of the National Sassanid Axis Base in Kermanshah Kiomars Azami.

He told ISNA that Zij-e Manijeh is one of the most intact buildings remaining from the Sassanid period in Kermanshah, which is about 1,500 years old.

Azami said the renovation operations have been conducted on the monument in the past two decades, adding that fortunately the monument is in good situation.

He explained that close to 10 billion rials (\$11,111) credit has been allocated to the monument for renovation works.

The archaeologist continued that Manijeh Castle is considered an exquisite monument of the province and there is no possibility of any changes inside the building nor its exploitation.

Given its proximity to many important historical monuments, he said unfortunately, local people haven't used this capacity to draw tourists or earn money.

The important historical monument is located in the vicinity of a number of other historical monuments such as the Taq-e Gara, an ancient spring, the Royal Road, and a historical stone quarry, and is located in a gorge that offers tourists a pristine natural landscape.

In addition, Piran Waterfall, one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Iran, is also very close to this historical monument.

All these capacities have created this opportunity for locals particularly people of Patagh Village to draw tourists through advertising and turn this site into a tourism hub of Kermanshah province, he said.

Regarding the Manijeh castle, the date is not very clear, but according to the architecture done in this building, especially the design of the gates, arches and also the roof covering used in this building, its construction can be compared to the late Sassanid period.

This building with a height of about two meters above the surrounding land and with dimensions of 70 by 50 square meters has a rectangular plan made of stone carcass and gypsum mortar.

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - For those who dare to look beyond the headlines, Iran unveils a spectacular array of treasures. From the ancient ruins of Persepolis, once the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, to the winding alleyways and wind towers of Yazd, a UNESCO-listed desert city, the country is a living museum.

Here, Tehran, Shiraz, Isfahan, and countless lesser-known towns offer an endless blend of history, architecture, and above all, human warmth that rivals -- and in many ways surpasses -- more conventional tourist hotspots.

Long shrouded in controversy and subject to a persistent wave of Iranophobia, an anti-Iran campaign largely driven by Western narratives, the ancient land is now making another effort to reintroduce itself to the world through a new lens. And that lens, surprisingly, includes another political dialogue aimed at solving decades-old misconceptions with the West.

A recent interview between American journalist Tucker Carlson and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian did more than make headlines. It also served as a cultural bridge, rather than merely a political discussion about the U.S. and its close ally, Israel, offering a rare window into the heart of a misunderstood nation.

For global audiences accustomed to viewing Iran solely through the prism of conflict or diplomacy, the conversation

A journey beyond the misconceptions



Imam Mosque in Isfahan. (Photo: Alamy)

served as a call to challenge assumptions and rethink narratives. It offered an unexpected invitation: Come see for yourself!

The talk, however, provided a fresh insight into the political realities, ambitions, and challenges of modern Iran. And for travelers with a curious mind and an open heart, it delivered something more powerful than a travel brochure: context, connection, and authenticity.

Owing much to its vigilant people, cultural heritage enthusiasts, and despite decades of unjust sanctions, diplomatic tensions, and tilted media portrayals, Iran has managed to preserve a deep cultural vitality. Its UNESCO World Heritage sites, picturesque mosques, Persian gardens,

bustling bazaars, and hospitality rituals reveal a nation eager to share its story with the world. As a recent success for its cultural heritage, a group of Paleolithic caves in western Iran was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list on Friday, June 11.

Travel trends in recent years have shown a growing appetite for meaningful travel; journeys that prioritize connection, heritage, and local experience. Iran offers precisely that. From conversations over saffron-scented tea in a village courtyard to the call to prayer echoing through ancient caravanserais, every moment in Iran is layered with history and humanity.

With President Pezeshkian signaling openness to dialogue and

reintegration on the global stage, the future of Iranian tourism looks increasingly hopeful. Easing travel restrictions, improving diplomatic ties, and promoting cultural exchange could turn Iran from an enigmatic name on a map into a bucket-list destination for global travelers.

Almost all travel insiders who are well acquainted with Iran's tourism believe that its potential is enormous. Whether hiking the Alborz Mountains, stargazing in the Lut Desert, or marveling at the domes of Isfahan's UNESCO-registered Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Iran promises adventure without the cliché. It offers something few countries can: an opportunity to rewrite perceptions while exploring one of the oldest civilizations on Earth.

Rahmat tree in Taq-e Bostan turns 604 years old

TEHRAN - A centuries-old tree known as “Rahmat,” also referred to as “Shirin and Farhad,” which stands tall near the famed Taq-e Bostan in western Iran, has reached its 604th year of life, a local official announced on Saturday.

In an interview with ISNA, Mohammad Mehdi Feiz Aghaei, who presides over Taq-e Bostan's national base, named the Rahmat tree as the oldest tree located in the historical site,

adding: “Fortunately, there are documents, photographs, and historical narratives concerning the long-lived creature.”

He added: “Four years ago, we held a ceremony to celebrate this old tree's 600th anniversary, and now it has entered its 604th anniversary.”

Stating that Rahmat tree is the most famous and beloved tree among the people of Kermanshah, he mentioned: “Some people of

Kermanshah call this tree Shirin and Farhad and believe that this tree was planted as a memorial to Shirin.”

He added: “However, most people of Kermanshah call this tree the Rahmat tree, and there are two narratives regarding this naming: One is that in the popular literature of this city, the plane tree is a symbol of mercy and fertility, because it is green most of the time throughout the year and even in the autumn when its leaves fall, its trunk remains green.

For this reason, the people of Kermanshah consider the Rahmat tree a symbol of fertility and

mercy for themselves.”

Feiz Aghaei noted: In another narration, it is said that in ancient times, a person named Rahmat set up a small shoe shop or coffee house in a large hole inside the trunk of this tree and made a living through this, which is why people call this tree the Rahmat tree.

Stating that the Rahmat tree was registered in Iran's National Heritage List in 2010, he added that this tree is the only nationally registered natural monument within the Taq Bostan area.

Referring to the large hole inside the trunk of this tree, the director of the Taq Bostan National Park stated: “In the past years, a restoration phase has been carried out on this tree, and in the past months, we have requested

experts from registration of the country's natural heritage list to travel to Kermanshah and provide us with their expert opinions on restoring this tree.”

He continued: “To protect this old tree, we implement conservation plans every year, such as stabilizing the tissue inside the tree, pruning excess parts, continuous fertilization, removing excess elements at the bottom of the tree, etc.”

Stating that in addition to the Rahmat tree, there are many other old and thick trees inside the Taq Bostan area, Feiz Aghaei said: “Most of the trees are from the 1940s, which were planted by the mayor at the time inside the Taq Bostan area, and have become large and thick trees due to the suitable soil and good weather conditions of Taq Bostan site.”

First Announcement

IMIDRO
IRANIAN MINES AND MINING INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT
AND RENOVATION ORGANIZATION
سازمان توسعه و نوسازی
معادن و صنایع معدنی ایران



Iran Alumina

Iran Alumina Company (IAC) intends to recycle or sell approximately five million tons of existing red mud through qualified investors, by one of the following two methods:

1) Direct sale of five million tons of red mud with the available specifications and analysis, in bulk.

* If applicants require the analysis and specifications of the available red mud, they may submit an official request via fax to +98 58 32273041 or by email to info@iranalumina.ir.

2) Extraction of any economically valuable products, including caustic soda, alumina, iron, and other valuable elements, through investment, processing and conversion of red mud, and delivering a percentage of the recovered products to Iran Alumina Company.

General requirements for applicants:

1. For direct purchase:

a) Submission of financial and credit documents demonstrating the company's capability and readiness to enter into a red mud sales contract.

b) The required tonnage of purchase in metric ton.

2. For recycling investment:

a) Proven track record in recycling, industrial or chemical/mineral processing (either operational or research-based).

b) Technical and engineering capacity to design and implement an industrial pilot plant.

c) Submission of an initial proposal including the suggested technology, team structure, target products, and an implementation timeline.

Deadline for submission:

All required documents must be submitted by the end of official working hours on 31st-Jul-2025

To the following Address:

Postal code 944111137, 7th km of Sankhast Road - Alumina Production Complex, - Jajarm City, North Khorasan Province, IRAN
Phone number +98-058-32604414 and fax +98-058-32273041.

شرکت آلومینای ایران در نظر دارد نسبت به بازیافت یا فروش پنج میلیون تن گِل قرمز موجود به یکی از دو روش زیر از طریق سرملیه گذاران واجد شرایط اقدام نماید.

1- فروش پنج میلیون تن گِل قرمز با مشخصات و آنالیز موجود بصورت فله.

* متقاضیان در صورت نیاز به آنالیز و مشخصات گِل قرمز موجود، می توانند درخواست خود را به صورت رسمی به شماره فکس 058-32273041 یا نشانی ایمیل info@iranalumina.ir ارسال نمایند.

2- استحصال هر گونه محصول اقتصادی از جمله سود کاستیک، آلومینا، آهن و سایر عناصر با ارزش به روش سرمایه گذاری و تبدیل گِل قرمز و تحویل درصدی از محصولات بازیافت شده به شرکت آلومینای ایران.

شرایط عمومی برای متقاضیان:

1- برای خرید مستقیم:
الف: مستندات مالی و اعتباری شرکت در صورت آمادگی برای انعقاد قرارداد فروش گِل قرمز.

ب: میزان تقاضا برای خرید به مقیاس متریک تن.
2- در صورت سرملیه گذاری برای بازیافت گِل قرمز مدارک زیر ارائه شود.

الف- سابقه اجرایی یا تحقیقاتی در حوزه بازیافت، فرآوری صنعتی یا شیمیایی/ معدنی

ب- توان فنی و مهندسی برای طراحی و اجرای پایلوت صنعتی.

ج- ارائه طرح اولیه شامل فنآوری پیشنهادی، ساختار تیم، محصولات هدف و زمانبندی اجرایی.

متقاضیان می توانند پیشنهادات خود را با رعایت موارد فوق حداکثر تا تاریخ 1404/05/09 به آدرس استان خراسان شمالی - شهرستان جاجرم - کیلومتر 7 جاده سنخواست، دبیرخانه شرکت آلومینای ایران، ارسال نمایند.

اطلاعات تماس و آدرس دستگاه:

اطلاعات تماس جهت دریافت اطلاعات بیشتر در خصوص فراخوان:

استان خراسان شمالی- شهرستان جاجرم- کیلومتر 7 جاده سنخواست
-مجمع تولید آلومینا، کد پستی 944111137 و به شماره تلفن 32604414 - 058 و فکس 058-32273041

Tazieh instruments put on display at Tehran's Azadi Tower

TEHRAN - A private collection of artifacts related to Tazieh (a sort of religious passion play) instruments, including garments, masks, swords, flags, etc., has been put on display at Tehran's Azadi Tower.

Titled “In Mourning of Cypress”, the exhibition highlights part of Iran's intangible heritage designated by the UNESCO.

This cultural-artistic event focuses on visual and ritual representation of the epic of Ashura (the 10th of Muharram, that the tragedy of the martyrdom of

Imam Hussain (AS), his family members, and his companions in the Battle of Karbala is commemorated) and Iranian mourning traditions. It includes a collection of exhibitions, dramatic performances, workshops and sideline programs, ISNA reported.

Those interested can visit the exhibition every day except Saturdays and official holidays from 10-16 a.m.

Tazieh was registered on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in November 2010.



Tazieh presents religious events, historical and mythical stories, and folk tales. Each performance has four components of poetry, music, song and motion.

Reopening of museums planned in three stages, deputy minister

TEHRAN - Weeks after a halt in the 12-day Israeli-imposed war on Iran, Deputy Cultural Heritage Minister Ali Darabi announced the development of a three-stage plan for the safe and gradual reopening of museums and historical sites.

According to IRNA, he also said that this roadmap has been designed with using the learnings of cultural crisis management and in line of global documents, particularly The 1954 Hague Convention which aims to protect cultural property, such as monuments of architecture, art or history, archaeological sites, works of art, and manuscripts. Its concentration is on safeguarding the identity assets of the country and recreating the social role of organizations which preserve the cultural heritage, he added.

He explained that the plan will be implemented in three phases. At first, the limited and specialized-based reopening (for one month): In this stage, the visits are conducted in low-risk provinces with approval of the provinces' Supply Council and in proportionate

with capacity and resilience of the sites, he mentioned.

The priority goes with sites which don't have museum and are located in open space or archaeological sites such as Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Taq-e Bostan, Bisotun, Iranian gardens, historical mosques and Bam Citadel, he added.

Darabi explained that the second stage, which includes expanding gradual reopening, will be put into practice one month after implementation of the first stage. In this stage, other museums and stations will be reopened gradually through observing the protection obligations, he added.

According to him, the third stage includes complete reopening and returning to the normal pattern of exploitation of the museums. In this stage, with receiving the final reports from security organizations regarding stability of the conditions, museums and stations will be completely reopened and sideline services such as stores, café museums and collaborative operations will be resumed, he said.

VP oversees return of undocumented Afghan refugees

TEHRAN –Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs Zahra Behrouz-Azar has paid a visit to Torbat-e-Jam settlement, north-eastern Khorasan Razavi province, to oversee the process of returning undocumented Afghan nationals to their home country.

“Unfortunately, the country does not have the capacity to host unauthorized [foreign] nationals any longer,” IRNA quoted the official as saying.

The administration highlights the significance of returning the refugees with dignity, and hopes they would contribute to improving their own country, Behrouz-Azar added.

About 772,000 refugees have been deported since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21). Currently, a total of 3,000 Afghans are living in Torbat-e-Jam settlement.

Over 80% of Afghan refugees voluntarily return home

From March 21 to June 27, a total of 717,658 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan; more than 80 percent of them were sent voluntarily.

According to the head of the



National Organization for Migration, Nader Yar-Ahmadi, there has been no change in the residency and the kind of services provided to documented Afghans residing in the country.

On the contrary, they will benefit from more services as illegal nationals leave the country, IRNA reported.

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

The official went on to say that

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

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

Yar-Ahmadi added.

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

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

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

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

They are mothers, fathers, and children returning to a country already facing enormous challenges.”

Aid workers’ sacrifice to inspire future generation: IFRC tells IRCS



TEHRAN –The self-sacrifice of the aid workers will inspire the future generation who want to follow the same path and provide humanitarian assistance, officials with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have said in a letter to the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

Following the martyrdom of the fifth IRCS aid worker, Seyyed Ali-Akbar Mir-Mohammadi, who lost his life in Israeli brutal attacks against Iran while performing his duty, Kate Forbes, the president, and Jagan Chapagain, the secretary general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), jointly expressed their condolence in a letter to Pirhossein Kolivand.

The letter reads as follows:

“It is with heavy hearts that we write to you once again to express our sincere condolences, on behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), for the tragic loss of Mr. Seyed Ali Akbar Mir Mohammadi, a volunteer relief worker with the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS), who succumbed to his injuries after being rescued from under a destroyed building in Isfahan.

Seyyed’s service and dedication to IRCS will always be remembered. His commitment will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps.

Our thoughts are with his family, loved ones, and all members of the IRCS during this difficult time.”

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

IFRC proud of cooperation with IRCS: MENA director

Hossam Elsharkawi, the director of the Mediterranean and North Africa (MENA) Region at IFRC, in a message to Kolivand, said The IFRC is proud of cooperating with the IRCS.

Elsharkawi commended the IRCS for its efforts in providing humanitarian services to those affected and injured by the brutal attacks of the Zionist regime.

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

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

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

In his letter, Kolivand underscored the need

for moral courage and coordinated efforts, the IRCS website reported.

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

“These attacks have not only targeted civilian objectives but, in an unprecedented and shocking manner, directly and deliberately struck humanitarian relief vehicles bearing the distinctive emblem of the Red Crescent, as well as volunteer personnel engaged in humanitarian missions.

Such actions constitute a blatant violation of the principle of protection of humanitarian personnel and equipment, the principle of neutrality, and the obligation to respect internationally recognized protective emblems. These acts clearly amount to war crimes.

Tragically, five of our dedicated relief workers were martyred in these assaults, and essential medical equipment — including ambulances and a Red Crescent rescue helicopter marked with the official emblem of the Red Crescent — was deliberately targeted and destroyed.

These incidents have severely threatened the safety and dignity of humanitarian operations in the region.

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

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

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

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

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted to slow down the wind since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million).

The major salt particle hotspots in the province include Jabal Kandi village, Saporghan, Urmia, Chooapanloo and Miandoab.

کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

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

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

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

DOE elaborates on Iran’s initiatives in combating SDSs

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has outlined the measures taken by the country at the global level to address the sand and dust storms (SDSs) over the past few years.

Dust storms are significant environmental challenges that adversely impact food security, human health, and the sustainable development process at national and regional levels.

Being located in an arid and semi-arid area, Iran has been negatively impacted by climate change. The rise in temperatures, drop in precipitation, intensified droughts, and frequent SDSs have not only threatened the ecosystem and biodiversity but also jeopardized the country’s food security by exacerbating soil erosion, expanding desertification, and declining agricultural productivity, according to the DOE.

The following are the steps taken by the country to mitigate the harmful impacts of SDSs.

Recognizing that sand and dust storms and their negative impacts at different scales are issues of international concern, the United Nations General Assembly, at Iran’s initiative, proclaimed July 12 as the International Day of Combating SDSs in 2023. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of health and sustainability, stressing the need for global and regional cooperation to manage and mitigate the effects of SDSs.

Also, the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), which was held from February 26 to March 1, approved a resolution adopted at the international summit on dealing with sand and dust storms held in Tehran in September 2023.

Close cooperation with specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as well as adopting other programs focusing on forecasting, and early warning, boosting national capacities, and developing innovative strategies to enhance resilience on the top agenda of the country, are among other measures taken.

SDSs, SDGs

Sand and dust storms present a formidable and widespread challenge to achieving sustainable development in its economic, social, and environmental dimensions. They have become a serious global concern in recent decades due to their significant impacts on the environment, health, agriculture, livelihoods, and socio-economic well-being.

SDSs are an essential element of the Earth’s natural bio-chemical cycles, but are also caused in part by human-induced drivers, including climate change, and unsustainable land management and water use. In turn, sand and dust storms contribute to climate change and air pollution. Their impacts are felt in all regions of the world, both in developed and developing countries, and pose severe challenges to achieving 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including

Zero hunger, Health, Water and sanitation, Economic growth, Cities, Climate action, Biodiversity, forests, and desertification.

At least 25 per cent of global dust emissions originate from human activities, and in some areas, desert dust has doubled in the 20th century. The impact of this phenomenon is difficult to control, as human activity in one part of the world can cause sand and dust storms in another region. However, just as SDSs are caused by human activities, these storms can also be reduced through human actions.

The UN General Assembly, furthermore, has stressed the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels, with an eye to preventing, managing, and mitigating the effects of sand and dust storms through the enhancement of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather information to forecast sand and dust storms.

The General Assembly affirmed that resilient action to combat and reduce sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of sand and dust storms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, threatening food security, and their impact on sustainable economic growth.

Iranian technologies to address SDS challenge

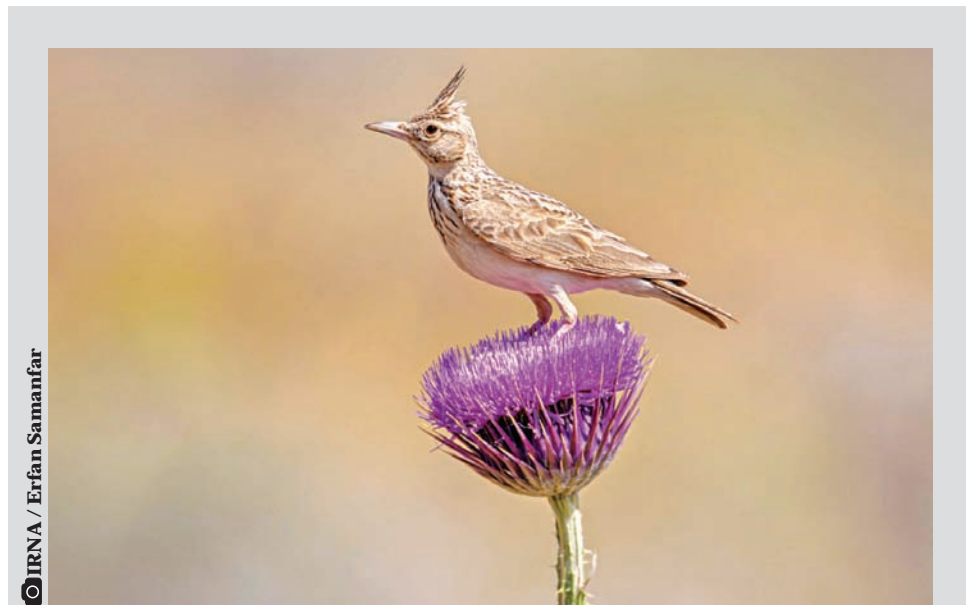
With an increase in the frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms (SDSs) in different provinces of the country, Iranian researchers have been utilizing indigenized technologies to mitigate and control SDS impacts.

The following are some approaches adopted to cope with SDSs, which have a significant impact on public health, ISNA reported.

Development of non-oil and eco-friendly mulches: mulches are an alternative to traditional oil-based mulches, which have resulted in serious environmental damage. These types of mulches have been developed from compost, gum plants, and starch products provided by researchers from the Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute, University of Tehran, the Forests and Rangelands Organization, and Khuzestan Science and Technology Park.

Nano and polymer mulches: developed by Sharif University of Technology and the Materials and Energy Research Center, the product uses nanoparticles to produce coatings with high adhesion and long-lasting durability. Nano mulches are environmentally friendly and have been tested in some central and south-western regions of the country.

Indigenized Early Warning Systems: the Iranian Meteorological Organization has launched satellite dust monitoring systems that use remote sensing data to predict dust storm transfer pathways.



Bamou National Park, rich in biodiversity

Bamou National Park is located in the southern province of Fars with an area of some 48,000 hectares.

The protected area, which is known as the best habitat for the Persian leopard, is also home to mammals, birds, reptiles, and various plant species.



JULY 13, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Do you know what is better than charity and fasting and prayer? It is keeping peace and good relations between people, as quarrels and bad feelings destroy mankind.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:42 Dawn: 3:16 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:59 (tomorrow)

Brian Clark's "Whose Life Is It Anyway?" on stage at Homa Hall



TEHRAN – After two successful rounds of performances in winter and spring, the play “Whose Life Is It Anyway?” written by Brian Clark is back on stage in Tehran.

Homa Hall is hosting the 80-minute play every night. Directed by Dorsa Aghaei, the play has a mix of actors from the previous performances and new ones in the cast, ISNA reported.

Shahin Zare', Niloufar Abbasi, Negin Khosrow, Shakiba Elkaie, Yukabed Mousavi, Saman Tohidi, Ali Golshani, Helia Soleimani, Kasra Hedayatnia, Alireza Ehsani, Shayan Heydari, Mohammad Mehrafrouz, and Narges Parsianmehr are in the cast.

Set in a hospital room, the action revolves around Ken Harrison, a sculptor by profession, who was paralyzed from the neck down (quadriplegia) in a car accident and only his brain functions normally. He is being kept alive by the miracles of medicine but wishes to die.

Clark presents arguments both in favor of and opposing euthanasia and to what extent the government should be allowed to interfere in the life of a private citizen.

In portraying Ken as an intelligent man with a useless body, he leaves the audience with conflicting feelings about his desire to end his life.

As he fights for his right to die rather than

live in an incapacitated state, the play examines the moral and legal aspects of the situation and the reactions of the hospital staff.

Brian Clark (1932-2021) was a British playwright and screenwriter. He taught in schools, colleges, and universities and was a member of the Drama Department at the University of Hull from 1968 to 1972.

He is best known as the author of the multi-award-winning play “Whose Life Is It Anyway?”, which was first produced in 1978.

In the 1970s, it took Clark six years to find a West-End theater management brave enough to risk presenting a play in which the central character is a tetraplegic faced with a future of total dependence on a life-support machine.

But it was a smash hit both there and on Broadway, winning several awards, and a film version followed.

The dilemma posed by a medical professional committed to saving life on the one hand and an individual claiming the right to make their own decisions about their life on the other is one that has struck a chord deep in the public imagination and is as real today as it was then.

“Whose Life Is It Anyway?” will remain on stage through July 18 at Homa Hall, located at Ziba Dead-End, Nofel Loshato St., Hafez St.

Cartoon of Day



Netanyahu says he nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Cartoonist: **Kamal Sharaf from Yemen**

Iranian storyteller Arian, illustrator Haddadi nominated for 2026 ALMA

TEHRAN – Iran's nominees for the 2026 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) were unveiled by the Children's Book Council of Iran on Thursday.

The council announces Arman Arian in the Writers' category and Hoda Hadadi in the Illustrators' category as nominees for the prestigious Swedish prize for children's literature, IRNA reported.

According to a press release from the council, Arian has been nominated in the writers' section for his pioneering role in reimagining ancient Iranian myths and concepts for children and adolescents.

Through his cohesive, diverse, and structured series, he has forged a new link between today's generation and Iran's rich cultural and intellectual heritage.

Inspired by texts such as the Avesta, Shahnameh, Bundahishn, and other mythological sources, Arian's works go beyond mere retelling to create innovative, captivating, and meaningful narratives.

His notable features include profound and multilayered character development, a creative mythological universalization, cinematic atmosphere, and a fusion of traditional and modern storytelling styles.

His stories view children and adolescents not as passive recipients but as thoughtful participants in the narrative. By creating lively, independent characters within suspenseful, psychologically deep, and culturally rich stories, Arian transforms imagination into a tool for engaging with contemporary issues. Themes such as pacifism,



Iranian writer Arman Arian (L) and illustrator Hoda Haddadi

anti-war sentiments, superstition, women's roles, family values, and social participation are expressed through rich storytelling and language.

In the Illustrators' category, Hoda Haddadi, both author and illustrator, is introduced as a nominee for the 2026 ALMA.

Her selection highlights her impactful role in creating a feminine, nature-inspired, peace-filled universe influenced by rich Persian literature.

Haddadi skillfully employs collage techniques, vibrant colors, and motifs to craft unique visual narratives.

Her extensive experience in teaching across various age groups and numerous prestigious awards

in illustration further underpin her nomination.

It is important to note that the Institute for Research on History of Children's Literature and the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IID-CY-Kanoon), as well as the Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth also hold nomination rights for the ALMA on behalf of Iran.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) amounts to SEK 5 million (about €570,000), making it the world's largest award for children's and young adults' literature.

The award was established in 2002 by the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs to commemorate Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren and to promote children's

and youths' literature from around the world.

The nomination process kicked off in March 2025, and every year, around 250 individuals and organizations from all over the world are nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The candidates are authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and reading promoters.

The winner will be chosen by a jury and announced sometime later this year. The award ceremony typically takes place in the spring of the following year.

Earning the ALMA brings not only significant prize money but also international recognition for the laureate's work in promoting children's rights and fostering a love of literature in young readers around the world.

Venice Classics to show Beyzai's "Bashu, the Little Stranger"

TEHRAN – The 1989 Iranian drama “Bashu, the Little Stranger” directed by renowned Iranian filmmaker Bahram Beyzai will be screened at the 82nd Venice International Film Festival.

The line-up has been finalized for the Venice Classics section of this year's edition of the festival, with Beyzai's film among the 18 classic films from across the globe, Mehr reported.

“Bashu, the Little Stranger” as an anti-war masterpiece has a simple story. It depicts the story of Bashu, a southern Iranian boy who, after losing his family during the Iran-Iraq war, runs away in search of refuge and is taken in by Naii, a woman living with her two young children in a village in the northern part of the country.

Despite their linguistic, ethnic, and racial differences, neighbors' gossip, and the economic challenge of feeding a new family member, Naii accepts Bashu and prepares to convince her disabled husband when he arrives home from a work-related trip.

The touching acclaimed drama, however, carries subtle undertones about human emotions like love, acceptance, loneliness, and unfamiliarity.

In 1999, “Bashu, the Little Stranger” was voted the best Iranian movie of all time by a poll of 150 movie experts.

Last year, Beyzai was invited by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to join the membership ranks of the Oscar organizer,

A director and screenwriter, Beyzai, 86, is part of a generation of filmmakers in the Iranian New Wave, a Persian cinema movement that started in the late 1960s. The filmmakers share many common techniques including the use of poetic dialogue, references to traditional Persian art and culture, and allegorical storytelling often dealing with political and philosophical issues.

Already known for his groundbreaking work as a theater director, Beyzai helped catalyze a new era of Iranian cinema.

His debut feature “Downpour,” made in 1972, is regarded as one of the most successful Iranian films ever made.

His other films include “Stranger and the Fog” (1974), “Crow” (1976), “Ballad of Tara” (1979), “Bashu, the Little Stranger” (1986), “Maybe Another Time” (1988), “Travelers” (1992), “Killing Mad Dogs” (2001), and “When We are All Asleep”



(2009).

Beyzai's stories, plays, and screenplays, as well as his studies in various fields, have been published in over 70 books. Some of his plays have been translated into several languages and shown in many countries.

Venice Classics is the section that since 2012 has presented at the Venice Film Festival a selection of the best restorations of classic film.

Some other notable films in the Venice Classics section include “Mataador” by Pedro Almodóvar (1986), “Blind Chance” by Krzysztof Kieślowski (1981), “Kwaidan” by Masaki Kobayashi (1965), and “House of Strangers” by Joseph L.

Mankiewicz (1949).

The 82nd Venice International Film Festival is organized by La Biennale di Venezia and directed by Alberto Barbera. It will run on the Lido di Venezia from August 27 to September 6. The festival is officially recognized by the FIAPF (International Federation of Film Producers Association).

The aim of the festival is to raise awareness and promote international cinema in all its forms as art, entertainment and as an industry, in a spirit of freedom and dialogue.

One section is devoted to enhance the restoration works on classic films as a contribution towards a better understanding of the history of cinema.

3rd Grand Prize of Iran Contemporary Painting exhibition opens at IAF

TEHRAN – The exhibition of works from the third edition of the Grand Prize of Iran Contemporary Painting officially opened on Friday at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF).

The event, organized in collaboration with the Iranian Painters' Association and Saman Insurance Company, is currently underway across the galleries of the IAF, Mehr reported on Saturday.

In the call for entries, 170 artists participated with over 4,500 artworks. The submitted pieces were reviewed and selected by a jury comprising Shahrvar Ahmadi, Rozita Sharafjahan, and Amir Naseri, the report added.

The third edition of the Grand Prize of Iran Contemporary Painting will run until July 20 in Momayyez, Nami, Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter galleries at the IAF.

Iranian contemporary painting is a vibrant



and dynamic art scene that reflects the rich cultural heritage and modern influences shaping the country today. Artists in Iran blend traditional techniques and motifs with innovative approaches, creating works that are both rooted in history and forward-looking.

This fusion results in a diverse array of styles, from abstract and conceptual art to figurative

and expressive works, showcasing the country's artistic versatility. Contemporary Iranian painters often explore themes such as identity, social change, spirituality, and political issues, using their art as a platform for dialogue and reflection.

Over the past few decades, Iran's contemporary art scene has gained increasing recognition on the international stage, with exhibitions, biennials, and awards highlighting the talents of its artists.

Major institutions like the IAF serve as vital hubs for nurturing creativity and fostering artistic exchange. Iranian artists' works not only enriches Iran's cultural landscape but also contributes to a global conversation about art's role in society, making Iranian contemporary painting a vital and influential force in the contemporary art world.