

Will European TNT Demolish NPT?

Reports suggest E3 is poised to trigger ‘snapback’ despite attacks on Iranian nuclear sites

File photo

► Page 3

Condolences on humanity’s return to a modern dark age

By Habib Ahmadzadeh

TEHRAN – From the moment cinema was born, humanity slowly shifted—from imaginative readers who shaped the world with their minds, to passive watchers mesmerized by giant screens. Heroes once born of paper and thought became three-dimensional spectacles: hyper-masculine men, impossibly beautiful women, shaping the modern psyche with illusion and desire.

Then came the internet—pulling us even further from the real world. Instead of nature, family, or one another, we now gaze endlessly into glowing screens, desperate for validation in the virtual realm. Being a good human in the real world? No longer a priority. In this age, even the darkest crimes can feel legal—if they’re distant enough.

Actor Keanu Reeves once shared a haunting anecdote: Two teenage girls, after hearing the plot of *The Matrix*, laughed and said, “So we already live in the Matrix.” Their father added: they rarely leave their rooms or speak to their parents—lost in their screens. ► Page 2

‘A smear campaign’: Moscow says it has not urged Iran to abandon uranium enrichment

TEHRAN – The Russian Foreign Ministry has categorically denied reports suggesting that Moscow pressured Tehran to accept a nuclear agreement based on “zero enrichment,” calling the allegations part of a “politically motivated smear campaign.”

In a statement released on Sunday, the ministry dismissed a recent Axios report that claimed Russian President Vladimir Putin had encouraged Iran to accept a U.S.-backed nuclear deal that would eliminate its uranium enrichment program entirely. The report, citing unnamed “informed sources,” alleged that Putin conveyed this position to both former U.S. President Donald Trump and senior Iranian officials, reportedly voicing support for a nuclear framework in which Iran would forgo all enrichment activities.

Moscow rejected the claims outright. “The Russian Foreign Ministry strongly denies these allegations,” the statement read. “We view this as part of a politically motivated disinformation campaign.” ► Page 3

Merz’s Iran remarks reminiscent of Nazi mentality

By Bahram Moradi

TEHRAN – The German chancellor’s claim that Israel’s attack on Iran, especially its nuclear site, was legal is extremely shocking.

While international law forbids attack on nuclear sites, one wonders whether Frederick Mertz is in his senses.

Legal scholars have raised eyebrows over Friedrich Merz’s appalling comments.

Has the German chancellor ever thought that the attack on the nuclear plants – Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan – may lead to human and environmental disasters.

Such dangerous and irresponsible remarks by a high-profile official like Merz whose country had adopted a conciliatory approach toward contentious issues since the Second World War is far from mind.

“I have no doubt about the legitimacy and legality under international law of what Israel has done,” Merz told lawmakers during a parliamentary question and answer session. ► Page 5

Pezeshkian says Iranian unity key to repelling Israel’s aggression

President Masoud Pezeshkian credited Iranian national unity and military strength for their recent success in repelling an unprovoked act of aggression by the Israeli regime.

He emphasized that the victory wouldn’t have been achievable without both factors, stating, “If the people had not stood united... victory would not have been possible.”

In meeting at the oil ministry, Pezeshkian lauded the Oil Ministry staff, highlighting their crucial role in maintaining energy supplies during the conflict. According to Pezeshkian, they “wisely foiled the enemy’s plot to plunge the country into chaos.” He also emphasized the importance of energy management and inter-agency coordination.

Looking to the future, Pezeshkian declared the government’s commitment to preventing future conflicts through diplomatic efforts. He asserted, “War benefits no one and has no true victor,” and reiterated Iran’s dedication to peace and stability. While pursuing friendly relations, he also affirmed Iran’s resolve, declaring, “We have never bullied anyone and never will, but we will never submit to bullying, either.”

Inside Israel’s botched attack on Iran’s Supreme National Security Council

TEHRAN – A new report by Fars News, published Saturday night, reveals fresh details about the Israeli regime’s failed terrorist airstrike on June 16, which targeted a critical meeting of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC). ► Page 2

Foreign voices highlight Iranian resilience amid Israeli airstrikes

TEHRAN – As dust has somehow settled from the 12-day Israeli-imposed war on Iran that erupted on June 13, 2025, some first-person narratives are emerging, not from Tehran’s official media or state-run broadcasts, but from the mouths of foreign nationals who visited the Islamic Republic during wartime or before.

These individuals — journalists, social media influencers, documentary filmmakers, and cultural ambassadors, etc. — found themselves not only witnesses but also raconteurs of Iran’s civilian resilience and defiance.

Their comments have also been echoed through the “Tell the World About Iran,” a comprehensive initiative launched by Iran’s Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) in 2022. ► Page 6

Climate aggression: a new concept for climate disasters caused by war

By Iraj Heshmati

TEHRAN – As the COP30 summit in Belém approaches, a fundamental gap in the global climate governance system once again becomes apparent: the environmental damage caused by armed conflicts.

Despite transboundary, intergenerational, and measurable consequences, this issue still holds no place in climate agendas, policies, or international early warning systems. Advanced remote sensing technologies—such as Sentinel and Landsat satellite imagery or vegetation analysis tools—have enabled precise identification of fires, gas leaks, and habitat destruction. ► Page 7



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28 ambassadors to Iran tour attacked IRIB complex

TEHRAN – Ambassadors from 28 nations toured the bombed headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) on Sunday.

The diplomatic delegation walked through the shattered studios where two media workers were killed during a live broadcast, witnessing firsthand the scars of what IRIB Chairman Peyman Jebelli denounced as Tel Aviv’s “frenzied targeting of truth-tellers.”

The visit came following the Israeli regime’s direct strike on the IRIB Headquarters last month, part of the regime’s 12-day war on Iran, which was initiated on June 13.

On June 16, eleven missiles slammed into IRIB’s fortified Glass Building complex in Tehran’s District 3 during a live news broadcast. ► Page 2

‘Death to Israel!’ chants fill Kashan as city honors 8 Aerospace members killed in Israeli strikes

TEHRAN – Chants of “Death to Israel!” echoed through the ancient streets of Kashan today as tens of thousands gathered to mourn eight Aerospace martyrs of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), killed in the Israeli regime’s 12-day war on Iran.

About twenty days after their martyrdom, the bodies of Mohammad Zolfagharpour Noushabadi, Hamid Jalali, Yaser Gholamalizadeh, Nosratollah Baharvand, Ali Alirezaei, Mohammad Khoshabpour, Meysam Fath Gharib, and Mohammad Ansari were carried aloft through a sea of clenched fists and tear-streaked faces, from 15 Khordad Square to Imam Khomeini Street, before finally reaching their resting place at Dar al-Salam Martyrs’ Cemetery. ► Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The post-Al-Udeid security season

Javan devoted its editorial to the Islamic Republic of Iran's precise and calculated attack on the United States' strategic Al-Udeid airbase in Qatar. The paper said: This attack not only targeted one of the most complex operational centers of the U.S. military in the region, but also opened a new chapter in the security geometry of West Asia. This attack is a strategic sign of the end of an order and the beginning of a new order, and is considered a turning point in the strategic discourse of the resistance. On the one side, this development is a sign of the Islamic Republic's increased self-confidence in terms of defense, and on the other, it is evidence of the Axis of Resistance's promotion from a reactive level to an aggressive, effective, and independent level. In this new order, the power structure changes from bipolar to indigenous multipolarity; its ideological foundations are rooted in Islamic identity, and its security tool is designed based on asymmetric, mobile, and indigenous deterrence. The ultimate success of this order requires the transformation of military deterrence into effective defensive diplomacy and the provision of a model for the security cooperation of the countries in the region. The future of West Asia is in the hands of the will of the nations that have overcome foreign domination and are on the path to achieving true independence.

Etamad: Extremism is the enemy of national unity

In an interview with political analyst and former parliamentarian Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, Etamad examined the danger of extremism in the post-war political atmosphere. Falahatpisheh said: While the vast majority of analysts and political activists in the post-war period called for an increase in patriotic and national approaches to protect the achievements of the people and the government in the 12-day war, immediately after the ceasefire, extremists became active to strike and obstruct the government's activities. The extremists have put several programs on the agenda in the post-war period; their most important strategy is to confront any kind of diplomatic movement. Therefore, when the Iranian President issued a message of peace, de-escalation, and diplomacy in an interview with an American journalist (Tucker Carlson), they quickly attacked him. In the next stage, the extremists raised money to cause costs for the country and the people by using Iran's name to assassinate Trump. These groups are obstructing the president's reasonable policies for negotiations. If the government does not stop these groups, they will cause

more damage to the country.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The West is not trustworthy

In light of discussions about Iran's potential return to nuclear negotiations with the United States, it is imperative to recall the history of betrayal that undermined past efforts. Negotiations should not proceed on the vague hope of non-aggression. Instead, the foundation must be an official and globally recognized declaration acknowledging that the United States and the Zionist regime have carried out attacks against Iran. These aggressors must be held accountable and required to pay reparations for the damage inflicted.

Only after such compensation is addressed, and with binding international guarantees preventing future hostilities, can meaningful dialogue resume—including discussions on Iran's legitimate nuclear rights. Any negotiated solution must unambiguously respect the rights of the Iranian people, particularly the right to nuclear enrichment. However, recognition of these rights must be coupled with clarity around the obligations of those responsible for previous aggressions.

It is vital to remember: the West's agenda has long aimed to destabilize Iran, echoing the tragic fate of Libya. The only effective countermeasure is a strategic strengthening of Iran's military, economic, and security sectors, rooted in national unity and powered by domestic resources.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Agreement at any cost is unlikely

In a note, Arman-e-Emrooz discussed Netanyahu's visit to the White House and his meetings with Trump. It wrote: Netanyahu and Trump's talks showed the contradictory calculations that the three sides have been facing since the Israeli and American attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities. Trump is counting on the threat of more attacks to force Tehran to agree to a deal that would prevent Iran from allegedly building a nuclear weapon. However, Israel doubts that a diplomatic solution will prevent Iran's secret progress towards a nuclear weapon. Tehran is seeking guarantees that Iran will not be attacked again in exchange for resuming talks with Washington. Western diplomats believe that Iran is still discussing next steps and how to address this issue. According to Ali Vaez from the Crisis Group think tank, there is now greater distrust of Trump and concerns that he will change tact. Attempts to reach an agreement at any cost, including an agreement that would end uranium enrichment in Iran, are unlikely.

Condolences on humanity's return to a modern dark age

In response to the U.S. sanctions against Francesca Albanese, the courageous UN rapporteur



From page 1 ▶ That is the world we now inhabit. This detachment has turned the ongoing massacre in Gaza into just another muted headline—stripped of urgency, reduced to spectacle. Smart screens whisper: This is just another Marvel movie. Look away. It's not your world.

But it is the world. And in it, children are killed in food lines, as powerful governments applaud war criminals like Netanyahu. The U.S. Congress rises to honor a man responsible for 17,000 orphaned children—perhaps out of fear, perhaps out of complicity. Digital blackmail, political theater, and mass distraction have paralyzed our collective conscience.

Our morality, sterilized by Instagram and WhatsApp, now fits into hashtags and fleeting protests in safe streets. We are heroes of comfort, not courage.

Meanwhile, Trump and Netanyahu's modern inquisition punishes even the brave voices of truth—like Francesca Albanese—treating them as enemies for standing with the powerless.

Albanese said it best: “The powerful punish those who speak for the powerless. That is not strength. That is guilt.”

This modern Galileo will not bow to power's false gods. But many leaders will.

And so we must awaken—from our digital slumber, from our Matrix dream.

Because only by returning to the real world can we stop the killing of the innocent—those who die every hour for a bowl of flour.

Condolences on our descent into a modern Middle Ages. May we rise before it's too late.

Inside Israel's botched attack on Iran's Supreme National Security Council

From page 1 ▶ The session, attended by the heads of all three government branches—President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, and Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i—as well as other top Iranian security and military officials, was held in a fortified underground facility in western Tehran.

The regime's military fired six munitions to seal all building exits, cut ventilation, and trap occupants—a tactic mirroring Israel's assassination of Hezbollah Leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Despite the intelligence accuracy of the strike, officials escaped through a pre-planned emergency shaft, though President Pezeshkian sustained minor leg injuries during evacuation.

The SNSC, chaired by the president and operating under the authority of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, formulates Iran's defense policies. Its 23 members also include top military officials.

As one Iranian official told Al Jazeera on Sunday, the June meeting focused on “strategic decisions to counter Israeli aggression,” making it a prime target for decapitating Iran's key decision-makers.

The assassination attempt took place during Israel's 12-day war on Iran, which resulted in at least 1,060 Iranian martyrs, including several senior commanders. The figure was confirmed by Saeed Ohadi, head of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, who cautioned that the toll could rise to 1,100.

The Zionist regime's aggression, which began on June 13,



Israel attempted to assassinate Iran's president (center), parliament speaker (R), and Judiciary chief (L) during the 12-day war

also targeted civilian nuclear facilities, residential areas, and air defenses. Yet Western media and governments remain conspicuously silent on the tragic aftermath of those attacks.

The failed plot to overthrow the government

Top officials have corroborated the attack's gravity.

President Pezeshkian, in an interview with independent American journalist Tucker Carlson, stated bluntly: “They did try [to assassinate me]. They acted accordingly, but they failed.”

Presidential advisor Mehdi Tabbatabaei told Al Mayadeen that the strike deliberately targeted “a gathering of political and military leaders,” occurring during

the war's most intense phase.

He also revealed that regional intermediaries conveyed U.S.-Israeli “ceasefire” pleas in the conflict's final days—a sign of their desperation following their failure to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

Most explosively, Ali Larijani—Leader's top advisor—exposed Israel's broader scheme: “Israelis planned to strike the SNSC to kill the heads of the three branches, then assassinate the Leader of the Islamic Revolution to finish off Iran.”

Larijani added he personally received a June 12 ultimatum from Israeli intelligence to flee Iran or “share the fate” of martyred officials.

Additionally, former IRGC chief Mohsen Rezaei, in a televised interview, detailed the Israeli regime's plan during their aggression against Iran.

“They aimed first to assassinate the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) figures, then trigger nationwide chaos, infiltrate terrorists into Iran, and ultimately balkanize the country,” Rezaei said.

An anonymous Iranian official told Al Jazeera the SNSC strike aimed to “paralyze the country” by eliminating leadership during wartime strategy talks.

The official vowed the assassination attempt “will not go unanswered.”

28 ambassadors to Iran tour attacked IIRB complex

From page 1 ▶ The attack killed news editor Nima Rajabpour and secretariat staff member Masoumeh Azimi while injuring multiple others. Technical staff member Reza Javadi-pour succumbed to his injuries a few days after the strike.

Moments earlier, Israeli War Minister Israel Katz had publicly threatened to “disappear” Iran's state broadcaster.

'Divine miracle' in the studio

Anchor Sahar Emami, who became a global symbol of resistance after continuing her broadcast amid explosions, guided diplomats through the attack site.

“What enabled me to remain in my chair until the final moment was nothing but God's miracle,” Emami stated, standing near her former news desk strewn with debris. “In all the scenes broadcast worldwide of this aggression, God's hand was clearly visible.”

Emami recounted how she maintained her professional composure despite multiple blasts: “I was reciting a statement live when the first explosion happened. I didn't stop because I understood I must not plant concern in viewers' hearts.”

She described her team's resolve as akin to “soldiers on a battlefield,” noting they had received evacuation warnings but chose to stay—a decision she likened to the spiritual defiance of the companions of Imam Hussain

(AS) at Karbala during Ashura.

IIRB Chairman Peyman Jebelli described the attack as part of Israel's broader war on journalism: “We anticipated this assault because Israel consistently targets media first. Currently, 300 journalists in Gaza have been martyred by this regime.”

He condemned the “savagery” of bombing a civilian media facility, noting that it reflected the regime's “frustration with truth” and failed attempt to break national unity.

The ambassadors – from Asia, Africa, and Latin America – observed bulletins scorched by fire and twisted broadcasting equipment as Jebelli detailed the attack's global significance.

“This crime has galvanized international public support for Iran,” he noted, vowing to pursue legal accountability through international channels. “Media freedom is humanity's shared cause, and we will expose these crimes in all forums.”

Ambassadors observed where Emami resumed broadcasting minutes after the strike, her defiant “Allahu Akbar” chant echoing through the damaged control room – a moment that later inspired global solidarity protests.

“The broadcast continued because truth cannot be silenced,” Emami said, standing before a partially collapsed studio wall. “We

transmitted to the world that no aggression can extinguish the voice of resistance.”

Jebelli highlighted the attack's paradoxical outcome: “Rather than shattering morale, it revealed our national cohesion.”

The Israeli regime's attack on the IIRB Headquarters and its subversion and suppression of truth through violence mirrors previous actions.

This is evident in Israel's broader suppression of Palestinian media, highlighted by the destruction of over 50 media offices in Gaza since October 2023.

The ongoing conflict has become the deadliest period for media workers on record, with at least 186 journalists killed according to Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) data. A staggering two-thirds of these were Palestinians, intentionally killed by the Israeli military in Gaza.

A chilling recent example unfolded on April 7, when Israeli forces burned journalist Hilmi al-Faqawi alive in a targeted missile strike on a media tent outside Khan Younis's Nasser Hospital.

Fellow journalist Abed Shaat described pulling at his colleague's burning legs as his pants tore away – a scene emblematic of what the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate calls “systematic extermination.”

Parliament committee approves bill to boost Iran's military capabilities

TEHRAN – Iran's Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has approved the general framework of a new bill aimed at strengthening the country's armed forces in the face of Israeli aggression.

Committee spokesperson Ebrahim Rezaei announced the decision following a session on Sunday, July 14, where the bill titled “Strengthening the Military Capabilities of the Armed Forces in Comprehensive Confrontation with the Crimes and Aggression of the Zionist Regime” was reviewed. The meeting was attend-

ed by officials from the Ministry of Defense, the General Staff of the Armed Forces, the Iranian Army, and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC).

The bill, drafted by Tehran MP Ali Khezrian and backed by 120 lawmakers, was passed in principle and has now been referred to the committee's Defense Subcommittee for detailed review. According to Rezaei, the bill includes one main article and three provisions, though changes may still be made during further deliberations.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, UAE security chiefs stress collective regional approach to Persian Gulf stability

TEHRAN — In a high-level phone call on Sunday, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Akbar Ahmadian and the United Arab Emirates' National Security Advisor, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in ensuring lasting security in the Persian Gulf region.

Ahmadian, who also represents the Leader of the Islamic Revolution on national security matters, thanked the UAE for its stance in condemning the recent Israeli attack on Iran, describing it as a

constructive and principled position. The two officials discussed the latest regional developments, the destabilizing role of the United States and the Israeli regime, and avenues for expanding bilateral ties.

During the call, Ahmadian underlined the interdependent nature of security in the Persian Gulf, saying: “Security in the Persian Gulf is a shared reality. A threat to one state's security by external forces inevitably jeopardizes the stability of the entire region.”

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Will European TNT demolish NPT?

Reports suggest E3 is poised to trigger ‘snapback’ despite attacks on Iranian nuclear sites

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Everything in regards to Iran’s nuclear program has taken a turn for the worse over the past month and a half. However, given the West’s characteristic arrogance and unhelpful stance in world affairs, particularly West Asia, the worst may still have yet to come.

A pivotal moment came on May 31, when the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued a report reviving decades-old – and previously refuted – allegations to accuse Iran of failing to meet its nuclear commitments. That provided pretext for Israel and the United States to launch attacks on Iran’s nuclear, military, and civilian infrastructure on June 13. After a 12-day war resulting in over 1,000 Iranian deaths, Iran officially suspended cooperation with the IAEA, a supposedly technical and neutral organization that even failed to condemn the unwar-



German foreign minister (C), joined by Britain’s foreign secretary (L), France’s top diplomat (2nd R), and EU’s foreign policy chief (R), speaks after a meeting with Iran’s Araghchi in Geneva on June 20, 2025.

ranted and unprecedented aggression directed against Iran.

The attacks also cemented a deep-seated distrust of Western diplomacy among Iranians. The United States betrayed Iran by enabling Israeli strikes and then joining the war itself while

Iranians were preparing for a sixth round of nuclear talks in Oman, despite Washington’s reported assurances that no war would break out as long as diplomatic efforts were underway. The hypocrisy was compounded by European states – Britain, France, and Germany – signato-

ries to the nuclear deal the U.S. unilaterally abandoned in 2018, who not only failed to condemn the attacks but brazenly endorsed the aggression. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz even described the destruction and death Israel wrought in Iran as the West’s “dirty work” being carried out by proxy.

Against this backdrop, and at the urging of the U.S., the E3 are poised to deliver one last blow to diplomacy with reports indicating they are preparing to trigger the so-called “snapback” mechanism.

What is snapback and does Europe have the legal right to use it?

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, contains a “snapback” mechanism, which permits any signatory to reimpose prior UN sanctions on Iran should they conclude that the country is not adhering to the terms of the agreement.

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

Iranian skaters win golds at Milano 2025

TEHRAN - Iranian inline freestyle skaters Romina Salek and Amirmohammad Savari won two gold medals in the Speed Senior Women’s category at the Hero Battle Cup.

In the speed senior women, Salek finished in first place.

Italian athlete Matilde Arosio won a silver medal and bronze medal went to Iran’s Taraneh Ahmadi.

Savari also came first in the speed senior men, beating his compatriot Reza Lesani and Spaniard Alvaro Nieto Merino.

Over 800 athletes from 25 nations — including China, India, Korea, Spain, France, Poland, Taiwan, Iran, Chile, and Ukraine — competed across every inline freestyle discipline: from Classic to Battle, Speed Slalom, Slide, and Jump — a thrilling mix of technique, music, and spectacle from July 9 to 12 in Milan, Italy.

Hashemian’s red test: Can he revive Persepolis?

TEHRAN - Persepolis, Iran’s most decorated football club, have entered a new chapter with the appointment of Vahid Hashemian as head coach.

The 48-year-old former Iranian international and Bundesliga striker replaces Turkish coach ?smail Kartal following a trophyless season that left fans yearning for change.

While Hashemian’s credentials suggest deep knowledge and technical training, his lack of major head coaching experience raises eyebrows — especially within the club’s passionate inner circle.

Currently leading pre-season training in Turkey, Hashemian is putting his squad through intensive double-session practices as part of an effort to reestablish Persepolis as a title contender in the Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL).

Despite the professional setting and disciplined routine, criticism has not been far behind. A number of former club players have publicly questioned the choice, citing Hashemian’s limited playing career at Persepolis and inexperience in managing top-tier teams.

Hashemian, however, brings with him an impressive coaching education. He holds Germany’s Fußballlehrer license — equivalent to UEFA’s Pro License — and completed a coaching internship under Pep Guardiola at Bayern Munich. He also served as an assistant coach with Iran’s national team from 2019 to 2022.

Yet for many observers in Tehran, theory must now translate into tangible success on the field.

That success, however, may not come easily. Despite a relatively solid summer transfer window, Persepolis enters the new season with key structural weaknesses, most notably in defense and midfield.

The squad lacks a specialist right-back, and depth in central defense is limited to just two seasoned players: Mohammad-hossein Kanaani and Morteza Pouraliganji. The left flank is also thin, relying heavily on veteran Milad Mohammadi and, occasionally, 39-year-old Vahid Amiri.

In midfield, the absence of a natural defensive midfielder could be Hashemian’s most pressing tactical dilemma. While Milad Sarlak is an option, his recent injury history makes him an unreliable anchor for a team that needs stability and balance.

Above all, the biggest challenge facing Hashemian is not tactical, it’s emotional. He must win over skeptical fans and former stars, restore belief in the locker room, and deliver results quickly. Anything less than a strong start could see pressure mount early.

Hashemian may not have worn the Persepolis jersey often as a player, but now as coach, he has the opportunity to write his own legacy, if he can weather the storm.

Iran defeat Cook Islands in FIBA Women’s Asia Cup 2025 Division B

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s basketball team defeated Cook Islands 82-32 in their opening match of the FIBA Women’s Asia Cup 2025 Division B on Sunday.

Roxanna Barahman and Negin Rasoulipour collected 20 points for Iran, while Tera Sadler earned 13 points for Cook Islands.

Iran are scheduled to face Mongolia and Thailand on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

Team Melli are 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.

The team that win the tournament will earn a promotion to Division A.

Iran too strong for Bhutan in AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2026 qualifier

TEHRAN - Iran turned on the style to defeat Bhutan 7-1 in their AFC Women’s Asian Cup Australia 2026 Qualifiers Group A match on Sunday.

Bhutan went into the game on the back of two straight wins but were no match for Iran, with both sides on six points heading into Wednesday’s ties that will see Iran facing Lebanon while Bhutan will play Jordan.

Iran enjoyed a storming start to the game, taking a 3-0 lead by the 10th minute.

Zahra Ghanbari lifted the ball to Zahra Alizadeh, who sidefooted the ball past Sangita Monger in the second minute with Alizadeh then crossing for Fatemeh Shaban to nod home four minutes later.

It got even better in the 10th minute when Monger pushed Shaban’s low shot onto the post but Negin Zandi was on hand to tap home the rebound, the-afc.com reported.

Bhutan steadied themselves to pull a goal back two minutes later when Pema Tshering broke through on the right, her cross hit Fatemeh Adeli, with Deki Lhazom smashing in the loose ball.

Bhutan’s hopes of further closing the gap took a knock in the 36th minute as Iran netted again after Fatemeh Pasandideh’s chip sent Zandi through, with the forward rounding Monger and slotting into the net.

Iran continued to boss the game after the break with Zandi smashing an effort into the side netting before Alizadeh’s wonderful lob over Monger was unfortunate to find the crossbar instead of the net.

Iran’s tenacity saw them add more goals late on through Ghanbari (81st), Mohaddeseh Zolfi (83rd) and Roujin Tamrian (85th) to put the seal on a dominant performance as they stayed on course for a place at the Finals.

Iran sweep past Hong Kong in 2025 Asian U16 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Hong Kong in straight sets (25-20, 25-15, 25-17) in the Asian Men’s U16 Volleyball Championship Thailand 2025 on Sunday.

Iran, who defeated Indonesia 3-1 in their opening match, will play Kazakhstan on Monday 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.

‘Death to Israel!’ chants fill Kashan as city honors 8 Aerospace members killed in Israeli strikes

From Page 1 ▶ The martyrs were honored as “guardians of Iran’s sovereignty” and “martyrs of the path to Al-Quds.”

Women showered rose petals on the flag-draped coffins while men pounded their chests to hymns comparing the martyrs’ sacrifice to that of Imam Hussein’s companions at Karbala.

“They tried to break our wings, but our aerospace defenders became birds of paradise,” wept Hashem Rezaei, 58, a veteran of the Imposed 1980s Iran-Iraq War.

The procession embodied Kashan’s legendary resilience—a city that has endured

Mongol invasions and now stands defiant against modern aggressors.

During the ceremony, students held placards reading: “Zionist Terror: 12 Days of War, 26 Sons of Kashan Martyred.”

As mourners dispersed, the lingering scent of golaab—Kashan’s millennia-old rosewater—testified to a heritage now indelibly intertwined with sacrifice.

The funeral closed with a tribute to martyr Zolfagharpour, whose body was transported to his birthplace, Noushabad, for burial.

At dusk, candlelit vigils glowed beneath Fin Garden’s



The people of Kashan mourning eight IRGC martyrs on July 13, 2025.

ancient cypresses—the same garden where reformist Prime Minister Amir Kabir was martyred in 1852.

History, grief, and defiance here intertwine like the qanat water-

ways nourishing Iran’s soul.

“Kashan doesn’t forget,” whispered an elderly woman at the cemetery gates. “And Israelis will never sleep soundly again.”

‘A smear campaign’: Moscow says it has not urged Iran to abandon uranium enrichment

From Page 1 ▶ The ministry emphasized that Russia’s position on Iran’s nuclear program has been consistent and clear: the crisis surrounding the issue must be resolved solely through political and diplomatic channels. Moscow, it added, remains committed to helping the parties find a mutually acceptable solution.

“We call on international media outlets to rely on official sources, conduct serious analysis, and refrain from spreading false or misleading narratives,” the statement continued.

The Axios article, published Saturday, reignited speculation over Russia’s role in on-going efforts to revive diplomacy between Tehran and Washington. The U.S. outlet claimed that President Putin had signaled his backing for a nuclear arrangement in which Iran would be stripped of its ability to enrich uranium—an approach long championed by hawkish factions in the U.S.

In a meeting held Saturday in Tehran

with ambassadors, chargés d’affaires, and heads of foreign missions, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addressed the broader debate over uranium enrichment as part of any potential deal with the West.

“We emphasize that in any negotiated settlement, the nuclear rights of the Iranian people—especially the right to enrich—must be fully respected,” Araghchi said. “We will never accept an agreement that excludes enrichment. This capability represents a major scientific achievement by Iranian experts, and we are determined to preserve it.”

Araghchi noted that Iran had faced enormous external pressure and even endured war in order to defend its peaceful nuclear advancements. “We have paid a high price for this progress, and we will not surrender it.”

Despite these remarks, the U.S. government continues to maintain that any new nuclear agreement with Iran must include

the dismantling of Tehran’s enrichment infrastructure—a stance that has long been a key sticking point in negotiations.

Late in June, Iran’s Constitutional Council approved a parliamentary bill on suspending cooperation with the IAEA after its report against Iran’s nuclear program became a lightning rod for the Israeli aggression on the Islamic Republic.

Citing recent violations of Iran’s sovereignty and attacks on its territorial integrity, the bill mandates the government to suspend all cooperation with the IAEA.

The Israeli regime launched a blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against Iran on June 13, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders and nuclear scientists in addition to civilians.

On June 22, the United States officially joined the war against Iran by launching attacks on three nuclear facilities in the country in violation of the United Nations Charter and the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Tehran stands by Leader’s fatwa banning nuclear weapons: Parliament

TEHRAN — The Iranian Parliament has once again underlined the country’s unwavering commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, with top lawmakers emphasizing that Iran’s nuclear doctrine remains fully aligned with the Leader’s religious decree prohibiting nuclear weapons.

Speaking on Sunday, Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson for the Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, stated that both the Islamic Republic and the Parliament—as a central institution in national decision-making—remain firmly opposed to the development or use of nuclear arms.

“The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Parliament, including the Speaker, is clear: we categorically reject the use of nuclear weapons,” Rezaei said.

He added that even during the recent 12-day conflict, while the committee adopted motions such as suspending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it never endorsed the idea of pursuing nuclear weapons. On the contrary, he said, the committee has consistently reaffirmed the Leader’s binding fatwa against such weapons.

In a recent televised inter-

view, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also reiterated Iran’s official position: “We have consistently told the international community and international organizations that we have never sought nuclear weapons. But uranium enrichment is our right.”

Qalibaf added that Iran’s nuclear policy is grounded in international law: “Our stance is clear. Nuclear technology is our legitimate right, not just a red line but beyond it. This right is guaranteed under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which allows all signatories to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes.”

Rezaei emphasized that Iran remains committed to the NPT, and that the temporary suspension of cooperation with the IAEA should not be interpreted as a step toward abandoning the treaty or seeking nuclear arms.

He concluded by reaffirming Ayatollah Khamenei’s well-established position: “The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has clearly and repeatedly declared that the use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons is religiously forbidden. That fatwa stands. There has been no shift in Iran’s nuclear doctrine.”

Iran plans fundamental change in free trade zones to boost trade, productivity



TEHRAN — Iran is set to implement a major restructuring of its free trade zones in a bid to revive their role in regional commerce and national economic development, said Reza Masrour, secretary of the Free and Special Economic Zones High Council.

Masrour said that although the zones were designed to drive trade, investment, and transit, they have fallen short of expectations in recent years.

He announced the beginning of a reengineering process, backed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, to redefine the function and governance of these areas.

The transformation plan focuses on deep legal, institutional, and infrastructural reforms, alongside new policies to turn the zones into export-oriented hubs.

Each zone will align its activities with its own strengths, such as transit logistics, tourism, downstream industries, or advanced technologies, he added.

Authorities also aim to transition the zones into what officials describe as “seventh-generation” areas—drawing on modern international development models.

Three key documents are being drafted to guide this transition: a strategic roadmap for reform, a digital economy blueprint, and a national productivity program.

The strategic roadmap is designed to identify systemic challenges, reassess the direction of the zones, and develop macro and sector-specific policies.

The digital economy document links the potential of tech-driven innovation with the commercial ecosystems of the free zones. The productivity program is aimed at defining and applying performance benchmarks to improve efficiency across all regions.

Masrour said these plans are being developed in collaboration with Iran’s top economic policy experts and research centers, using global models and tailored analyses of domestic and international conditions.

He added that the content reflects a broader strategy to redesign governance, strengthen the zones’ missions based on competitive advantages, reform outdated laws and institutions, and harness Iran’s geopolitical and geoeconomic position—including international trade corridors, regional markets, energy routes, and technology capabilities.

He expressed confidence that with support from the minister of economic affairs, the plans would mark the beginning of a more focused, dynamic, and effective era for Iran’s free trade zones.

During a meeting with President Masoud Pezeshkian in last December, Masrour said

that Iran’s free trade zones collectively offer a bulk capacity of 61 million tons and 1.4 million TEUs, with the ability to handle 12 million passengers annually.

During the session, the official presented a review of the maritime economy and port capacities of key free zones, including Anzali, Kish, Qeshm, Chabahar, Arvand, Bushehr, and Mazandaran.

In that meeting, President Pezeshkian underscored the importance of fully utilizing the existing capacities of free trade zones. He called for the preparation of a strategic roadmap for these zones and emphasized the development of north-south and east-west transit corridors, with input from prominent consultants in the free trade sector.

Iran’s free trade zones play a crucial role in facilitating trade, investment, and tourism by offering tax incentives, reduced tariffs, and streamlined regulations.

The southern zones, such as Chabahar, Kish, and Qeshm, serve as key gateways for trade with the Indian Ocean, while northern zones like Anzali and Mazandaran provide critical access to the Caspian Sea region.

The Chabahar Free Zone, in particular, holds strategic significance as a transit hub connecting Iran to Central Asia, Afghanistan, and India via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Meanwhile, Kish and Qeshm are pivotal for tourism and energy-related industries, with advanced port infrastructure to support containerized and bulk cargo handling.

The total capacity of 61 million tons of bulk cargo and 1.4 million containers highlights the zones’ potential to strengthen Iran’s position as a regional logistics hub.

Additionally, the ability to accommodate 12 million passengers annually reflects the zones’ growing role in boosting tourism and maritime transport.

Officials emphasized the need to address challenges, including infrastructure development and modernizing port facilities, to fully capitalize on the economic opportunities offered by the free zones.

The establishment of free trade zones (FTZs) in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989 - March 1990) following the fall in the country’s oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azərbaycan Province and Maku in West-Azərbaycan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

The development of existing free trade zones and the establishment of new FTZs has become one of the major economic approaches of the Iranian government.



maintained an on-site presence to respond to public and commercial inquiries, the official underlined.

He added that the organization has developed a wartime contingency roadmap to maintain trade services and prevent disruptions in critical supply chains.

Nearly 600 mines revived in one year, hitting record high



TEHRAN — Iran restored or expanded nearly 600 mines in the past Iranian calendar year (ended late March 2025), marking the highest annual performance since the launch of the country’s small-scale mining revitalization program, the head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said on Sunday.

Mohammad Aghajani, who also serves as deputy minister of industry, mining, and trade, said a total of 594 small-scale mines were revived, reactivated, or developed under the program in the Iranian year 1403.

The figure far exceeded the government’s initial target of 150 mines, representing a 296 per-

cent increase.

Since the launch of the revitalization initiative in 2018, Iran has restored or reactivated 2,373 small-scale mines, according to

IMIDRO data.

The program is a core component of Iran’s strategy to strengthen domestic mineral production and expand value

Top economic council approves incentives for renewable energy expansion



TEHRAN — Iran’s Supreme Economic Coordination Council, chaired by President Masoud Pezeshkian, has approved new financial incentives to support the private sector’s involvement in renewable energy development, particularly the purchase, production, and installation of solar panels.

According to the government’s official website, the council convened on Saturday evening with Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei also in attendance.

The meeting focused on identifying and addressing obstacles facing private investors in the solar energy sector.

In line with efforts to promote renewable energy and ease private sector activity, the council agreed to allocate special facilities and loans to support this segment.

In addition, the council approved a proposal to grant special powers to ministers and provincial governors during emergencies, aiming to speed up decision-making and improve the efficiency of executive management across

the country.

The council also extended a key Market Regulation Headquarters directive through the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2026), in a move designed to maintain effective market oversight and preserve economic stability.

On Thursday (July 10), Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi unveiled a new 100-megawatt renewable energy project and expressed hope that total installed capacity will exceed 3,000 megawatts by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2026).

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 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.

Regional electricity companies also reported major year-on-year output increases during this period, with Isfahan up 260 percent, Hormozgan 120 percent, Bakhtar 92 percent, Kerman 70 percent, and Yazd 59 percent.

Minister Aliabadi noted that Iran’s electricity generation has historically been dominated by thermal power, which still accounts for a significant portion of the country’s 95,000 megawatts of capacity.

“When the current administration took office, Iran had only 1,200 megawatts of renewable capacity,” Aliabadi said. “That figure has now surpassed 2,000 megawatts, and we expect it to reach 3,800 megawatts by year-end.”

He emphasized the government’s efforts to make renewable energy investment more attractive for the private sector and businesses — a push that has already drawn significant investor interest.

The minister also revealed that Iran has issued permits for the construction of around 30,000 megawatts of renewable capacity, with applications under review for an additional 78,000 megawatts. The government currently has renewable, thermal, and distributed generation projects underway at 1,000 locations across the country.

‘Increasing share of domestic production, a strategic priority of NIDC’

TEHRAN- The managing director of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) referred to the company’s move towards domestic production of the equipment, and said: “One of the strategic priorities of the National Iranian Drilling Company is to increase the share of domestic manufacturing.”

“In this regard, cooperation has been developed with companies such as Fajr Shiraz Complex, which has experience in manufacturing key components of drilling rigs. The project to build the third drilling rig in the country with a savings of seven million dollars is an example of these measures”, Mehran Makvandi added.

According to him, prioritization is based on the operational needs of the fields, the type of projects, and domestic capacity, although the lack of some technical infrastructure, the need for technology transfer, and the timely supply of quality parts are some of the challenges on the localization path. However, the company is determined to strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence.

Makvandi further referred to the NIDC’s contracts with knowledge-based companies and added: “Nine one-megawatt generator motors and four drilling fluid purification centrifuges, which

were previously imported, will be manufactured inside the country, and the first samples will be delivered by the end of the [current Iranian] year (March 20, 2026).”

He also noted: “A specific roadmap has been developed for utilizing these technologies, which includes continuous cooperation with science and technology parks, universities, knowledge-based companies, and the formation of specialized working groups to evaluate and implement technologies in field operations.”

The NIDC managing director has also stated that purchasing 15 new drilling rigs for the oil and gas industry is on the agenda.

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

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

He attributed this success to

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

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

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

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

As previously announced by the NIDC deputy managing director for drilling operations, the com-

panies in mining.

The number of reactivated or developed mines in 1402 (March 2023–March 2024) stood at 493, showing a 20 percent year-on-year increase in 1403.

Aghajani added that 96 investment packages were introduced in the past year as part of the program, and five tender winners were selected in February to conduct feasibility studies aimed at completing mineral value chains.

The project is coordinated by Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company (IMPASCO), a subsidiary of IMIDRO, which oversees implementation and investor engagement in small-scale mine rehabilitation across the country.

No serious crisis expected in essential goods supply amid wartime conditions: TPO official

TEHRAN — Iran will likely avoid a major crisis in supplying essential goods even under emergency conditions, said Amir Roshanbakhsh, deputy for international business development at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), citing measures taken during a recent 12-day conflict.

Roshanbakhsh said that shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, TPO established a crisis management task force comprising key personnel to maintain operational continuity.

Under a directive from the provincial government, staff worked remotely, in shifts, or on rotational schedules.

The organization ensured remote access to internal systems for employees working from outside Tehran, while TPO deputies

Merz's Iran remarks reminiscent of Nazi mentality

Chancellor Merz is slaughtering the German reputation for Israeli war criminals

From page 1 ► Merz is slaughtering the German reputation for a bunch of war criminals in Israel. The claims that Israel's war on Iran was legal reminds one about the rulers of Nazi Germany. It seems that the spirit of Nazi Germany has been revived in the mind of Merz.

The German chancellor boasted that Benjamin Netanyahu had informed him before Israel launched attack on Iran.

On June 17, five days into the Israeli aggression against Iran, he told the ZDF broadcaster that it was "dirty work Israel is doing for all of us".

Through his reckless remarks, Merz proved that he is among those Western leaders who are complicit in the war against Iran that led to the death of over 1000 people, mostly civilians.

European leaders, including those of France and Britain, refused to condemn Israel's attack on Iran's nuclear sites, but they did not openly endorse it. However, Merz not only backed the attacks but also called



them legal. Amazing.

Merz does know that the attack on Iran's nuclear sites was in violation of the additional protocol to the Vienna Conventions but his subservience to persons like Benjamin Netanyahu, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes and crimes against humanity, has blinded him and his advisors.

The world noticed that Germany under Olaf Scholz stood on the wrong side of history by strongly backing and shipping large quantities of arms (coming after the U.S.) to Israel in its

genocidal war in Gaza. However, the current chancellor acted more irresponsibly by calling Israel's sudden and unprovoked war on Iran legal.

It is hoped that the German lawmakers, especially those from rival parties and even those within his Christian Democratic Union, would hold Merz accountable for his rash remarks or replace him with another person from the CDU party.

Speaking in the Bundestag on the same date, Merz said, "It was a preemptive strike against a potentially imminent nuclear

attack from Iran is only one of several possible assumptions."

Merz should answer provide answers to these three questions: Was Iran really about to attack Israel? Or has it been proven that Iran was seeking to build nuclear weapons? Even if Iran had had a nuclear bomb, would have it used it against Israel and nuking Palestinian people that it has been defending their rights for a homeland?

Merz must know that it was Israel that started the "dirty war" against Iran by attacking Iran's embassy complex in Damascus, Syria, on April 1, 2024.

The new chancellor should learn lesson from Gerhard Schroeder who strongly opposed the U.S. attack on Iraq in 2003 under the false pretext of hiding weapons of mass destruction.

Schroeder proved quite right. No weapons of mass destruction were found. But, millions of Iraqis were slaughtered due to the war on Iraq and terrorism spread into the entire region.

UN urged to take legal action at ICJ to uphold Francesca Albanese's immunity

The US sanctioning of the UN special rapporteur on Palestine, Francesca Albanese, has prompted calls for legal action at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on account of her diplomatic immunity.

Albanese was sanctioned by the US on Wednesday in connection with her work as a UN expert scrutinising Israeli and US actions in occupied Palestine.

Albanese is the first mandate holder in the history of the UN to be the subject of sanctions.

The 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the UN, to which the US is a party, enshrines the immunity of UN special rapporteurs from legal process of any kind.

The immunity granted to UN experts aims at enabling them to carry out their work independently without interruption.



The ICJ, the UN's highest court, does not have jurisdiction over the US in contentious inter-state disputes without its consent. However, other states can request the UN General Assembly or other authorised UN organs to seek an advisory opinion from the court, which would constitute an authoritative legal decision.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

rael 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.

Two French members of parliament to join Gaza-bound Handala

A coalition of activists has launched the ship Handala from Italy on a journey towards Gaza.

The former Norwegian trawler vessel that is now loaded with medical supplies and other life-saving humanitarian aid bound for Gaza is to be boarded by two French lawmakers.

Handala will make a stop at Gallipoli in southeastern Italy, where two members of the hard-left France Unbowed party (LFI), Gabrielle Cathala and Emma Fourreau, are expected to join.

"This is a mission for the children in Gaza, to break the humanitarian blockade and to break the summer silence on the genocide," said Cathala, who is set to board the boat on July 18.

"I hope we will reach Gaza, but if not, it will be yet another violation of international law" by Israel, she added.

110 civilians slaughtered in Gaza in 24 hours

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli occupation regime's military killed and maimed scores of Palestinian civilians within 24 hours.

Palestinian medical sources have confirmed that no fewer than 110 people were killed by the Israel Occupation Force (IOF), the majority of them women and children.

Many of the victims were waiting for aid at distribution points operated by the U.S.-backed so-called "Gaza Humanitarian Foundation" (GHF), which has been strongly condemned by the United Nations and various international organizations.

The GHF's distribution mechanism has been denounced as a U.S.-supported Israeli regime strategy to concentrate Palestinian civilians in specific areas of Gaza, where they become target practice for IOF tank shelling, live fire, and drone strikes.

Experts describe the GHF as a cruel initia-

tive designed to instill fear in the Palestinian population, sending a chilling message that even humanitarian aid distribution sites offer no safety.

According to analysts, the Israeli regime's government objective with the GHF is to pressure Palestinians to flee the enclave, thereby accelerating the attempt to ethnically cleanse Gaza.

The GHF has been widely accused of contributing to the Gaza genocide too.

Regional media sources have cited Palestinian medics who reported that dozens of the victims were children waiting in line to receive humanitarian aid.

IOF warplanes also bombed a building sheltering displaced families in the al-Suwairha area, west of the al-Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. The strike killed at least ten Palestinians and left many others with serious to critical injuries.

Additional reports indicate that five Palestinians were killed and others wounded in an Israeli airstrike on a residential building housing displaced families in western Gaza City.

In separate attacks across Gaza, the IOF killed at least 50 more Palestinians, according to medical sources.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza announced that, as of Saturday, the total number of civilians killed in the Israeli occupation regime's genocide since October 2023 has reached 57,882.

The ministry also reported that the number of those injured since the beginning of the genocide has risen to 138,095.

While Palestinian resistance forces continue to inflict casualties on IOF soldiers and blow up Israeli occupation tanks inside Gaza, observers say it is evident that the occupying regime is exacting revenge on Palestinian children.

Dramatic US threat to Lebanon: Surrender by force or else!

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — In a post on X, US Special Envoy to Syria Thomas Barrack has claimed that his statements to The National were not intended to threaten Lebanon, but rather to praise the Syrian regime's "impressive strides".

The US envoy had warned that if the government did not address Hezbollah's weapons stockpiles, Lebanon will once again become part of the Levant (romanized as Bil'd al-Sh?m, i.e. historical name for Greater Syria).

"You have Israel on one side, Iran on the other, and now Syria is reemerging strongly and rapidly. If Lebanon doesn't act, it will return to being part of 'Bil'd al-Sh?m' again."

Barrack continued, "The Syrians say that Lebanon is their seaside resort. So we must act. I fully understand the frustration of the Lebanese people — and I share that frustration."

He claimed that Syria is accelerating its efforts with unprecedented speed to capitalize on the historic opportunity created by the U.S. president's decision to lift sanctions—guided by a clear and ambitious vision for the future.

The US envoy also claimed that the HTS-led Syrian regime wants nothing but coexistence and shared prosperity with Lebanon, claiming that Washington is "committed" to supporting this.

Barrack is expected to return to Beirut on July 23 to comment on the official Lebanese response to the U.S. proposal to disarm the Resistance front.

Reportedly, European diplomatic sources informed Lebanese officials that Washington was dissatisfied with Barrack's calm approach during his recent visit, especially when he said, "The issue of Hezbollah is a Lebanese affair, and the Lebanese must deal with it."

Analysts said that the US envoy appeared to be backtracking on his predecessor, Morgan Ortagus' position, particularly as he made a distinction between Hezbollah's political and military wings.

This prompted U.S. State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce to say, "Our position has not changed. Hezbollah is a designated terrorist organization, and we do not distinguish between its political or armed wings."

Bruce said, "Ambassador Barrack has been very satisfied with the initial response by the Lebanese Government but now has noted that they're working on details in this regard."

The spokeswoman added, "We do not want to see Hezbollah or any other terrorist group in Lebanon recover their ability to commit violence and threaten the security in Lebanon or in Israel."

Regarding Ortagus, an informed source warned that

the Lebanese believed they had gotten rid of what they described as an "arrogant" woman, without paying attention to what she was preparing for.

Ortagus currently serves as senior political advisor to Dorothy Shea, the U.S. Acting Permanent Representative at the United Nations (former U.S. Ambassador to Beirut), where she is doing everything necessary to make amendments to the mandate and powers of UNIFIL, ahead of its renewal next August.

It is worth noting that the Israeli enemy, through its large lobby within the United Nations, is pushing to prevent the renewal, on the pretext that UNIFIL is not carrying out the tasks assigned to it.

Observers seriously warn that ending UNIFIL's mission would mean an explosion on the border between Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

While Paris claims its relentless efforts to maintain UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, Washington is leaning toward using its veto to block the extension.

This would effectively end UNIFIL's mandate, not just reduce its strength, especially if funding is unavailable (following Trump's decision to cut the budget for the so-called peace-keeping forces worldwide).

The Lebanese government had officially requested an extension of UNIFIL for an additional year, insisting on not

Gaza's health authority mourns surgeon killed by Israel

Dr Ahmad Qandeel, a surgeon who worked at al-Ahli Arab Hospital in the northern part of Gaza, was killed during a drone strike on a public market.

Gaza's Health Ministry released a statement to remember the doctor as a pillar of the devastated healthcare community in the enclave who "worked day and night to provide medical care under the most difficult circumstances" caused by the Israeli siege of Gaza.

Settlers launch more attacks across occupied West Bank

The head of the village council of al-Maniya, located southeast of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank, was quoted as saying by Wafa news agency that Israeli settlers established a new outpost on Palestinian land.

This comes a day after another settler attack in the area, where a vehicle was burnt and solar energy cells used by residents for power generation and to get water to livestock were destroyed.

Another settler attack was reported in Ein el-Hilweh in the northern Jordan Valley, with damage to Palestinian property.

Gaza talks at risk after Israel refuses to leave Rafah

Hamas negotiators are increasingly skeptical that a Gaza ceasefire agreement with Is-

photo of the day



A demonstrator sits with a sign, during a protest calling for the de-proscription of the Palestine Action group, at St Peter's Square in Manchester, Britain, 12 July, 2025. (Reuters)

Bushehr province hosting Arbaeen pilgrims



TEHRAN—Bushehr province is hosting pilgrims who cross the southwest of Iran to go to Karbala in Iraq to participate in Arbaeen religious rituals.

This province has a key role in serving the pilgrims and rendering services to the pilgrims of other southern and eastern provinces of the country, Mehr news agency wrote.

Due to its geographic situation, Bushehr is considered one of the gateways for the entrance of pilgrims from provinces such as Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, and even parts of Fars province, who start their trip toward Karbala and cross the routes of Bushehr province.

Numerous Mookes (service centers with a religious nature where Shia Muslims come together and conduct religious rituals during Arbaeen) have been launched in Bushehr province to render services to the pilgrims.

Abdolreza Motaf, a senior official of Bushehr province, said: "Annually, we are witness that Bushehr people render services to the pilgrims during Arbaeen.

Rehabilitation and feeding the pilgrims are the most important issues in this regard."

He explained that 230 Mookes are active in cities of Asalouyeh and Bandar Deylam and Shalamcheh border.

Some Bushehr Mookes will be active across Iraq soil in Najaf and Karbala and the walking route between them, he added.

He pointed out that Mookes inside Bushehr are located in crowded routes and religious cities of Bushehr province.

Mookes will also be launched in Khuzestan province.

Given that the main exit borders for Arbaeen pilgrims include Shalamcheh and Chazzabeh in Khuzestan province, those who launch Mookes in Bushehr, will also launch Mookes in these border points.

Gholamhossein Ahmadi, one of those who launch Mookes in Bushehr, said all services from preparing the required and logistic items to dispatching voluntary and specialized forces such as physicians, nurses, chefs, cultural servants and executive forces are done with special preciseness and care.

Also, Mookes render cultural activities including holding congregational prayers, religious speeches, and responding to religious questions of the pilgrims.

In addition, Bushehr Governor General Arsalan Zare' welcomed naming Bushehr as "Tariq-ol-Hussain".

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

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

Foreign voices highlight Iranian resilience amid Israeli airstrikes

From Page 1 ▶ As Israeli warplanes struck key facilities in cities such as Tehran, Tabriz, Shiraz, and Isfahan, foreign guests observed daily life persist amidst the rising flames and tremendous blows.

So far, it has hosted early 180 influential figures from 28 countries -- including Spain, Tunisia, Serbia, Bosnia, Russia, and Indonesia, who have shared their perspectives about the conflict in which the Zionist regime conducted air strikes on many houses, hospitals, among other civilian targets.

Cafes and restaurants stayed open, people commuted to work, and social interactions continued -- even in the shadow of war, an eyewitness wrote as reported by the IRNA news agency on Sunday.

Alaa Chebbi, a prominent Tunisian TV host who was in Tehran at the onset of the conflict, described Iranians as "resilient, advanced, and courageous," sharing his observations with over five million viewers upon returning home.

Chebbi emphasized that the country's infrastructure "rivals Europe's" despite decades of sanctions.

The people of Iran are truly noble. They continued with their lives with remarkable composure, even during missile strikes, he said.

His message -- widely viewed and shared across Arabic-language media -- reflected a counter-narrative to Western portrayals of Iran as a fragile and isolated nation.

Robert Dacesin, a Bosnian blogger and cultural commentator, shared archived footage and photos of his recent visit to Iran during the conflict.

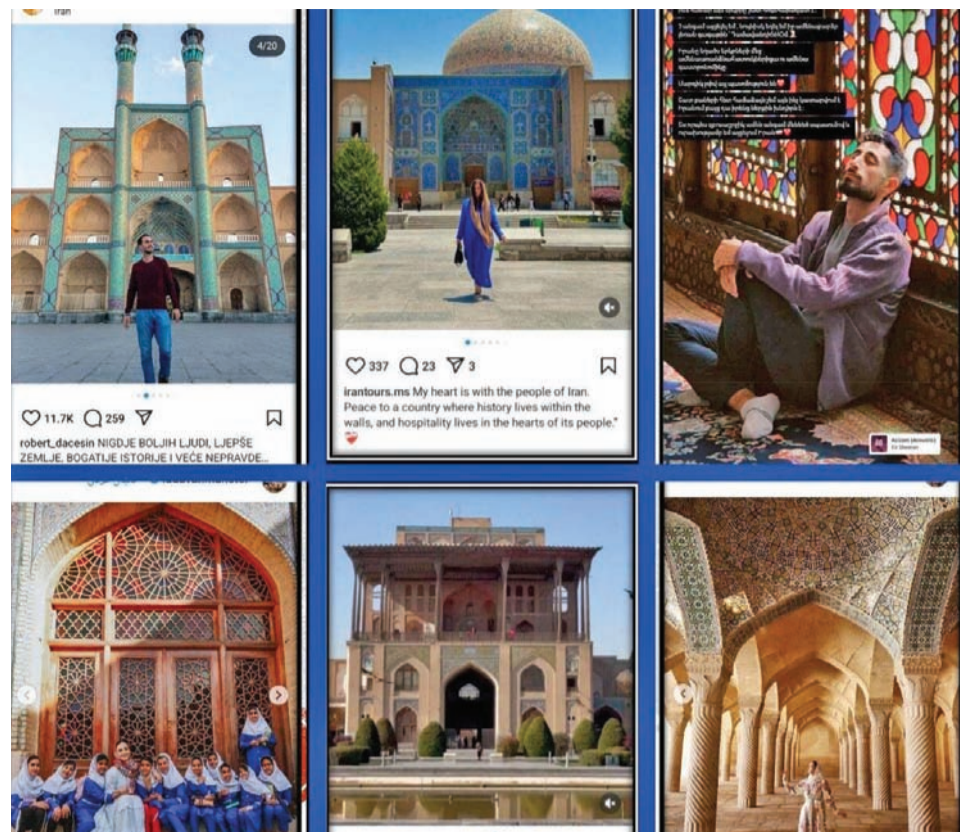
"Nowhere else have I seen such kind people, such beauty, and such a rich history. Yet, no other nation has faced such injustice," he wrote.

Some participants also used their social platforms to challenge what they saw as global hypocrisy and indifference, particularly regarding Israel's actions in Gaza.

Ranka Jaksic, a Serbian national broadcaster, wrote candidly on Facebook: "Only Iran stood loudly for the children of Gaza. The rest of the world remained silent."

Her post not only praised Iran's bold stance but also criticized the moral bankruptcy of nations aligned with Western power structures. "Civilization did not start with the U.S. or Israel --symbols of greed and militarism," she declared.

From Spain, journalist Carlos Paz published a tweet on X (formerly Twitter) that garnered



over 211,000 views. His message hinted: "Libya was destroyed because it was dangerous. Palestine is being slaughtered because it is dangerous! Iran is bombed because it is dangerous! The danger is Israel."

His commentary, laced with geopolitical critique, resonated strongly with anti-war audiences in Latin America and Europe.

The program has also spurred interest from television networks and film producers keen to explore Iran's artistic and historical wealth, with multiple new pitches for cultural documentaries currently under negotiation.

As mentioned by organizers, the "Tell the World About Iran" was initially intended to combat Iranophobia and misrepresentation in global media.

Supported by multiple state institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Ministry of Intelligence, and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), the program facilitated direct encounters between foreign media figures and Iranian culture, society, and politics.

According to ICRO, participants visited various regions across Iran, engaged with citizens, and explored cultural, historical, and technological assets.

The program emphasized unfiltered expe-

rience over official messaging, making it a powerful tool of cultural diplomacy.

Many of these visitors -- already familiar with Iran's complexities -- rejected the simplistic wartime framing perpetuated by mainstream media. Instead, they acted as unofficial spokespeople, using their own credibility and reach to amplify Iran's perspective. In many cases, their content reached millions.

Officials behind the initiative stress that the key to its success lies in sustained cooperation across governmental and non-governmental sectors.

"Cultural and media diplomacy is not optional -- it is essential," said one ICRO official. "In today's world, the image of a country is its most strategic asset."

If Iran continues to invest in initiatives like "Tell the World About Iran," experts suggest it could reshape not only its global image but also its political leverage, especially in non-Western blocs where narratives remain more fluid and less dictated by Western media giants.

As the world reflects on the 12-day war, the solidarity expressed by these international voices offers Iran more than moral support -- it marks a rare diplomatic success, achieved not through military might, but through the power of narrative, lived experience, and cultural connection.

Tehran hotel shelters over 300 war-affected people

TEHRAN – More than 300 residents of Tehran, whose homes were destroyed during the Israeli-imposed aerial war, have been temporarily housed at Laleh Hotel in the capital, the hotel's manager announced on Sunday.

Mohammad-Mehdi Qanbari told IRNA that following necessary coordination with respected bodies, those Tehran citizens have been provided with 150 rooms of the hotel since 10 days ago.

He said that they are given breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Maybe these

people continue staying in the hotel for several months, he added.

He explained that Tehran Municipality's staff have collaborated with war-affected persons for the renovation of their houses.

Fatemeh Mohajerani, spokesperson of the government, in her report of 12-day war gave news of damages to 3,500 housing units.

She explained that the damages include minor damages such as breaking of the glasses and major damages in which the damaged house should be destroyed.

There are 350 damaged houses in Tehran city, she said, adding that Laleh Hotel and other guesthouses have been allocated for sheltering people with the cooperation of the Cultural Heritage Ministry.

The war began on June 13, when Israel launched an unprovoked attack targeting Iran's civilian nuclear sites and assassinating senior military and scientific figures.

Tehran responded within hours with a barrage of missile and drone attacks, initiating the True Promise III retaliatory campaign.

Historic graveyard with 1,793 ancient graves identified in central Iran

TEHRAN—A group of Iranian archaeologists identified 1,793 graves in an area of 1,000 hectares in Yazd province during their one-month explorations. Some 90 percent of tomb chambers have reportedly been destroyed in illegal drilling.

Archaeologists attribute the antiquity of these graves, in some of which burial objects have been found, to the Parthian era, ISNA reported.

The Cultural Heritage Ministry's Research Institute declared that the intensive survey and trenching project was carried out at the Kavian tomb site, Behabad county, Yazd province, with the financial support of Behabad Municipality and permission from this research institute.

Archaeological trenches were conducted concurrently with the 12-day Israeli-imposed war against Iran and continued without interruption.

Mohammad Hossein Azizi Kharanaghi, who led the exploration at this site, said that during the war,

the project was conducted in spite of pressures on group members and worries about the coming incidents. He continued that Yazd is one of the least-known provinces in terms of archaeological studies. There is little information regarding the cultural-historical eras of the province, he added.

The reason for this is perhaps the extraordinary richness of the historical textures and monuments of Yazd, which has attracted all the attention, he said.

However, the lack of publicity on archaeological research achievements of Yazd province could also be one of the reasons for the lack of attention of the authorities to conducting such studies in this province, he added.

Azizi Kharanaghi also said Behabad is no exception to this rule, and there is almost no knowledge of the cultural-historical sequence of human settlements in this county.

In spite of continuous and frequent follow-ups of culture-lovers and local officials, this graveyard was never registered on the National Heritage List. This led to an increase in unauthorized excavations in this area.

Unfortunately given the structure of the graves and their shallow depth, and the easy penetration of moisture and water into the interior of the grave due to the structure of the soil around the grave and the area, almost there are no remains of human skeletons in the graves, and only in some cases, worn and crushed shells of long bones have remained, he added.

The items buried in the graves include one or two clay vessels at the top of the head and feet of the burial and small bronze objects including bracelets, rings, and stone/glass paste beads.

He said local officials of Behabad and Yazd Cultural Heritage Department have cooperated in this project.

Second Announcement

IMI DRO
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.

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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، فراوری صنعتی یا شیمیایی / معدنی

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

ج- ارائه طرح اولیه شامل فن آوری 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 058-32273041 و فکس 058-32604414

Iran marks IT Day to promote digital literacy

TEHRAN – July 13 is named on the Iranian calendar as the Information Technology (IT) Day, honoring Abu Jafar Mohammad Ibn Mousa Khwarizmi (780 – c. 850), the founder of the algorithm, which laid the foundation for computer programming and IT.

The day highlights the significance of expanding digital infrastructures, supporting IT experts and specialists, promoting digital literacy among the public, and highlighting role models such as Al-Khwarizmi for the new generation.

This extensive scientific background has led to significant achievements in the field of IT in the country, such as the development of communication infrastructure and the national information network, the fiber optics, and the high-speed internet services, national portal for smart government services, and electronic tax, insurance, civil registration, and banking services.

Issuance of national ID cards, development of national systems, and contribution to the growth of startups and the digital ecosystem, Iranian firewalls and antiviruses, indigenous data analysis systems, Big Data and Cloud Computing are among other advancements of the country.

Born in the 9th century in Khwarezm, Al-Khwarizmi is best known as ‘the father of Algebra’ and ‘the grandfather of computer science’.

He was also a mathematician,



astronomer, astrologer, and geographer.

Al-Khwarizmi was a scholar in the House of Wisdom in Baghdad. His task was the translation of Greek scientific manuscripts. He also studied and wrote many books and treatises.

His Algebra was the first book on the systematic solution of linear and quadratic equations. Al-Khwarizmi is to be considered the father of algebra, a title he shares with Diophantus. Latin translations of his Arithmetic, on the Indian numerals, introduced the decimal positional number system to the Western world in the 12th century. He revised and updated Ptolemy’s Geography, as well as writing several works on astronomy and astrology.

His contributions not only made a great impact on mathematics, but on language as well. The word

algebra is derived from al-jabr, one of the two operations used to solve quadratic equations, as described in his book. The words algorithm and algorithm stem from algoritmi, the Latinization of his name. His name is also the origin of the Spanish word guarismo and of the Portuguese word algarismo, both meaning digit.

Iran ranks 72 in technology and innovation

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

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

UNCTAD has categorized 17 types of technologies as frontier technologies, including artificial intelli-

gence, Internet of Things, big data, 5G, 3D printing, robotics, drone technology, solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, biofuels, biogas and biomass, wind energy, green hydrogen, electric vehicles, nanotechnology and gene editing.

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

The Report 2025 calls for AI that puts people first and is shaped through global cooperation in which all countries have a say. The Report identifies three key leverage points – infrastructure, data, and skills – offering a broad socioeconomic perspective on AI while analyzing requirements and policies to promote sustainable industrialization and innovation.

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

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

The country asked Iran’s health sector to provide online consultation to Uzbek professionals and establish a direct link between medical specialists of the two countries.

During a meeting held in Tehran on November 6, the head of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, Hossein Roozbeh, and the vice president for the development of international cooperation of Uzbekistan, Fazliddin Muminov, discussed ways to expand scientific and collaborative efforts.

Expanding cooperation in the field of science, exchanging students and professors, promoting knowledge-based companies’ collaborations, participating in scientific and technological events, including technology exhibitions, and holding joint seminars, meetings, and symposia were among the most important focuses of the meeting.

Lauding Iran’s high capacities in science and knowledge-based companies, the Uzbek official said, Iran is a powerful and prominent country in the region with high and strategic capabilities in knowledge and technology. By integrating Iran’s capabilities with Uzbekistan’s capacities, the two countries will benefit from remarkable progress.

Roozbeh, for his part, said there is a strong connection between the two countries in terms of history, culture, and shared identity, which lays the ground for fostering education and technological cooperation. Boosting interactions between the universities of the two countries will facilitate conducting joint activities. Iran is willing to share its expertise in science and technology, as well as education, with Uzbekistan.

SOCIETY

JULY 14, 2025

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

Police seize some 500 kg of narcotics in southeast

TEHRAN –The anti-narcotics police have seized 446 kilograms of drugs in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, the commander of border guards, Ahmad Ali Goudarzi, has said.

About 407 kilograms of opium, 41 kilograms of heroin, and 18 kilograms of hashish were confiscated from smugglers in two different operations, Mehr news agency reported.

‘National heroes’

Martyrs and war veterans who have sacrificed their lives in the fight against narcotics to ensure the security and safety of people are the national heroes, Brigadier General Hossein Zolfagari, the secretary general of the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ), said in June.

Thanks to their efforts, the anti-narcotics police are capable of taking more effective national and international measures in the fight against drugs.

They are symbols of perseverance and determination who truly deserve to be respected and appreciated, ILNA quoted Zolfagari as saying.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day, which is marked on June 26 every year.

Enumerating on Iran’s role in combating narcotics, the official said, Iran plays a critical

role in the global fight against drugs. Due to its proximity to Afghanistan, the country has constantly faced many challenges.

However, counter-narcotics and security forces have done their best, carrying out numerous extensive operations over the years to thwart smugglers and their networks.

The martyrdom of 3,800 individuals and the injuries of 12,000 others highlight the country’s determination in combating narcotics and drug-related crimes.

DCHQ, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, has taken different measures such as implementing preventive programs, supporting addicts, and developing treatment centres.

World Drug Day, or the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, aims to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse.

This year’s World Drug Day calls for investment in prevention, including justice, education, health care, and alternative livelihoods — the building blocks of sustainable resilience.

This year’s campaign, “Break the cycle. Stop Organized Crime,” highlighted the need for coordinated long-term action to break the cycle of organized crime and drug trafficking by addressing root causes, investing in prevention, and building stronger health, education, and social systems.

Climate aggression: a new concept for climate disasters caused by war

By: Iraj Heshmati

TEHRAN – As the COP30 summit in Belém approaches, a fundamental gap in the global climate governance system once again becomes apparent: the environmental damage caused by armed conflicts.

Despite transboundary, intergenerational, and measurable consequences, this issue still holds no place in climate agendas, policies, or international early warning systems.

Advanced remote sensing technologies—such as Sentinel and Landsat satellite imagery or vegetation analysis tools—have enabled precise identification of fires, gas leaks, and habitat destruction.

However, there is no impartial and coherent international framework for documenting and analyzing the environmental impacts of wars.

Even in cases like: the destruction of over 9,000 hectares of protected areas in Iran during the recent 12-day war (Source: Department of Environment, July 2024), the explosion of refineries and the release of pollutants, the contamination of water and soil resources, and the disruption of ecological balance at a regional level, this void exists not due to a lack of technology, but due to the absence of an effective and accountable international mechanism.

In this note, the term “climate aggression” is used to describe any military action—intentional or unintentional—that causes widespread and lasting damage to nature, such that its effects reach future generations and extend beyond political borders.

This term serves as a conceptual tool to highlight a structural and ethical gap in existing climate literature, where the climate is a silent and unrepresented victim of the international legal system.

Documents such as: the ENMOD Convention (1976), the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions (Articles 35 and 55), and Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), while generally prohibiting environmental destruction in wars, none of these documents: possess an active and impartial monitoring mechanism, provide the capacity for immediate response at the moment of crisis, and are often not implemented due to political pressures.

Consequently, no international body is obligated to document or declare the environ-

mental status during wartime.

To fill this void, it is proposed that a global dialogue be initiated to form a multi-stakeholder coalition that: operates independently of structures with veto power, aligns with the missions of bodies such as UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Environment Program (UNEP), and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and is formed with the participation of governments, universities, independent technical organizations, and satellite data centers.

The goal of this coalition is not political judgment, but the scientific and ethical documentation of the environmental impacts of wars—a step towards transparency, accountability, and climate justice.

In this perspective, an initial conceptual framework titled the Emergency Climate Response Mechanism (ECRM) can initiate a new dialogue.

This idea represents a mechanism for rapid response in wartime conditions: meaning swift documentation, early warning, and global notification of climate damages resulting from conflicts—so that the climate, like humans, has a voice and an observer in emergency situations.

Environmental destruction caused by wars is not merely a technical issue; it is a threat to global logic, the balance of nature, and the future of generations to come. Overlooking this dimension can hollow out global efforts for climate justice from within.

The international community can no longer view war solely as a security or political issue.

Ecosystem destruction due to war is a real threat to climate sustainability, global health, and the rights of future generations.

Ignoring this voice not only questions the effectiveness of international institutions but also increases the risk of rendering years of efforts for climate justice ineffective.

The COP30 summit presents a historic opportunity to raise this issue and begin a multi-stakeholder process to remedy this gap.

While this voice may get lost among technical and financial agendas, it can form the cornerstone of a global coalition to link peace, climate, and environmental sustainability in the 21st century.

The author is a senior advisor to the head of the Department of Environment

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

3\$b approved for improving safety of schools

The sixth five-year national development plan (2016-2021) has predicted a total budget of \$3 billion to be allocated for rebuilding and retrofitting old schools across the country, director of the organization for renovation, development and equipment of schools has said.

There are some 107,000 schools nationwide with 530,000 classes, 160,000 of which are dilapidated, not meeting safety standards, ISNA quoted Mehrollah Rakhshanimehr as saying on Wednesday.

He went on explain that 30 percent of the schools nationwide, equaling 32,000 schools, are old, of which some 12 percent must be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted.

“However, after 2 years the budget has not been allocated yet,” he lamented.

درخواست تخصیص ۳ میلیارد دلار برای ایمن سازی مدارس

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشور با اشاره به وجود ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس ناایمن در سطح کشور خواستار تخصیص بودجه سه میلیارد دلاری تصویب شده در قالب برنامه ششم توسعه برای ایمن سازی مدارس شد.

مهراله رخشانی مهر در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، بیان کرد حدود ۱۰۷ هزار مدرسه با ۵۳۰ هزار کلاس درس در کشور داریم.

او اظهار کرد: از این میزان، ۳۰ درصد مدارس یعنی ۳۲ هزار مدرسه مشتمل بر ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس نیازمند مقاوم سازی و تخریب و بازسازی‌اند که به تفکیک می‌توان گفت ۱۸ درصد مدارس باید مقاوم سازی و ۱۲ درصد تخریب و بازسازی شوند.

با این وجود، بعد از حدود دو سال هنوز بودجه ای تخصیص نیافته است.



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JULY 14, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There are five activities that I won't leave off till I'm alive so that they would become part of my tradition. [One of them] is greeting children.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

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

IAF to screen “King Lear” recorded stage performance



TEHRAN – The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen the recorded stage performance of William Shakespeare's well-known tragedy “King Lear” directed by Masoud Delkhah on Wednesday.

The 220-minute performance, which was staged in Iran in 2018, will be shown at the Nasreri Hall of the IAF at 6 p.m., Honaronline reported.

Mehdi Soltani, Elham Pavehnejad, Bahareh Rahnama, Khosrow Shahrz, Rahim Norouzi, Mohammad Sadegh Malek, Nasser Ashouri, Hemidreza Hedayati, Mohammadreza Aliakbari, Mohammad Sedighi Mehr, Mahboubeh Tafazoli, and more than 50 other actors perform in the play.

The cast is accompanied by a group of musicians and choir on stage, performing live music, composed and conducted by Nader Mashayekhi.

In the play, King Lear, in preparation for his old age, divides his power and land between his daughters Goneril and Regan, who pay homage to gain favor, feigning love. The King's third daughter, Cordelia, is offered a third of his kingdom also but refuses to be insincere in her praise and affection. She instead offers the respect of a daughter and is disowned by Lear who seeks flattery.

Regan and Goneril subsequently break promises to host Lear and his entourage, so he opts to become homeless and destitute, goes insane,

and the French King married to Cordelia invades Britain to restore order and Lear's rule. In a subplot, Edmund, the illegitimate son of the Earl of Gloucester, betrays his brother and father. Tragically, Lear, Cordelia, and several other main characters die.

The plot and subplot overlap and intertwine with political power plays, personal ambition, and assumed supernatural interventions and pagan beliefs.

As the plot unfolds, Shakespeare delves into themes of loyalty, justice, and the nature of true love. The play is filled with complex characters and powerful dialogue showcasing human emotions' depths.

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was an English playwright, poet and actor. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. His extant works, including collaborations, consist of some 39 plays, 154 sonnets, three long narrative poems, and a few other verses.

His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. Shakespeare remains arguably the most influential writer in the English language, and his works continue to be studied and reinterpreted.

The Iranian Artists Forum is located in Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

Cartoon of Day



Srebrenica and Gaza

Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Tehran Times: standing firm in the war of narratives amidst global turmoil

TEHRAN – In an era marked by escalating conflicts and an increasingly polarized international landscape, the role of independent and truthful journalism has never been more vital. Amidst the recent barbaric aggression by the Zionist regime against Iran, Tehran Times has emerged as a steadfast voice committed to presenting an unfiltered, comprehensive narrative to the world.

At a time when Western media narratives often distort or sensationalize Iran's position, the English-language newspaper from the heart of Tehran has taken upon itself the mission of clarity, resilience, and human-centered storytelling.

As Iran faced direct attacks and mounting international pressure, Tehran Times found itself at the forefront of a media battleground—an arena where truth is often overshadowed by misinformation. Mohammad Sarfi, the editor-in-chief of the publication, reflected on the pivotal moments when his team stepped into the fray.

“We recognized early on the importance of not just reporting events, but also shaping a narrative that reflects Iran's legitimate stance and the courage of its people,” Sarfi noted. “Our primary aim was to clarify that Israel is deceitful and aggressive and Iran's actions are rooted in self-defense and sovereignty.”

Sarfi emphasized that the media strategy was meticulously crafted to counter Western distortions.

“We sought to communicate that Iran and its armed forces are defending their homeland with unwavering resolve,” he explained. “We used various formats—articles, videos, social media—to ensure our message reached a global audience swiftly and accurately.”

It was a demanding period, and the experience has taught us invaluable lessons about the importance of agility and determination in journalism during times of crisis.

One of the defining moments during this tumultuous period



was a threatening message from the President of the United States, urging Iranian citizens to leave Tehran amidst escalating tensions. In response, Mohammad Sarfi took to social media and tweeted a defiant message: “We will not leave Tehran Times; let alone Tehran!” This bold statement resonated with many Iranians who viewed it as a symbol of steadfastness and national pride.



Reflecting on this response, Sarfi said that the message was a response to the enemy's audacity. “We tried to bring our maximum strength to the front and defend the homeland against the enemy and its empire of lies from our media trench.”

In the face of relentless war and propaganda, Tehran Times has dedicated itself to humanizing the victims of conflict—especially

women, children, and innocent civilians.

The paper's front page headline, “They Are Not Numbers,” encapsulated this mission perfectly. Sarfi explained the significance behind this powerful phrase: “The enemy and its Western supporters aim to portray the victims as mere statistics, as if their suffering is insignificant. But every woman, child,



and civilian has a story—stories of bravery, loss, and resilience—that must be told.”

He emphasized that these narratives are crucial in countering the falsehoods propagated by those who deny the human toll of war.

“While they claim to have no hostility against the Iranian people, their bombs and missiles devastate our cities, kill innocents, and de-

stroy families,” Sarfi stated. “This contradiction must be exposed globally. Our headlines and stories serve as a reminder that behind every casualty is a human being—a mother, a father, a child—whose life and story matter deeply.”

The decision to feature the headline “They Are Not Numbers” was spontaneous yet profound. “It came to me suddenly, inspired by the memory of Martyr Refaat Alareer, a Palestinian writer and poet martyred in Gaza,” Sarfi recounted.

“He was an influential figure, and his work emphasized the importance of individual lives. The phrase stuck with me, symbolizing our commitment to honor each victim's humanity.”

“Even if military conflicts stabilize—which is unlikely—we must recognize that the media war has just begun,” he warned. “Our work must evolve, our strategies must be reassessed, and we must be prepared for future challenges.”

He stressed that complacency is not an option. “If we revert to old ways, if we become complacent, it would be a betrayal of the sacrifices made by our martyrs and a disservice to our nation,” Sarfi asserted.

“The war in the media arena demands continuous adaptation, honesty, and a deep sense of responsibility.”

22nd Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival kicks off with Amir Naderi as president of regional competition jury

TEHRAN – Iranian filmmaker Amir Naderi serves as the President of the Regional Competition Jury of the 22nd Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival that kicked off on Sunday in Armenia.

The festival will also show three movies by Naderi, including “The Runner” (1984), “Harmonica” (1974), and “Waiting” (1974), ISNA reported.

A pioneer of post-revolutionary Iranian cinema, Naderi, 78, is a leading figure of the so-called “Second Wave” alongside Abbas Kiarostami and Majid Majidi.

He is also a close collaborator of the legendary Bahram Beyzai, an artist whose work has been exhibited at MoMA and who has inspired both Iranian and American filmmakers such as Sean Baker and Kelly Reichardt. Naderi was among the first to pave the way for the global recognition of Iranian cinema.

As a filmmaker, he drew inspiration from Henri Cartier-Bresson's urban experience and photography of everyday life, as well as the aesthetics of Italian neorealist cinema — including location shooting, use of non-professional actors, freer narrative structures, and a focus on the hardships of the poor and working class.

Naderi gave fundamental impetus to the birth of Iranian cinema during the 1970s and 80s, with several masterpieces destined to leave their mark on the history of

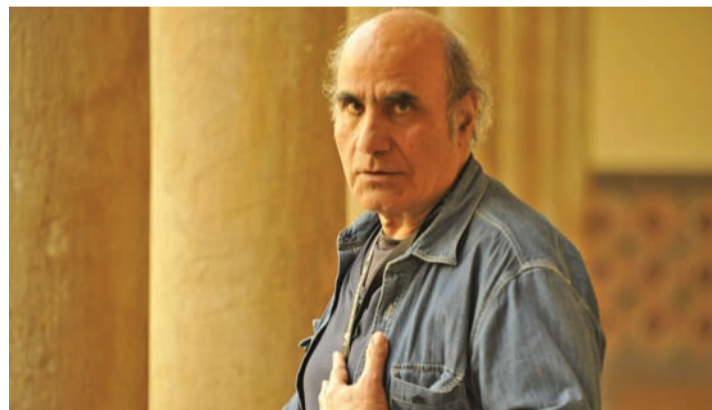
cinema.

Born in the southern city of Abadan, Naderi made his directorial debut with “Goodbye Friend” in 1971, and soon became one of the best-known figures in the film industry.

He entered the international spotlight with “Tangsir” (1974). “The Runner” (1985) and “Water, Wind, Soil” (1989) both won the Golden Montgolfiere at the Three Continents Festival in Nantes. “The Runner” is considered by many critics to be one of the most influential films of the past quarter century.

The prominent director moved to the U.S. in the mid-80s and made “Sound Barrier,” which won the Roberto Rossellini Critics' Prize at the Rome Film Festival in 2005, and “Vegas: Based on a True Story,” which premiered in competition at Venice in 2008.

His Japan-set “The Cut,” a homage to yakuza (crime syndicates) movies, opened the Venice Horizons section in 2011. Naderi was also in Venice in 2014 with “Mise En Scene: A Conversation with Arthur Penn,” in the classics section.



Due to smaller distribution and advertising budgets, Naderi's films are not as well-known as most Hollywood films. Despite that and the lack of recognizable actors in most of his films, his work tends to find distribution (mainly in Europe and Japan), and he has earned a great deal of critical acclaim.

Naderi's films and photography are also frequently the subject of retrospectives at major festivals and museums worldwide.

The 22nd edition of the “Golden Apricot” Yerevan International Film Festival will run until July 20. Once again, the festival is presenting competition films from around the world, along with selections from the most prestigious film festivals such as Cannes, Berlin, Venice, and others.

One of the films participating in the Regional Panorama Competition section is “Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk” by Sepideh Farsi.

The 112-minute France/Palestine film is the filmmaker's response to the ongoing massacre of Palestinians. Farsi thinks that a miracle happened when she met Fatima Hassouna. She became her eyes in Gaza, where she resisted while documenting the war, and Farsi became a link between her and the world, from her “Gaza prison,” as she named it.

They maintained this line of life for almost a year. The bits of sound and pixels that they exchanged became the film. The killing of Fatima on April 16, due to an Israeli raid on her house, changes its meaning forever.

Founded in 2004, the Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival is an annual film festival, which seeks to present new works by directors and producers in Armenia and around the world to promote creativity and originality in the area of cinema and video art.