

Bibi Hangs Onto 'Daddy' Over Missile Nightmare

PM says Iran's missile range should be limited to 480 km after large destruction in Israel



▶ Page 3

Pezeshkian visits families displaced by Israeli attacks, vows continued support

TEHRAN — Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met on Monday with several families affected by the recent Israeli aggression during a visit to a temporary shelter center in Tehran Province.

Pezeshkian spoke with families whose homes were damaged during the Israeli regime's large-scale assault on Iranian cities, offering assurances that the government and all relevant agencies are committed to providing the necessary support to compensate for the losses suffered.

The President was accompanied by the governor of Tehran Province, the mayor of Tehran, and the deputy tourism minister from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. During the visit, he asked detailed questions about the relief efforts carried out so far and promised that the government would not leave the affected families without assistance. ▶ Page 2

New figure says 1,062 martyred, 5,800 wounded in 12 days of Israeli aggression

TEHRAN — Head of Iran's Martyrs and Veterans Affairs Foundation, Saeed Ohadi, confirmed on Monday that at least 1,062 people were killed during Israel's 12-day military aggression against Iran, with 5,800 others wounded.

Speaking at a Tehran press conference, Ohadi said 47 children and two pregnant women are among the martyrs. 32 Iranian families endured multiple losses, with one family losing 12 members.

To expedite identification, Ohadi announced the establishment of a "DNA diagnostics center," resolving cases within 24 hours, alongside the newly inaugurated Ma'raj martyrs' facility at Behesht-e Zahra cemetery. Currently, 24 bodies remain unidentified there.

The foundation's Director spotlighted heartrending narratives, including the martyrdom of two-month-old Rayan Ghasemian and the Behnamabadi family—where a mother and three children perished—as evidence that "martyrs like these had no connection to nuclear facilities." ▶ Page 2

European snapback bid would be 'utter audacity,' senior Iranian diplomat warns

TEHRAN — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi condemned potential European efforts to trigger the snapback mechanism as an act of "utter audacity," warning that it would significantly curb talks with European counterparts and provoke proportional countermeasures.

In a televised interview on Sunday, Gharibabadi issued a sharp rebuke of the UK, France, and Germany (E3), challenging the legal validity of the UN Security Council's snapback mechanism for reinstating sanctions and declaring the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA) effectively defunct.

"The United States quit the JCPOA in 2018, and the E3 failed to uphold a single pledge. For them to now accuse Iran of violations is utter audacity," he stated.

He further warned that activating snapback would eliminate any remaining diplomatic space, including negotiations on sanctions relief: "If they resort to snapback, they remove themselves from all diplomatic interaction with Iran." ▶ Page 2

War not our choice, but surrender not an option: Pezeshkian to Iranian diaspora

TEHRAN — Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has reaffirmed Iran's commitment to diplomacy and national sovereignty in a message to Iranians living abroad following the 12-day war with the Israeli regime.

"We believe the window of diplomacy remains open and are seriously pursuing this peaceful path by mobilizing all political capacities," Pezeshkian said in his message published on Monday. "We support constructive engagement and oppose war, but we will never surrender."

Referring to the Israeli attack that marked the beginning of the conflict, the president described it as a betrayal of ongoing diplomatic efforts. ▶ Page 2

Netanyahu failed to win war, now trying to control U.S. policy on Iran: Araghchi

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to achieve any of his objectives in the regime's recent war against Iran, yet is now attempting to dictate U.S. policy on Iran's missile and nuclear programs.

In a post on social media, Araghchi slammed Netanyahu's demand that Iran cap its missile range at 480 kilometers, calling the suggestion "absurd" and refusing to take advice from what he described as "a war criminal." ▶ Page 3

Iran, Iraq, Pakistan unite for Arbæen amid regional solidarity against Israeli aggression

TEHRAN — The interior ministers of Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan convened in Tehran on Monday for a trilateral summit focused on coordinating security and logistical measures for the upcoming Arbæen pilgrimage.

The meeting, held at the Prophet Mohammad Hall of Iran's Interior Ministry, underscored the spiritual significance of Arbæen while positioning it as a platform for regional cooperation against shared security threats, particularly condemning recent Israeli attacks on Iran.

Arbæen, commemorating Imam Hussein's martyrdom on the 40th day after Ashura, is the world's largest annual pilgrimage. ▶ Page 2

Suicides among Israeli soldiers expose systemic breakdown

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN — Since the outbreak of the Gaza war in October 2023, the Israeli military has been grappling with a surge in suicides among soldiers.

Suicidal attempts by soldiers, both active and reservists, reveal deep psychological, operational, and institutional failures within the military system.

The nature and magnitude of the crisis are unprecedented, pointing towards a larger mental crisis requiring attention.

Rising numbers and underreported crisis

During 2024, 21 Israeli soldiers committed suicide, the highest number in the past 13 years. The upward trend is still present in 2025 as more than 14 suicide cases have been unveiled during the first half of the year. The bulk of the occurrences pertain to reservists who were hurriedly called up and sent to the fighting places with the least possible psychological preparations or support. ▶ Page 5

A nation grows stronger in adversities

By Dr. Jin Liangxiang

SHANGHAI — The last June witnessed one of the most flagrant aggressions against a sovereign nation state in its modern history and one of the largest military clashes in recent human history. National characters are always manifested in big events, and the following three, together with others, are particularly demonstrated in the 12-day war. A nation facing challenges, difficulties and adversities could grow even stronger.

The first such character should be the spirit of unity. Iran is a nation with a diversified society, and political debates are a part of everyday life. But history is telling that Iran is also a nation with a very strong spirit of unity in face of external threats. The more serious the aggressions are, the more Iranians will show their spirit of unity. ▶ Page 5



© Mehr/Fatemeh Mirahmadi

No return to talks without guarantee of diplomatic effectiveness: Iran foreign ministry

TEHRAN — Iran will not reenter nuclear negotiations unless it is assured of diplomacy's effectiveness, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Monday, warning against politicizing the concept of dialogue and reaffirming Iran's commitment to defending its national interests through both diplomatic and military means.

"As long as we are not confident in the efficacy of diplomacy and the negotiation process, we will not engage in such talks," Baghaei stated at his weekly press conference in Tehran. ▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The complexities of the snapback mechanism

Javan discussed Europe's readiness to activate the snapback mechanism in an article. It wrote: European governments have intensified their threats to activate the snapback mechanism in recent weeks. On Saturday, a quote was published from the German Chancellor that Europe will trigger the mechanism by sending a letter to the Security Council on Tuesday. Although the authenticity of this quote has not been confirmed, such a process is not out of the question with the increasing tensions between Iran and the West. While Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has warned that the implementation of the snapback mechanism "will mark the end of Europe's role" and bring about complications that the Europeans will probably not be able to overcome easily or quickly. The snapback path seems simple on paper, but its practical implementation faces major challenges. On a larger scale, the activation of the snapback mechanism could escalate the confrontation in the Security Council. The Security Council will become a geopolitical arena, rather than a place crisis management. Catherine Smith of the Brookings Institution believes that "Europe is trying to use the snapback as a pressure tool to bring Iran back to the negotiating table, not simply to restore past sanctions."

Khorasan: An unstable America presents a reduced threat

In an analysis, Khorasan discussed economic instability in the U.S. and the future situation of Iran. It wrote: We will probably enter a period of renewed economic instability in the U.S. and the entire world. The more instability, the less likely an attack. Therefore, it is possible that in the coming days or even weeks, the U.S. will tone down its language towards Iran because the U.S. needs to control the tension in the Middle East. The approach toward a possible resumption of negotiations is also important. The other side will not sit for negotiations. Rather it will seek to impose its will. In the meantime, the core of the issue for us should be strategic negotiations with powerful countries other than the U.S., changing the idea of "weak Iran" to "strong Iran with offensive capabilities" in the minds of Trump and the larger West, and also dealing a strategic blow to the regime. It is wrong to view negotiations positively, especially in a situation where the enemy is not fundamentally looking for negotiations. The issue is military-security related, economic, political, ideological, and technological. Carefully assessing this complexity is our need

Pezeshkian visits families displaced by Israeli attacks, vows continued support

From page 1 ► On the morning of June 13, the Israeli regime launched a premeditated, large-scale military attack on Iranian soil with the green light from the United States. The regime carried out indiscriminate strikes on densely populated civilian areas, vital infrastructure, nuclear facilities, and non-combatants. The result was hundreds of fatalities, thousands of injuries, and significant damage to Iran's medical, educational, and industrial sectors.

In response, Iran initiated Operation True Promise III, a major counteroffensive that

New figure says 1,062 martyred, 5,800 wounded in 12 days of Israeli aggression

From page 1 ► On June 13, the Israeli regime carried out a flagrant, unprovoked offensive against Iran, killing numerous senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians.

A week later, on June 22, the United States

today.

Resalat: The decisive role of diplomacy

In a commentary, Resalat addressed the very important role of diplomacy after the 12-day war between Iran and Israel and said: In the recent twelve days of imposed war, the authority and capability of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran under the command of the wise Leader of the revolution created a surprise and brought the evil regime of Israel to its knees - despite the military participation of the United States and the political support from Europe. Now is the time for the country's diplomats, relying on faith, wise Leadership, resilient nation, and proud armed forces, to enter the field of diplomacy and bring the enemy to his knees in this arena. To win in diplomacy, there are essential strategies that must always be insisted on, including emphasizing Iran's natural right to benefit from peaceful nuclear knowledge and technology, suspending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency until it proves its neutrality, threatening to withdraw from the NPT if discrimination continues and Israel does not join the NPT, and if negotiations are necessary, requiring UN supervision and the presence of non-nuclear weapon and neutral countries. Without a doubt, if diplomats do not speak firmly and show weakness, the achievements on the battlefield will be harmed.

Etemad: Russia's role in managing tensions between Tehran and Washington

Etemad examined Russia's role in managing the current tensions between Tehran and Washington in an interview with Abdolreza Farajirad, a professor of geopolitics. He said: It seems that Russia has a more prominent role in this regard than the time when the JCPOA was concluded. Although Trump and Putin have held talks on this issue, it is not yet clear whether Iran has held simultaneous consultations with Russia on this issue. In any case, Russia is considered an important intermediary in this process, and the West may also accept the active role of the Russians. In this situation, if Iran can prove that its 400 kilograms of enriched uranium still exists and that the bombings have not destroyed it, this can help the negotiation process. In that situation, Tehran will probably prefer to deliver this enriched uranium to Western countries rather than to Russia. Of course, this process is conditional on the guarantees that Iran would receive in return to ensure that the security and national interests of our country will be preserved.

targeted key Israeli military, intelligence, and industrial sites across the occupied territories. The operation was followed by an Iranian missile strike on al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, a key U.S. military installation, after the United States entered the conflict by bombing three Iranian nuclear facilities.

The escalation eventually led to a unilateral pause in hostilities declared by the Israeli regime on June 24, which was formally announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on Tel Aviv's behalf.

escalated the conflict with its own airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities.

By June 24, Iran's retaliatory operations against both Israel and the U.S. had successfully compelled a halt to the unlawful assaults.

European snapback bid would be 'utter audacity,' senior Iranian diplomat warns

From page 1 ► Gharibabadi reiterated Iran's longstanding position that snapback is a coercive tool lacking legitimacy, designed to resurrect sanctions Iran has "already bypassed through economic resilience."

He confirmed Tehran is preparing for the E3's move. Should Europe proceed, Iran would treat it as a "hostile breach" of the JCPOA, triggering countermeasures under Article X of the NPT, which permits withdrawal if a nation's "supreme interests" are jeopardized. Such a step could suspend IAEA safeguards and accelerate enrichment beyond JCPOA limits.

The deputy minister also singled out the E3 for their "biased support" of the Israeli regime during the recent aggression against Iran, asserting they "undermined their own credibility."

Iran has rejected the UN Security Council's snapback mechanism under Resolution 2231 as an illegitimate coercive measure designed to resurrect outdated sanctions it has already circumvented through economic resilience.

Tehran has long warned the UK, France, and Germany that any attempt to invoke snapback will be met with robust, proportionate countermeasures, plunging relations to their lowest point and jeopardizing future talks.

Senior officials, including Deputy Foreign Minister for political affairs Majid Takht-Ravanchi, have signaled that triggering snapback could prompt with-



Deputy FM Kazem Gharibabadi during a televised interview on July 14, 2025.

drawal from the NPT under Article X, suspend IAEA safeguards, and enable enrichment beyond JCPOA limits as a legal countermeasure.

'We used minimal missiles'

Reflecting on the Israeli regime's 12-day war on Iran, Gharibabadi described it as a strategic triumph for Tehran.

He argued that the Israeli regime's goals extended beyond nuclear facilities to regime change and systemic collapse.

"If we look at it this way, which is indeed the case, victory or defeat shouldn't be judged by statistics alone but by whether strategic goals were achieved," he said.

Despite losses, Iran inflicted significant blows. "We also dealt heavy damage to the Zionist regime," he noted, pointing out Israel's censorship of strike impacts while Iranian media openly

broadcast its losses.

He emphasized Iran's restraint. "Who would believe that the Zionist regime, which defeated so many Arab countries in the Six-Day War, engaged in a 12-day war with us and didn't win?" Gharibabadi asked.

"We still hadn't used many of our advanced military equipment, and the number of missiles we deployed was minimal."

Post-conflict, Iran's national unity has surged, countering U.S. and Israeli efforts to alienate its people. "After the 12-day war, we are witnessing cohesion and national unity," he said.

Gharibabadi highlighted Iran's enhanced regional standing, with Muslim nations now viewing the Israeli regime as the primary threat.

"They couldn't believe a country could put this regime in its place, forcing it to request a

Iran, Iraq, Pakistan unite for Arbreen amid regional solidarity against Israeli aggression

From page 1 ► Each year, millions of Shia believers trek the 80-kilometre Najaf-Karbala route in a faith-driven, transnational movement that embodies Islamic unity, solidarity, and the enduring call for justice.

Its vast scale demands deep cross-border cooperation—leveraging security and hospitality, and logistical support between friendly countries—to ensure a safe and magnificent observance.

Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni opened the Tehran summit by praising technical committees from all three nations for their preparatory work, stating, "Today's final agreement reflects our shared will to ensure Arbreen is held securely, magnificently, and in an organized manner."

The ministers signed a joint protocol committing to enhanced consular, border, and transportation coordination, with Momeni emphasizing that pilgrims' dignity and safety were paramount.

He further elevated the partnership to a "strategic level," citing Iraq's role as host, Pakistan's

massive pilgrim contingent, and Iran's bridging position.

Minister Momeni linked the Arbreen collaboration to broader regional solidarity, condemning the Israeli regime's 12-day war of aggression against Iran that killed civilians and military commanders.

He thanked Iraq and Pakistan for their "firm stances" supporting Iran's "legitimate and victorious self-defense," adding that such unity "demonstrates political cohesion against common threats."

Minister Momeni concluded by stressing that "pilgrim security and regional stability are inseparable," achievable only through "sincere cooperation."

Iraqi Interior Minister Abdul Amir al-Shammari detailed readiness efforts, noting, "Under Prime Minister Sudani's directives, service and logistical facilities are fully prepared."

He highlighted Iraq's hosting of over 5 million foreign pilgrims last year—3 million from Iran alone—and urged Pakistan to manage its citizens' return flows.



Interior ministers of Iran, Iraq (L), and Pakistan (R) after a trilateral summit in Tehran on July 14, 2025.

Al-Shammari called for re-activating a trilateral technical committee: "We need joint field efforts during the pilgrimage itself."

Pakistani Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi echoed this, congratulating Iran on its "triumph against the Zionist regime."

Naqvi also delivered a message from Pakistan's Prime Minister and Army Chief to Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

ceasefire through the U.S.," he said. "We never pushed for a ceasefire; our resolve to keep defending remained unwavering."

Talks under aggression 'fundamentally meaningless'

Gharibabadi also addressed recent U.S. diplomatic messages seeking a return to negotiations, revealing that Washington had signaled readiness for talks "from the outset of [the Israeli regime's] aggression."

He confirmed that Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had received and broadly contextualized these overtures, which emphasized Washington's "desire to resume diplomatic processes."

However, Gharibabadi underscored Iran's strategic rejection of negotiating while under attack: "During those 12 days of conflict, discussing diplomacy was fundamentally meaningless."

While acknowledging that "diplomacy remains a key tool even in wartime," he stressed Tehran's unambiguous stance: "As long as aggression continued and we were actively defending ourselves, sitting at the negotiating table held no purpose."

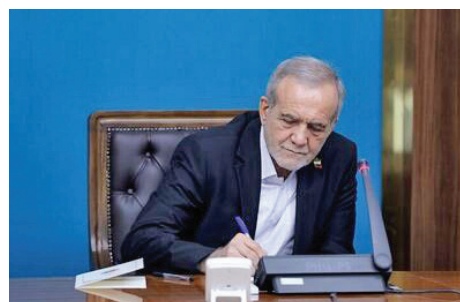
The remarks reinforce Iran's long-standing policy of refusing to engage under coercion. Gharibabadi described the U.S. outreach as a tacit admission of diplomatic urgency, contrasting it with Iran's disciplined adherence to principles: "Our position was clear—talks require sovereignty, not surrender to bombardment."

War not our choice, but surrender not an option: Pezeshkian to Iranian diaspora

From page 1 ► "The Zionist regime attacked us while we were in the midst of negotiations aimed at resolving misunderstandings and proving the peaceful nature of our nuclear activities. Despite our deep distrust of the Americans, we were preparing for a sixth round of talks when the regime, backed by Washington, launched a cowardly attack that resulted in the martyrdom of our military commanders, nuclear scientists, and innocent civilians—including women and children."

Pezeshkian described Iran's response as a legitimate act of self-defense under international law.

"What we did in those 12 days was a lawful defense against a foreign aggressor. Despite the heavy losses, our armed forces quickly reorganized and struck back with devastating force under the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution."



The president praised the Iranian people's unity and resilience, both inside the country and among the diaspora.

"In the face of this aggression, Iranians from all walks of life—supporters and critics alike—stood united. This show of national solidarity was one of the most remarkable moments in our modern history."

He also commended the role of the Leader, saying that his "calm, wisdom, and strength" laid the foundation for a national mobilization that reminded all of the enduring unity of the Islamic Republic.

Looking ahead, Pezeshkian said Iran was entering a new phase—one of rebuilding, innovation, and hope.

He added that Iran's national security is not only ensured through military strength but also through social cohesion and the trust of the people.

The president concluded by honoring the martyrs of the recent war and issuing a clear warning to those who might underestimate Iran.

"Our enemies must understand that our armed forces are now at the height of their defensive power. If another act of aggression is attempted, the response will be even more crushing."

Bibi hangs onto ‘daddy’ over missile nightmare

PM says Iran’s missile range should be limited to 480 km after large destruction in Israel

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Benjamin Netanyahu’s five-day trip to the United States was marked by a series of eyebrow-raising pronouncements. From announcing that he will nominate Donald Trump for a Nobel Peace Prize to claiming he wants a “better future” for Palestinians after killing over 60,000 of them in cold blood, the Israeli Prime Minister delivered the kind of outlandish statements observers have now come to expect.

But one rather ridiculous pronouncement he made must be taken more seriously, as it contained important underlying messages that could augur both well and badly for Israel’s biggest enemy, Iran.

In a Fox News interview, Netanyahu tried to justify the illegal and unprovoked war he launched against Iran on June 13, which lasted for 12 days and resulted in over 1,000 Iranian deaths and damage to its nuclear, military, and civilian infrastructure. Iran is now “in deep trouble,” Netanyahu said to the American interviewer.

The war’s stated goal was the dismantlement of Iran’s nuclear program; the hidden agenda, over-throwing the Iranian government. However, intelligence and analysis indicate that neither objective was met: Iran’s nuclear sites weren’t “obliterated,” and despite the assassination of key military officials early in the conflict, the Iranian government remains in power, with more popularity than it possessed before the outbreak of the war.

What Netanyahu gained in return, was the unforeseen destruc-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to Fox News

tion of at least 50,000 buildings in Israel, damage to critical military and energy installations, and a widespread erosion of the perception of Israel as an impenetrable safe haven. These unexpected consequences were the reason he came up with a new outrageous demand in his interview. Netanyahu said that he would only “agree” to a deal with Iran if the country limits the range of its ballistic missiles to 300 miles, which is approximately 480 kilometers.

While it’s not Netanyahu’s (or any Israeli leader’s) place to dictate the terms of a potential deal between Iran and the U.S. (which were engaged in indirect nuclear negotiations before the war ended them), his demand – a new one even for him, given his usual focus on Iran’s nuclear program – amounted to an admission that Iran inflicted significant damage on Israel during the war. Netanyahu is seeking to eliminate Iran’s missile capabilities,

aiming to resume the war he was ultimately forced to end, despite his initial objectives, said Mahshallah Shamsolvaezin, a senior Iranian journalist and political analyst close the country’s reformist factions, the camp President Masoud Pezeshkian belongs to.

“Israel wants to be able to attack Iran and not face any consequences. Just like how it is acting in regards to Syria nowadays,” he said. “Iran would never agree to such demands, especially now that it knows its only way of preventing aggression is maintaining the ability to respond to it.”

Iran maintains a large and sophisticated arsenal of short, medium, and long-range ballistic and cruise missiles. Years ago, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, ordered the range of these missiles limited to 2,000 kilometers, a move some believe aimed to signal that Iran does not pose a threat to the

West. However, this range is sufficient to retaliate against attacks by Israel, the only force in West Asia actively engaged in launching wars against regional countries. The average distance a missile should travel from Iran to the occupied territories is approximately 1,568 kilometers.

International conventions and charters do not legally restrict the range of ballistic missiles developed by any nation. “Based on Article 51 of the UN Charter, Iran has the right to develop the capabilities necessary for its self-defense,” explained Shamsolvaezin. “Given Israel’s evident desire to harm Iran, the country must be prepared to strike at any moment.”

Iran’s Minister of Defense, Aziz Nasirzadeh said on Monday that the country does not believe the ceasefire that came into effect between Iran and Israel on June 24 will hold. “We don’t trust the ceasefire at all. The Israelis are plotting. We are treating this simply as a time to prepare ourselves and plan multiple scenarios for the next round.”

Also on Monday, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, lauded the country’s aerospace forces for the highly effective missile counterstrikes they conducted against Israel last month. He made the remarks during a visit to an IRGC Aerospace facility, adding that any repeated mistake would be met with an “even stronger response.”

“Iran has many important cards it has not played yet,” Shamsolvaezin said. “Missiles are an undeniable necessity to make those plans work.”

Netanyahu failed to win war, now trying to control U.S. policy on Iran: Araghchi

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to achieve any of his objectives in the regime’s recent war against Iran, yet is now attempting to dictate U.S. policy on Iran’s missile and nuclear programs.

In a post on social media, Araghchi slammed Netanyahu’s demand that Iran cap its missile range at 480 kilometers, calling the suggestion “absurd” and refusing to take advice from what he described as “a war criminal.”

“It is laughable to expect Iran to accept limitations dictated by someone responsible for war crimes,” Araghchi wrote. “Netanyahu’s dream of dismantling over 40 years of peaceful nuclear advancement in Iran is delusional.”

Referring to the targeted assassinations of Iranian scientists, Araghchi stressed that

“each of the twelve scientists martyred by Israeli-trained mercenaries trained more than a hundred skilled successors—who will prove their capabilities in due time.”

Netanyahu portrays Iran as a threat to security after killing over 60,000 people in Gaza

He further criticized Netanyahu’s post-war conduct, saying, “His arrogance knows no bounds. After failing to achieve any military objectives in Iran and resorting to calling in ‘Daddy’ when our precision missile strikes hit Israeli covert sites—sites he still refuses to acknowledge—he now seeks to dictate how

the U.S. should handle talks with Iran.”

Iran has accused Israel of launching an unprovoked act of aggression on June 13, which resulted in the martyrdom of several senior military commanders, nuclear experts, and civilians.

More than a week later, the U.S. escalated the conflict by striking three Iranian nuclear facilities—an act that Tehran labeled a serious violation of the UN Charter, international law, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In retaliation, Iranian forces launched strikes on key sites across the occupied territories, as well as the U.S. military’s al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest American installation in the region.

Araghchi said Iran’s retaliatory operation on June 24 succeeded in halting the unlawful aggression and reaffirmed the country’s strategic deterrence.

Iran earn third win in 2025 Asian U16 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Kazakhstan in straight sets (25-11, 25-16, 25-21) in the Asian Men’s U16 Volleyball Championship Thailand 2025 on Monday.

Iran had defeated Indonesia 3-1 and Hong Kong 3-0 in their previous matches.

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.

Heydari elected head of Lifesaving & Diving Federation

TEHRAN – Mehdi Heydari has been elected president of the Iran Lifesaving & Diving Federation for a four-year term through 2029.

The elections took place at Iran’s Olympic Academy, where Heydari received an overwhelming majority, securing 47 of the 48 votes cast.

This marks Heydari’s second term as president of the federation.

The Iran Lifesaving & Diving Federation was established in 1974.

Iran to compete at four-team basketball event in Beirut

TEHRAN – The Iranian national basketball will compete in a four-team tournament in Beirut, Lebanon as part of preparation for the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup.

Iran is drawn in Group B alongside Japan, Syria, and Guam.

Team Melli will start the campaign on July 19 with a match against Lebanon.

Iran will then travel to Russia for a couple warm-up games before departing for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Mohammad Hassan Sayari signs for Fenerbahce

TEHRAN – Iranian international player Mohammad Hassan Sayari joined Fenerbahce wheelchair basketball team.

He began his basketball career in Iran and later played for various clubs in Turkey.

Sayari continued his career with Galatasaray and Balıkesir B7B. As of the 2025-2026 season, he has returned to his original team, Fenerbahce.

He also wears the jersey of the Iranian National Team.

Tractor complete signing of Tibor Halilovic

TEHRAN – Tractor football team have completed the signing of Croatian midfielder Tibor Halilovic.

He has penned a two-year deal with Tractor.

The 30-year-old player has most recently played for the SuperSport HNL club Gorica.

The attacking midfielder began his career in Dinamo Zagreb II in 2014 and has also played in Croatian teams Lokomotiva, Rijeka, and the Netherlands’ Heerenveen.

Tractor will represent Iran in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Elite.

Khojiakbar Alijonov to join Persepolis: report

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan international defender Khojiakbar Alijonov is expected to join Persepolis.

The 28-year-old right back has been a member of Pakhtakor since 2017.

Persepolis have recently parted ways with their Moroccan defender Ayoub El Amloud, and Alijonov is set to replace him.

Alijonov is also a member of the Uzbekistan national football team.

2025/26 PGPL draw ceremony to be held on July 27

TEHRAN – The draw ceremony for the 24th edition of Iran’s Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) will be held on July 27. The competition is set to kick off on August 15.

The Persian Gulf Professional League is the premier division of professional football in Iran and has been the top-level league in the country since its establishment in 2001. Since 2013, the league has featured 16 teams.

The league champions will qualify for the AFC Champions League group stage, while the runners-up will secure a place in the AFC Champions League qualifying play-off round. The winners of the Hazfi Cup will also represent Iran in the AFC Champions League Two.

Persepolis stand out as the most successful club, having claimed nine titles in the 23 editions held so far.

A total of 16 teams will participate in the upcoming season. Tractor are the defending champions, while Fajr Sepasi and Paykan are the newly promoted teams, having secured their spots last season. Havadar and Nassaji were relegated from the PGPL to the First Division.

Katic named Sepahan goalkeeping coach

TEHRAN – Branko Katic has been named as goalkeeping coach of Sepahan football club.

Katic started his career in 2008 in Red Star Belgrade and has also worked as goalkeeping coach of Saudi Arabian teams Al Taawoun and Al Hilal.

Katic has also worked as goalkeeping coach of Goztepe and Debrecen.

Sepahan are scheduled to face Al-Duhail of Qatar in Doha on Aug. 12 in the 2025/26 AFC Champions League play-off.

Sadegh Moharrami joins Tractor

TEHRAN – Tractor football team completed the signing of Sadegh Moharrami.

The 29-year-old player has joined the Iranian top-flight club on a two-year deal.

The Dinamo Zagreb right-back had been linked with Sepahan and Persepolis.

Moharrami has previously worked with current Tractor head coach Dragan Skocic in Malavan football team.

Tractor will represent Iran in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Elite.

Giorgi Aburjania linked with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Georgian defensive midfielder Giorgi Aburjania has been linked with Persepolis football club.

The 30-year-old player currently plays in Portuguese team AVS.

The media reports suggest that Qatari club Al Wakrah, Turkey’s Karagumruk, and Poland’s Jagiellonia Bia?ystok are also want to sign the player.

Aburjania is a member of Georgia national football team since 2016.

No return to talks without guarantee of diplomatic effectiveness: Iran foreign ministry

TEHRAN — Iran will not reenter nuclear negotiations unless it is assured of diplomacy’s effectiveness, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Monday, warning against politicizing the concept of dialogue and reaffirming Iran’s commitment to defending its national interests through both diplomatic and military means.

“As long as we are not confident in the efficacy of diplomacy and the negotiation process, we will not engage in such talks,” Baghaei stated at his weekly press conference in Tehran.

He added that just as Iran’s Armed Forces remain committed to defending the nation with strength, the country’s diplomatic apparatus must also use diplomacy wisely to further the same national goals.

‘International community’s silence on atrocities in Gaza is shocking’

Baghaei also denounced Israeli airstrikes on humanitarian aid areas in Gaza, blaming the international community’s silence for ongoing atrocities.

“The main reason the Zionist

regime continues its crimes and genocide in Gaza is its absolute impunity,” he said. “Over the past two years, we’ve witnessed unprecedented genocide, and all states are obligated to take action.”

‘Snapback mechanism lacks legal or moral legitimacy’

Turning to the potential reactivation of the so-called snapback sanctions mechanism under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, Baghaei firmly rejected the idea.

“There is no legal or political basis for the snapback mechanism. Today, more than ever, invoking this mechanism is devoid of legal or ethical justification. It’s merely a politicized tool misused from within Resolution 2231,” he said.

Baghaei stressed that Iran continues to consider itself a JCPOA member, having reduced its commitments in response to the U.S. withdrawal and continued violations by European signatories.

“Exactly one year after the U.S. withdrawal, Iran began scaling back its commitments. But the European parties themselves violated the agreement and failed to fulfill their obligations. They have no



standing to invoke any mechanism now.”

He added that attempts to activate the snapback in the wake of an Israeli military strike on Iran were politically motivated and unjustifiable.

“This is simply a political act aimed at confronting Iran, and we will respond appropriately. The U.S. has imposed layers of sanctions on Iran, but the Iranian people have shown resilience in the face of pressure.”

‘Strategic dialogue with Russia and China ongoing’

On relations with Russia and China, Baghaei emphasized con-

tinued strategic cooperation: “We maintain friendly ties and strategic partnerships with both countries, who are active JCPOA members and have consistently played a constructive role. While there’s no specific proposal at the moment, both have always expressed readiness to help resolve the nuclear issue.”

He noted that Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi’s recent trip to China provided an important opportunity for coordination and dialogue, as did Iran’s participation in the BRICS Summit.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

TEDPIX gains 26,400 points on Monday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 26,489 points to 2.734 million on Monday, which is the third day of the Iranian calendar week.

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

On July 7, the TSE head said that Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) is rolling out a revamped stabilization package aimed at improving liquidity and investor confidence following recent market volatility.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regarding the Central Bank and banking network's program to support the capital market, Mohammad Shirijian said: "The Central Bank and the Stock Exchange Organization (SEO) have made important decisions to support the capital market during continuous meetings over the

past two weeks at the expert and management levels, as well as joint meetings between the Governor of the Central Bank, the Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs, and the Head of the Stock Exchange Organization."

Regarding the banking system's methods of supporting the capital market, she said: "Part of this support is provided in the form of direct support for the capital market and in the form of market management of the shares of banks and banking network subsidiaries, especially banks under Article 44 of the Constitution."

In terms of the banking system's methods of supporting the capital market, he said: "Part of this support is provided in the form of direct support for the capital market and in the form of market management of the shares of banks and banking network subsidiaries, especially banks under Article 44 of the Constitution."

Shirijian added: "Part of this support is also provided indirectly."

The head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) had said that the capital market's share in the national financing system is going to increase to 50 percent over the next five years, positioning it as a key engine of economic activity, employment, and industrial growth.

Hojatollah Seyedi had said the organization's 14th development plan includes targeted measures to stimulate production, starting with fiscal incentives embedded in the national budget.

He outlined two additional pillars of the government's production strategy: implementation of the Law on Supporting Production and a five-part economic development plan currently being drafted by the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO).

Seyedi said new investment funds have been created within the capital market to support production, including Murabaha bonds aimed at financing small- and medium-sized enterprises.

He said the Securities and Exchange Organization is targeting a "50-50" financing model, balancing bank loans and capital market resources, over a four- to five-year horizon. "Initial public offerings in project-based companies have already begun, and infrastructure for Murabaha bond issuance is in place," he said, noting a surge in applications from producers seeking bond issuance licenses.

In late March, the official outlined the five major plans for enhancing efficiency and transparency in the capital market in the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21.

Seyedi outlined five initiatives for the capital market this year, which include expanding the market through initial public offerings (IPOs), especially company-project listings, and increasing the capital of listed companies.

He expressed hope that the number of companies in the capital market would exceed 1,000 this year (currently there are over 700 companies).

Entrepreneurs and private companies are encouraged to take advantage of capital market opportunities, he emphasized.

He continued by explaining the second initiative: enhancing transparency, efficiency, and timely information dissemination in the capital market.

The third program focuses on improving corporate governance systems to ensure listed companies are better managed, achieving higher performance and increased profitability, all aligned with supporting production, the official added.

Seyedi announced two other plans: one to strengthen structures and the other to upgrade and rebuild the capital market's information technology system.

Regarding the capital market's value this year, he clarified that it will ultimately depend on market participants and remains unpredictable. However, efforts will focus on increasing transparency, liquidity, and efficiency to grow and improve the market compared to last year.

He emphasized the importance of shareholder rights, stating, "Shareholders must feel their rights are respected and supported," adding that safeguarding shareholders' rights depends on enhancing the efficiency of listed companies.

The SEO head further stressed fair transactions, preventing asymmetry in the dissemination of company information, and ensuring shareholders have access to company performance data to make informed decisions, such as whether to hold or sell their shares.

Iran an important partner in One Belt, One Road initiative: China Railway general manager

TEHRAN- The general manager of China State Railway Group Company, known as China Railway (CR), considered Iran an important partner in the "One Belt, One Road" initiative and emphasized the need for coordination to stabilize prices and facilitate customs processes in the Southern Corridor.

Guo Zhuxue made the remarks in a meeting with Jabarali Zakeri, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI).

During the meeting, emphasis was placed on increasing the number of container trains between the two countries.

Zakeri, who is also Iran's deputy transport minister, met and talked with China Railway general manager during his trip to China to attend the 106th General Assembly of the International Union of Railways (UIC) which was held in Beijing.

In the meeting, the general manager of China Railway, referring to the deepening of cooperation between the two countries in recent years, positively assessed the resumption of container trains between China and Iran from 2024 and expressed hope that cooperation between the two railways will expand.

Zakeri, for his part, referred to the historical relations between



the two countries, and explained Iran Railways' plan to develop the rail network and increase transit and freight transport.

He also referred to the plans to electrifying and double-tracking the East-West Corridor in Iran from the Sarakhs border to the Razi border, and said: "A contract to electrify about 1,000 kilometers of this axis, with the aim of increasing rail freight capacity from five million tons to 15 million tons, has been signed with a Chinese company."

The official further mentioned the investment of a number of foreign companies in Aprin dry port, in Eslamshahr county, southwest of Tehran city, and invited China Rail-

way to invest in this port.

In July 2024, Iran-China freight train was relaunched at Aprin dry port.

Relaunching this train was simultaneous with launching first phase of the China-Europe rail corridor, in a ceremony attended by Miad Salehi, the former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, as well as chargé d'affaires of the Chinese embassy in Teheran, Kazakh ambassador, and Turkmen attaché to Iran.

Addressing the mentioned ceremony, Fu Lihua, chargé d'affaires of the Chinese embassy in Teheran, said the bilateral cooperation between Iran and China has had good

results in the past years.

The launch of this container train, while connecting China to Central and Western Asia, is a channel for the development of cooperation between China and Iran and an opportunity for commercial, industrial and cultural cooperation between the two countries, she further stated.

Also, the ambassador of Kazakhstan to Iran expressed his hope that this rail route will be connected to Turkey and the European Union in the future.

Askhat Orazbay noted: "Kazakhstan is a neighbor of Iran through the Caspian Sea and is pursuing infrastructure projects in Anzali, Amirabad and Caspian ports."

Considering the very long and not very safe route of China's sea access to West Asia and Europe, the rail route is the most suitable, closest, safest and cheapest option for China's access to the destination markets in West Asia and Europe.

Using the China-Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran route saves time and money.

The China-Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran corridor is the first logistics solution for fast delivery of goods from the eastern coast of China to the markets of the Persian Gulf.

Solar power plants with capacity of 11.5 MW put into operation in Khorasan Razavi

TEHRAN- Solar power plants with the capacity of 11.5 megawatts (MW) were put into operation in Khorasan Razavi province, in the northeast of Iran, on Monday morning.

As reported, the power plants were inaugurated in Torab-e Jam and Fariman counties by the private sector.

The inauguration ceremony of the mentioned power plants was participated by the governor-general of Khorasan Razavi, as well as the director generals of the province's Renewable Power Plants Development Headquarters.

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.

118,000 tons of basic goods cleared from free zones in 12-day war



TEHRAN- The secretary of Iran's Free and Special Economic Zones High Council said that during the 12 days of the imposed war, 118,000 tons of basic commodities were cleared from seven free zones, which was aimed at meeting the country's needs.

Reza Masrour announced the important measures taken in the country's free zones in recent months and said: "One of the main priorities in these zones was to accelerate the clearance of essential goods, which was successfully carried out."

Annual copper cathode production increases 1.7%

TEHRAN- Production of copper cathode in Iran increased by 1.7 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20), Tasnim news agency reported.

As reported, 292,200 tons of copper cathode was produced in 1403, while the figure was 287,400 tons in 1402.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rods for the wire and cable industry.

Given the significance of mining sector in Iran, implementation of projects to develop different parts of this sector has been always a major program of the governments.

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.

According to a preliminary report published about the production of selected goods in the country's industry, mining and mineral industries, the production trend in the past year experienced some fluctuations.

In that report, the production of 40 different industrial and mineral products was examined.

Dozens killed in sectarian violence in Syria

By Wesam Bahrani
TEHRAN – At least 37 people have been killed in the latest wave of sectarian violence in the war-torn Syria.

Over 100 others have also been injured amid fierce clashes in southern Syria, primarily in Suwayda province, between members of the Druze community and government-affiliated Bedouin tribes.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the fighting erupted in the al-Maqous neighborhood east of Suwayda city and surrounding areas. Among the casualties were 27 Druze, two of them children, and ten Bedouins.

The violence reportedly began when Bedouin fighters established a checkpoint on the Damascus–Suwayda highway, where they robbed and brutally assaulted a young Druze man.

The incident triggered a cycle of retaliatory abductions, attacks, and road closures, escalating tensions in the region.

Syria’s Ministry of Interior ex-



pressed “deep concern” over what it termed “armed confrontations,” noting that early figures indicated more than 30 fatalities and nearly 100 injuries.

In coordination with the Ministry of Defense, security units have begun intervening to restore order, apprehend those responsible, and refer them to the judiciary.

State news agency SANA reported that several Syrian army personnel were killed during the clashes, allegedly targeted by armed groups operating outside the law.

The violence marks the most serious outbreak since similar confrontations in April and May.

Local news outlet Suwayda 24 cited medical sources who reported that both machine guns and mortar shells were used in the fighting.

The main Damascus–Suwayda highway has been shut down, signaling the deteriorating security environment.

Videos circulating on social media show extremist militants pledging support for the Bedouins and sending reinforcements to the

front lines. In response to the violence, Suwayda Governor Mustafa al-Bakour called for “restraint, reason, and dialogue,” while affirming that the state “will not tolerate threats to citizens’ safety.”

Druze spiritual leaders echoed these sentiments, urging the Damascus government to intervene immediately to protect civilians and prevent further escalation.

The current unrest follows a similar wave of violence earlier this year, when clashes that began near Damascus spread to Suwayda, ultimately leaving at least 119 people dead, including Druze fighters and government security personnel.

In the aftermath, Druze elders and Syrian government representatives brokered temporary ceasefire agreements aimed at reducing tensions.

The Israeli regime, which has occupied the Golan Heights since 1967 and unilaterally annexed it in 1981, launched airstrikes and warned Damascus against harming the Druze community.

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

Suicides among Israeli soldiers expose systemic breakdown

From page 1 ▶ Those who are against it say that the military does not give these cases the right amount of attention and, in fact, it behaves in such a way that it goes only to cover them up, thus, not only the situation is not improved, but, also, the silence becomes a stigma for those who are suffering from mental health issues among the ranks.

Psychological toll and institutional failures
The psychological toll on soldiers is beyond comprehension. Research shows that about twelve percent of reservists who went to fight in Gaza are diagnosed with severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and are so affected that they become not fit to continue with the service. Since the beginning of the war, roughly 30,000 soldiers have been looking for psychological help, while hundreds have been discharged because of mental health issues.

This widespread trauma has led to a collapse in morale: reserve enlistment rates have dropped from 95 percent to 75 percent, and absenteeism in certain units has soared to 50 percent. Despite these alarming figures, the Israeli military has been widely criticized for its inadequate mental health infrastructure,

pervasive stigmatization of psychological distress, and failure to provide timely and effective treatment for afflicted soldiers.

Recent tragic cases
The most recent incidents highlight the human cost of the crisis. On July 10, 2025, a soldier from the eminent Golani Brigade committed suicide at Sde Teiman military base shortly after completing his service in Gaza. His unit knew and were concerned about his condition. He had been questioned by military police and had received evaluation and psychiatric assistance and his weapon was confiscated and on supervision. However, he found a gun from a friend and took his life. Importantly, the soldier had just returned from Gaza after losing a close friend during the combat – the progression from combat exposure and then the added trauma upon return from the front. Another case also occurred recently with reservist Daniel Edri who immolated himself after returning from trying to manage what amounted to numerous combat missions from Gaza and Lebanon, while also managing the horrific violence following all of the missions and being denied immediate access to psychiatric care following

each of these missions. **A society drowning in its own warmongering**
The rising suicide rate among Israeli soldiers highlights a deepening crisis that extends beyond individual tragedies to threaten the military’s operational readiness and societal stability. Groups like “Mothers on the Front” criticize the continued deployment of psychologically unfit soldiers, warning it endangers both individuals and unit cohesion.

As recruitment declines and morale drops, the psychological toll of prolonged conflict and occupation increasingly reverberates through Israeli society. This surge in suicides reflects a society overwhelmed by relentless warmongering and expansionist policies. Israel’s aggressive military actions—from Gaza’s brutal occupation to recent conflicts with Iran—have devastated lives abroad while fracturing the mental and social fabric at home. The crisis exposes a military system prioritizing conquest over soldier welfare, revealing profound ethical and strategic failures within Israeli society itself.

A nation grows stronger in adversities

From page 1 ▶ The 12-day war had well witnessed this very spirit of unity. Shortly after the aggression took place, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed “severe punishment” for the aggression on June 13. President Pezeshkian called “whatever differences, knots, and problems exist, today we must set them all aside and stand with unity and cohesion against this genocidal criminal aggression with strength”. Politicians of different government bodies and factions were unified with one voice resisting the aggression. According to some personal wechat communication, ordinary Iranians were more than willing to help each other particularly after Donald Trump threatened unconditional surrender by Iran. Neighbors were more than willing to share with each other food, shelters and vehicles during some disruptions. **The second such character should be patriotism.** The last decades had seen several military conflicts in other parts of the world. It was widely reported that nationals of some countries under

aggression would choose to flee their own country for their personal safety. On the contrary, Iranians had demonstrated a totally different story. An Iranian girl staying in China started her journey back to Iran almost immediately after the war broke out. Knowing that all the airlines had been cancelled, she chose to go first to Lanzhou and then Urumqi. She believed that Urumqi is closer to Iran, and once she got to Urumqi, she could find ways to go back home to Iran. According to her Tik Tok bloggings, she finally got back to her home in Tehran via Mashhad shortly after the ceasefire. On June 18, I was in Turkey for an academic meeting while the war was going on. I was told that while some foreigners were fleeing Iran for Turkey, Iranian nationals in Turkey were leaving for Iran. They just wanted to be part of the national struggle against aggression. There was another story about an Iranian journalist. Mohsen is working for a Chinese media outlet. Shortly after the war broke

out, he just sent his family to his hometown near the Caspian Sea, and returned to Tehran to be with his colleague. It was because of his work that real news on Iranian ground had been available for Chinese audience. Patriotism is the kind of human emotion and ideology deeply seated in the minds, and is not much visible in everyday life. The shared experience of being aggressed had stimulated the emotion. All these stories of ordinary Iranians had well demonstrated the patriotic nature of the Iranian people. **The third should be the character of bravery.** When I was visiting Iran in October 2023, a senior Iranian scholar instructed me a man is defined not merely by appearance or status, but by the embodiment of three essential elements: physical strength, mental fortitude, and spiritual courage. The mentor-like scholar meant that human beings should have the character of bravery in resistance against aggression or any other kind of injustice. Iran’s struggle in the 12-day war also manifested its national

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

Geagea capitalizing on US envoy’s threats that Lebanon may annex Lebanon

By Sondoss Al Asaad
BEIRUT — Despite sparking widespread public and political outrage, Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea was quick to justify the threats made by the US envoy to Lebanon, Thomas Barrack, regarding Lebanon’s “concession” to Syria and its inclusion as part of the Levant. Geagea did not view the US envoy’s statements as a direct threat to Lebanon, but rather

er a warning to the Lebanese authorities to be strong enough so as not to be annexed in the “new map of the region.” Geagea alleged that international policies are moving toward “reorganizing the situation in the region.” Observers described Geagea’s statements embracing Barrack’s positions—which threaten the very existence of Lebanon—as “suspicious”

in their timing and content, especially without any condemnation from Foreign Minister Youssef Raji (the Lebanese Forces minister in the cabinet), who has yet to defend Lebanon’s sovereignty. This raises significant questions about the Lebanese Forces’ understanding of the concepts of sovereignty and independence: (See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

INTERNATIONAL

JULY 15, 2025
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

5

Over 700 Palestinians killed while collecting water in Gaza

More than 700 Palestinians, mostly children, have been killed by Israeli army fire while collecting water since October 2023, local authorities said on Monday, according to Anadolu Agency.

“The Israeli occupation continues to wage a systematic and deliberate war of thirst against the Palestinian people in Gaza, in a flagrant violation of all international and humanitarian conventions,” Gaza’s government media office said in a statement.

The office accused Israeli forces of using water as a weapon of war “to deprive the Palestinians of their most basic rights.”

It noted that Israeli army forces had committed 112 massacres against Gazans collecting water, killing more than 700 people, mostly children, since October 2023.

On Sunday, at least 12 people were killed, including eight children, by Israeli fire while waiting to collect water in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza.

The media office said that over 720 water wells were deliberately destroyed by the Israeli army in Gaza.

“Attacks on water wells have deprived more than 1.25 million Palestinians of access to clean water,” it added.

Gaza civilians killed with commercial drones, probe finds

The Israeli army is weaponizing Chinese-made drones to kill Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, according to an investigation by the Israeli publications 972 Magazine and the Local Call, Al Jazeera reported.

The drones are operated manually by soldiers on the ground to bomb civilians – including children – to force them out of their homes or prevent them from returning to areas where Palestinians have been expelled, the outlets reported on Sunday.

The publications interviewed seven soldiers and officers to produce their findings, they said.

The report was published as criticism of Israel’s plan to set up an internment camp in southern Gaza is growing. Former Israeli Prime Ministers Yair Lapid and Ehud Olmert said it would amount to a “concentration camp” if Palestinians there are not allowed to leave.

“The weaponization of civilian drones to kill and dispossess Palestinians is the latest revelation of the cruelties normalized in Gaza and further evidence of how Israel is trying to forcibly transfer the population to the south of the Strip,” Al Jazeera said.

Dr. Abu Safiya enduring severe abuse in Israeli prison

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, is being held under extremely alarming conditions after being detained and taken to an Israeli prison in December following a brutal military campaign on the key Gaza hospital, Al Mayadeen reported.

His lawyer, Ghaida Qasem, detailed Abu Safiya’s state on Monday, reporting that he had lost at least 40 kilograms, dropping from about 100 to 60kg since he was abducted and imprisoned. According to Qasem, he also endured a brutal 30-minute beating that targeted his chest, face, head, and neck.

Despite suffering from irregular heartbeats, Israeli authorities have denied him access to essential medication, treatment, and a specialist doctor. According to the statement, he remains dressed in winter clothing under extreme conditions of starvation, torture, and complete isolation.

It is worth noting that Dr. Abu Safiya is held

in an underground cell with no exposure to sunlight, further exacerbating his deteriorating health.

BCG ‘paid over \$1m’ for Gaza maritime aid project

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) was paid over \$1m for advising a private US maritime aid initiative for Gaza that operated outside the traditional United Nations-led system, according to the Financial Times.

The payment coincided with BCG’s involvement in the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a controversial project accused of undermining humanitarian principles.

Earlier this month, the FT reported that BCG had signed a multimillion-dollar contract to support GHF’s operations, including modelling a plan to “relocate” Palestinians from Gaza.

BCG helped design and run the US- and Israeli-backed effort, which aimed to bypass UN aid coordination and replace it with a new system.

Rafah plan is ethnic cleansing disguised as aid: Olmert

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, in an interview with the Guardian on Monday, said that “Israel’s” proposed “humanitarian city” in Rafah is tantamount to ethnic cleansing and would operate as a concentration camp if realized. He warned that the plan, supported by Netanyahu and Security Minister Israel Katz, represents a dangerous intensification of “Israel’s” ongoing violations against the Palestinian people.

“It is a concentration camp. I am sorry,” Olmert said, responding to Katz’s directive for the military to prepare a blueprint to house 600,000 Palestinians in the southern Gaza Strip. Under this plan, Palestinians would be forbidden from leaving the area except to other countries, a restriction Olmert described as an unmistakable form of forced displacement.

“If they [Palestinians] will be deported into the new ‘humanitarian city’, then you can say that this is part of an ethnic cleansing. It hasn’t yet happened,” he noted, warning that the only logical interpretation of the strategy is one of forcible expulsion.

Trump set to unveil Ukraine weapons plan at meeting with NATO chief



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte’s visit to the White House came on the day that Trump promised to deliver a “major statement” on Russia, AFP reported.

Trump launched a bid at rapprochement with Putin shortly after starting his second term in January as he sought to honor his election campaign promise to end the Ukraine war within 24 hours.

His pivot towards Putin sparked fears in Kyiv that he was about to sell out Ukraine, especially after Trump and his team berated Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office in February.

But Trump has shown growing anger and frustration with Putin in recent weeks as the Russian leader, instead of halting his three-year invasion, instead stepped up attacks

University of Michigan professor congratulates Iran on UNESCO designation of Paleolithic caves



Reconstruction of Upper Paleolithic hunters based on findings from Yafteh Cave.
(Credit: Courtesy of the National Museum of Iran)

TEHRAN – Professor John D. Speth, a distinguished anthropologist and emeritus faculty member at the University of Michigan, has warmly congratulated the recent inscription of the Paleolithic caves of Iran's Khorramabad Valley on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Having co-directed the archaeological excavation of Kunji Cave in 1969, Speth described the international recognition as a “remarkable and pridelul” achievement.

Announced on July 11, at the 47th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in Paris, the registration marks the first time a Paleolithic site in Iran has been included in the prestigious global heritage list. The designation covers five ancient caves and one rock shelter, underscoring the significance of the Khorramabad Valley in understanding early human history.

Reflecting on his fieldwork some fifty years ago, Professor Speth highlighted the valuable archaeological evidence uncovered at Kunji Cave, including Middle Paleolithic artifacts, Chalcolithic burials, and Bronze Age relics. “The findings from this site have provided research-

ers with critical insights into human life across multiple prehistoric periods,” he said.

Expressing personal pride, Speth stated, “It is a great honor that our research in Kunji Cave contributed to this process, leading to the recognition of the first Paleolithic complex in Iran. This is truly a source of national and scientific pride.”

Speth also reminisced about the natural beauty of Khorramabad Valley and the warm hospitality extended by the local Lur community during his excavations. “This event revives precious memories of the magnificent valley and the gracious people who welcomed us more than half a century ago,” he said.

The UNESCO inscription of the Khorramabad Valley's prehistoric sites marks a major milestone in global efforts to preserve and promote humanity's earliest cultural heritage in the Zagros Mountains region. It helps bring new international attention to Iran's rich archaeological legacy and contributes to the broader understanding of Homo sapiens' dispersal and interaction with archaic humans across Eurasia.

Tourism, one of Iran's soft power tools in international interactions

TEHRAN—The Secretary of the Cabinet Seyyed Kamel Taqavi-Nejad said today, tourism is not only an industry but is one of the effective tools for Iran's economic and cultural diplomacy.

He said that the targeted support of semi-finished projects in tourism sector is a priority in government planning, IRIB reported.

He pointed to the effective position of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in the country's economic structures and said: The membership of the Minister of this Ministry in the main economic commissions of the government indicates a strategic view of tourism and the weight of this Ministry in the new geometry of the country's economic

decision-making.

The official praised the increasing position of tourism in national decision-making and the pivotal role of the Cultural Heritage Minister in promoting this field, and emphasized: “There is no meeting in the government in which tourism demands are not heard or the priority of this field is not placed on the agenda.”

Referring to the prominence of the tourism sector in the government structure, said, “This sector has become one of the most heard, demanding and influential pillars in decision-making processes. The voice of tourism is loud, clear and path-breaking today.”

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Echoes of the past: gold rhyton in the form of a winged lion

TEHRAN – Drinking vessels of varied designs flourished throughout the Near East from the 1st millennium BCE well into the Islamic era.

Among these, funnel-shaped beakers adorned with animal protomes formed a particularly distinctive category, serving important ceremonial and ritual functions. These vessels represented more than mere drinking utensils – they embodied the artistic achievements and cultural values of their time.

During the height of the Achaemenid Empire, animal-shaped rhytons stood as some of the most exquisite examples of Persian metalwork. Typically crafted from precious materials like gold and silver, these objects combined practical function with profound symbolic meaning. The frequent depiction of powerful creatures – lions, bulls, and mythical griffins – not only demonstrated exceptional technical skill but also reflected the empire's far-reaching cultural connections across the ancient world. These were objects made for royalty and ritual, serving both practical and ideological purposes in Achaemenid courtly life.

The pictured rhyton, unearthed near Hamedan, dates back to the Achaemenid era and is being kept at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran. It measures 22.3 cm in height, with a base diameter of 19.5 cm, a top diameter of 12.8 cm, and weighs 892 grams.



The rhyton features a funnel-shaped beaker adorned with horizontal ridges and a decorative band of 16 lotus flowers and palmettes. At its front, a winged lion is masterfully soldered to the vessel. Both the beaker and the crouching lion remain remarkably intact, with only minor losses to details between the ridges near the nose and in the beard. The lion's mane is finely stylized, composed of rows of small hook-shaped tufts, while its body terminates in upward-curving belly hairs.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

‘I will never regret coming’: solo female traveler reflects amid Israel's strikes on Iran

TEHRAN – When 24-year-old Taiwanese traveler Ariel Kang Chengxuan went to bed on June 12 in Isfahan, Iran, she had no idea she was about to wake up in the midst of all-out war.

According to a CNN report, Kang was halfway through a two-week solo trip exploring the historic city renowned for its stunning Persian blue-tiled domes. That night, Israel launched a series of devastating airstrikes targeting Iran's nuclear and military facilities, sparking 12 days of intense conflict across the country.

The next morning, Kang first heard about the strikes through concerned messages from friends online. Yet, outside her homestay in Isfahan, life seemed almost normal: shops remained open, streets were less crowded but not deserted.

It wasn't until June 14, while watching TV with her host family, that the true gravity of the situation struck home. “We were so shocked to see the scene of the missile attack,” Kang was quoted by CNN as saying on July 5.

“The family said they had experienced similar conflicts last year and warned the airport might close,” she added.

For Kang, who had traveled extensively since 2022, funded by a part-time job during university, the sudden escalation was unnerving. “I was quite helpless at first hearing about the attack. I was there alone,” she said.

Obtaining a visa for Iran was itself a challenge. Kang applied through an online agency, paying \$15 for the visa and another \$134 upon entry. She found Iran's tourist infrastructure limited and public transport difficult to navigate without speaking Farsi.



Kang poses for a photo in front of a traditional Isfahan restaurant.
(Photo: Ariel Kang)

“Traveling in Iran can be daunting,” she said. “But the kindness of locals helped me overcome my fears. You need strong nerves and the courage to ask for help.”

Relying on homestays booked through a couch-surfing website, Kang found that human connection was the cornerstone of her journey. Locals often approached her with warm gestures -- using translation apps to tell her “you are my guest.”

“It was the warmth of these connections that made the experience unforgettable,” she reflected.

The stunning architecture of Isfahan was Kang's original draw. Once a major Silk Road hub, the city boasts several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the UNESCO-registered Masjed-e Jameh mosque of Isfahan, renowned for its Persian blue tiles. “I am in love with the unique color of Persian blue,” Kang said, de-

scribing the moment she first saw the mosque.

By June 14, with roads blocked due to escalating tensions, Kang abandoned plans to travel north. Instead, she spent time playing cards and cooking with her host family, sharing Chinese spicy hotpot and traditional Iranian dishes.

The following morning, Kang set off for Tehran by bus. Along the way, she was asked by police to don a headscarf during a security check. Approaching the capital, she saw black smoke rising -- a terrifying sign of the conflict's reach.

In Tehran, she hopped between bus stops, seeking transport to Tabriz in the northwest. Despite occasional distant gunfire and tense moments -- including a woman screaming near a bus stop -- the city appeared calm on the surface.

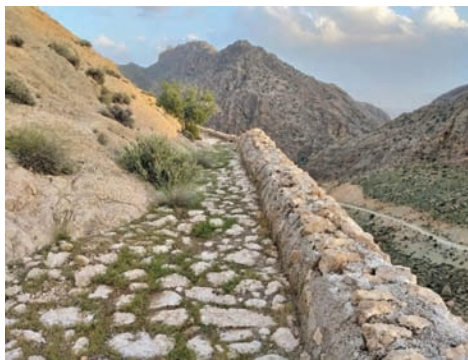
Language barriers made it difficult to gauge the true mood. Still, Kang noted that daily life continued, with restaurants open and people going about their routines.

At 10 p.m., Kang boarded a bus to Tabriz but faced a grueling 15-hour journey due to heavy traffic and mass evacuations. “I was tired and hungry,” she said, noting the lack of basic amenities on the bus.

From Tabriz, she managed to catch a bus to Maku, then took a taxi to the Turkish border. Crossing into Turkey at midnight, she endured a 22-hour trip to Istanbul before finally catching a flight home to Taiwan.

Reflecting on her ordeal, Kang said, “I will never regret coming. Despite the fear and uncertainty, the experience taught me about courage, kindness, and the unforgettable warmth of human connection.”

Storm shows another part of Fahraj Spice Road



TEHRAN—Storm showed another part of Fahraj Spice Road. The Spice Road was one of Iran's first ancient routes for trading spice to various parts of the world. It was connected to Silk Road. Some parts of it were exposed in the late 1990s due to a severe storm.

Some archaeologists attribute the history of this paved road to the Achaemenid era, ILNA wrote.

The importance of the emergence of the Spice Road in Fahraj was such that it drew Professor Shahriar Adl, a famous Iranian archaeologist, to the region.

During his visit to Fahraj ancient sites, he declared that Fahraj is the oldest campus of archaeology in Iran, and numerous ancient artifacts, even artifacts from the Paleolithic and Paleolithic eras, have been observed in this city.

Hamid Vahidzadeh, caretaker of Fahraj Cultural Heritage Department in Kerman said that

due to severe storms, the new part of Spice Road has been observed near Mil-e Naderi (Naderi Tower) which dates back to 1,000 years ago.

Fahraj in Kerman province has 358 historical monuments and ancient sites, he said, adding that Spice Road is the most important historical site of Fahraj.

He said that for many years, many experts and archaeologists had been searching for the Spice Road in Iran, and the severe storms of Fahraj caused this route to be unveiled. In the first phase, when the storm exposed part of this road, the Spice Road was registered as a national heritage and its archaeological studies began.

Vahidzadeh added that funds are to be allocated for the restoration and placement of tourist routes of this work, which some archaeologists consider to be an Achaemenid road.

He explained that Naderi tower is the only desert lantern in Iran that has been registered nationally.

The Spice Road in Fahraj emerged from under sands of the desert in the late 1990s due to a severe storm, and now 40 kilometers of it have been identified. In the past month, another part of the ancient Spice Road in Fahraj emerged from under the ground again due to a storm.

According to Vahidzadeh, 70 percent of the historical monuments in this county, including ancient sites and historical monuments, have emerged from under the desert sands and been identified only due to severe storms.

224 Hamedani Mookebs render services to Arbaeen pilgrims

TEHRAN—Reza Mousavi, a senior official of Hamedan province, said 224 Mookebs (service centers with a religious nature where Shia Muslims come together and conduct religious rituals during Arbaeen) have been launched across the province to render services to the pilgrims during Arbaeen.

Pointing to the project to build five new courtyards in an area of 40 hectares around the holy shrines in Karbala, he said that one of the courtyards has been completed, ILNA reported. He explained that these courtyards will be a haven of peace for pilgrims.

Mousavi said 2,700 copper bricks with golden covers have been donated by the people of Hamedan to upgrade the holy dome of Imam Hussein (AS), which is unprecedented-

ed in the country, and donations in cash, non-cash, property, and even construction materials are also being collected on a large scale.

The courtyard of Hazrat Zahrā (AS) in Najaf has been built and handed over to the pilgrims with a built-up area of 220,000 square meters and four floors.

He continued that the courtyard of Aqila Bani Hashem in Karbala with a built-up area of 180,000 square meters and four floors, has witnessed a physical progress of 80 percent and will be fully completed by March 2027.

Other courtyards such as Imam Hassan Mojtāba (AS), Hazrat Ali Akbar (AS), Hazrat Qasem (AS), and the courtyard of Saheb al-Zaman (AS) are also on the agenda, and after completion, the surroundings of the

holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS) and Hazrat Abbas (AS) will be unified, he mentioned.

Mousavi announced that two popular campaigns are underway to reconstruct and develop the holy shrines. One is to participate in the construction of the courtyards by paying at least 30 million rials and receive a certificate of honor and registration in the shrine list, and the other is a tile campaign worth two million rials to purchase each tile of the shrine, on the back of which the name of the donor will be recorded, he added.

He stated: “The purchase of materials, the implementation of projects, the provision of technical personnel, and their transfer to the shrines are all done from Iran, and the domestic economy also benefits from these

projects.”

Stating that all the materials required for the projects are provided from the country, Mousavi said: “The height of the holy dome of Imam Hussein (AS) has increased by 25 meters during recent projects. Its segmentation operations are carried out in Kerman, tiling is done in Isfahan, and the stone used is also provided in factories in Hamadan and Kordestan provinces. After the stone is cut, these materials are sent from Iran to Iraq in about 150 trucks every two to three months.”

He continued: “So far, more than 300 specialized technical personnel from Hamadan province have been dispatched to the reconstruction projects in the holy shrines, which indicates the province's prominent role in this field.”

Ad hoc working group to deal with sand and dust storms

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued an order calling for the establishment of a specialized working group to address sand and dust storms (SDSs), which have turned into a significant public health concern in the country.

During a meeting held on Sunday, the Department of Environment (DOE) presented a report on the hazards of SDSs, as a comprehensive and growing threat, and enumerated the national plans and strategies to mitigate the impacts of SDSs, IRNA reported.

Highlighting the significance of preserving the environment, as a critical issue of the country, the president ordered the establishment of a working group, consisting of experts, academics, representatives of ministries and executive agencies, to prepare and implement operational plans to combat the dust phenomenon, drawing on successful international experiences.

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

Iran's initiatives in combating SDSs

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

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



Recognizing that sand and dust storms and their negative impacts at different scales are issues of international concern, the United Nations General Assembly, at Iran's initiative, proclaimed July 12 as the

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

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

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

The following are some approaches adopted to cope with SDSs, which have a significant

impact on public health, ISNA reported.

Development of non-oil and eco-friendly mulches: mulches are an alternative to traditional oil-based mulches, which have resulted in serious environmental damage.

These types of mulches have been developed from compost, gum plants, and starch products provided by researchers from the Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute, University of Tehran, the Forests and Rangelands Organization, and Khuzestan Science and Technology Park.

Nano and polymer mulches: developed by Sharif University of Technology and the Materials and Energy Research Center, the product uses nanoparticles to produce coatings with high adhesion and long-lasting durability.

Nano mulches are environmentally friendly and have been tested in some central and south-western regions of the country.

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

To this end, the organization has developed collaborations with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to upgrade these systems.

Air Pollution Warning Apps: Several native apps, like "Iran Meteorology" software, "Zarin Meteorology" software, or the web-based systems of the Department of Environment, have been developed in the country to display data from air quality monitoring stations.

Restoring water resources and wetlands employing new technologies: Restoring Hour al-Azim, Bakhtegan, and Jazmourian wetlands, implementing smart water use projects with drainage control and wastewater treatment, and recycling urban water to re-enter the wetland bed have been applied as solutions to combat fine dust.

Green belt plan: the strategy focuses on planting low-water and drought-resistant plants, such as ash trees or bitter olives, to establish green belts around Tehran and industrial cities to control SDS hazards.

Urban air purifiers: Iranian knowledge-based companies have developed air filters for public places, schools, and even open spaces, although they have been tested in limited places

Despite international sanctions and restrictions, Iran has been able to take steps in areas such as satellite monitoring, bio-mulches, and scientific desertification.

However, to be able to pursue the path, sustained financial support, widespread implementation, and regional cooperation with neighboring countries are required.

Iranian students rank 2nd in Intl. Mathematics Summer Camp



TEHRAN – An Iranian team comprising six students placed second in the 3rd International Mathematics Summer Camp (IMSC) held in Beijing, China, from June 20 to July 12, 2025.

Bardia Khosh-Eqbal grabbed a gold medal, Mehdi Aqajanloo, Parsa Tajallaei, Mohammad-Reza Attaranzadeh, and Mohammad-Sajad Memari won silver medals, and Amir-Hossein Zarei won a bronze medal, IRIB reported.

The event served as a training ground for the upcoming International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in Sunshine Coast, Australia.

It was a three-week training program designed to strengthen students' problem-solving skills in elementary mathematical fields, including algebra, geometry, number theory, combinatorics, and to enrich their analytic thinking, fostering a passion for math.

IMSC 2025 brought together over 300 people, including students and lecturers, from 32 countries such as Belarus, Belgium, Cameroon, Germany, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, the United States, Romania, Poland, and Uzbekistan.

It also provided students with tactics and knowledge crucial for excelling in competitions like the IMO. The camp featured lectures, problem sessions, mock tests, and evening seminars. The Kazakh team also ranked second in this competition.

The IMO is the largest and most pres-

tigious of all the international Olympiads, having grown from seven countries to over a hundred each year. IMO brings the brightest young minds from around the world and represents the culmination of many years of mathematical endeavour and hundreds of attempts at solving problems.

The 65th IMO was held from July 11 to 22, 2024, in Bath, United Kingdom. Some 108 countries and 609 students competed. The Iranian team scored 137 points, earning 19th place.

Recent achievements

Attending the second International Mathematics Olympiad for high school students in Turkmenistan, Iranian students managed to win seven bronze medals.

Hosted by Ashgabat Specialised General Education School, the event was held from April 21 to 26.

More than 230 talented students from 15 countries, including Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Armenia, Bulgaria, Nepal, China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Qatar, and Turkmenistan, took part in the competition.

Thirty-one students from North Khorasan represented Iran in the second Olympiad. Mohammad-Javad Kamali Kalati, Arya Mohammadi Razi, Mahsa Abron, Sajad Azizi, Mahyar Forooghifar, Yalda Mesrzadeh, and Setayesh Rahimi won bronze medals, Tasnim news agency reported.

Iranian students won two silver and two bronze medals, ranking fourth at the Turkic International Mathematics Olympiad (TIMO) held from April 17 to 22, in Antalya.

TIMO is an international event that is open to students from grades 3 to 12. The competition is held in two rounds, including the preliminary and global rounds.

In the preliminary round, over 27,350 students from 35 countries competed against each other online in December. The offline qualifying exam had 25 multiple-choice questions, administered for 60 minutes.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Over 27,000 people donated blood on Tasua, Ashura

TEHRAN – A total of 27,200 Iranians donated blood under a national campaign during Tasua and Ashura (the ninth and tenth days of the month of Muharram), according to Bashir Haji-Beigi, spokesman for the Blood Transfusion Organization.

With the beginning of Muharram, the first lunar month, the nationwide blood donation campaign commenced on June 27 and is scheduled to run for 60 days.

The campaign is primarily encouraging youth and women to donate blood, IRNA reported.

With 31 percent growth year on year, Kordestan was the top province, donating 482 units of blood, the health ministry website reported.

Lorestan province, with 29 percent growth, and Qavin province, with 13 percent growth, ranked second and third, donating 667 and 866 units of blood, respectively.

People in Tehran made the largest distribution, donating 3,902 units of blood.

Currently, the average level of blood reserves in the country is sufficient for 10.56 days, and for more than 16 days in Tehran, according to Mostafa Jamali, an official with the Blood Transfusion Organization.

Blood donation in Iran has increased by more than five percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year, which started on March 21, compared to the same period last year.

Also, women's participation in blood donation has increased by one percent, in comparison to the year before, IRIB reported.

A total of 456,020 blood units were donated over the mentioned period.

The blood donation rate has reached 27.8 per thousand people, which is favorable.

The country's plasma production has

reached roughly 400 liters. However, the country needs approximately one and a half million liters of the product.

WHO lauds IBTO's achievements

In January, the World Health Organization representative, Jaffar Hussain, admired the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization's (IBTO) leadership in blood safety and transfusion services, and highlighted their remarkable achievement of a 100 percent voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation system, a testament to the principles of universal health coverage in action.

He also thanked the blood donors, whose selflessness serves as an inspiration to all.

Admiring the IBTO's efforts and expertise in providing services to patients with rare blood types, the official underscored Iran's capacity to serve as a model for other nations in the realm of blood transfusion and rare blood management.

Blood donation rises by 1.5% yr/yr

Some 2.36 million Iranians donated blood over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2024–March 2025), representing a 1.5 percent increase compared to the previous year.

Tehran and Fars, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Mazandaran, and Khuzestan provinces made the largest contributions, IRIB reported.

Over the past (Iranian) year, some four million blood units, including blood products, were transferred to medical centers, IRIB quoted Haji-Beigi, as saying.

Men made up 95 percent of blood donors, while women's contribution amounted to five percent. Women in Lorestan province, North Khorasan, and Sistan-Baluchestan had the highest share, he added.

Highlighting the need for negative blood types, the official said 90 percent of donors had positive blood.

Rainfall declines by almost 40%



TEHRAN – From the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2024) to July 12, precipitation across the country amounted to 136.3 mm, indicating a 39.7 percent decrease from the long-term average of 226.1 mm recorded in the same period, according to the Meteorological Organization.

From July 6 to 12, some 1.6 mm of rainfall was recorded in the country, showing a 104.4 percent increase compared to the long-term figure of 0.8 mm, ISNA reported.

Since the beginning of summer (June 22) to July 12, the average precipitation amounted to 2 mm. In comparison to the long-term figure of 2.5 mm, the country has received 20.3 percent less rain.

The table of rainfall data shows that precipitation in all provinces has been less than the long-term average. Hormozgan and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces have recorded the lowest amount of rainfall, receiving 73.3 percent and 71.5 percent less rain than normal in the current water year.

Tehran province is also among the provinces that have faced a significant decline in precipitation. While Tehran's long-term average rainfall stands at 264.9 mm, it has received 136.9 mm of rain in the current water year, which indicates a 48.3 percent decrease.

Over 250mm rain in previous water year

The previous water year (September 22, 2023 – September 22, 2024) came to an end with 252.7 mm of precipitation, showing a 19

percent increase compared to the year before.

The low precipitation at the beginning of the previous water year was worrisome, but the volume of precipitation improved over time.

Due to successive years of drought, the increase in rainfall amounts did not compensate for the water deficit in the country, and some provinces are suffering from water shortage, IRNA reported.

A total of 10 provinces received less than normal rainfall.

According to the latest reports, the total amount of recorded rainfall in the previous water year (ended on September 23) amounted to 252.7 mm, which signifies a 19 percent increase compared to the 212.9 mm rain received in the water year before (September 2022 – September 2023).

Compared to the long-term figure, 248.7 mm, it shows a two percent increase.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

5,000 clunker garbage trucks move in Tehran at night

Some 5,000 clunker trucks, aged over 40 years, move across the city of Tehran during the night to collect wastes, Tehran Governor Isa Farhadi has announced.

The renovation of the garbage collection fleet requires high amount of budget; this is while the Municipality of Tehran cannot afford the cost and the issue needs urgent measures, he stated.

Clunker garbage trucks aged 40 years or above which travel through the capital at night amounts to 5,000, he concluded.

۵۰۰۰ کامیون زباله کش قدیمی شب‌ها در تهران تردد دارند

فرماندار تهران از وجود ۵۰۰۰ کامیون زباله کش که شب‌ها در تهران تردد دارند و عمرشان بیش از ۴۰ سال است، خبر داد.

به گزارش خبرنگار اجتماعی خبرگزاری فارس، عیسی فرهادی گفت: نوسازی این ناوگان هزینه بسیاری دارد که از توان ما و سازمان شهرداری خارج است و باید فکری برای آن اندیشیده شود.

اکنون میانگین سن این خودروها بالا رفته است و به تبع آن الودگی‌های ایجادشده نیز افزایش خواهد یافت. فرماندار تهران افزود: ۵ هزار کامیون زباله کش شب‌ها در تهران تردد دارند که سن آنان بالای ۳۵ تا ۴۰ سال است.



JULY 15, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:41 Dawn: 3:18 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:01 (tomorrow)

IAF to review “The Phoenician Scheme”

TEHRAN – The Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen American filmmaker Wes Anderson's 2025 movie “The Phoenician Scheme” on Thursday.

The screening will be followed by a review session, Mehr reported.

“The Phoenician Scheme” is a black comedy film based on a story Anderson conceived with Roman Coppola.

Known for his distinctive visual style and offbeat storytelling, Anderson's latest film features an ensemble cast including Benicio del Toro, Mia Threapleton, Michael Cera, Riz Ahmed, Tom Hanks, Bryan Cranston, Scarlett Johansson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Willem Dafoe, and Bill Murray. Set in 1950, the story follows Anatole “Zsa-Zsa” Korda, a ruthless arms dealer and industrialist, who narrowly survives an assassination attempt.

During his unconscious state, he enters the afterlife, where a divine court judges whether he deserves entry into Heaven. Faced with mortality, Korda seeks to repair his fractured relationship with his only daughter, Sister Liesl, a Catholic novice.

He urges her to leave her religious life and take over his business empire. Their relationship is tense—Korda having sent Liesl to a convent at age five and rumored to have murdered her mother, accusations he denies. During this spiritual journey, Liesl also meets Bjørn, a Norwegian entomologist and Korda's assistant.

Meanwhile, Korda's unethical plans draw the attention of global authorities. He aims to overhaul Phoenicia's infrastructure using slave labor,

a scheme opposed by governments worldwide.

A secret agent, Excalibur, conspires to manipulate the market by inflating the cost of construction materials, threatening Korda's ambitions. Accompanied by Liesl and Bjørn, Korda tries to secure investments, but his manipulations lead to chaos—deceiving investors, blackmailing nightclub owner Marseille Bob, and threatening East Coast businessman Marty. Despite his efforts, only half the funds are raised, endangering his project.

Throughout, Korda's past is revealed: he faked stories about his wife's infidelity, which led to her murder by Liesl's biological father, Nubar.

Korda admits to continuing dealings with Nubar, who remains an investor. Liesl, appalled by her father's morals, vows to help him but also seeks justice for her mother's murder.

In a last attempt to secure funding, Korda proposes marriage to his cousin Hilda, an heirless to his armaments fortune.

She accepts but refuses to increase her investment. Returning home, saboteurs destroy Korda's plane, revealing Bjørn as a spy working for Excalibur.

However, Bjørn's love for Liesl prompts him to switch sides. The story concludes with Korda's transformation—he converts to Catholicism, pays his workers, and invests everything in completing the Phoenician project, seeking redemption. Though bankrupted, Korda earns Liesl's forgiveness, and they settle into a simple life running a small bistro. Hilda's marriage is annulled, and she gives her ring to Bjørn, who proposes to Liesl.

Ashura opera puppet show returns to stage to commemorate Muharram

TEHRAN – Iranian director Behruz Gharibpour is restaging the Ashura opera puppet show with his Aran Theater Troupe at Tehran's Ferdowsi Hall to mark the month of Muharram.

Beginning Sunday, the show, which is recognized as one of the most renowned and widely acclaimed productions by the Aran group, will be on stage until August 3, IRNA reported on Monday.

The opera is about the battle of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions against the Umayyad dynasty during Ashura, the tenth day of the month of Muharram on the Islamic calendar.

The Ashura opera puppet show is a blend of music, puppetry, poetry and tazieh (Iranian passion play).

Despite more than 17 years since its debut, the production continues to attract audiences annually, and recently, the opera was performed at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow during the “Chekhov” Theatre Festival, the report added.

Created in 2008 under the artistic vision of Behrouz Gharibpour—who served as writer, researcher, designer, and director—the opera features musical composition by Behzad Abdi, with Vladimir Sirenko conducting the orchestra.

The production also involved the National Ukrainian Choir and Orchestra, in collaboration with members of the Tehran Symphony Choir, with mixing and mastering by Hamid Adab.



The cast includes prominent artists such as Mohammad Motamedi as Hurr, Mostafa Mahmoudi as Mohtasham Kashani, Mehdi Javar as Yazid, Farshad Fouladvand as Omar ibn Sa'd, Mohammad Reza Sadeqi as Shimr ibn Dhi 'l-Jawshan, Ali Khodai as Imam Hussein (AS), and Mehdi Emami as Abbas (AS) among others.

Puppeteers include Niloufar Sasani, Melika Mahdavisadeh, Mohammad Javad Amiri, Ghoncheh Nadgaran, Asal Sadr, Seyyed Ilya Qoreishi, Zahra Nasrollah, Seyyed Amir Hossein Mirhadi, Mohammad Hossein Heidari, Mohammad Hossein Mohebi, and Farzaneh Nazemi.

The Ferdowsi Hall is located on Shahriar St., off Hafez Ave, across from Vahdat Hall.

Ashura is one of the most dramatic and meaningful events in Islamic history. It commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam and the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was killed along with 72 of his loyal companions in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE. This tragic event represents the ultimate stand against tyranny and injustice, as Imam Hussein (AS) and his small group of followers rose up against the oppressive Umayyad dynasty led by Yazid.

Imam Hussein (AS) refused to pledge allegiance to Yazid, whose rule he saw as corrupt and un-Islamic. Instead, he chose to stand for truth, justice, and righteousness, even though it meant sac-

rificing his life. His bravery and sacrifice became a symbol of resistance against oppression for generations to come.

Ashura holds deep cultural and religious significance, especially among Shia Muslims. Every year, on the 10th day of the Islamic month of Muharram, millions of people around the world commemorate this event with mourning ceremonies, processions, and reenactments of the battle. People wear black, recite elegies, and reflect on the values Imam Hussein (AS) stood for. In many cultures, food and water are distributed freely in remembrance of the thirst and suffering endured by Imam Hussein and his companions.

“The Toilers of the Sea” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – “The Toilers of the Sea” by French writer Victor Hugo has been published in Persian by Hermes Publications.

Mohammadreza Parsayar is the translator of the book first released in 1866.

“The Toilers of the Sea” is a novel that captures the rugged spirit of the island of Guernsey, where Hugo spent fifteen years in exile.

The novel's setting—a small, isolated community—serves as a powerful backdrop for transforming ordinary events into a dramatic saga of heroism, love, and human endurance. Set shortly after the Napoleonic Wars, Hugo's narrative also explores the profound impact of the Industrial Revolution on island life, blending social commentary with adventure.

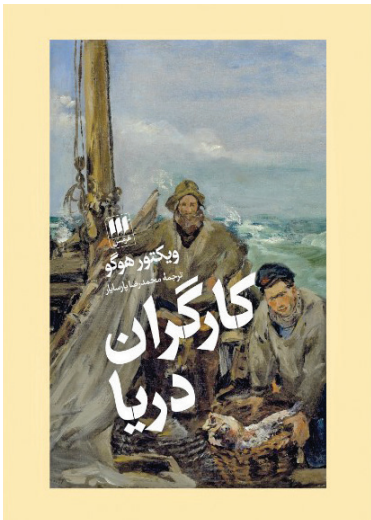
“Toilers of the Sea” centers on Gilliat, a humble fisherman and social outcast who unexpectedly becomes a hero. The story begins with his love for Deruchette, the niece of Mess Lethierry, a shipowner and the owner of Guernsey's first steamship, the Durande. When the Durande is wrecked on the dangerous Double Doves reef—distinct from the Roches Douvres—the island community is thrown into chaos. Deruchette promises to marry whoever can salvage the ship's steam engine, an almost impossible task. Driven by love and duty, Gilliat volunteers, embarking on a perilous mission that tests both his physical endurance and moral strength.

The novel vividly depicts Gilliat's struggles: fighting hunger, cold, and exhaustion, and battling a fierce octopus guarding the sunken wreck. Hugo's portrayal of the fight with the octopus is especially memorable, sym-

bolizing Gilliat's courage and the universal battle against nature's chaos. Amidst these adventures, the story explores social themes—Gilliat's status as an outsider and the suspicion he faces from the community—highlighting perseverance and resilience.

The story's origins are personal; Hugo, exiled in Guernsey, drew inspiration from local scenery and real maritime encounters. It begins with a woman arriving on the island with her young son Gilliat, who grows up amid superstitions that see him as a wizard. After her death, Gilliat becomes a skilled fisherman and sailor, known for bravery. Meanwhile, Mess Lethierry's peaceful life is disrupted when Deruchette notices Gilliat and writes his name in the snow, sparking his obsession with her. He begins to pursue her, playing bagpipes outside her home and dreaming of love, despite his outsider status.

Adding tension is Sir Clubin, captain of the Durande, who plans to sink the ship on the Hanois reef and escape with stolen money. He conspires with Rantaine, a dishonest trader, to carry out the scheme. However, due to fog, Clubin mistakenly arrives at the Douvres reef and attempts to escape by leaping into the sea. Tragically, he is pulled under and drowns, his fate intertwined with the wreck Gilliat is de-



termined to save.

As news of the wreck spreads, Lethierry is frantic to recover the engine. Deruchette promises to marry the man who succeeds, and Gilliat accepts the challenge. His relentless efforts take him into the depths, battling hunger, cold, and danger—including the iconic fight with the octopus. During this underwater expedition, he also discovers Clubin's skeleton and the stolen money, adding mystery to his heroic journey.

In the climax, Gilliat succeeds in bringing the engine

to Lethierry, fulfilling his promise. Despite his heroism, he declines Deruchette's love, having seen her accept a proposal from the young Anglican priest, Ebenezer Caudry. In a selfless act, Gilliat helps the couple escape on the sailing ship Cashmere. Watching the ship depart, overwhelmed by heartbreak and solitude, Gilliat waits on the Gild Holm' Ur—a sea rock—and drowns as the tide rises, symbolizing his ultimate sacrifice.

“Toilers of the Sea” is notable not only for its gripping adventure but also for its linguistic influence; it introduced the Guernésiais word for octopus, plevure, into French. Its themes of resilience, love, and sacrifice continue to resonate, securing its place as a timeless maritime epic rooted in the rugged spirit of Guernsey.

Haunting exhibition showing Irish support for Palestinians

There are no tanks or tear gas, no shattered apartment blocks or bloodied limbs. Just eyes – heavy and charcoal-drawn – staring in stillness and silence. They don't accuse. They don't beg. They simply watch. Peering out of pale, formless faces – a quiet demand to acknowledge their very existence.

This is Gazans' View of the World, a stark monochrome piece by Palestinian artist Nabil Abughanima, one of more than 50 works now on display at Metamorphika Studio in Hackney, London.

Together, they form Dlúth-pháirtíocht – the Irish word for “solidarity” – an exhibition that spans continents, memories and borders, binding Palestinian and Irish histories into a single frame.

Born from a poem written by co-curator Seán Óg Ó Murchú in response to the war in Gaza, he describes the exhibition as “the world's largest international exhibition of contemporary Irish artists” – while providing a safe refuge for the work of Palestinian artists living in exile.

Here, the art is not ornamental; it is urgent. Some artists fled Gaza only months ago, while the show itself is itinerant – travelling to Dublin, Cork and Belfast after its London leg ends on 19 July.

Among those featured is Abughanima himself, who left Gaza two months ago and now lives in France.

“Before the most recent war, I gathered a team of young artists

and began building what we hoped would be Gaza's first independent animation studio,” he says.

“I rented a space, equipped it and watched the dream take its first real form. Then the war came. And it took everything.”

His work wrestles with myth and ancestral stories being under siege. “If those stories are lost,” he says, “the very values upon which global society claims to stand will be lost too.”

As you enter the gallery, you are immediately confronted by the works of the acclaimed Irish photographer Seamus Murphy. Though he's spent over three decades documenting war and migration across the globe, it is his time in Gaza and the West Bank

in the mid-2000s that stays with him.

One photograph, grainy and dim, captures a group of men among barbed wire fencing, staring down a checkpoint. “It was five in the morning on a Sunday,” Murphy recalls.

“I walked with them from their towns, they prayed on the way, before they queued at the crossing. Some were allowed into Israel for work. Many were turned back.

“You cannot escape it, when you cross into Israel from Gaza, the contrast is extraordinary: you have unbelievable social chaos and poverty ... and then manicured roads and advanced technology. It's a vivid image of how people are treated under occupation.”

Cartoon of Day



Peace

Cartoonist: Ameen Alhabarah from Saudi Arabia