



Family photo of the meeting of SCO foreign ministers, Tianjin, July 15, 2025.

SCO: The Recognized Voice of the Global South Against Aggression

Araghchi hails SCO's condemnation of US-Israeli aggression against Iran during visit to China

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Foreign military attachés visit Evin Prison following Israeli strike

TEHRAN — A delegation of military attachés from 20 foreign embassies stationed in Tehran visited Evin Prison on Tuesday, touring the sections recently damaged during an Israeli missile attack.

The visit was organized to provide firsthand insight into what Iranian officials have described as a clear example of state terrorism and unlawful aggression against non-military sites. During the tour, military representatives were briefed on the extent of the destruction and the nature of the Israeli strike, which targeted facilities housing unarmed detainees and administrative infrastructure.

Officials emphasized that the attack on Evin Prison — widely known for detaining a mix of security, political, and white-collar prisoners — constituted a violation of international law, especially given that the facility does not serve any offensive military purpose.

Representatives from several countries, including the Netherlands, Brazil, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, and Oman, took part in the visit. The attachés were shown areas of structural damage and provided with reports outlining the broader impact of Israel's recent strikes on civilian infrastructure across Iran. ► Page 2

Iran-Israel war: A clash of missiles, narratives, and digital battlegrounds

TEHRAN — The recent 12-day war between Iran and Israel wasn't just another flare-up in the volatile West Asia region—it was a seismic shift.

While the exchange of missiles and drones lasted less than two weeks, the war exposed deeper truths about power, deterrence, and the new era of hybrid warfare where social media narratives could be as critical as military strikes.

How it began: A surprise attack and a swift response

Israel was the party that began the war. It launched airstrikes against Iranian nuclear, military, and civilian infrastructure in the early hours of June 13, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later taking to the public stage to claim the regime had carried out a "preemptive" move to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

But Iran's retaliation was swift and unprecedented: hundreds of missiles and drones rained down on the occupied territories from the first day of the war until the very last minutes that led to a de facto ceasefire. ► Page 3

Interview with Martyr Hajizadeh reveals Leader's instrumental role in missile program

TEHRAN — Experts and analysts believe that Iran's missile program was what saved the country from the devastating fate the U.S. and Israel had devised for it in the lead-up to the war that began on June 13.

Israel and its American patrons believed they could topple the Iranian government and wreak chaos inside the country by targeting top military officials and hitting military, nuclear, and civilian infrastructure in surprise attacks. Not only did they fail to achieve this objective, but they were also forced to ask for a ceasefire after both Israel and the United States came under attack from sophisticated and powerful Iranian missiles. Hebrew media reports indicate that around 50,000 buildings in the occupied territories have sustained damage. One-third of Tel Aviv is destroyed or damaged, according to independent media claims.

One of the instrumental figures in the development of Iran's missile and drone program is Amri Ali Hajizadeh, the late commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force who lost his life in Israeli strikes during the initial hours of the war. ► Page 2

'Everyone rose up': Pezeshkian praises national unity forged against Israel

TEHRAN — President Masoud Pezeshkian has praised the unprecedented unity displayed by Iranians following the recent 12-day war initiated by Israel. Speaking at a ceremony held at Iran's Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare, on Tuesday, Pezeshkian emphasized that the aggression had fostered a powerful sense of national solidarity, even among those who had previously felt alienated from the government.

"The Zionist regime imagined that after martyring the commanders of our country's Armed Forces... the Islamic Establishment would face challenges," Pezeshkian stated. "However, the wisdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the immediate appointment of successors... thwarted the enemy's plots." ► Page 3

US is now taking charge of the infamous Zangezur project

TEHRAN — U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Tom Barrack announced on Friday that the United States has suggested to take control of a proposed corridor that would connect mainland Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan by encroaching on Armenia's territory, disrupting the country's historical borders with Iran, and denying Yerevan's oversee of the route.

While talking to reporters, Barrack portrayed the proposal as an attempt to "advance" negotiations between Yerevan and Baku. ► Page 2

Sanctions, delegitimization, and resignations: The end of UN oversight in occupied Palestine

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- The recent resignation of all members of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory epitomizes the fraught intersection of human rights accountability, geopolitical confrontation, and organizational challenges within the UN system.

A closer look reveals a backdrop rife with growing political hostility, credibility issues, and a persistent external campaign to undermine and delegitimize the commission's work, despite the official justifications for the departure of Navi Pillay, Chris Sidoti, and Miloon Kothari focus on age, health, and administrative renewal. ► Page 5

Exports to Africa jump 85% in spring, trade surplus more than doubles

TEHRAN — Iran's exports to African countries rose 85 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21- June 21) compared to the same period last year, while its trade surplus with the continent surged by 113 percent, a senior official at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said on Tuesday.

Mohammad Reza Safari, acting head of TPO's Africa office, said the number of African countries importing Iranian goods increased from 27 to 32 in the three-month period.

Safari attributed the sharp increase in trade to the recent Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit, adding that further implementation of decisions made by the Africa Task Force could accelerate the trend. ► Page 4



Billboards installed across Tehran by the municipality honor Iranian martyrs of Israeli airstrikes, featuring portraits of military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians alongside their grieving family members, June 15, 2025.



Lebanese lawmakers question the cabinet over its policies

By Sondoss Al-Asaad

BEIRUT — The Lebanese Parliament held a session on Tuesday to ask questions from the government of Prime Minister Nawaf Salam about the ongoing Israeli attacks on Lebanon, reconstruction of residential complexes, and the American threat to Lebanon's sovereignty.

"We no longer understand the tasks of the US envoy, Thomas Barrack, as if we have become a testing ground for these envoys," MP Jamil Al-Sayyed sarcastically said, adding, "Despite the existence of a ceasefire agreement, the US envoy sidestepped it by imposing a new proposal."

He said, "Resolution 1701 was adopted by the UN Security Council and is considered a treaty for us! However, what US envoy has presented is not a treaty. This is not how negotiations are conducted." ► Page 5

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

Snapback mechanism, a political tool to revive European role

Hamshahri analyzes threat by the Europeans to activate the snapback mechanism: For some time, three European countries that are members of the JCPOA have been threatening Iran and claiming to be ready to activate the so-called snapback mechanism. This claim, which is political and aimed to pressure Iran, will certainly not be without cost for the Europeans. Following recent political and security developments, especially the 12-day invasion of Iranian territory by the Zionist regime, the old but sensitive discussion of "implementing the snapback mechanism" has been revived at the international level and in European circles. A mechanism that, based on Security Council Resolution 2231, allows for the rapid and automatic return of international sanctions against Iran. According to Araghchi, the three European countries think that the snapback tool gives them the power to play a role in the Iran nuclear issue. But this is a misconception, and if these countries move towards activating snapback, it will make resolution of the Iran nuclear issue more complicated; a mistake that the Americans made by resorting to military option.

Siasat-e-Rooz: A security link

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to the trilateral meeting between the interior ministers of Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan in Tehran and wrote: In line with convergence with neighbors, the meeting in Tehran between the interior ministers of Iran, Iraq and Pakistan, can ultimately pave the way for effective security decisions. The West has failed to implement its goals despite its strong backing for the Zionist regime. Given this reality, the West is seeking to redefine a new function for terrorism to undermine regional security. The movements of terrorist groups from Pakistan to some regions of Iran, as well as strengthening the role of ISIS in Iraq, make convergence among regional countries more imperative in countering terrorism. Tehran is now trying to use an interactive approach with all neighboring countries, emphasizing the need for a united front against terrorism, and to place its capacities and facilities at the service of regional countries in the fight against terrorism. The holding of the trilateral meeting is a sign of Iran's determination and commitment to its neighbors, especially in fighting terrorism.

Ham Mihan: Activating snapback sanctions will further strain Tehran-West ties

Ten years have passed since the signing of the

JCPOA between Iran and six world powers. If the commitments of the JCPOA had been carried out according to the agreement, today the Iran case would have been in a normal state in the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and in incoming fall, all previous Security Council resolutions would have been canceled forever. But in 2018, Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the agreement. In Donald Trump's second administration, although indirect negotiations began between Iran and the United States for a new nuclear agreement, it seems that the Western parties, including the United States and the three remaining European countries still party the JCPOA, no longer accept the common principles that led to the conclusion of the JCPOA. Western countries insist that Iran must give in to their maximum demands and permanently stop enriching uranium. European countries have threatened that if Iran does not respond positively to their demands to abandon and completely halt its nuclear program, they will activate the snapback mechanism, which could change relations between Iran and the West for a long time and make them much more tense than ever.

Iran: Beijing's new role

In an article, the Iran newspaper discussed Araghchi's visit to China and said: The purpose of this visit is that Iran, on one side, is looking to its eastern partners as permanent members of the Security Council, and on the other, it is trying to revive multilateralism capacities, especially in the form of institutions such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS. The growing tensions with Europe, especially in the wake of repeated threats to activate the snapback mechanism, have practically reinforced the perception that Tehran no longer considers Europe as neutral or even effective actor in the process of revitalizing the JCPOA. As the Foreign Ministry spokesman warns, referring to the failure of European countries, resorting to this mechanism in the current circumstances would mean practically eliminating them from the negotiation process. This is not only undesirable for Iran, but could also lead to a direct disadvantage for Europe in future equations. In this context, the scenario of China's more active entry into the case could be an effective step; a step that, if realized, could create a new model of nuclear diplomacy.

Leader renews mandate of senior Guardian Council members



TEHRAN – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has reappointed three senior faqihs (experts in Islamic Law) to the Guardian Council.

According to a Tuesday statement from the Leader's Public Relations Office, the decree retains Ayatollahs Alireza Araf, Ahmad Khatami, and Ahmad Hosseini-Khorasani as the council's clerical members, underscoring continuity in Iran's constitutional oversight body.

The reappointments followed formal correspondence from Guardian Council Secretary Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati noting the imminent conclusion of the members' terms.

According to the Leader's Public Relations Office, Ayatollah Khamenei responded: "With greetings, I reappoint the respected named individuals as members of the Guardian Council's jurists."

This 12-member council, comprising six Islamic jurists appointed by the Leader and six civil law experts nominated by the judiciary and approved by parliament, serves as Iran's constitutional safeguard.

It holds three critical mandates: legislative review (vetoing laws incompatible with Islamic principles or the constitution), candidate vetting for all national elections, and electoral supervision. By ensuring all state actions align with Iran's Islamic and constitutional foundations, the council wields considerable power and influence in national governance.

Profiles of reappointed faqihs

– Alireza Araf: Head of Iran's seminaries (hawzas) and Qom's Friday prayer imam. He brings scholarly depth to constitutional interpretation and serves as second deputy chairman of the Assembly of Experts, representing Tehran.

– Ahmad Khatami: A prominent Tehran Friday prayer imam noted for his principled stances on Islamic jurisprudence. He represents Kerman province in the Assembly of Experts.

– Ahmad Hosseini-Khorasani: A senior Qom-based cleric with expertise in aligning theological tenets with contemporary legal frameworks. He represents Razavi Khorasan province in the Assembly of Experts.

US is now taking charge of the infamous Zangezur project

From page 1 ► The idea of a "Zangezur corridor," a term originating with Azerbaijan and Turkey, envisions a pathway through Armenia's Syunik province. This area has historically bordered Iran for centuries. However, the Zangezur corridor, if established, would not function as a standard transport route. It would necessitate Armenia relinquishing control of the passage to Baku and its main patron Ankara.

The project emerged following the most recent war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, two nations with a history of territorial disagreements. Throughout 2023 and a significant part of 2024, Baku and Ankara actively promoted the development of this corridor. Iran has consistently expressed its disapproval of the plan, underscoring its dedication to upholding the integrity of its historical boundaries and safeguarding geopolitical balance in the surrounding area. The Tehran Times understands that these efforts subsided, at least



in the public sphere, after Iran conveyed a firm message indicating its willingness to intervene should the corridor be established through forceful means.

The American suggestion has once again alarmed Iranians, who recently ended a deadly war with Israel and the United States. "Americans want to manage the Zangezur project because they seek to hurt the interests of Iran, Russia, and China," said Ehsan

Movahedian, an expert on South Caucasus, during an interview with Iranian media. "More importantly, after failing to reach its core objectives during the 12-day war, the U.S. is looking for new ways to deliver blows to Iran. The ultimate goal is the disintegration of the country."

More bad feeling towards Baku

Renewed calls for the formation of Zangezur have negatively impacted perceptions of Azerbaijan,

Foreign military attachés visit Evin Prison following Israeli strike

From page 1 ► On June 23, as part of its broader aggression against Iran, the Israeli regime launched an airstrike on Evin Prison, killing 79 people, including prison staff, soldiers, inmates, visiting family members, and civilians living nearby. The attack, which occurred during visitation hours, also targeted the prison's medical center and nearby units.

Judiciary spokesperson Asghar Jahangir described the strike as a "full-scale war crime," noting that it caused severe physical and financial damage to surrounding neighborhoods and occurred when prisoners were with their families and social workers.

Following the incident, Iranian

authorities moved the inmates to other detention facilities across Tehran Province to ensure their safety.

The Evin Prison airstrike was part of a broader Israeli offensive that began on June 13, during which the regime assassinated several senior Iranian military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. Days later, the United States joined the escalation by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites—an act condemned by Tehran as a grave violation of the UN Charter, international law, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In response, Iran's armed forces launched precision strikes on key targets inside the Israeli-occu-



pied territories and the al-Udeid U.S. airbase in Qatar—the largest American military installation in West Asia.

On June 24, Iran declared that

with Iranian citizens increasingly viewing their neighbor as a potential threat, possibly colluding with Israel and former Daesh leaders now in power in Syria.

Residents of Iranian cities bordering Azerbaijan have reported witnessing drones entering Iranian airspace from Azerbaijani territory during Israel's war against Iran. Some Western media outlets have also alleged that Baku permitted Israel to launch drones from its territory. While the Iranian government has not officially acknowledged these claims, and Azeri President Ilham Aliyev denied assisting Israel's war against Iran during a phone call with President Masoud Pezeshkian, Pezeshkian urged Aliyev to investigate the matter.

Adding to these concerns, a recent meeting between Aliyev and Syria's Al-Jolani has further worried Iranian citizens who recall the terrifying fight between Iranian forces and Daesh in Syria and Iraq during the 2010s.

its retaliatory operations had successfully halted the illegal attacks, reinforcing its deterrence and sending a clear message to both Tel Aviv and Washington.

Interview with Martyr Hajizadeh reveals Leader's instrumental role in missile program

From page 1 ► However, Martyr Hajizadeh himself credits the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for this spectacular development in a 2021 interview. The interview was published on Tuesday by the Office for the Preservation and Publication of Ayatollah Khamenei's Works. It was to be included in the "A Tale of Victory" dossier, analyzing Iran's strategic triumphs in regional conflicts.

At the beginning of the interview, Martyr Hajizadeh, detailed how Ayatollah Khamenei's leadership shaped the country's defense strategy, particularly in missile technology. He emphasized that Iran's self-sufficiency in arms production—despite decades of sanctions—was a direct result of Ayatollah Khamenei's decisive interventions.

One pivotal moment came in the 1980s when Iran, engaged in the Iran-Iraq War, had only a handful of missiles. Despite urgent battlefield needs, Ayatollah Khamenei, then president, insisted on reverse-engineering two missiles to jumpstart domestic production. "This was an extremely difficult decision," Martyr Hajizadeh



Late commander of IRGC Aerospace Force Amir Ali Hajizadeh during a 2021 interview

recalled. "But the Leader's foresight laid the foundation for our missile industry."

Martyr Hajizadeh revealed that in the early 1990s, after the Soviet Union's collapse, Iran was offered advanced Russian missiles at bargain prices. While military officials pushed to buy them, Ayatollah Khamenei "became angry" and forbade the purchases, insisting on indigenous development. "Had we bought them, our progress would have stalled," Martyr Hajizadeh admitted.

US court rebuffs Trump: Iranian scholar released from ICE detention

TEHRAN – A Louisiana magistrate judge ordered the immediate release of Iranian mechanical engineering doctoral candidate Pouria Pourhossein-Hendabad on Monday, barring U.S. authorities from deporting him after his arrest during the Israeli regime's U.S.-backed war on Iran.

Judge Joseph H.L. Perez-Montes of the Western District of Louisiana determined that the 29-year-old LSU scholar must be freed from detention and be given the right to remain in the United States.

Pourhossein-Hendabad, whose valid F-1 visa extended to 2030, had been detained since June 22 alongside his wife, Parisa Firouzabadi, at the Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center.

The scholar's sudden and unsubstantiated arrest occurred in the immediate aftermath of Washington's June 21 strikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

Court filings reveal that ICE agents used an "unconstitutional ruse" to detain Pourhossein-Hendabad and his wife.

After the couple reported a hit-and-run accident that had damaged their car, state police—lacking any warrant—arrived at their Baton Rouge apartment claiming to investigate the crash. Instead, the officers led them downstairs, where masked ICE agents in full tactical gear were waiting to arrest them.

Government lawyers presented no counter-evidence to these claims.

Pourhossein-Hendabad's case epitomizes a systematic U.S. campaign targeting Iranian nationals.

ICE Director Todd Lyons has explicitly prioritized "targeted enforcement" against citizens from what he termed "high-risk countries, including Iran," while a June 4 presidential travel

ban singled out Iranians among barred nations.

ICE detained 670 Iranians nationwide in one week in June alone, with home raids marked by brutality, including federal officers pinning a woman to the ground in Los Angeles as she suffered a panic attack.

Iran has repeatedly condemned Washington's "humiliating" and "racist" measures.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaee vowed Tehran would "exhaust all measures" to protect citizens abroad, directing global diplomatic missions to aid detainees.

The court's prohibition on transferring Pourhossein-Hendabad signals judicial pushback against administrative overreach.

Yet as Trump's ICE dismisses bond hearings for detained immigrants, the ruling remains a rare respite in an escalating climate of Iranophobia.

SCO: The recognized voice of the Global South against aggression

Araghchi hails SCO's condemnation of US-Israeli aggression against Iran during visit to China

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has underscored the importance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a vital regional body and expressed gratitude for its support of Iran in the wake of Israeli aggression.

"The SCO is a highly significant regional organization, and we hold it in great esteem," Araghchi made the remarks on Tuesday, prior to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Beijing. "Security issues, among others, are key topics discussed within this framework. We are pleased that the SCO has stood by Iran regarding the recent Israeli attacks."

Araghchi also delivered a powerful address during the meeting, calling on member states to take a unified stand against the Israeli-American assault on Iran.

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians.

More than a week later, the United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).



China's Xi meets heads of foreign delegations attending SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting

Araghchi stressed that the SCO must speak with one voice as the recognized representative of the Global South, defending the UN Charter's core principles, particularly sovereign equality and the prohibition on the use of force.

Invoking SCO's governing decisions, Araghchi formally requested the Council of Heads of State to urgently review the situation and issue a resolution of offering political support and necessary assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He warned that the Israeli regime's assault, backed directly by the United States, constituted a

blatant violation of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter and inflicted severe damage on diplomacy, the rule of law, and the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

"The strikes against our peaceful nuclear facilities, all under IAEA safeguards, flagrantly violate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, numerous IAEA resolutions, and UN Security Council Resolution 487," he said. "No legal basis exists to justify such attacks on peaceful nuclear sites based on political conjecture."

Araghchi also criticized the international community's failure over recent years to halt the

genocide of the Palestinian people and end the Israeli occupation of neighboring Arab lands. He stated that this latest aggression against Iran is a direct outcome of the unchecked impunity enjoyed by Israel, largely enabled by the United States and some European countries.

He outlined key proposals to strengthen SCO's role in safeguarding member states' sovereignty and addressing emerging threats.

These include establishing a permanent mechanism to monitor, document, and coordinate responses to military aggression, sabotage, state-sponsored terrorism, and violations of sovereignty within SCO members.

Also proposed was the creation of a dedicated center to study and counter unilateral sanctions, tasked with developing operational strategies to protect supply chains, banking systems, and trade exchanges of member countries.

Further, he called for launching a Shanghai Regional Security Assembly comprising defense and intelligence agencies to collaboratively address terrorism, extremism, organized crime, and cyber threats.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

‘Everyone rose up’: Pezeshkian praises national unity forged against Israel

From Page 1 ▶ The president emphasized that the strength of the Iranian response lay not just in the military's capabilities, but also in the resilience of the Iranian people. "The Iranian people did a greater and more important job," he asserted. "The enemy's plan was... that the people would go rogue and take to the streets... but the people also stood up to the enemy and neutralized its conspiracies."

Pezeshkian further highlighted that even those who felt wronged or unfairly treated, including those in prison and Iranians living abroad, had united to defend the country. This demonstration of national unity, he argued, was invaluable. "The ones we lost in those 12 days were indeed very valuable and dear, but the consensus and empathy

we gained are far more precious," Pezeshkian declared. He reiterated the importance of inclusivity in Iranian society, stating, "Iran belongs to all of us, regardless of race, gender, language, ethnicity, or religion."

The Iran-Israel war began on June 13 as the Zionist regime launched illegal and unprovoked attacks against Iran's residential buildings and nuclear and military sites. The United States directly intervened after 10 days of Iran's relentless pounding of the occupied territories, dropping bombs on nuclear facilities Israel had already targeted. Fighting came to a halt on June 24, a day after Iran hit the most important American base in West Asia with the use of missiles. The ceasefire was proposed to Iran by the U.S. through Qatar.



Pezeshkian addresses a ceremony at the Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare in Tehran on July 15, 2025

Iranian military and political officials have said that they do not believe Israel will allow the ceasefire to hold, assuring the nation that they are ready to deliver more painful blows should the regime attack Iran again.

Elsewhere in his Tuesday remarks, Pezeshkian urged continued efforts to preserve the strong unity among Iranians, stressing the need to "spare no effort in building and developing Iran."

Iran-Israel war: A clash of missiles, narratives, and digital battlegrounds

From Page 1 ▶ At least 22 offensive waves were used to "punish" Israel for the war it had started, as promised by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. For the first time in its history, Israel's famed air defenses struggled under the constant barrage, even though several other regional and Western forces had come to its rescue. By the end of the war, the long-held myth of the regime's invincibility had shattered.

Three wars in one: Military, media, and minds

Beyond the explosions, the conflict played out across three interlocking battlefields, each shaping the outcome as much as the missiles themselves:

1. The Military War – A high-tech showdown where Iran shattered expectations by launching its first direct attack from its own soil, proving its long-range missile capabilities could penetrate Israel's famed Iron Dome. Meanwhile, Israel's response—a mix of aerial interceptions and covert cyber strikes—revealed both its technical prowess and unexpected vulnerabilities. The rules of engagement in the West

Asia had changed overnight.

2. The Media War – This conflict saw the birth of the first truly "hashtag war," where victory was measured in viral moments as much as military gains. Iranian media flooded Telegram channels with missile launch videos edited like Hollywood action scenes, while Israeli influencers turned bomb-shelter selfies into symbols of resilience. Both sides employed armies of online trolls, but the real surprise was how ordinary citizens became frontline reporters—filming missile trails with smartphones, making memes of leaders, and turning social platforms into real-time war rooms.

3. The Psychological War – The deepest battle was fought in the minds of citizens. In Tel Aviv, the wail of sirens shook Israel's sense of security to its core—could the regime protect its citizens if Iran could strike at will? Across the region, from Riyadh to Ankara, leaders watched carefully: the psychological barrier of direct Iran-Israel conflict had been broken, rewriting the playbook of West Asian power struggles.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Crucial VNL Week ahead for Iran

TEHRAN – The Iran men's national volleyball team are currently training intensively in Gdansk, Poland, preparing for the highly competitive third week of the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL), which kicks off on Wednesday.

After a friendly match against the host nation Poland in Olsztyn, the Iranian squad have shifted focus to sharpen their skills and tactics ahead of four challenging matches in Gdansk. The tournament's Week 3 features strong teams including Bulgaria, China, Cuba, France, Poland, and Iran.

Iran's first match of this phase will be against Poland, the tournament hosts, on Wednesday at 9:30 PM local time. Following this, they will face France, China, and Bulgaria in a tightly packed schedule running through July 20.

Head coach Roberto Piazza acknowledged the difficulty of the upcoming fixtures, stating, "Week 3 will be tough. We performed well in Weeks 1 and 2, improving our coordination and competitiveness, but the upcoming matches require even greater focus and resilience."

The recent loss to Poland in friendly was a valuable learning experience for the team.

"Poland are one of the world's elite teams. Even when the ball isn't perfect, they adapt instantly and find solutions. We need to work harder, rethink our mindset, and be ready to face tough challenges," Piazza said.

A critical strength for Iran in this stage lies in the defensive capabilities of their liberos, Arman Salehi and Mohammadreza Hazratpour. Both players are in excellent form and expected to play key roles in neutralizing powerful serves from top opponents like Poland and France.

Injury concerns are easing with key outside hitter Morteza Sharifi recovering well. After missing matches due to injury earlier in the tournament, Sharifi returned to action during the friendly against Poland, demonstrating promising performance. It is anticipated that he will be fully involved in the main lineup for the demanding week ahead.

Piazza emphasized the tight schedule, noting limited recovery time between matches: "We have little time to recover, which makes this week physically and mentally demanding. Success depends on our ability to stay cohesive and improve every day."

Iran's volleyball team are determined to turn lessons learned into positive results, aiming to advance to the next phase in China. The team's resilience and preparation in Gdansk will be crucial as they take on some of the best teams in the world in this critical juncture of the 2025 Volleyball Nations League.

Iran chase third win in 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifier

TEHRAN – The race to finish top of Group A of the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 Qualifiers looks set to go down to the wire with Iran and Jordan both chasing third successive wins on Wednesday.

The group is finely poised after three matchdays with Iran and Jordan leading the pack on six points. Bhutan are also in the mix with the same number of points having played a game more.

Iran will head into their tie against Lebanon at the King Abdullah II Stadium in Amman in confident mood after a comprehensive 7-1 win against Bhutan on Sunday.

Marziyeh Jafari's side had six different goalscorers against Bhutan and their impressive strikeforce will give a Lebanon side – who has already conceded six goals over two matches – a formidable challenge.

Looking to make a return to the Finals after having made its debut at India 2022, Iran will

need to keep their winning run going to set up a final day decider against hosts Jordan.

Iran freestyle team to compete in Hungarian event

TEHRAN – Iran freestyle wrestling team will participate in the 2025 Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial Tournament.

The tournament, organized by the United World Wrestling, will be held in Budapest, Hungary from July 17-20.

Iran will end four wrestlers to the ranking event.

Sina Khalili and Abbas Ebrahimzadeh will represent Team Melli in 70kg. Fariborz Babaei and Ali Savadkouhi will wrestle in 79kg and 86kg, respectively.

Iran beat Mongolia in FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division B

TEHRAN – Iran's women's basketball team defeated Mongolia 89-55 in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division B on Tuesday.

Negin Rasoulipour scored 20 points for Iran and Tsatsral Bayarmaa and Khulan Onolbaatar collected 10 points for Mongolia.

Iran, who had defeated Cook Islands 82-32 in their opening match on Sunday, are scheduled to face Thailand on Wednesday.

Team Melli are one of the most motivated squads in Shenzhen. They've already proven they can beat top-tier Division B teams – now they just need to go one step further.

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

Iran basketball team to hold camp in Beirut

TEHRAN – Iran's men's basketball team departed from Tehran on Tuesday to hold a training camp in Beirut, Lebanon.

Team Melli will take part in a four-team tournament in Beirut as part of their preparation for the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup.

Iran have been drawn into Group B, alongside Japan, Syria, and Guam.

Led by Greek coach Sotiris Manolopoulos, the team will face Lebanon on July 19 in the tournament and will also compete against Egypt and Jordan.

Additionally, Iran will travel to Russia for several warm-up matches before heading to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Iran Squad:

Arsalan Kazemi, Mobin Sheikhi, Mehdi Jafari, Mohammadmehdi Heydari, Behnam Yakhchali, Sina Vahedi, Navid Rezaeifar, Amirhossein Azari, Matin Aghajanzadeh, Mohammad Amini, Mohammadmehdi Rahimi, Arman Zangeneh, Salar Monji, Salar Taheri, Hassan Aliakabari, and Meysam Mirzaei.

Persepolis to play Alanyaspor, Trabzonspor

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team will play friendly matches with Süper Lig sides Alanyaspor, Trabzonspor.

The Iranian giant are currently holding a training camp in Erzurum.

Persepolis will face Alanyaspor on Thursday and meet Trabzonspor in next Wednesday.

Persepolis have recently hired Vahid Hashemian as head coach.



French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot speaking to reporters in Brussels on July 15, 2025.

TEHRAN – France, the United Kingdom, and Germany have threatened to trigger the UN snapback mechanism against Iran by the end of August unless "substantial progress" is made in restoring the nuclear deal, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot declared on Tuesday.

Speaking in Brussels ahead of an EU foreign ministers' meeting, Barrot claimed: "France and its partners are justified in reapplying global embargoes on arms, banks, and nuclear equipment. Without a firm, tangible, and verifiable commitment

from Iran, we will do so by the end of August at the latest."

The snapback clause, embedded in UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), allows any participant of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to unilaterally reimpose all pre-2015 UN sanctions on Iran if it is deemed "non-compliant."

The process requires only a formal letter to the Security Council, followed by a 30-day window during which sanctions automatically revert unless a resolution blocks it.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's ports handle 53m tons of cargo in Q1



TEHRAN-Iran's ports handled a total of 53 million tons of cargo during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), according to a report published by the country's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO).

Of the total volume, non-oil cargo throughput accounted for 34 million tons, while oil cargo amounted to 19 million tons.

In the same period, unloading of oil and non-oil cargo totaled 16.7 million tons. This included 13.3 million tons of non-oil goods and 3.4 million tons of oil cargo. Total cargo loadings during this period reached 36 million tons. Non-oil goods made up 20.8 million tons, while oil exports accounted for 15.2 million tons.

Container handling at Iranian ports reached 750,000 TEUs in the first quarter of the year, underscoring the ports' continued role in regional maritime logistics.

The reported volumes include activity across all state-owned and sovereign ports managed by the PMO, highlighting the organization's operational capacity across oil terminals and general cargo ports nationwide.

As previously reported by the PMO, Iran's ports handled a total of 234.8 million tons of goods in the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20).

Of this total, 82.3 million tons were unloaded and 152.5 million tons were loaded at the country's northern and southern ports. Oil products accounted for 103 million tons of the total, while non-oil goods made up nearly 131.8 million tons.

Oil cargo unloading amounted to 28.4 million

tons, and non-oil cargo unloading stood at 53.9 million tons. On the export side, 74.7 million tons of oil products and 77.9 million tons of non-oil goods were loaded at ports.

Container handling also saw a notable uptick, with 3.08 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) processed in 2024—a 13 percent increase from the 2.73 million TEUs recorded in the previous year.

The figures reflect the ongoing expansion of Iran's port infrastructure and logistics capacity, despite international sanctions and logistical challenges.

In recent months, Iran's port operations have demonstrated resilience and growth, despite facing significant challenges. The Caspian Port, located in the Anzali Free Zone of Gilan Province, has emerged as a pivotal hub in the International North-South Transport Corridor. Since its connection to the Iranian railway network in June 2024, the port has enhanced its cargo handling capabilities, facilitating more efficient trade routes between Iran and its northern neighbors.

Meanwhile, the Port of Shahid Rajaei continues to play a dominant role in Iran's maritime logistics, accounting for approximately 85 percent of the country's total cargo throughput. The port has seen a significant increase in container loading for export, reflecting its strategic importance in Iran's trade infrastructure.

However, the country's port operations have not been without challenges. The energy crisis that intensified in late 2024 led to widespread power outages, affecting various sectors, including port activities. Despite these disruptions, Iranian ports have managed to maintain a steady flow of cargo, showcasing the sector's adaptability and the government's commitment to sustaining trade operations under adverse conditions.

Looking ahead, Iran's focus on expanding and modernizing its port infrastructure, coupled with strategic investments and international collaborations, positions the country to enhance its role in regional and global trade networks.

Anzali Port: Iran's gateway to Caspian & beyond

TEHRAN- Anzali Port, officially known as Bandar-e Anzali, is one of Iran's most important maritime hubs on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. Its strategic location in Gilan Province, near the city of Bandar-e Anzali and approximately 330 kilometers from Tehran, makes it a critical gateway for Iran's international trade and transit activities.

The port's proximity to Rasht, the provincial capital, and its direct access to the Caspian Sea enable it to serve as a central node connecting Iran with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Russia, and Eastern Europe.

A defining aspect of Anzali Port is its role in major international trade corridors. The port is a key component of the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), which streamlines the movement of goods between Scandinavia, the Caucasus, the CIS, and the Persian Gulf, extending further to Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Additionally, Anzali is situated on the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACE-CA), enhancing its connectivity between Europe and Asia.

Importantly, Anzali is the only northern Iranian port directly connected to the national railway network, offering seamless multimodal logistics that integrate sea, rail, and road transportation for efficient cargo movement.

Infrastructure and facilities

Anzali Port boasts modern and expansive infrastructure. It currently features 17 berths, with expansion plans to increase this number to 22, and can accommodate up to 15 ships simultaneously.

The port's annual throughput capacity ranges from 10 to 15 million tons, with ongoing investments dedicated to expanding and modernizing its facilities.

Advanced cargo handling equipment enables efficient loading and unloading of containers, bulk commodities, petrochemical products, and general cargo. Specialized

berths are available for handling cooking oil, diesel, heavy fuel oil, and gasoline, and ro-ro services are provided for trucks and vehicles.

Storage and industrial capabilities

The port's storage and industrial facilities are extensive and growing. It has a grain silo with a capacity of 314,000 tons, which is being expanded to 460,000 tons. There are also storage facilities for petrochemical products (52,000 tons) and cooking oils (17,500 tons), both slated for significant upgrades.

A fruit and vegetable sorting and packing facility with a 4,500-ton capacity supports the export of local agricultural products, particularly citrus fruits. The port also houses a 75-megawatt power plant operated by the private sector within the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), ensuring reliable energy for port operations and industrial activities.

Economic advantages and investment opportunities

Anzali Port's designation as a free trade and industrial zone provides substantial economic and legal incentives for investors and traders, including tax breaks, expedited licensing, and supportive logistical services.

This status, combined with robust infrastructure, has attracted significant investment in industries such as steel, wood, paper, minerals, fuel products, and manufacturing. The port's proximity to major industrial and petrochemical hubs, such as the Neka petrochemical port and Sadra Shipbuilding Industries, as well as Sari International Airport, further enhances its appeal as a center for trade and industry.

Recent performance and development

In recent years, Anzali Port has experienced impressive operational growth. In 2024, the port handled over 1.5 million tons of cargo in just nine months, with a 34 percent increase in goods transit and a 47% rise in exports compared to previous periods.

Container operations have also expanded, with thousands of TEUs processed annually.

Exports to Africa jump 85% in spring, trade surplus more than doubles

From Page 1 ► He also called for a shift in Iran's trade strategy toward Africa, advocating for the export of high value-added final products and offshore production investment.

He said this approach—mirroring China's long-term investment model on the continent—would help Iran adapt to recent global shifts including rising energy and transport costs, reduced financial support, and new U.S. tariffs on African exports.

Back in May, the secretary of the Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit said commercial and investment contracts were signed between African traders and Iranian business leaders in four key sectors—mining, agriculture, petrochemicals, and medical equipment—at the conclusion of the third Iran-Africa summit.

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini said African delegations left Iran with substantial results, noting that



foreign businesspeople and Iranian economic operators both benefited from the international gathering.

According to Hosseini, the third summit was distinguished by its focus on specialized, results-oriented activity, which led to greater coordination, satisfaction among participants, and significant achievements.

He noted that the summit witnessed several key developments, including the signing of commercial and investment agreements in the mining, agriculture, petrochemical, and medical equipment sectors.

Hosseini explained that unlike the two previous summits, which were general in nature, this edi-

tion was structured around four economic sectors: oil and petrochemicals, mining, agriculture, and medical equipment.

Accordingly, the invited foreign delegations had relevant experience and expertise. This specialization, he said, helped ensure the summit remained outcome-driven.

He added that these four sectors were chosen due to their interrelated nature, with complementary operations and aligned objectives.

The structure of the summit helped produce substantial results, the details of which would be disclosed in the coming days.

Hosseini said a major feature of this year's event was the shift away from centralization in Tehran. After initial visits and consultations in the capital, delegations were divided into 15 groups based on their sectoral focus and flown to Isfahan for field visits.

Bank lending rises 43% in Q1, households receive quarter of total loans

TEHRAN – Iran's banking system issued 1.776 quadrillion rials (about \$35.5 billion) in loans during the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21 – June 21), marking a 42.8 percent increase compared to the same period last year, according to data released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) on Tuesday.

Of the total loans disbursed, approximately 75.9 percent—around 1.348 quadrillion rials

(\$27 billion)—went to businesses and enterprises, both legal and individual.

The remaining 24.1 percent, or about 428 trillion rials (\$8.5 billion), was extended to households as consumer loans.

In the same quarter last year, total lending stood at 1.215 quadrillion rials (\$24.3 billion), later adjusted to 1.244 quadrillion rials (\$24.9 billion) following banking system revisions.



MP backs support packages to stabilize stock market amid wartime volatility



TEHRAN – A senior Iranian lawmaker on Monday said targeted government and central bank support could help stabilize the country's stock market, which has come under pressure amid regional conflict and investor anxiety.

Behrouz Mohammadi Najmabadi, a member of parliament's Planning and Budget Committee, said that although war and other crises pose threats, they can also present opportunities for economic restructuring and market recovery.

He stressed the importance of coordinated and rational decision-making to strengthen both the economy and capital markets.

"Some emotional reactions to events such as war can cloud judgment, but history shows countries often emerge stronger after crises," he said, adding that large listed companies had largely weathered the recent conflict, with the government ready to intervene if damages occurred.

Najmabadi urged investors to approach the market with analysis and patience, warning against impulsive decisions driven by headlines or panic. "Stock markets are inherently risky, but informed participation can turn volatility into opportunity," he said.

The lawmaker also called for improved financial literacy, timely and transparent communication, and structured state support during downturns. He said that Iran's strength in international affairs could help reshape regional economic dynamics in its favor.

"In the current environment, structured support packages for capital markets are essential and must be pursued seriously," Najmabadi concluded.

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."

Private sector proposals approved as govt. urges faster currency allocation for livestock imports

TEHRAN – At its 130th session, Iran's Government-Private Sector Dialogue Council reviewed the state of livestock and poultry feed imports, calling for faster foreign currency allocation to ease supply chain disruptions amid wartime conditions.

Council members approved several private sector proposals aimed at resolving key bottlenecks.

Participants emphasized serious challenges in the importation of essential livestock inputs, including soybean meal and barley.

They urged expedited procedures for foreign exchange allocation to facilitate swifter imports of these basic goods.

Private sector representatives also raised concerns over customs delays, caused by redundant

product testing procedures. They stressed the need for a single, clearly designated authority to oversee testing of imported agricultural products to reduce bureaucracy and delays.

Another pressing issue discussed was the inability to renew import orders for goods that have already arrived at ports or customs facilities. Business representatives

underscored the need to revise current regulations to allow for smoother processes—from product registration through to the transfer and remittance of foreign currency to international suppliers.

Implementation of some of the approved proposals will require coordination with the Central Bank of Iran to ensure timely currency provision and regulatory clarity.

More occupation troops killed in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Palestinian resistance forces killed three more Israeli occupation soldiers in the besieged Gaza Strip on Monday afternoon.

According to Israeli regime media, at least three others were injured in the same incident, which took place in Jabalia, northern Gaza, when a missile struck their tank.

The IOF identified the dead as Staff Sergeant Shoham Menahem, Sergeant Shlomo Yakir Shrem, and Sergeant Yuliy Faktor.

All three served in the 52nd Battalion of the IOF's 401st Armored Brigade.

The attack occurred while the unit was engaged in what the IOF described as a mission to “defeat the local Hamas battalion and destroy its infrastructure both above and below ground” in the northern Gaza town.

Over the past week, at least ten IOF soldiers from elite units have been killed amid the ongoing U.S.-backed genocidal war in Gaza.

This brings the total number of IOF soldiers killed by Palestinian resistance forces since the resumption of the genocide in March to at least 43.

Meanwhile, Palestinian resistance fighters have launched more attacks on different fronts



across the Gaza Strip, targeting the IOF and inflicting casualties.

The al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, has published footage of a targeted strike on an IOF command and control center using a guided missile in the Shujaiya neighborhood of Gaza City.

The al-Quds Brigades further reported destroying an IOF military vehicle by detonating a pre-planted barrel bomb near the Islamic University in the Maan area, southeast of Khan Yunis.

Reports indicate that the occupation regime's helicopters were deployed to evacuate the wounded and dead soldiers.

The Palestinian resistance movement also announced that it “shelled the Be’eri settlement in the Gaza envelope with a num-

ber of rockets in response to the crimes of the Zionist enemy against our Palestinian people.”

Meanwhile, the al-Qassam Brigades reported targeting an IOF Namer armored personnel carrier, with a soldier visible on top, using a Yasin-105 rocket-propelled grenade north of Khan Yunis.

The Palestinian resistance continues to escalate its operations against the IOF, causing both human and material losses. Emerging reports suggest renewed efforts may be underway to capture Israeli soldiers.

Hebrew newspaper Maariv reported that the three Israeli soldiers killed in northern Gaza were inside a Merkava Mark 4 tank during clashes in Jabalia.

The paper's military correspondent, Avi Ashkenazi, confirmed

the deaths occurred inside what is considered “the best and strongest tank in the world in terms of protection.”

Ashkenazi added that the IOF had not determined until this morning whether the tank was struck by an anti-tank missile or hit by an explosive device placed beneath it.

Maariv described growing unease among IOF officers, who are reluctant to present the facts to political leaders.

It added that the occupation army is “mired in the mud of Gaza,” and that its leadership is suffering from confusion in a war that is no longer under control.

Hamas has said, “Our resistance fighters are waging a war of attrition that surprises the enemy daily with innovative field tactics, stripping it of the initiative and throwing its calculations into disarray—despite its superiority in firepower and airpower.”

The Palestinian resistance movement added that “the longer the war drags on, the deeper the occupation army sinks into Gaza's quicksand, and the more exposed it becomes to the resistance's precision strikes. The ‘total victory’ Netanyahu promotes is a grand illusion meant to cover up a resounding military and political defeat.”

Palestinian lawmaker assassinated in Gaza City

A Palestinian lawmaker was assassinated by the Israeli army in Gaza City, Hamas said on Tuesday, according to Anadolu Agency.

Mohammad Faraj al-Ghoul, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and a Hamas figure, was killed in a strike targeting him in the city, the group added in a statement.

Ghoul also served as a justice minister in the former government of late Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh from 2007 to 2012.

Rejecting international calls for a ceasefire, Israel has pursued a brutal offensive on Gaza since late October 2023, killing nearly 58,400 Palestinians, most of them women and children.

The relentless bombardment has destroyed the enclave and led to food shortages and the spread of diseases.

Israel launches strikes on Syrian forces, citing Druze protection

In a joint statement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Security Minister Israel Katz announced that they have instructed the occupation military to launch strikes against Syrian government forces, citing attacks on members of the Druze community in Syria, Al Mayadeen reported.

The statement claimed that the occupation forces would target “regime forces and weapons that were brought into the Sweida area,” alleging violations of what they called a “demilitarization policy” that bars the presence of Syrian military units and weapons in southern Syria.

“Israel is committed to preventing harm to the Druze in Syria due to the deep brotherly alliance with our Druze citizens in Israel, and their familial and historical ties to the Druze in Syria,” the statement said.

The occupation authorities framed their actions as a measure to “prevent the Syrian regime from harming them” and to “ensure the demilitarization of the area adjacent to our border with Syria.” Meanwhile, Israeli media reported that the occupation's Air Force has launched a wave of large-scale attacks on southern Syria.

German court rules ban on Palestinian doctor's speech was unlawful



A German court has ruled that authorities illegally prevented a British-Palestinian surgeon from participating in a pro-Palestinian event in Berlin, local media reported on Tuesday, Anadolu reports.

The Berlin Administrative Court ruled that immigration authorities had no legal grounds to prevent Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah from speaking at the event last April. Authorities had alleged that the doctor sympathized with Hamas and might commit a criminal offense during the event.

Abu-Sittah, a British-Palestinian surgeon who treated wounded Palestinians in Gaza for about a month during Israel's military campaign, was denied entry to Germany when he arrived to speak at the congress. The event was ultimately shut down by police

after just two hours.

According to a court spokesperson, the ruling found that the ban, based on a clause in Germany's residency law, was unlawful as there was no reasonable expectation that Abu-Sittah's statements would have endangered Germany's democratic order or public safety.

Gaza infants' lives at risk amid fuel shortages

Palestinian infants reliant on incubators in Gaza are fighting for their lives amid a critical fuel shortage, exacerbated by Israel's increasingly stringent blockade on aid and essential supplies, MEE reported.

For several days, hospitals and humanitarian agencies in Gaza have issued urgent appeals for international intervention to secure fuel deliveries, as shortages continue to paralyze vital services for over two million Palestinians.

Multiple healthcare centers have warned that operations may grind to a halt, with Israel maintaining restrictions on fuel entering the besieged territory, further straining an already overwhelmed healthcare system.

Mohammed Tabaja, head of the paediatric ward at al-Helou Hospital in Gaza City, said the facility is “100 per cent dependent on the generator”.

His department is responsible for the intensive care of newborns weighing less than 1.5 kilograms, as well as infants suffering from oxygen deprivation and congenital abnormalities, all of whom require uninterrupted electricity.

Kremlin responds to Trump's 50-day ultimatum

Russia needs time to assess US President Donald Trump's threat to impose severe sanctions on Moscow's trading partners if the Ukraine conflict is not resolved within 50 days, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said.

On Monday, the US leader said he was “very, very unhappy” with Russia, warning of “severe” secondary tariffs of up to 100% if no progress in diplomacy is reached soon. Trump, however, left the door open to talks with Moscow, saying that while he is “disappointed” in Russian President Vladimir Putin, he is “not done with him.”

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Peskov described Trump's remarks as “quite serious.” “We undoubtedly need time to analyze what was said in Washington. And if and when President Putin deems it necessary, he will certainly comment on it,” Peskov said.

Attacks on Palestinians intensifying in occupied West Bank: UN

Israeli settlers and security forces have intensified their killings, attacks and harassment of Palestinians in recent weeks in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the United Nations human rights office warns.

The violence also includes the demolitions of hundreds of homes and forced mass displacement of Palestinians as well as annexations of more land in violation of international law, Thameen Al-Kheetan, spokesperson for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), told reporters in Geneva on Tuesday.

The UN body's warning came as the Palestinian death toll in the West Bank inches closer to 1,000 since October 7, 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel and Israeli forces launched their genocidal campaign in Gaza, where more than 58,000 Palestinians have been killed.

Sanctions, delegitimization, and resignations: The end of UN oversight in occupied Palestine

From page 1 ► **Personal reasons mask a politicized environment**

On the surface, Pillay's resignation at age 83, citing health issues and commitments elsewhere, is not surprising considering the arduous nature of working in an inquiry with the UN.

Sidoti's rather hasty resignation immediately following her own retirement, not to mention Kothari's tacit approval of the situation, indicates a likely coordinated resignation for the recognition of all operations barriers and exterior hostility. These factors are held in context of an accelerated political milieu that has an entirely different and growing impact on the ability for the commission to achieve its stated aims.

Commission's critical reports and resulting backlash

Since its inception in 2021, the commission has produced periodic reports overwhelmingly critical of Israeli policies in the West Bank and Gaza—explaining the state of grave human rights abuses, including appropriation of natural resources and disproportionate military conduct. These findings generated fierce backlash from Israel, the US, and certain Jewish advocacy groups, who condemned the commission as biased and accused it of antisemitism, particularly after Kothari's controversial remarks invoking antisemitic tropes and challenging Israel's UN membership.

Lebanese lawmakers question the cabinet over its policies

From page 1 ► MP Al-Sayyed asked, “Does anyone in the government know that the details of this proposal were sent by Israel?”

MP Abdul Rahman Al-Bizri recalled that “one of the government's goals is to commit to defend Lebanon and the unity of the people. But today we are living in a state of division, under Israeli aggression and occupation, before the piercing scrutiny of the world's watchful eyes.”

He added, “What was stated in the ministerial statement is completely inconsistent with what is being implemented. The government promised us to implement

the Taif Agreement and address wrongful practices, but so far, we have not seen this.”

For his part, MP Gebran Bassil said, “We are in favour of dialogue to discuss the issue of disarmament, but we want a serious dialogue,” calling for “a solution to the Syrian displacement crisis.”

MP Elias Bou Saab asked, “The government committed, in accordance with the National Accord Document adopted in Taif, to take all necessary measures to liberate all territories from the Israeli occupation. Will the government now commit to this matter?”

“Sovereignty requires a decision and men. Who summoned

some ambassadors [the Iranian ambassador]? Why didn't they summon those who insulted us and trampled on our dignity? Where is the foreign minister? Why hasn't the government taken a decision to object?” MP Elias Jarada expressed.

For his part, MP Salim Aoun asserted that “five months after the government was formed, no plan has been presented for the restoration of depositors' looted funds. The government has not begun to develop any plan to recover them or hold accountable those who spent or squandered them.”

He said, “We, as the Strong

rence, with collapse in the entity cascading further as pressure to flee intensified. In addition to the consequences of strikes on it infrastructure, Trump did rush to call for a ceasefire. Netanyahu requested a ceasefire from Trump, who quickly moved to announce it. Iran was left with two options as a result.

The first option was a showdown with the West, which could involve the use of prohibited weapons and possibly a nuclear bomb, due

to the West's refusal to allow the collapse of its project of the century at the hands of Iran. The second option was stopping the war, considering that Iran had already responded to the Israeli aggression, especially given the lack of immediate preparation by the Axis of Resistance to manage the new regional reality resulting from the collapse of the entity and the region plunging into chaos.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Batool Subeiti

LONDON – If the Israeli war on Iran had continued for just two more weeks, it would have been possible that all the occupation entity's air defense systems would have been depleted as around 30 missiles would have fallen daily on the entity in specific locations, with massive destructive power.

Furthermore, the Israeli public would have started to feel a loss of security and deter-

11,000 tourists visit ancient Hasanlu Hill



TEHRAN—About 11,000 tourists visited ancient Hasanlu Hill and the museum of identified relics in this hill, West Azarbaijan province, during current Iranian year (start March 21), said Hassan Shiri, director of the ancient site.

He told IRNA that visits to Hasanlu hill grew by 20 percent this year, adding that the highest number of visits occurred in Nowruz holidays.

In addition to the hill, Hasanlu international wetland, Hasanlu Castle, and Hasanlu Dam are historical and natural attractions visited by the tourists, he said.

He also said that apart from domestic tourists, tourists from Turkey, China and Japan visited the ancient site this year.

In addition to Hasanlu site, the museum of unearthed artifacts, which includes hundreds of ancient objects such as pottery, bronze, stone, bone artifacts and war tools, is open to the visitors, he pointed out.

The ancient village of Hasanlu in north-west Iran is nearing completion of its dossier for inscription as one of the Best Tourism Villages, a prestigious label given by UN Tourism.

Hasanlu is among eight Iranian villages nominated for the UN Tourism's 2025 recognition list, said a senior official from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts last April.

Speaking during a recent visit to the village, Seyyed Mostafa Fatemi, Director General of Domestic Tourism at the ministry, described Hasanlu as "a mirror reflecting the full spectrum of historical tourism attractions."

The official emphasized the village's rich blend of cultural heritage, tourism potential, and handicraft production.

Reviving indigenous culture, one of advantages of eco-tourism resorts, minister



TEHRAN—Cultural Heritage Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri emphasized strategic importance of eco-tourism resorts, and considered them to be a concrete example of popularization in the 14th Government.

He said eco-lodge units are not only residence sites, but also they carry the culture, preserve the traditions and are pioneers in revival of Iranian-Islamic identity, Mehr news agency wrote.

The minister also said eco-tourism resorts should install solar panels. "We help make this happen," he added.

He said a committee should be formed with participation of Interior Ministry, Law Enforcement Forces, and representatives of eco-tourism resorts to deal with unauthorized units.

"This is an important issue for managers of legal eco-tourism resorts. I think Interior Minister should step in because he has the ability to enforce the law."

He said, "The use of solar panels has increased in Iran. Yazd is pioneer in this regard. We are also going to use solar panels in Cul-

"Hasanlu possesses outstanding capacities in cultural heritage, eco-tourism, and nature-based attractions," Fatemi said.

"The presence of an ancient Hasanlu Hill, one of the oldest known civilizations, significantly elevates the historical status of the village."

He also noted the village's diverse offerings, including locally crafted handicrafts, nearby wetlands that serve as birdwatching havens, and a growing number of tourism facilities.

These, he said, enhance Hasanlu's appeal to both domestic and international travelers.

Fatemi further highlighted the village's strengths in sustainable development, citing its economic, social, and environmental stability, as well as the preservation of cultural and historical assets.

According to the Britannica Encyclopedia, Hasanlu was inhabited from about 2100 to about 825 BC, but the richest period yet excavated dates to the 10th and 9th centuries BC.

The period, often called "Mannaeen" after the name of the people who lived in the area, is characterized by gray pottery accompanied by black and red varieties, the black ware being of a much finer quality and probably made in imitation of metal vessels.

Experts say parallels to the motifs on the Hasanlu objects have been found in Elam, Assyria, north Syria, and Urartu, indicating that Iran not only received considerable cultural and artistic stimuli from other areas but also, in turn, exerted influence on the Middle East.

The excavations have revealed important knowledge about the prehistory of north-western Iran, particularly during the late 2nd and early 1st millennia BC.

tural Heritage Ministry."

"The government has allocated \$2 billion for doing this. We should know that how many eco-lodge units want solar panels.

Therefore, the data should be gathered. We should speak with Energy Minister and introduce the eco-tourism resorts to banks to receive the facilities."

He continued, "Our stance on eco-lodges and their compliance with government policies is clear.

The government's strategy is to return people to villages and revive the villages. If we can reverse the migration to the villages, we have reached a great goal in the government."

The minister asked the eco-tourist managers to present their documents regarding the tariffs and the other problems.

"We believe that the nongovernmental organizations should be independent and state managers should not interfere.

The government's interest is that the government should shed the responsibilities. We should only support, make policies and supervise."

Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on average.

The culturally-diverse country never disappoints visitors when it comes to eco-tourism, sightseeing, and even tribal tourism as it is home to many regional people including ones with Turk and Arab elements in addition to the Kurds, Baloch, Bakhtyari, Lurs, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, Jews, and others.

Iran's recent UNESCO label was a combined effort of archaeology and cultural diplomacy

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Iran's latest addition to the UNESCO World Heritage list highlights a successful blend of archaeology and cultural diplomacy, which helps promote the nation's rich historical and cultural legacy, officials said on Monday.

At a press conference held at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Monday, the recent inscription of the Prehistoric Sites of the Khorramabad Valley in western Iran was discussed by the governor-general of Lorestan province, along with several experts and officials from related fields.

Ahmad Pakatchi, Iran's ambassador to UNESCO, praised the inscription as a product of expert archaeological work paired with effective cultural diplomacy.

Speaking via live video link, he remarked, "The Khorramabad Valley's 60,000-year cultural continuity strengthens Iran's international standing in heritage preservation.

This site exemplifies the coexistence of early human species and offers profound insights into humanity's shared past."

Governor-General Seyyed Saeed Shahrokhi congratulated the Iranian people and, in particular, the residents of Khorramabad on this national honor.

He highlighted the province's rich cultural and natural sites, noting that Lorestan hosts over 5,000 historical and natural sites, of which 2,600 are nationally registered and 14 significant sites lie within the Khorramabad Valley.

Shahrokhi underscored the inscription's potential to enhance Lorestan's academic, economic, and social development.

To support the growth of local tourism, Shahrokhi detailed ongoing infrastructure projects, including the reconstruction of Khorramabad International Airport -- originally established in 1928 and historically significant during World War II -- along with the development of major high-



ways and completion of local hotels.

"Plans to relocate a military base adjacent to Falak-ol-Aflak Castle aim to transform the area into a prime cultural tourism destination," the governor-general added.

Farhad Azizi, who presides over the ministry's office for World Heritage sites, emphasized the complex and technically challenging nature of the nomination process.

"Registering [the Prehistoric Sites of] the Khorramabad Valley is an exceptional geopolitical achievement that highlights Iran's ability to influence global heritage discourse," he said.

Azizi also noted the importance of local cooperation in strengthening heritage management and specifically cited the nearby Falak-ol-Aflak Castle as a vital cultural landmark contributing to the narrative of the region's history.

Ata Hassanpour, the tourism chief of Lorestan province, for his part, pointed out that the Khorramabad Valley represents Iran's first Paleolithic dossier inscribed by UNESCO.

Spanning 400 hectares with a 7,000-hectare buffer zone, the

site includes five caves of Kaldar, Qomri, Giloran, Yafteh, and Konji as well as a rock shelter.

These locations provide rare evidence of human habitation dating back over 63,000 years, including artifacts such as a 40,000-year-old reindeer canine tooth necklace, one of the earliest known personal ornaments.

Hassanpour explained that the site had been on UNESCO's tentative list since 2007. Following submission in late 2023, a field mission in 2024, and a positive review by ICOMOS in June 2025, the inscription was finalized on July 10, 2025.

Alireza Izadi, the ministry's director for heritage registration and preservation, described the World Heritage nomination as a scientific yet politically sensitive process.

"Establishing Iran's rightful claim was challenging..." he said. Izadi also outlined future registration priorities, including Iranian mosques, the Alamut fortress, Asbads (vertical windmills), and the Great Wall of Gorgan.

With a history dating back more than 60,000 years, the Khorramabad Valley represents one of the earliest known human habitats on the Iranian plateau.

The valley's caves and rock shelters offer invaluable insights into the life of early Homo sapiens and their migration patterns across Asia, Europe, and Africa.

The inscription not only honors the site's extraordinary archaeological value but also opens new avenues for sustainable tourism and cultural exchange.

The press conference concluded with a unified call for the protection of Iran's historical assets alongside the development of tourism infrastructure.

The inscription of the Khorramabad Valley's prehistoric sites marks a crucial step in showcasing Iran's ancient heritage on the world stage and enhancing Lorestan's role as a cultural and tourist hub.

The Khorramabad Valley is located in the Zagros Mountains and serves as a critical archaeological site for understanding early human evolution and migration.

Its inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List brings international recognition to Iran's contributions to global heritage preservation and promotes interdisciplinary cooperation among archaeologists, historians, and cultural diplomats.

Atlas of West Azarbaijan handwoven carpets is to be prepared



exhibitions in Tehran as a pavilion and will introduce and present authentic West Azarbaijan carpets.

Given the carpet statue among the province's handicrafts, he said that many artisans are involved in carpet weaving.

Based on the latest data, over 72,000 artisans, who work from home or in workshops, weave handwoven carpets.

Pointing to the diversity of handwoven carpet designs in West Azarbaijan province, he said that carpet designs of tiny fish in Khoy and Afshar in Takab are two traditional designs pertaining to West Azarbaijan province. They have preserved their authenticity and beauty throughout history, he added.

In addition to Iran, they are famous worldwide, he said. Afshar carpet, known as iron carpet, has been registered on National Heritage List, he mentioned. Khoy is known as National City of Tiny Fish Carpet, he pointed out.

He continued that national registration is an important step toward preserving and reviving this authentic art and its introduction as a reliable brand in national and international levels.

It will have a great influence on the carpet's sales rate, drawing investors and penetrating to national and global markets, he added.

West Azarbaijan province, located in the northwest of Iran, boasts a rich and diverse heritage in handicrafts that reflects its cultural and historical significance.

One of the most prominent handicrafts in West Azarbaijan is carpet weaving. The province is renowned for its finely woven rugs and carpets, distinguished by intricate designs and high-quality materials.

In addition to carpet weaving, the province is known for its textile production, including kilims (flat-woven rugs) and jajims (hand-woven woolen cloths).

The patterns often carry symbolic meanings and are passed down through generations, preserving the cultural heritage of the region.

Overall, the handicrafts of West Azarbaijan province are a testament to the region's rich cultural tapestry and the enduring skills of its artisans, which could also lead to the economic growth of the region.

Historical Takyeh restored in Semnan province

TEHRAN - The restoration work on a historical Takyeh in Iran's Semnan province has been completed, officials announced.

The restoration focused on parts of the roof's veranda that had suffered from erosion, termite infestation, and structural weakening, a local official said on Tuesday.

Reinforcement and waterproofing measures were also implemented to ensure the building's longevity, Maryam Taherdoost-Mohammadi added.

Called Takyeh Pahne, the re-

ligious place is a notable example of Qajar-era architecture in Semnan. It is a two-story building historically used for religious ceremonies and Ta'zieh performances, a traditional Shia passion play commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions.

The ground floor contains the main hall and arcades, while the upper floor features a veranda designed for women and community elders to watch ceremonies.

Located near a traditional bazaar, the Takyeh is surrounded by key religious and historic sites,

including Imam Mosque, Jameh Mosque, Pahne Bathhouse, Imamzadeh Yahya shrine, and the Pahne Timcheh (marketplace).

Taherdoost-Mohammadi highlighted the building's architectural beauty, noting its exquisite tilework, wooden sloped roof built during the Pahlavi era, and its spatial connection to nearby significant religious and commercial buildings.

She emphasized that preserving this Takyeh is vital to maintaining the cultural identity and historical fabric of Semnan's city center.

Takyehs are traditional Iranian venues where Shia Muslims gather, especially during Muharram, to mourn the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) through ceremonies and passion plays.

Originally also places for Sufi gatherings, these structures are important cultural and religious landmarks reflecting Persian architectural heritage.

As mentioned by the official, the recent restoration marks a significant step in safeguarding Semnan's historical and religious legacy for future generations.

Iran grabs silver medals at IChO 2025

TEHRAN – Iranian students won four silver medals at the 57th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) held from July 5 to 14 in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

The event brought together 360 students from more than 90 countries to compete, collaborate, solve challenges, and explore innovation.

Each participating nation sent a team of four students and two mentors.

The students competed in a rigorous five-hour laboratory practical exam and a separate five-hour theoretical exam, with the practical examination typically preceding the theoretical one.

The Iranian team, consisting of Sina Ahani, Seyyed Taha Hosseini, Seyyed Amir-Hossein Taheri Tari, and Mohammad Keifari Alam-dari, succeeded in winning four silver medals.

The IChO is designed to foster interest in chemistry by challenging students with complex and creative chemical problems.

Beyond the competition, it aims to promote international collaboration, build friendships among young scientists from different countries, and facilitate the exchange of scientific and educational expertise.

Participants are ranked based on their scores rather than as teams. Gold medals are awarded to the top 12 percent of students, silver to the next 22 percent, and bronze to the following 32 percent.



The top 10 percent of non-medalists receive honorable mentions.

Special awards are given to the student with the highest overall score, as well as to those with the best scores in the theoretical and practical exams.

Excelling at the IChO requires a deep understanding of chemistry, the ability to interconnect different chemical concepts, and strong practical application skills.

The competition not only rewards excellence but also inspires future generations of chemists worldwide.

The concept of the IChO originated in former Czechoslovakia in 1968, with the inaugural event held in Prague from June 18–21 of that year.

Since then, the Olympiad has been held annually, except in 1971. Initially, participating delegations were primarily from Eastern Bloc countries, but in 1980, Austria became the first non-Eastern Bloc nation to host the event.

Recent achievements

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-Sajjad 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.

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.

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, Sajjad 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.

Parnian Heydarian and Anusha Abdi grabbed silver medals and won the world star awards, while Fatemeh Mazini and Ava Dejahag won bronze medals.

Iraq seeks to foster ties with Islamic Azad University in emerging technologies

TEHRAN – Iraq is interested in expanding its collaborations with the Islamic Azad University in fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), quantum science, and life sciences, IRNA quoted Yasser Abdul Zahra Al-Hajjaj, Cultural Attaché of Iraq in Tehran, as saying.

Currently, two branches of Iranian universities, namely Al-Mustafa International University, and Islamic Azad University, are operating in Iraq, but Iraq is looking for expanding bilateral ties, he added.

The official made the remarks on Sunday in a meeting with the chancellor of Islamic Azad University, Bijan Ranjbar.

For his part, Ranjbar voiced the Islamic Azad University's readiness to promote scientific, research, and technological cooperation with Iraq, as well as admit more Iraqi students.

Iran, Iraq to establish a joint AI center

Iranian and Iraqi officials have agreed on enhancing cooperation in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), via establishing a joint AI center in Iran.

During a meeting held on June 9, Hossein Afshin, the vice president for science, technology, and knowledge-based economy, and

Ali Razooqi Hussein, the deputy chief of staff of the Iraqi prime minister, discussed ways to foster relations between the two countries, IRIB reported.

The Iranian official proposed launching a joint AI center, which was well received by the Iraqi side.

Fostering cooperation in the field of science and technology is essential to move forward and build a shared future.

Supporting innovation, technology, and knowledge-based companies is among the top priorities of the country.

There are 10,000 knowledge-based companies manufacturing 18,000 knowledge-based products in the medical, industrial, and military fields.

There are also some 30 science and technology parks in the country, responsible for connecting universities and industries, IRIB quoted Afshin as saying.

The main goal of the proposed project is to boost ties between the two countries beyond academic cooperation.

It also aims to expand collaborations with Persian Gulf states on joint projects. The center will provide services to the Persian Gulf



states and will be developed as the AI hub in the region, the official noted.

Highlighting Iran's capacities in AI, Afshin said Iran has been training human resources for this field of technology since the 1970s at Sharif University of Technology.

Apart from that, the country has started teaching AI to students. The official announced readiness to share expertise in the field and help Iraq start the same educational programs.

For his part, Razooqi said, "We are well-aware of the significance of artificial intelligence and have started teaching it in universities, as well. We are also fully aware of the capabilities of the Iranian scientists.

\$22m earmarked for equipping technical-vocational schools

A total budget of 900 billion rials (nearly \$22 million) has been requested to develop and equip technical-vocational high schools across the country in the current Iranian calendar year (ending March 20, 2019), Mohsen Hosseini, an official with the Ministry of Education has announced.

Describing some of the programs and priorities of the technical and vocational training organization affiliated to the Ministry, Hosseini pointed to improvement of technical and vocational training plans as the Ministry's main priority.

Competency-based education and assessment is among the most important programs of the technical and vocational organization, which must be well implemented in all career and technical education high school, he added, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

تخصیص ۹۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز هنرستان های کشور

مدیرکل فنی و حرفه‌ای دفتر متوسطه وزارت آموزش و پرورش از تخصیص ۹۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز هنرستان‌های کشور در سال جاری خبر داد.

به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر، سیدمحسن حسینی مقدم در دیدار با مدیران هنرستان‌های فنی و حرفه‌ای شهر شیراز و برخی از مناطق استان فارس با تشریح برخی از برنامه‌ها و اولویت‌های وزارت آموزش و پرورش در بخش فنی و حرفه‌ای، گفت: کیفیت‌بخشی برنامه‌های دفتر فنی و حرفه‌ای اولویت اصلی آموزش و پرورش است.

حسینی‌مقدم اظهار کرد: آموزش و ارزشیابی مبتنی بر شایستگی از مهمترین برنامه‌هایی است که در آموزش‌های فنی و حرفه‌ای دنبال می‌شود و باید این شیوه آموزش به خوبی مراقبت شده و در همه هنرستان‌ها اجرا شود.

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World Youth Skills Day underlines empowering youth through AI, digital skills

TEHEAN – Marked annually on July 15, the World Youth Skills Day 2025 underscores youth empowerment through AI and digital skills to help them thrive in the future.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day in 2014 to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with the skills required for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. Since then, the day has urged the world to help address youths' challenges in learning, ensure their access to quality education, and provide them with the opportunities to contribute to developing their full potential.

As the Fourth Industrial Revolution reshapes economies through Artificial Intelligence (AI), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) must evolve to equip youth with future-ready skills.

AI is transforming how we live, learn, and work – but it also poses serious risks if not implemented equitably.

The World Youth Skills Day 2025 recognizes the power of young people as drivers of change and commits to equipping them with AI and digital skills to tackle today's challenges and shape a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable future.

'Iran Digital' focuses on AI in schools

The first phase of Iran Digital initiative, a national free artificial intelligence (AI) training program, has been launched, targeting two million junior high school students and one thousand teachers.

Having completed the introductory courses, students will learn different functional areas of AI and carry out practical projects, IRNA quoted Abdolhossein Bahrami, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, as saying.

Directors of the Ministry of Education, heads of junior high schools, heads of educational technology departments, as well as educational groups, participated in the opening session.

Addressing the session, Bahrami highlighted the significance of teaching AI to students, saying that boosting digital literacy will prepare students for future job markets, help them develop their critical thinking, and become familiar with emerging technologies; it will also foster creativity and innovation among students.

The official went on to say that experts, policy makers, and users will have the chance to discuss and reach agreements on the laws and principles to be followed for the development of AI use. This will help developers and decision makers to understand people's needs, expectations, and concerns, and improve the technologies accordingly.

To motivate students and teachers, a variety of incentives are considered. The platform is game-

based and interactive, and the incentives include holding seasonal competitions, ranking top individuals in different geographical areas, and awarding prizes. The top individuals will also have the chance to participate in advanced and internship courses, Bahrami noted.

AI, education

According to Audrey Azoulay, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General, "AI offers major opportunities for education, provided that its deployment in schools is guided by clear ethical principles.

To reach its full potential, this technology must complement the human and social dimensions of learning, rather than replace them. It must become a tool at the service of teachers and pupils, with the main objective being their autonomy and well-being."

The official made the remarks on the occasion of the International Day of Education, which is observed annually on January 24.

UNESCO highlights the role of AI in reshaping education and learning. The event will spotlight the dynamic interplay between AI and education—how AI technologies are revolutionizing teaching and learning practices, while education, in turn, serves as a guiding force to ensure that AI is ethical, inclusive, and aligned with human values.

In Iran, the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in education and learning was examined during a national conference held in Tehran on October 9, 2024.

The use of AI-driven technologies in education and learning as a transformative element has not only helped to promote the quality and efficiency of the educational process but has also provided different individuals with cutting-edge technologies and smart solutions, ISNA reported.

By precisely analyzing educational data and providing instant feedbacks, it has improved students' assessment and educational content production.

It also focused on three major axes: recognizing challenges and capabilities; establishing a dynamic and collaborative environment, as well as discovering assessment and evaluation methods based on emerging technologies.

It focused on topics like AI and medical education, cognitive Sciences, schools, design and content production, human resources development, educational assessment and evaluation, AI in the future of education, and ethical considerations, as well as artificial intelligence and schools.

The main objective of the conference was to raise awareness of modern technologies and their applications in education and learning systems.

Iranian youths to attend 8 intl. Olympiads in summer

TEHRAN – Iranian students are planning to participate in eight international Olympiads this summer.

The first one is the 55th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) for high school students, which is held annually in a different country. In 2025, the IPhO will be held from July 18 to 24 in Paris, France, with participation from over 80 countries.

From July 20 to 24, the Iranian students will attend the International Biology Olympiad (IBO), which will be held in Quezon City, Philippines.

The International Linguistic Olympiad is the third one. It challenges students to apply logical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity to decode linguistic puzzles from various languages around the world. The 22nd IOL will be held from July 20 to 27 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The next will be held the International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) in Bangkok, Thailand, from July 26 to August 1, 2025. This annual competition brings together the best 16- to 19-year-old geography students from around the world.

The fifth is the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) 2025, which will be hosted by Bolivia from July 27 to August 3.

The International Science Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI), the sixth one, is for high school students, as well, aiming to cultivate both a strong theoretical foundation and hands-on expertise in Artificial Intelligence. The 2nd edition of the IOAI will be held from August 2 to 9, in Beijing, China.

The International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO)

2025 will be held in Ji'ning, China, from August 7 to August 17, according to the event's website. The event is organized by the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO) committee, Peking University, the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Seismological Society of China.

And finally, the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA), which is an annual competition in Astronomy and Astrophysics for secondary school students. The 18th IOAA will be held in Mumbai, India, from 11 to 21 August.

Moreover, the Iranian Combinatorics Olympiad (ICO) will be held online at the end of summer. Some 60 countries are expected to participate in the event, ILNA reported.

Iran world's third top country in intl. Olympiads

Attending several international Olympiads in 2024, Iranian students managed to win 10 gold medals, 10 silver medals, and two bronze medals, ranking third globally.

The United States and China ranked first and second, respectively. South Korea and India both ranked fourth, ISNA reported.

Iranian students grabbed a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 36th IOI, ranking 9th among 96 countries. Egypt hosted the event in September 2024.

In a remarkable achievement, Iranian students won five gold medals, ranking first in the 17th IOAA, which was held in August 2024 in Vassouras, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

But much of what has been occupying her recently is helping to organize a fundraising event with Health Workers 4 Palestine, a grassroots group of medical workers who came together to support colleagues in Gaza. Voices of Solidarity, an evening of music, comedy and spoken word taking place at the Troxy in London on 19 July, is billed as the UK's largest cultural fundraiser for Palestine and aims to raise £1m for medicines and medical equipment.