



The New US Drones Made In Iran

The cloning of Iranian Shahed drones comes after years of US dismissal of Iran’s military advancements

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U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth getting briefed on the LUCAS drones during an exhibition at the Pentagon on July 16, 2025.

Legal front opens in Global South to challenge Israeli impunity

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – A decisive shift is underway regarding the international community’s posture toward the Gaza crisis. A coalition of countries is moving beyond rhetoric to impose targeted sanctions on Israel.

For months, global actors have continued to forge symbolic responses—ineffective ones—at a time when mounting evidence of systematic war crimes and genocide during the purported Israeli military operations in Gaza remains unchecked. Now, with an extraordinary six-point plan that includes arms embargoes and punishment through trade restrictions and international courts, this coalition seeks to break the long-standing cycle of impunity that keeps the relentless suffering in Gaza alive.

This historic development unfolded during an emergency summit of the Hague Group held on July 15 and 16, 2025, in Bogotá, Colombia. Representatives from over 30 countries—including China, Brazil, Turkey,

Security-judicial meeting in Beirut on Syrian prisoners

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Amid escalating pressure from the HTS-led regime to extradite Syrian prisoners from Lebanon, President Joseph Aoun held a second security meeting to address the issue.

Reportedly, the meeting came in response to a request from Syria’s Foreign Minister, Asaad al-Sheibani, to receive tangible positive signals from the Lebanese side to visit Beirut.

The meeting was attended by the heads of the security and judicial bodies, as well as Judge Raja Abi Nader, the supervisor of prisons at the Ministry of Justice.

It is worth noting that the meeting did not address Syrians linked to terrorist organizations or involved in killing about 350 Lebanese soldiers and civilians.

Syrian prisoners constitute approximately 30% of the total prison population under the jurisdiction of the Lebanese Ministry of Justice.

Truce or trap: Israel’s ceasefire in Syria signals deeper hegemonic agenda

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — A newly announced ceasefire between Syria and Israel—brokered in the aftermath of an Israeli military escalation—has thrown into sharp relief the Tel Aviv regime’s relentless pursuit of regional dominance in West Asia.

Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed the truce on Saturday, following intense Israeli airstrikes across southern Syria and the capital, Damascus, earlier in the week. Israel claimed the bombings were carried out to “protect” the Druze minority amid spiraling violence in the southern province of Suwayda. However, critics argue this justification is nothing more than a pretext for deeper interference in Syrian affairs.

The clashes that erupted on July 13 between armed Druze groups, Bedouin tribes, and Syrian forces in Suwayda have claimed hundreds of lives. Following the ceasefire announcement,

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Pezeshkian: Iranians defeated the enemy with their unity and sacrifice

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has praised the nation’s resilience in the face of recent aggression by the Zionist regime, saying the people have defeated the enemy through their unity and unwavering support for the country.

Speaking on Saturday morning during a meeting with the head and deputies of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, Pezeshkian said necessary decisions have already been made to swiftly address the needs of those affected by the recent war. ▶ Page 3

Iran never desires war but remains ‘prepared’ as truce is ‘fragile’: Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Tehran was left with no choice but to defend itself against unprovoked Israeli aggression, emphasizing that while Iran never desired war, it remains fully prepared for any scenario as the current pause in hostilities remains fragile.

Speaking to China’s CGTN, Araghchi re-affirmed Tehran’s right to self-defense in response to Israeli aggression and underscored that diplomacy remains the only viable path forward for resolving tensions over Iran’s nuclear program. ▶ Page 3

Iran condemns EU’s ‘moral hypocrisy’ on Israeli aggression against Syria

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei has issued a scathing critique of the European Union’s response to the Israeli regime’s latest airstrikes in Syria, denouncing Brussels for “gaslighting at its finest” by characterizing the attacks as merely ‘escalating strikes’ rather than acts of aggression.

In a statement posted on X on Friday, Baqaei declared: “By (mis)characterizing Israel’s blatant act of aggression as ‘escalating strikes on Syrian territory,’ the EU disclaims even the pretense of moral integrity.” ▶ Page 3

Former US Security Adviser says attacks on Iran’s nuclear sites were unnecessary

TEHRAN – The former U.S. National Security Adviser has admitted that the Trump administration’s decision to strike Iran’s nuclear facilities was unnecessary and counterproductive, especially at a time when Tehran was ready to accept a long-term diplomatic deal.

Speaking on Friday at the Aspen Security Forum, Jake Sullivan said the Trump administration could have avoided military action altogether. He claimed that Iran was ready to “agree to a very good deal that could have restrained its nuclear program for decades—not just a few years.”

Sullivan emphasized that diplomacy remains the only path to permanently resolving the Iranian nuclear issue. “In my view, that’s the direction Trump should have taken—and I believe he still might—because diplomacy is the only viable way to achieve a lasting end to the Iranian nuclear threat.” ▶ Page 2

National independence

By Seyed Ehsan Khandoozi
Former Minister of Economy

TEHRAN – For many foreign observers, a critical question remains: Why did Israel’s attack on Iran foster unity among the country’s political and social factions? Despite seven years of crippling inflation and dissatisfaction with different governments’ performance, why did the attack not trigger mass protests? Even after Netanyahu’s direct video appeal to the Iranian people—urging them to rise up—no significant protest movement emerged. Why did so many traditional critics of the Islamic Republic, both inside and outside Iran, rally behind the leadership and armed forces in defense of the nation?

The answer, in part, lies in the Iranian people’s bitter historical memory of the humiliation they endured during periods of foreign domination. ▶ Page 2



Iranian students shine at International Mathematical Olympiad

TEHRAN – Iran grabbed two gold medals, three silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 66th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO 2025), held in Australia.

Hosted by the Australian Maths Trust, the event attracted more than 600 high school students from 112 countries.

The competition represents the culmination of many years of mathematical endeavour and hundreds of attempts at solving problems. ▶ Page 7

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The policy of threats and pressure continues

In an analysis, Shargh analyzed the official telephone talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and the European trio of Britain, France and Germany. The paper said: This call was the first direct dialogue after the recent military aggression against Iran's nuclear sites, which clearly showed two different positions: on one side, Europe and the West, threatening to reactivate the UN sanctions, want to advance negotiations as quickly as possible and put more pressure on Iran; on the other, Iran insists on adhering to its principles and calling for the revival of negotiations in a format that ensures mutual benefits. Europe's emphasis on the snapback mechanism could fuel increased tensions and make the atmosphere for negotiations more difficult. Rather than being the beginning of a new chapter in diplomacy, this call is a reflection of diplomatic confusion and a deep gap in trust between the parties. The future of this process depends on the seriousness and courage of the parties in overcoming the shadow of punitive policies and returning to the logic of dialogue; a dialogue that, if it is to be fruitful, must be based on mutual respect, realism, and lessons from the past.

Sobh-e-No: A message to the West about Iran's policies

In an article, Sobh-e-No discussed Araghchi's visit to China and his declaration of solidarity with countries opposing the policies of the United States and Israel. It wrote: Araghchi's words regarding the support by the Shanghai Organization and other international organizations for Iran against the aggressions of the Zionist regime and the United States send an important message to the international community. Iran strongly calls on global and regional organizations to stand against unilateral actions and foreign threats against countries that pursue their interests. This message, in addition to expressing solidarity with independent countries, is also considered a kind of opposition to the policies of the United States and Israel. Araghchi's visit and his talks with SCO counterparts sent a message for Western countries, especially the United States. By emphasizing the development of its relations with China, Russia, and other Asian countries, Iran is demonstrating that it does not accept any dependence on the West, especially the United States. This message warns Western countries that Iran is strengthening its relations with other world powers and that no amount of economic or political pressure can divert Iran from its path.

No tolerance for geopolitical change in South Caucasus, Tehran warns

TEHRAN – Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Ali Akbar Ahmadian, has reiterated the Islamic Republic's firm opposition to any geopolitical changes in the region, warning that such shifts could destabilize the South Caucasus and undermine the interests of all regional states.

In a phone call with his Armenian counterpart Armen Grigoryan on Saturday, Ahmadian underscored Tehran's long-standing position in favor of preserving existing borders and national sovereignty across the region. He emphasized that maintaining the current geopolitical landscape serves the collective interests of regional countries and contributes to long-term stability.

The Iranian official also expressed appreciation for Armenia's condemnation of the recent Israeli aggression against Iran during the 12-day war, a move viewed in Tehran as a sign of principled regional solidarity.

During their conversation, Ahmadian and Grigoryan exchanged views on bilateral ties and regional developments. Grigoryan briefed the Iranian side on the status of ongoing peace negotiations with Azerbaijan, reaffirming Armenia's position regarding the unblocking of regional transport routes. He stressed that any such arrangements must respect Armenia's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and jurisdiction.

Ahmadian voiced Iran's support for Armenia's approach and reaffirmed Tehran's opposition to externally imposed corridors that could alter regional dynamics.

The issue of regional transit has gained re-

Javan: Negotiation is a tool at the right time

Javan wrote about the possible resumption of nuclear negotiations: It is clear that the official policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards negotiations is still cautious, conditional, and completely dependent on the decisions of the highest levels of the establishment. It seems that Iran's hands are now much fuller than when Iran's nuclear facilities were not bombed. Some believe that Iran's hands are empty after these bombings, and the United States and the West no longer have a reason to negotiate and lift sanctions. Perhaps they will cite Trump's recent words, in which he said that he is in no hurry to negotiate and that it is the Iranians who should take the lead. The Europeans have also expressed a similar idea and believe that it is Iran that should request negotiations. But if that were the case, there would be no need for Europe and America to repeat this claim. Therefore, Iran's hands are still full, full of logic and military force; and negotiations still have their logic. The country's decision should be made at the best time and place. Europe and America, if they do not see the need to negotiate with Iran and see Iran empty-handed, can remain silent and show off their uselessness.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Complicity in the crime

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtasad discussed America's complicity in Israel's crime against Iran and violating international law. It said: America not only did not condemn Israel's last month attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, but also brazenly joined the attack using B-2 bombers armed with bunker-busting bombs. Donald Trump, with ridiculous self-glorification, called these attacks very successful and claimed that Iran's nuclear plants had been "obliterated". This attack, which targeted facilities under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, was a clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 487 and the international laws that America once claimed to defend. In response to the aggression, Iran suspended its cooperation with the IAEA, mulled withdrawing from the NPT, and brought the region to the brink of full-scale war with missile attacks on Israel. Russia, China, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation condemned this crime as a sign of the West's shameless hypocrisy. America, which in 1981 proclaimed as defender of diplomacy, in 2025 became a full-fledged partner in violating the very principles it once so vehemently defended.

newed international attention in the aftermath of the 2020 war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Karabakh—a long-disputed territory that has remained internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. In May, Armenia and Azerbaijan reached an agreement on the text of a peace deal, with Yerevan formally renouncing its claim to the Karabakh region. Azerbaijani forces recaptured the territory in a swift 24-hour military operation.

However, concerns over the so-called "Zangezur Corridor"—a proposed land route linking mainland Azerbaijan to its exclave Nakhchivan through Armenia's southern Syunik province—have continued to raise alarms in Tehran. The corridor, championed by Baku and Ankara, would effectively sever Iran's historic land connection with Armenia and grant Azerbaijan and Turkey control over a key regional passage.

While the plan has faced sustained Iranian opposition, recent remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Tom Barrack have reignited concerns. Speaking to reporters on Friday, Barrack revealed that Washington has proposed taking over management of the corridor project, in a move framed as support for ongoing negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Iranian analysts, however, view the proposal as a geopolitical maneuver aimed at sidelining Iran and reshaping regional power dynamics.

The so-called Zangezur project, which gained traction in 2023 and early 2024, has faced a firm response from Tehran. Iranian officials have consistently warned that any attempt to impose the corridor by force would cross a red line.

90% enrichment, NPT pullout among Iran's options if snapback is activated, MP warns

TEHRAN – Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson for Iran's Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, declared Saturday that the Islamic Republic already operates under conditions equivalent to an activated snapback mechanism, dismissing European threats as inconsequential.

In an interview, Rezaei stated that Tehran may consider counter-measures—including withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and enriching uranium to 90%—if Western powers formally impose sanctions.

"Sanctions reimposed after the U.S. quit the JCPOA were maximum and comprehensive.

Formal activation of this mechanism will not meaningfully change the country's situation," said the lawmaker.

He also emphasized that threatening to revert Iran's file to Chapter VII of the UN Charter and refer it to war is a repetitive and ineffective threat.

"The country has previously faced direct attacks on military centers and has experienced military confrontation," Rezaei said.

Referring to the U.S.-Israeli 12-



Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson for Iran's Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission

day war on Iran, he said that "experience proves that preserving national interests relies solely on maintaining power and deterrence capability, adding that "with effective counteraction, enemies will refrain from repeating past hostilities."

The lawmaker's remarks respond to a July 17 joint statement by France, Germany, and the UK (E3) threatening to activate Resolution 2231's snapback clause by late August "unless Iran returns to nuclear talks."

The mechanism would automatically restore all pre-2015 UN sanctions within 30 days.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi swiftly rebuffed the threat. In a call with E3 diplomats, he condemned their "worn-out policies of threat and pressure," stressing that the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran's safeguarded nuclear facilities had obliterated the snapback's legal and moral foundations.

"Talks are possible only when the other side seeks a fair deal," he posted on X.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei echoed this, vowing a "proportionate response" to any sanction revival.

Why Snapback is meaningless at the moment

The U.S.-Israeli airstrikes on Iran's civilian nuclear sites fundamentally altered the JCPOA's context, rendering snapback an anachronism.

With Natanz and Fordow damaged, the nuclear infrastructure the mechanism was meant to regulate no longer exists in its prior form.

Some analysts invoke the Vienna Convention's *rebus sic stantibus* principle—when circumstances fundamentally change, treaty obligations adjust, leaving snapback as mere legal theater. Europe's failure to condemn strikes that are considered violations of *jus cogens* norms cost the E3 their status as "participants" under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, a prerequisite for triggering snapback. Thus, by greenlighting the bombing of the very sites the deal governed, Europe forfeited its legal standing.

Additionally, any reimposed sanctions would require a new Security Council resolution to lift them—vulnerable to Russian or Chinese vetoes—meaning Europe could trigger snapback but remain powerless to reverse it, effectively sidelining the E3 in future negotiations.

National independence

Why did Israel's attack unite Iran instead of dividing it?



From page 1 ► From a social psychology perspective, Iranians react more fiercely to external threats to their sovereignty than to almost any other issue. History offers clear examples: Long before the formation of a centralized national government, the people of Bushehr mounted heroic resistance against British and Portuguese aggression in southern Iran, while the people of Gilan and Azerbaijan fiercely opposed Russian encroachment in the north.

This unyielding spirit has ensured that Iran never became a formal colony—so much so that Iran's calendar has no "National Independence Day." For Iranians, every day

has been a fight to preserve their independence.

The eight-year resistance of Iran's western border provinces—Khuzestan, Kermanshah, and Kurdistan—against Saddam Hussein's invasion remains vividly etched in the national consciousness.

Similarly, the Pahlavi dynasty's heavy reliance on the United States was so deeply resented that the very first slogan of the 1979 Revolution was "Independence"—even before "Freedom" or "Islamic Republic."

Today, many Iranians view their country's peaceful nuclear energy program and missile capabilities as essential deterrents against foreign aggression.

They believe that without these defenses, Iran would be left vulnerable—incapable of safeguarding its sovereignty and exposed to foreign humiliation.

This is why, from Iran's perspective, any negotiation demanding "zero uranium enrichment" (as Trump insisted) would be nonviable from the outset. Iran has repeatedly stated that it will never relinquish its legal rights under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including enrichment for peaceful purposes.

Washington's strategic error became evident when Israel attacked Iran just two days before the sixth round of negotiations.

To many Iranians, this confirmed their suspicions that diplomatic talks were merely a facade for military coercion—a direct threat to their sovereignty.

Recent history only reinforces this perception: The disastrous outcomes of Libya's disarmament, Iraq's invasion, and Syria's forced concessions remain fresh in Iranian memory.

Given these precedents, shouldn't the Iranian people have the right to draw lessons from the

fate of these nations? What alternative do they have but to unite in defense of their independence?

If future negotiations are to succeed, all parties must internalize the costly lesson of Israel's aggression.

The U.S. must ensure that every proposal includes guarantees for "preserving Iran's defense capabilities." From the Iranian people's standpoint, any agreement that weakens their sovereignty or leaves them defenseless is tantamount to treachery.

Europe, too, must recognize that a nation which has endured unprecedented U.S. sanctions since 2018 will not surrender its independence under mere economic pressure.

If America genuinely seeks a diplomatic resolution, it has no choice but to adhere to international law and acknowledge the legitimate rights of the Iranian people.

Further aggression against Iran could have unpredictable consequences—particularly for global energy markets, as the U.S. may not anticipate Iran's potential responses, including unconventional measures.

Former US Security Adviser says attacks on Iran's nuclear sites were unnecessary

From page 1 ► In earlier remarks to CNN, Sullivan had revealed that his initial response to Trump's military decision was to question its long-term consequences.

"My first reaction was the classic foreign policy question: what happens next? Even if American pilots had carried out the strikes successfully, we would still be left needing a deal.

Iran still possesses enriched uranium stockpiles and centrifuge capacity, even if some of the installed centrifuges were damaged or destroyed—which, frankly, no one can confirm. They still have the technical capability to rebuild."

He further added that Iran had at that point already barred International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors from accessing the targeted sites. "So, we lost the kind of verification and oversight we once had under a nuclear agreement," he said

According to the Jewish Insider, several Democratic senators at the Aspen forum also criticized Trump for launching the strikes without consulting Congress and reiterated the need to resume serious negotiations with Tehran.

These remarks align with the preliminary assessment by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), which suggests that the strikes failed to cripple Iran's core nuclear infrastructure, contradicting the U.S. President Trump's claims of "total obliteration."

According to CNN, Iran's enriched uranium

stockpiles remain intact, and damage to centrifuges at key sites such as Fordow and Natanz was minimal.

While U.S. officials attempted to spin the outcome as a victory, the leaked intelligence paints a different picture. "At most, the U.S. set them back a few months," one American intelligence source familiar with the report told CNN.

In a statement attempting to counter the criticism, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt accused the media of trying to discredit both President Trump and the fighter pilots who "perfectly executed" the mission.

Jeffrey Lewis, a nuclear weapons expert at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, told CNN that satellite imagery confirms Iran's nuclear infrastructure is largely intact.

He said key underground facilities in Natanz, Isfahan, and Parchin remain functional and could be used to rapidly restore Iran's enrichment capabilities.

The U.S. assault, which happened on June 22, provoked a forceful Iranian response. Less than 48 hours later, Iran launched a barrage of missiles targeting the U.S.-operated Al-Udeid base in Qatar, resulting in significant damage and prompting Washington to seek a ceasefire.

Despite the deployment of U.S. B-2 bombers and precision-guided munitions aimed at three major sites—Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan—the strikes primarily damaged aboveground infrastructure, including power systems and fa-



Former U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan

cilities involved in uranium metal conversion, American media claims.

Iran has said damage to its nuclear sites has been "significant" but has yet to confirm U.S. media and intelligence reports about the core of its facilities remaining intact.

Iranians have also said that regardless of the scale of the destruction, the country will continue to operate its peaceful nuclear program.

The new US drones made in Iran

The cloning of Iranian Shahed drones comes after years of US dismissal of Iran's military advancements

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Iran's military development is a singular story. Few nations can claim to have independently transformed their military capabilities as dramatically as Iran has in just four and a half decades.

Think back to the 1980s. When Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded, the idea of Iran winning seemed impossible. Backed by both Western powers and the Soviet Union, Iraq wielded a formidable arsenal: cutting-edge tanks, missiles, and even the horrifying specter of chemical weapons. Iran, in stark contrast, scraped by with a mix of antiquated, often defective, equipment sourced from a handful of sympathetic states, and the once-proud F-14 fighter jets, now grounded by a crippling lack of spare parts. Iranians were desperately short on armor, air support, and even basic protection like gas masks. But they decided that they wanted to stand their ground, practically empty-handed, and that's where Iran's future began.

The invasion taught Iran a hard lesson: they had to depend on themselves if they wanted to protect their revolution. With incredible effort and a powerful will, Iranian military leader began meticulously dissecting the remnants of Western weaponry and the few, rudimentary systems acquired from their few friends. Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, who became known as the "father of Iranian missiles," is said



to have learned about Libyan and Syrian weapons – weapons Iran was using – while serving tea to the foreign operators who had been sent to Iran specifically to keep the technology out of Iranian hands. Those were tough times, but important ones. Now, forty years after the Iran-Iraq war ended with Saddam failing to take any Iranian territory, Iran isn't just a force to be reckoned with in West Asia. It has built up a missile and drone arsenal that's even making countries like the United States, which has been the world's biggest arms supplier since WWII, sit up and take notice.

Iranian missiles showed just how dangerous they are during the 12-day war that Israel started in June. The sophisticated air defense systems of Israel, as well as those of American, British, French, and some Arab forces stationed in the region, couldn't

stop the Iranian projectiles – believed to be some of the country's older missiles – from hitting the occupied territories and striking important military, intelligence, and energy sites. The destruction was widespread, unlike anything seen before in the history of the Zionist regime, and it led Israeli officials to turn to their main backer, the United States, to ask for a ceasefire.

But it's Iranian drones, especially the kamikaze types, that everyone's been talking about for a few years now. They're precise and cheap weapons that either hit their targets perfectly or force the enemy to waste millions of dollars on expensive air defense missiles to take down a drone that only cost a few thousand.

These drones have become a hot item on the military market. According to reports that haven't been officially confirmed, coun-

tries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America have been buying, or trying to buy, these weapons from Iran. And now that Washington has unveiled its own copy of Iran's Shahed drone, the potency of Iranian kamikaze drones is clearer than ever.

On July 16, 2025, the U.S. military unveiled the LUCAS, or Low-cost Uncrewed Combat Attack System, developed by Arizona-based defense contractor SpektreWorks. The drone looked like an exact clone of Iranian Shahed ones when being shown to U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth during an exhibition in the Pentagon courtyard. The design, function, and mission of the drone are remarkably similar to Iran's Shaheds, but it still costs more, weighs more, has a lower range, and less maneuverability.

This comes after the U.S. dismissed Iran's military advancements for years on end. Even during Donald Trump's previous administration, one of his top men said Iran's weapons were not real, rather they were photo-shopped pictures.

But the reality is now undeniable. The U.S. military's unveiling of the LUCAS drone is perhaps the highest form of flattery—or at least, the clearest admission of Iranian ingenuity. The lesson Iran is now teaching the world in 2025 is simple: There are many things nations can achieve when they refuse to surrender to external pressure.

Iran never desires war but remains 'prepared' as truce is 'fragile': Araghchi



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks in an interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN) in Tianjin, China, on July 16, 2025.

From Page 1 ▶ He stressed that the confrontation was not a mutual conflict but a one-sided assault, and warned that Israel's track record makes any truce inherently unreliable.

"We stood firm on our own soil, defended our country with courage, and ultimately forced the aggressors to halt their operations and request an unconditional ceasefire — which we accepted."

"We are fully aware that no ceasefire involving that the Zionist regime can be relied upon, given its track record. That's why we remain vigilant and ready to respond if it is violated." He reiterated that Iran had no desire for war.

"We didn't start this conflict, and we don't wish for it to continue — but we are fully prepared for any scenario."

'Iran waiting for real U.S. commitment to diplomacy'

When asked about Iran's hesitation to resume nuclear talks with the United States, Araghchi explained that Tehran is waiting to see genuine political will from Washington.

"We are still evaluating the situation because we need to see real commitment — not just words — from the U.S. We need to know they are serious about a win-win solution. Our nuclear program is strictly peaceful, and we are fully confident in that. We're also ready to share that confidence with others, but only through meaningful negotiations."

He pointed to the 2015 nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as a historic diplomatic achievement.

"We successfully reached an agreement with the P5+1 in 2015. It was celebrated worldwide as a major diplomatic success, and we upheld our commitments. But the U.S. unilaterally withdrew — a deeply regrettable move. What we're witnessing now is a direct consequence of that decision."

'Diplomacy is the only path forward'

Araghchi expressed cautious optimism about reviving the nuclear deal, but only if Washington abandons its military approach.

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

Iran condemns EU's 'moral hypocrisy' on Israeli aggression against Syria



Forces from the HTS-led government examine the wreckage of Syria's Defense Ministry in Damascus following a series of Israeli air raids, July 16, 2025.

From Page 1 ▶ He condemned the framing as a cynical effort to dress "complicity" up as "diplomacy," stressing that Iran "rejects selective indignation and double standards" while standing "loud and clear" with Syria's sovereignty.

In a statement on Wednesday, EU spokesperson Anouar El Anouni said the bloc is "alarmed by the continued clashes in Suwayda," and "strongly condemns the reported violence against civilians."

The remarks follow a series of Israeli airstrikes and violent clashes between Druze factions and Bedouin tribes, which have claimed over 700 lives since mid-July, according to the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Israeli regime is accused of exploiting the Druze minority as a justification for its military operations, potentially aiming to deepen divisions within Syria.

Many view these developments as part of a broader project, kicked off by the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government in De-

cember 2024 and the rise of HTS leader Abu Muhammad al-Julani's (Ahmad al-Sharaa's) regime, with massive backing from the West, NATO members such as Turkey, and Arab states in the Persian Gulf such as Qatar and the UAE—an agenda that has since spiraled wildly out of control.

This perspective is echoed by figures within Iran. Major General Mohsen Rezaei, former commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), reacted sharply to these developments, condemning al-Julani's regime as a "Western project" that has capitulated to Israeli dictates.

Rezaei warned: "Peace through power" means: Surrender the Golan Heights, accept Tel Aviv's conditions, open doors to the U.S., and do not protest when bombed.

This is the region's new unwritten law. Arabs, wake up!"

His statement reflects Tehran's assessment that normalization talks mask a coercive campaign to legitimize Israel's expansionism.

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

it is ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for the country.

We should never label anyone an enemy merely for holding a different opinion."

recognition.

Pezeshkian concluded by reaffirming the people's loyalty.

"This nation has shown time and again that

Pezeshkian: Iranians defeated the enemy with their unity and sacrifice

From Page 1 ▶ Pezeshkian also commended the growing inclusion of diverse public voices in national media, saying this development is both meaningful and worthy of

Iran lose to Pakistan in 2025 Asian U16 Volleyball Championship final

TEHRAN – Pakistan came from two sets down to beat Iran 3-2 (22-25, 21-25, 30-28, 25-21, 15-10) in the 2025 Asian Men's U16 Volleyball Championship final on Saturday.

Earlier in the day, India defeated Japan 3-2 to win the bronze medal.

The Championship was the second edition of the Asian Men's U16 Volleyball Championship, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Thailand Volleyball Association (TVA). The tournament was held in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand from July 12 to 19.

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

Iran, Pakistan, Japan, and India qualified for the world championship as top four teams.

Mehdi Taremi ready for Inter Milan exit

TEHRAN – Iranian striker Mehdi Taremi has come to terms with his situation and is now preparing for an imminent exit from Inter Milan.

According to Tuttosport via FCInterNews, the 32-year-old has accepted his fate.

Inter head coach Cristian Chivu has deemed the former Porto goal-getter surplus to requirements.

Therefore, the club have put him up for sale, hoping to raise funds for further reinforcements.

Indeed, they've already set a €10 million price tag for their unsettled star.

Despite joining the club with high expectations, he only scored three times in 43 appearances.

Meanwhile, Chivu prefers Francesco Pio Esposito over the Iranian international. Indeed, the 44-year-old wants to rely on young blood.

With Esposito predisposed to a starring role, there's no space for Taremi, hence the decision to leave. Though Besiktas' interest has faded recently, Taremi will likely continue his career abroad.

Several Premier League clubs, including Fulham and Nottingham Forest, have shown interest in his services.

Ehsan Hajsafi leaves AEK Athens

TEHRAN – Ehsan Hajsafi parted company with Greek football team AEK Athens.

The 35-year-old left-back has been reportedly linked with Iranian football club Sepahan.

Hajsafi has left the Greek side after four years.

"After four unforgettable years, the time has come for me to say goodbye. Wearing this jersey has been as absolute honor, and playing in front of our incredible fans is something I will never forget. To the coaching staff, my teammates, and every single person behind the scenes — thank you for supporting me. I'll always carry the memories, the victories, and even the tough times with me." Hajsafi posted on his Instagram account.

Odil Hamrobekov signs for Tractor

TEHRAN – Tractor football team completed the signing of Bunyodkor midfielder Odil Hamrobekov.

Hamrobekov is a member of the Uzbekistan national team and has been recognized for several years in the Super League for his gameplay, intellectual control on the field, and accurate passing.

Tractor aim to strengthen their midfield experience with this transfer.

The 29-year-old player had been also linked with another Iranian team Esteghlal.

Tractor, headed by Dragan Skocic, will compete in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Elite.

Iran one win away from FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division A promotion

TEHRAN – The FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division B continued its thrilling final phase at the Shenzhen Sports Centre on Saturday, with Iran asserting their dominance over Thailand to move a step closer to promotion.

In a highly anticipated Semi-Finals rematch, Iran once again triumphed over Thailand with a 78-52 victory, securing their spot in the Division B Final. Building on their previous group stage win against Thailand, Iran displayed strong defensive resolve and timely scoring. While Thailand put up a resilient fight, propelled by their sharp-shooting, Iran's cohesive team play, led by players like Negin Rasoulipour and Roxanna Barahman, proved too much to overcome.

Iran are now just one win away from promotion, [fiba.basketball](#) reported.

Barahman had 20 points to lead Iran, while Rasoulipour added 13 points. Thailand were paced by Rattiyakorn Udomsuk's 24 points.

Tractor beat Sivaspor in friendly match

TEHRAN – Tractor football team of Iran defeated Sivaspor 4-0 in a friendly match on Friday.

During the training camp in Bolu, Turkey as part of preparations for the 2025-2026 season, Dragan Skocic's side registered the victory.

Tibor Halilovi? scored twice as well as goals from Tomislav Štrkalj and Amir Hossein Hosseinzadeh.

Sivaspor president Gökhan Karagöl also watched the match.

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

Iran fall short to S. Korea in 2025 Asian Women's Youth Handball C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran were defeated by South Korea 40-27 in 2025 Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship on Saturday.

The Persian girls had lost to lost to defending champions Japan with the same score on Friday.

Iran will play India on Monday in Pool B.

Group A consists of China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and Kazakhstan.

The Republic of Korea have won eight of the 10 editions of the competition, all between 2005 and 2019. The last two winners have been Iran, in 2022, when neither Japan, nor Korea took part, and Japan in 2023.

The preliminary round of the 11th AHF Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship is being held on 18, 19 and 21 July, with the semi-finals scheduled on 23 July.

The big final and the bronze medal match are due to take place on 26 July.

The 2025 Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship will be the 11th edition of the championship held from 18 to 26 July 2025 in Jinggangshan, China under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation. It was the first time in history that championship was organised by the Chinese Handball Association. It also will act as the qualification tournament for the 2026 Women's Youth World Handball Championship.

Iran-Armenia trade approaches \$1b as economic, tourism ties grow

TEHRAN – Bilateral trade between Iran and Armenia has reached nearly \$1.0 billion, reflecting deepening economic ties between the two neighbors, according to Iran's ambassador to Yerevan.

Speaking to Armenian state television, Ambassador Mehdi Sobhani said trade volume between the two countries has grown steadily and is now approaching the \$1.0 billion mark.

Data from Armenia's official statistics agency, Armstat, shows that bilateral trade reached \$737.4 million in 2024, a 6.5 percent increase compared with 2023. Trade in the first five months of 2025 totaled \$278.7 million, up four percent year-on-year.

Earlier this year, Sobhani said Tehran aims to boost annual trade with Yerevan to \$1.0 billion by 2025, a goal that now appears within reach.

The ambassador also highlighted growing tourism flows between the two countries.

"In the first 11 months of last year, around 276,000 Armenian citizens visited Iran, while 176,000 Iranian tourists traveled to Armenia during the same period," he said, calling the trend a "natural process" amid expanding ties.



In the first 11 months of 2024, the number of Iranian visitors to Armenia rose 20 percent compared with 2023, according to the Armenian Tourism Committee. Iranians accounted for eight percent of Armenia's 691,900 tourist arrivals in the first five months of this year — the third-largest group after visitors from Russia (37 percent) and Georgia (15 percent).

Iran and Armenia have been strengthening energy, transport, and trade cooperation in recent years, with joint infrastructure projects including a nearly complete electricity transmission line and expanded border crossings. The two sides have also committed to removing obstacles to deeper integration, especially in light of Armenia's strategic shift toward alternative trade routes following tensions with Azerbaijan.

Annual manufacturing of refrigerators, freezers increases 3%

TEHRAN- Manufacturing of refrigerators and freezers in Iran has risen three percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year, Tasnim news agency reported.

As reported, 2.614 million refrigerators and freezers have been manufactured in 1403, while the figure was 2.537 million in 1402.

As stated by the secretary general of Iran's National Home Appliance Manufacturers Association, the association is drafting a strategic export plan as its top priority for the year, aiming to lift the industry out of prolonged stagnation.

Nasrin Ojaghi told state broadcaster IRIB that addressing the home appliance sector's core challenges—including foreign currency allocation, import registration delays, and weak domestic demand—requires unified action among industry stakeholders.

"In the current difficult climate, solidarity within the industry is essential to find joint solutions," Ojaghi said.

She said the association is holding talks with relevant authorities to resolve the sec-



tor's bottlenecks. "We view export development as the key path out of the recession, and the strategic export roadmap will serve as our guide," she added.

Ojaghi noted ongoing negotiations with Iran's customs office and the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade to streamline export procedures.

"With policymakers now having a clearer understanding of the industry's situation, there is greater potential for effective cooperation," she said, emphasizing that collective action is needed to overcome the barriers facing the domestic appliance sector.

South Pars' 10th refinery begins overhaul to ensure winter gas supply

TEHRAN – South Pars Gas Complex has launched a major overhaul of its 10th refinery, aiming to ensure stable gas production during Iran's colder months, according to the refinery's director.

Mohammad Ne'mati, the director of the mentioned refinery, said the overhaul began on July 15 and will continue until July 30. "The operation is being carried out in two phases — A and B — each lasting 11 days, including a full seven-day shutdown for the refinery," he said, as quoted by the South Pars Gas Complex.

The overhaul includes 1,948 work orders, comprising 1,427 corrective, emergency, and inspection tasks, and 521 preventive maintenance operations. Additionally, 1,363 equipment tags have been assigned for monitoring and process control.

Ne'mati emphasized that the overhaul is being carried out entirely by domestic engineering teams, in compliance with safety and environmental standards. He added that the effort would reduce downtime, cut costs, and enhance operational stability.

This comes as part of a wider maintenance campaign across the South Pars field, where several refineries have recently undergone scheduled overhauls.

In recent weeks, other phases of South Pars have also been taken offline for similar operations to prepare for peak winter demand. The coordinated strategy reflects Iran's efforts to



maximize gas output from the world's largest gas field, jointly shared with Qatar, and to maintain supply reliability amid rising domestic consumption and export commitments.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf water, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

National Iranian Drilling Company ready to play a more prominent regional role

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- National Iranian Drilling Company, a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), is a key player in Iran's oil and gas industry, responsible for drilling operations.

The company that conducts exploration, development, and drilling of oil and gas wells, as well as repair and maintenance services, and has been actively involved in both onshore and offshore drilling projects, is now ready to play a more prominent role in the region.

The deputy managing director of the company has announced the implementation of a comprehensive program to modernize the drilling fleet, widely localize equipment, manufacture a national drilling engine, and set a goal of repairing and completing 150 wells by the end of this year, emphasizing: "Based on decades of experience, this company is ready to play a more prominent role at the regional level."

Regarding the most important challenges of the NIDC due to sanctions, Masoud Afshar has stated: "Domestic production of many equipment has reduced dependence on foreign countries, but in the engine sector, we had challenges that are being resolved with the new contract. The production of SCR, cables, and tanks are other successful examples of self-sufficiency."

"Our experts are currently involved in international projects, and the successful drilling experience in Turkmenistan will be a basis for expanding activities in other neighboring countries", the official has underlined.

Afshar has emphasized that with the development of technology, self-sufficiency in equipment, and the benefit of efficient human resources, the National Drilling Company is firmly on the path of sustainable development and is ready to play a more effective role in the regional arena.

Meanwhile, the managing director of the company has explained the outlook for the development of the drilling industry in the country, and said: "The most important global indicator in the field of drilling is the reduction of unproductive times; so, we have reduced this indicator from 21 percent to about 9.6 percent and set a goal to reach below three percent."

Mehran Makvandi said that in the five-year outlook, the modernization of the onshore and offshore drilling fleet, the development of offshore drilling in the Persian Gulf oil fields, and the upgrading of technical service equipment and their integration are priorities.

Regarding digital develop-



ments in the company, he stated: "Digitalization of drilling processes, from design and monitoring to operation analysis and well data management, is one of the main axes of the company's future vision; this approach will lead to reduced errors, faster decision-making, economic savings, and greater safety."

In addition to upgrading equipment, strengthening cooperation with scientific centers and knowledge-based companies, developing human resources, and increasing competitiveness in the international market are also among the company's strategic priorities in the 5-year outlook, the official added.

The NIDC managing director has also referred to the company's move towards domestic production of the equipment, and said: "One of the strategic priorities of the National Iranian Drilling Company is to increase the share of domestic manufacturing."

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

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

Makvandi further referred to the NIDC's contracts with knowledge-based companies and added: "Nine one-megawatt generator motors and four drilling fluid purification centrifuges, which were previously imported, will be manufactured inside the country, and the first samples will be delivered by the end of the [current Iranian] year (March 20, 2026)."

He also noted: "A specific road-

map has been developed for utilizing these technologies, which includes continuous cooperation with science and technology parks, universities, knowledge-based companies, and the formation of specialized working groups to evaluate and implement technologies in field operations."

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

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

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

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

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

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

He continued: "The convergence of this equipment with the current fleet and the integrat-

ed planning management of the National Iranian Oil Company is underway in the form of a joint supervisory working group and in coordination with the Ministry of Oil."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATBA advances construction of 1,000 solar power plants to boost grid stability

TEHRAN – Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) has reported significant progress in the construction of 1,000 local solar power plants, each with a capacity of 3.0 megawatts, as part of a nationwide effort to expand clean energy infrastructure and enhance grid efficiency.

According to Alireza Parandeh-Motlaq, SATBA's deputy for technical and engineering affairs, 850 sites have entered the implementation phase, with preparations underway for the remaining plants.

"These decentralized power plants, built near consumption hotspots and at the end points of the power grid, play a crucial role in reducing energy losses and voltage fluctuations," he said.

The initiative is one of the Ministry of Energy's flagship renewable energy development models, aiming to reduce reliance on large-scale transmission upgrades by generating electricity closer to where it is used. Land for the solar plants has already been identified, and key equipment — including panels and

structural components — began arriving last month by rail and sea.

The typical construction window for each plant is estimated at four to six months, and authorities hope to complete the full project by the end of 2025.

Parandeh-Motlaq noted that 10 percent of the required funding has been secured so far, while the National Development Fund of Iran (NDF) is expected to provide the remaining 90 percent, based on government approvals. He also acknowledged logistical challenges such as customs clearance, fuel provision, and local disputes, but said these are being actively addressed through government coordination.

"The government's role in this project is not to own or operate the plants, but to facilitate investment and ensure development of renewable energy to address imbalances in the power sector," he said. Once operational, the plants will be handed over to private investors or industrial stakeholders, a move expected to stimulate investment and improve long-term electricity supply and demand

equilibrium.

Interest from the private sector has surged, Parandeh-Motlaq added. So far, contracts totaling around 30,000 megawatts of renewable capacity — ranging from 5.0 kilowatts to 1,000 megawatts — have been signed. This demand is expected to rise further by year-end.

He stressed the need for greater inter-agency cooperation to accelerate progress, particularly from ministries such as Industry, Mining and Trade in streamlining import processes and facilitating foreign currency allocation. "We cannot allow bureaucratic obstacles to hinder this national transition to clean energy," he said.

Regarding site selection, Parandeh-Motlaq explained that the main criteria include proximity to the distribution network, local grid demand, and public land availability. In privately led projects, land is provisionally allocated and reclaimed if construction does not proceed.

Truce or trap: Israel’s ceasefire in Syria signals deeper hegemonic agenda

From page 1 ▶ al-Sharaa accused Israel of deliberately re-igniting tensions in the region through its “flagrant aggression,” particularly the bombing of Damascus and the south.

In a statement saturated with militaristic bravado, Netanyahu declared that the ceasefire was achieved “through strength, not through pleas, not through begging.”

His comments underscore Israel’s ongoing strategy of intimidation, rather than diplomacy, in dealing with its neighbors.

While Israel frames its intervention as a humanitarian act, the reality on the ground suggests otherwise.

Netanyahu’s actions reflect a calculated effort to entrench Israeli hegemony in Syria under the guise of minority protection.

Despite agreeing to a ceasefire, Israel has retained its grip on the Syrian territories it already occupies—territories widely recognized as being under illegal occupation under international law.



Adding further complexity to the situation, al-Sharaa, whose government maintains strategic ties with Washington, publicly thanked the United States—particularly the administration of President Donald Trump—for its role in brokering the ceasefire.

This acknowledgment raises troubling questions: Can Israel’s aggressive campaign be separated from US geopolitical objectives in the region?

Is Washington playing the role of silent accomplice while Netanyahu enforces a militarized order through unilateral violence?

The contradiction is glaring. On the one hand, al-Sharaa condemns Israeli aggression; on the other, he expresses gratitude to the very power widely seen as enabling it.

The good cop–bad cop dynamic between the US and Israel is once again on display: Netanyahu leads with force, while Washington follows with diplomatic posturing—both working toward the same endgame.

Israel’s invocation of the Druze issue appears part of a broader strategy scripted by pro-Zionist lobbies to justify the flexing of

military might and normalize its presence deep inside Syrian territory.

The ceasefire is not a gesture of peace but a tactical pause—a calculated move in Israel’s long-term project of territorial expansion and political domination in West Asia.

Past precedents—from Gaza to Lebanon—show that Israeli ceasefires are often little more than instruments of propaganda, soon violated when they no longer serve strategic objectives.

Expansionism, militarism, and occupation remain pillars of Israeli policy.

This ceasefire, like others before it, cannot mask the true nature of Tel Aviv’s ambitions. It is a smokescreen, designed to conceal more sinister plans for redrawing the map of West Asia (the Middle East) to Israel’s benefit. Only sustained unity and strategic cooperation among Muslim and Arab nations can resist this agenda and challenge the forces seeking to destabilize the region under the pretense of peace.

Security-judicial meeting in Beirut on Syrian prisoners



Aoun chairs a ministerial and security meeting at Baabda Palace to address the crisis of Syrian detainees in Lebanese prisons.

From page 1 ▶ The number of prisoners in Lebanon is approximately 2,600.

So far, 380 have been given final sentences, 370 partial sentences or their cases are pending, while the rest are still under trial.

The advisors emphasized that it is illegal to hand over these detainees unless final judgments are issued against them.

They proposed studying a judicial cooperation agreement

that would oblige Lebanon to hand over convicts (specifically those not convicted of terrorist or security-related crimes) to complete their prison sentences in Syria.

In this context, it was further learned that Lebanese security services have begun preparing detailed lists of the names of Syrian prisoners in their custody (classified according to the charges against them).

While the relevant ministers

and a number of advisors were present, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam was notably absent, without an explanation despite the importance of the meeting.

Justice Minister Adel Nassar, Prisons Supervisor Judge Raja Abi Nader, and Public Prosecutor Judge Jamal Hajjar emphasized the impossibility of handing over detainees before their trial, emphasizing the need to strictly implement Article 108 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which prohibits exceeding the specified period of pretrial detention in order to expedite trials.

Amid the heightened tensions in Syria and the crimes committed by Ahmed al-Sharaa’s forces against civilians, Lebanon has witnessed security tensions (such as blockade of major roads and violent demonstrations) and hate speech.

These events prompted the Army chief to call on the Lebanese people to avoid strife and prioritize supreme national interests over all other things.

Rodolph Haykal promised the Army would not allow “any breach of security or violation of civil peace.”

The Lebanese Army stressed that overcoming the current problems that Lebanon is experiencing requires “the unity and solidarity of the Lebanese people, and their awareness of the gravity of the situation.”

“Lebanon is currently facing a set of exceptional circumstances, most notably the continued attacks and violations of national sovereignty by the Israeli enemy, in addition to the challenges of maintaining internal security and border control, as well as complex developments in the region.”

While warning against “undertaking any action that could have unintended repercussions on the security of the Lebanese,” the Lebanese Army emphasized the need to “exercise responsibility” in confronting this delicate situation.

Legal front opens in Global South to challenge Israeli impunity

From page 1 ▶ and Qatar—gathered to coordinate concrete legal and diplomatic measures against Israel’s actions in Gaza, which has seen more than 58,000 Palestinians killed since late 2023.

The Hague Group’s Bogotá conference, which resulted from Colombian and South African action some months prior to the conference, concluded with representatives from 12 countries taking a formal step to implement their six-point sanctions and accountability plan, which they term genocide and serious breaches of international law.

The committed countries and their measures

The countries directly committing to this plan are Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Indonesia, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and South Africa.

Their coordinated measures include banning the transfer or provision of arms, military fuel, equipment, and dual-use items to Israel, preventing Israeli ships from docking or transiting in their ports, and prohibiting vessels flying their flags from carrying military supplies to Israel.

They also pledged to review public contracts to prevent state funds from supporting compa-

nies involved in Israel’s occupation and to pursue rigorous legal investigations of war crimes, backing the exercise of universal jurisdiction that allows prosecution of international crimes regardless of location or nationality.

Breaking the cycle of impunity

These measures represent a bold departure from the inaction or selective diplomacy that have characterized much of the international response until now.

As UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese stated at the summit, “The clock is now ticking for states—from Europe to the Arab world and beyond—to join these efforts.”

Colombian President Gustavo Petro declared the event a historic pivot, emphasizing that no state should be “above the law” and condemning the disposability of Palestinian lives under the current status quo.

South African Minister of International Relations Ronald Lamola also affirmed that the Hague Group was formed to “advance international law in an era of impunity,” highlighting the seriousness and feasibility of coordinated state action. The timing of these decisions is crucial. Despite global outrage, Israel’s blockade,



and its relentless bombardments and ground operations in Gaza destroying civilian infrastructure and a humanitarian collapse UN officials have called genocidal, the major Western states, namely the U.S. and many European nations, actively provide military supplies or block accountability measures, tacitly enabling these violations to continue.

The sanctions by these 12 state, and the potential for others to join in within a deadline of September 2025, represent a significant rupture in international consensus led by the Global South and opposing established geopolitical alliances that have historically placed Israeli action above reproach.

Disrupting military support and enforcing international law

The Hague Group is disrupting Israel’s ability to wage war unencumbered by terminating military supply chains and utilizing legal tools through its six-point

plan.

Together, the embargoes, restrictions on port access, reviews, and potential cancellations of public contracts, and ongoing attempts to prosecute Israeli leaders pursued by arrest warrants requested from the International Criminal Court, undermine the operational and political bases of Israel’s Gaza operations.

If that can be implemented, and then perhaps expanded to further demonstrate the new role for the international community, the once passive role of the international community could turn into a new role in making sure that the rights of Palestinians and their access to justice are enforced in some manner.

As the world watches this new chapter unfold, the imperative is clear: only sustained, enforceable international pressure grounded in law can end the impunity that has perpetuated Gaza’s suffering for decades.

Israeli airstrikes kill nearly 100 in Gaza as starvation crisis deepens



TEHRAN — Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip killed dozens more Palestinians on Saturday, intensifying the already dire situation in the besieged territory.

Hospital sources in Gaza told Al Jazeera that the death toll from strikes on Rafah has risen to 90, including about three dozen people who were trying to access aid.

The deadly bombardments come amid soaring hunger levels, as Israel’s blockade has forced many in Gaza—especially children—to dig through piles of rubbish in search of food.

The World Food Program (WFP) has warned that thousands of Palestinians in Gaza are on the “verge of catastrophic hunger,” with one in three residents going without food for days at a time.

In an urgent appeal issued Saturday, Gaza’s government media office called on the international community to open safe, permanent humanitarian corridors and end what it described as the deliberate politicization of aid. The statement, reported by Anadolu, also demanded an immediate lifting of the Israeli blockade that has pushed the population to the brink of starvation.

Al-Qassam signals shift in strategy

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Abu Ubaida’s speech marks a strategic pivot for Hamas. He emphasizes a focus on high-casualty operations and capturing occupation soldiers.

This reflects a tactical escalation by the armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, aimed at shifting battlefield dynamics and negotiation leverage.

His direct criticism of Arab and Islamic leadership signals growing frustration with regional inaction, while his praise for Yemen underscores a realignment of alliances among resistance movements.

Despite some Israeli officials stating the commander had been killed, the al-Qassam spokesman, appeared in a video address, his first since March 6.

He stated, “The current strategy of al-Qassam leadership is to inflict severe losses on the enemy through high-impact operations and to pursue the capture of enemy soldiers.”

He added that al-Qassam resistance fighters continue to surprise the enemy with new tactics and techniques learned from what he described as “the longest war in Palestinian history.”

Abu Ubaida warned the Israeli regime that “if it chooses to continue the war, it is effectively choosing to receive more dead soldiers in return.”

The al-Qassam commander harshly criticized the leaders of Arab and Islamic nations, saying that “the blood of tens of thousands of innocent people weighs heavily on the consciences of their leaders, elites, and scholars who have betrayed their people with their silence.”

He accused the Israeli occupation army of committing genocide under the gaze of these leaders, confident that there would be “no accountability, only silence and betrayal.”

Abu Ubaida extended his gratitude to all “free people around the world who stand in solidarity with Palestine, who try to break the siege and oppose the injustice in any way they can despite the risks.”

He specifically praised the people of Yemen, saying, “We send greetings to our dear peo-



ple in the land of wisdom and faith, Yemen, its armed forces, and our truthful brothers in Ansarallah.”

He noted that “Ansarallah in Yemen had opened an active front that has exposed the passivity and submissiveness of others in the region.”

This comes as the Yemeni Armed Forces announced they had carried out a precision military operation targeting Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv using a hypersonic ballistic missile named Palestine-2.

According to Brigadier General Yahya Saree, spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces, the missile “successfully struck its target,” causing millions of Israelis to flee to bomb shelters and forcing the suspension of air traffic at the airport.

Saree explained that the operation was “a response to the genocide in Gaza and a continuation of Yemen’s military support for the resistance.”

He stressed that “Yemen will continue its military operations until the aggression ends and the blockade on Gaza is lifted.”

The spokesman called on the Arab and Islamic nations to rise up in support of Gaza, urging “all the people of the Islamic world to take to the streets in support of Gaza, which is under a relentless siege and brutal aggression.”

The general added, “If you will not rise for your religion, then rise for your Arab identity. And if not for your Arab identity, then for your humanity.”

Saree warned that “the fate of Gaza is not isolated. If the criminal enemy succeeds in its plans for Gaza, then the rest of the region will be next, sooner or later.”

Iranian photog wins honorable mention at Canadian festival



TEHRAN – Amirhossein Honarvar, an Iranian photographer, has gained an honorable mention at the 2nd Fine Shot Photo Salon in Canada for his image of a traditional Givoh shoemaker at work.

The festival, held under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP) -- an international body recognized by UNESCO -- attracted photographers from over 45 countries, including Australia, China, the United States, France, Italy, Germany, and Brazil, CHTN reported on Saturday.

Honarvar, who serves as a staff member of

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, captured a master artisan crafting Givoh, a traditional Iranian lightweight footwear made from carpet yarn and leather. His photograph highlights this centuries-old craft, introducing the unique cultural heritage of Iran to a global audience.

Givoh, also known as Kalash, is a breathable shoe traditionally worn by men in various Iranian regions, prized for its lightness and ventilation through tiny pores. Though typically white, Givoh is also produced in red, blue, orange, and black variants and is sometimes worn by women during hot summers.

Iraqi Airways resumes flights to Iran's Rasht airport after a one-month hiatus

TEHRAN – Iraqi Airways has resumed its weekly flights to Rasht Airport in Iran's Gilan province after a nearly one-month suspension caused by the recent 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel.

Seyyed Mohsen Mirhosseini, the director of Gilan Airport, announced on Saturday that the airline restarted its services with 12 weekly round-trip flights, with plans to increase the number of flights in the near future.

"The resumption of Iraqi Airways flights brings hope for the expansion of commercial, tourism, and cultural relations between Gilan province and Iraq," Mirhosseini said.

Before the brief conflict, Iraqi Airways operated over 30 weekly round-trip flights between Iraq's major cities -- Baghdad, Basra, and Najaf -- and Rasht, highlighting the high passenger and cargo capacity between the two regions.

Known for its natural beauty, pleasant cli-



mate, and scenic beaches, Gilan remains a popular destination among Iraqi travelers.

The recent conflict, which began on June 13 following a large-scale aerial invasion by Israel, had temporarily halted almost all international and domestic services across the Islamic Republic.

Special supportive package ratified for Isfahan's handicrafts artisans

TEHRAN-- Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi, gave news of compiling and implementing special supportive packages for easing the production and exports of Isfahan handicrafts.

Speaking at a gathering with participation of Isfahan governor-general, Majlis lawmakers, high managers and artisans in Isfahan on Friday, she also gave news of forming specialized working group with executive powers for removing obstacles to exports particularly in the fields of precious and semi-precious metals like silver under the direct supervision of Isfahan Governor-General's Office, Shabestan news agency wrote.

She explained that following intensive meetings with artisans, senior national and provincial managers, important ratifications were implemented for supporting Isfahan's production and exports in less than 48 hours. The evaluations of silver exports will be conducted in Isfahan, she said, adding there is no need for artisans to visit Tehran.

Based on agreement with Technical -Vocational Organization, top handicraft masters

will be exempt from repeated tests, she said, adding that the new facilities have been considered for tax trainings and related exemptions.

Jalali-Dehkordi called approval of insurance, tax and financial facilities for handicrafts artisans as the other ratifications of the gathering.

Pointing to the active role of international organizations and target markets, she said Majlis lawmakers and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have entered the scene for marketing the handicrafts in neighboring countries and cooperation with embassies.

She said that the measures conducted in Isfahan is a great step toward removing the historical challenges facing the province's handicrafts.

With implementation of this supportive package, Isfahan as a great museum and workshop of Iran's handicrafts, can have integrated measures in training, production, showcasing and exports, she concluded.

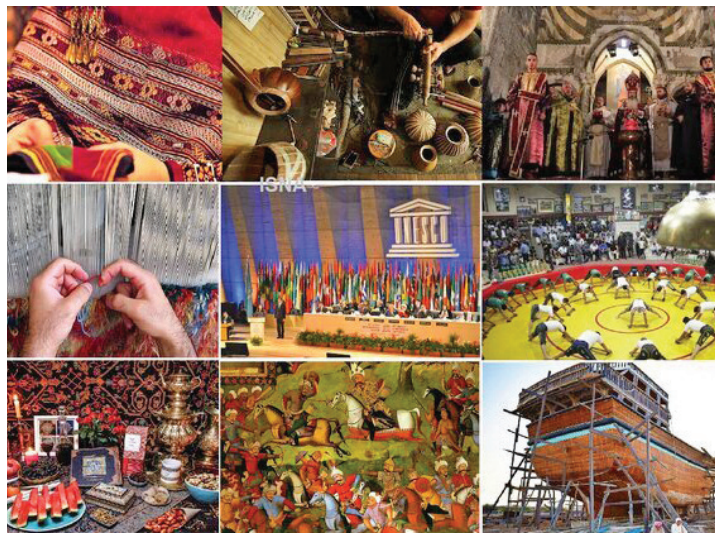
Tehran to host meeting of UNESCO-affiliated centers

TEHRAN – Iran has officially been selected to host the 2026 annual meeting of UNESCO Category 2 Centers active in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

The announcement was made by Ali Darabi, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of Iran and Chair of the Governing Board of the Tehran-based Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia.

The decision followed the 2025 virtual session of these centers, presided over by Fumiko Ohinata, Secretary of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Held online due to scheduling conflicts with the 2025 UNESCO General Assembly and the MONDIACULT World Conference in Spain, the meeting brought together over 80 participants, including directors of Category 2 Centers and international experts. Representatives from



centers in Algeria, Bulgaria, China, Iran, Japan, Peru, South Korea, the UAE, and other countries were in attendance.

In the first part of the session, the Tehran Centre presented a comprehensive report on its 2024 activities. Delivered by Director General Atousa Momeni, the report highlighted efforts in regional capacity-building, dig-

ital platform development, educational programs, and collaboration with local communities across 24 countries in West and Central Asia.

The second segment of the meeting focused on proposals for the 2025-2026 Action Plan, submitted by the Tehran Centre for review and eventual approval at the next session of the Gov-

erning Board.

Despite the 2025 meeting being held online, Ohinata confirmed Iran's candidacy to host the 2026 in-person session remains in place and is actively on the Secretariat's agenda.

Darabi underscored the strategic importance of the Tehran Centre in realizing the goals of the 2003 UNESCO Convention, noting its extensive geographical coverage and role as a professional partner to the Convention's Secretariat.

Category 2 Centers under the auspices of UNESCO are institutions established and supported by Member States to contribute to the execution of UNESCO's programs. They specialize in fields such as teacher training, educational planning, adult literacy, and intangible cultural heritage. These centers promote knowledge-sharing, regional networking, and capacity-building, reinforcing UNESCO's mission in their respective areas.

Secure depositories for museum treasures to be constructed in Tehran

TEHRAN — Ahmad Alavi, a senior official of the Tehran City Council, announced that plans have been approved to build four secure depository facilities designed to safeguard ancient artifacts and museum items during times of conflict.

He told ILNA: "Today, our problem is not depository. In fact, we don't have any shortage of depository as a storage for keeping the precious items. The problem is a lack of a secure place for museum items during a crisis, such as war. We have limited places for keeping museum items in Tehran."

On the construction of new depositories in Tehran, he said, "The issue was discussed during our sessions with Tehran City Council's Cultural Commission and the Cultural Heritage Ministry's Research Institute. What the Cultural Commission ratified was that we should oblige Tehran Municipality to find places in four spots of Tehran to establish the depositories during next Iranian year and we allocate a credit to establish for secure depositories and nine depositories for keeping the cultural heritage items. Since doing this needs lots of credit, we postponed it to the next year so that a budget will be considered for it."

According to the statement of the head of Iran's Directorate of Museums, there are only 68 temporary secure depositories across the country, of which only six depositories have the special museum standards.

Therefore, in line of safeguarding Tehran's

cultural identity, it was decided that the secure depositories are constructed for keeping the ancient and museum items in various parts of the capital city with scientific cooperation of head of Tehran Islamic City Council's Cultural Heritage Committee and head of Cultural Heritage Ministry's Research Institute during their joint session.

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

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

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

Reopening of Sheikh Abolhassan Kharghani Complex in Shahroud after restoration

it has drawn many researchers, pilgrims and lovers of Islamic mysticism.

Razavian explained that Sheikh Abolhassan Kharghani has been one of the great mystics of the fourth and fifth centuries of the Islamic calendar.

Valuable works such as Favateh al-Jamal, Risalat al-Khaif al-Ha'im, and Nur al-Ulum have been left behind by him, he added.

He emphasized that Sheikh Abolhassan Kharghani Complex has facilities such as library, residential suites, recreational space and proper tourism infrastructure.

Nationally registered under the number 645, it is considered one of important spiritual and cultural destinations of Semnan province, he added.

He expressed the hope that with reopening of the complex, the grounds are prepared for drawing tourists, improving spiritual tourism and boosting local economy.

The history has shown that Sheikh Abu Saeed Abu al-Khair, the famous mystic, and Abu Ali Sina, the famous philosopher, and Nasser Khosrow Ghojadi



were Iranian poets and thinkers who lived at the same time with Kharghani. Also, Khajeh Abdullah Ansari was one of the Sheikh's distinguished students. Bayazid Bastami, one of the prominent mystics of Iran, had announced his birth more than one hundred years before Kharghani's birth; It is narrated that Sheikh Bayazid visited the village once a year, where the graves of the martyrs were located. As he was passing by Kharqan, he was standing and breathing, and his followers asked him, "Sheikh, we do not hear anything." He said: Yes, I can smell a man from this region; A man whose name is Ali and whose nickname is Abu al-Hassan, he will be far ahead of me. Rumi, the great mystic of the seventh century AH, has arranged the story of the spiritual connection between Bayazid Bastami and Sheikh Abolhas-

san Kharghani and his famous prophecy after one hundred and seventeen years in the fourth book of his Masnavi book, entitled Revelation of the Heart.

It is said that Sheikh Abolhassan Kharghani had written on the entrance of his Khanghah: "Whoever enters this house, give him bread and do not ask about his faith. For whoever is worthy of a Soul granted by the Almighty, is certainly worthy of Bol-Hassan's bread. This beautiful and eloquent sentence is also engraved on the facade of his tomb today.

The complex is like an Iranian garden with a blue water flowing through it and it is a pleasant place for travelers to explore.

Other attractions near this tomb include Bayazid Bastami Mosque, Bastam Mosque, Cloud Forest, Mojen Waterfall and Tuskistan Road.

National document on quantum science, technology put into effect

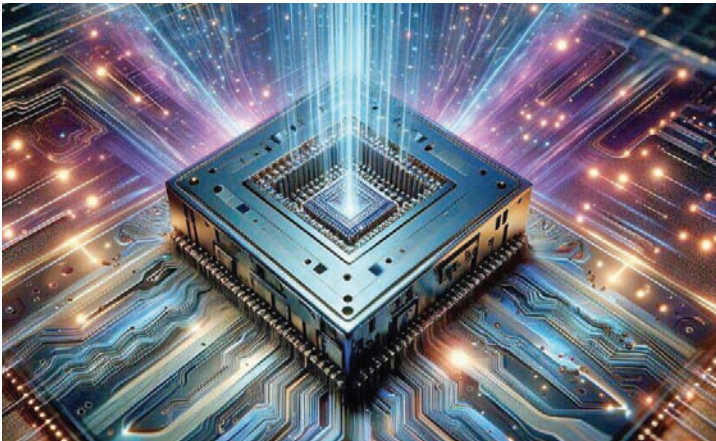
TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has declared the implementation of the ‘national document on quantum science and technology’.

The document is a comprehensive set of main objectives, assessment indicators, national strategies, implementing and monitoring mechanisms, IRNA quoted Abdolhassan Bahrami, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, as saying.

This document has been formulated as a roadmap for the progress of research, expansion of technology, and commercialization of quantum technologies, the official added.

In this line, quantum science and technology headquarters will be established to enhance coordination among relevant organizations, develop an implementation roadmap, pursue the development of regulations, observe national and global advancements, as well as propose amendments to revise the document.

To implement the document, the vice-presidency, in cooperation with other relevant insti-



tutions, will initially provide a national plan for division of labor in the quantum science and technology sector. It will be followed by providing support for the development of applications, commercialization, and participation of knowledge-based companies to make the best use of domestic innovative capacities.

Iran’s ranking in Quantum Science, Technology

According to data released by Web of Science (WoS) in 2024, Iran’s ranking in Quantum Science and Technology publications improved from 23 in 2014 to 16 in 2023, placing the country top among Islamic nations in all quantum technology fields.

Over the past decade, the country’s best ranking in quantum technology is 15, from 2019 to 2021, IRNA reported.

Quantum technologies include three main categories, namely quantum computing, quantum communication, and quantum sensing and measurement.

Quantum computing includes photonic networks, superconducting circuits, spin qubits, neutral (cold) atoms, and trapped ions. Quantum communication involves quantum key distribution, quantum telemetry, quantum repeater, and sensors. Quantum sensing encompasses quantum clocks, quantum imaging, and quantum radars.

Iran’s best global ranking is in quantum remote sensing technology. The country is ranked eighth worldwide.

The country’s other global ranking include photonic network technologies, 17; superconducting circuits, 18; spin qubit, 16; neutral (cold) atoms, 21; Trapped ions, 19; quantum key distribution, 24; quantum repeater, 26; quantum clock, 12; quantum imaging, 14; and quantum radar, 15.

In quantum remote sensing, Yazd University, University of Tehran, and University of Mohaqeq Ardabili ranked first to third, respectively. Yazd University also ranked first in Quantum repeater.

Shahed University; University of Tehran, and Imam Khomeini International University ranked first respectively in superconducting circuits, spin qubits, and nuclear atoms.

Sharif University of Technology is placed first in photonic networks, trapped ions, as well as quantum key distribution.

In quantum clock, quantum imaging, and quantum radar, University of Mazandaran, Tarbiat Modares University, and Urmia University are placed first.

Health services being solarized in Sistan-Baluchestan

TEHRAN – The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in close cooperation with the Chabahar Department of Health and the local electricity authority, is installing hybrid solar power systems in Primary Health Care facilities to ensure essential health services are not interrupted across Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the solarization of health centers in Chabahar and four neighboring districts—Konarak, Qasre Qand, Dashtiari, and Zarabad will support the health facilities in continuation of essential health services during electricity cuts.

A comprehensive field assessment across eight rural primary healthcare facilities in this province in May 2025, conducted by UNICEF and Chabahar University of Medical Sciences, indicated a critical lack of reliable electricity that endangers essential services such as vaccine storage, safe childbirth, water pumping, and sterilization, the UNICEF website reported in a press release on July 15.

In response, a solarization initiative has been launched, with six facilities selected for the first phase. The project will equip centres with photovoltaic panels, battery storage, and smart load controllers to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

The initiative includes a clear roadmap for procurement, installation, and maintenance, with active involvement of local engineers and health workers to ensure long-term sustainability.

To ensure sustainability, UNICEF will provide training for the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) staff and PHC technicians, with maintenance duties gradually handed over to local authorities through

formal agreements.

In Sistan-Baluchestan, one of Iran’s most underserved and disaster-prone provinces, this renewable energy project offers a model for climate-smart, self-reliant healthcare. Supported by the Republic of Korea, it strengthens essential health and WASH services, ensuring continued care for mothers and children during emergencies and advancing UNICEF’s commitment to resilient, equitable access for all.

Recent health services

Supported by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) has staffed and equipped 13 Primary Health Care (PHC) centres in highly refugee-populated regions in Sistan-Baluchestan and Khorasan Razavi provinces.

The joint effort aims at strengthening healthcare services for vulnerable children and their families. The health services cover more than 100,000 people, including both refugees and host community members, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on April 17.

Furthermore, UNICEF’s response to the devastating floods in 2024 that struck Chabahar County in Sistan-Baluchestan province included rapidly deploying two prefabricated mobile PHC units. The floods caused widespread damage to buildings and infrastructure, leaving communities, particularly children and women, in urgent need of healthcare support.

These units, deployed in collaboration with the MoHME, were designed to ensure the continuity of PHC services for flood-affected populations, particularly in districts where healthcare access was severely disrupted.

This intervention has reached 5,310 beneficiaries, including 500 children, reinforcing UNICEF’s dedication to enhancing healthcare access for the most vulnerable populations across the country.

The PHC centres provide an inclusive package of health and nutrition interventions, catering to all age groups, with a particular emphasis on children and women of reproductive age. These facilities serve as the first point of contact within the healthcare system, playing a pivotal role in delivering comprehensive and accessible care. Recognizing the importance of equitable access, UNICEF has ensured that these services are inclusive and do not exclude individuals with special needs.

In February, the two organizations cooperated to provide medical care to children under the age of five who are suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in Zabol, south-eastern Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), UNICEF has been providing free treatment to these children since September 2024.

At Amir Almomenin Hospital, more than 54 children with SAM have already received critical medical care, ensuring they get the life-saving treatment they need. The initiative not only enhances access to curative services but also focuses on children with disabilities and those most in need, ensuring no child is left behind.

Recognizing the deeper issues of food insecurity, this project will continue throughout 2025. In just three months, a complementary social protection programme will provide households with SAM cases cash cards, helping families purchase nutritious food and improve overall well-being.

WHO verifies Iran’s elimination of measles, rubella in 2023

TEHRAN – The regional verification commission for measles and rubella (RVC MR), affiliated with the World Health Organization (WHO), has verified the elimination of the two diseases in the country in 2023.

Measles is potentially a deadly disease. Severe complications include pneumonia, diarrhea, blindness, and encephalitis (brain swelling). Measles vaccines (two doses) are administered at the ages of 12 and 18 months.

The measles vaccination program in Iran started in 1984 when 34 percent of the population was vaccinated in the first year and 90 to 95 percent of the population after 6 years. Also in 2003, 33 million people were vaccinated with a national program to eradicate measles in the country.

The WHO director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), Hannah Balkhi, has lauded the health ministry’s efforts and achievements on the elimination of measles and rubella in a letter to the Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi, ISNA reported.

According to the report on the 7th RVC MR in EMRO, Iran has successfully fulfilled all the criteria for measles and rubella elimination.

This achievement is the result of coordinated planning, widespread vaccination, epidemiologic surveillance, and comprehensive participation of the country’s healthcare system. It is a turning point in improving public health, which will strengthen Iran’s position in achieving goals at the regional and international levels.

Measles vaccination

In April, the deputy health minister Alireza Raeisi said some 98 percent of the target population in the national program for the immunization against measles had been vac-

inated.

However, ten to twenty thousand children under the age of one have yet to get vaccinated, and about five percent of the vaccinated individuals develop measles, IRNA quoted Raeisi as saying.

In April 2023, the World Health Organization confirmed that measles and rubella had been eradicated in Iran.

However, concerns about the spread of measles in the country are growing. Disrupted vaccination programs in countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan are the main risk factor threatening Iranians’ health, Raeisi stressed.

Over the past Iranian years that ended on March 19, some 603 cases of measles were identified. Iranian and foreign nationals made up 91 percent and nine percent of the cases, respectively. Chabahar, Ahvaz, Hormozgan, and Zahedan, with 97 patients, 86 patients, 72 patients, and 68 patients, had the highest number of infected cases, the official noted.

Around 33 percent of cases are infants under one year of age, and children aged 1- 4 comprised 30 percent. Sadly, four infants under the age of six lost their lives, mainly due to malnutrition or underlying medical conditions, Raeisi added.

So far, about 82 confirmed cases have been reported since the beginning of the current Iranian year, the official said.

In May 2024, Iran received a total of 160 measles antibody kits with the help of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

The procurement aimed to enhance measles diagnostic capacities in Iran.

Iranian students shine at International Mathematical Olympiad

From page 1 ▶ Bardia Khosh-Eqbal and Mehdi Aqajanloo grabbed gold medals, Mohammad-Reza Attaranzadeh, Mohammad-Sajad Memari won silver medals, and Amir-Hossein Zarei secured silver medals, while Parsa Tajallaei won a bronze.

The IMO is the largest and most prestigious of all the international Olympiads, having grown from seven countries to over a hundred each year. IMO brings the brightest young minds from around the world and represents the culmination of many years of mathematical endeavour and hundreds of attempts at solving problems. Australia has participated since 1981 and has hosted only once before (Canberra, 1988).

The team had ranked 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 med-

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

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

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

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.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year’s budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه‌ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران، موضوع توجه به دوچرخه‌سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تأکید قرار گرفته است.



SAR dogs training drill held

The Iranian Red Crescent Society held a drill on Wednesday to prepare search and rescue (SAR) dogs for real-world scenarios to locate missing persons after disasters.

SAR dogs are highly trained canines used to locate missing or trapped individuals, often in challenging environments like wilderness areas, disaster zones, or after avalanches.



JULY 20, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Being well-off in exile is like home, and poverty at home is like being in exile.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:38 Dawn: 3:23 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:04 (tomorrow)

Iranian director to restage “Glengarry Glen Ross” in Tehran

TEHRAN- Iranian director Farid Rahmati plans to restage an adaptation of American playwright and filmmaker David Mamet's play “Glengarry Glen Ross” at Da Theater Hall in Tehran on July 30.

The performance was previously staged at Entezami Hall of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran last year.

Mahyar Eslami, Hadi Ahmadi, Kamran Eqtadari, Majid Ahangaran, and Behnam Momeni are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage until August 21.

“Glengarry Glen Ross” is a Pulitzer Prize-winning play that offers a gritty portrayal of four desperate salesmen who will stop at nothing to succeed. The play follows two intense days in the lives of these struggling agents, who resort to deceit, manipulation, and even burglary to close deals and make a living. The world premiere of “Glengarry Glen Ross” took place at London's National Theatre in 1983, under the direction of Bill Bryden. The production received widespread acclaim for its exceptional ensemble acting.

The play made its Broadway debut in 1984, at the John Golden Theatre, where it ran for 378 performances until its closing in 1985. Directed by Gregory Mosher, the production featured a talented cast including Joe Mantegna, Mike Nussbaum, Robert Prosky, Lane Smith, James Tolkan, Jack Wallace, and J. T. Walsh. In 1992, a film adaptation of “Glengarry Glen Ross” was released, directed by James Foley and written by David Mamet. The movie boasted an impressive cast, including Al Pa-



cino, Jack Lemmon, Alec Baldwin, Ed Harris, Alan Arkin, Kevin Spacey, and Jonathan Pryce.

The play's characters are complex and multifaceted. Richard “Ricky” Roma is the most successful salesman in the office, but his methods are ruthless and dishonest. Shelley “The Machine” Levene is an older salesman who has fallen on hard times and is desperate to make a sale. James Lingk is a timid man who

becomes Roma's latest client, while John Williamson is the office manager who is constantly under pressure from the salesmen. George Aaronow is an aging salesman with low self-esteem who is struggling to keep up with his colleagues. Dave Moss is a big-mouthed salesman with big dreams and schemes. Baylen is a police detective who becomes involved in the office's struggles.

David Mamet is a renowned American playwright, filmmaker, and author. He has won numerous accolades, including a Pulitzer Prize and Tony nominations for his plays “Glengarry Glen Ross” and “Speed-the-Plow.” Mamet's breakthrough came with his trio of off-Broadway plays in the 1970s, including “The Duck Variations,” and “American Buffalo.”

His feature films as writer and director include “House of Games,” “Homicide,” and “Heist.” He has also written screenplays for “The Untouchables,” “Wag the Dog,” and “Hannibal.” Mamet's literary works include “On Directing Film,” a commentary on film-making, and “The Old Religion,” a novel about the lynching of Leo Frank.

Tehran exhibition honors Hazrat Abbas (AS) through Ghahve-Khaneh paintings

TEHRAN – The “Mir-e Alam-dar” exhibition, centered on Hazrat Abbas (AS), the brother of Imam Hussein (AS) and the standard-bearer of the Imam's group during the battle of Ashura in 680, inaugurated in Tehran's Arasbaran Cultural Center on Friday.

The five-day exhibition features traditional Ghahve-Khaneh paintings by Iranian artists Saeid and Soheil Mosayyebi, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The artworks depict stories rooted in the artists' imagination, created with oil paints, narrating the eternal struggle between good and evil, illustrating the heroic sacrifices, epic battles, and the innocence of revered religious figures and national heroes, the report added.

The statement of the exhibition reads: “Coinciding with the month of Muharram, my father, esteemed artist Saeid Mosayyebi, and I, Soheil Mosayyebi, have decided to honor the memory of the Ghahve-Khaneh painters—those imaginative artists whose works mirror the beliefs and emotions of our people. We aim to continue their legacy, pay tribute to the martyrs of Karbala, and depict scenes of heroism and sacrifice through our brushes—stories of the tragedy of Karbala, centered on the martyrdom of Hazrat Abbas (AS).”

The exhibition will be running until July 27.

Ghahve-Khaneh paintings are a unique form of Iranian folk-narrative painting that emerged in the 19th century. The term “Ghahve-Khaneh” trans-



lates to “coffee house” in Persian, as these paintings were predominantly displayed in traditional Iranian coffee houses.

Ghahve-Khaneh paintings are characterized by their vibrant colors, intricate details, and narrative storytelling. They often depict scenes from Iranian folklore, epic tales, historical events, and everyday life. These paintings were primarily created by itinerant artists who traveled from one coffee house to another, displaying their artworks to entertain and engage the patrons.

One distinct feature of Ghahve-Khaneh paintings is their narrative structure. The artists used a sequential storytelling approach, presenting a series of interconnected scenes within a single painting. This technique allowed viewers to follow the story from one scene to another, creating a sense of visual storytelling akin to a comic strip or a storyboard.

The subject matter of Ghahve-Khaneh paintings is diverse and reflects the cultural, social, and historical contexts of Iran. It encompasses a wide range of themes, including love stories, mythological legends, religious narratives, historical events, and social commentaries. These paintings often highlight traditional Iranian values, customs, and beliefs, serving as a visual representation of the collective memory and cultural identity of the Iranian people.

In terms of artistic style, Ghahve-Khaneh paintings combine elements of traditional Persian miniature painting, popular art, and storytelling traditions. The artists employed intricate detailing, rich color palettes, and stylized figures to create visually captivating compositions. The use of bold lines, exaggerated proportions, and expressive gestures adds a dynamic and lively quality to the paintings.

Ghahve-Khaneh paintings not only served as a form of entertainment but also provided a medium for social and political commentary. The artists often incorporated subtle satirical elements and allegorical symbolism to critique societal norms, political events, and the power dynamics of the time. These paintings acted as a means of communication, reflecting the aspirations, concerns, and aspirations of the Iranian people.

While Ghahve-Khaneh paintings were primarily displayed in coffee houses, they have gained recognition as an important part of Iranian cultural heritage. Today, they are appreciated as unique examples of folk art and serve as a visual window into the traditions, stories, and artistic expressions of the past. Efforts have been made to preserve and promote Ghahve-Khaneh paintings, ensuring their continued appreciation and understanding for future generations.

Tarantino's nonfiction book “Cinema Speculation” published in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the nonfiction book “Cinema Speculation” by American filmmaker Quentin Tarantino has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Hamidreza Khatibi has translated the book and Hermes Publication has brought it out in 491 pages, IBNA reported.

Originally published in 2022, “Cinema Speculation” is Tarantino's debut work of nonfiction and combines film criticism, film theory, a feat of reporting, and wonderful personal history.

In addition to being among the most celebrated of contemporary filmmakers, Tarantino is possibly the most joyously infectious movie lover alive. For years he has touted in interviews his eventual turn to writing books about films.

The book is a collection of essays organized around key American films from the 1970s, which Tarantino saw in his youth, ranging from blaxploitation films to all the Best Picture nominees of 1970. It was inspired by the film writing of critic Pauline Kael.

The first and last chapters are autobiographical. Two other chapters are a homage

to film critic Kevin Thomas, and a comparison of two generations of filmmakers. The rest of the chapters are essays about films such as “Dirty Harry,” “Taxi Driver,” and “Escape from Alcatraz.”

Quentin Tarantino, 62, is an American filmmaker, actor, and author. His films are characterized by graphic violence, extended dialogue, and references to popular culture. His work has earned a cult following alongside critical and commercial success; he has been named by some as the most influential director of his generation and has received numerous awards and nominations, including two Academy Awards, two BAFTA Awards, and four Golden Globe Awards. His films have grossed more than \$1.9 billion worldwide.

Tarantino began his career with the independent crime film “Reservoir Dogs” (1992). His second film, the crime comedy-drama “Pulp Fiction” (1994), was a major success and won numerous awards, including the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or and the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. He next wrote and starred in the action horror film “From Dusk till Dawn” (1996). His third film as director, “Jackie Brown” (1997),

paid homage to blaxploitation films.

Tarantino wrote and directed the martial arts films “Kill Bill: Volume 1” (2003) and “Kill Bill: Volume 2” (2004), with both volumes combined regarded as a single film. He then made the exploitation-slasher film “Death Proof” (2007), which was part of a double feature with Robert Rodriguez, released under the collective title “Grindhouse.”

His next film, “Inglourious Basterds” (2009), followed an alternate account of World War II. He followed this with “Django Unchained” (2012), a slave revenge Spaghetti Western, which won him his second Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. His eighth film, “The Hateful Eight” (2015), was a revisionist Western thriller and opened to audiences with a roadshow release.

Tarantino's ninth and most recent film, “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood” (2019), was a comedy-drama set in the late 1960s about the transition of Old Hollywood to New Hollywood; his debut novel, a novelization of the film, was published in 2021. He has tentative plans for his tenth film to be his last before retiring from filmmaking.

IAF cinematheque to show Vittorio De Sica's “Two Women”

TEHRAN – The cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen the 1960 war drama film “Two Women,” directed by Vittorio De Sica, on Monday.

The screening is set for 6 p.m. and will be followed by a review session in the presence of the film critic Sahar Asrazad, Honaronline reported.

Based on the 1957 novel of the same name by Alberto Moravia, the film tells the story of a woman trying to protect her young daughter from the horrors of war.

The story is fictional but based on actual events of 1944 in Rome and rural Lazio, during the Marocchinate, in which Moroccan troops of the French Expeditionary Corps embarked on a wave of mass rapes and murders while supposedly serving the Allied campaign for the liberation of Italy from the reign of Benito Mussolini.

The 100-minute film stars Sophia Loren, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Eleonora Brown, and Raf Vallone, among others.

In the movie, Cesira (Loren) is a widowed shopkeeper, raising her devoutly religious twelve-year-old daughter, Rosetta (Brown), in Rome during World War II. Following the bombing of Rome, mother and daughter flee to Cesira's native Ciociaria, a rural, mountainous province of central Italy.

After they arrive at Ciociaria, Cesira attracts the attention of Michele (Belmondo), a young local intellectual with communist sympathies. Rosetta sees Michele as a father figure and develops a strong bond with him. Michele is later taken prisoner by German soldiers, who force him to act as a guide through the mountainous terrain.

After the Allies capture Rome, in June 1944, Cesira and Rosetta decide to head back to that city,

When the two manage to find shelter at a neighboring village, Rosetta disappears during the night, sending Cesira into a panic. She thinks Rosetta has gone to look for Michele, but later finds out that Michele was killed by the Germans.

Rosetta returns, having been out with an older boy. Cesira is outraged and upset, slapping Rosetta for her behavior, but Rosetta remains unresponsive, emotionally distant. When Cesira informs Rosetta of Michele's death, Rosetta begins to cry. The film ends with Cesira comforting the child.

Sophia Loren's performance received critical acclaim, earning her an Academy Award for Best Actress, among other accolades.

Vittorio De Sica (1901-1974) was an Italian film director and actor, a leading figure in the neorealist movement.

Widely considered one of the



most influential filmmakers in the history of cinema, four of the films he directed won Academy Awards: “Sciuscià” and “Bicycle Thieves” (honorary), while “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” and “Il giardino dei Finzi Contini” won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

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

Cartoon of Day



Aid in Gaza

Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey