

Iran urges the UN to break its silence as full report on Israeli war crimes is submitted

Child Killers' Crimes Recorded



The photo shows a child's bedroom wall destroyed by Israeli strikes in Tehran's Narmak neighborhood during the recent 12-day imposed war.

Senior adviser to Iranian Leader meets Putin in Moscow: Kremlin

TEHRAN – Ali Larijani, senior adviser to Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, held talks on nuclear affairs with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Sunday, according to the Kremlin.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated the high-level discussions focused on the "escalating situation" in West Asia and developments surrounding Iran's nuclear program.

According to Peskov, Larijani conveyed Tehran's assessment of regional tensions and nuclear challenges, while Putin reiterated Moscow's commitment to stabilizing the region through political solutions. ▶ Page 2

Iran, E3 to resume nuclear talks amid rising tensions: report

TEHRAN – Tehran and the European troika (E3) of France, Germany, and Britain have reportedly agreed in principle to resume negotiations over Iran's civilian nuclear program, though critical details regarding timing and location remain unresolved.

According to the Tasnim News Agency, the talks—expected to occur at the deputy foreign minister level—aim to revive diplomatic efforts suspended since June's military escalation.

While the hosting country remains undecided, the dialogue marks a tentative step toward de-escalation following months of provocative maneuvers and inflammatory rhetoric by the E3, ▶ Page 2

Exclusive Political analyst warns Syria is next front in Israel's colonial roadmap

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN - In the aftermath of Israel's recent airstrikes on Syria, targeting areas near Damascus and the southern regions under the pretext of protecting minorities, analysts are probing the deeper strategic objectives behind Tel Aviv's escalating military posture across the region.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, political commentator Munir Daair offers a sweeping analysis of the broader geopolitical design behind Israel's actions, including the colonial logic underpinning its repeated aggressions from Gaza to Syria.

Daair argues that these attacks are part of a long-term project, fully backed by Western powers, to redraw the Middle East through fragmentation, destabilization, and enforced fatigue among resistance forces.

Israeli occupation and aggression stir Syrian popular resistance

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — A tentative ceasefire appears to be holding in southern Syria after a brutal week marked by deadly clashes and escalating tensions. Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the truce on Saturday, yet the underlying realities on the ground reveal a much deeper and more troubling story.

The clashes, which erupted in the province of Suwayda on July 13, involved armed Druze groups and Bedouin tribes — communities tragically caught in the crossfire of broader regional power struggles. Under the guise of protecting the Druze minority, Israel launched a series of aggressive and unprovoked strikes across southern Syria and even targeted the capital, Damascus, on Wednesday. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reports that the death toll from violence has now tragically surpassed 1,000 people.

Georges Abdallah set to arrive in Beirut this week

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—After more than 40 years of arbitrary detention, a French court on Thursday ordered the conditional release of Lebanese leftist activist Georges Abdallah, 74, who is being held in France on alleged charges of assassinating an Israeli diplomat and an American in 1982.

The ruling is the culmination of a long legal and political struggle waged by Abdallah's supporters, which played a decisive role in the decision to release him.

Abdallah praised this role during his meeting with French radical leftist MP Andrée Touraine in his cell at Lannemezan prison in southern France, noting that "the reason for his release is a comprehensive dynamic mobilization of men and women abroad."

Based on the French judicial decision, Abdallah, who is considered one of the longest-serving prisoners in France and the world (arrested in 1984), will be released on July 25.

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Nation honors martyrs of culture, art, media in "Forever Iran"

TEHRAN – Vahdat Hall in Tehran will be hosting a ceremony on Tuesday to honor the memory of martyrs from the realms of culture, art, and media who were killed tragically during the 12-day resistance against the Zionist regime.

Entitled "Forever Iran", the event will pay tribute to the martyrs, honor their families and commemorate their sacrifices in a dedicated 12-day period of resistance against the Zionist enemy, ISNA reported on Sunday.

The national ceremony, hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, will be attended by a distinguished assembly of officials, artists, writers, Qur'anic organizations, members of cultural and artistic associations of mosques, intellectuals, and media professionals, the report added. ▶ Page 8

From the flame to Michelangelo, and from Michelangelo to the mouth harp: the struggle for human art

By Kurosh Alyani
Iranian cultural critic

TEHRAN – Before the accumulation of colonial wealth and the rise of institutional gatekeeping, art existed in forms that were raw, localized, and intimately bound to lived experience. It emerged through craft, ritual, oral expression, and communal aesthetics—untethered from formal complexity or market logic. These early forms were not simplistic in meaning, only in structure; they communicated grief, celebration, cosmology, and survival in languages shaped by environment and necessity. There were no academies to certify, no galleries to curate. Artistic legitimacy came from shared participation and resonant expression, not technical mastery. This was art as presence, not performance—unfiltered, embodied, and collectively understood. ▶ Page 8

RAI signs \$176m railway investment agreement to upgrade passenger fleet

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) signed an investment agreement worth 882 trillion rials (approximately \$176 million) with Raja Rail Transportation Company and Rail Tarabar Saba Company to develop and upgrade the country's passenger rail fleet.

The agreement was signed on Sunday in the presence of the minister of transport and urban development, the head of the Iranian parliament's civil engineering committee, the managing director of RAI, and senior officials from Raja, Rail Tarabar Saba, the Fuel Consumption Optimization Company, and Wagon Pars. ▶ Page 4



650,000 children in Gaza at risk of death

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The blockade imposed by the Israeli occupation regime on Gaza has placed 650,000 starving Palestinian children at risk of death.

The occupation regime continues its starvation campaign in Gaza, putting hundreds of thousands of children at risk of death and blocking desperately needed humanitarian assistance.

According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, the consequences are dire.

With the ongoing blockade, an unprecedented number of people, of all ages, are arriving at field hospital emergency rooms suffering from extreme exhaustion and malnutrition. ▶ Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

‘Dirty campaign with political goals’

In a note, Ham Miham addressed Axios' claim about the option of stopping enrichment in Iran at Russia's request and wrote: Last week, after the Axios news outlet, citing Western diplomats, claimed that Russian President Putin had suggested in a message to Iran that the Islamic Republic accept the option of halting enrichment on its soil in the negotiations, a new controversy emerged about the Iran nuclear case. As one of Iran's main diplomatic supporters in the nuclear talks, Russia had supported Iran's right to enrich uranium in recent years and had blamed the Western governments, especially the United States that withdrew from the JCPOA, for the controversy surrounding Iran's nuclear program. The Russian Foreign Ministry called the claim by Axios a "dirty campaign with political goals" to damage Tehran-Moscow relations. The goal is clear: to create discord and pessimism between countries that have established good and constructive relations with each other. Our relationship with Russia is one based on respect and mutual interests. Russians know very well that the Islamic Republic of Iran makes independent decisions on all matters related to foreign policy, including the nuclear issue, and the Kremlin has always respected these independent decisions.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Targeting Weizmann or world leadership!

In an analysis, Vatan-e-Emrooz addressed Iran's detailed attacks on The Weizmann Institute of Science and wrote: From Iran's view, the attack on this institute may be interpreted as a retaliatory measure in response to Israel's attack in June.

This attack could also indicate an increase in Iran's missile capabilities and send a message about its deterrence power, counterattack or countermeasures, but from Israel's view, the dimensions of this attack cannot be easily repaired.

Iran's attack has caused so much damage to this institute and has set back its strategic importance to such an extent that Zionist officials are promising to rebuild it by saying, "Israel will return to world leadership." This was not a simple scientific center, but rather a key center in the development of Israel's advanced technologies. However, targeting this institution should also be considered an important part of the future geopolitical and regional security competition between Iran and Israel.

Iran, Russia to launch joint naval search and rescue drill in Caspian Sea



The photo shows "Deylaman" destroyer which is the newest, most advanced, and fifth vessel of the Mowj-class destroyers of the Iranian Navy.

TEHRAN — Iran is set to host a three-day multinational naval search and rescue exercise, CASAREX 2025, in the Caspian Sea beginning tomorrow.

The exercise will bring together naval forces from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, with observers from other Caspian littoral states also expected to attend.

The Combined At-Sea Search and Rescue Exercise (CASAREX 2025) is being organized under the banner "Together for a Safe and Secure Caspian Sea," and will be hosted by the Northern Fleet of Iran's Army Navy.

The drill aims to simulate complex maritime emergency scenarios and test the readiness and coordination of participating forces in disaster response and rescue operations.

Khorasan: How to respond to hybrid war

In a recent commentary, Khorasan addressed the developments following the Iran-Israel conflict in June. It warned that new tensions emerging in Syria and Iraq signal a broader strategy by the U.S. and Israel to destabilize regional nations, aiming to disintegrate them and extend insecurity toward Iran's borders. The commentary also criticized Britain, France, and Germany for failing to uphold their commitments to the JCPOA and for attempting to trigger the snapback mechanism. These moves—both overt and covert—are viewed as elements of a wider hybrid war targeting Iran. The response to such a war, it asserted, must be multifaceted, combining offensive and defensive actions. As the armed forces continue to bolster their readiness, Iran's diplomatic apparatus must mobilize all available legal and communicative tools. According to the piece, the enemy is wounded and now focused on probing Iran's vulnerabilities. While Iranians have consistently demonstrated resilience in defending their homeland and ideals, the commentary emphasized that one of the key factors behind their continued strength is national unity. Preserving this unity, it urged, requires vigilance and active participation from all Iranians.

Iran: European purpose in snapback threat

In an interview with Heidar Ali Masoudi, a professor of international relations from Shahid Beheshti University, the Iran newspaper examined Europe's main goal in setting a deadline for the snapback mechanism. He said: It seems that Europe's ultimate goal in setting a deadline for activating the snapback mechanism by the end of August is not necessarily intended to restore Security Council sanctions. What is seen is an attempt to put political pressure on Iran, with the aim of pressuring Iran to give nuclear concessions or even on other issues, and paving the way for the Europeans to return to the negotiation process. The Europeans' preferred scenario is not to intensify international pressure, but to redefine their position in the nuclear diplomacy. In this context, one can get the impression that Europe is still trying to move within the framework of the previous order and its diplomatic principles. It is not that Europe has completely distanced itself from its multilateral diplomacy, but rather it continues to try to play the role of an active mediator, although it also uses pressure tools for this purpose.

Senior adviser to Iranian Leader meets Putin in Moscow: Kremlin

From page 1 ► The meeting, not previously disclosed on either government's official agenda, yielded no immediate public details beyond Peskov's brief statement.

The consultation between Larijani and Putin highlighted the ongoing diplomatic engagement between Tehran and Moscow, set against a backdrop of heightened regional tensions following the Israeli regime's U.S.-backed 12-day military campaign against Iran, which resulted in the martyrdom of over 1,060 Iranians, including civilians, scientists, and military commanders.

President Putin has condemned Israel's military aggression as "categorically unacceptable" and a violation of the U.N. Charter.

However, when asked about the possibility of providing defensive aid to Iran during a news conference on June 20, amid Israeli aggression against Iran, Putin redirected the



Ali Larijani and Vladimir Putin photographed during their meeting in Sochi, Russia, in 2015.

audience's attention to "the fact that almost two million Russian-speaking people live in Israel," adding that "it is almost a Russian-speaking country today."

Russia, a principal signatory to

the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has said it is willing to play a mediating role between Tehran and Washington.

The Putin-Larijani meeting follows Iranian Foreign Minister Ab-

bas Araghchi's diplomatic mission to Moscow hours before the announcement of a halt in fighting between Iran and the Israeli regime.

Araghchi delivered a personal message from Ayatollah Khamenei to Putin, coming just one day after the U.S. joined Israel in launching coordinated airstrikes on Iranian nuclear infrastructure, targeting key sites such as Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan.

Russian-Iranian relations have continued to evolve since the ratification of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership agreement in early 2024.

Signed during President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Moscow and approved by both parliaments, the treaty established a framework for cooperation in security, trade, transport, and energy.

It also included provisions for collaboration in areas such as science, education, and culture, indicating a mutual interest in strengthening bilateral ties.

Iran, E3 to resume nuclear talks amid rising tensions: report

From page 1 ► particularly as the planned meeting would mark Iran's first in-person engagement with Western powers since the halt in fighting during the U.S.-Israeli 12-day war on Iran.

The development follows a teleconference on Thursday between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his European counterparts alongside EU Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas.

Araghchi explicitly demanded that the E3 abandon their "worn-out policies of threat and pressure," particularly the looming activation of the UN sanctions "snapback" mechanism.

"If EU/E3 want to have a role, they should act responsibly and put aside these policies," he declared, emphasizing that Europe lacks "absolutely no moral and legal ground" to trigger snapback.

Snapback sanctions—which would automatically reinstate stringent UN measures including arms embargoes, asset freezes, and travel bans—have become a focal point of contention.

European powers, with coordination of U.S., had earlier set an end-of-August deadline for Iran to demonstrate compliance with nuclear obligations, warning they

would initiate the snapback process unless Tehran delivered "concrete results."

Araghchi, however, squarely blamed the U.S. for the collapse of diplomacy, stating: "It was the U.S. that withdrew from a two-year negotiated deal. And it was the US that left the negotiation table in June this year and chose a military option instead."

Iran's Special Envoy for West Asia, Mohammad-Reza Raouf-Sheibani, echoed this defiance, telling Al Mayadeen that Tehran "will not back down in the face of any Western pressure or threats to activate the snapback mechanism."

Pezeshkian: Iran will never bow to pressure, stands firm on legal nuclear rights

TEHRAN — Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has reaffirmed Iran's unwavering commitment to international law while stressing that Tehran will not yield to coercion or tolerate the denial of its legal rights, particularly in the context of its peaceful nuclear program.

Speaking in a phone call with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Saturday, President Pezeshkian underlined the transparency of Iran's nuclear activities and reiterated the Islamic Republic's longstanding cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"Iran has nothing to hide. Our nuclear program has always been peaceful and is fully supervised by the IAEA," he stated. "However, we categorically reject any attempt to exert pressure or strip the Iranian nation of its legal entitlements."

He further emphasized that Iran's nuclear doctrine is rooted in a binding religious decree (fatwa) issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, which strictly prohibits the development or use of nuclear weapons.

Pezeshkian expressed regret that despite years of cooperation and inspections, Iran's nuclear program continues to be the target of baseless accusations, misinformation campaigns, and politically motivated media narratives.

The Iranian president also addressed the recent Israeli and American military operations

against Iran, saying that Israel's 12-day assault—backed by Washington—was launched while Iran was engaged in indirect nuclear negotiations with the United States.

"The Israeli regime's aggression constituted a gross violation of international law and occurred while diplomatic efforts were still ongoing," Pezeshkian said. "Following that, the United States, in full coordination with Israel, bombed Iran's nuclear facilities—sites under constant IAEA monitoring."

Pezeshkian criticized the IAEA's silence over the strikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure and said the Iranian people expected the agency to uphold its mandate and condemn the attacks in line with its governing statutes.

On June 13, Israeli forces launched a wide-scale and unprovoked assault on Iran, killing over 1,100 people, including top military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. On June 22, the United States escalated the conflict by bombing three key nuclear sites in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan—an act Tehran says violated the UN Charter and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In response to the coordinated strikes, Iran's Armed Forces launched precision retaliatory operations targeting Israeli military sites in the occupied territories and the al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest American base in West Asia.

The operations culminated on June 24, when Iran successfully halted the military escalation, effectively forcing a pause in hostilities.

Parliament approves general outline of bill supporting Iranians abroad

TEHRAN — Iran's Parliament on Sunday approved the general outline of a bill aimed at supporting Iranians living abroad, with 209 votes in favor, 9 against, and 8 abstentions out of 226 lawmakers present.

Following the approval, legislators began reviewing the details of the proposed legislation.

The "Bill on Supporting Iranians Living Abroad" seeks to enhance legal protections, streamline consular services, and create economic, academic, and cultural opportunities for expatriate Iranians.

Supporters of the bill emphasized that Iranian diaspora have repeatedly demonstrated their loyalty to the Islamic Republic, especially during recent geopolitical tensions.

Zanjan representative highlighted the role of Iranians abroad in supporting the country during the recent 12-day conflict, saying, "They stood by the Armed Forces and the people of Iran, proving



their continued commitment."

Another MP from Esfarayen described the legislation as a "necessary and timely response" to the unity shown by Iranians worldwide, calling it a step toward "deepening national cohesion and deterring foreign interference." He argued that the bill could help consolidate the emotional and cultural bond between the diaspora and the homeland.



"Despite the severity of the attacks, Iran responded with calculated restraint and strength, in accordance with its right to self-defense," Pezeshkian said. "We have never sought war or regional instability, and our track record proves Iran has always played a key role in promoting peace and security in the region."

Turning to bilateral ties, President Pezeshkian highlighted the historic and friendly relations between Iran and Armenia. He reiterated Tehran's commitment to fostering constructive engagement with all its neighbors based on mutual respect and recognition of territorial sovereignty.

For his part, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan condemned the Israeli regime's acts of aggression against Iran and emphasized Yerevan's strong interest in deepening ties with Tehran. He extended an official invitation to President Pezeshkian to visit Armenia to explore ways of boosting bilateral cooperation.

Abbas Moghtadaei, the deputy chairman of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, noted that the bill is the result of several years of expert planning. He said that, once passed, it will require the drafting of executive bylaws within three months—targeting areas such as elite repatriation, capital transfer facilitation, investment desks within embassies, and promotion of Iranian-Islamic identity.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf described the bill as "important and impactful," calling for its provisions to be implemented swiftly to address long-standing issues faced by Iranians abroad. "This bill was reviewed with care and passed with the intention of resolving judicial, travel, and consular challenges for our compatriots," he stated.

Iran has one of the largest expatriate populations in West Asia, with millions residing in Europe, North America, and neighboring countries.

Child killers’ crimes recorded

Iran urges the UN to break its silence as full report on Israeli war crimes is submitted

TEHRAN – Iran’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations has submitted a detailed and updated report to the UN Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council outlining war crimes committed by the Israeli regime during its 12-day military aggression against the Islamic Republic.

The report, which focuses in particular on the killing of women and children, was accompanied by a formal request for the document to be registered and distributed as an official UN Security Council paper.

The letter highlights the devastating human toll and widespread destruction caused by the Israeli attacks and calls attention to the legal and international responsibility of those behind the aggression.

The report states that between June 13 and June 24, 2025, Israeli airstrikes, drone attacks, and missile barrages claimed the lives of 1,100 innocent civilians, including 132 women and 45 children. More than 5,750 others were wounded during the sustained assault.

The attacks, backed by extensive military, intelligence, and political support from the United States and certain other Western governments, deliberately targeted civilian infrastructure, residential areas, hospitals, media offices, nuclear facilities under international supervision, and entire families.

The Iranian mission condemned the aggression as a gross violation of the UN Charter,



Banners displayed on the streets of Tehran depicting families murdered in Israeli attacks during the recent 12-day imposed war.

ter, international law, the Geneva Conventions, and international human rights frameworks. The letter urges the Security Council to end the Israeli regime’s “structural impunity” and take decisive measures to stop the crimes and hold perpetrators accountable.

The submitted report includes the names and details of many of the martyrs—particularly women and children—who lost their lives while in civilian locations such as their homes, schools, or workplaces. Among them are 30 schoolchildren, as well as the complete extermination of families, including the Seddiqi Saber, Zakerian, Sadati Aramaki, and Niyazmand households.

The report also documents Israeli attacks on the Hakim Children’s Hospital, several kindergartens, public parks, Evin Prison, and ambulances—further evidence of the regime’s disregard for humanitarian norms.

The letter reiterates Iran’s position that these acts constitute clear violations of international law and calls on the Security Council to take concrete steps to halt the aggression and prosecute those responsible.

In addition to the Security Council, the report has been submitted to the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, as well as to UNICEF.

The same pattern of impunity seen in the Israeli regime’s war on Gaza—carried out with full backing from the United States—was evident during the 12-day military aggression against Iran.

Just as in Gaza, where Israel has defied a binding provisional ruling by the International Court of Justice to halt genocidal acts and allow humanitarian aid, the Zionist regime continued its unlawful strikes on Iranian civilians, infrastructure, and even peaceful nuclear sites under IAEA safeguards.

Among the many documented violations, Israeli missiles targeted the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) headquarters in Tehran on June 16 in a clear attempt to silence media coverage and disrupt information flow—a tactic also employed repeatedly in Gaza. The act resulted in the martyrdom of three workers of IRIB. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also strongly condemned the strikes.

With the United States supplying arms, intelligence, and diplomatic protection, including repeated vetoes at the UN Security Council, both wars have unfolded under a shield of Western-backed impunity. This coordinated disregard for international law has rendered global justice mechanisms ineffective, allowing war crimes and acts of collective punishment to continue unchecked from Gaza to Tehran.

More than a week following the start of Israeli strikes, the United States also entered the war against Tehran by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the U.S., managed to impose a halt to the terrorist assault.

nation and a golden chapter in our glorious history.”

General Mousavi’s warning follows Iran’s unprecedented act of self-defense during the 12-day War during Operation True Promise III — a 22-wave missile barrage that struck strategic Israeli military, intelligence, and industrial infrastructure.

Despite Israel’s sweeping and unprecedented military censorship aimed at concealing the devastating impact of Iran’s missile strike, numerous military analysts affirmed that the operation delivered crippling and irreversible blows to the regime’s war apparatus, severely degrading its offensive capabilities and disrupting its strategic posture.

U.S. President Donald Trump publicly acknowledged the effectiveness, stating, “Israel got hit really hard.”

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



norms, and called for a unified international response to hold the perpetrators accountable.

The Swiss Foreign Minister, for his part, acknowledged that the Israeli-American strikes on Iranian nuclear sites violated international law. He reaffirmed Switzerland’s commitment to diplomacy and expressed readiness to support efforts aimed at de-escalation and peaceful resolution.

setback during last month’s offensive and suggested that Iran’s growing strength across various domains would ultimately force adversaries to respond to the Iranian people’s rightful demands—rather than pursue what he referred to as either “imposed peace” or “imposed war.”

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran sweep Bulgaria to sign off 2025 VNL in style

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Bulgaria in straight sets (25-17, 25-17, 25-16) in their final match in the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Week 3 on Sunday.

Amin Esmailnezhad led Iran with 18 points, while Venislav Antov scored 10 points for Bulgaria.

The seven best-ranked national teams in each gender at the end of the Preliminary Phase and the host country of the Finals – Poland, for the women, and China, for the men –, will play single elimination matches over five days to determine the champions.

The host city of the VNL 2025 Men’s Finals will be the Chinese city of Ningbo. Between July 30 and August 3, matches will be held at the Ningbo Beilun Sports and Art Center.

The participating teams in the VNL 2025 Finals will be confirmed over the next two weeks, when the final Preliminary Phase matches will be held.

The men compete in Gdańsk, Poland, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Chiba from July 16-20.

Masoud Rahnama elected head of Iran karate

TEHRAN – Masoud Rahnama was elected as president of Iran Karate Federation on Saturday.

In the presidential elections held at the Iran’s Academy Olympic, Rahnama was elected for a four-year term till 2029.

The elections went to a second round of voting and Rahnama was elected as the president with 23 votes out of 45 votes.

Hassan Tabatabaei came second with 22 votes.

The Iran Karate Federation was founded in 1965. It serves as the national governing body for karate in Iran.

Iranian chess player Movahed wins gold in Titled Tuesday

TEHRAN -14-year-old Iranian Grandmaster Sina Movahed won the gold on Saturday at the Titled Tuesday online chess tournament.

Movahed came first, collecting 10 points.

The young grandmaster advanced to the finals with an unbeaten record, eventually facing off against Russian Alexey Sarana, who had accumulated 9.5 points.

Movahed’s performance not only earned him the \$1,000 cash prize but also a coveted spot in the upcoming Titled Tuesday Grand Prix.

Gabriele Pin joins Sepahan coaching staff

TEHRAN – Italian coach Gabriele Pin has been added to Sepahan football team coaching staff.

Pin will join Sepahan in Turkey’s training camp.

The 63-year-old Italian coach has previously worked as Farhad Majidi’s assistant coach in Esteghlal in 2021-22.

Pin has most recently worked as assistant coach in Al-Ittihad Kalba.

Iran’s women coach Jafari wants more support

TEHRAN – Marziyeh Jafari was a proud head coach after Iran defied the odds to qualify for the AFC Women’s Asian Cup Australia 2026 on Saturday.

Having lost 3-1 to Lebanon on Matchday Four, only victory against Jordan would see Iran qualify and the team rose to the occasion with a 2-1 triumph to seal a second successive appearance on the continental stage.

“I am really happy that we were able to make the hearts of the Iranian people happy. Qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup was not easy,” said Jafari.

“We entered the competition with difficult conditions, intensive camps, logistical restrictions and a lot of psychological pressure, but my players fought with all their might and performed beyond expectations.

“The players not only showed high technical quality, but also showed that they are mentally strong and motivated at the level of a great team. This team deserves to be seen.

“Despite the euphoria of reaching the Finals, the experienced head coach said even more work must be put in to ensure that Iran – at the very least – better the group stage showing of 2022.

“This qualification is not the end of the road; it is the beginning of a new season. We must have a more detailed plan to have a strong presence in the final stage.

“This team have the capacity to be seen, grow, and compete with Asian powers. I hope the support continues so that we can be a worthy representative of Iranian women’s football in Asia.”

Ehsan Hajsafi signs for Sepahan: official

TEHRAN – Ehsan Hajsafi, who parted ways with the Greek football club AEK Athens on Friday, has officially joined Sepahan.

Hajsafi left the Greek side after four years to return to his former club.

The 35-year-old left-back has previously had two playing stints with Sepahan.

Under the management of Moharram Navidkia, Sepahan will face Al Duhail in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Elite Play-off.

Mobin Nasri joins Yaroslavich Yaroslavl

TEHRAN – Iranian international outside hitter Mobin Nasri joined Russian volleyball club Yaroslavich Yaroslavl.

The 22-year-old player was a member of Polish side Aluron CMC Warta Zawiercie 1st season.

Nasri started his playing career in 2018 in Shahdab and has also played in Iranian teams Shahrdari Urmia and Paykan Tehran.

The Yaroslavich Yaroslavl volleyball team is a prominent and respected club based in the historic city of Yaroslavl, Russia.

Iran fail to advance to FIBA Women’s Asia Cup 2025 Division A

TEHRAN – Chinese Taipei defeated Iran 74-55 in the FIBA Women’s Asia Cup 2025 Division B final at the Shenzhen Sports Centre on Sunday and secured their place in Division A.

Chen Wei-An led the victors with a stellar 18 points and 7 rebounds, supported by Huang Ling-Chuan’s steady 17 points on the back of 5 three-pointers. Iran fought as hard as they could, anchored by Mahla Abedi’s 23-point, 15-rebound double-double performance, but they fell short in the Division B Final for the second edition in a row.

This triumph marks Chinese Taipei’s return to Division A for the FIBA Women’s Asia Cup 2027 and caps their memorable campaign for redemption.

In a tense rematch, Thailand survived Mongolia, 78-73, to avenge an earlier loss and prevail in a fiercely competitive third-place game.

2025 VNL: Sharifi sets new record

TEHRAN – Iran outside spiker Morteza Sharifi set a new record in the Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Saturday night.

He hit a spike at 139 km/h in the match against France, where Team Melli lost 3-0.

The fastest spike in volleyball history was attributed to Wilfredo Leon and Matey Kaziyski, who hit a spike at 135.6 and 132 km/h, respectively.

Military at ‘peak operational readiness’ after the 12-day war: Iran top commander



The photo shows Iran’s homegrown Bavar-373 (Belief-373) missile defense system.

TEHRAN – Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces, declared Sunday that Iranian combat forces maintain “peak operational readiness” to deliver devastating retaliatory strikes against any renewed aggression.

The statement came during a high-level meet-

ing with Hojjatoleslam Ahmadreza Pourkhaqan, Head of the Armed Forces Judicial Organization, where General Mousavi emphasized that Iranian warriors stand prepared to “deliver a response more decisive and regret-inducing than before” to adversaries.

“Throughout the 12-day imposed war, we witnessed God’s grace, the exceptional leadership of Ayatollah [Seyyed Ali] Khamenei, and the unwavering support of our nation,” the top general said.

He credited this triad of spiritual guidance, strategic command, and national unity for enabling Iran’s successful defense against the U.S.-Zionist aggression.

The gathering paid tribute to the martyrs of the recent conflict, with special recognition for Major General Mohammad Bagheri, the former Chief of Staff, who was martyred in the early hours of the Israeli regime’s campaign of aggression on June 13.

Pourkhaqan praised the Armed Forces’ sacrifices as “a priceless, enduring capital for the Iranian

assassinations and military campaigns backed by Washington, which have destabilized the region.

Araghchi referenced the recent 12-day assault on Iran, during which Israeli forces launched a series of attacks—including strikes on nuclear facilities—that left at least 1,100 people dead, including senior military officers, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The United States joined the offensive in its final days, striking additional nuclear sites.

Following the attacks, several European countries—most notably Germany—appeared to offer diplomatic cover for the aggressors. Araghchi condemned such reactions as a betrayal of the United Nations Charter and international legal

collective sense of national identity among Iranians across the political spectrum. He argued that this unity had dealt a serious blow to the enemy during what he described as the imposed 12-day war.

He suggested that the main deterrent against any future attacks on the country was precisely this cohesion that had been witnessed by the world.

Qalibaf further asserted that preserving national unity should be regarded as a primary responsibility for all Iranians. He linked this imperative to acknowledging the leadership of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, whom he described as a unifying and reassuring authority in times of crisis.

He also pointed out that the enemy had faced its most significant

Araghchi criticizes European silence on Israeli-US aggression against Iran

TEHRAN – Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has strongly criticized certain European countries for attempting to justify recent acts of aggression by the Israeli regime and the United States, including last month’s deadly and unprovoked attacks on Iranian territory.

In a phone call on Saturday with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis, Araghchi condemned the European response as dangerously biased, warning that rationalizing such unlawful behavior only serves to erode the foundations of international law and fuel greater instability across West Asia and beyond.

He pointed to a broader pattern of violence by the U.S. and Israel in recent years, citing targeted

National unity is Iran’s strongest shield against enemy’s aggression: Parliament speaker

TEHRAN – Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has emphasized the critical role of national unity in safeguarding Iran against future acts of aggression, particularly in light of the recent joint Israeli-American assault on the country.

Speaking during an open session of the Iranian parliament on Sunday, Qalibaf said the latest confrontation had further strengthened a

ICCIMA proposes special economic measures committee to boost private sector role in economy

TEHRAN – The head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh has called for the creation of a Special Committee for Economic Measures, led by the Government-Private Sector Dialogue Council, as a means to expand the role of the private sector and navigate the challenges of war and international sanctions.

Speaking at the chamber's board of representatives meeting on Sunday, Hassanzadeh said, "Conditions have never been more favorable for increasing the share and influence of the private sector."

At the start of the meeting, he offered condolences over the recent killing of several Iranian commanders, scientists, and civilians during a deadly incursion by what he described as "the nefarious Zionist regime."

Hassanzadeh said the latest imposed war



tested Iran's economic resilience and private sector capacities. "Under the wise leadership of the Leader of the Islamic revolution, the bravery of our armed forces, the strategies of the President and heads of the three branches, and through national unity, we witnessed enduring examples of resistance and patriotism," he said, adding that this situation also served to measure the country's economic infrastructure and private sector capabilities in the face of threats.

Germany exports non-oil products worth \$454m to Iran in a quarter

TEHRAN- Germany exported non-oil products worth \$454 million to Iran during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Foroud Asgari said that Germany was Iran's fifth source of non-oil imports during the three-month period.

According to the official, Iran's total non-oil trade during the first quarter reached 43.489 million tons, valued at \$24.684 billion.

Imports accounted for 9,013 million tons of that volume, worth \$13.029 billion—down 4.35 percent in weight and 11.73 percent in value year-on-year, the IRICA head stated.

The average value of imported goods was \$1,446 per ton, reflecting a 7.7 percent decline, the official said.

Key import items included unrefined gold at \$965 million, animal feed corn at \$883 million, rice at \$500 million, sunflower seed

oil at \$493 million, and mobile phones at \$372 million, he announced.

The UAE was Iran's leading import partner with \$3.886 billion in shipments, Asgari stated.

According to the IRICA head, Iran exported \$11.655 billion worth of non-oil goods in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year.

The volume of non-oil exports stood at 34.476 million tons, representing a 9.3 percent decrease in weight and a 14.4 percent drop in value compared to the same period last year, the official stated.

The average customs value of exported goods was \$338 per ton, down 5.6 percent year-on-year, he added.

Petrochemical exports during the quarter totaled 11,133 million tons, valued at \$4.684 billion, which marks a 28.7 percent decline in weight and a 24.5 percent decrease in value from the year before, Asgari stated.

Over 1m evaporative coolers manufactured in a year

TEHRAN- In the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20), 1.06 million evaporative coolers were manufactured in the country, Tasnim news agency reported.

As reported, the figure shows 7.9 percent drop from 1.15 million evaporative coolers manufactured in the year 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 sector'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.

TEDPIX gains 22,800 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 22,800 points to 2.824 million on Sunday, which is the second day of the Iranian calendar week.

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

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

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

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

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

RAI signs \$176m railway investment agreement to upgrade passenger fleet

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) signed an investment agreement worth 882 trillion rials (approximately \$176 million) with Raja Rail Transportation Company and Rail Tarabar Saba Company to develop and upgrade the country's passenger rail fleet.

The agreement was signed on Sunday in the presence of the minister of transport and urban development, the head of the Iranian parliament's civil engineering committee, the managing director of RAI, and senior officials from Raja, Rail Tarabar Saba, the Fuel Consumption Optimization Company, and Wagon Pars.

Under the agreement with Rail Tarabar Saba, two projects are planned: the purchase of 70 new five-star Royal passenger railcars and the refurbishment of 37 existing cars to the same standard.

The agreement with Raja Rail Company includes the purchase of 60 new five-star Royal passenger cars and the refurbishment of 100 existing passenger wagons.

The signing comes as Iran intensifies efforts to modernize its railway infrastructure and boost domestic capacity through joint public-private investment.

In recent months, officials have repeatedly emphasized the need to reduce dependence on



foreign suppliers, support local manufacturers, and enhance the quality of passenger services in line with international standards.

The Transport Ministry has outlined a broader plan to expand the country's passenger and cargo rail capacity as part of its long-term transportation strategy.

The push includes efforts to connect major cities through high-speed corridors and link Iran more efficiently to neighboring markets via the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).

Iran's increased investment in rail transport also reflects a shift in priorities amid rising fuel costs and environmental concerns.

Upgrading the rail fleet is seen as a critical step toward creating

a more sustainable and efficient national transportation system, while also stimulating growth in domestic industries linked to rail manufacturing and maintenance.

The move aligns with the government's broader economic agenda, which seeks to counteract the effects of international sanctions by relying more heavily on internal resources and partnerships with the private sector.

In mid-June, RAI Head Jabarali Zakeri highlighted the country's commitment to enhancing international rail cooperation, saying that active rail diplomacy can accelerate freight movement, reduce costs, and drive economic growth.

Speaking at a meeting of the RAI's board and deputy directors, the official said: "Expanding in-

ternational rail transport partnerships will not only facilitate economic prosperity but also increase the speed of cargo movement and cut operational costs."

He noted that enhancing safety standards and upgrading monitoring technologies remain top priorities to ensure low-risk, high-security rail travel.

Highlighting RAI's ongoing initiatives, Zakeri said efforts are underway to improve train safety, customer service, locomotive readiness, international rail engagement, and the overall speed of freight operations.

"All locomotives are regularly inspected and undergo technical maintenance to ensure optimal performance and prevent any disruptions in railway operations," he noted.

Zakeri also stressed the importance of strengthening rail ties with neighboring countries. "Expanding international cooperation in the rail sector can significantly boost trade and cultural exchanges, while also contributing to regional economic prosperity," he said.

He added that by adopting advanced technologies and optimizing infrastructure, the country aims to increase the speed of freight movement across rail corridors—ultimately lowering costs and enhancing transport sector productivity.

Oil pipeline network to expand beyond 15,000 km as key projects near completion

TEHRAN – Iran's national oil and petroleum products pipeline network will soon exceed 15,000 kilometers, following the completion and commissioning of several major transmission projects across the country, according to the head of the National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company (NIOEC).

Mohammad Meshkinfam said the expansion is part of a broader strategy by the Oil Ministry to address imbalances in petroleum product distribution and ensure uninterrupted nationwide delivery.

One of the most strategic projects is the nearly completed Bandar Abbas-Sirjan-Rafsanjan pipeline, a 460-kilometer, 26-inch line capable of transporting up to 300,000 barrels per day—equivalent to 48 million liters—of refined fuel from the Bandar Abbas

and Persian Gulf Star refineries to central and northern provinces.

Construction on this key corridor began in 2019 to boost transfer capacity from southern refineries. The project includes three pump stations in Bandar Abbas, Ghotbabad, and Mehreh Aran, as well as terminals in Sirjan and Rafsanjan. With over 120 trillion rials (approximately \$240 million) invested, the pipeline will eliminate the need for 1,200 to 1,500 daily fuel tanker truck trips, lowering costs and improving the safety and efficiency of fuel transportation nationwide.

Meshkinfam noted that construction of over 1,000 kilometers of new pipelines is currently underway, with the Bandar Abbas-Rafsanjan line expected to reach full capacity by September. In December, during peak consumption season, the system transferred

nearly 100,000 barrels of refined fuel per day to central Iran.

Among other key projects is a new 37-kilometer spur from the Goreh-Jask pipeline to the Bandar Abbas refinery, replacing previous marine-based feedstock delivery with a land-based system. In addition, the long-delayed Sabzab-Rey crude oil pipeline is nearing completion. Initiated in 2014, the 340-kilometer project is designed to supply feedstock to refineries in Kermanshah, Shazand, Tehran, Tabriz, and the future Anahita refinery. The multi-phase pipeline includes 30-inch and 26-inch segments with daily capacities of 450,000 and 295,000 barrels respectively, as well as an 18-inch section delivering 105,000 barrels per day to the Ray terminal.

Economy minister visits anti-money laundering exhibition

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Seyed Ali Madanizadeh visited the Financial Intelligence Center, and toured the country's permanent international exhibition on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism on Sunday.

The exhibition, launched last year, is regularly updated to reflect the latest developments and actions in the fight against

illicit finance.

It addresses the wide-ranging impacts of money laundering and terrorist financing on national security, particularly given Iran's history as a victim of terrorism.

It also outlines Iran's preventive and enforcement efforts, including the national risk assessment document and transparency initiatives across the economic sector.

In addition, the exhibition traces the evolution of relevant legislation and showcases international best practices and successful cases involving crimes such as smuggling and financial tracking methods that have drawn global attention.

The Financial Intelligence Center, which serves as a key oversight body in Iran's economic and security landscape, plays a strategic role in this effort.

During his visit, Madanizadeh also toured the center's international training laboratory, established for the first time in Iran with the cooperation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The facility provides a new platform for training and collaboration between the center's experts, other government institutions, and international specialists.

Petchem products worth \$2.7b exported from Bushehr province in 3 months



TEHRAN- Petrochemical products valued at \$2.7 billion were exported from Bushehr province in the southwest of Iran during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), according to a provincial official.

Ali Soleymani, the supervisor of the province's customs department, put the weight of the exported petrochemical products at 6.719 million tons.

In early June, the head of Iran's National

Petrochemical Company (NPC) said that under the country's Seventh National Development Plan, Iran aims to increase its petrochemical production capacity to 131 million tons, adding that this expansion is being pursued across various value chains, with a focus on creating balance between downstream and upstream development.

He emphasized that the lack of such balance in recent years has led to feedstock supply issues for several complexes. "Stable feedstock supply is a central pillar of the Seventh Plan, and our goal is to develop production capacity and feedstock sources in parallel," he added.

To address the shortfall, NPC plans to source feedstock from multiple channels, including the recovery of flare gas — a short-term strategy that also benefits the environment.

Abbaszadeh identified the key flare gas recovery zones as West Karoun, East Karoun, Dehloran, and Ilam, which together account

for about 75 percent of Iran's flared gas. Projects in these areas are underway, including NGL 3100, which is expected to be operational in the coming months.

The expansion of the Bidboland Persian Gulf Gas Refinery under the Persian Gulf Holding is also in progress. It aims to eliminate around 55 gas flares, with 14 slated to be extinguished this year. In addition, Phase 2 of the Hoveyze Persian Gulf Gas Refinery (NGL 3200) is being developed, and by the end of next year, roughly 80 percent of associated flare gas is expected to be recovered and redirected to the petrochemical sector.

Abbaszadeh reiterated that securing feedstock remains NPC's top priority. "With coordinated efforts across various agencies and implementation of targeted programs, we aim to minimize idle capacity and elevate Iran's petrochemical industry to a strategic position in line with our long-term development goals," he said.

Israeli occupation and aggression stir Syrian popular resistance

From page 1 ▶ This staggering human cost starkly exposes Israel's relentless warmongering and expansionist ambitions in West Asia. Since its devastating assault on Gaza in October 2023, Israel has escalated its campaign of violence, targeting not only Gaza but also Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen. These military actions are part of a calculated strategy to impose Israeli dominance and destabilize entire nations.

Israel justifies its attacks with convenient narratives: defending the Druze minority in Syria, neutralizing Hezbollah in Lebanon, dismantling Iran's nuclear program, or responding to attacks from Yemen's Ansarullah. Yet these explanations serve as thin veils masking a pattern of aggressive intervention that violates sovereignty and inflames regional tensions.

Despite the high death toll and widespread suffering, Israel's mili-



tary ventures have failed to achieve their stated goals. In Gaza, Israel has killed tens of thousands of civilians, including women and children, yet Hamas remains resilient. In Lebanon, the Lebanese resistance refuses to bow to Israeli pressure. Iran has dealt significant blows to Israel in recent confrontations, and the Ansarullah movement in Yemen continues to resist Israeli aggression steadfastly.

Israel's recent strikes in Syria fol-

low the same aggressive pattern. They aim to fragment Syria and extend Israeli control over more territory, escalating a dangerous trend since the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government in December last year. Although the Syrian government under Ahmed al-Sharaa has so far refrained from direct military confrontation, popular anger against Israel's occupation is rising sharply. History shows that Israel's occu-

pation of southern Lebanon in the early 1980s triggered widespread resistance and ultimately costly conflicts for the occupying forces. Syrians today are increasingly ready to form resistance groups and rise up against Israel's incursions.

While the Syrian government has mainly limited itself to denouncing Israel's aggression in statements, the growing anti-Israel sentiment among the Syrian population could open a new front of resistance. This serves as a stark reminder that occupation and aggression only sow seeds of conflict and instability.

The world must recognize that Israel's unchecked military aggression is not about defense—it is a deliberate policy of domination, suffering, and division. The ongoing violence in southern Syria is a tragic symptom of this larger, dangerous strategy that endangers peace across the entire region.

Political analyst warns Syria is next front in Israel's colonial roadmap

Munir Daair says recent strikes on Syria mark deeper shift in U.S.-Israeli strategy for regional dominance



From page 1 ▶ In this in-depth interview, he warns that Syria may now be the central front in a dangerous and expanding colonial roadmap.

The following is the text of the interview:

Considering the current clashes between Syrian forces and Druze militias, what are the implications for Israel's security calculus and regional power balances, especially with Israeli military intervention in play?

What is happening in Syria and the military attacks by the Zionist regime has very little to do with security and everything to do with the so-called "New Middle East". This is part of a greater regional roadmap devised not just by the Zionist occupation but also fully endorsed by Western powers, especially the United States. The roadmap is intended to lead to a situation in which Western neo-colonial domination of the region is maintained via the satellite state they created in 1948 in Palestine. Over the past 76 years, this ambition has been challenged in Palestine by Palestinians themselves with some Arab support.

But Arab support for Palestinians has waned, creating an unprecedented opportunity for Western powers to proceed with their roadmap. What we see now is attempts to engage and defeat the remaining challenges to that roadmap. The full-scale attacks on the region's resistance forces, Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Yemen and most recently Iran are intended to forcefully achieve that outcome. The theory at play is, what cannot be achieved by force can be achieved by more force.

What are Israel's stated pretexts in attacking Syria, particularly in light of the Syrian interim president's vow to protect the Druze

community?

It's the same playbook. Attacks on Syria explained as attempts to protect the Druze. Attacks on Lebanon are explained as intended to protect Jewish settlements in Palestine's northern border with Lebanon.

Attacks on Yemen excused as protecting the maritime freedom in the Red Sea although only Zionist related or destined shipping has been attacked and not others. Attacks on Iran are explained as preventing Iran's nuclear ambitions despite all evidence proving Iran's nuclear program has no military angle to it.

The attacks on Iraq were explained as attempts to prevent Iraq's acquisition of WMD although none were found. It's the same playbook we have seen throughout colonial history. Colonial invaders have always used pretexts to justify their attacks. However, to really understand what we are witnessing we must view these attacks in the context of a greater regional geopolitical power play.

Given the complex sectarian, international, and geopolitical factors at play, what scenarios do you foresee unfolding in southern Syria?

I have to look at Syria in terms of what I just said, regional geopolitical power play. Syria is not an isolated case. Unless the countries in the region, Iran, Turkey and the Arab countries make a serious challenge, the road map that is being violently pursued will succeed. Neither Iran nor Turkey or the Arabs can do this alone without coordinating with each other and acting as one regional bloc. Unless these three components of the regional bloc act together and take possession of the region's security arrangements, the region's future looks bleak and the colonial road map will succeed.

How do you assess the broader impact of Israel's strikes on Damascus and southern Syria on the security calculations of neighboring countries like Lebanon, Jordan, and especially Turkey?

Lebanon has fallen, not through military force, but by the fall being engineered from within against the only force that resisted Zionist ambitions in Lebanon. The claim that Hezbollah controlled Lebanon has been proven false by the fact that when the political, not military, forces decided to disenfranchise Hezbollah, they succeeded. Yemen continues to stand out because the forces at play in Yemen are outside the control of the government in what has become, for all intents and purposes, a divided nation.

Its topography also aids Yemen making it an

impossible for any ground invasion to succeed. Syria is gradually falling in front of our very eyes. Jordan is not a party to any resistance. Iran continues to be attacked economically, politically and most recently militarily.

That leaves Turkey which is gradually being surrounded by forces hostile to its ambitions to be a serious global or even a regional player. As matters stand now, politically, even militarily and economically, Turkey is probably the country that stands most to lose if the colonial road map succeeds. Consider Turkey's Mediterranean basin crises and Greek attempts to control Turkish shipping in the Aegean Sea. It will only get worse under the new colonial road map. The noose around Turkey is getting tighter. Turkey has most to gain by coordinating the region's security arrangements with Iran and Arabs away from NATO's ambitions.

Beyond the official justifications, what do you believe are the alternative or strategic motives behind Israel's repeated aggression against Syrian territory?

Fishing in unstable waters is at full play in Syria. It will take a long time for us to understand the true changes that are taking place in Syria. How to identify the players. What powers engineered the changes. It's all too early and the current situation does not help make any definite conclusions.

But it is noteworthy that the current situation comes not long after the US lifted its economic sanctions on Syria, the Syrian president and his American counterpart meeting in Saudi., the new president, under his new identity, being widely accepted by the same Western powers that branded him a terrorist not long ago. Russia and Iran withdrawing from Syria.

Syria is currently the most fertile ground to proceed with the colonial road map. It offers great opportunities because of its messy situation.

Finally, what we need to prevent is a feel of exhaustion or boredom with the current situation leading us to distance ourselves from it. That is dangerous. Because the other side is neither tired nor bored. It's relentlessly pursuing its goals.

The genocide in Gaza continues. Those killing Palestinians are neither tired nor bored. The colonial road map is in full swing. The attacks on the region are expanding. The military buildup continues despite any false claims to the contrary. The tiredness and boredom are inflicting our side only. The side that must continue to resist. What keeps me worried is this dangerous feeling I see in our midst.

erate a chaotic or factionalized situation in its backyard.

What we now see is that the sectarianism within these factions surpass the Syrian leadership's ability to contain them—revealing a significant loss of authority.

Despite fulfilling Western demands, Damascus has shown it cannot rein in these chaotic elements—which could threaten the very interests the West seeks to protect. In such a case, the West would prefer dealing with a contained adversary rather than an ally with uncontrollable militias.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Georges Abdallah set to arrive in Beirut this week

From page 1 ▶ Jean-Louis Challancet, Abdallah's lawyer, stated that the court upheld the conditional release ruling, requiring Abdallah to leave France for Lebanon immediately if the French authorities (Western or specifically American) do not place new obstacles to the implementation of the decision.

It was noteworthy that Israel's embassy in Paris expressed its "regret" over the French judiciary's decision, claiming that Georges Abdallah "is a terrorist responsible for the murder of Israeli diplomat Yaakov Bar Siman-Tov, in front of his wife and daughter, and American diplomat Charles Ray."

"Terrorists like these, enemies of the free world, should spend their lives in prison," the occupation regime's embassy added.

Abdallah has repeatedly rejected the characterization of what happened as a "terrorist act," instead lumping it with acts of "resistance" during the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in 1978.

Meanwhile, Hanna Gharib, secretary-general of the Lebanese Communist Party, warned of "the possibility of Israel assassinating Georges Abdallah upon his arrival in Lebanon," stressing that "the Lebanese state is responsible for his protection."

What is required is by transferring Abdallah directly to Beirut is a preemptive step to prevent the freed man from delivering a revolutionary speech from the heart of Paris, criticizing Western imperialist policies that support Israeli barbarism, and thus being portrayed in international newspaper headlines as a revolutionary hero who triumphed after four decades of oppression.

Those behind the decision to imprison Georges Abdallah for over 40 years are convinced that they were unable to "discipline" the heroic man, a hero who rejected colonialism in both word and deed, establishing a generation from whom they would learn that colonialism is not destiny and that all peoples can do is resist.

Hezbollah pointed out that the forty-one years spent by Georges Abdallah in French prisons has constituted a damning indictment



of the "state of law, justice, freedoms, and protection of human rights," placing it in the category of blind bias toward the interests of Washington and Tel Aviv.

Georges Ibrahim Abdallah was born in 1951. In 1970, he joined the ranks of the Palestinian resistance in defense of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, successfully carrying out precise operations against the Israeli enemy.

In 1984, he was arrested in the French city of Lyon and sentenced to four years in prison. In 1986, he was sentenced to another four years.

Although he met the legal conditions for his release in 1999, American and Israeli pressure prevented his release.

In historical myths, historians tend to describe heroes with elaborate artistic plots. The task of chronicling the lives of contemporary heroes is more complex.

Among them is Georges Abdallah, who led the resistance in his cell for more than 40 years without wavering. He was a man of steadfast revolutionary principles and foundations in a time when failure was widespread, prevalent, and tyrannical.

650,000 children in Gaza at risk of death

From page 1 ▶ In a statement, the Ministry of Health warned that hundreds of severely weakened individuals are facing certain death due to hunger and their bodies' inability to endure further deprivation.

The number of children who have died due to starvation and malnutrition in Gaza has risen to more than 70.

"We warn that hundreds of those whose bodies have withered are now facing certain death from hunger, as their physical strength can no longer sustain them," the ministry explained.

At least 620 Palestinians have died from a lack of food and medicine, according to Gaza's Government Media Office.

These figures have emerged as the Israeli occupation regime maintains its complete siege on the territory, a policy described by the office as part of an ongoing campaign of genocide, exacerbated by the absence of any meaningful international intervention.

The Government Media Office also released updated figures tied to the blockade. Since the start of the full closure of Gaza's crossings, the occupation regime has blocked at least 76,450 humanitarian aid and fuel trucks from entering the Strip.

As a result, in addition to the dozens of children already starved to death, some 650,000 children are now at risk of dying from hunger and malnutrition.

Also, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) has once again accused the occupation regime of using starvation as a weapon against the civilian population of Gaza.

In a statement on social media, UNRWA warned: "The Israeli Authorities are starving civilians in Gaza. Among them are one million children."

The Gaza Government Office renewed its urgent call to end the ongoing deadly blockade, saying: "Lift the siege: allow UNRWA to bring in food and medicines."

In what the office called "American-Israel-

li aid centers," referred to as "death traps," nearly 900 people have been killed by Israeli gunfire while seeking food aid.

More than 5,666 others have been injured, and 42 are missing.

Israeli occupation forces have also bombed or targeted:

- 57 aid and food distribution centers
- 42 public kitchens
- Humanitarian convoys and aid deliveries on 121 separate occasions

Meanwhile, 12,500 cancer patients are at risk of death without access to treatment or nutrition, and around 60,000 pregnant women face serious health risks due to the lack of healthcare and food.

Certain countries are complicit in the starvation campaign

The Gaza Government Media Office holds the Israeli regime fully responsible for the starvation crisis.

However, it also blames countries complicit in the ongoing genocide through silence, complicity, or direct support, chief among them, the United States, Germany, and France.

The office urgently called on the international community and the free world to take immediate action to stop the regime's starvation policy, to open border crossings, break the siege, and allow aid to enter without delay.

"Some families haven't eaten in days"

Mouhammed Bseil, spokesperson for Gaza's Civil Defense, stated, "Some families have not eaten in days, and most people have no access to food."

Even civil defense teams are struggling. "Some of our own teams haven't eaten in two days and are surviving on water alone," Bseil said, adding that the so-called "aid centers" are purely political tools, not humanitarian efforts.

He concluded with a grim warning: "History will record that many people in Gaza were killed by starvation in the days ahead."

Destructive chaos in Syria backfires

By Batool Subeiti

BEIRUT - There are growing signs that the current structure of the Syrian government no longer serves Western interests. By entering Sweida, the factions operating under the Syrian government forces have shown they cannot be reliably controlled.

It appears the Syrian leadership may have believed that by accommodating Israeli demands, its factions could act freely in Sweida.

The assumption likely was that mutual interests between Israel and the Syrian state would outweigh Israel's relationship with the Druze. That calculation has failed.

This situation offers a clear lesson: any actor that allies with the U.S. and the Israeli occupation entity should understand they are disposable. Just as these powers elevate local forces to serve their agenda, they will abandon or undermine them when it suits their interests.

No matter how much the Syrian government concedes to Western demands, if it proves unable to control the armed groups beneath it, it will never be viewed as a reliable tool.

The chaos is useful for the West when they wish to direct it against their targets, however the Israeli occupation entity also does not tol-

Tehran museum to host festival of Arbaeen heritage

TEHRAN – An international festival dedicated to Arbaeen heritage is scheduled to take place on July 21-22 at the National Museum of the Islamic Revolution and Sacred Defense in Tehran.

The event aims to honor the culture of Arbaeen and showcase the spiritual, cultural, and artistic aspects of the Arbaeen pilgrimage as well.

Organizers say the festival provides a platform for devotees of Imam Hussain (A.S.) to document, narrate, and explain various dimensions of the spiritual and cultural heritage of Arbaeen.

“The event also highlights the role of Arbaeen pilgrimage in advancing cultural and software technologies related to pilgrimage and spiritual tourism.”

Arbaeen marks the end of a 40-day mourn-



ing period following the martyrdom of the third Shia Imam and his companions at the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE. Each year, millions of Shia Muslims worldwide undertake the pilgrimage to Karbala, walking hundreds of kilometers to express their faith.

Underground Anuj complex added to Iran’s national heritage list

TEHRAN – An ancient underground hand-carved complex, located in the Samen district of Malayer county, has been officially registered on Iran’s national heritage list, authorities announced.

Named Dastkand-e Anuj, the site lies adjacent to the archaeological mound known as Qal’eh Bolandeh on the eastern edge of Anuj village. Featuring a complex network of chambers, halls, and connecting corridors, it is considered one of the most distinctive hand-carved subterranean structures identified in the region.

Anuj village is situated at the southern edge of the Samen plain, along the route connecting Malayer to Nahavand and Borujer. The area is known as one of the richest archaeological zones in Iran’s western Hamedan province. The nearby Qal’eh Bolandeh mound, dating back to the fifth and sixth millennia BCE, had already been listed as a national heritage site.

The underground architecture was carved into relatively soft limestone and, based on pottery shards, human remains, and structural evidence, contains historical layers dating from the first millennium BCE to Islamic periods. Archaeologists believe some parts of the complex were used for food storage and burials, based on the form and function of the discovered artifacts.

According to IRNA, citing the public relations office of the cultural heritage, handicrafts and



tourism department of Malayer, 750 million rials (approximately \$850,000) were allocated from provincial funds in 2023 for documentation, boundary demarcation, and the registration dossier. The project was carried out in collaboration with the research department of Bu-Ali Sina University.

Dastkand architecture, also known as hand-carved architecture, refers to structures created by digging into and shaping natural geological formations, primarily in Iran and other foothill regions. It is a unique form of architecture that utilizes the earth itself as the building material, often without the use of crafted materials. The term Dastkand in Persian translates to “digging with hands,” highlighting the manual process involved in its construction.

No damage reported to Golestan’s historical sites following 5.1 quake

TEHRAN—A 5.1 magnitude earthquake which occurred near Fazelabad, Aliabad-e Katul county, Golestan province, on Sunday, didn’t damage the historical monuments and other spots of the province, said a cultural heritage chief of the province.

Hamid Omrani Rakavandi also said that due to the severity of the earthquake and importance of the historical monuments located in Aliabad-e Katul county as the epicenter of the quake, the cultural heritage experts examined the historical buildings in the area since the first minutes of the earthquake, and fortunately, reports indicate that no damage was caused to the historical buildings, IRIB reported.

He added that the Cultural Heritage Protection Unit forces in Aliabad-e Katul and other cities of the province are constantly inspecting the situation. In case of receiving any report on damage to the historical monuments and buildings, information will be disseminated, he pointed out.

The quake struck at 1:07 a.m., Sunday, July 19, near Fazelabad. The earthquake, which occurred at a depth of 10 kilometers, was felt in almost the entire province.

Golestan province, located in northern Iran, boasts a diverse array of tourism attractions, making it a prime destination for both sightseers and nature lovers. The provincial capital, Gorgan, features a rich historical fabric, including the well-preserved Esterabad district, which is renowned for its ancient houses, Tekyehs, madrasas, and mosques.

The iconic Gonbad-e Qabus tower is of high architectural importance as an exemplar and

innovative design of early Islamic-era architecture. Visible from great distances in the surrounding lowlands near the ancient Ziyarid capital, Jorjan, the 53-meter high Gonbad-e Qabus dominates a modern town of the same name laid out around its base in the early 20th century.

Its hollow, cylindrical shaft of unglazed fired brick tapers up from an intricate geometric plan in the form of a ten-pointed star to a conical roof. Two encircling kufic inscriptions commemorate Qabus Ibn Voshmgir, Ziyarid ruler and literati as its founder in 1006 CE.

As mentioned by UNESCO, the monument bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The structure capped by an eye-catching conical roof boasts intricate geometric principles and patterns which embellish parts of its load-bearing brick-work.

Beyond its historical significance, Golestan offers breathtaking natural landscapes, such as the lush Alangdareh and Naharkhoran forest parks, which provide visitors with opportunities for hiking, picnicking, and wildlife observation.

Golestan’s coastal areas along the Caspian Sea add to its allure, featuring pristine beaches and scenic views. The province is also home to several cultural and recreational festivals that celebrate its rich heritage and vibrant community.

Iran’s handicrafts reflect religious culture, says deputy minister

TEHRAN – Iran’s handicrafts serve as a mirror of the country’s religious culture and Shia identity, the deputy minister for handicrafts at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage said on Sunday.

Maryam Jalali Dehkordi emphasized the historical and emotional connection between traditional arts and religious ceremonies in Iran, particularly during the annual Arbaeen pilgrimage.

“Iranian handicrafts are a reflection of our religious culture and Shia identity, an art born from the souls of the faithful that transforms into expressions of devotion during ceremonies such as Arbaeen,” Jalali Dehkordi said.

Arbaeen is a major Shia Muslim observance marking the end of a 40-day mourning period for Imam Hussein (A.S.), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, following the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE. Millions participate in a



Maryam Jalali Dehkordi in an undated photo.

pilgrimage, including a symbolic walk from Najaf to Karbala, Iraq.

Jalali Dehkordi described Arbabeen as “a meeting place of Hussaini love and a spirituality-focused exhibition of Iranian art,” where handicrafts serve not

only as tools for pilgrims but also as symbols of faith and devotion to the Ahl al-Bayt (the family of the Prophet (PBUH)).

She added that traditional arts such as flags, emblems, wooden plaques, handmade felt, and en-

graved vessels carry messages of loyalty, dignity, and love for the martyred Imam.

“Along the Arbabeen walk, Iranian art is presented as a symbol of spirituality....These are not merely objects but manifestations of love.”

The ministry has organized handicraft markets at key border crossings this year in a manner to honor pilgrims. “We aim to have Iranian art serve the pure intentions of pilgrims, continuing the tradition of devotion, offering, and loving service,” she said.

Jalali Dehkordi stressed that handicrafts in religious ceremonies are not consumer goods but carriers of faith messages and connectors of hearts to the Ahl al-Bayt.

Handicrafts on this path are the silent language of love and the messenger of solidarity among the Iranians, she added.

Restoration work begins on Palace of Ardashir Papakan

TEHRAN – Restoration work has started on parts of the historic Palace of Ardashir Papakan near Firuzabad in Fars province, a cultural heritage official said on Sunday.

Mohsen Ziaei, the tourism chief of Fars province, said the project focuses on preserving this significant Sassanian-era monument, which is listed as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region.

“The restoration includes grouting, injection of gypsum mortar, repairing parts, applying protective plaster, stitching deep

cracks, debris removal, and conservation cleaning,” Ziaei said.

The palace, located approximately five kilometers from Firuzabad and 90 kilometers south of Shiraz, dates back to 224 CE. It was built by King Ardashir I, founder of the Sassanian Empire, on the slopes of a mountain near Dezh Dokhtar.

The structure measures 104 meters by 55 meters and features three domes and an 18-meter-high iwan, although parts of the iwan have partially collapsed. It was constructed from local stones and mortar, with plasterwork inside.



The palace stands near a natural spring-fed pond, possibly linked to the Persian goddess Anahita.

The Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region includes multiple sites across Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarves-

tan districts, representing the empire that ruled from 224 to 658 CE.

The restoration project has received allocated funding and resources to ensure the preservation of the monument, Ziaei added.

Ramsar Research Garden nationally registered

TEHRAN—Ramsar Research Garden in Mazandaran province was registered under the number 1121 on the National Heritage List on July 9, the cultural heritage chief of the province has said.

Hassan Izadi also said that from now on, Ramsar historical garden is under supervision of Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts. Any interference or action that leads to destruction or alteration of the originality of this work is considered a crime and the perpetrator will be subject to legal punishment, he added, ISNA wrote.

Currently, 780 historical monuments of the province have been registered on the National Heritage List, he pointed out.

Ramsar Research Garden is located in Martyr Nourbakhsh Street. This garden is a green lung for the city and a sign of coexistence between science and nature. It makes every visitor reflect on the wonders of the plant world. This garden is a precious treasure for north of Iran and a symbol of attempt for preserving and expanding Iran’s natural resources.

Ramsar Research Garden is not only a botanical garden, but also a lively and dynamic complex of history, science and nature.

This garden, as one of the important agricultural research and botanical centers in north of Iran, plays an important role in recognition and development of the plant species in the region and introduction of new species.

The garden dates back to Pahlavi era and the year 1931, when it was established with the aim of research and expansion of cultivation of tea and citrus fruits. It was originally

a place to test and adapt different varieties of tea and citrus to the region’s climatic conditions. Gradually, it turned into a complex which was rich in terms of plant species.

Today, this garden operates under the supervision of National Tea Research Center. It is considered a living gene bank for many plants particularly tea and citrus fruits.

Ramsar Research Garden is an example of combining science and beauty.

The paved paths lead visitors through the different parts of the garden. Tall and mature trees provide pleasant shade, and benches are placed at various points in the garden for relaxation and contemplation of nature.

The architecture of some old buildings of the garden dates back to its establishment era which gives the space a sense of history and authenticity.

Today, Ramsar Research Garden is home to unique diversity of plants. The most important part includes tea collection which comprises different varieties of tea, including black, green, and white tea.

These plants have been studied and tested here to identify the best varieties for cultivation in northern climatic conditions.

Watching tea bushes in different stages of the growth is a unique experience.

The collection of citrus fruits is an extensive complex including various oranges, tangerines, lemons, grapefruits and other citrus fruits which are not indigenous to the region and have been planted here for adaptation and development. The delightful aroma of citrus blossoms in spring creates a dreamy

atmosphere.

The section of herbal plants are the plants which have medical properties and special aroma.

The ornamental and native plants are another part of the Ramsar Research Garden, which includes beautiful and eye-catching ornamental species alongside plants native to northern Iran that add to the beauty and richness of the garden and play an important role in preserving the region’s genetic resources.

The tropical and subtropical plants are also seen, and due to Ramsar’s unique climate and high humidity, some rare tropical species are also grown in this garden, which shows the center’s ability to adapt to different plants.

Walking through the garden’s paths a relaxing and educational experience. The smell of damp soil mixed with the aroma of tea leaves and citrus blossoms, the cool northern breeze, and the sound of birds create a pleasant and soulful atmosphere. The silence and tranquility that prevail in the garden make it an ideal place to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and immerse yourself in the world of nature. Every corner of the garden tells the story of a plant species and makes the visitor reflect on the wonders of the plant world. The garden is not only a living laboratory for researchers and agricultural students, but also an attractive destination for nature enthusiasts and tourists.

Ramsar Research Garden, as an active research center, plays an important role in development of sustainable agriculture and preserving the rare and endangered plant species.

Restoration of historical monuments starts in Bardsir

TEHRAN—Morteza Nikrou, caretaker of Kerman Cultural Heritage Department reiterated the importance of preserving the historical monuments and grave news of start of restoration project for historical buildings of Bardsir.

According to IRIB, he said that restoration of historical monuments including Bahador-ol-Molk Mansion and Lalezar Bathhouse in Bardsir started with allocation of 20 billion rials (\$22,222) worth of provincial credits.

He explained that strengthening the buildings, organizing and plastering the walls of these buildings with thatch are among the restoration operations planned for this stage of the restoration and protection of these



buildings.

Restoration of historical monuments is not only a guarantee for continuing the cultural identity and collective memory, but also a ground for sustainable development of the tourism and transferring the heritage to the

future generations of Kerman province.

These monuments are considered narrators of the history, he said, adding that preserving these buildings is a respect to the heritage of the past and will provide a richer future for the next generations.

Bardsir is a city in the central district of Bardsir county, Kerman province, Iran, serving as capital of both the county and the district. Bardsir was once the capital of the Banu Ilyas dynasty.

Kerman province, located in southeastern Iran, is known for its rich history and diverse landscapes. With its unique blend of culture, history, and natural beauty, Kerman province is a captivating destination for travelers.

Iran, UNDP explore ways to preserve natural resources, address SDSs

TEHRAN – The head of the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, Ali Teymouri, and the resident representative ad interim for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Iran, Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, have discussed ways to boost joint efforts on managing natural resources and mitigating climate change impacts, particularly sand and dust storms.

During a meeting held on Monday, Teymouri elaborated on the challenges the country faces due to its arid and semi-arid conditions, highlighting the significance of global collaborations for the preservation and restoration of natural resources, according to the Ministry of Agriculture's website.

Referring to the fact that deserts constitute some 32 million hectares of 135 million hectares of natural land across the country, Teymouri urged the UNDP to cooperate with the country in implementing watershed management plans and mitigating critical dust hotspots.

The official also announced the readiness of the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization to cooperate with the UNDP office within the framework of the organization's goals and missions.

Medagangoda-Labé, for her



turn, expounded on the domains of cooperation between the UNDP and Iranian government institutions. The official proposed establishing microcredit funds in provinces and local regions as an effective step to expand joint efforts.

Referring to the complexity of managing natural resources, she stressed the need to benefit from the capacities of local communities

The official also said that the UNDP office will strive to minimize the impacts of sanctions on Iran's environment and receive the country's financial quota for climate change.

She went on to state that the UNDP office is consulting with the financial funds to present proposals in the fields of water, drought, climate change, dust storms, and desertification.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides highlighted the expansion of ties on combating SDSs through pilot and small-scale projects, and decided to continue discussions to explore the potential for fostering collaborations.

Active diplomacy needed to address transboundary SDSs

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

Referring to the fact that the sources of the sand and dust storms impacting Iran are located outside the country, an official with the Department of Environment (DOE) has underlined the role of environmental diplomacy in managing climatic crises, particularly sand and dust storms.

Air pollution, sand and dust

storms are global issues that need international cooperation to be addressed because their solutions transcend national borders, IRIB quoted Arman Khorsand as saying.

Underscoring the need for national and international cooperation, the official said Persian Gulf states are collaborating to mitigate and deal with water pollution, climate change, and sand and dust storms. More collaborative efforts are also shaping.

“Although the negative effects of climate change are increasing at rates faster than the effectiveness of measures taken to solve the problem, we should not refrain from playing a more effective and responsible role,” Khorsand noted.

Attributing dust phenomenon to the drought and reduced water resources, he said the drying of the Aral Sea, the Karakum Desert in Central Asia, and the deserts of China and Mongolia have turned them into hotspot sources of sand and dust storms, which are spreading to countries such as Korea and Japan.

On July 13, President Masoud Pezeshkian issued an order calling for the establishment of a specialized working group to address sand and dust storms (SDSs), which have turned into a significant public health concern in the country.

Fourth nanotech summer school to be held

TEHRAN – The fourth nanotechnology summer school will kick off on July 23 and is scheduled to run for two months.

Distinguished faculty members, elites, and instructors from within the country and abroad will teach the participants; the school will serve as a great opportunity for sharing knowledge and expertise, specialized experiences, and innovative skills in various nanotechnology sectors, IRIB reported.

The event will cover a wide range of educational and skill-based activities. It will also hold over 60 scientific courses and workshops focusing on advanced nanomaterials, artificial intelligence (AI), programming, nanomedicine, nanobiotechnology, nanoelectronics, nanotechnology industrial applications, and commercialization.

Over the past three years, the nanotechnology summer school was widely welcomed by both Iranian and foreign students from other countries like Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Afghanistan, and England.

Iran's achievements in nanotechnology are noteworthy. The country's investment in nanotechnology research and development, as well as the increase in scientific publications and sales of nanotech products, proves Iran's rise as a global leader in this field, producing and exporting products to different countries across the world.

Access to domestic resources, competitive prices compared to Western countries, and high production of raw nano-materials, nano-catalysts, and advanced equipment, as well as geographical proximity to target markets in neighboring countries, reduced transportation costs, political and trade relations have made Iran a major manufacturer of nanotechnology products in the region and even some global markets.

Nanotech journals among world's most cited

The Journal Citation Report (JCR) Impact Factor 2024 has cited 161 Iranian journals, naming five among the world's most cited in the nanotechnology sector.

Journal of Nanostructure in Chemistry (JNSC) affiliated to Islamic Azad University with an impact factor of 7.9 is placed among the top 25 percent of journals in JCR published by Clarivate Analytics in three categories including Nanoscience and Nan-



otechnology, ranking 34 among 147 top journals; Chemistry, Multidisciplinary, ranking 41 among 239 journals; and Material Science, Multidisciplinary, ranking 88 among 460 top journals.

Journals of International Nano Letters affiliated to Kermanshah Islamic Azad University, Nano-medicine Journal affiliated to Mashhad Medical Science University, Journal of Nanostructures affiliated to Kashan University, and International Journal of Nano Dimension affiliated to Tonekabon Islamic Azad University received an impact factor of 4.0, 1.7, 1.3, and 1.1, respectively, IRNA reported.

So far, ten out of the 12 specialized nanotechnology journals in the country have been indexed in the international Scopus database, of which five have received an impact factor.

The JCR 2024 included data from over 21,000 journals from 113 countries across 254 research categories.

JCR is most commonly a database that provides impact factors and rankings for scholarly journals in science, technology, and social sciences, based on citation data. JCR is a widely used resource for evaluating and comparing journals within the research community.

The most well-known metric provided by JCR is the Journal Impact Factor (JIF). The JIF is a measure of how frequently, on average, articles published in a particular journal are cited in a specific year.

JCR data is drawn from the Web of Science Core Collection, a comprehensive citation index.

Only journals that have met the rigorous quality standards for inclusion in the Web of Science Core Collection are featured within the Journal Citation Reports, which ensures users can confidently rely on the information and descriptive data provided.

Iran joins Strasbourg Agreement Concerning International Patent Classification

TEHRAN – Iran has joined the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification (IPC), an international treaty that establishes a standardized system for classifying patents and utility models.

It is a crucial step that facilitates obtaining a patent and supports Iranian inventors at domestic and global levels, ISNA quoted Siamak Islami, the head of the national intellectual property organization, as saying.

Iran has already become a member of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). Becoming a member of the Strasbourg Agreement, Iranian inventors will be able to obtain patents for their inventions in different fields such as mechanics, electricity, energy, and other essential areas with greater accuracy, the official noted.

The treaty helps inventors receive the necessary support in the knowledge phase, the background of the invention, the accurate filing of documents, and facilitates the process of international patent registration of inventions, he added.

WIPO 2024 releases Iran's ranking based on IGI report

In November 2024, the WIPO published the Global Innovation Index (IGI) report, based on which Iran's innovation capabilities are ranked in seven criteria that include institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, market sophistication, business sophistication, knowledge and technology output, and creative output.

Iran is ranked 133 in Institutions globally. In this category, the country's global rankings in Operational stability for business, Government effectiveness, Rule of law, Business environment, Entrepreneurship police, and culture

were 130, 120, 118, 128, and 85, respectively.

In the Human capital and research criterion, the country is placed 64th. It ranked 93, 109, 67, 66, and 96 in Education, Expenditure on education, Government funding/pupil, School life expectancy, and Pupil-teacher ratio, respectively.

Iran's ranking in Tertiary education, Graduates in science & engineering, Research and development (R&D), and Researchers is 35, 8, 48, and 47, respectively.

The global ranking of the country in Infrastructure is 95. It ranked 5 in Gross capital formation, and 50 in General infrastructure.

In Market sophistication criteria, with a global ranking of 17, Iran is placed 70, 58, and 19 in Finance for startups and scaleups, Domestic industry diversification, Domestic market size, and Market capitalization.

In Business sophistication, Iran is ranked 110. It is ranked 86 in Females employed with advanced degrees, 82 in Public Research-Industry co-publications, 121 in University-industry R&D collaboration, 55 in Research talent, and percent in businesses.

Iran has been ranked 49th in knowledge and technology outputs. In Labor productivity growth, Production and export complexity, Software spending, and ICT services exports / total trade, it is ranked 68, 72, 3, and 125, respectively.

Within creative output criteria, Iran is ranked 52. Under this category, the country is placed 23rd in Intangible assets, 1st in Trademarks by origin, 59 in Entertainment and media market, 93 in Mobile app creation, 74th in Creative goods exports, and 102nd in Creative goods and services.

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2 billion tons of soil erodes annually in Iran: expert

Iran loses 2 billion tons of soil per year as a result of land use changes, rainfed agriculture, and overgrazing, Hossein Akhaneh, environmental and botanical expert has announced.

"Sometimes, to support agriculture, land use changes permits are issued, while being unaware of its dire consequences on the soil," he lamented, YJC reported on Saturday.

"Iran is responsible for the loss of 10 percent of the world's total soil erosion per year due to unsustainable agriculture, overgrazing, destruction of natural reservoirs," he said.

فرسایش سالانه ۲ میلیارد تن خاک در ایران

کارشناس محیط زیست و گیاه شناس گفت: سالانه ۲ میلیارد تن خاک در ایران به دلیل تغییر کاربری زمین، کشت دیم و چرای بی رویه فرسایش می‌شود.

به گزارش باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، حسین آخانی اظهار کرد: برخی زمان‌ها برای حمایت از کشاورزی اجازه تغییر کاربری به زمین داده می‌شود، اما غافل از این هستیم که به دلیل ناپایداری خاک ده‌ها برابر خسارت ناشی از آن را باید تحمل کنیم.

وی بیان کرد: ایران ده درصد کل فرسایش خاک جهان را دارد و این به دلیل کشاورزی ناپایدار، چرای بی رویه، و از بین بردن شبکه هیدرولوژیک است.

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JULY 21, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*If someone's deeds lower his position,
his pedigree cannot elevate it.*
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:37 Dawn: 3:24 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:05 (tomorrow)

Nation honors martyrs of culture, art, media in “Forever Iran”

TEHRAN – Vahdat Hall in Tehran will be hosting a ceremony on Tuesday to honor the memory of martyrs from the realms of culture, art, and media who were killed tragically during the 12-day resistance against the Zionist regime,

Entitled “Forever Iran”, the event will pay tribute to the martyrs, honor their families and commemorate their sacrifices in a dedicated 12-day period of resistance against the Zionist enemy, ISNA reported on Sunday.

The national ceremony, hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, will be attended by a distinguished assembly of officials, artists, writers, Qur’anic organizations, members of cultural and artistic associations of mosques, intellectuals, and media professionals, the report added.

The event aims to celebrate and honor the memory of those who laid down their lives in the fields of culture and art.

Massive Attack, Brian Eno launch syndicate to defend artists criticizing Gaza war

British band Massive Attack, British singer and songwriter Brian Eno, Irish post-punk band Fontaines DC and hip-hop trio Kneecap have launched a syndicate to defend artists criticizing Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza.

The group says these artists have been targeted by “aggressive, vexatious campaigns” orchestrated by pro-Israel groups.

In a statement shared on Instagram on Thursday, the musicians expressed concern for emerging artists who they believe are at risk of being “threatened into silence or career cancellation” by groups such as UK Lawyers for Israel.

“We’re aware of the scale of aggressive, vexatious campaigns operated by UKLFI and of multiple individual incidences of intimidation within the music industry itself, designed solely to censor and silence artists from speaking their hearts and minds,” the statement said.

“Having withstood these campaigns of at-

tempted censorship, we won’t stand by and allow other artists — particularly those at earlier stages of their careers or in other positions of professional vulnerability — to be threatened into silence or career cancellation.”

The syndicate was announced amid mounting tensions involving the UKLFI.

The group filed a police report against Bob Vylan after the band chanted “death to the IDF (Israel Defense Forces)” during their Glastonbury set, an incident now under police investigation.

The UKLFI also filed a complaint with the BBC for broadcasting the performance, and several of the band’s upcoming shows have since been cancelled.

Mo Chara of Kneecap was also referred to authorities by the UKLFI and later charged with a terrorism offence, accused of displaying a Hezbollah flag during a live performance.

Cartoon of Day



Famine in Gaza
Cartoonist: Mohammad Sabaaneh from Palestine

Eight awards for Iranian photographers from 2nd Fine Shot Photo Salon

Winning photos by Hamzeh Momeni

TEHRAN – The 2nd Fine Shot Photo Salon has announced the winners of various sections, with six photographers from Iran winning eight awards.

A photography competition, organized by the International Society of Fine Art (ISFA) in Canada, this year’s edition of the event was held remotely, with judging conducted remotely by a qualified jury under PSA guidelines, ILNA reported.

According to the contest website, the results were announced on July 15 and the online gallery will be live on July 29.

The event featured six sections: Open Monochrome, Open Color, Portrait Monochrome, People Color, Sport Color, and Landscape Color.

Hamzeh Momeni won three awards in three sections. In the Open Color section, he won the ISFA Silver Medal for his photo “Dead End”. In the People Color section, he grabbed the ISFA Ribbon for “Honey Man,” and in the Landscape Color section, he received the FIAP Ribbon for his photo titled “Calm”.

In the Open Color section, Amir Ali Navadeh Shahla won the ISFA Bronze Medal for “Birds Migration” and Mohammadreza Pourian received an Honorable Mention for “Whirlpool of Terror and Tension”.

Moreover, the photo “Net” by Mahyar Soleimani was awarded the ISFA Ribbon in the Open Monochrome section.

Ebrahim Bahrami and Amirhossein Honarvar were also presented an Honorable Mention each in the Portrait Monochrome and People Color sections, respectively.

The Fine Shot Photo Salon offers photographers a prestigious platform to earn medals, certificates of acceptance, and free three-month exposure in an online gallery.

From the flame to Michelangelo, and from Michelangelo to the mouth harp: the struggle for human art

By Kurosh Alyani
Iranian cultural critic

TEHRAN – Before the accumulation of colonial wealth and the rise of institutional gatekeeping, art existed in forms that were raw, localized, and intimately bound to lived experience. It emerged through craft, ritual, oral expression, and communal aesthetics—untethered from formal complexity or market logic. These early forms were not simplistic in meaning, only in structure; they communicated grief, celebration, cosmology, and survival in languages shaped by environment and necessity.

There were no academies to certify, no galleries to curate. Artistic legitimacy came from shared participation and resonant expression, not technical mastery. This was art as presence, not performance—unfiltered, embodied, and collectively understood.

In that period, the economy of art unfolded in two distinct modes. One took shape within social life itself—teahouses, village gatherings, domestic spaces—where artworks were neither priced nor sold, but exchanged through mutual presence and shared necessity. The artist’s relation to the audience resembled a gift economy, not because of charity, but because fulfillment of human need replaced monetary value.

There was no marketplace—only reciprocal recognition. In contrast, the second mode belonged to the court and the Church, where art was assigned monetary value, paid for, and possessed. It became a financial asset, embedded in systems of price, ownership, and display.

Colonial expansion facilitated the accumulation of wealth, giving rise to a merchant and capitalist class capable of commissioning art. These commissions did not reflect deep cultural insight, but served as visual affirmations of financial standing and social rank. Art entered bourgeois homes not through aesthetic intimacy, but through transactional display.

Yet as market demand widened, so did the realization that creative potential was distributed far beyond elite circles—any individual with modest talent could produce cultural expression. The gap between expansive creative capacity and a demand that had grown but remained limited led to a structural problem: the system required mechanisms to regulate and restrict artistic supply.

As wealth accumulated and artistic production became more widespread, individuals and institutions began constructing aesthetic rules that claimed to define legitimate art. These rules—centered on technique, complexity, and pedigree—were not neutral guidelines but tools of exclusion. By presenting their standards as universal, they created a framework to sift and sort artists, validating a select few while marginalizing the rest.

Academies and tastemakers formalized these codes, transforming them into criteria for economic access and cultural recognition. Through this system, aesthetic control became economic control: regulation of form justified regulation of market. Art was no longer open expression—it was filtered compliance.

As aesthetic hierarchies solidified, dominant centers like Athens—and their European continuation in Vienna—defined “depth” and “meaning” through their own cultural lens,

presenting it as universal. This framework marginalized forms of artistic expression rooted in everyday life: domestic art, pastoral craft, teahouse aesthetics.

These were excluded not for lack of substance, but for failing to mirror elite conceptions of refinement. The claim to depth became a tool of suppression; complexity, as defined by the center, rendered lived experience irrelevant. Through this fabricated standard, power dismissed what it could not possess, silencing art born outside its sanctioned domains. Art was now a concept fully absorbable into the logic of a money-centered economy.

As academic art consolidated its authority, iconic figures emerged to embody its sanctioned ideals: Beethoven in music, Goethe in literature, Ingres in painting, and Rodin in sculpture. These names became more than artists—they were symbols of mastery, depth, and cultural legitimacy.

As academic art consolidated its authority, iconic figures emerged to embody its sanctioned ideals: Beethoven in music, Goethe in literature, Ingres in painting, and Rodin in sculpture.

Around them, artistic circles formed: salons, cafés, and gallery scenes where taste was curated and affiliation signaled status. These spaces fostered not only aesthetic exchange but economic consolidation.

The producers of culture—writers, composers, painters—became a distinct class, aligned with wealth and institutional power. In Europe, then America, and beyond, art was no longer a vocation—it was a profession embedded in capital.

The label “naïve” was crafted not to describe, but to exclude—used by institutions to bar unsanctioned creators from entering the cultural economy. It allowed gatekeepers to dismiss rural, domestic, and unschooled art as lacking depth, shielding elite spaces from disruption.

Yet academic control was not absolute. When demand briefly surged—through market spikes or collector trends—institutions responded not by expanding access, but by creating small, symbolic openings. Naïve art was permitted in marginal corners of galleries, not as recognition but as containment.

These gestures absorbed surplus demand without threatening hierarchy, turning aesthetic tolerance into a calculated tool of economic regulation.

As the Athenian-Viennese model of cultural refinement became a tool for exclusion, its authority operated not through genuine depth but through rigid dismissal of human taste. This framework, though cloaked in intellectual prestige, was brutally indifferent to the lived preferences of emerging audiences. Wealthy American cowboys and their oil-rich cousins, newly empowered by capital, preferred country music over Bach or Beethoven—rejecting the dominance of meaning as

the sole criterion of artistic value.

Their tastes exposed the artificiality of elite standards. In response, the creator class, unwilling to relinquish its symbolic control, opened a strategic detour: the rise of anti-meaning movements. In literature, this included surrealism and absurdist theatre; in music, atonal composition and minimalist repetition; in visual arts, cubism and dadaism.

These movements did not democratize art but reasserted control by declaring meaning irrelevant. Thus, exclusion persisted, now disguised as radical openness.

As internet access became universal, every individual turned into a broadcaster—no longer needing to flatter gatekeepers for a slot in curated media.

Simultaneously, the rise of credit-based currencies and cryptocurrencies triggered an artificial surge in purchasing power. The art market, now fused with entertainment, expanded beyond recognition.

Those who remained within the old framework retained academic authority, but surrendered the economic terrain to Instagram girls and viral personalities. The symbolic capital of art was preserved in theory, while its financial capital migrated to the domain of algorithmic visibility.

As sociological and anthropological analyses of artistic transformation proliferated, a conspicuous silence surrounded the economic dimension. The economy of art—its pricing, its commodification, its market logic—was treated as a contaminant, an indecent intrusion into the sanctified realm of aesthetic discourse.

Like urine or feces, it was something to be expelled from polite analysis, too vulgar to name, too disruptive to include. This omission was not accidental; it was ideological. By refusing to confront the economic substrate of artistic change, these disciplines were forced to interpret developments through convoluted, often incoherent parameters.

The result was a body of theory that strained to explain cultural shifts while ignoring the very forces that shaped them.

A more human future for art is not a utopia, it’s a rehearsal we can start today.

In this future, we stop tagging prices to gestures, stop pretending that meaning and depth are gatekeepers to culture.

The old excuses—Athenian prestige, Viennese finesse—have already crumbled. So, we quit chasing the sterile glamour of legal Instagram porn and turn back to the floor we started from.

We sit in circles. Someone plays a mouth harp. Someone else sings out of tune. We clap, not perfectly.

Kids draw lopsided houses and giant dogs. We hang their drawings crooked on the wall. Next month we pull them down and hang new ones.

And no one asks whether they smell like Kant, or Heidegger, or Plato, nor of Wall Street. They smell like breath after tea. Like fingernails with pigment under them.

Like people trying, and trying again—like human beings, like the child of man. And with laughter and joy, we will kick over the tables of the money changers in the temple.