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# ‘Netanyahu Is a Devil Incarnate; Only He Must Be Fought’

Israeli prime minister repeats: ‘We do not oppose the people of Iran’ — What do Iranians think?

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A new mural unveiled in Tehran's Enghelab Square honors 27 children killed during Israel's 12-day war against Iran.

## Starvation and slaughter: The only achievements of Israel's war on Gaza

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — More Palestinians have died from starvation in Gaza as Israel's blockade of the besieged territory plunges it into an increasingly dire malnutrition crisis.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday that hospitals in Gaza have recorded over a dozen deaths, including those of children, due to starvation and malnutrition. This is in addition to dozens of Palestinians who were shot dead by the Israeli army across Gaza on Tuesday.

Malnutrition and starvation are particularly severe among children, a crisis highlighted by Save the Children's humanitarian director.

Rachel Cummings told Al Jazeera from Deir el-Balah in central Gaza that there has been no adequate food supply in Gaza for a very long time. The markets are empty and the water sanitation situation is not adequate to meet the needs of two million people, "who are all on the brink of famine."

## Barrack threatens Lebanon

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Since his first visit to Beirut, US envoy Thomas Barrack has repeatedly gone around in circles. He proposed an alleged American "solution," to which Lebanon responded by affirming its commitment to UN Resolution 1701 and prioritizing halting Israeli aggression, withdrawing from the occupied territories, and releasing Lebanese prisoners.

Meanwhile, Kan Radio revealed the existence of a secret, high-security wing inside Ayalon Prison, where Lebanese prisoners are held, along with Palestinian.

The secretive detention center, called Rakeft, was built underground and equipped with the latest surveillance technology and strict security measures.

According to the Hebrew radio, the guards are not identified by name, but use coded cards with numbers only, to protect their security and personal identities.

The Lebanese and Palestinian detainees languish inside these confinement cells, and are only allowed out for one hour a day, to a small, enclosed concrete yard with limited sunlight.

## Swift Yemeni response after Israeli aggression

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Yemeni forces waged a series of attacks less than 24 hours after the Israeli occupation regime struck Hodeidah port.

The Yemeni Armed Forces have announced a precision military operation targeting Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. The strike was conducted using a hypersonic ballistic missile named Palestine 2.

In a televised statement, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces, confirmed that the operation successfully achieved its objectives.

According to Saree, the strike caused "millions of the usurping Zionist settlers to flee into shelters, and bringing airport operations to a halt."

He emphasized that this action was in response to the ongoing genocide committed by the Israeli occupation regime in the Gaza Strip, and as a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people and their resistance.

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## Iran approves emergency plan to boost oil output by 250,000 bpd with NDF backing

TEHRAN – Iran's top economic council has approved an emergency plan to increase daily crude oil production by 250,000 barrels, with 80 percent of the funding to be provided by the National Development Fund (NDF), the country's sovereign wealth fund.

The decision, endorsed by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and finalized by the Economic Council on July 13, authorizes the NDF to partner with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) in implementing the production surge across selected oilfields.

Under the plan, a special-purpose vehicle (SPV) will be formed to oversee joint investment, with NDF as the financial backer and NIOC responsible for technical execution. ► Page 4



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## Iran not seeking nuclear weapons, false accusations used to justify attacks: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has strongly rejected claims that the country is pursuing nuclear weapons, calling such accusations a fabricated narrative used by Israel and the United States to justify recent military aggression.

Speaking on Tuesday, at a ceremony commemorating cultural, artistic, and media figures martyred during the recent 12-day war with Israel and the U.S., Pezeshkian said Iran has never had any intention of building an atomic bomb. ► Page 3

## Moscow hosts top Iranian defense official for military cooperation talks

TEHRAN – Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh met his Russian counterpart, Andrey Belousov, in Moscow on Monday for discussions centered on enhancing bilateral military and defense cooperation.

The meeting, signals a further deepening of strategic ties between the two nations.

Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali announced the meeting, stating that the talks specifically focused on "reinforcing bilateral cooperation in the defense and military fields."

This high-level military engagement underscores the accelerating alignment between Tehran and Moscow, both subject to extensive Western sanctions, across critical security sectors.

The defense ministers' meeting followed closely on the heels of a significant diplomatic consultation at the Kremlin.

On Sunday, Ali Larijani, Senior Advisor to Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. ► Page 2

## ‘Matter of national pride,’ Araghchi says Iran will not give up uranium enrichment

TEHRAN – In an interview with Fox News, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi defended Iran's nuclear sovereignty, declaring uranium enrichment a "national achievement and pride" while exposing Israeli disinformation campaigns targeting Tehran.

The interview, conducted on Monday amid escalating tensions following the U.S.-Israeli 12-day aggression against Iran, underscored Tehran's commitment to peaceful energy development and its readiness for diplomacy—but only if Washington abandons coercion.

Araghchi categorically rejected demands to halt uranium enrichment, stating: "We cannot give up enrichment because it is an achievement of our scientists. And now, more than that, it is a question of national pride. Our enrichment is so dear to us."

He emphasized that Iran's program strictly serves civilian needs, referencing the Tehran Research Reactor's requirement for 20% enriched uranium while dismissing weapons-grade enrichment as unthinkable: "We never go to 90%. We remain committed to below 5% to produce fuel for nuclear power plants." ► Page 3

## UN Security Council is a partner in Gaza crimes

By Fatemeh Kavand

TEHRAN – The deep and ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip represents an exceptional point in the contemporary history of human rights and international security. This crisis, shaped by the systematic and deliberate policies of the Israeli regime, embodies a gradual genocide and widespread human rights violations centered on the intentional deprivation and destruction of basic living conditions.

Numerous reports from international organizations, including the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the United Nations, indicate an unprecedented deterioration in nutrition, health, and human security in this region. In the face of these disasters, international bodies, especially the United Nations Security Council, through silence and inaction, have effectively abdicated their vital duties to protect humanity and have become complicit in this cycle of violence due to the pressure exerted by powerful states.

One of the prominent dimensions of Israel's crimes in Gaza is the gradual genocide carried out through the intentional deprivation of essential resources such as food, medicine, and healthcare services. ► Page 5



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Kayhan: Clear messages of the 12-day war

Kayhan devoted its editorial to Iran's achievements after the 12-day war with Israel and wrote: The recent 12-day war, in which the Islamic Republic of Iran was on one side and the United States, the Zionist regime, and some European governments on the other, had very important results. This war once again showed the world Iran's deterrent power. One of the important achievements of the war was the strengthening of national unity and cohesion in Iran. It also proved more than ever that strengthening the defense industries and research and development in this field is vital. Another most important achievements was the change in the balance of power in West Asia, which showed that Iran, as a regional power, has significantly strengthened its defense and military capabilities. The war had a profound impact on the political and international position of the Zionist regime. It also had a significant impact on the international community's understanding of Iran's legitimacy. In a world where the "law of the jungle" is dominant by destructive and criminal governments or regimes, it is military authority and dignified diplomacy that brings respect.

### Etemad: Steps must be taken to prevent activation of snapback

In an interview with Morteza Makki, a foreign policy expert, Etemad assessed the possible approach of Russia and China as Tehran's partners in the face of an activation of the snapback by the European troika of Britain, France or Germany. He said: The recent 12-day war clearly showed that Iran is facing a kind of strategic isolation in the international arena. China and Russia's stance towards Iran may be partly aimed at weakening the United States, but this does not in any way mean unconditional support for Iran. The reality is that if snapback is activated, even China and Russia's hands will be tied for political, economic, or military support for Iran. Therefore, it is unlikely that they will stand up to or ignore Security Council resolutions that may be activated again under snapback. Iran must focus all its efforts on preventing an activation of the snapback mechanism, because if this process is completed, tensions will reach an unprecedented level, and the country's political, economic, and security conditions will become much more complicated.

### Farhikhtegan: Impact of Trump administration and maximum pressure

Reza Jalali, a faculty member of the Political Science Department of the Islamic Azad University, examined the strategic and political dimensions of the last month's Israeli war on Iran in

an interview with Farhikhtegan. He said: Since the beginning of the second Trump administration, the focus of U.S. policymaking has been on strengthening and comprehensively defending Israel and intensifying the policy of maximum pressure against Iran.

Influential Zionist lobbies have played an important role in Washington's decision-making. In addition to political and economic pressure, Iran has been the target of direct Israeli attacks on its military and nuclear infrastructure, attacks that Israel claims are "preventive measures". The U.S. policy is to create internal chaos and has launched a widespread psychological warfare against Iran. And by relying on its weapons power and U.S. support, Israel is trying to limit Iranian threats. Given the regional sensitivity, any military action can upset the balance of power and endanger the security of the Middle East. Iran must develop new strategic policies with a smart approach to maintain its deterrent power against the widespread campaigns of Israel and its allies.

### Arman-e-Milli: Kremlin's readiness for mediation

In a commentary, Arman-e-Milli dealt with the Kremlin's announcement that it is ready to act as a mediator between Iran and the United States. The publication wrote: Russia's claim of mediation was announced after Ali Larijani, the advisor to the Leader, met with President Putin during a recent trip to Moscow.

Russia, as one of the important players in international relations and a strategic partner of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has made efforts in recent years to reduce tensions and create a basis for dialogue between Tehran and Washington.

These efforts have mainly been made in the context of regional developments, nuclear negotiations, and efforts to revive the JCPOA agreement. Despite the existing complexities, including strategic conflicts, mutual distrust, and internal pressure in the two countries, Russia's role as a potential mediator remains important from the point of view of political analysts and diplomatic institutions. The success of these efforts, however, will depend on the political will of the parties, mutual trust-building, and acceptance of an impartial role by the mediator.

Continuing diplomatic efforts with the participation of other countries, such as Russia, could be an effective step towards reducing tensions and creating an atmosphere for rational dialogue between Iran and the United States.

## Muslim world must act now to stop Gaza genocide: Iranian, Turkish FMs



*Gripped by exhaustion and urgency, Gaza residents seek food assistance on July 14, 2025.*

TEHRAN – The Foreign Ministers of Iran and Turkey issued a joint appeal on Monday, demanding immediate and coordinated action from Muslim nations to halt the Israeli regime's ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza, now entering its 22nd month.

The appeal was made during a telephone conversation between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Araghchi delivered a scathing condemnation of the Israeli regime's escalating military campaign, which has claimed the lives of more than 59,000 Palestinians since October 2023, the overwhelming majority being women and children.

Fidan, speaking from Ankara, emphasized the critical need for "prompt and coordinated action" by OIC member states to halt Israel's acts of "deadly aggression."

*(See full text at tehrantimes.com)*

# 'Matter of national pride', Araghchi says Iran will not give up uranium enrichment

From page 1 ► The Foreign Minister challenged the logic of importing enriched uranium when Iran possesses domestic scientific capability, describing self-sufficiency as an inalienable right under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

During Trump's first term, Washington played a central role in collapsing the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA) that was agreed by Iran and the P5+1. The U.S. unilaterally abandoned its obligations in 2018.

Later, during his second term, after launching indirect negotiations with Iran and completing five rounds of talks between Araghchi and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, Washington walked away from the negotiations in June to pursue military aggression and joined the Israeli regime's war on Iran. Despite Iran's full compliance with IAEA verification—which repeatedly confirmed no evidence of a weapons program—the U.S. and Israel exploited a politically motivated IAEA resolution as a pretext for bombing Iran.

### Revealing the extent of U.S. aggression

Addressing the June U.S. attacks on Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan civilian nuclear sites, Araghchi confirmed "serious and severe" damage that temporarily halted enrichment operations. However, he dismissed claims of "total obliteration" propagated by U.S. President Donald Trump, noting Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI) is still evaluating the sites.

Crucially, he clarified that Iran "will soon inform the IAEA" about



*Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during an interview with Fox News on July 21, 2025.*

the status of its enriched uranium stockpile—a gesture underscoring Tehran's continued cooperation with international monitors despite Washington's sabotage.

This stands in stark contrast to Trump's social media distortion of Araghchi's remarks, where the U.S. President falsely claimed the Foreign Minister admitted the sites were "destroyed."

### Diplomatic path forward

Araghchi extended cautious openness to negotiations, but conditioned dialogue on U.S. adherence to mutual respect: "If they [the U.S.] are coming for a win-win solution, I am ready to engage with them."

He outlined Iran's position: verifiable confidence-building measures to prove the peaceful nature of its nuclear program, in exchange for comprehensive sanctions relief.

"We are ready to do any confidence-building measure needed to prove that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and would remain peaceful forever," he stated, while stressing talks should initially remain indirect.

His remarks align with Iran's planned diplomatic engagement with the E3 (UK, France, Germany) in Istanbul on Friday, where sanctions relief and nuclear safeguards will top the agenda.

### Debunking Israeli propaganda

Foreign Minister Araghchi also rejected recent Western media claims that Iran plotted to assassinate former U.S. President Donald Trump, calling them "baseless propaganda" spread by radical elements with no ties to the Islamic Republic.

"We have never pursued a policy of targeting individuals outside our borders, let alone a foreign president," Araghchi said.

He also clarified the meaning behind the slogan "Death to America," stressing that it refers to opposition to U.S. hegemonic policies—not hostility toward the American people.

On Iran's stance toward Israel, Araghchi said Tehran has never called for the destruction of the Jewish people, reiterating the position outlined by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution: "What we seek is the end of the Zionist occupation through a democratic solution involving all Palestinians—Muslims, Christians, and Jews."

### Missile strength & Leader's well-being

The Iranian top diplomat also addressed the status of Iran's missile program, particularly in the wake of the 12-day War.

When asked about the extensive use of missiles during the war and alleged destruction, Araghchi stated, "Well, I think we are in a good shape right now. The capability is still there." He emphasized the strategic importance of Iran's missile arsenal, describing it as "our most reliable means of defense."

Araghchi confirmed, "So we continue our missile program right now. We are still in a very good shape. We still have a good number of missiles to defend ourselves."

In response to inquiries about the health of Ayatollah Khamenei, Araghchi offered reassurance. "I met him today; he's in very good shape and very good health," he reported.

He further emphasized, "The whole system in Iran is quite stable and strong."

## Moscow hosts top Iranian defense official for military cooperation talks

From Page 1 ► Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reported that Larijani presented Tehran's assessment of the "escalating situation" in West Asia and developments concerning Iran's nuclear program.

According to Peskov, President Putin reiterated Russia's "well-known positions on how to stabilize the situation in the region and on the political settlement of the Iranian nuclear program."

These consultations occur against a backdrop

of heightened regional instability followed by the 12-day U.S.-backed Israeli aggression against Iran, which resulted in the martyrdom of over 1062 Iranians, including civilians, nuclear scientists, and military commanders.

President Putin denounced the aggression as "categorically unacceptable" and a violation of the UN Charter. Russia, a key signatory to the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA), has also expressed willingness

to mediate between Tehran and Washington.

The partnership between Tehran and Moscow has been formally anchored by the landmark Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty signed by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and President Putin on January 17.

Following official ratification by President Putin in April and approval by the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) in May, the treaty entered into force.

## US-Israeli aggression a 'blatant crime' and test for UN Security Council: Iran deputy FM

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, has denounced the recent US-Israeli military attacks on Iran as a "blatant crime" and a "historic test" for the United Nations Security Council, urging the body to uphold its mandate in the face of such unlawful actions.

Gharibabadi, currently in New York for political consultations and two high-level UN Security Council sessions, made the remarks during a special briefing attended by representatives from over 110 UN member states.

In his address, he outlined the scope and severity of the joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran's territory, warning that the aggression poses a direct threat to international peace and security. He described the Israeli regime as the main driver of instability in the region for more than eight decades.

"Israel has carried out over 3,000 terrorist operations, forcibly displaced more than seven million Palestinians, martyred hundreds of thousands, and imprisoned over a million," he stated.

Gharibabadi further warned of the dangers

posed by Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal, noting that the regime holds hundreds of nuclear warheads but remains outside all disarmament and non-proliferation treaties.

In contrast, he emphasized, Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful and under constant monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He accused Israel and the US of spreading baseless claims about an Iranian nuclear bomb for over three decades.

He also criticized the silence and complicity of international institutions and some Western states, particularly the UK, France, and Germany, in response to the strikes. "The Security Council, the IAEA Board of Governors, and others have either remained silent or sided with the aggressors in violation of international law," he said.

Gharibabadi warned that such silence sends a dangerous message: "If a country is not part of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, it can act with impunity and even enjoy privileges."

**'Israel deliberately targeted civilians in strike'**



*Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami attended a meeting of the national security and foreign policy committee of the Parliament on July 22, 2025, ahead of upcoming E3 talks in Istanbul.*

## US open to talks with Iran, White House says

TEHRAN – The White House has announced that the United States remains open to potential dialogue with Iran, even as Tehran and its European counterparts gear up for negotiations set to take place this Friday.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt stated, "I understand that the administration continues to be open to talks with Iran if we deem them necessary." However, she said there is no scheduled date for such negotiations yet.

Prior to June 13, Tehran and Washington had engaged in five rounds of indirect negotiations over Iran's peaceful nuclear program. The talks, facilitated by the Sultanate of Oman, were expected to continue with a sixth round in Muscat on June 15.

However, the session was cancelled after the Israeli regime launched a large-scale and unprovoked assault on Iranian territory.

The attack, which targeted senior Iranian military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians, marked a significant escalation in regional tensions.

Subsequently, on June 22, the United States officially entered the conflict by carrying out airstrikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities—located in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan—in clear violation of the UN Charter and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Iran has repeatedly emphasized that its nuclear activities are entirely peaceful and carried out under the full supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



*Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, speaks during a briefing meeting with representatives from more than 110 UN member states, July 21, 2025, New York, the United States.*

Separately, in a meeting with Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Gharibabadi rejected Israel's claim of "self-defense" in its attack on Iran, calling it a "blatant lie" and a clear violation of the UN Charter.

*(See full text at tehrantimes.com)*



# ‘Netanyahu is a devil incarnate; only he must be fought’

*Israeli PM repeats: ‘We do not oppose the people of Iran’ — What do Iranians think?*

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – As public attention in Tehran centers on the massive new mural erected in Enghelab Square, a wall-sized tribute to the Iranian children killed during Israel's 12-day military aggression, recent comments by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have reignited deep collective mourning and fierce anger within Iranian society.

On July 21, Netanyahu repeated his now-familiar claim distinguishing between the Iranian government and its people, stating: “There is no chance for peace with the current regime in Iran, but with the people who want to overthrow the regime, yes, maybe.”

His statement coincided with the sorrowful unveiling of the children's portraits, painted alongside their own childhood drawings, under the poignant message:

“We build the Iran you dreamed of.”

## Civilian casualties

Official statistics compiled by the Iranian Ministry of Health, corroborated by multiple relief organizations, estimate the Iranian death toll in the 12-day offensive at 1,062, with at least 276 identified as civilians. Of these victims, 102 are women and 38 children, with Tehran Province reporting the highest casualties. More somber estimates suggest total civilian deaths could reach as high as 436, nearly half of them women and children. The assault caused severe damage to civilian infrastructure, including residential neighborhoods, several schools, and at least two hospitals in the capital.

Many independent monitors and international observers have highlighted the catastrophic impact on children and families, with the images of child victims dominating headlines both at home and abroad.

I visited Enghelab Square on an unusually hot afternoon as the late July temperatures have soared well beyond typical levels, compelling many to avoid lingering outside. The square, normally lively year-round due to its proximity to Tehran University and cultural venues, presented a starkly different scene. The heat had thinned the usual crowds, leaving only pockets of intermittent foot traffic.

I arrived midday and first took a few moments to settle into a small patch of shade near the mural, observing the environment and pass-



ersby. Most people were on the move, pausing only momentarily to use the ATM or to glance at a small stall run by an elderly street vendor hawking miniature handicrafts from various Iranian cities, his soft voice threading through the still air.

The sweltering heat dampened the square's usual vibrancy but could not stifle the quiet gravity surrounding the mural.

## Mourning, defiance, and voices from Enghelab Square

The first person who drew me in for an interview was a young woman, around my age. Her radiant smile, untouched by the heat, invited me over. Introducing myself as a reporter, I asked for her thoughts on the mural and its message. Despite a companion waiting nearby, she willingly shared her feelings, revealing grief mixed with a subtle resolve.

Shortly after, a man withdrawing money nearby asked about my line of questioning. Once I explained, he volunteered his perspective too, adding layers to the public sentiment.

As I paced under the hot, sparse shade, watching for expressions and the pace of passersby, I gently requested brief moments for conversation—always apologizing beforehand for asking anyone to stop in such oppressive heat.

## Peace with the people, not the regime”

In his latest remarks, Netanyahu insisted that Israel's military operations target only Iranian state and nuclear infrastructure, not citizens, framing the war as:

“There is no chance for peace with the current regime in Iran, but with the people who want to overthrow the regime.”

Calling the act of aggression “Operation Rising Lion,” he emphasized the goal is to neutralize Iran's missile and nuclear capabilities. He

portrayed the evil act as essential for Israel's security and that of the world. He further suggested these operations might provide “an opportunity” for Iranians to rise against their government.

Throughout the escalation, Netanyahu has persistently cast himself as an ally to the “people of Iran,” a rhetorical strategy to justify military action and encourage internal dissent.

## A chorus of rejection and grief

In groupings beneath the mural, a symbol of unity in grief, Iranians from varying ages, backgrounds, and beliefs voiced unanimous rejection of Netanyahu's statements.

Ms. Khanlou, 45, a child educator, expressed a sentiment widely shared:

“If this war isn't with Iranians, why are children dying? Why are their faces on this wall?”

She called the attacks “genocide,” drawing parallels between the suffering of Iranian families and Palestinian mothers, adding:

“Hijab or no hijab, we stand as one people now.”

To her, Netanyahu's claims were “absurd and meaningless.”

Raha, 38, underscored the innocence of the child victims, saying: “These children had no part in any conflict or politics.”

Giti, 52, a mother described Netanyahu as a devil incarnate who only must be fought.

She also ridiculed hopes for negotiations:

“You don't talk peace with someone who bombs children.”

Her words reflected a wider erosion of trust not only toward Israel but its Western allies.

A mother in her early 40s described the attacks as “crimes against humanity,” admitting:

“Seeing images of the young victims, as a mother, is more than I can bear.”

Another woman voiced a categorical rejection of violence, regardless of instigator:

“War is never beautiful, no matter who begins it—Iran, Israel, or the U.S.”

A man in his mid-40s dismantled Netanyahu's division between state and citizen, saying:

“We see our leaders as part of ourselves. Pretending there is a difference is a lie.”

He insisted such rhetoric served only to justify regime change, not protect anyone. For many Iranians, every loss wounds the nation collectively.

Habib, a middle-aged driver, concluded somberly:

“It's always people who suffer most, not officials. The cost of this war is borne by children and families.”

## Words meet reality

Despite the repetition of Netanyahu's message separating regime from people, these words resonate little within Iran. Interviews reinforced a widespread perception that such rhetoric merely masks military escalation and serves as a pretext for regime change. Evidence of civilian casualties, especially among women and children, stands in stark contrast to claims the war spares the Iranian populace.

Familiarity with similar past rhetoric deepens public disgust, fostering not division but stronger national unity.

## Collective grief and steadfast solidarity

Netanyahu's overtures to the “people of Iran” have neither softened the anger nor alleviated the pain visible on Tehran's streets. Instead, grief and outrage have hardened resolve and strengthened a unity bridging generations, genders, and classes.

As Iranians gather beneath the mural depicting lost children, the gulf between political rhetoric and reality has never been more apparent. The message from Tehran is clear: Solidarity will outlast sorrow, and unity will persist despite foreign pressure.

As one citizen poignantly summarized:

“We are mourning, but we remain unbroken.”

## Iran's women's football can't be discounted at Australia 2026

Iran will be aiming to create more history when they compete against Asia's elite at the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026.

After making a historic debut at India 2022, Iran showed grit in a challenging qualifying campaign that ended with a win against favorites Jordan to seal back-to-back Finals appearances.

The Central Asian side's road to Australia 2026 started emphatically, a statement 4-0 win over Singapore was followed by a comprehensive 7-1 defeat of Bhutan.

However, a 3-1 defeat to Lebanon left their hopes hanging by a thread and only a victory against Jordan would secure qualification.

Marziyeh Jafari's charges rose to the occasion, claiming a 2-1 triumph to confirm their ticket to the Finals with the head coach hailing her players' perseverance and ability to overcome adversity.

The qualifying campaign, however, showed Jafari that there's much more work lying ahead if they are to better their group stage outing at the previous edition.

In 2022, Iran suffered defeats against China PR (7-0) and Chinese Taipei (5-0) and Jafari will be determined to – at the very least – show that the Central Asian side will be able to stand on their own among Asia's elite.

Key players stepped up in the qualifiers with Fatemeh Shaban leading the scoring charts with five goals while Sara Didar, Zahra Ghanbari and Negin Zandi all shone with braces as their contributions gave Iran a sharper attacking edge.

With Iran's growing experience, the combination of tactical discipline and fighting mentality means they can't be discounted at Australia 2026, the-afc.com reported.

## Tractor eye Esteghlal keeper Hosseini

TEHRAN – Esteghlal goalkeeper Hossein Hosseini is reportedly close to joining Tractor Sazi.

Discussions between Hosseini and Tractor regarding his transfer are progressing smoothly.

While Esteghlal is preparing to sign Tractor's goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand, Tractor also seeks to bring Hosseini on board in a reciprocal move.

Tractor aim to strengthen their squad as it prepares to compete in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Elite.

## Women's wheelchair basketball aim for a medal in Nagoya: coach

TEHRAN – The head coach of the national women's wheelchair basketball team, Azadeh Sadat Moeini, expressed hope that the team will secure a medal at the 2026 Asian Para Games.

The women's wheelchair basketball team have recently concluded their preparatory camp and are set to resume training in the next two weeks.

The team are getting ready for the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya.

In an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Moeini stated: “We finished our second preparatory camp last week, and the third camp will be held from Aug. 5 to 15. These camps are focused on preparing for the Nagoya Asian Para Games, but before that, we will participate in the 2025 IWBF Asia-Oceania Championships, which will be held in Thailand this November.”

“We are striving to perform well in the IWBF Asia-Oceania Championships, and we see this competition as a valuable opportunity to prepare for Nagoya. The team are in good condition, and new players have been added to the squad. We are working to bring them up to the desired level before the Games,” she added.

Iran's team finished in fourth place at the previous edition in Hangzhou. Moeini hopes to improve the team's performance in the upcoming tournament.

“We are doing our utmost to perform better than in the previous edition. I believe that with our

ongoing progress, we can reach the podium in Nagoya,” Moeini said.

How will the women's national wheelchair basketball team qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics?

“Our efforts to secure a quota for the Paralympics will begin after Nagoya. Once the Asian Para Games are over, we will focus on earning the qualification spot. We have missed one opportunity to participate in these games before, and next year, we will also compete in the World Championships for this qualification,” Moeini concluded.

## Persepolis forward Alekasir linked with Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team forward Issa Alekasir has been linked with a move to Esteghlal. The 35-year-old is reportedly set to join Esteghlal, the archival of Persepolis, on a one-year contract. Media reports suggest that Esteghlal coach Ricardo Sa Pinto is keen on signing Alekasir.

Alekasir did not meet expectations during his last season with Persepolis.

## Iran move up three spots in FIVB rankings

TEHRAN – Iran's men's volleyball team have climbed three spots in the latest FIVB rankings, following their recent performance in the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Under the guidance of Roberto Piazza, the team have risen to 13th place with 222.91 points.

Team Melli narrowly missed qualifying for the 2025 VNL final, finishing in eighth place.

Poland reclaimed the top spot in the world rankings with 374.10 points, followed by Italy (370.22), France (363.66), Brazil (359.23), and Japan (339.16).

## Iran lose to Egypt in Lebanon's basketball tournament

TEHRAN – Iran basketball team were edged by Egypt 60-59 in the four-team tournament in Beirut. Team Melli will face Lebanon and Jordan on July 24 and July 25, respectively.

The Persians take part in the event as part of their preparation for the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup.

Led by Greek coach Sotiris Manolopoulos, Iran are drawn into Group B, alongside Japan, Syria, and Guam.

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

## Taremi to return to Porto

TEHRAN – Inter Milan flop Mehdi Taremi could make an unexpected return to Porto only a year after leaving the club.

According to FCInterNews, negotiations between the player's entourage and intermediaries are underway.

There's plenty of regret when it comes to the 33-year-old's career in Serie A.

Despite his stellar scoring exploits in Portugal, his career at San Siro has never taken off.

Instead, Mehdi Taremi is on the verge of leaving Inter sooner than anyone could've imagined.

After only scoring three goals in 43 matches, the Iranian star is ready to pack his bags.

Meanwhile, Besiktas, Nottingham Forest, and Fulham have added him to their shortlists.

Inter will listen to offers, hoping to make around €10 million from Taremi's sale.

Indeed, it would be a capital gain for the Nerazzurri as they signed the striker on a Bosman deal last summer.

Despite inquiries from Turkey and England, Taremi could return to a more familiar environment. Talks between the parties are ongoing.

## Iran not seeking nuclear weapons, false accusations used to justify attacks: Pezeshkian



*Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at a ceremony commemorating cultural, artistic, and media figures martyred during the recent 12-day war with Israel and the U.S. in Tehran on July 22, 2025.*

From Page 1 ► The president condemned the attacks carried out by the United States and Israel, saying the two powers used the false pretext of

nuclear weapons to strike Iranian civilian targets. “Under this excuse, they bombed our hospitals and residential neighborhoods, targeting defenseless civilians—women, children, and ordinary citizens,” he said. Pezeshkian accused Washington and the Zionist regime of seeking to prevent Iran from becoming a strong and independent power in the region. “Our enemies don't want to see Iran stand on its own. But the Iranian people have not submitted to force and aggression—and they never will,” he declared.

He praised the unity shown by the Iranian public during the conflict, saying even those disillusioned with the government set aside their grievances to defend the homeland.

“We have not always treated our people as we should, and at times they've been rightfully upset with us. But in the face of this recent aggression, they stood firm for the nation. We are grateful for

their loyalty and sacrifice.”

The president reaffirmed his commitment to serving the people, saying: “As long as we are alive and breathing, we will remain on this path. We will never forget this nation that stood by Iran when it mattered most.”

## ‘International community's double standards on human rights in Gaza appalling’

Turning to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Pezeshkian harshly criticized the international community's double standards on human rights. “Just look at what's happening to the children of Gaza—they're dying of hunger before the eyes of the world,” he said. “Where are the international organizations that claim to defend the rights of women and children? They exist in name only.”

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))

## Over 20,000 foreign cyberattacks thwarted during 12-day war, Iran ICT minister says

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology announced that the country was the target of more than 20,000 foreign cyberattacks during the recent 12-day war.

Speaking at an open session of Parliament on Tuesday, Sattar Hashemi said coordinated efforts by the Ministry helped contain the damage and ensure the continued operation of vital digital services across the country.

“This was one of the most complex hybrid attacks we've faced, yet thanks to timely management and inter-agency coordination, the disruptions were minimized,” Hashemi told lawmakers.

Presenting a detailed report on communica-

tion security and digital infrastructure during the conflict with the Zionist regime, the ICT minister outlined steps taken to strengthen the National Information Network and support Iran's digital economy throughout the crisis.

Hashemi noted that the Ministry's top priority during the conflict was to ensure the stability of communications and uninterrupted access to digital services for citizens, businesses, and essential sectors.

“Our strategy was designed to protect psychological security and preserve public calm during critical times,” he explained.

He said the Ministry coordinated closely with other government agencies to maintain conti-

nuity in key sectors such as digital payments, retail logistics, fuel distribution, healthcare, and telecommunications. A dedicated task force was established to manage daily operations and troubleshoot disruptions.

Highlighting the broader impact of the war, Hashemi said nearly 10 million Iranians rely directly or indirectly on the digital economy for their livelihood. He revealed that the conflict caused a 30 percent drop in employment within the sector and significant financial losses. However, he praised the resilience of both the business community and the general public.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))



## Government's production support package indicates facilitation, removal of obstacles: ICCIMA head

TEHRAN- The head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) said that the government's production support package indicates facilitation and removal of obstacles.

Samad Hasanzadeh stated: "The government's production support package made it possible to open up and remove barriers in the shortest possible time. Therefore, it is suggested that the government also consider this facilitation in customs, tax, and banking matters and not deal with it on a piecemeal basis."

The official went on to say that one of the economic imperatives is to facilitate trade and reform foreign currency policies so that importers and exporters can manage assets, otherwise the process of converting immovable and movable assets and the flow of production will be disrupted.

He emphasized the formation of a special economic measures headquarters for the private sector and said: "This headquarters must be formed urgently, in this way, the economic threat will be turned into an opportunity."

The Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade has unveiled a production support package focused on sustaining industrial output, particularly for sectors affected by the recent war.

On July 12, Deputy Minister of Mining and Mineral Industries Vajiollah Jafari said the package has been designed around two key pillars, with special assistance allocated to units damaged by the conflict, including access to foreign currency and financial resources.

Jafari said the ministry has held intensive meetings with private-sector industry associations to assess their conditions and formulate targeted measures. These sessions, he noted, are ongoing and include separate talks with groups such as the Lead and Zinc Industries Association, the Refractories Industry Association, and the Cement Employers' Association.

The key topics raised in the consultations included securing stable electricity supplies, maintaining fuel safety for mining industries, addressing foreign currency concerns, expediting import order registrations, supporting domestic production, and boosting resilience in the face of potential crises.

He said the issue of passive defense—measures aimed at increasing deterrence, reducing vulnerability, and maintaining critical operations during emergencies—was also discussed, with the goal of ensuring that industrial production continues uninterrupted in the event of attacks or disruptions.

## Annual manufacturing of washing machines increases 9.6%

TEHRAN- Manufacturing of washing machines in Iran has risen 9.6 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year, Tasnim news agency reported.

As reported, 1,846 million washing machines have been manufactured in 1403, while the figure was 1.684 million in 1402.

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

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

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

She said the association is holding talks with relevant authorities to resolve the sector's bottlenecks. "We view export develop-



The ministry has coordinated with its infrastructure working group to incorporate these concerns into a finalized package that has now been approved and issued by the government. According to Jafari, the package includes two major components: the first targets war-damaged production units by providing access to foreign currency and reconstruction financing, while the second offers broader support to domestic industries through streamlined customs clearance, import procedures, and removal of production bottlenecks.

Although the initiative originated within the Industry Ministry—following a proposal by Seyed Mohammad Atabak—Jafari stressed that multiple government bodies played a key role in its approval. These included the ministries of economy, agriculture, justice, oil, and energy; the Central Bank of Iran; the Planning and Budget Organization; and the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy. Their cooperation will also be essential during the implementation and oversight phases.

Jafari emphasized the package's comprehensiveness, noting that it covers mining and mineral industries as well. Developed by the ministry's infrastructure task force, the package consists of five components: fiscal measures (taxation and social insurance), financial support (loans and bank debt), foreign currency (funding and export obligations), infrastructure (transport and energy), and trade (customs and import registration). Its primary focus is to support continuous production, remove potential barriers for manufacturers and service providers, and align industrial operations with broader foreign currency policies, especially under current economic constraints.

He added that the concerns voiced by various associations have been incorporated into the package, including provisions for prioritizing electricity, fuel, gas, and petroleum products for critical production units. The Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Petroleum have been tasked with ensuring these supplies remain uninterrupted in support of national infrastructure stability.



ment 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.

# Iran approves emergency plan to boost oil output by 250,000 bpd with NDF backing

From Page 1 ▶ The targeted increase will raise Iran's daily crude output from a baseline of around 1.94 million barrels to 2.19 million barrels.

The funding will be repaid through 50 percent of the revenues generated by the increased production.

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) is tasked with managing the financial flow, based on production data provided by NIOC.

If NIOC fails to report in time, the Planning and Budget Organization may intervene to determine repayment obligations.

The Oil Ministry is permitted



to shift up to 20 percent of investment or production targets among affiliated companies under the plan and to defer repay-

ment flows if field production schedules change, provided investors still receive a 20 percent internal rate of return.

The plan is contingent on obtaining all environmental and civil defense permits.

The Environment Department has been instructed to fast-track approvals to facilitate implementation.

The Oil Ministry must submit quarterly progress reports to the Planning and Budget Organization, and both principal and interest owed to the NDF will be incorporated into future state budgets.

This approval replaces a previous directive from 2024 and revokes a separate resolution passed later that year.

## National smart free zones project unveiled to promote digital governance

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday launched a national smart transformation initiative for the country's free trade and special economic zones, unveiling three digital platforms aimed at boosting transparency, efficiency, and tourism.

The project, announced on the sidelines of a meeting of the Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones High Council, includes a digital tourist card system to facilitate purchases by foreign visitors, an online platform offering hotel and restaurant discounts, and a cargo management system for real-time truck scheduling and shipment tracking.

Developed in collaboration with domestic tech firms and knowledge-based companies, the project is part of a broader strategy to transform Iran's free zones into next-generation digital economic hubs.

Officials say the initiative is expected to streamline service delivery, enhance governance, and reduce the impact of sanctions through increased digital resilience.

Over time, the system will integrate additional service chains, potentially reshaping the role of free zones in Iran's economic governance model.

The government says the project also supports improved transparency, better resource management, and a more agile administrative framework aligned with the strategic goals of the Free Zones Council.

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

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

In line with this goal, detailed planning was carried out in all free zones, and as a result, during the 12 days of the imposed war, approximately 118,000 tons of basic goods were cleared from the country's seven free zones, the official reiterated, adding that of course, if demand increases from new zones, this figure

will increase significantly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He added that the content reflects a broader strategy to redesign governance, strengthen the zones' missions based on competitive advantages, reform outdated laws and institutions, and harness Iran's geopolitical and

geo-economic position—including international trade corridors, regional markets, energy routes, and technology capabilities.

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

During a meeting with President Masoud Pezeshkian in last December, Masrouf said that Iran's free trade zones collectively offer a bulk capacity of 61 million tons and 1.4 million TEUs, with the ability to handle 12 million passengers annually.

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

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

Iran's free trade zones play a crucial role in facilitating trade, investment, and tourism by offering tax incentives, reduced tariffs, and streamlined regulations. The southern zones, such as Chabahar, Kish, and Qeshm, serve as key gateways for trade with the Indian Ocean, while northern zones like Anzali and Mazandaran provide critical access to the Caspian Sea region.

The Chabahar Free Zone, in particular, holds strategic significance as a transit hub connecting Iran to Central Asia, Afghanistan, and India via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Meanwhile, Kish and Qeshm are pivotal for tourism and energy-related industries, with advanced port infrastructure to support containerized and bulk cargo handling.

The total capacity of 61 million tons of bulk cargo and 1.4 million containers highlights the zones' potential to strengthen Iran's position as a regional logistics hub. Additionally, the ability to accommodate 12 million passengers annually reflects the zones' growing role in boosting tourism and maritime transport.

## Power infrastructure projects worth \$120m launched in northern Iran

TEHRAN - Iran's Energy Ministry has inaugurated 26 major electricity infrastructure projects in the northern province of Mazandaran, aiming to boost the reliability and capacity of the regional power grid.

The projects, valued at around 60 trillion rials (approximately \$120 million), include the construction and upgrade of power

transmission lines, high- and medium-voltage substations, distributed generation units, and smart grid infrastructure.

Among the key initiatives are the expansion of transmission and distribution networks, the development of several new substations across the province, and the launch of locally-developed smart

dispatch centers for grid monitoring and control.

New small-scale power plants were also added with private sector participation to diversify electricity supply.

Officials said the projects are designed to enhance energy security, support sustainable devel-

opment, and help position Mazandaran as a future energy hub in northern Iran.

The head of Mazandaran and Golestan Regional Electricity Company emphasized the use of artificial intelligence and innovation in the implementation process, calling the initiatives a model for transforming Iran's electricity sector.

## 150 km of new freeways to be inaugurated by Mar. 2026

TEHRAN - Iran plans to inaugurate 150 kilometers of new freeways across the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2026), the head of the country's transport infrastructure development company said on Tuesday.

Houshang Bazvand, head of the Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company, said the government is also set to begin construction on seven new expressway projects totaling 359 kilometers in partnership with the private sector.

The projects involve an investment of 1.1 quadrillion rials (approximately \$2.2 billion),

with over half provided by private firms.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Pardis-Haraz freeway, Bazvand said this is the third project launched this year, alongside segments of the Urmia-Tabriz and Arak-Shazand-Khorramabad routes. So far, a total of 210 trillion rials (roughly \$420 million) has been invested in the three projects.

The Pardis-Haraz freeway is intended to relieve traffic congestion in the eastern corridor of Tehran Province.

While the project is scheduled to take four years, officials are aiming to complete it within three.

Bazvand added that with support from the Roads and Urban Development Ministry, 23.5 trillion rials (\$47 million) in cash and an additional 200 trillion rials (\$400 million) in bonds have already been secured, noting that this year's funding allocation is stronger than in previous years.

He also pointed to recent attacks attributed to Israel during a 12-day conflict, saying construction sites in multiple provinces were targeted, including four attacks on the Kermanshah-Islamabad corridor and others on the Urmia-Tabriz and Miandoab-Tabriz rail line. Despite the strikes, no construction site was shut down, he said.



# UN Security Council is a partner in Gaza crimes

*International institutions have failed to defend human rights in Gaza*

By Fatemeh Kavand

TEHRAN – The deep and ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip represents an exceptional point in the contemporary history of human rights and international security. This crisis, shaped by the systematic and deliberate policies of the Israeli regime, embodies a gradual genocide and widespread human rights violations centered on the intentional deprivation and destruction of basic living conditions.

Numerous reports from international organizations, including the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the United Nations, indicate an unprecedented deterioration in nutrition, health, and human security in this region. In the face of these disasters, international bodies, especially the United Nations Security Council, through silence and inaction, have effectively abdicated their vital duties to protect humanity and have become complicit in this cycle of violence due to the pressure exerted by powerful states.

One of the prominent dimensions of Israel's crimes in Gaza is the gradual genocide carried out through the intentional deprivation of essential resources such as food, medicine, and healthcare services. This form of genocide, referred to in Article 3 of the 1948 Genocide Convention, involves deliberate actions to destroy, in whole or in part, a human group by depriving them of necessary living conditions (United Nations, 1948).

In recent years, international organizations including FEWS NET have repeatedly warned that over 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million population rely on emergency food aid, and approximately 70% of



households face severe nutritional shortages (FEWS NET, 2023). This crisis results from Israel's complete blockade of Gaza, which restricts access to essential goods and directly impacts the daily lives of its people. Moreover, preventing the entry of medicine, medical equipment, and other necessities has led to the collapse of Gaza's healthcare system; more than 50% of hospitals have either shut down or lost operational capacity due to shortages of staff and equipment (UN OCHA, 2024; WHO, 2024).

From a human rights perspective, this situation constitutes a blatant violation of fundamental human rights, including the right to life, nutrition, healthcare, and living in humane conditions. The intentional deprivation of these rights, implemented through blockade and structural restrictions, precisely fits within the legal definition of genocide and is subject to criminal prosecution (International Criminal Court, 2012).

This gradual genocide is compounded by active military and security policies of Israel, expanding its dimensions. Repeated bombings of critical infrastructure, hospitals, schools, and food ware-

houses, documented by Amnesty International and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, reveal a coordinated and systematic strategy to destroy living conditions (Amnesty International, 2023; OHCHR, 2024).

The destruction of water, electricity, and healthcare systems, combined with economic blockade, has placed Gaza's population in a condition where, beyond the immediate dangers of war, they endure complex and deadly humanitarian crises. Unemployment in Gaza has exceeded 50%, and approximately 30% of children suffer from chronic malnutrition (World Bank, 2023).

These acts are recognized under international law as war crimes and crimes against humanity. International humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, explicitly mandates the protection of civilians and vital infrastructure and prohibits their intentional destruction. However, with unwavering U.S. support and global silence, Israel has effectively violated these norms and engaged in structural genocide.

In the face of this vast humanitarian disaster, international institutions, especially the Security Council, have acted weakly and

passively. The main reason for this failure is the repeated use of the veto power by the United States as a permanent Security Council member, preventing the adoption of binding resolutions against Israel. The fact that the Security Council has held several emergency sessions and passed multiple resolutions on the Ukraine crisis, while remaining a mere spectator in Gaza, highlights a glaring double standard in international politics (UN Security Council Records, 2023-2024).

Despite full awareness of the disaster's dimensions, the UN Secretary-General has effectively remained silent and failed to take practical and effective actions to pressure Israel or support civilians. This silence, severely criticized by independent human rights organizations, constitutes not only a moral breach but also a practical violation of the UN's mandates (HRW, 2024).

This inaction by international bodies effectively legitimizes Israeli crimes and facilitates the continuation of human rights violations. Furthermore, given the political and military role of the United States and its extensive support for Israel, international law has practically become an instrument for defending the interests of dominant powers.

The international legal system, established as a mechanism for regulating inter-state relations and protecting human rights, faces a fundamental challenge. The position of international institutions, especially the Security Council, has become limited and inefficient due to the dominance of great powers.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))

## Starvation and slaughter: The only achievements of Israel's war on Gaza



*Palestinians at a charity kitchen in Gaza City [Mahmoud Issa/Reuters]*

From page 1 ▶ Cummings said in Deir el-Balah she had seen "hungry people, children carrying empty bowls, looking for food, looking for water. It's absolutely desperate here.

"We're seeing an increased number of children in our clinics and our nutrition centers who are malnourished ... We're also seeing an increase in the number of pregnant women and breastfeeding women who are also malnourished," she said, adding, "Everyone in Gaza is hungry now, and even in my team, I see visibly my team are

thin, and also they cannot get food in the market."

Michael Fakhri, the UN special rapporteur on the right to food, has said starvation in Gaza is a "man-made" famine.

"What we are seeing now in Gaza is the most horrific stage of Israel's starvation campaign," Fakhri told Al Jazeera.

Meanwhile, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said more than one million children in Gaza are going hungry as Israel has only allowed a trickle of food and humanitarian aid to enter the territory since March.

In a related development, the foreign ministers of 25 countries, including several Israeli allies, released a joint statement calling for the immediate end of the war in Gaza.

"The suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths. The Israeli government's aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity.

The Israeli Government's denial of essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population is unacceptable. Israel must comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law," the statement said.

France and the UK are among the signatories—both considered allies of Israel.

Their signatures on the statement signal a growing awareness that Israel's military strategy in Gaza has failed. It is also seen as an attempt to appease public opinion in these European countries, where citizens increasingly oppose Israel's brutal war on Gaza.

Israel has not only starved Palestinians in Gaza to death, but has also opened fire on those seeking food aid in the enclave.

Approximately 100 Gazans were killed by Israeli forces over the weekend as they gathered near a convoy of food trucks sent by the United Nations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the Israeli army to launch a war on Gaza in October 2023 following the Hamas attack. Since then, Israeli forces have killed more than 59,000 Gazans. But Israel has failed to achieve its stated goal of destroying Hamas.

Starving civilians to death—including children—killing people seeking food, and destroying much of Gaza's infrastructure are the only outcomes Israel has achieved.

## UN: Israel has killed over 1,000 seeking Gaza aid since late May



The UN on Tuesday said Israeli forces have killed over 1,000 Palestinians trying to get food aid in Gaza since the US- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation started operations.

An officially private effort, the GHF began operations on May 26 after Israel halted supplies into the Gaza Strip for more than two months, sparking famine warnings.

GHF operations have been marred by chaotic scenes and near-daily reports of Israeli forces firing on people waiting to collect rations in the Palestinian territory, where the Israeli military is seeking to destroy Hamas.

"Over 1,000 Palestinians have now been

killed by the Israeli military while trying to get food in Gaza since the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation started operating," UN human rights office spokesman Thameen Al-Kheetan told AFP.

"As of July 21, we have recorded 1,054 people killed in Gaza while trying to get food; 766 of them were killed in the vicinity of GHF sites and 288 near UN and other humanitarian organizations' aid convoys."

Kheetan added: "Our data is based on information from multiple reliable sources on the ground, including medical teams, humanitarian and human rights organizations."

## AFP warns Gaza journalists risk starving to death amid ongoing Israeli siege

The AFP journalists' union has warned that its colleagues working in Gaza are facing death from starvation, as a result of Israel's blockade on the besieged Palestinian territory.

"We have lost journalists in conflicts, we have had wounded and imprisoned in our ranks, but none of us remembers seeing a

colleague die of hunger," the union, SDJ (Society of Journalists), said in a statement on Monday, Middle East Eye reported.

Following the union's statement, AFP management said it "shares the anguish expressed by the SDJ regarding the appalling situation of its staff" and urged Israel to allow their evacuation.

## US envoy Barrack threatens Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ During that hour, contact or conversation between detainees is prohibited.

Time is allocated for showering, cleaning, and walking.

Detainees are not allowed to leave the secret wing, even to meet with a lawyer, receive medical treatment, or attend court hearings.

On the wall is a large placard of the carpet-bombed Gaza entitled in Arabic: "New Gaza."

Earlier this month, the Palestinian Prisoners' Information Office documented shocking testimonies of systematic torture in Israeli prisons, including the direct use of police dogs to humiliate and physically harm detainees.

## There is no guarantee to release Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons in Gaza

According to those whom he met, Thomas Barrack was "very strict," reiterating that Hezbollah is a "terrorist organization" with which Washington does not negotiate.

Barrack explicitly declared Washington's inability to provide the guarantees Lebanon is seeking, saying, "We cannot force Israel to do anything."

Further, the U.S. envoy claimed that Washington is using its influence and leverage to reach a "solution," but that the issue rests solely with the Lebanese government and political forces, who he claims are tired of "squabbling" and are seeking "understanding and peace with their neighbors."

Barrack also threatened Lebanon, saying if the government does not make a unanimous decision to disarm Hezbollah as soon as possible, Washington "cannot impose anything on Israel and cannot prevent it from doing anything."

In parallel with the US insistence on disarming the Resistance, Hezbollah persists in cast-

ing doubt on the US policy announcements.

It describes US promises to help find a solution as "empty."

Sources within the tripartite committee—comprising President Joseph Aoun, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam—confirmed a shared commitment to prioritizing internal dialogue.

As a matter of national interest, the officials agreed to sidestep detailed discussion of Barrack's proposal, which, they argue, does not adequately confront the escalating Israeli threats.

In this context, the National Front for the Salvation of Lebanon (a coalition of Lebanese parties) warned the Lebanese government in a joint statement against submitting to Barrack's pressures that "allowed Syria's land and airspace to be penetrated by the Israeli enemy, and led to a devastating civil war, after the state lost all ability to protect civil peace and deter the enemy."

The NFSL indicated that these facts "must be carefully examined so that the government does not follow the example of the new Syrian regime," wondering: "If the circumstances in Lebanon are similar, or even identical, to those witnessed in Syria, will the outcome here be different from the outcome there?"

The NFSL added: "It is not the resistance that is preventing the establishment of the state in Lebanon.

Quite the contrary, it was the absence of the state and its refusal to fulfill its duty to protect the homeland that forced the people to establish the resistance in light of the aggression, killing, destruction, and displacement they are subjected to at the hands of the Israeli enemy."

It concluded its statement: "Those who want to resolve the exclusivity of arms to the state, if they are sincere, must resolve the problem of building the state, not demand the destruction of the resistance, which constitutes the only guarantee to deter the enemy and prevent Lebanon from being dragged into a devastating civil war."

## Swift Yemeni response after Israeli aggression

From page 1 ▶ Saree reiterated that such operations will continue and will only stop once the genocidal war on Gaza ends and the blockade is lifted.

He also expressed gratitude to the Yemeni people for their continued support of the Palestinian cause and their rejection of foreign domination over the Arab and Islamic nations.

Also, Yemenis flooded the streets of the capital, Sanaa, and many other cities every Thursday, expressing their support for Gaza and the Palestinians. This has been continuing for nearly 20 months.

Additionally, Saree paid tribute to the people of Palestine in

both the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank for their sacrifices, praising the resistance forces for confronting the occupying enemy and defending the broader Arab and Islamic world.

The Israeli regime's military confirmed it had detected a ballistic missile launched from Yemen.

Air raid sirens were heard across wide areas and the missile led to the temporary suspension of flights at Ben Gurion Airport.

Following the Yemeni announcement, Israeli media reported another incoming missile from Yemen.

Earlier, Saree announced that

the Yemeni drone force had carried out a targeted military operation against five key military and strategic locations in the occupied territories.

According to Saree, the targets included Ben Gurion Airport, a military facility in Tel Aviv, the port of Eilat, Ramon Airport, and a vital site in the Ashdod area. The attack, described as successful, was carried out by five drones.

Saree affirmed Yemen's readiness to confront any hostile moves aimed at preventing it from fulfilling its "religious, moral, and humanitarian duty toward the Palestinian people."

The government in Sanaa has said the operation by the Yemeni



## Taq-e Bostan sign installed in Turkey's Gaziantep

TEHRAN – A sign representing Taq-e Bostan, one of Iran's most significant Sasanian archaeological sites near Kermanshah, has been installed in a prominent square leading to the city's airport in Gaziantep.

Iman Derakhshi, an official with the Kermanshah Municipality, highlighted this installation in promoting Kermanshah's tourism potential and cultural heritage internationally.

Speaking on Tuesday, Derakhshi explained that the monument's placement is a result of strengthened international ties fostered last year through the Global Creative City Network's gastronomy initiative, in which Kermanshah participated.

One of the key goals of such inter-city cultural exchanges is to introduce and showcase the unique capacities and heritage of cities on the international stage, Derakhshi noted.

Taq-e Bostan, located approximately 5 kilometers from the center of Kermanshah in the heart of the Zagros Mountains, is renowned for its large Sasanian-era rock reliefs carved around the 4th century CE. These include monumental arched niches and detailed carvings commemorating Sasanian kings, set beside sacred springs that feed a



large reflecting pool.

Registered on Iran's National Heritage List and included on UNESCO's Tentative World Heritage List, Taq-e Bostan stands as one of the 30 surviving Sassanid relics in the Zagros region. The site was historically situated along a Silk Road caravan route, serving as both a waypoint and a ceremonial location for Sassanid rulers.

Arthur Pope, founder of the Iranian Art and Archaeology Institute in the United States, famously described Iranian art as a gift to the world, highlighting the enduring cultural significance of sites like Taq-e Bostan.

## Automobile Museum of Iran launches special detailing workshop

TEHRAN – The Automobile Museum of Iran, also known as the Historical Car Museum of Iran, will host its first workshop on professional car detailing and preservation starting August 24.

The workshop, organized by the museum's Classic Car Restoration College, will focus on detailing, a specialized cleaning method important for maintaining both regular and historical vehicles. The training emphasizes careful preservation of original parts and prevention of corrosion in classic cars.

According to the public relations office of the Defeine Museum Group, the workshop will be conducted under the supervision of the International Council of Museums and the Automobile Museum of Iran.

"The program aims to promote proper care standards for historical automobiles to preserve their authenticity."

Earlier in May, the country's first specialized college dedicated to the restoration of classic cars was inaugurated at the Automobile Museum, which is affiliated with the Dafineh



Museum Group and operating under the Mostazafan Foundation.

The prestigious museum is dedicated to preserving and showcasing the country's rich automotive heritage. It houses a collection of rare and vintage vehicles, highlighting the evolution of automobiles in Iran and around the world. It also serves as an educational center for car enthusiasts and professionals, offering workshops and programs focused on classic car restoration and maintenance.

## Restoration of Hafez mausoleum starts

TEHRAN—Head of Fars Cultural Heritage Department Mohsen Ziaei gave news of beginning of organizing and restoring Hafez mausoleum, a historical and cultural site where the 14th-century Persian poet is laid to rest. Better known as Hafezieh, the monument is considered one of the most important attractions of Shiraz, Fars province and Iran, he pointed out.

According to ISNA, Hafezieh has registered the highest number of tourists across the country in recent years, he added.

He also said that organizing and restoring the mausoleum started with a credit worth 18.5 billion rials (\$20,555).

Ziaei continued that lightening, moisture insulation of the roof and brick pavement of the tombs on the western side of the tomb, repairs and restoration of the brick parts of the building on the northern side and the tombs of the western side of the mausoleum, and the implementation of paving stones locally in the required parts of the area are being carried out.

He said that this restoration operation is being carried out by a contractual method, predicting that it would be completed by the end of Iranian month of Aban (November 21).

Ziaei explained that Hafezieh pertains to Al-e Mozaffar era, adding that it was registered under the number 1009 on National Heritage List in December 1966.



Hafezieh site is set in a charming orchard. Hafez's tomb is surmounted by an octagonal dome supported by eight stone columns. The internal side of the tomb bears elaborate tile-work.

Hafez poetry soaked in a deep sense of humanity echoes ranges of historical events, biographical descriptions, and details of life in his hometown, Shiraz. He is most famous for his Divan and among the many partial English translations of this work are those by Gertrude Bell and H. Wilberforce Clarke.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation. It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

# Astarabad restores historic passage to celebrate heritage, draw visitors

TEHRAN – The municipality of Gorgan has officially launched the second phase of a major restoration project aimed at revitalizing a historic passageway in the ancient city of Astarabad, now known as Gorgan.

The initiative focuses on preserving the city's cultural identity and enhancing the quality of its historic urban fabric, yet it seeks to facilitate visits to the ancient city.

Mayor Majid Taheri on Thursday announced that the restoration work will extend from the historic Nalbandan Bazaar to Aftab 15 Street. The project is designed to safeguard and strengthen Gorgan's rich cultural heritage while upgrading the city's infrastructure.

"The first phase of this project, which began late last year and was completed in May, has received highly positive feedback from residents and heritage experts alike," Taheri said. "It has significantly improved the quality of life in the historic district and fostered a stronger sense of belonging among the community."

The current phase aims to complete the connectivity between historic passageways and improve access, creating visual and functional continuity across different parts of the old city. This connectivity is expected to play a vital role in invigorating the urban dynamics of Gorgan's



historic core.

Taheri emphasized the project's broader significance beyond heritage preservation, highlighting its potential economic and social benefits. "Revitalizing the historic fabric will attract tourists, boost local businesses, and improve residents' welfare," he stated.

The municipality is committed to continuing the restoration work without interruption, applying precise planning and modern construction technologies while respecting traditional architectural standards. Citizens

are encouraged to collaborate in maintaining these renewed public spaces to ensure the project's ongoing success.

The first phase included restoration of the passageways, street network improvements, creation of green spaces, and installation of appropriate lighting -- all aimed at enhancing the area's attractiveness and safety.

Located in northern Iran along a tributary of the Qareh River, about 37 kilometers from the Caspian Sea, Astarabad has a history dating back to the Achaemenian era. It endured centuries

of tribal conflicts and was renamed Gorgan in the 1930s after a devastating earthquake.

Gorgan and the wider Golestan province are rich in historical and natural landmarks, including the UNESCO-listed Gonbad-e Qabus—a thousand-year-old brick tower renowned for its architectural influence. The city is also known for the Great Wall of Gorgan, an extensive ancient defensive barrier longer than both Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall combined.

## Fire has not caused any damage to UNESCO-inscribed Abr Forest

TEHRAN—Flames of fire in the pastures surrounding Abr Forest ("Cloud Forest") in Shahroud, which has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, was completely contained after the relentless efforts of the rescue forces, the deputy governor general of Semnan province has said.

Farajollah Iliat also said that investigations show that the area and privacy of the Hyrcanian Forest World Heritage Site were spared any damage in this incident, ISNA reported.

He added that with restless efforts of rescue forces, volunteer forces and administrative bodies, the fire was contained and with the full deployment of forces in the area, the fire was prevented from spreading to the Abr Forest.

Pointing to the presence of forces in the region, he said currently, the situation of the region

is in stable and in the final monitoring and care phase.

Also, Mohammad-Sadeq Razavian, head of Shahroud Cultural Heritage Department, said despite the extent of the fire in the pastures and surroundings of Abr Forest, fortunately, no damage was caused to the area or the precinct of Hyrcanian Forest World Heritage Site, and this valuable natural heritage is in perfect health.

Appreciating the round-the-clock efforts of forces for extinguishing the fire, he said the unique coordination between administrative bodies as well as public participation led to extinguish the fire in the least possible time.

He added that the initial estimate indicated that close to 35 hectares of the pastures have been set ablaze.



Abr (Cloud) Forest of Shahroud is a part of the eldest and most beautiful Hyrcanian forests with rare animal and plant species and it is one of the most beautiful places in Shahroud. In this forest, clouds are so close to the

trees that makes it seem like the forest is riding the clouds and you can wander in the clouds. Many tourists believe that this is one of the most scenic places of Iran's nature.

## Golpayegan Jame' Mosque to undergo restoration

TEHRAN—Head of Golpayegan Cultural Heritage Department Mostafa Qanouni gave news of restoration project for Golpayegan Jame' Mosque in Isfahan province.

He explained that 17 billion rials (\$18,889) worth of national credits has been allocated for restoration project, IRNA reported.

Pointing to the renovation of the northern and southern shabestans (underground spaces prevalent in traditional Iranian architecture observed in mosques) of Golpayegan Jame' Mosque, he said that this restoration includes replacing some worn bricks, repairing the joints, and removing extensions such as electrical cables and gas installations on the walls.

These repairs are in continuation of restoration of the dome of the mosque, the altar, and the exterior of this historical monument, which was conducted last year.

He predicted that this stage of restoration would be completed before the end of current Iranian year, adding: "In the second stage, the lighting and beautification of the interior of this building will be implemented."

Pointing to the growth in numbers of visits to this ancient mosque in recent years due to its better introduction to the visitors, he said that over 500,000 domestic and foreign sightseers visited this monument last year.



Golpayegan Jame' Mosque is a relic of the Seljuk era. It was registered under the number 191 on the National Heritage List in 1933.

According to Archnet, the mosque is roughly rectangular in design and consists of vaulted and domed prayer halls enveloping the four sides of a rectangular courtyard. It is oriented northeast-southwest and measures about seventy-three meters by forty-four meters on the exterior.

Measuring twenty-six meters wide and thirty-two meters deep, the courtyard is symmetrically arranged with two grand square iwans to the northeast and southwest, and two small iwans to the northwest and southeast.

A square dome chamber or sanctuary is

constructed entirely of brick and is opened on three sides with vaulted archways flanked by embedded columns. The east and north corners of the chamber have thick double columns marking the corner, flanked by narrow archways cut into the adjoining walls that are topped by arched windows.

Centered on the qibla wall, the three-sided mihrab niche of the Seljuk dome chamber has stucco work, topped by a blind arch carved with inscriptions and an inscription plaque.

The interior surfaces are adorned with brick panels with intricate geometric motifs and geometric compositions in Kufic letters. The exterior of the dome structure is left plain, except for a ring of large diamonds encircling the dome's base.

The single minaret of the mosque is located outside the precinct, behind the qibla wall, and also dates from the Seljuk period. Its octagonal base is joined by a tall cylindrical shaft which is topped by a narrow turret placed off-center.

The terms Jame' Mosque, Masjed-e Jame', or Friday Mosque are used in Iran for a grand communal mosque where mandatory Friday prayers are performed: the phrase is used in other Muslim countries but only in Iran does it designate this purpose.

Golpayegan is located some 175 kilometers west of Isfahan.



# DOE highlights role of experts in expanding environmental diplomacy

TEHRAN – The head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, has highlighted the role of Iranian experts and their participation in international meetings in expanding environmental diplomacy, particularly in dealing with sand and dust storms (SDSs).

Enhancing synergy and effective cooperation among responsible organizations is essential for the management of the SDS phenomenon, IRIB quoted Ansari as saying.

Currently, the major sources of SDSs have to be prioritized, and agreements on environmental diplomacy, focusing on neighboring countries, have to be pursued, she noted.

Referring to the development of a comprehensive sand and dust plan, the official said the national document involves ten major strategies such as avoiding overexploitation of biological resources, enhancing preparedness in dealing with SDSs, as well as improving trust and social assets in affected areas.

**Active diplomacy prerequisite for addressing trans-boundary SDSs**

Referring to the fact that the sources of the SDSs impacting Iran are located outside the



country, an official with the 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 initiatives are also emerging, he added.

Enhancing synergy and effective cooperation among responsible organizations is essential for dealing with SDSs.

“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.

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

President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued an order calling for the establishment of a specialized working group to address SDSs, which have turned into a significant public health concern in the country.

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

## Iran National Science Foundation releases annual report

TEHRAN – The performance report of Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) in support of Iranian researchers over the past Iranian year (March 2024–March 2025) has been published.

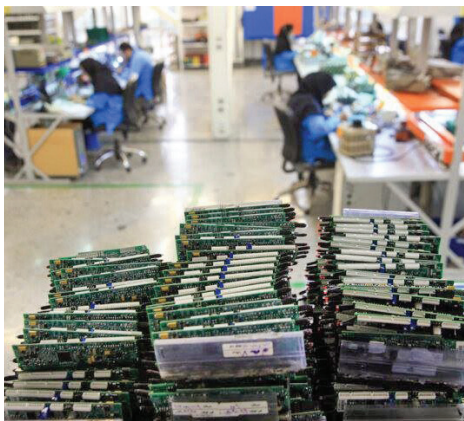
The report includes financial support packages for research projects, post-doctoral projects, and international projects, which aimed to enhance national and international cooperation, research chairs and grants, and science promotion events such as ‘science night’, IRNA reported.

According to the report, a total of 4,951 projects were submitted, and for 1,617 of the projects, support packages have been approved with an acceptance rate of 33 percent. Men and women accounted for 66 and 34 percent of the submissions.

The number of financial support packages approved by the foundation has doubled compared to the year earlier, rising from 2.12 billion rials (about 2.390 million dollars) in 1402 (March 2023 – March 2024) to 4.28 billion rials (almost 4.942 million dollars) in 1403.

Also, the report shows that Basic Sciences and Life Sciences Working Group had the highest percentage of the approved projects (31 percent) followed by Engineering Working Group (26 percent), the Medical and Health Sciences working Group (16 percent), Agriculture and Natural Resources working group (15 percent), the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Art working group (11 percent), and Religious Sciences working group (less than one percent).

Researchers from Hormozgan, Bushehr, and Gilan provinces had the highest acceptance rate, while researchers from Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, and East Azarbaijan provinces received the highest amount of funding.



University of Tehran (with 158 projects), Tarbiat Modares University (with 149 projects), and Sharif University of Technology (with 87 projects) ranked first to third in terms of the number of projects approved by the foundation.

Over the past year, a total of 691 projects were completed, of which 411 projects were registered in Iranian year 1400 (2021-2022), 131 projects in 1401 (2022-2023), 82 projects in 1402, and 67 projects in 1403.

In addition to ongoing usual support of scientific research initiatives, the ISNF issued 25 calls for projects. Thirty-two percent of projects were submitted following the calls, and 50.4 percent of funds were allocated to these projects.

The foundation evaluated 6,857 projects and monitored 2670 cases last year. The average evaluation times for accepted projects lowered from 106 days in 1402 to 90 days in 1403. The evaluation time for rejected ones decreased from 65 days in 1402 to 64 days in 1403.

The ISNF also held various meetings in the fields of science to promote scientific authority, expand science and technology, and

develop science in society.

### Joint calls this year

In the current Iranian year, which started on March 21, Iran and China will support the implementation of ten research projects by faculty members, following the fifth joint call by the INSF and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

The grant, amounting to 40 billion rials (some \$45,000) for each research project, will be allocated to the following fields, ISNA reported.

1. Traditional Medicine and Medicinal Plants:

Evidence-based integration and standardization of traditional Chinese and traditional Persian medicine for major diseases; Sustainable medicinal plants: eco-cultivation, biodiversity, and resilience; and the Application of Digital and AI Tools in the Classification, Analysis, and Clinical Research of Traditional Medicine and Medicinal Plants.

2. Energy:

Renewable Energy; High efficiency Utilization of Conventional Energy; Energy-Related Materials; Storage Technologies; and the Application of Artificial Intelligence in the Energy Field.

Iran and Russia will also support the implementation of 10 research projects following the second joint call by the INSF and the Russian Science Foundation (RSF).

The grant will be allocated on competitive basis for scientific and technical programs and projects in the following fields: Chemistry and material sciences, like smart materials, biomaterials, rare earth minerals, batteries, and superconductors, Biology and life sciences, such as biology, biotechnology, and microbiology, and Basic research for medicine.

## Welfare Organization’s services materialize ‘commitment, inclusiveness, and hope’: UNDP

TEHRAN – The resident representative ad interim for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Iran, Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, has commended the Welfare Organization’s services, which have materialized commitment, inclusiveness, and hope over the past 45 years.

Being highly reliable, the Welfare Organization has offered services everywhere from metropolises to the most remote villages, ISNA quoted the official as saying.

She made the remarks while addressing a ceremony for the deployment of harm reduction mobile centers in Tehran on Monday.

The relentless efforts of the organization are based on Article 29 that which guarantees the right to social security for all citizens, she noted. Article 29 specifies that everyone is entitled to social security benefits related to retirement, unemployment, old age, disability, lack of a guardian, accidents, and the need for healthcare and treatment, and that the government is responsible for providing these services and financial support, using national revenues and public contributions, as outlined by law.

The organization has brought dignity and care to those facing deprivation and social exclusion by providing services such as mobile clinics, harm reduction centers, and conducting programs for women, children, and those in need of special services, Medagangoda-Labé added.

The UNDP has had the honor of cooperating with the Welfare Organization through Global Funds to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, Medagangoda-Labé stated.

The partnership has led to the development of a resilient and people-centered infrastructure, with over 430 service centers and 58 mobile vans. Over the past year, committed medical staff directly offered services to some 19,000 vulnerable people in remote areas through mobile clinics, the official highlighted.

## The UNDP activities in Iran are centered around social and economic welfare, health, environment, and disaster risk reduction.

She went on to say that these efforts and services were not ceased even during the 12-day war imposed by Israel on the country, which indicates not just resilience, but the highest commitment to public health.

The results speak for themselves; over 60 percent of individuals living with HIV know their status, and more than 40 percent of high-risk populations received prevention packages from the organization over the past year.

Welfare Organization provides a large proportion of HIV services in the country, and in more than 90 percent of people being treated, the viral load has been suppressed, the official further noted.

“On our way ahead, the United Nations Development Program and the Welfare Organization will continue their joint efforts. Our goal is to expand mobile services, expand databases to address social harms, and develop evidence-based policies that are inclusive and responsive to future needs, and grounded in human dignity.

The collaboration also has the potential to expand by including mental health services, violence prevention, maintenance treatment, and professional rehabilitation.

“Today, we honor not only the (achievements of) the past, but a promising future wherein any village, area, and home benefit from dignity, hope, and care,” the official stressed.

### National Welfare Week

National Welfare Week was held across the country from July 16 to 22. This year, the week was observed with the theme ‘together for well-being; participating today, empowering tomorrow’.



Welfare Organization’s head, Javad Hosseini (R), and UNDP representative in Iran, Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, attending a ceremony for the deployment of harm reduction mobile centers in Tehran on Monday.

The head of the Welfare Organization, Seyed Javad Hosseini, said that 10,566 housing, employment, social, and rehabilitation projects with a total investment of 520 billion rials (some 580,000 dollars) will be inaugurated on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of National Welfare Week, IRNA reported.

About 77 percent of the projects focus on employment, 21 percent on housing, and the remaining two percent on the social and rehabilitation sector, the official noted.

Moreover, 359 projects will be started, most of which will be implemented in Kerman, Lorestan, and Isfahan provinces.

Over the past year, 14,000 housing units were provided to beneficiaries and people with disabilities. 45,966 houses are under construction. And 1,942 housing units will be handed over to people with disabilities during the week, Hosseini highlighted.

The official went on to announce the launch of a job support fund. “Thanks to welfare services, nearly 200,000 beneficiaries and individuals with disabilities were employed, and the service sector accounts for 62 percent of the employment.

### UNDP activities in Iran

Currently, the UNDP activities in Iran are centered around four key areas, including social and economic welfare, health, environment, and disaster risk reduction, Medagangoda-Labé said in April

The official made the remarks addressing the ceremony held on the occasion of 20 years of UNDP and Welfare Organization partnership, Mehr news agency reported.

“One of the main tasks of the United Nations Development Program is to promote successful models from other countries and introduce them to the Welfare Organization. We always try to secure the necessary financial resources to support activities being carried out in Iran.”

The top priorities of the UNDP in the economic, social welfare area include conducting research, supporting micro and small enterprises, and improving the social and economic well-being of at-risk groups, like female heads of households and vulnerable youth, the official noted.

Health is the second work area, which involves combating communicable and non-communicable diseases. Here, the UNDP works closely with other UN agencies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The third area is the environment. The UNDP is trying to protect the country’s natural resources, wetlands, and biodiversity. It also assists in addressing climate change impacts through complying with international standards.

The official went on to say that in the energy sector, the focus is on using renewable resources. Currently, Iran is just using one percent of its potential capacity in renewable energies such as solar, wind, and water.

“We hope to be able to utilize domestic and international capacities to develop solar energy in different centers, such as health,” Medagangoda-Labé said.

The fourth area of the UNDP activities in the country is disaster risk reduction. The successful experience in reducing sand and dust storms is a typical example of cooperation in this sector, the official further noted.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## ‘Existing vaccines are effective against mutated coronavirus’

The COVID-19 vaccines, which have been so far produced in the world are also effective on the mutated virus, so people who receive the vaccines will be protected against the new virus strain, Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

What raised concerns about the newly-produced vaccine was the ineffectiveness against the mutated virus, which fortunately studies show, the mutation of the virus and the chromosomal alteration are not enough to change its general nature, he explained.

## واکسن کرونا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند

مسعود مردانی عضو ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا می گوید واکسن تولید و تایید شده در دنیا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند و افرادی که واکسن تایید شده را بزنند علیه این ویروس هم مصونیت پیدا می کنند. مردانی روز سه شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: آنچه نگران آن هستیم این است که واکسن تولید شده برای کووید ۱۹ در دنیا نسبت به ویروس جهش یافته بی اثر باشد که خوشبختانه بررسی ها نشان می دهد، جهش ویروس و تغییر کرموزومی ویروس به قدری نیست که ماهیت کلی آن تغییر کند.





JULY 23, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Best way to defend Islam, is to practice Islam.*  
**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times » Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:36 Dawn: 3:26 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:06 (tomorrow)

## Celebration honors storytelling mothers, commemorates war narrators

TEHRAN – On Monday, a special ceremony was held in Tehran to honor storytelling mothers and reflect on the memories of mothers who narrated the twelve-day war.

The event took place at Rainbow Kindergarten, which was severely damaged during the brutal aggression of Israel on the Iranian soil, ISNA reported.

The ceremony was attended by Raheleh Amini, a defender of information dissemination during the country's defense, Zahra Mohsenifard, a researcher in children's literature and a specialist in youth books, and Somayeh Ostadaqa, a storyteller and active cultural educator, who is also a teacher of one of the martyred students, the report added.

"Storytelling Mothers" was an initiative that was launched on June 16 by the Art and Cultural Organization of Tehran Municipality to help children connect with important human values, Toktam Najafimanesh, one of the organizers said.

The project aimed to foster a deeper understanding of resilience, patriotism, and community spirit through the art of storytelling, she added.

The organization invited all enthusiasts of children's literature—regardless of gender or whether they had children—to participate by reading and recording stories centered around Iran, its heroes, and its national progress. The goal was to present narratives that highlight the strength of the country and its people, particularly during challenging times, in order to nurture a positive outlook among young audiences.

She explained that despite challenges faced in virtual activity during this period, the project continued successfully and was warmly received by the audience.

"The campaign received nearly a thousand sto-



ries, with mothers sharing narratives centered on victory and hope for children. Over 450 stories were uploaded to the contest channel. The jury selected 14 stories based on criteria such as narration, content, and some through random drawing. Additionally, considering the participation of teenage girls' stories, uploaded under the title 'Future Mothers,' three more stories from this group were also chosen."

Najafimanesh further emphasized that the Rainbow Kindergarten, located on Sabounchi Street, is one of the sites that suffered significant damage during the unjust Israeli regime's attack on Iran. The storytelling mothers, who narrated the memories of this period for future generations, gathered at this location to explore new ideas for storytelling and to depict Iran's resilience and martyrdom.

She also announced that the second phase of this campaign will continue with a focus on narrating stories of victory for children.

The "Storytelling Mothers" campaign not only inspired parents and caregivers to become more actively involved in their children's literary and emotional development but also turned storytelling into a cherished family activity. The organizers envisioned that, through this collaborative effort, a rich treasure trove of stories would be passed down through generations—instilling values of courage, resilience, and love for the homeland.

The project demonstrated the power of storytelling as a tool for education, emotional healing, and community building during trying times. Its success underscored the importance of cultural narratives in nurturing hope and pride among young Iranians, ensuring that the stories of resilience and patriotism continue to inspire future generations.

## Cartoon of Day



Bread and blood

**Cartoonist:** Marco De Angelis from Italy

# 27 martyred children depicted on Enqelab Square mural

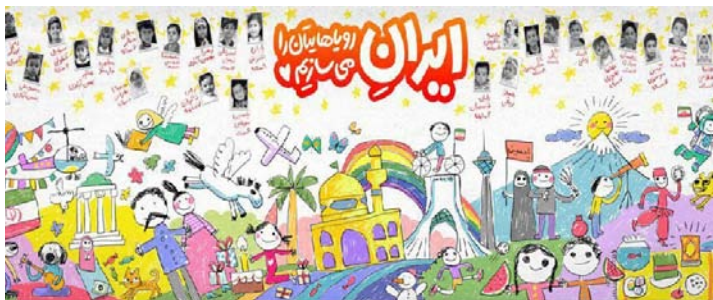
TEHRAN – The image of 27 children martyred in the 12-day Iran-Israel war has been featured on the mural at Enqelab Square in Tehran.

To commemorate the 40th day since the martyrdom of the children of the 12-day imposed war, a design by graphic artist Mohammadreza Doost Mohammadi, bearing the slogan "We will build your dream Iran", was displayed on the mural at Enqelab Square on Monday, Art Bureau reported.

In the sky of this mural, we see 27 child martyrs under the age of 12, and at the bottom of the design, there is a drawing that appears to have been created by these children.

These images, alongside depictions of the pure and beautiful world of childhood, tell of a crime that demonstrates the savagery and brutality of the Zionist regime through the massacre of defenseless children.

In the early hours of June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked, large-scale armed attack against Iran. This was an egregious act of



aggression by every definition.

Up until June 24, through coordinated air, missile, and drone strikes, it targeted residential neighborhoods, civilian infrastructure, public authorities, and

nuclear facilities subject to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, which resulted in the martyrdom of senior military commanders, prominent scientists, and innocent civilians,

## Namayesh Radio presents adaptation of "Red Dragon" in seven episodes

TEHRAN – The radio play "Red Dragone," directed by Ayyub Aqakhani has recently been produced and aired in seven episodes on Namayesh Radio, an Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)'s radio station dedicated to audio plays and performances.

Aghakhani, a renowned theater and television actor and director, has adapted American writer Thomas Harris' novel into a seven-part radio drama to introduce contemporary literature to radio drama enthusiasts, Mehr reported on Monday.

The cast of the radio play includes Mohsen Bahrami, Roya Fallahi, Sina Nikoukar, Mahin Nasiri, Shirin Sepehrad, Mohammad Omrani, Reza Omrani, and Shima Janqorban.

Veteran Iranian storyteller Maryam Nashiba also contributed to the play as the narrator.

Published in 1981, "Red Dragon" is a seminal work in the psychological horror and crime thriller genres. The novel is renowned for its intense narrative, complex characters, and dark exploration of human depravity. It delves into the minds of both a brilliant profiler and a notorious serial killer, creating a compelling and chilling story.

The narrative centers around Will Graham, a former FBI profiler who once captured the infamous psychiatrist and cannibalistic serial killer, Dr. Hannibal Lecter. Graham's encounter with Lecter

left him physically and emotionally scarred, prompting his retirement from active duty. However, Graham's expertise is called upon once again when a new serial killer, dubbed the Tooth Fairy, begins to terrorize families across the southeastern United States. The killer's gruesome modus operandi—breaking into homes, murdering entire families, and engaging in post-mortem acts—sets a terrifying tone for the story.

The killer's rampage begins with the Jacobi family in Birmingham, Alabama, and continues with the Leeds family in Atlanta, Georgia. The killer's modus operandi involves violent home invasions, shootings, and disturbing post-mortem acts, including biting victims' bodies.

Agent Jack Crawford, Graham's former mentor, urges him to return to active duty. Despite initial reluctance, Graham investigates the crime scenes and uncovers clues—such as a carved Chinese character, the mahjong symbol known as the red dragon—leading him to believe the killer is a disturbed individual with a fixation on William Blake's "The Great Red Dragon".

Graham's investigation points him toward Francis Dolarhyde, a shy and troubled man working as a film processing technician. Dolarhyde, born with a cleft palate and haunted by childhood abuse, believes himself to be the em-

bodiment of the Red Dragon from Blake's painting. He perceives his murders as a means of transformation, becoming the dragon and changing his victims. Dolarhyde's inner turmoil is intensified by his obsession with a blind co-worker, Reba McClane, which conflicts with his homicidal urges.

As the case progresses, Graham is forced to confront Lecter again, who offers cryptic guidance. Meanwhile, Dolarhyde's obsession with Reba leads to destructive jealousy and violence, culminating in a fiery climax where Dolarhyde attempts to kill her but ends up fatally wounded himself. Graham's pursuit of the killer becomes personal and dangerous, culminating in a violent confrontation that leaves Graham with permanent facial scars.

"Red Dragon" was adapted into the 1986 film "Manhunter", directed by Michael Mann, which starred William Petersen as Will Graham and Brian Cox as Hannibal Lecter. While the film received mixed reviews and was not a commercial success at the time, it gained a cult following over the years. Its portrayal of Harris' story laid the groundwork for future adaptations and influenced the genre heavily.

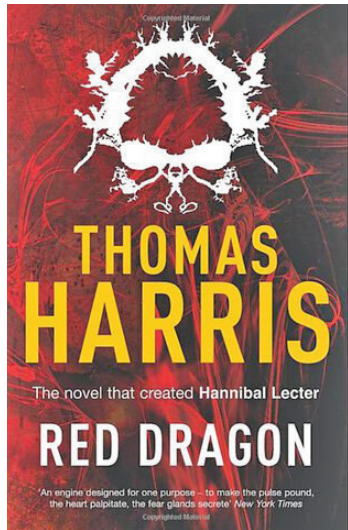
The novel's popularity surged after Harris penned its sequel, "The Silence of the Lambs" (1988), which was adapted into a critically acclaimed film in 1991, earning An-

including women and children.

In response to the Israeli aggression on Iranian territory, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) launched a large-scale retaliatory operation, codenamed "True Promise 3," targeting multiple Israeli military and air bases through coordinated missile and drone strikes deep inside occupied territories.

The war between Iran and Israel came to a halt on June 24, after a dizzying 12 days, in which the world watched President Donald Trump demand the evacuation of Tehran's 10 million residents, threaten to assassinate Iran's Leader, advocate for "regime change," and launch strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

On the other hand, for 12 days, Iranian missiles and drones rained down on the occupied territories without pause, leaving at least one-third of Tel Aviv in ruins. Similar scenes were witnessed in other major cities like Haifa and Be'er Sheva, and critical military and intelligence sites were destroyed by Iranian weapons.



thony Hopkins an Academy Award for Best Actor. The success of this film revived interest in "Red Dragon", leading to its 2002 remake directed by Brett Ratner, with Hopkins reprising his role as Lecter. The character of Lecter, a brilliant psychiatrist with a penchant for cannibalism, became one of the most iconic figures in crime fiction, further cemented by the adaptations and Harris' influence on the genre.

The influence of the "Red Dragon" extends beyond literature. Its characters and themes have permeated popular culture, inspiring films, television series, and ongoing debates about the nature of evil. Harris' meticulous research, including FBI behavioral profiling techniques, lends authenticity to the story's chilling realism.

## Palestinian artist Hazem

## Harb's 10-year-old niece killed by Israeli airstrike in Gaza

On July 17 – his birthday – Hazem Harb received news that his family in Gaza had been hit by an Israeli strike. His niece Lara, 10, suffered injuries that would claim her life two days later. His sister, Huda, remains in critical condition.

The Palestinian artist, known for confronting loss through his work, now finds himself mourning the ineffable, The National reported.

"I am the one who named Lara," Harb, who lives in Dubai, says. "When she was born, my sister Huda asked me to name her. I am close to my sister and I had a profound connection to Lara. She was an incredibly smart and beautiful child. She was the first in her class. I could write a book about her."

Huda and her children were returning from a visit to their sister's house on Thursday when the airstrikes hit. The visit was meant to be a small relief – a respite from the monotony and fear brought on by Israel's war on Gaza.

"The children were getting restless. Like many children in Gaza right now, they have no toys or anything to distract them. They are home most of the time so, naturally, they get restless and bored," Harb says. "Lara asked my sister to get them. Huda took them to my older sister's house."

While Lara's two sisters and brother survived the airstrike with minimal injuries, her head was struck by shrapnel. "She remained under intensive care for nearly two nights," Harb says. "We didn't have much hope. She was breathing, but she was unconscious. We received news on Saturday that she was martyred."

Huda, meanwhile, suffered significant injuries to her stomach and head. "Huda is now in intensive care. We moved her to a house because there is no proper hospital or infrastructure to care for her. She can't process anything right now. Her injuries are extremely danger-

ous, and she can't yet process that she lost her daughter.

"There are no words left to describe the horror we are living and the loss my family and I have endured," Harb adds. "Lara was the entire world to her parents and to our family. She is one of tens of thousand of children slaughtered by this monstrous state. Each of them, the entire world to their families, and each of them mattered."

This tragedy, he points out, is one of innumerable ones ripping families apart in Gaza. Their deaths are not tragic mistakes, but the result of systematic brutality by Israel.

At least 59,029 Palestinians have been killed and 142,135 wounded since October 2023. According to a May report by UNICEF, more than 50,000 children were either killed or injured in the Palestinian enclave.

"Everyone is starving to death, literally," Harb says. "Feelings have almost no meaning. Sadness, loss

and grief are almost secondary because you are dying from the inside. You are dying from hunger, so all feelings are mixing incomprehensibly together".

"I lost my trust in humanity," he adds. "How can this happen? How can this happen in today's world? We aren't learning from history. We are seeing these horrors on our screens. I have no hope, no trust in humanity."

Tabari Artspace, the Dubai gallery that represents the artist, issued a statement in response to the tragedy.

"This devastating loss is a painful reminder of the reality thousands face daily in Gaza," the gallery posted on Instagram. "Children and innocent people continue to die – from bombs, from starvation, from systemic violence. These are not just headlines. These are lives. This demands our attention, our outrage, and our compassion. No forgiveness."