

Ayatollah Khamenei issues message on the 40th day since military commanders and nuclear scientists were assassinated

Iran’s Military and Scientific Efforts to Advance Faster than Ever



Iran honors martyred heroes of Israeli strikes in 40th day memorial ceremonies

TEHRAN – On Thursday and Friday, marking the 40th day since the martyrdom of several Iranian military commanders and scientists in an Israeli attack on June 13, ceremonies were held across Iran to honor their sacrifices.

These events, deeply rooted in Iranian tradition, brought together families, officials, and citizens in various cities to pay tribute to those who lost their lives defending the nation against Israeli aggression.

In Tehran, the IRGC Aerospace Force hosted a prominent ceremony at the Imam Reza Cultural and Educational Complex. ▶ Page 3

Pezeshkian visits major water projects in Alborz province

TEHRAN- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visited Karaj Dam, the Ziaran to Bilaghan water transmission pipeline project, and several other important projects in Alborz Province.

During this visit, the status of the sustainable water transmission line project from Ziaran to Bilaghan was reviewed.

The progress of this project was 27 percent in the three years of the 13th government, and has reached 70 percent in eight months under the current government’s incumbency.

The water transfer project from Ziaran to Bilaghan is a strategic decision for the future and one of the key projects in the field of drinking water supply to the mega cities of Tehran and Karaj, which is being implemented with the support of the 14th government.

Energy Ministry aims to add 1,000 MW of solar power monthly amid summer electricity crunch

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Ministry plans to bring 1,000 megawatts of new solar power online each month during the hot season, a senior energy official said, as the country faces growing electricity demand driven by extreme summer heat.

Abdolamir Yaghoubi, Director General of Energy Affairs at the state-run Tavanir Company, said the imbalance between supply and demand is largely due to inefficient consumption patterns and outdated energy designs. “It’s like driving a gas-guzzling car—no matter how much fuel you have, you’ll still face problems. The same logic applies to electricity,” he said. ▶ Page 4

France’s recognition of Palestine: A historic shift or hollow gesture?

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — In a bold and historic move, President Emmanuel Macron has announced that France will officially recognize the State of Palestine, signaling a significant shift in the country’s foreign policy and its stance on Israel’s war on Gaza.

While the decision is being hailed as admirable, it also reflects a deeper reckoning—an implicit admission that France’s longstanding alignment with Israel, particularly amid the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, has damaged its global reputation. ▶ Page 5

Substantive progress in ‘serious, frank, and detailed’ talks with E3: Iran

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi noted that both sides had come to the table with concrete proposals and agreed to continue consultations in the coming weeks.

TEHRAN – Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi says Iran and the E3 (Britain, France, and Germany) held “serious, frank, and detailed” talks in Istanbul on Friday, exchanging specific proposals on sanctions relief, the nuclear file, and the controversial snapback mechanism.

Posting on X after the meeting, Gharibabadi said the Iranian delegation strongly criticized the European stance on the recent war of aggression against the Iranian people, and reaffirmed Tehran’s principled positions on its nuclear rights.

He noted that both sides had come to the table with concrete proposals and agreed to continue consultations in the coming weeks.

The European countries, along with China and Russia, are the remaining parties to a 2015 deal – from which the U.S. withdrew in 2018.

A deadline of Oct. 18 is fast approaching when the resolution governing that deal expires.

At that point, all UN sanctions on Iran will be lifted unless a “snapback” mechanism is triggered at least 30 days before. This would automatically reimpose those sanctions, which target sectors from hydrocarbons to banking and defence.

To give time for this to happen, the E3 have set a deadline of the end of August to revive diplomacy. Diplomats say they want Iran to take concrete steps to convince them to extend the deadline by up to six months, Reuters reported.

Iran would need to make commitments on issues including eventual talks with Washington, full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and accounting for 400 kg (880 pounds) enriched uranium, whose whereabouts are unknown since last month’s strikes

by Israel and the U.S. on Iran’s nuclear plants.

Ahead of the talks, senior Iranian officials had underscored the Islamic Republic’s unwavering commitment to its peaceful nuclear program and denounced the conduct of the European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, speaking on Thursday during a meeting with the family of late Major General Mohammad Bagheri—killed in Israeli airstrikes—warned that Iran would not relinquish its right to uranium enrichment.



Iran successfully launches domestically-built Nahid-2 satellite into space

TEHRAN — Iran’s domestically-built telecommunications satellite, Nahid-2, was successfully launched into orbit on Friday aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in eastern Russia.

The launch was part of a multi-payload mission that included Russia’s Ionosfera-M3 and M4 satellites, as well as 18 other satellites from various countries.

Developed by the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) in collaboration with the Iranian Space Research Center and a network of knowledge-based domestic firms, Nahid-2 marks a significant step in Iran’s efforts to advance indigenous aerospace capabilities. ▶ Page 2

West Bank annexation push intensifies

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – In another yet troubling move and amid the ongoing Gaza genocide, the Israeli regime’s Knesset has overwhelmingly approved a motion of declaration to annex the occupied West Bank, signaling a renewed commitment to a colonialist and expansionist agenda.

Despite being branded unbinding, with 71 votes in favor and only 13 against, the regime’s parliament has thrown its weight behind a policy that blatantly disregards international law and further entrenches its decades-long occupation of the Palestinian land. The motion, which calls for the application of “Israeli sovereignty to Judea and Samaria”, a biblical terminology used to assert historic claims over the West Bank, reflects the ideological thrust of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s far-right coalition. The motion also calls for the annexation of the West Bank’s Jordan Valley, which borders the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. ▶ Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The intersection of threat and strategy

Shargh devoted its main headline to the continuation of Iran's negotiations with the three European countries of Germany, Britain, and France, known as E3, in Istanbul and wrote: On the eve of the meeting between Iran and the three European countries in Istanbul, the nuclear diplomacy has once again been subjected to a difficult test. These talks are being held while Europe has warned that if there will be no progress, the snapback mechanism will be activated the international sanctions will return. It can be seen that these talks are, above all, an arena for testing diplomacy in the midst of regional tension and international pressure. The Istanbul talks are the intersection of tensions and hopes, where Iran and the Europeans, in a critical situation, are cautiously trying to find a solution that, while preserving Iran's national interests, will prevent the situation from worsening further. Ultimately, it can be said that the fate of these talks is important not only for Iran and the Europeans but also for the stability of the entire region and even the geopolitical equations beyond it. All eyes are on Istanbul, where a possibility of victory or defeat, together, will shape the narrative of a complex and uncertain future.

Ham Mihan: Balancing diplomacy

In a note, Ham Mihan addressed the trilateral meeting of Iran, China and Russia and said: By signing the JCPOA, we opened our arms to Europe and abandoned the Eastern parties, and, naturally, they will not count on us for long-term cooperation. Now, in a situation where Iran and the United States have gone through a direct war, those fantasy views on the Eastern countries certainly cannot meet Iran's national interests. If we intend to take advantage of the capacity of the Eastern powers to balance against the Western side, we must change the negotiation strategy to achieve tangible issues and gain practical achievements, and engage China and Russia in the pursuit of common interests. If the recent trilateral meeting of Iran, China, and Russia is just going to be a propaganda tool without strategic changes, it not only will not bring any benefits, but also will not advance towards balancing in any way, and will produce the opposite result. One of the shortcomings of our governance structure is the lack of timely and bold decision-making, which we hope the diplomatic apparatus will end this situation in terms of balancing with global powers, while respecting national interests.

Hamshahri: Iran's secret weapon against the Republic of Azerbaijan

In an analysis, Hamshahri addressed the oil

and gas reserves of the Caspian Sea especially as the Republic of Azerbaijan supplies 40 percent of Israel's energy needs from the sea's resources. It wrote: The oil and gas resources of the Caspian Sea have once again become the focus of global attention in recent weeks. Azerbaijan, by supplying about 40 percent of the Zionist regime's oil, has an important position in supplying the regime's energy needs. These resources are mainly extracted from the Caspian Sea oil and gas fields. There is disagreement about the Caspian Sea's oil reserves. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has estimated the sea's oil reserves at about 200 billion barrels, but the Oxford Energy Institute puts the figure between 25 and 35 billion barrels. If the Oxford estimate is correct, the Caspian share of oil reserves in the world will be only about 3 percent, not the 16 percent announced by the EIA. In this case, the possibility that the Caspian Sea would be an alternative to the Persian Gulf in oil supply will be greatly reduced. Overall, Iran can reduce the perception of Azerbaijan as a supporter and energy supplier of the Zionist regime by increasing production from joint fields, which is Iran's secret weapon against Baku and the Zionist regime.

Arman-e-Melli: Impact on Tehran-Washington ties

Arman-e-Melli analyzed the impact of talks between Iran and Europe that started in Istanbul on Friday on the future of interaction between Iran and the United States. It wrote: Although the U.S. is not directly present in the Iran-Europe talks in Istanbul, they practically serve as a barometer of future interaction between Iran and the U.S. in the future. If these talks end in an agreement or an opening, the possibility that Iran and the U.S. would return to diplomacy will increase, but if the talks fail, the path will be directed towards confrontation, increased pressure, and even regional tensions. If the Iran-Europe talks lead to tangible progress, the United States is likely to view this as a positive sign for a return to the diplomatic path. In this case, Washington may take indirect steps to resume contact with Tehran through intermediaries such as Oman or the European Union. It should also be noted that the outcome of the Istanbul talks could influence the U.S. decision on secondary sanctions or UN Security Council sanctions. If Europe is convinced that Iran has taken steps to reduce tensions, it may pressure the U.S. to refrain from imposing new sanctions and even encourage it to engage in multilateral talks.

Nationwide rallies held to condemn Israeli atrocities in Gaza

TEHRAN – Thousands of Iranians took to the streets across the country on Friday in large-scale rallies to condemn the ongoing Israeli assault on Gaza and express solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The rallies, called “Fridays of Rage and Victory” and held after congregational Friday prayers in cities nationwide, were organized by the Islamic Development Coordination Council, which had called for mass participation in response to the war crimes and genocide committed by the Zionist regime during the recent 12-day conflict.

Marchers chanted anti-Israel slogans, including “Death to Israel,” and carried flags of Iran, Palestine, and Lebanon's Hezbollah. Many participants held up portraits of martyrs, especially senior military commanders killed in the recent fighting between Iran and Israel which was started with an unprovoked attack from Israel on June 13.

Demonstrators called for an immediate end to the bloodshed in Gaza, the full lifting of the Israeli blockade, urgent action from international human rights bodies, and the prosecution of Israeli leaders and their backers in international courts.

Participants also criticized the inaction of international institutions, condemning the deafening silence in the face of an unfolding genocide.

The rallies sent a strong message from Tehran and other cities: denouncing Israel's crimes, rejecting U.S. support for an illegiti-



People in capital Tehran took to the streets on July 25, 2025, in large-scale rallies to condemn the ongoing Israeli assault on Gaza and express solidarity with the Palestinian people.

mate regime, and calling on global organizations to take urgent, concrete steps to open humanitarian corridors and ease the suffering of Gaza's civilians.

At the close of the rallies, a joint resolution was read out, urging Iran's Foreign Ministry and embassies to apply diplomatic pressure on international and regional bodies, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League, to halt Israeli aggression. It also called for collaboration with NGOs to compile and present legal documentation of war crimes and violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and children's rights.

Substantive progress in ‘serious, frank, and detailed’ talks with E3: Iran

From page 1 ▶ “Europe cannot act as both violator and enforcer,” Baghaei told IRNA. He accused the E3 of enabling Israeli sabotage efforts and questioned whether they would continue sacrificing their credibility for the sake of Tel Aviv.

Baghaei also confirmed that Iran had partially suspended cooperation with the IAEA following the attacks, saying future engagement would depend on Supreme National Security Council decisions. He added that an IAEA delegation is expected in Tehran soon, but no nuclear site inspections are currently scheduled. Talks will instead focus on redefining the framework for interaction.

The Istanbul meeting followed weeks of heightened tension and



marked a continuation of expert-level negotiations between Iran and the E3/EU, after earlier rounds in Geneva and New York. While the talks remain difficult, Iranian officials have reiterated their willingness to engage—so long as their sovereignty and nuclear rights are respected.

On June 13, Israel launched a

surprise and unprovoked military assault on Iran, assassinating several senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. More than a week later, the United States escalated the conflict by targeting three Iranian nuclear facilities—an act Tehran has censured as a grave breach of the UN Charter, international law, and the Nuclear

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In response, Iran's Armed Forces launched hundreds of ballistic missiles and drones against strategic Israeli positions, as well as targeting the U.S. Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar—the largest American base in West Asia.

On June 24, after nearly two weeks of sustained retaliatory operations, Iran succeeded in halting the coordinated Israeli-American military assault.

Prior to the June 13 attacks, Iran and the United States had held five rounds of indirect negotiations regarding Tehran's peaceful nuclear program. These talks, mediated by Oman, were set to continue in Muscat on June 15—but the planned sixth round was canceled following the Israeli assault.

Iran reclaims its nuclear program as an act of sovereignty and self-determination

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The recent interview of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian with Al Jazeera sheds light on how Iran perceives and defends its nuclear program amidst a turbulent regional landscape and constant international pressure.

Without resorting to demagoguery or hollow rhetoric, Pezeshkian made it clear that for Iran, the nuclear program is more than just a technological or military project: it is a concrete expression of sovereignty, self-determination, and national dignity.

In his statements, Pezeshkian emphasized that Iran will continue enriching uranium in accordance with international law, while also asserting that the country has no intention

of developing nuclear weapons. “Our true strength lies in the intellect and commitment of our scientists,” he explained, conveying confidence in the collective knowledge that sustains the program—beyond the temporary damages suffered during recent confrontations with Israel.

This detail is essential to understanding how Iran conceptualizes its nuclear program: not as a threat to other countries, but as a sovereign right—an embodiment of the capacity to develop independent science and industry. For the Islamic Republic, to renounce this right would be to submit to foreign pressure and relinquish its autonomy in a world where its people have lived under siege for decades, facing continuous sanctions and threats.

Moreover, the nuclear program is rooted in

a tradition that merges politics, culture, and theology. For Iran, sovereignty is not merely a matter of statehood—it is also an ethical and spiritual responsibility. President Pezeshkian made it clear that this project is not limited to technical concerns; it symbolizes the collective right of the Iranian people to shape their future and to resist any attempt at domination or dispossession.

Pezeshkian was candid in stating that while parts of the nuclear infrastructure were damaged during the recent confrontation with Israel, the attack did not affect Iran's “real power”: the knowledge and scientific commitment that sustain the program. His discourse reflects a deeper notion of resistance that binds together technology, spirit, and politics.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran successfully launches domestically-built Nahid-2 satellite into space

From page 1 ▶ In a symbolic move underscoring Tehran's official participation in the launch, the emblem of the Iranian Space Agency was prominently displayed on the Soyuz launch vehicle.

Telemetry data received shortly after launch confirmed that Nahid-2 had been successfully deployed into a 500-kilometer low Earth orbit and is operating nominally. The satellite is designed to remain in orbit for up to five years.

According to ISA officials, Nahid-2 is equipped with a domestically-developed propulsion system capable of adjusting orbital altitude by up to 50 kilometers—an essential feature for maintaining position and countering orbital decay. The propulsion module, built entirely in Iran, includes high-performance hot gas thrusters, composite fuel tanks, high-pressure valves, and precision control mechanisms.

The satellite also features advanced sub-

systems developed in response to long-standing Western sanctions, which have limited Iran's access to foreign aerospace technology. These include space-grade lithium-ion batteries manufactured domestically, capable of withstanding tens of thousands of charge-discharge cycles, as well as indigenous polymer coatings and thermal adhesives designed for heat regulation and structural integrity.

Additional mission systems under assessment include three-axis attitude control, multi-band two-way communications, data management, and power distribution modules.

The launch is seen as a milestone in Iran's long-term strategy to expand its presence in space, particularly in satellite communications and low Earth orbit constellations. According to Iran's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, Nahid-2 is “a key step toward developing national sat-

ellite communications networks, forming domestic LEO constellations, and preparing for future high Earth orbit (GEO) missions.”

ISA chief Hassan Salarieh stated earlier this year that Iran plans multiple satellite launches in 2025, including Zafar-1, Payam, and Nahid-2. He also noted that the next generation of Nahid satellites is already under design and will be launched using domestically-built Iranian launch vehicles in the future.

The achievement comes despite years of unilateral U.S. sanctions and technology embargoes, which Iranian officials say have only accelerated the country's push toward self-reliance in advanced space systems.

With the successful launch of Nahid-2, Iran joins the small group of countries capable of independently designing, manufacturing, and operating telecommunications satellites—a development Tehran touts as a symbol of national scientific resilience and strategic progress.

Mehr Media Group CEO stresses need for media cooperation to help build fairer global order

ZHENGZHOU – Speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Media and Think Tank Forum, Dr. Mohammad-Mehdi Rahmati, CEO of Mehr Media Group, emphasized the need to build institutional frameworks for media cooperation in order to help shape a just and equitable international order.

Addressing more than 400 participants—including media professionals, think tank experts, and government officials from SCO member states and dialogue partners—Rahmati underlined the strategic and foundational role of media in promoting fairness and balance in global affairs.

The forum is being held from July 23 to 27, 2025, in Zhengzhou, capital of China's Henan Province, with the support of major institutions including China's Xinhua News Agency, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and the Henan provincial government.

This event comes in the lead-up to the 25th SCO Heads of State Summit scheduled to take

place in China this September.

The full text of Dr. Rahmati's speech is as follows:

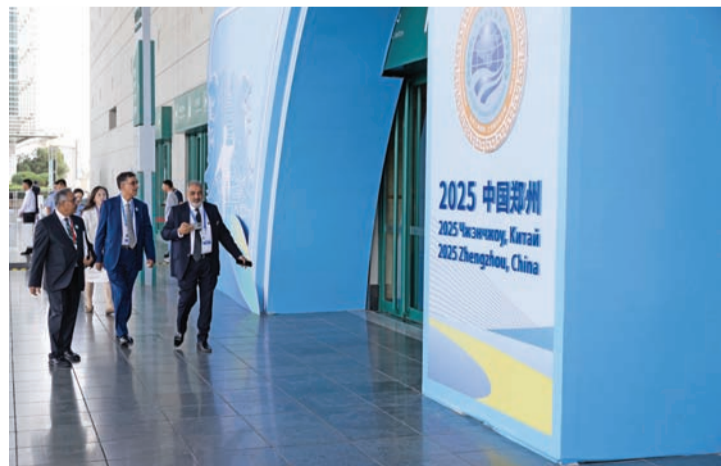
“Dear distinguished guests attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Media Summit,

Respected media executives and representatives from SCO member states,

Good day.

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be here with you and to speak at this important gathering. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my dear friend Mr. Fu and his dedicated colleagues at the esteemed Xinhua News Agency for organizing this event.

In recent years, Xinhua has demonstrated its key role in fostering media coordination and cooperation both regionally and internationally. Its performance reflects the “Shanghai Spirit,” which is founded on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity, and the pursuit of shared development.



When we speak of a fair and just order, it is only natural to recognize the importance of historical and regional identity in shaping such a new order. For instance, in my country Iran, Abu Nasr Mohammad al-Farabi (a 10th-century philosopher known in the West as Alfarabius) is regarded as the founder of Islamic philosophy and a prominent thinker in music theory.

He was born in Farab, present-day Kazakhstan, passed away in Damascus, Syria, and

wrote most of his works in Arabic. Yet throughout the region—including Iran—we consider him as one of our own. Beyond any rivalry over the ownership of cultural heritage, this reflects the deeply interconnected roots of our shared identity in Central and Western Asia. Any international order that ignores such shared cultural foundations cannot truly be fair and just.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Ayatollah Khamenei issues message on the 40th day since military commanders and nuclear scientists were assassinated

Iran’s military and scientific efforts to advance faster than ever

TEHRAN – In a message marking the 40th day since the martyrdom of Iran’s top military commanders and nuclear scientists in unprovoked strikes by the Zionist regime, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei affirmed that both the country’s military and scientific advancements will now move forward with renewed speed and determination.

The full text of his message is as follows:

“In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Proud Nation of Iran,

The 40th day of the martyrdom of a group of our dear compatriots—among whom were capable military commanders and prominent nuclear scientists—has arrived. This blow was dealt by the wicked and criminal Zionist regime, the vile and spiteful enemy of the Iranian nation.

Undoubtedly, the loss of commanders such as Martyrs Bagheri, Salami, Rashid, Hajizadeh, Shadmani, and other military personnel, and scientists such as Martyrs Tehrani, Abbasi, and other scientists, is heavy for any nation. But the foolish and short-sighted enemy did not achieve its goal. The future will



show that both military and scientific movements will, God willing, proceed faster than before toward lofty horizons.

Our martyrs themselves had chosen a path in which the possibility of attaining the high rank of martyrdom was not unlikely, and they finally reached what all those devoted to sacrifice long for. May it be sweet for them. However, the grief of this loss for the Iranian nation—especially the families of the martyrs, and especially those who knew them personally—is difficult, bitter, and heavy.

In this tragedy, bright points can also be seen.

Firstly, the endurance, patience, and strong spirit of the survivors, which has rarely been witnessed except in the transformative events of the Islamic

Republic of Iran.

Secondly, the steadfastness and stability of the institutions under the leadership of the martyrs, which did not allow this heavy blow to create setbacks or disrupt their progress.

And thirdly, the miraculous resilience and grandeur of the Iranian nation’s perseverance, which manifested in unity, spiritual strength, and firm determination to stand united on the battlefield.

In this tragedy, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again demonstrated the strength of its foundations. The enemies of Iran are striking cold iron.

Islamic Iran will, by God’s grace, grow stronger by the day, God willing.

The important point is that we

must not neglect this truth or the duty it places on our shoulders.

Preserving national unity is the responsibility of each one of us. The necessary acceleration in scientific and technological advancement in all fields is the responsibility of the scientific elite. Preserving the dignity and honor of the country and nation is the uncompromising duty of speakers and writers. Equipping the country with ever-stronger means of safeguarding national security and independence is the responsibility of military commanders. Diligence, persistence, and bringing national affairs to completion is the duty of all responsible executive bodies. Providing spiritual guidance, illuminating hearts, and promoting patience, calm, and public stability is the duty of the clerics. And preserving revolutionary passion, enthusiasm, and awareness is the duty of every one of us, especially the youth.

May the Beloved and Merciful God grant everyone success.

Salutations to the Iranian nation, and peace upon the martyred youth, the martyred women and children, and all the martyrs and their bereaved.

Sayyed Ali Khamenei
July 25, 2025 (3 Mordad 1404)”

Iran honors martyred heroes of Israeli strikes in 40th day memorial ceremonies

From Page 1 ▶ Speaker of the Parliament Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, Quds Force Commander General Esmail Qaani, and Brigadier General Majid Mousavi, the current commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, attended the event.

In a speech addressing the mourners, Qalibaf declared: “We neither admit fear into our hearts nor harbor any dread. We proclaim to the martyrs that we remain loyal and stand ready to carry on their path of honor, freedom, and servitude.”

This ceremony specifically honored martyrs such as General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the former commander of the force, and General Mahmoud Bagheri, head of the missile unit, both killed in the June 13 attack.

Later, mourners gathered at Section 50 of Behesht Zahra Cemetery, where families and officials laid flowers at the graves of these fallen heroes.

A separate ceremony was held Friday after-

noon in Tehran’s Shahid Mahalati district at the Prophet Mohammad Mosque to honor former IRGC Chief Major General Hossein Salami, known as the «Commander of True Promises.» Attendees—including citizens, military comrades such as current IRGC Chief Mohammad Pakpour, and officials—paid tribute to his legacy of leadership and valor.

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

Israel failed to sustain war even with Western support: Iranian commander

TEHRAN – The Spokesperson for Iran’s Armed Forces, Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, said on Thursday that Israel was compelled to retreat by the ninth day of the recent conflict, declaring that the regime’s military and intelligence infrastructure had been “reduced to rubble” under Iranian strikes.

Speaking at a ceremony in the holy city of Qom, General Shekarchi said that despite the martyrdom of top Iranian commanders during the initial hours of the conflict, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force—under the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and rapid restructuring—was able to deliver deep and sustained attacks against Israeli positions.

He described the path to occupied Palestinian territories as a heavily fortified corridor, with hun-

dreds of U.S., British, German, and French-supplied radar systems, fighter jets, and air defense batteries deployed to intercept Iranian missiles and drones. “None of them succeeded,” he stated. “From north to south, the occupied territories were struck directly and effectively.”

Israel launched the war with full U.S. and Western backing, aiming to dismantle Iran’s command chain and critical infrastructure in hopes of triggering domestic instability. “By the seventh day, after repeated battlefield failures, the Zionist regime called on Washington for direct intervention. Yet, even with full-scale U.S. support, they failed to meet their strategic goals,” General Shekarchi said.

He added that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution had declared the outcome a clear victory for the Resistance Front. “By the ninth day, the

enemy had exhausted its military and intelligence capabilities and could no longer sustain the war,” he said.

Shekarchi emphasized that the failure of Israel’s advanced defense systems to intercept Iranian missiles had decisively shifted the regional balance of power. He also highlighted the psychological toll on Israeli forces, noting that “for the first time in over 70 years, the occupying regime’s military was forced to shelter under heavy Iranian fire.”

He also accused Western-aligned media of suppressing the scale and reality of the battlefield developments, saying, “The global media outlets aligned with hegemonic powers are actively working to conceal the truth.”

The war began on June 13, when Israel launched a surprise attack

targeting Iran’s civilian nuclear sites and assassinating senior military and scientific personnel. Tehran responded hours later with a large-scale missile and drone campaign under the operation True Promise III.

On June 22, the United States formally entered the conflict, launching airstrikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan using bunker-buster munitions—an act Tehran condemned as a violation of international law.

In response, Iran targeted the U.S. Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar with ballistic missiles, demonstrating its readiness to escalate if necessary.

Amid growing casualties, internal unrest, and concerns about further Iranian retaliation, Israel accepted a unilateral ceasefire on June 24, effectively ending the 12-day conflict.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi meets families of martyrs General Salami and General Bagheri on 40th day of their martyrdom on July 25, 2025.

Iran beat Poland in 2025 FIVB Volleyball Boys’ U19 World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Poland 3-2 (25-22, 25-14, 17-25, 14-25, 15-13) in 2025 FIVB Volleyball Boys’ U19 World Championship on Friday.

Amir Naderi led Iran with 23 points, while Maksymilian ?yso? and Oskar Trawka each scored 16 points.

The young Persians, who had lost to Spain on Thursday, will play Tunisia (July 26), Egypt (July 28), and Italy (July 29) in Pool C.

Uzbekistan hosts the Championship from 24 July to 3 August in Tashkent, with preparations supported by the FIVB Volleyball Empowerment program through 12 months of coaching support, event equipment, and three knowledge transfer programs.

The 24 participating teams compete in four round-robin pools, with the top four teams from each group advancing to the knockout stage. All teams play through to the end of the tournament, with final rankings determined across three additional rounds to decide positions from first to 24th.

The World Championship marks an important moment for Uzbekistan volleyball. The Empowerment program provides the foundation for the country’s efforts to develop talent and strengthen its presence in international competition.

Piazza brings new energy to Iran’s volleyball

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s volleyball team have showcased a strong and inspiring performance in the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL), marking a notable rise in the global volleyball landscape.

Under the leadership of Italian coach Roberto Piazza, Team Melli climbed three spots in the latest FIVB world rankings to reach 13th place with 222.91 points, a significant improvement reflecting their steady progress.

Throughout the 2025 VNL preliminary phase, Iran played a total of 12 matches, securing 6 wins and 6 losses, accumulating 19 points.

This performance placed them ahead of traditionally strong volleyball nations such as the U.S., Argentina, and Germany. Despite this success, the team narrowly missed qualifying for the VNL final round, finishing 8th, just outside the cutoff due to the automatic qualification of hosts nation China.

Iran’s final match in Week 3 was a dominant straight-sets victory (25-17, 25-17, 25-16) against Bulgaria, led by Amin Esmailnezhad who scored 18 points. This win underscored the team’s capacity to compete strongly at the highest level.

However, narrow defeats and tough competition from other teams, including a heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Slovenia and a close match against powerhouses France, ultimately prevented Iran’s progression to the knockout stages.

The 2025 VNL season has been a testing ground for the young and dynamic Iranian squad. With an average team age of just 23.8 years, coach Piazza has brought new energy to Iran’s volleyball by focusing on young players, teamwork, and tactical discipline. The absence of veteran stars like Milad Ebadipour and Seyed Mohammad Mousavi posed challenges, but emerging talents stepped up, signaling a bright future for the national team.

Despite the disappointment of missing the finals, the team’s upward trajectory in the FIVB rankings and competitive spirit offer hope.

The rigorous international exposure gained during the VNL will serve as invaluable experience ahead of the 2025 World Championship, where Iran aim to further improve their standing.

The federation officials, players, and fans remain optimistic. As team captain and volleyball federation representatives highlight, the goal was never immediate qualification but gradual, sustainable progress.

The commitment to a long-term vision, including a strategic path toward the 2028 Olympics, demonstrates Iran’s ambition to regain their position among volleyball’s elite.

In summary, the 2025 Volleyball Nations League was a season of growth, resilience, and

hope for Iran’s men’s volleyball. While the journey to the finals ended just short, the renewed energy, tactical improvements, and the young squad’s determination promise an exciting future ahead for Team Melli and their passionate supporters.

Persepolis to meet Igdir in friendly

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team will play with TFF First League side Igdir in a friendly match.

The match is scheduled for Monday.

The Iranian team, who hold training camp in Erzurum, have previously played two friendlies with Alanyaspor, Trabzonspor.

Igdir currently play at TFF 1. Lig.

Youngster Samdaliri joins Kalba

TEHRAN – Nassaji football team young defender Amir Hossein Samdaliri joined the Emirati club Ittihad Kalba.

The 22-year-old player has joined Kalba on a one-year deal on loan.

Samdaliri has joined his Iranian compatriots Saman Ghoddos, Shahriyar Moghanlou, and Ahmad Nourollahi in Kalba.

Sepahan winger Mohammad Mehdi Mohebbi has also been linked with the Emirati club.

Tractor complete signing of Mehrdad Mohammadi

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team winger Mehrdad Mohammadi joined the Tractor football club.

Mohammadi had joined Esteghlal from Qatari club Al Sailiya in July 2023 on a two-year contract, but the Blues didn’t renew his deal.

The 32-year-old player appeared for Tractor in a friendly match against Turkish side Genclerbirligi, which Tractor won 2-0.

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

Tabatabaei wins XXII Karpov International Tournament

Iranian Grandmaster Mohammad Amin Tabatabaei won the XXII Karpov International Tournament.

The competition was held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

The tournament was officially opened on July 18.

Tabatabaei won the event with 5.5 points, securing three wins and five draws.

Iran fifth in 2025 Asian Women’s Youth Handball C’ship

TEHRAN – Iran came fifth in the 2025 Asian Women’s Youth Handball Championship, beating Chinese Taipei 34-33 in penalty shootout after the game tied 30-30 in the regular time.

Defending champions Japan and China will lock horn in the final match on Friday and South Korea face Kazakhstan in bronze medal match.

Iran lost to Japan and South Korea and defeated, Hong Kong, and Chinese Taipei.

The 2025 Asian Women’s Youth Handball Championship is the 11th edition of the championship held from 18 to 26 July 2025 in Jiangganshan, China under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation. It was the first time in history that championship was organized by the Chinese Handball Association.

It also will act as the qualification tournament for the 2026 Women’s Youth World Handball Championship.

RAI signs 2nd private-sector deal to modernize passenger, freight fleet



TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) has launched a second round of cooperation with the private sector to modernize and renovate its passenger and freight fleet, aiming to boost seating capacity by 15 percent and improve service quality for travelers.

The initiative aligns with the Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's designation of the Persian calendar year 1404 as the “Year of Investment for Production,” emphasizing investment as a critical tool to drive economic growth.

In this context, RAI has taken steps to at-

tract private capital for overhauling its aging rolling stock.

A landmark \$750 million investment agreement was signed in late April between RAI and private firms, in the presence of the transport minister, the railway chief, and key stakeholders in the rail industry.

Under the deal, Iran aims to procure 600 tank freight wagons, 300 diesel multiple unit (DMU) passenger cars, 50 locomotives, and 650 bulk freight wagons.

Railway officials said 100 tank wagons have already been added to the national rail fleet and are currently being used to transport oil products from Iraq's Kurdistan Region to Afghanistan.

Authorities expect 40 to 50 additional wagons to join the network each month. In the passenger segment, a contract has been signed with a Chinese partner, with financial and technical issues resolved.

On Sunday, July 20, Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh oversaw the signing of a new investment deal worth over 882 trillion rials (about \$1.76 billion) to support the modernization of the passenger fleet.

Iran eyes balanced growth, resilience in petrochemical hub of Asaluyeh

TEHRAN – Iran's deputy oil minister has stressed the need for balanced development, value chain completion, and improved crisis preparedness in the petrochemical sector of Asaluyeh, the country's main petrochemical and energy hub on the Persian Gulf coast.

Hassan Abbaszadeh, who also serves as head of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), made the remarks on Wednesday during a strategic meeting in Asaluyeh to address the challenges facing Bushehr Province's petrochemical industry. The session followed his visit to local production plants and infrastructure facilities.

According to NPC, the meeting brought together Bushehr Governor Arsalan Zare, Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ) chief Sekhavat Asadi, senior provincial officials, and heads of key petrochemical complexes.

Discussions focused on infrastructure bottlenecks, energy security, logistics, workforce development, and environmental concerns.

The central theme was ensuring balanced growth across the region's petrochemical operations and completing the value chain to maximize economic returns.

Both Abbaszadeh and Zare underscored the industry's strategic importance for regional development and issued directives to streamline inter-agency coordination, remove regulatory barriers, and advance national industrial goals.

At the conclusion of the visit, the resilience of petrochemical facilities against potential emergencies was reviewed, with officials highlighting the need to strengthen rapid-response capabilities and ensure coordinated crisis management across the sector.

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

NIGC launches 1st smart gas network project in northeastern province

TEHRAN – National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has inaugurated its first smart gas network project in Khorasan Razavi Province, in the northeast of the country, installing 22 sensors across 114 critical locations to enable real-time monitoring and intelligent management of gas infrastructure, the company's head announced.

Speaking at the official launch ceremony on Wednesday, NIGC head Saeed Tavakkoli said the project marks a significant step toward operational excellence, network stability, and digital transformation in Iran's gas sector.

“When the idea of digitizing the province's gas network was first proposed, it was of high

technical and managerial importance,” Tavakkoli said. “The deployment of 22 sensors at 114 strategic points enables precise monitoring of the grid.”

He added that the initiative goes beyond a simple technological upgrade. It has improved the quality of GIS mapping, enhanced the accuracy of sensor placement, and boosted network resilience while streamlining operational oversight.

Tavakkoli highlighted the project's cost-saving potential, explaining that it reduces the need for frequent on-site personnel visits by allowing remote, intelligent data modeling and monitoring.

Energy Ministry aims to add 1,000 MW of solar power monthly amid summer electricity crunch

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Ministry plans to bring 1,000 megawatts of new solar power online each month during the hot season, a senior energy official said, as the country faces growing electricity demand driven by extreme summer heat.

Abdolamir Yaghoubi, Director General of Energy Affairs at the state-run Tavanir Company, said the imbalance between supply and demand is largely due to inefficient consumption patterns and outdated energy designs.

“It's like driving a gas-guzzling car—no matter how much fuel you have, you'll still face problems. The same logic applies to electricity,” he said.

To alleviate demand pressures, Yaghoubi suggested practical measures for households such as using fans alongside air conditioners, cooking during cooler hours, turning off unused appliances, installing reflective glass and double-glazed windows, and using external shades to block direct sunlight. “Small changes can have a major impact on electricity consumption,” he noted.

With its high solar irradiance levels, Iran is geographically well-positioned to expand its renewable energy footprint.

Yaghoubi said that according to global solar maps, Iran ranks among countries with excellent solar exposure, making it ideal for sustainable electricity generation.

He confirmed that Iran met its July target of adding 1,000 MW of solar capacity and intends to maintain that pace in the coming months.

“The legal and technical infrastructure for renewable energy development is already in place,” he added.

Yaghoubi pointed to regulatory



incentives, highlighting revisions to Article 19 of Iran's National Building Code, which now requires buildings taller than four stories to source part of their energy from renewables.

He also outlined financial incentives for households and private investors, noting that surplus solar electricity is purchased by the government at a rate of nearly 50,000 rials (about 10 cents) per kilowatt-hour and is tradable on the Iran Energy Exchange.

Despite efforts to boost generation, Yaghoubi warned that unchecked consumption habits could undermine stability.

“If we don't reform usage patterns, expanding capacity alone won't solve the imbalance—it may even worsen it,” he said. “The future of a stable grid depends on behavioral change and efficiency-driven design.”

Iran's largest solar power plant located in central Tehran is nearing completion and will soon come online as part of a sweeping national push to expand renewable energy, a senior official said.

Farhad Shabihi, managing director of Tehran Regional Electricity Company, told IRNA that the solar plant—being built on the compa-

ny's premises—is advancing at a “remarkable pace” and is designed to boost the stability of the capital's power grid.

The project is part of a larger government initiative to develop 1,000 solar plants, each with a three-megawatt capacity, across the country.

According to Shabihi, construction of the 3.6-megawatt facility in Tehran began just one day after the official groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 6 and has since moved swiftly into the operational phase.

Shabihi said the team completed land delivery to contractors, soil testing, and cable route design by the end of March 2025. The first shipment of solar panels arrived on April 12. “This marks a new record in solar plant execution,” he said.

The plant is equipped with bifacial dual-glass N-type solar modules with a capacity of 595 watts per panel.

Shabihi emphasized that the panels are domestically produced, underscoring the project's contribution to local technology development.

“Over six full panel rows have

already been installed. Excavation and foundation work across the entire site is finished, and concrete casting has been completed,” he said.

Work at the site is ongoing around the clock, with minimal disruption to the nearby administrative facilities in the Saadat Abad district. “The scale and speed of this operation have delivered peak efficiency in record time,” he added.

In a move to enhance energy efficiency, Shabihi said the company is in talks with a battery storage firm to install Tehran's first industrial solar energy storage unit as part of the plant.

If implemented, the battery system would serve as a pilot for future solar-plus-storage developments in the capital.

Despite a brief interruption following Israel's attack on Iran earlier this year, which delayed panel installation for several days, “a major portion of the panels have now been installed, and equipment testing will commence shortly,” he noted.

The Tehran project is one of 1,000 distributed solar plants planned under Iran's national 3,000-megawatt renewable energy initiative.

The projects are being executed as complete packages by the Power Development Organization of Iran in partnership with contractors.

“We're implementing this pilot in the heart of Tehran's distribution network with rapid, low-cost grid integration,” said Shabihi. “Our goal goes beyond power generation—it's about quickly reducing imbalances in the grid and easing pressure on the national electricity network. And we're seeing results in under six months.”

Iran-India 4-month trade stands at \$652m



TEHRAN- The value of trade between Iran and India stood at \$652 million in the first four months of 2025, India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry reported.

The ministry's report said that almost half of the annual trade was related to Indian rice exports to Iran.

According to the mentioned report, trade between the two countries fell six percent in the first four months of the current year, from \$693 million in the same period of time in 2024.

India's export to Iran stood at \$465 million in the first four months of this year, down two percent from \$478 million in the first four months of the previous year.

The country's four-month import from Iran also experienced 13 percent drop from \$215 million to \$187 million, the report added.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), India has exported non-oil products worth \$514 million to Iran during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

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

At a conference on commercial opportunities between Iran and India, held on the sidelines of Iran Expo 2025, in early May, officials and business representatives from both countries emphasized the need to diversify trade and familiarize Iranian businesses with international trade models.

According to Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the “Iran-India Trade Opportunities and Capacities Conference” brought together Hossein Bamiri, Iran's commercial attaché in India; Khalid Khan, a member of the Iran Trade Center in Mumbai; and several trade delegations from both nations.

Bamiri said Iran's exports to India over the past decade have largely been limited to a narrow range of products including dates, pistachios, almonds, and petrochemicals, with little diversification in the export basket.

Highlighting the mismatch between the two countries' trade potential and current volumes, Bamiri urged Iranian businesses to pursue not just goods exports but also services. “This requires a stronger Iranian presence in international trade fairs,” he added.

He also stressed that Iranian traders and manufacturers must align their corporate structures with global standards and gain a deeper understanding of international trade models. “Proper marketing and consistent participation in international events are key,” Bamiri said.

Khalid Khan said efforts are underway to usher in a new phase of commercial relations between India and Iran. “We aim to showcase the capabilities of both nations on a broader scale,” he said, adding that India-Iran trade could flourish further if Chabahar Port became more accessible to Indian traders. “Such progress depends on sound policies and timely cooperation,” he noted.

Also speaking at the event, Masoud Ebrahim Shah, a former advisor to the Malaysian prime minister, called India's export potential “unparalleled” and described trade exhibitions as a strategic platform for future commercial development.

Meanwhile, Head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Mahmoud Najafi Arab met with Indian Ambassador Rudra Gaurav Shresth to explore avenues for expanding economic ties between Iran and India, with both sides emphasizing the need to prioritize the exchange of non-sanctioned goods.

The meeting, held at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, also included the TCCIMA Secretary General and the head of the South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce, who accompanied the Indian ambassador. Discussions focused on enhancing provincial-level economic cooperation led by business chambers.

According to a statement from the TCCIMA, Najafi Arab said that the longstanding historical and economic ties between the two countries provide a strong foundation for deeper cooperation, especially if international sanctions on Iran are fully lifted.

He called for swift finalization of a preferential trade agreement between the two countries and emphasized the importance of tariff reduction. Najafi Arab also highlighted joint opportunities in food security, organic production, smart agriculture, biotechnology, blockchain, and fintech.

He further proposed forming a joint consortium between Iranian and Indian private sectors for maritime and transit corridor projects, including trilateral cooperation with Russia to develop the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC). Participation in trade and industrial expos in both countries was also encouraged.

Fereydoon Vardinejad, Secretary General of the Tehran Chamber, reiterated the importance of subnational economic cooperation and expressed readiness to collaborate with Indian provincial chambers. He proposed holding virtual meetings to identify mutual business opportunities and suggested establishing a “green channel” between the chamber and the Indian embassy to expedite visas for businesspeople.

Ambassador Shrestha noted that U.S. sanctions on Iran have also had negative repercussions for the Indian economy. He explained that while the Indian government cannot mandate private sector activity, its investment in Iran's Chabahar Port was a clear signal encouraging Indian firms to engage with the Iranian market.

He acknowledged the limited scope of current bilateral trade, which has hovered around \$5.0 billion in recent years, and said that with a broader focus on sanction-free goods, trade could double to \$10 billion within the next three to four years.

The ambassador said India remains a key market for agricultural and food products, and proposed converting the preferential trade agreement into a free trade pact covering food, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals—sectors not targeted by international sanctions.

Also speaking at the meeting, the president of the South Gujarat Chamber outlined the region's main industries, including textiles, diamond polishing, agricultural products, and handicrafts. He proposed signing a cooperation agreement with the Tehran Chamber and invited an Iranian trade delegation to an investment and tourism expo scheduled for August in South Gujarat.

West Bank annexation push intensifies

From page 1 ► In a statement, Jordan's Foreign Ministry said Amman "condemns in the strongest terms the Knesset's vote on a declaration supporting Israeli sovereignty over the occupied West Bank and the Jordan Valley."

In a post on social media, Hussein al-Sheikh, vice president of the Palestinian Authority, also said the measure "represents not only a direct assault on the rights of the Palestinian people but also a dangerous escalation that undermines the prospects for peace, stability and the two-state solution based on negotiation, which enforces and protects regional security."

This development is not merely symbolic; it is part of a broader pattern of settler-colonial practices that have defined Israeli occupation actions in Palestine since 1947. The West Bank has been under illegal occupation since 1967.

Hamas also said, "The vote by the Zionist occupation's Knesset on a draft resolution to impose sovereignty over the occupied West Bank in preparation for annexation is null and void, has no legitimacy, and will not alter the identity of Palestinian land."

The Palestinian resistance movement called on Palestinians in the West Bank to "escalate resistance in all its forms to thwart the projects



A demonstrator waves a Palestinian flag before Israeli troops during an anti-annexation protest in the West Bank

of the fascist Zionist occupation."

Also, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, strongly condemned the Knesset's vote, stating the move is part of a broader plan to impose a new reality on the ground.

He emphasized that these actions are unacceptable under international law. Gheit reaffirmed that the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is internationally recognized as occupied territory.

The timing of the vote adds another layer of gravity. As the world bears witness to ongoing starvation and heinous war crimes in Gaza, this new push for annexation reveals the Israeli regime's broader strategy:

the erasure of Palestinian national identity.

The occupation regime's actions in Gaza, marked by a genocidal policy, reflect another disturbing warning sign of similar systemic dispossession that would be escalated by the formal annexation of the West Bank.

In the West Bank, over three million Palestinians live under military occupation, with growing numbers of illegal Israeli settlers encroaching on their land. They are protected by a system that privileges settlers and criminalizes any form of resistance.

Annexation is not merely a legal maneuver; it is a colonial act aimed at permanently restructuring the

demographic and political landscape of historic Palestine. It represents the formalization of apartheid policies that have long governed the occupied territories.

With international law clearly defining the annexation of occupied land as illegal, the Knesset's vote further isolates the Israeli regime from the international community, already disgusted by its actions in Gaza.

The symbolic bill is also a chilling reminder of the political climate within the regime, where far-right and openly fascist rhetoric has gained traction. Government ministers have made statements that echo Nazi ideology, dehumanizing Palestinians and advocating for total control over all historic Palestinian land.

Such views are not confined to the margins; they are increasingly at the center of the regime's policymaking.

What is unfolding today in both Gaza and the West Bank is not isolated calamity but part of a coherent settler-colonial strategy, rooted in land theft, forced displacement, and demographic change.

As annexation rhetoric strongly risks turning into legislation, the world must confront the reality that colonialism in the 21st century is alive and well; and it is unfolding before our eyes in Palestine.

Photojournalist Adam Abu Harbid martyred in airstrike on family's tent in Gaza

Photojournalist Adam Zakaria Abu Harbid was martyred, and his wife and children were injured, after Israeli warplanes bombed his family's tent in the Yarmouk area in central Gaza City on Thursday evening, according to Palestinian Information Center.

Medical sources reported that four Palestinians were martyred, including journalist Abu Harbid, as a result of the Israeli targeting of a displaced persons' tent in the New Yarmouk Market in Gaza City.

The photojournalist had previously worked for Al-Quds TV, and later Al-Quds Today TV. Before his martyrdom, he had been providing live broadcast services for several TV channels through a company in Gaza.

With Abu Harbid's martyrdom, the number of journalists martyred since the beginning of the genocidal war on the Gaza Strip rises to 234.

In a statement, the Government Media Office (GMO) strongly condemned the system-

atic assassination of Palestinian journalists by the Israeli occupation army, and called on the International Federation of Journalists, the Federation of Arab Journalists, and all journalistic bodies worldwide to denounce these systematic crimes against journalists and media professionals in the Gaza Strip.

The office held Israel, the US, Britain, Germany, and France fully responsible for these heinous and barbaric crimes.

It also called on the international community, international organizations, and all bodies concerned with journalism and media across the world to condemn Israel's crimes, to deter it, and to pursue it in international courts for its ongoing crimes, and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The GMO further demanded serious and effective international pressure to halt the genocide, protect journalists and media workers in Gaza, and stop the crime of killing and assassinating them.

Uruguay condemns worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, West Bank

Uruguay has issued a strong statement expressing deep concern over the escalating humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and growing human rights violations in both Gaza and the West Bank.

In a press release, the Uruguayan Ministry of Foreign Relations highlighted the alarming deterioration of conditions in Gaza and West Bank. It noted that famine is spreading across Gaza. The situation, it warned, is being compounded by actions of Israel, including a recent motion approved by the Israeli Parliament calling for the annexation of the West Bank — a move Uruguay firmly opposes.

"The Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay reiterates its urgent call to Israel to allow access to humanitarian assistance through the United Nations, and in accordance with the principles of international humanitarian law," the statement read. It emphasized the urgent need for humanitarian aid to address the growing famine in Gaza.

Uruguay also reaffirmed its rejection of any measures aimed at altering the territorial or demographic reality of the occupied Palestinian territories. The government stressed its continued support for a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders.

Brazil to formally join South Africa's ICJ case against Israel

Brazil has said it is in the "final stages" of formally joining South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Middle East Eye reported.

The government announced its formal intervention on Wednesday, citing "massacres of civilians, most of them women and children, which have become commonplace during the delivery of humanitarian aid in Gaza."

In a statement, Brazil's Foreign Ministry expressed "deep indignation" at "recurring episodes of violence" perpetrated by Israel against Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, and the "shameless use of starvation as a weapon of war".

It said the international community "cannot remain inactive" in the face of "ongoing atrocities", and that the move is based on the "plausibility that the rights of Palestinians to protection against acts of genocide are being

irreversibly impaired".

"Brazil believes there is no longer room for moral ambiguity or political omission. Impunity undermines international legality and undermines the credibility of the multilateral system," the statement read.

The lawsuit, which was initially filed by South Africa in December 2023, accuses Israel of committing "genocidal acts" against Palestinians in Gaza.

In an 84-page submission to the ICJ, Pretoria alleged Israel was in breach of its obligations under the Genocide Convention.

Other countries, including Spain, Turkey and the Republic of Ireland, have also sought to intervene in the case.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has emerged as an increasingly vocal critic of Israel, repeatedly condemning its actions in Gaza as a genocide.

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

Lebanon in the aftermath of Thomas Barrack's visit

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Whenever he visits Lebanon, US envoy Thomas Barrack tries to expand the scope of his meetings with ministers and MPs, inciting them against Hezbollah.

Despite strict secrecy by the U.S. embassy in Beirut on the details of one meeting sponsored by MP Fouad Makhzoumi, the envoy repeatedly told them: "Do something!"

Further, it was leaked that Barrack had urged them to expedite the signing of a peace agreement with Israel, suggesting, "Seize the American opportunity that exists today and go for peace."

Barrack went on to claim that "Israel wants to live in peace and does not intend to expand, nor does it have expansionist projects or ambitions in its surroundings."

When asked about U.S. guarantees in exchange for disarming the resistance, Barrack replied, "I am convinced that Hezbollah's weapons are in storage and do not pose any threat, but we can-

France's recognition of Palestine: A historic shift or hollow gesture?



A group of demonstrators Congregate around a large Palestinian flag during the Red Line for Gaza protest in Paris, on July 8. Henrique Campos/Hans Lucas/AFP

From page 1 ► TEHRAN — In a bold and historic move, President Emmanuel Macron has announced that France will officially recognize the State of Palestine, signaling a significant shift in the country's foreign policy and its stance on Israel's war on Gaza.

While the decision is being hailed as admirable, it also reflects a deeper reckoning—an

implicit admission that France's longstanding alignment with Israel, particularly amid the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, has damaged its global reputation.

Macron made the announcement in a post on X on Thursday, stating that France will formally recognize Palestinian statehood at the United Nations General Assembly in September.

The decision comes amid growing international outrage over Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza, which has killed more than 59,000 Palestinians since October 2023 and triggered a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. Severely restricted aid deliveries have fueled widespread hunger, with over 100 aid and human rights organizations this week calling for urgent international intervention. They condemned Israel's blockade and deliberate starvation tactics as collective punishment.

At home, Macron faces rising domestic pressure. France, historically one of Israel's key allies, has come under intense public criticism for its perceived complicity in Israel's war on Gaza. Against this backdrop, Macron's move is widely seen as a calculated effort to appease

domestic discontent and obscure France's role in enabling the continued assault on Gaza.

In his statement, Macron declared, "The urgent need today is for the war in Gaza to end and for the civilian population to be rescued." If France is serious about this call, it should leverage its seat on the UN Security Council to press for an immediate ceasefire and ensure unrestricted humanitarian access.

Though Palestinians and many international voices have welcomed Macron's announcement, it does little to reverse the harm already inflicted. Symbolism must now be matched with concrete, sustained political action.

France's recognition makes it the most influential European country—and the first G7 nation—to take this step, following similar moves by the European countries of Norway, Ireland, and Spain last year. Today, more than 140 of the UN's 193 member states either recognize or are committed to recognizing Palestinian statehood. Yet major Western powers, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany, continue to withhold recognition.

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

Israel trying to deflect blame for widespread starvation in Gaza

Israel is pursuing an extensive PR effort to remove itself from blame for the starvation and killing of Palestinian civilians in Gaza in the face of overwhelming evidence that it is responsible, the Guardian reported.

As dozens of governments, UN organizations and other international figures have detailed Israel's culpability, officials and ministers in Israel have attempted to suggest that there is no hunger in Gaza, that if hunger exists it is not Israel's fault, or to blame Hamas or the UN and aid organizations for problems with distribution of aid.

The Israeli effort has continued even as one of its own government ministers, the far-right heritage minister, Amichai Eliyahu, made comments this week describing an unapologetic policy of starvation, genocide and ethnic cleansing that Israel has suggested is not official policy.

Amid evidence of a growing number of deaths from starvation in Gaza, including many child deaths, and shocking images and accounts of malnutrition, Israel has tried to deflect blame for what has been described by the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) as "man-made mass starvation".

That view was endorsed in a joint statement this week by 28 countries – including the UK – which explicitly blamed Israel. "The suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new

depths," the statement said. "The Israeli government's aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity.

"We condemn the drip-feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children, seeking to meet their most basic needs of water and food."

Some Israeli officials have been marginally more cautious in public statements, including the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who has promised vaguely that there "will be no starvation" in Gaza.

But a recent off-the-record briefing for journalists by a senior Israeli security official has pushed a more uncompromising position, stating that there "is no hunger in Gaza" and claiming that images of starving children on front pages around the world showed children with "underlying diseases".

David Mencer, an Israeli government spokesperson, told Sky News this week: "There is no famine in Gaza – there is a famine of the truth."

Contradicting that claim, Médecins Sans Frontières said a quarter of the young children and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers it had screened at its clinics last week were malnourished, a day after the UN said one in five children in Gaza City were suffering from malnutrition.

Israel's attempts to deflect blame, however, are undermined by its single and overarching responsibility: that as an occupying power in a conflict, it is legally obliged to ensure the provision of means of life for those under occupation.

And while Israel has consistently tried to blame Hamas for intercepting food aid, that claim has been undermined by a leaked US assessment, seen by Reuters, which found no evidence of systematic theft by the Palestinian group of US-funded humanitarian supplies.

Examining 156 incidents of theft or loss of US-funded supplies reported by US aid partner organizations between October 2023 and May 2025, it said it found "no reports alleging Hamas" benefited from US-funded supplies.

Israel has also recently intensified efforts to blame the UN for the problems with aid distribution, citing a "lack of cooperation from the international community and international organizations". Israel's claims are contradicted by clear evidence of its efforts to undermine aid distribution.

Despite international warnings of the humanitarian risks posed by banning UNRWA, the main UN agency for Palestinians and the organization with the most experience in Gaza, from Israel, its operations were closed down, complicating aid efforts.

Japan reduces travel warning to Iran

TEHRAN – Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reduced its travel warning to Iran to Level 3 from a previously-declared Level 4.

Moreover, Tokyo’s Embassy in Tehran has announced that it will resume issuing visas for Iranian applicants as of July 27, ISNA reported.

The embassy had earlier declared that due to some restrictions and internal conditions, it was not possible to issue visas for Iranian citizens until further notice. Visa issuance for Iranian citizens had been halted by some foreign embassies following Israeli attacks on Iran. After a ceasefire between Iran and Israel and a halt in attacks, Japan’s Foreign Ministry reduced travel warnings to major Iranian cities, including Tehran and other central regions.

According to tourism activists, this change is a sign of improvement in security conditions in many parts of Iran. Although Japan’s Foreign Ministry has declared that traveling to Iran’s border regions with Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan is

not recommended, the lowering of the alert level in much of Iran, including the capital, has raised hopes for a gradual return to stability.

In response to the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran, Japan had raised its travel warning for Iran to the highest level, Level 4, urging all Japanese nationals to evacuate the country immediately. The decision came as the conflict between Israel and Iran had intensified, with Israeli airstrikes targeting Iranian soil, significantly increasing the risk to foreign nationals in the region. The Japanese government’s heightened alert reflected the growing instability, and it was prioritizing the safety and security of its citizens by facilitating evacuation efforts.

Japan’s Foreign Ministry had heightened its travel warning for Iran to the highest level, Level 4, urging all Japanese citizens to evacuate the country immediately. This escalated warning had come amid growing tensions in the region, marked by Israeli airstrikes on Iranian soil.

Flydubai is to resume international flights at Bushehr airport

TEHRAN - Flydubai airline will resume international flights to and from Bushehr airport starting Saturday, the airport’s director announced on Thursday. Abbas Esmaeli, director of Bushehr province airports, said the flights would operate three times a week on Saturdays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Arrival time in Bushehr is scheduled for 8:25 a.m., with departures at 9:25 a.m.

The resumption comes after a 12-day Israeli-imposed war on Iran that previously disrupted flights, and follows ongoing efforts to reopen domestic and international air routes.

Esmaeli described the flights as an important step in expanding air connectivity for the province and noted that the return of international flights reflects improved regional stability and security.

Tourism rally in ECO member countries in 2025 proposed

TEHRAN – A joint gathering of the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Economic Cooperation Organization has been held in Tehran to study plans proposed by the Automobile Club and promote regional cooperation in traveling.

A proposal was made to hold an inclusive international tourism rally in all ECO member countries in 2025, with the responsibility and focus of the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of planning and implementation, with goals such as strengthening the regional integration, enhancing people-to-people interactions, promoting travel culture, and emphasizing the importance of road infrastructure.

According to Mehr news agency, Managing Director of Touring & Automobile Club of Iran Mohammad-Hossein Soufi and ECO Secretary General Asad Majeed Khan met with each other. Innovative plans of Touring & Automobile Club with focus on easing the travels, promoting regional communications and expansion of technical cooperation in road tourism were proposed and welcomed by ECO secretary general.

The Touring & Automobile Club asked the support of ECO secretary general for accelerating the implementation of former resolutions ratified by the heads of Customs Administration and road ministers of ECO member states particularly regarding the Carnet de Passages en Douane (CPD),

which includes Custom clearance, and removing obstacles to its implementation.

Also, Touring & Automobile Club’s new initiative themed “ECO Plus” which aims to create a special platform for cooperation between tourism and automobile clubs and centers that are members of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) in the ECO region, was introduced and received special attention. The plan focuses on promoting collaboration in driving, road safety and road tourism.

Subsequently, a proposal was made to hold a comprehensive international tourism rally in all ECO member countries in 2025, with the responsibility and focus of the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of planning and implementation, with goals such as strengthening regional integration, enhancing public interactions, promoting travel culture, and emphasizing the importance of road infrastructure.

Expressing satisfaction over the discussed proposal, Asad Majeed Khan declared his full support and emphasized that a joint working group will be established for the specialized follow-up of the projects.

This gathering is the beginning of a new chapter for smart and strategic cooperation between Touring & Automobile Club of Iran and ECO. A path that can undoubtedly lead to facilitating travel and expanding land tourism in the region.

Iranian paleontologist unveils world’s first fossilized bird mating dance in Miocene strata

TEHRAN - In a groundbreaking paleontological discovery, Iranian scientist Dr. Nasrollah Abbassi, researcher at the University of Zanjan, has uncovered the world’s first fossilized evidence of an ancient bird mating ritual—captured in stunning detail in the Miocene Upper Red Formation of northwestern Iran.

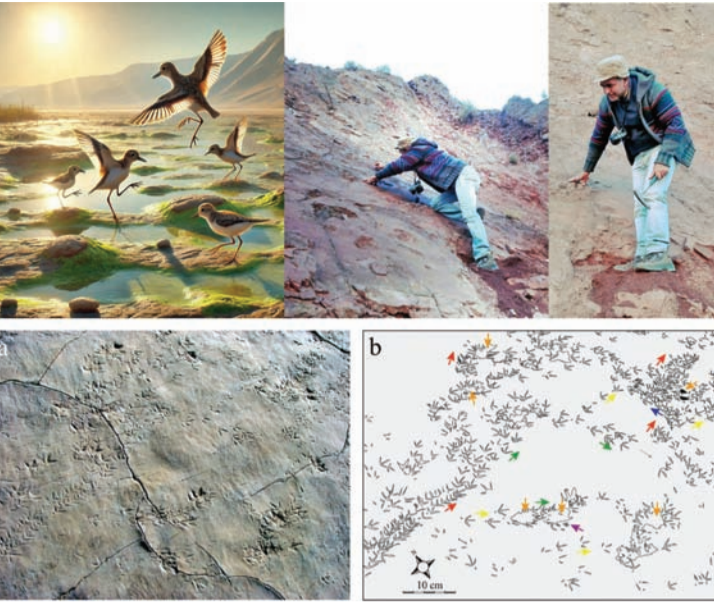
This unprecedented find sheds light on avian behavior dating back 13–15 million years and marks a major milestone in behavioral paleontology.

Unlike typical trace fossils that preserve isolated footprints, this exceptional site features more than 70 extraordinary trackways etched on the sedimentary slab, forming an intricate tableau of ritualized avian display.

These tracks document a dynamic sequence of movements—walking, high-stepping, stomping, hopping, pecking, short flights, and lateral leaps—suggesting a complex mating dance akin to those seen in modern shorebirds.

“This discovery transcends bones—it immortalizes behavior,” said Abbassi in an exclusive interview. “What we have here is not just locomotion; it’s performance. Imagine Miocene male birds stepping proudly across ancient mudflats, stamping their feet, leaping sideways, fluttering briefly into the air, and pecking with precision—all in a coordinated effort to attract a mate.”

Detailed morphometric analysis of footprints indicates the



birds weighed approximately 320 grams with hip heights of around 6 centimeters, aligning closely with modern-day plovers (family Charadriidae). The strong behavioral parallels prompted Abbassi and his team to coin a new ethological class in trace fossils—Goshnichnia—dedicated specifically to trace fossils of mating rituals.

“This is the oldest direct evidence of complex courtship behavior ever recorded in birds,” Dr. Abbassi emphasized. “It opens a new chapter in our understanding of how behaviors—especially social and reproductive ones—can fossilize. Until now, such intricate displays were considered nearly impossible to detect in the rock record.”

The find is a forward step in pa-

leontology by the role of ichnology—the study of trace fossils—. Where fossils once spoke primarily of anatomy, now they narrate social interaction, communication, and even courtship. The ability to read behavioral choreography in stone offers scientists an entirely new lens for interpreting ancient life.

“The beauty of this site lies in its completeness,” Abbassi explained. “We’re not seeing a single footprint or a random series of steps. We’re witnessing the choreography of a species—its ritual, its rhythm, its intention—all preserved across millions of years. It’s as if time paused during a dance.”

Beyond its scientific importance, the discovery places Iran’s Upper Red Formation firmly on the global

Resilience, missing link in sustainable development of handicrafts

TEHRAN — Hojjatollah Farahani, a university professor and researcher, has highlighted the crucial role of empowering artisans with resilience and endurance to navigate inevitable crises.

He emphasized leveraging indigenous capacities as a means to minimize damage and achieve sustainable development.

He told IRNA: “We plan to launch a workshop which concentrates on the occurrence of crises in human societies is inevitable. Whether these crises are natural or human crises, such as war, crises have always existed simultaneously with human life, and what is certain is that the way we face them and successfully pass through them with fewer losses is a vital condition that has always allowed human societies to maintain their continuity and stability over time.”

“The workshop I am going to hold is called “Handicrafts in Times of Crisis: Strategies for Resilience, Survival, and Reconstruction”, and within this workshop, we are going to discuss ways in which we can have practical solutions for resilience in times of crisis and create a platform for survival and reconstruction after the crisis. Handicraft businesses are highly vulnerable during times of crisis because their local ecosystems are not large. However, by training and promoting the handicraft activists in rural environments, small towns, and even large cities, this vulnerability, or part of it, can be greatly reduced and prepared to anticipate the necessities needed to deal with the crisis in their workshops, and to know how to maintain their businesses and what actions to take after the crisis to turn the

existing threats into opportunities.”

He added: “What is obvious is that one of the characteristics of the crisis is the combination of threat and change. In fact, we should not see the crisis from the negative side. There are opportunities in depth of every change. If we encounter them wisely, these opportunities can turn into stepping stones. For example, many businesses entered new chapters of growth after the Covid crisis across the world and witnessed remarkable growths.”

Moradkhani explained: “In this workshop, we divide the area of exposure of handicrafts and their businesses during the crisis into three stages: the pre-crisis stage, during the crisis, and after the crisis. For each of these stages, we have defined goals, considered strategies, and methods of carrying it out, so that the current situation can be used to the fullest, by looking at and relying on the internal platforms and capabilities that cyberspace, communication networks, the post, and also events within Iran have. In fact, this view is completely localized. We have defined goals for the during-crisis stage and recount its applications, and for the post-crisis stage, solutions have been identified that are to be presented.”

He said the addressees of this workshop are all those involved in the handicrafts sector, adding that an interdisciplinary nature has been defined for this workshop because its target audience is supposed to be a wide range of handicrafts activists, researchers, students, as well as managers from the public and private sectors. If

a crisis occurs, each of them is definitely involved in this field in some way and they will take a part in this work and naturally, sharing these training topics will lead to synergy, he pointed out.

“In the field of handicrafts, the higher the resilience of its activists in various aspects comprising students, researchers, managers, and handicraft producers, the better and more effective this ecosystem’s movement towards sustainable development will undoubtedly be. There is no doubt that resilience, achieving resilience, and promoting resilience will only be achieved from the green field of training, and nothing else.”

He said: “In today’s world, the issue of innovative economy and promoting various ecosystems of innovative industries is a strategic axis in the world. It has been put in macro policies of various countries. Because there are two very vital aspects here: social growth through the creation of sustainable employment and economic growth through foreign exchange and improving the livelihoods of families; two areas that governments, without exception, wherever they are, are forced to spend money to maintain the stability of these two social and economic aspects.”

“When we can realize this potential across the country through training and capacities of innovative industries and innovative economy, a burden will be lifted from the shoulder of official bodies. Also, it will lead to more self-employment or freelancers that will take over and move forward, and this trend will increase exponentially in the country.”

First Announcement



1
1969700

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN TENDER NO. : 08-21-0240002

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	TUBING 1.5 IN., API GRADE L-80,SEAMLESS/"HYDRIL CS" THREAD,R-2, PSL: 2, 4.19 PPF	4,000LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 83,387/86 EURO or 65,682,450,800 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37
Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://iets.mporg.ir>

First Announcement



1
1969698

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN TENDER NO. : 08-38-0340004

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
3	POLYCRYSTALLIN DIAMOND COMPACT(PDC) 4-1/8 IN. TYPE AS SPECIFIED LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 2 (L.O.I.: 2) THE BIT 4-1/8 X 2-3/8 IN. NOZZLES SIZE 11/32 IN. & 13/32 IN.	70NO 72NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 27,728/91 EURO or 21,456,660,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

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Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://iets.mporg.ir>

UNHCR representative commends Iran’s efforts in educating refugees

TEHRAN –United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Filippo Grandi, has lauded the efforts of the Education Ministry in supporting and providing services to foreign students.

“The main reason why I am visiting Iran is to appreciate the country’s valuable services provided to refugees. I have repeatedly talked about this issue in international forums, and urged them to follow Iran as a role model,” Mehr news agency quoted Grandi as saying.

The official made the remarks at a meeting with Education Minister Alireza Kazemi on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Grandi referred to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei’s statement in 2015, according to which all Afghan refugees, including undocumented ones, were allowed to be enrolled in schools.

The official called it a valuable historical measure that surprised everyone, including rich countries.

For his part, Kazemi expounded on the country’s measures and challenges in assisting refugees.

Iran spends 100 million dollars annually on providing services to foreign nationals, while in the UNHCR contribution has been less than a percent over the past two years

The presence of refugee students at schools has made classes overcrowded, which has consequently affected Iranian students’ academic performance, the official added.

Referring to the lack of educational space and the substantial financial burden of providing it, Kazemi said it is socially and economically costly; people expect these expenditures to be spent on Iranians, which is a logical demand.

The education minister went on to highlight the economic and social challenges caused by for-



eign nationals, saying that due to economic problems, Afghan refugees involve their children in helping generate income, which leads to severe social impacts in the country.

“Despite all these problems, Iran has never reduced the services provided to refugees. The country continues to provide the best services to legally permitted refugee students, ensuring none of them is deprived of education,” Kazemi noted.

Now that Afghanistan has attained stability, Afghan nationals are better able to return, with dignity, and serve their home country, he said.

Even to support (deported) refugees to continue education and learning, Iran is ready to educate all Afghan students using the local education platforms, within the framework of the tripartite cooperation agreement, and providing them with a valid educational certificate based on the statutes of virtual schools approved by the Supreme Council of Education, the official added.

Grandi lauded the proposal and voiced the UNHCR’s support of the program, calling it an invaluable measure for the young generation.

“I am aware of low contributions, and I admit more funds have to be assigned to your services, but due to the current situation and sanctions, it is not possible.

We are not a rich partner, but

we would be happy to remain your partner,” the official said.

According to ISNA, Alireza Bigdeli, Iranian ambassador to Kabul, and Habibullah Aqa, acting Education Minister of Afghanistan, met on Thursday to discuss the potential for fostering educational, vocational education, and training cooperation.

Interior minister, UNHCR representative discuss issues on Afghan refugees

On Tuesday, Grandi also held a meeting with Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni to explore ways to address problems related to Afghan refugees living in the country and those being deported.

The meeting focused on holding a trilateral meeting among Iranian officials, Afghan officials, and UNHCR representatives to increase financial assistance from international organizations, organize Afghan refugees, and prevent drug trafficking, according to the Ministry of Interior’s website.

During the meeting, Grandi lauded Iran’s generosity in hosting refugees over the past four decades.

“I’m personally well aware of the burden the country and the Iranian people are going through.

Unfortunately, the international community’s support for Iran has significantly declined in recent years.

However, we ask Iran to return

(illegal) immigrants gradually, not to put Afghanistan under pressure because the country cannot accept them all at once due to economic and social problems.”

He also shared insights from his recent visit to Kabul, where he held discussions with officials from the Afghan interim government about refugee matters and voluntary returns.

The official hoped that Iran would continue its humanitarian approach with the contributions of the international community.

For his part, Momeni said, “Unauthorized refugees will be returned to their home countries without being asked any questions anywhere in the world.

However, in Iran, if an Afghan’s life is threatened or if they are sick and need to stay here for treatment, their return will be delayed. They have not been deported violently.

Afghan governors have seen firsthand how the deported nationals were treated respectfully.”

The official went on to say that some three to four legal Afghans are residing in the country who are working and are respected by Iranians.

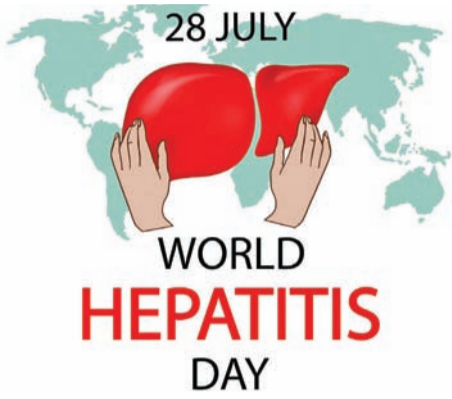
Their children are attending the same schools as Iranians, and work in Iranian workshops, he added.

Nader Yar-Ahmadi, the head of the National Organization for Migration, for his part, said Iran has hosted Afghan refugees for over four decades, and will continue to do so in a different way, though. Only documented refugees will be able to benefit from the services in the country.

“Mr. Grandi has honestly confessed that international financial support is nothing compared to the country’s extremely costly measures.

We expect the international community to enhance its assistance,” Yar-Ahmadi highlighted.

Hepatitis Awareness Week to be marked



TEHRAN – The national Hepatitis Awareness Week is scheduled to be observed from July 26 to August 2.

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and cancer.

The Week will focus on a campaign titled ‘moving toward eliminating hepatitis’, which aims to raise public awareness, provide scientific information about the disease to the community, screen high-risk groups, engage non-governmental organizations, and support policymakers.

The media, universities, and various organizations have also been invited to participate in coordinating the implementation of the campaign.

Expanding access to hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment is one of the top priorities of the country, the health ministry website reported.

Managing hepatitis B and C is among the significant challenges of the country’s health system, and their elimination by 2030 is among the main goals of the health ministry, Qobad Moradi, an official with the health ministry, said.

Underscoring the role of diagnosis and care for patients with hepatitis, Moradi said that according to the World Health Organization (WHO) over three million people are living with chronic hepatitis B and C, while only 45 percent of the babies receive hepatitis B with 24 hours of birth, which highlights the need for higher vaccination coverage and identification of the disease.

Thanks to free and effective treatment of the disease, early diagnosis will help avoid complications such as cirrhosis and liver cancer, Moradi noted.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, celebrated annually on July 28, annually. It is an opportunity

to step up national and international efforts on hepatitis, encourage actions and engagement by individuals, partners, and the public, and highlight the need for a greater global response as outlined in the WHO’s Global hepatitis report of 2017.

Hepatitis is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and noninfectious agents, leading to a range of health problems, some of which can be fatal.

Low coverage of testing and treatment is the most important gap to be addressed in order to achieve the global elimination goals by 2030.

The theme for 2025, ‘Hepatitis: Let’s Break It Down,’ calls for urgent action to dismantle the financial, social, and systemic barriers – including stigma – that stand in the way of hepatitis elimination and liver cancer prevention.

Iran, WHO to form working group to eliminate hepatitis C

In 2024, Iran and the WHO agreed to create a joint working group with the aim of eradicating hepatitis C in the country.

The deputy health minister Hassan Farshidi, in a meeting with WHO’s Assistant Director General for Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases, Jerome Salomon, underscored the establishment of a joint working group to eliminate hepatitis C.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 27 to June 1.

During the meeting, Farshidi presented a report on the measures taken in Iran to control and prevent hepatitis C and stressed the key strengths of Iran’s national program, including the strong primary health care services (PHC) and the integration of the programs to fight and manage hepatitis.

Salomon, for his part, lauded Iran for its commitment and strong will in the elimination of hepatitis C and announced WHO’s readiness to support Iran’s plans in this area.

He also called Iran a role model for other regional countries in the elimination and control of hepatitis C.

The two sides agreed to establish a joint working group to support the eradication of hepatitis C program in Iran.

Also, a team of experts from the World Health Organization is scheduled to visit Iran to assess the strengths and needs in eliminating hepatitis C.

More than 1,025 drowned, up 1.4% year on year

TEHRAN – Over the past Iranian year, March 2024 – March 2025, a total of 1,026 individuals lost their lives from drowning, indicating a 1.4 percent increase compared to a year earlier.

During the mentioned period, the number of drowned men was 831 (lowered from 848 deaths in the Iranian year 1402), whereas the number of drowned women amounted to 195 (up from 166 deaths recorded a year earlier), IRNA reported.

The highest number of deaths was reported in Khuzestan (137), Fars (89), and Mazandaran (87) provinces.

According to reports, the majority of drowning deaths are recorded in rivers (303), agricultural irrigation pools (187), seas (135), and swimming pools (103).

A total of 105 deaths in rivers were recorded in Khuzestan province. Isfahan and Fars, with 34 and 26 deaths, had the highest number of deaths in irrigation pools, respectively. 129 out of 135 deaths recorded in seas were in places where swimming is forbidden.

Some 471 percent of drowned deaths were recorded from May 21 to September 21, 2024.

Every year, an estimated 236,000 people drown, making drowning a major public health problem worldwide.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death globally for children and young people aged 1-24 years. Drowning is the 3rd leading cause of unintentional injury death, accounting for 7 percent of all injury-related deaths.

Lack of barriers controlling exposure to water bodies and lack of adequate, close supervision for infants and young children are drowning risks, as are poor swim skills and low awareness of water dangers.

In addition, high-risk behavior, including consuming alcohol while engaging with water, is a risk among young people and adults. Other risk factors are transport on water and water crossings, lack of safe water supply, and flood disasters.

World Drowning Prevention Day, declared in April 2021 by General Assembly resolution, is held annually on July 25. The global advocacy event serves as an opportunity to highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities and to offer life-saving solutions to prevent it.

This year it is being marked with the theme ‘Your story can save a life – Drowning prevention through shared experiences.’

The global burden of death from drowning is felt in all economies and regions. Low- and middle-income countries account for over 90 percent of unintentional drowning deaths.

Over half of the world’s drowning occurs in the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Region and WHO South-East Asia Region.

Drowning death rates are highest in the WHO Western Pacific Region, and are 27-32 times higher than those seen in the United Kingdom or Germany, respectively.

World Drowning Prevention Day highlights the need for urgent, coordinated and multi-sectoral action on proven measures such as installing barriers controlling access to water; providing safe places away from water such as crèches for pre-school children with capable childcare; teaching swimming, water safety and safe rescue skills; training bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation; setting and enforcing safe boating, shipping and ferry regulations; and improving flood risk management.

Persian Leopard spotted in Lorestan for first time

TEHRAN – A Persian leopard has been observed through cameras installed in Sefid Kuh, a protected area in Lorestan province.

Cameras have filmed the Persian leopard for the first time in the area while drinking water from troughs, ISNA reported.

Known as an umbrella species, the existence of the leopard in the area indicates a dynamic ecosystem, the completion of the food chain, and habitat.

The security of the protected area is the result of effective measures taken by the provincial department of environment, rangers, and the use of smart systems as well as modern technologies.

The Persian leopard (subspecies of *Panthera pardus saxicolor*) is listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, due to overhunting and habitat destruction. The animal lives in the mountainous, forest, and steppe regions of Iran.

According to the latest report by the IUCN, some 154 species of Iranian vertebrates are critically endangered of extinction.

President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued an order, obligating the Department of Environment (DOE) to develop a strategic plan to preserve endangered species in the country.

“The country needs a comprehensive and operational plan in the field of the environ-



ment that covers different environmental sectors. It must include goals, assumptions, operational measures, financial resources, and results,” IRNA quoted the president as saying.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Only 15% of Tehran’s construction, demolition waste recycled’

While some 50,000 tons of construction and demolition waste is produced in Tehran daily, only 10 to 15 percent of which are recycled and the rest is dumped or disposed, Mohammad Hossein Bazgir, head of Tehran’s department of environment (DOE) has said.

“A good portion of construction wastes can still be usable with proper planning and their usage can be a solution itself to the burgeoning waste issues that the communities and the construction industry face,” Bazgir said.

The unit is capable of recycling some 3,000 tons of construction waste, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

تنها ۱۵ درصد نخاله های ساختمانی تولید شده در تهران بازیافت می شود

رئیس اداره محیط زیست شهر تهران با بیان اینکه در تهران روزانه ۵۰ هزار تن نخاله ساختمانی تولید می شود، گفت: متأسفانه تنها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد این زباله ها بازیافت می شود و بیش از ۸۰ درصد آن دیو می شود. محمد حسین باذگیر در گفت و گو با ایسنا، اظهار کرد: بازیافت پسماندهای ساختمانی بخشی از فرایند مدیریت پسماند است که سبب می شود این نوع زباله ها دوباره به چرخه مصرف بازگردانده و بسیاری از مشکلاتی که مردم و صنعت ساخت و ساز با آن روبرو هستند، برطرف شود. ظرفیت این واحد بازیافت حدود ۳۰۰۰ تن است و می تواند این مقدار نخاله و آوار ساختمانی را بازیافت کند.

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

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JULY 26, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Do not waste water even if you were at a running stream.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:40 Dawn: 3:20 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:02 (tomorrow)

What’s in Tehran art galleries



Sculpture/installation
* Sets of installation and sculptures by Soha Ghasemi are on view in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.
The exhibit entitled “Fragments” will run until August 5 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.
Painting

* An exhibition of paintings by Arman Sedaqat is underway at Seyhoun Gallery.

The exhibit named “Double Vision” will run until August 6 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.



روزمرگی
ROUTINE
Zahra Moradi
افتتاحیه جمعه ۳ مردادماه ۱۴۰۴
25 JULY 2025

* Tannaz Rahat is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named “Memory” will run until August 5 at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.



SELF OF YOURS, IN PURSUIT
به منات دنبال
Solo Exhibition
Asra Golmohammadi
Artist
۱۳ شهریور ماه ۱۴۰۴
۲۵ تا ۲۹ مرداد ۱۴۰۴
۲۵ تا ۲۹ مرداد ۱۴۰۴
۲۵ تا ۲۹ مرداد ۱۴۰۴

* Asr Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Neda Sadeghnia.

The exhibit entitled “Disappearance” will run until August 8 at the gallery located at 18 Delaviz St. off North Mirzaye Shirazi St.



What Is Your Dream?
روای تو چیست؟
Farshad Akbari
Artist
۱۳ شهریور ماه ۱۴۰۴
۲۵ تا ۲۹ مرداد ۱۴۰۴
۲۵ تا ۲۹ مرداد ۱۴۰۴
۲۵ تا ۲۹ مرداد ۱۴۰۴

* A collection of paintings by Maryam Madanifard is on view in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

The exhibit named “Alalia My Lost Language” will run until August 4 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.



Shallow
by Atefeh Namavar
۱۳ شهریور ماه ۱۴۰۴
۲۵ تا ۲۹ مرداد ۱۴۰۴
۲۵ تا ۲۹ مرداد ۱۴۰۴
۲۵ تا ۲۹ مرداد ۱۴۰۴

* A collection of paintings by Atefeh Namavar is on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibition named “Shallow” will be running until August 5 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

Vahdat Hall to host commemorative event, celebrating Iran’s resilience

TEHRAN – Tehran’s Vahdat Hall will be hosting a literary and artistic event on Sunday to commemorate the martyrs of the Israeli regime’s 12-day war against Iranian soil and to honor the heroic saga of the Operation True Promise 3.

The event titled “Recite about Iran” aims to showcase Iran’s cultural and artistic heritage through poetry and music, Mehr reported on Friday.

Prominent Iranian poets and musicians will participate at the event, delivering poetry recitations and performing with the IRIB symphonic orchestra, the report added.

Organized through the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans of the Islamic Revolution, the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, the Astan Quds Razavi Organization, and the Foundation for the Preservation and Publication of Sacred Defense Values, the event will highlight national resilience



and cultural pride.

Early Friday morning, June 13, a series of terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Zionist regime targeted Tehran and several other Iranian cities, resulting in the martyrdom of numerous military commanders, scientists, and in-

nocent civilians.

In response to the savage Zionist attack, the Islamic Republic of Iran launched Operation True Promise 3 on Friday night, unleashing a barrage of missiles against the occupied territories.

The Israeli attacks targeted

areas within Iran that were not military installations, resulting in the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives including women and children.

The incident has sparked outrage not only within Iran but also among international observers.

22nd Venice Days to show Iranian film “Inside Amir”

TEHRAN – The Venice film festival’s independent sidebar Venice Days has unveiled the line-up for its 22nd edition, which will take place from August 27 to September 6, with a film from Iran.

The 10-film competition lineup put together by Venice Days artistic director Gaia Furrer includes politically-charged dramas and documentaries from Mexico to Ukraine and Kenya.

“Inside Amir” directed by Amir Azizi is the film from Iran, which explores the director’s fears and doubts when considering emigration, ISNA reported.

The film is described as a love letter to the city of Tehran and a personal exploration of the doubts that surface before the act of leaving one’s own country.

“Inside Amir” follows a young man in Tehran on the verge of emigrating.

Amid scattered memories, unfinished conversations, and slow-moving days, he faces a decision he hasn’t fully made yet: to leave or to stay.

The only thing he refuses to part with is his bicycle – a companion through the city’s streets and a symbol of his past.

According to Azizi, “the film swings between past and present – friendships, late-night anxiety, and a city Amir is still tied to.

It is a quiet meditation on the emotional distance between staying and leaving – not about what’s right or wrong, but what remains unresolved.

“The movie is rooted in personal experience, but it aims to speak in a universal cinematic language. It portrays a young man drifting through a city filled with memories, loneliness, and silent transformations.

I’m drawn to the poetry of ordinary life – to the subtle rhythms of streets, bodies in motion, and moments that seem quiet but are emotionally charged,” the director said.

“Rather than focusing on plot or dialogue, this film explores presence, space, and human vulnerability.

I wanted to observe reality without any judgments or spectacle – just a patient gaze that trusts the audience’s sensitivity.

My approach avoids slogans or dramatic noises, seeking instead a deeper emotional clarity,” he added.

“Inside Amir” is not a statement about migration, identity, or politics – it is a human story about someone trying to stay afloat.

“I believe that if a film is honest, even in stillness, it can deeply connect with audiences,” Azizi noted.

IAF cinematheque to show documentary on photojournalist Donald McCullin

TEHRAN – The cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen the 2012 feature-length documentary film “McCullin” about the life and work of renowned British photojournalist Donald McCullin, directed by David Morris and Jacqui Morris, on Sunday.

The film screening, set for 6 p.m. at the Nasseri Hall of the IAF, will be followed by a review session in the presence of photographer and documentary filmmaker Pooria Noori and movie critic Fatemeh Shahband, Honaronline reported.

To many, McCullin is the greatest living war photographer, often cited as an inspiration for today’s photojournalists.

In the movie, McCullin speaks candidly about his three-decade career covering wars and humanitarian disasters on virtually every continent and the photographs that often defined historic moments.

The life of McCullin, 89, is presented through contemporary interviews and archival photographs spanning his career from the late 1950s to the present.

McCullin’s work covers a range of topics from around the world, including urban street



gangs in London, life in the American south, and the hunger crisis in Africa, and he is widely recognized for his powerful war photographs of battlefields from Biafra and Beirut to Cambodia, Northern Ireland, and Vietnam.

McCullin’s career was launched in 1959, when The Observer printed his photographs

of a London street gang, and flourished at the Sunday Times Magazine, where he worked as a correspondent.

The film provides a look at the stories behind the photographs, and why, after many years in the field and wide recognition for his artistry, McCullin continues to grapple with questions of conscience in recording the atrocities of war and human suffering.

Exploring not only McCullin’s life and work, but how the ethos of journalism has changed throughout his career, the film is a commentary on the history of photojournalism told through the lens of one of its most acclaimed photographers.

The film premiered at the 2012 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival. It was nominated for Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer and Best Documentary at the 66th British Academy Film Awards. It also won the award for Best Use of Footage in a Cinema Release at the 2014 Focal International Awards.

He is the author of a number of books, including “The Palestinians” (with Jonathan Dimbleby, 1980), “Beirut: A City in Crisis” (1983), and “Don McCullin in Africa” (2005).