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No Compromise on National Rights

Iranian leadership tells Asim Munir it has no trust in the US and warns that using diplomacy to conceal a return to war would trigger a far more forceful response



Pakistan's Chief of Defense Forces (CDF), Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir (L), met with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran on Saturday.

Iran accuses Persian Gulf states of complicity in US-Israeli attacks, rejects nuclear allegations at UN

TEHRAN- Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Saeed Iravani, has sharply criticized some Persian Gulf states for allegedly assisting the United States and Israel during 'unlawful acts of aggression against the Islamic Republic,' while also rejecting American and Emirati accusations concerning regional security and Iran's nuclear activities.

In a series of letters addressed on May 22 to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and President of the UN Security Council Fu Cong, Iravani accused some regional countries of facilitating military operations against Iran by providing logistical, operational, and intelligence support to US forces during the recent conflicts involving Tehran, Washington, and Tel Aviv. ▶ Page 2

Araghchi leads intensive regional diplomacy to advance efforts to end US-Israeli war against Iran

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has held a series of high-level diplomatic consultations with regional and international counterparts as Tehran intensifies efforts to secure a political resolution to the ongoing US-Israeli war against the Islamic Republic.

Over the past two days, Araghchi conducted multiple telephone conversations with senior officials from Oman, Turkey, Qatar, Iraq, Japan, and the United Nations, focusing on regional developments, diplomatic initiatives, and mechanisms to prevent further escalation in the Persian Gulf and the wider region. ▶ Page 2

How war on Iran affects world economy beyond energy

TEHRAN - Official data released Thursday reveals that Japanese vehicle exports to West Asia collapsed by more than 90 percent in April, both in value and volume, as the ongoing U.S.-Israeli war against Iran crippled maritime shipping to a region that major automakers such as Toyota and Nissan have long relied upon.

The dramatic drop has effectively halted the flow of passenger cars, trucks and buses to West Asia - also a critical market for secondhand Japanese vehicles - following the de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz, according to finance ministry figures. ▶ Page 4

MBZ undermined as Netanyahu pursues personal political gains

TEHRAN - There is a question why Abu Dhabi tried unsuccessfully to deny a visit to the UAE by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran.

The revelation of Netanyahu's secret trip to the UAE took Abu Dhabi by surprise, especially as 87% of the Arab public opposes recognition of Israel.

On 13 May, Benjamin Netanyahu's office issued a brief yet dramatic statement saying that, during the war with Iran, the Israeli prime minister had "secretly visited" the UAE and met President Mohammed bin Zayed, known as MBZ.

Hours later, the UAE Foreign Ministry pushed back with unusual sharpness, calling the report "entirely unfounded" and claimed that Emirati-Israeli relations operate openly under the 2020 Abraham Accords.

The Emiratis were reportedly furious over the disclosure. By going public with the meeting at the war time, Netanyahu "trapped the Emiratis between domestic embarrassment and the regional cost of their Israeli ties," Ali Bakir, a research assistant professor at Ibn Khaldun Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, wrote in Middle East Eye on My 22.

Hezbollah's war media footage shakes Israel

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - While the Zionist regime relentlessly broadcasts graphic scenes of devastation in Lebanon, how did Hezbollah successfully turn war media into a pivotal and powerful battlefield weapon?

The Lebanese resistance movement has prevailed in the battle of narrative and perception before its own supporters, and even before the Israeli regime's supporters. Most of its statements on military operations are backed by video evidence, exposing the regime's lies and its failure to conceal its human and material losses.

It has now reached the point where the enemy's media outlets have begun citing footage published by the Lebanese resistance front to challenge the leaders of the Zionist regime over their deception and failures.

Perhaps Hezbollah's greatest achievement in the war of images and narratives was shattering the narrative that the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) tried to present as a victory to its public.

NATO grapples with its unraveling under Washington's predatory hegemony

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN - The official communiques emerging from the NATO foreign ministers' gathering in Helsingborg, Sweden, spoke of enhanced burden sharing and a stronger, fairer alliance. Behind those anodyne formulations lies a transatlantic partnership in an advanced state of political decomposition.

The meeting was intended to project unity ahead of the July summit in Ankara. Instead, it laid bare the irreversible damage inflicted on the Western security architecture by Washington's war on Iran and its accelerating transformation into a predatory hegemon that no longer distinguishes between geopolitical rival and nominal ally.

The cost of complicity

A catalyst for this crisis is the U.S.-Israeli military campaign launched against Iran on February 28.

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Isfahan says restoration of war-damaged historic buildings 80% complete

TEHRAN - Restoration work on Isfahan's historic buildings damaged during the recent war with the US and Israeli regime has reached 80% completion, with most structural repairs expected to be finalized within two weeks, a municipal official said on Saturday.

Mohammad-Ali Izadkhasti, head of the Renovation and Improvement Organization of Isfahan Municipality, said emergency restoration and stabilization efforts began immediately after the attacks, which damaged several historical sites in the city.

Around 150 historical buildings and heritage sites across Iran, including in Isfahan, sustained damage during the war which was started on Feb. 28, largely due to blast waves caused by missile strikes. ▶ Page 6



Isfahan's Jewish community pledges allegiance to new Leader

TEHRAN - Marking the second anniversary of the martyrdom of Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi, a memorial service was held on Thursday at the Keter David Synagogue in Isfahan to honor his memory alongside the Martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The ceremony, organized by the Jewish community of Isfahan, served as a tribute to the late leaders and a formal renewal of allegiance to the current Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei.

The event was attended by provincial officials and representatives of the Jewish community.

"Particles of Chaos" premieres at City Theater, honoring heroes of Frigate Dena

TEHRAN- The main hall of Tehran's City Theater Complex hosted the opening ceremony of the play "Particles of Chaos" on Friday evening. The event was marked by a tribute to the martyrs and brave survivors of the Iranian Navy's Frigate Dena.

The ceremony, attended by high-ranking cultural and military officials, began with a performance by the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy band in the theater's courtyard. Notable attendees included Mehdi Shafiei, Deputy Minister of Culture for Artistic Affairs; Kourosh Soleimani, Director of the City Theater; Amir-Hossein Shafiei, Director of the Soore Theater Club; and Ruhollah Sadeqi, Deputy Head of Public Relations for the Navy. ▶ Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran fears neither war nor the deception of negotiations

Javan highlighted Iran's strength in both wartime and negotiation contexts. According to the paper, neither war can be considered inevitable nor ruled out, and negotiations can neither be fully trusted nor dismissed. Iran has shown that this time it intends to end the war at a moment and in a manner that removes the shadow of conflict from its future for decades. The United States cannot obtain through negotiation what it failed to achieve through war. Some argue, in contrast, that Iran also cannot gain through negotiation what it did not secure through war, and that the country is now besieged and must seek a solution. The response is that Iran defended itself and did not lose; therefore, it fears neither renewed war nor negotiations. It sees the consequences of both paths as positive for its future. For this reason, few fair-minded analysts inside or outside Iran—especially foreign observers—would deny that "Iran will emerge from this war victorious, with a bright future ahead."

Shargh: Regional atmosphere between war and diplomacy

Shargh examined the uncertain situation that has emerged after the start of the ceasefire. It wrote that diplomacy has always been the first tool to prevent crises and the last path to ending wars. Even after military conflict begins, negotiation and dialogue are what can pave the way back to stability. Now, however, after 40 days of war and more than forty days of ceasefire, the regional atmosphere appears more complex and ambiguous than before. The region is currently suspended in an in-between state: the war has not fully ended, and diplomacy has not yet produced a lasting outcome. Nevertheless, there remains no alternative more effective or less costly than diplomacy for exiting the crisis. For this reason, evaluating the performance of the country's foreign policy during the ceasefire has become one of the most important topics in the political and diplomatic arena—an era in which, alongside ongoing threats and increasingly complex regional dynamics, the diplomatic apparatus has faced a difficult test.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Negotiations enter a sensitive and unprecedented phase

Arman-e-Emrooz commented on the second visit of Senator Mohsin Naqvi, Pakistan's Interior Minister, to Tehran, noting that his second trip in less than a week reflects the urgency of the current diplomatic moment. Border security, trade, energy, and regional stability are at the top of the agenda. News sources have pointed to Pakistan's efforts to hold a second round of talks before the un-

specified ceasefire deadline expires. These developments come as the region continues to face numerous political and security challenges. The visit—taking place within a single week—signals a diplomatic shift by the United States and Islamabad aimed at advancing regional and nuclear negotiations. Naqvi has likely conveyed Washington's response to Iran's recent proposals to officials in Tehran. Given Pakistan's active mediating role in Iran-US talks, this trip could be key to assessing Washington's position and preparing the ground for a new round of dialogue.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Negotiation is not the problem; the enemy is not trustworthy

Siasat-e-Rooz analyzed the views of certain groups in Iran regarding the West. According to this analysis, there are those who believe that unless Iran reconciles with the United States, establishes relations with it, and yields to Washington's demands, the country's situation will not improve. This Western-leaning mindset exists across various structural sectors—political, economic, and cultural—and remains active. However, there is no opposition to negotiation itself; even those skeptical of talks are not against negotiation per se, but rather distrust the other side, fully aware of the long history of US and European breaches of commitments toward Iran. They do not view negotiation as a cure-all. Now, in the midst of an imposed war, expectations for positive, decisive outcomes from Iran-US talks mediated by Pakistan should not lead to a halt in the country's internal progress.

Kayhan: We must not relinquish the Strait of Hormuz

Kayhan emphasized the strategic importance of controlling the Strait of Hormuz, stating that this is currently Iran's greatest point of strength—and the enemy's greatest vulnerability. If the goal is to contain the enemy, lift sanctions, improve economic conditions, and achieve deterrence and a permanent end to war, all these objectives converge in the Strait of Hormuz. This leverage must not be surrendered easily. Media outlets, citing the head of the International Energy Agency, reported that global oil will enter a red phase by summer, and Bloomberg wrote that if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, the world economy will enter a "devastating crisis." This is precisely why the enemy has been forced into negotiations—specifically over the Strait of Hormuz. Just as the enemy will never abandon the leverage of sanctions, Iran must never relinquish its leverage over the Strait.

Iran denounces decades-long US embargo on Cuba as a "crime against humanity"

TEHRAN— Iran's Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned the United States over its continued sanctions, political pressure, and unlawful interference in Cuba's internal affairs, accusing Washington of violating international law and committing acts amounting to a "crime against humanity."

In a statement issued on Saturday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry denounced the United States' ongoing campaign of economic coercion, provocative actions, and military threats against Cuba.

Tehran stated that the US economic and trade embargo imposed on Cuba since the 1960 Cuban Revolution represents a clear violation of Cuba's national sovereignty and the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly the right of nations to self-determination.

According to the statement, the decades-long sanctions have inflicted severe economic damage on Cuba and resulted in widespread human rights violations affecting the Cuban population.

The ministry described the embargo as "illegal and inhumane," stating that the 66-year sanctions regime — as the longest-running embargo in modern history — constitutes "a crime against humanity" because of its extensive humanitarian and

economic consequences.

"The US government must be held accountable for committing these crimes," the statement said.

Iran also criticized recent US measures aimed at tightening sanctions and enforcing a naval blockade against Cuba. The Foreign Ministry condemned "provocative and baseless claims" by Washington, asserting that such actions are intended to intimidate and pressure the Cuban government.

Tehran characterized the measures as another example of "US lawlessness and bullying" and called on the international community, including the United Nations, to condemn Washington's policies toward Cuba.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry further stressed that sanctions and threats cannot undermine the determination of nations to preserve their independence and national dignity.

Reaffirming Iran's solidarity with the Cuban government and people, the statement emphasized the importance of respecting national sovereignty, refraining from interference in domestic affairs, and ending unilateral coercive measures imposed on developing countries.

Araghchi leads intensive regional diplomacy to advance efforts to end US-Israeli war against Iran

From page 1 ▶ In a phone call on Saturday morning, Araghchi and Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi exchanged views on the latest regional developments and ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at containing tensions and bringing the conflict to an end.

Oman has played a key mediating role in regional diplomacy in recent years, and the discussions reportedly centered on efforts to revive dialogue and prevent further military escalation.

On Friday evening, the Iranian foreign minister also held separate conversations with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, and Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein.

According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the talks addressed bilateral relations as well as recent regional and international developments, with particular attention given to diplomatic pathways for de-



calation and regional stability.

Araghchi additionally spoke with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, with the two sides discussing bilateral cooperation alongside the broader geopolitical situation in the region.

In a separate conversation with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on Friday night, Araghchi said Iran had entered the ongoing diplomatic process "seriously and responsibly" despite Teh-

ran's deep mistrust of Washington.

The Iranian foreign minister accused the United States of undermining diplomatic efforts through repeated violations of commitments, contradictory positions, military aggression against Iran, and excessive demands during negotiations mediated by Pakistan.

Nevertheless, Araghchi stressed that Tehran remains committed to pursuing "a rational and fair outcome" through

Iran accuses Persian Gulf states of complicity in US-Israeli attacks, rejects nuclear allegations at UN



From page 1 ▶ The Iranian envoy specifically named Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, and Jordan, stating that these states provided military bases, airspace access, intelligence-sharing, and other forms of assistance used in attacks against Iranian territory and interests.

According to Iravani, such actions constitute violations of international law and the United Nations Charter, particularly Article 2(4), which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of states. He argued that the involvement of those countries amounted to internationally wrongful acts

that could trigger legal responsibility under customary international law.

Iran also rejected claims by some states in the Persian Gulf that they had acted in self-defense during the conflict. Tehran maintained that, as the victim of aggression, it alone possessed the legitimate right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

In a separate letter, Iravani dismissed US allegations linking Iran to an alleged drone attack on the UAE's Barakah nuclear power plant, describing the accusations as "false" and "disinformation." He reiterated Tehran's longstanding position that attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities violate international law, the UN Charter, and International Atomic Energy Agency regulations.

The Iranian diplomat accused Washington of hypocrisy, arguing that the United States — alongside Israel — had itself targeted safeguarded Iranian nuclear facilities, including Natanz, Fordow, Isfahan, and Bushehr, during 'unlawful attacks in 2025 and 2026.'

"Iran categorically rejects these allegations," Iravani wrote, adding that Tehran has consistently opposed nuclear weapons

and remained committed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and extensive IAEA verification measures.

The envoy further criticized the United States for withdrawing from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), imposing unilateral sanctions, and pursuing military pressure against Iran while diplomatic negotiations were still underway.

In another communication to the Security Council, Iran also rejected accusations made by the United Arab Emirates during a UN debate on civilian protection. Iravani described the Emirati claims as "baseless, politically motivated, and irresponsible," accusing Abu Dhabi of attempting to distort the realities of the conflict.

Tehran insisted that the United States and Israel had launched a "premeditated and unlawful war" against Iran in violation of international law and maintained that regional actors assisting those operations share responsibility for the consequences of the conflict.

Iran called on the UN Security Council to reject "politically driven narratives" and to hold accountable all parties involved in military actions against the Islamic Republic.

Gabbard's resignation exposes deep split over Iran policy in Trump administration

TEHRAN — The resignation of the US director of national intelligence has intensified scrutiny of divisions within President Donald Trump's administration, particularly over Washington's approach toward Iran and the use of military force abroad.

Tulsi Gabbard announced on Friday that she is stepping down, citing her husband's battle with a rare form of bone cancer. However, her long-standing opposition to foreign military interventions, contrasted with Trump's more assertive use of military force abroad, has fueled speculation about deeper policy disagreements.

There had been growing speculation that Gabbard might break with Trump following the joint US-Israel war against Iran on February 28.

Even before the Iran conflict, Gabbard had maintained a relatively low public profile amid broader US military activity in the region, including operations involving Venezuela.

During a congressional hearing in March, her carefully worded remarks drew attention for what was seen as a cautious approach to the Iran war. She avoided taking a clear position on questions about whether the White House had been warned of potential consequences of escalation, including risks to the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil

shipping route.

In written testimony to the US Senate Intelligence Committee, Gabbard stated that the intelligence community assessed that Iran was not building nuclear weapons. She also said there was no evidence Iran had rebuilt its nuclear enrichment capabilities following US strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities in June last year.

Her remarks appeared to contradict President Trump's repeated claims that Iran posed an imminent nuclear threat requiring military action.

The testimony led to tense exchanges with lawmakers, who questioned her assessment of Iran's threat level and the administration's justification for the war. Gabbard emphasized that decisions on military action were made by the president, not the intelligence community.

Although both Trump and Gabbard have cited personal reasons for her departure, their differing views on foreign military intervention have continued to fuel speculation about political tensions within the administration.

Gabbard is the fourth member of Trump's cabinet to leave his second administration.

A key question raised by her departure is why Gabbard accepted a high-profile position



in the Trump administration despite their differing approaches to military intervention.

Her political career provides some context. She was first elected to the Hawaii state legislature in 2002 at the age of 21, becoming one of the youngest people ever to serve in the state House. She later left after her National Guard unit was deployed to Iraq.

Gabbard went on to serve in the US House of Representatives from 2013 to 2021 as a member of the Democratic Party, becoming the first Hindu elected to Congress.

She ran for president in 2020 on an anti-interventionist platform, arguing that US wars in the Middle East had destabilized the region and weakened American security. She later ended her campaign and endorsed Joe Biden.

diplomacy.

The two officials also discussed developments related to the ongoing Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in New York.

For his part, Guterres reiterated opposition to the use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles of the United Nations Charter while pursuing diplomatic solutions to restore peace and stability in the region.

Separately, Araghchi held talks with Nechirvan Barzani, President of Iraq's Kurdistan Region, on bilateral ties and regional security issues.

The discussions focused on economic and trade cooperation, strengthening coordination to safeguard shared borders, and combating terrorism. Both sides also underscored the importance of regional cooperation and indigenous security mechanisms to preserve stability across the region.

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No compromise on national rights

Iranian leadership tells Asim Munir it has no trust in the US and warns that using diplomacy to conceal a return to war would trigger a far more forceful response

TEHRAN - Iran has warned the United States of a "more crushing response" to any new act of aggression as Pakistan's Chief of Defense Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir concludes another visit to Tehran amid intensified mediation efforts to end the US-Israeli war that began on February 28.

Munir's visit comes as Pakistan steps up its diplomatic role in facilitating engagement between Tehran and Washington. His second trip in recent weeks underscores the growing importance of Pakistan's mediation channel, even as deep mistrust continues to define Iran's relations with the United States. While President Donald Trump has placed confidence in Munir's role as a facilitator, Iranian officials maintain that Washington remains fundamentally untrustworthy.

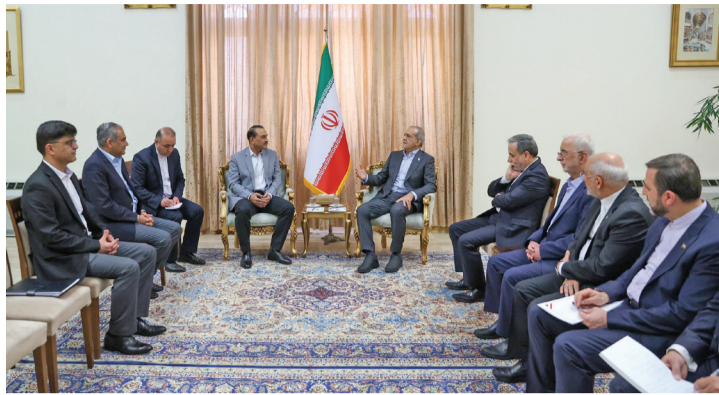
The US has 'no honesty'

In a meeting with Munir in Tehran on Saturday, Parliament Speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Iran would continue to pursue its "legitimate rights" both on the battlefield and through diplomacy, but stressed that Tehran could not trust "a party that has no honesty at all."

Since June last year, the US and Israel have launched war on Iran twice while Tehran and Washington were engaged in negotiations. The latest escalation was paused on April 8 after both sides agreed to a ceasefire. However, Pakistan's mediation efforts have so far failed to secure a permanent end to the conflict.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to resume military action against Iran if no agreement is reached with Washington.

In response to Trump's threats,



Qalibaf warned that if the United States "foolishly restarts the war," the consequences would be "more crushing and bitter."

During 39 days of war, in addition to targeting Israeli strategic and military sites, Iran inflicted significant damage on US military assets in the Persian Gulf region. A Congressional report says the US lost more than 40 military aircraft during the conflict, including F-15 fighter jets and an F-35 Lightning II aircraft. More than a dozen American service members were also killed.

Israel's destructive role

Munir also held talks with President Masoud Pezeshkian, who highlighted Washington's bad faith in negotiations.

"We are merely seeking to uphold the inalienable and legal rights of our nation, but our experience and record in negotiations with the Americans require us to exercise the utmost caution," Pezeshkian said.

The Iranian president stressed that war in the region only serves Israel's interests. "The United States will not emerge victorious from this conflict, and it is the countries of the region and the wider world that will suffer serious damage. The Zionist

regime is the only party seeking to advance its own interests in the region through this war," he added.

Munir echoed Pezeshkian's stance on Israel's role in regional instability. "Israel pursues its interests by fueling conflict and divisions among Muslims in the region, and it is strongly hostile toward anyone—including myself—who seeks to reduce tensions. It shows no interest in establishing stability and security in the region," he said.

The top Pakistani military official also held meetings with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi upon his arrival in Tehran on Thursday night and also before departing on Friday afternoon.

US excessive demands

Pakistan has intensified its mediation efforts to secure a second round of talks between Tehran and Washington. The first round in Islamabad on April 11 ended without a breakthrough due to what Iran describes as "excessive" US demands.

Iran is insisting on a two-phase approach to any settlement, calling for a full end to hostilities and acceptance of its core conditions. These include non-aggression guarantees, removal of sanctions, unfreezing of Iranian as-

sets, recognition of Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz, and an end to Israeli strikes in Lebanon.

Tehran says that only after these conditions are met will it be prepared to discuss its nuclear program, stressing that it will never compromise on its enrichment rights. Iranian officials say they are only willing to negotiate the level of uranium enrichment.

Decades of US hostility

On Saturday evening, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the ongoing mediation process with the US is "time-consuming" due to decades of hostility from Washington.

Esmail Baghaei said Iran and the United States are working to finalize a memorandum of understanding (MoU). "We must wait and see what will happen over the next three to four days." Iran and the US have exchanged multiple peace proposals over the past weeks.

Trump's deceptive diplomacy

Iran's distrust of the United States has again come into focus amid reports of renewed military planning in Washington. CBS News reported that the Trump administration is preparing for a fresh round of potential military strikes against Iran, even as diplomatic efforts continue toward a possible agreement.

President Trump also convened a meeting with his senior national security team on the conflict on Friday morning, according to two US officials cited by Axios. They said Trump weighs return to war with Iran.

Iran's military has warned that its armed forces are keeping their fingers on the trigger and would deliver a forceful response to both the United States and Israel if hostilities resume.

Iran, ACA blame US for collapse of UN nuclear nonproliferation talks

TEHRAN - The United States has faced fierce criticism over the failure of UN talks to reach a consensus on reaffirming nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament goals.

Negotiators had been reviewing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the cornerstone of global nuclear arms control, amid fears of a renewed arms race. But the talks ended on Friday without yielding an agreement.

Vietnam's Do Hung Viet, the president of the conference, said "despite our best efforts... it is my understanding that the conference is not in a position to achieve agreement on its substantive work."

"I do not intend to put the document forward for adoption," he added.

A US-based nonprofit monitor blamed Washington for using the talks as a platform for complicated negotiations over Iran's nuclear program.

The conference's failure to reach an agreement means there are "now no agreed limits on the size of the Russian and US nuclear arsenals, the world's largest," for "the first time since 1972," according to a statement by the Arms Control Association (ACA).

"Tragically, NPT states missed an important opportunity to formally reaffirm their support for the treaty and its core principles, goals, and objectives at a time of increasing nuclear dangers," ACA Executive Director Daryl Kimball said.

"In reality, the ongoing dispute over Iran's sensitive nuclear activities, which has been complicated by President Trump's withdrawal from the [Iran nuclear deal] in 2018, cannot be resolved at the NPT Review Conference," Kimball said.

He added that the future of Iran's nuclear program, which Tehran has long maintained is solely for civilian purposes, "must be addressed through

serious and more sustained diplomacy outside the halls of the UN."

"Even if consensus could have been achieved," Kimball added, "states-parties missed a chance to use the conference to address the dizzying array of nuclear dangers, including the deficit in nuclear disarmament diplomacy."

Iran's mission to the UN also accused Washington's "excessive demands" of pushing the nuclear non-proliferation talks toward collapse. "The NPT Review Conference failed for the third consecutive time due to obstructionism by the United States and its allies," the mission said in a post on X.

It noted that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty — designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and ultimately achieve a world free of them — has "no future" without broader disarmament efforts.

LATEST NEWS

■ Army vows a decisive response to any aggression

In a statement marking the liberation of Khorramshahr, the Iranian Army announced full readiness for a decisive and comprehensive response to any enemy aggression. Drawing on lessons from the Sacred Defense and recent imposed wars, the Army pledged to follow the directives of the Supreme Leader. It emphasized unwavering vigilance, national unity, and the continuation of the martyrs' path to safeguard Iran's independence and authority.

■ Iran reports 25 vessels transited through Strait of Hormuz

Iran's IRGC Navy has announced that 25 vessels, including oil tankers and container ships, transited the Strait of Hormuz in the past 24 hours after obtaining clearance and security coordination with

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Navy has announced that 25 vessels transited the Strait of Hormuz over the course of the past 24 hours, having obtained the required clearance and security coordination from the IRGC naval force.

The vessels included oil tankers, container ships, and other commercial craft. The IRGC Navy's public relations office said all transiting ships passed through the strait after completing the necessary coordination process with Iranian naval authorities, who provided security coverage for the passage.

■ Al-Mayadeen: Iran-Arab regional security model most sustainable option

A regional security architecture involving Iran and Arab states remains the most sustainable option for the Persian Gulf, according to an analysis by Al-Mayadeen. The report argues that reliance on the US security umbrella no longer offers reliable guarantees, citing shifting American commitments and the transactional logic of the "America First" approach. Analysts suggest that gradual engagement with Iran—based on shared geopolitical coexistence—represents a more realistic long-term alternative to imported security.

■ Iran stopped enemy at borders, says government

Fatemeh Mohajerani, the spokesperson for the Iranian government, stated that Iran is the only nation in the era of modern colonialism to have stood against the most powerful military force in human history. In a note released on Saturday, she emphasized that Iran halted the enemy at its borders and secured its independence despite deep wounds and the loss of innocent lives. She highlighted that national consensus served as the essential antidote to internal sabotage during the 12-day imposed war and the subsequent Ramadan War.

■ Official says "we need a wartime state"

Ali Abdullah Khani, Deputy Vice President for Strategy, emphasized: What the country needs is a "wartime state," not just a state

that is at war or a warlord state. According to him, executive governance should be designed based on a survival situation.

■ Trump's Iran war faces growing backlash at home

Trump's military campaign against Iran is triggering domestic turbulence rather than projected strength.

The US Senate has passed a resolution to curb its war powers, driven by public pressure and criticism of a failing strategy, the US media reported.

Senator Raphael Warnock called the war "a failure to the highest degree." Amid inflation fears and memories of Iraq and Afghanistan, opposition is rising across media and political lines. Analysts warn that Washington risks another costly quagmire, eroding America's economic stability, global standing, and strategic focus.

■ US fired 300+ advanced interceptors to defend Israel during Iran war

The United States fired hundreds of its most advanced interceptors to protect Israel from Iranian missiles during the first five weeks of the war, according to a Department of War assessment cited by The Washington Post. The US deployed 200 THAAD interceptors and over 100 SM-3 and SM-6 missiles, while Israel used only 100 Arrow and 90 David's Sling missiles. An official noted the imbalance would likely worsen if fighting resumes, warning of a significant drawdown of US stockpiles.

Iran to send 27 athletes to 2026 Youth Olympic Games

TEHRAN - Iran's delegation for the 2026 Summer Youth Olympics in Dakar, Senegal — the first edition of the Games to be held on African soil — is locked in. With 27 athletes qualified across 12 disciplines, the lineup is 99% final just five months out.

Over the 13-day event, participating athletes will compete in 25 sports. Iran's sports delegation — named "Makan Nasiri" — has been finalized with 12 sports. According to the head of the delegation, 27 athletes in these disciplines will travel to Dakar, and there is a 99% chance that no changes will be made to this lineup in the remaining time before the Games.

Delegation chief Hamid Azizi confirmed the quota breakdown has been finalized through the IOC and respective international federations. He praised the training camp structure and financial backing, calling the current conditions "favorable."

On medal prospects, Azizi was measured but not pessimistic. "Predicting medals is tough — but we're not going in empty-handed, either," he said. "We have expectations across multiple disciplines."

He also confirmed that medal-winning athletes will receive bonuses, underscoring the committee's commitment to performance incentives as Iran's young talents prepare to make their mark in Dakar.

The Games, running from Oct. 31 to Nov. 13, will feature competition across 25 sports. Iran will field athletes in the following events:

* **Taekwondo:** 1 quota for boys in +73 kg weight category, 1 quota for girls in -63 kg weight category

* **Cycling:** 1 quota for individual time trial and road race

* **Beach Wrestling:** 4 quotas in the 60, 70, 80, and 90 kg weight categories

* **Athletics:** 1 quota for boys in the 2000m steeplechase

* **Badminton:** 1 quota for boys and 1 quota for girls

* **Boxing:** 1 quota for girls in the 57 kg weight category

* **Table Tennis:** 1 quota for boys

* **Triathlon:** 1 quota for boys

* **Swimming:** 1 quota for boys in 200 meters

* **Wushu:** 1 quota in Taolu

* **Beach Volleyball (Boys):** 2 athletes

* **Futsal (Girls):** 10 athletes

Hajimousaei wins Iran's fourth gold at 2026 Asian Taekwondo Championships

TEHRAN - Iran's Mahdi Hajimousaei won a gold medal at the third day of the 27th Asian Taekwondo Championships underway in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

He defeated his Korean rival Jang Jun in the -63kg category to win a gold medal.

Hajimousaei had defeated opponents from Lebanon, China and Kazakhstan on his way en route to the final.

Abolfazl Zandi in the -58kg, Amirsina Bakhtiari in the -74kg and Arian Salimi in the +87kg had previously won three gold medals for Iran national team.

Iran and Russia NPCs ink MoU

TEHRAN - In a significant move to bolster international cooperation in para-sports, the National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) of Iran and Russia have officially inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering bilateral development.

This landmark agreement was reportedly finalized during Ghafour Kargari's visit to Rus-

sia, coinciding with the 30th-anniversary celebrations of the Russian NPC. During his visit, Kargari, representing Iran's NPC, held a crucial meeting with his Russian counterpart, Pavel Rozhkov. The discussions centered on identifying and cultivating common ground for the advancement of para-sports across both nations.

The MOU outlines a comprehensive strategy for collaboration, focusing on several key areas critical to athletic development.

A strong emphasis will be placed on expanding cooperation in scientific, educational, and academic fields. This includes the exchange of coaches, instructors, and technical staff, providing invaluable opportunities for skill enhancement and knowledge transfer.

The agreement also paves the way for organizing joint training camps and friendly matches between national teams. These initiatives are vital for performance analysis, tactical preparation, and providing athletes with competitive experience.

Future collaborations will also target the establishment of joint educational and scientific centers. This includes sharing cutting-edge research and findings in sports science, medicine, and sports management.

And, the partnership extends to joint efforts in the procurement and production of sports equipment, as well as a dedicated focus on developing women's para-sports.

Iranian powerlifters win golds at Oran 2026

TEHRAN - Amir Jafari and Mohsen Bakhtiar claimed two gold and one silver medal at the Oran 2026 Para Powerlifting African Open Championships on Friday.

Jafari seized the gold in the Men's Up to 72 kg - Best with 205kg, followed by his countryman Mohsen Bakhtiar (205kg). The bronze medal went to Iraqi powerlifter Ahmed Al-Karkhi with 204kg.

Bakhtiar also won a gold medal in total with 605kg, followed by Algerian Hocine Bettir (581kg) and Uganda's Ismail Issa Ssebagala (506kg).

Also, Iran's Zahra Aghaei seized two bronze medals in Women's Up to 79 kg. She finished third in the Best category by lifting 134kg and also came third in Total with 262kg.

Plenty of stars, including Paralympic and world champions, gathered in Oran from 21 to 24 May for the 2026 African Open Championships.

In total, 152 athletes — 92 men and 59 women — from 20 nations are in action across four days.

Fifteen African nations are set to compete, alongside five delegations from outside the region: Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan and Kazakhstan. Host nation Algeria tops the entry list with 27 athletes, followed by Egypt (20), Iran (16), and Nigeria (13).

Roberto Piazza arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN - Roberto Piazza, the highly-regarded Italian head coach, arrived at Imam Khomeini International Airport Friday afternoon, Friday, signaling the start of the final push toward the upcoming Volleyball Nations League (VNL) campaign.

Upon his arrival, Piazza was greeted by team manager Abbas Nazarian and coach Rahman Mohammadirad, setting the stage for a high-intensity period of preparation. With the team's overseas training camp in Turkey revised, the focus has shifted entirely to Tehran. The National Team Training Center at Azadi Sports Complex will now serve as the epicenter of action, hosting a full-strength squad, including international stars and players returning from the Asian Club Championship.

While Piazza has been meticulously monitoring the squad's progress via remote data analysis and online sessions in recent weeks, he is now ready to take the reins in person. Starting tomorrow, the tactical mastermind will hit the court, intensifying the competitive atmosphere as the race for the final roster spots ahead of the VNL reaches a fever pitch.

Over 2,100 road maintenance machinery, equipment renovated, reconstructed in a year



TEHRAN- The Director General of the Road Maintenance Operations, Machinery, and Crisis Management Department of the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization announced the renovation, overhaul, repair, and commissioning of 2,152 road maintenance and winter machinery and equipment in the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (Ended on March 20).

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Habib Jamshidi stated: "Last year, with the import of 466 units of various road maintenance machinery and 74 units of heavy machinery from the domestic production fleet, the capacity of this fleet to accelerate road maintenance operations has been strengthened."

He continued: "With the purchase of 102 domestically produced trucks and tractors, appropriate measures have been taken to renovate and improve the operational performance of road maintenance machinery."

Jamshidi reported the purchase of 300 units of road maintenance and winter equipment and the 100% achievement of the annual target in this area in 1404, adding: "To enhance the operational capability and efficiency of active machinery in the country, major overhauls, repairs, and commissioning of 1,210 units of road maintenance machinery were carried out."

Referring to measures taken for the coherent and integrated management of the active road maintenance fleet across the country, Jamshidi said: "By launching and operating systems such as the distribution and allocation model for road maintenance machinery and the decision-support system for locating and allocating machinery, equipment, and human resources on roads, planning for optimal management of facilities and increasing the operational capacity of the road maintenance sector has been carried out."

He added: "Organizing fuel tanks, launching an oil analysis center, launching a machinery mission system, and its pilot implementation in three provinces of the country are among other measures that were implemented last year with the aim of improving and enhancing the efficiency of the country's road maintenance machinery."

Expressing gratitude to the President for his supportive stance on developing solar power plants in the country, he said: "President Pezeshkian has consistently emphasized serious attention to building renewable energy infrastructure, and the Ministry of Energy will fulfill all its commitments."

Aliabadi continued: "By the end of this summer, the government will bring between 4,000 and 5,000 megawatts of operational solar power capacity into the country's electricity grid, and the current progress of projects shows this goal is being achieved at a favorable pace."

Describing the inauguration of the 130-megawatt Kaveh Methanol solar plant as one of the major projects, he said: "Today, thanks to the efforts of the management team and workforce of this industrial complex, we are witnessing the commissioning of one of the largest solar power plants in the country, and it has been connected to the national grid."

Stating that the Kaveh Methanol solar plant expansion project is among the country's largest power plants, he added: "The installed capacity of this complex now exceeds 130 megawatts, and upon completion of the connection process, its total capacity will reach 277 megawatts."

Emphasizing the need to pay attention to water and electricity resource management in the country, the Energy Minister said: "Today, more than ever, the country needs to move toward optimal consumption patterns. The Ministry of Energy's policy is to support provinces and sectors that are moving toward efficient and managed consumption."

He noted: "Priority for energy resource allocation will be given to areas that follow the correct consumption pattern, and this policy will be pursued more vigorously in the future to pave the way for sustainable development and attract investment in the country."

Aliabadi further stressed that the enemy's dream of conquering Iran is futile, stating: "The millennia-old civilization of this nation will not allow the enemy's goal to be realized, and we will certainly deliver a crushing response to the plots and aggression of the enemies."

He said: "The nation of Iran has shed blood in defense of the homeland, will never forget the enemy's crimes, and will respond to them even more decisively."

Referring to the performance of the country's electricity industry in recent months, the Energy Minister added: "While some countries in the region have faced power grid collapses, Iran's electricity grid has not experienced a moment of instability. The country's electricity industry workers have managed to repair damage in the shortest time and keep the grid stable."

Aliabadi responded to the request of Markazi Province Governor to benefit from the electricity generated by solar power plants in the province, saying: "The solar power plants in Markazi Province will be used for the electricity grid of the same province."

Stating that Markazi Province ranks first in the country in establishing solar power plants, he added: "Suitable geographical location, favorable solar radiation, proximity to consumption centers, and high grid connection capacity are among the special features of this province for developing renewable energy."

Truck traffic at Iran-Turkey customs borders to be facilitated

TEHRAN- The head of Iran's Customs Administration said that trade routes and the ease of truck traffic at the Iran-Turkey customs borders will be reviewed and facilitated.

According to IRNA from the Customs Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Foroud Asgari, referring to a virtual meeting with responsible officials of the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Committee and senior officials of Turkish Customs, added: "The two sides, while adopting and proposing operational solutions, declared their readiness to increase the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Turkey."

He stated: "Increasing the acceptance of truck traffic capacity and preventing goods from stopping at the border in emergency situations, continuous and greater coordination regarding the control and inspection of goods, and greater coordination at the border customs of the two countries were also reviewed."

In a meeting between Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, and Hijabi Kirlangich, Turkey's ambassador to Iran, at the place of the chamber on May 10, Hassanzadeh referred to the close ties between Iran and Turkey and the significant opportunities for trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries, and said: Trade between Iran and Turkey should reach 30 billion dollars.

Condemning the US and the Zionist regime's military aggression against Iran, he said: These attacks have caused great damage not only to the country and the region but also to the global economy. The industrial infrastructure of many countries has been shut down or is operating at lower capacity. High inflation has harmed people's livelihoods worldwide, and many airlines have faced severe recession and losses.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce's head added, referring to the close ties between Iran and Turkey, especially in the economic sphere: The volume of trade between Iran and Turkey must reach 30 billion dollars. This is a figure we can achieve through closer cooperation, especially since Turkey has close ties with Europe and the world. Turkey can act as an intermediary for transit between Europe and Iran.

The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce stated that in the logistics sector, given the restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, Turkey will be one of the suitable routes for us. He continued: However, there are problems at the Bazargan border that require more measures regarding

customs affairs. Iran is ready to transfer 500 trucks through customs daily, but Turkey only permits 200 trucks to cross.

Hassanzadeh, referring to other areas of joint cooperation, said: In the field of petrochemical supply, food industries, especially greenhouse production, as well as pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, there are good capacities and facilities for joint cooperation.

Emphasizing the Iran Chamber's efforts to bring the private sectors of both sides closer, he continued: Nevertheless, we need more support from the Turkish government, especially in money transfer. We expect Turkish banks to cooperate more in opening accounts for Iranian businessmen and to arrange special facilities for their access.

Hamed Asgari, International Deputy of the Iran Chamber, announcing a trade delegation's visit to Turkey within the next two months, said: We hope that good meetings will be arranged during this trip so that, given the new circumstances, traders and industrialists from both sides can reorganize their trade relations.

Mehrdad Saadat, head of the Joint Chamber of Iran and Turkey, also called in this meeting for greater cooperation between Turkey's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK) with the Joint Chamber and Iran's private sector.

Saadat also proposed setting up commercial offices of the Joint Chamber in Istanbul and DEIK in Tehran to quickly resolve trade issues between the two sides.

Hijabi Kirlangich, Turkey's ambassador to Tehran, also emphasizing the illegality of US and Israeli attacks on Iran, said: These attacks are a clear violation of international law. We hope that negotiations lead to a good outcome in Iran's interests.

He continued: Trade relations between the two countries are at a good level, and before sanctions on Iran, we had reached a trade value of 22 billion dollars. Therefore, reaching the target of 30 billion dollars in trade between the two countries is not difficult.

The envoy stated: The new head of DEIK has a great interest in traveling to Iran and cooperating with Iranian traders and producers. We hope that the DEIK office in Iran and the Iranian trade office in Istanbul become operational.

According to a report released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Turkey was the third top destination for Iran's non-oil products in the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20).

How war on Iran affects world economy beyond energy

TEHRAN - Official data released Thursday reveals that Japanese vehicle exports to West Asia collapsed by more than 90 percent in April, both in value and volume, as the ongoing U.S.-Israeli war against Iran crippled maritime shipping to a region that major automakers such as Toyota and Nissan have long relied upon.

The dramatic drop has effectively halted the flow of passenger cars, trucks and buses to West Asia - also a critical market for secondhand Japanese vehicles - following the de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz, according to finance ministry figures.

Government statistics show that West Asia accounted for approximately 14 percent of Japan's total motor vehicle exports in 2025.

Toshihiro Mibe, vice chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, told reporters Thursday that the industry is absorbing the war's impact primarily through transport disruptions. "The



biggest impact we're seeing is from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which has led some manufacturers to reduce production of vehicles bound for West Asia," Mibe said.

He added that the association expects the disruption to remain largely confined to shipping, while authorities have confirmed sufficient supplies of chemical products excluding naphtha and lubricants. The group will continue to monitor the situation.

Longer-term supply chain shifts expected

Analysts say the war may compel automakers to restructure their supply chains over the longer term as they seek to mitigate risks stemming from both the conflict and the strait's closure.

"This is not something that will end in the short term," said San-shiro Fukao, an executive fellow at the Itochu Research Institute. "In the broader trend, as companies take West Asia risk into account, the flow of goods could change."

Why West Asia matters for Japanese automakers

According to analysts, West Asia remains especially lucrative for Japanese car manufacturers because it offers strong demand for high-margin models such as Toyota's Land Cruiser sport-utility vehicle.

"In terms of absolute sales, Toyota is the most exposed, as it is the most successful automaker in the region," said Julie Boote, an auto analyst at Pelham Smithers Associates. "However, since Toyota is regionally well diversified, with West Asia accounting for about 6 percent of its total sales, it can absorb this hit better than others."

While automakers may attempt to redirect some vehicles originally intended for West Asia toward alternative markets, analysts caution they are unlikely to fully compensate for the lost volumes.

Toyota, Nissan and other manufacturers are scheduled to release their April production and sales figures next week.

Government policy is to rebuild war-damaged infrastructure: energy minister

TEHRAN- The Energy Minister said the government's policy is to rebuild infrastructure damaged by the aggression of the US-Zionist enemy, and wherever it has been destroyed during this period, it will be rebuilt better than before.

According to IRNA, Abbas Aliabadi stated on Friday at the inauguration ceremony of the 130-megawatt Kaveh Methanol solar power plant in the Kaveh Industrial City: "All the infrastructure that the enemies have destroyed will be rehabilitated better than before."

Expressing gratitude to the President for his supportive stance on developing solar power plants in the country, he said: "President Pezeshkian has consistently emphasized serious attention to building renewable energy infrastructure, and the Ministry of Energy will fulfill all its commitments."

Aliabadi continued: "By the end of this summer, the government will bring between 4,000 and 5,000 megawatts of operational solar power capacity into the country's electricity grid, and the current progress of projects shows this goal is being achieved at a favorable pace."

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Aliabadi further stressed that the enemy's dream of conquering Iran is futile, stating: "The millennia-old civilization of this nation will not allow the enemy's goal to be realized, and we will certainly deliver a crushing response to the plots and aggression of the enemies."

About \$2.5m paid to owners of vehicles damaged in war: Central Insurance

TEHRAN- Central Insurance announced: In the latest phase of compensation payments for vehicles damaged in the "Third Imposed War," an amount of 4.16 trillion rials (about \$2.5 million) was deposited into the accounts of affected owners for 6,885 completed cases.

According to IRNA from Central Insurance on Friday, with this phase included, the total government compensation paid for 13,592 damaged personal vehicles has reached 5.168 trillion rials (over \$3 million).

Based on a documented report by Iran Insurance Company, the process of assessing and compensating damaged vehicles, which began at the start of the Third Imposed War, will continue with seriousness.

According to this report, these payments have been made with legal authorizations and from funds deposited by the Central Insurance of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

So far, 28,050 damaged vehicles in 28 provinces of the country have been referred by the Crisis Management Organization of Metropolises and provincial governments to Iran Insurance Company branches for assess-

ment. Of these, the assessment process for 22,731 vehicles has been completed. Thus far, compensation for approximately 60 percent of the assessed cases (equivalent to 13,592 claims) has been fully paid.

Another part of the report states that as of the date of this announcement, compensation for 4,444 damaged personal vehicles in the "12-Day War" has also been settled with their owners, with the payment of 4.06 trillion rials (about \$2.4 million).

According to senior state officials, the insurance industry has acted beyond its legal obligations and social responsibilities during the recent wars.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, referring to the damages inflicted on some industrial units of the country during the "Third Imposed War," said: The reconstruction process of damaged units must be pursued with greater speed, and achieving this goal requires coordination between the government and parliament to formulate and grant special authorities and mechanisms.

According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mo-

hammad Atabak stated in a meeting with the representatives of Isfahan province in the parliament: Isfahan province, as the second most damaged province in terms of the extent of losses caused by the imposed war, has suffered significant damage, and given the prominent industrial position of this province, the most important damage is attributed to the Mobarakeh Steel complex.

Referring to the continuous follow-up on the status of damaged units, he added: The reconstruction of these units requires a set of special authorities, supports, and laws so that the process of revival and return to the production cycle is carried out with greater speed and effectiveness.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, emphasizing the necessity of forming a headquarters for the reconstruction of damaged units, stated: From the very first days of the Third Imposed War, a special headquarters was formed in the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, and through continuous communication with the provinces, the supply status of basic goods and the needs of different regions of the country were monitored and tracked every three hours.

Stating that this action prevented shortages in the market, he noted: At that time, some consumer goods faced a several-fold increase in demand, but production units, by increasing work shifts and enhancing production capacity, managed to meet market demand.

Atabak, referring to the importance of stable supply of goods in the market, reminded: The shelves of shops being full is of strategic importance; because their emptiness does not merely mean a shortage of goods, but can pave the way for widespread consequences and turbulence in the market.

He added: With the cooperation of trade unions and producers, conditions were managed such that basic goods and household needs were supplied and distributed at a desirable level.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade continued: After the damage occurred, the country's conditions entered a new phase, and now some vital sectors require urgent and serious reconstruction. In this regard, two specialized headquarters have been formed for the reconstruction of the steel and petrochemical industries.

NATO grapples with its unraveling under Washington's predatory hegemony

From page 1 ▶ The conflict relied on dubious intelligence claims regarding Iran's nuclear capabilities that major European capitals reportedly dismissed in private.

When the United States demanded that its so-called allies provide bases, overflight rights, and naval assets to support offensive operations, it encountered something rare. An organized European resistance emerged, grounded firmly in international law and sovereign prerogative.

Spain became the symbolic and practical center of this defiance. Madrid categorically refused to allow the jointly operated bases at Rota and Moron to be used for strikes, subsequently closing Spanish airspace entirely to American military aircraft involved in the campaign.

Spain recognized that the war was initiated unilaterally and in violation of international law. A handful of more compliant states quietly facilitated logistics, becoming complicit in the aggression and sharing moral responsibility for the resulting regional instability and the killing of thousands of civilians in Iran and Lebanon.

This complicity is irrevocably stained by the Minab school massacre and the assassination of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei; these atrocities have pulverized any remaining pretense of moral authority.

When Iran legitimately exercised its asymmetrical maritime capabilities in the Strait of Hormuz to counter external aggression, Washington demanded that European navies sail into waters rendered lethal by the conflict the United States had initiated.

European capitals declined to join the proposed maritime blockade, recognizing that participation meant inviting



economic ruin, skyrocketing inflation, and direct military retaliation into their own borders to protect Israeli expansionism.

The 'naughty and nice' list and the illusion of loyalty

The reaction from Washington has not been diplomatic engagement but a punitive escalation. Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Sweden, pushing hard for greater European subservience.

Confronted with resistance, Rubio posed a rhetorical question that negates the entire alliance architecture, asking why NATO is good for America if allies deny base access for Middle Eastern contingencies.

An internal Pentagon memorandum, leaked shortly before the Helsingborg summit, outlined a menu of retaliatory measures.

This document categorizes allies into what has been described as a "naughty and nice" list, exploring the previously unthinkable step of suspending Spain from NATO structures.

This retaliatory impulse was not limited to the disobedient. Instructively, the Pentagon abruptly canceled the scheduled deployment of four thousand American troops to Poland, a nation that had done everything Washington demanded.

Warsaw had expanded its military budget and served as a hyper-compliant proxy on the eastern flank. A sensitive diplomatic cable from the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, signed by Ambassador Tom Rose, catalogued the emotional aftermath prior to Trump reversing the order.

The cable reportedly detailed Polish reactions of disappointment, bewilderment, and genuine alarm. Its most damning conclusion was that the dominant emotional reaction was one of perceived betrayal.

In the era of predatory hegemony, total submission buys no security, proving that loyalty to the hegemon is strictly a one-way street.

Imperial overstretch and territorial greed

The transactional logic now governing American alliances has hollowed out the continent. The Ukraine conflict, long presented as evidence of renewed solidarity, has been quietly demoted in Washington's strategic hierarchy.

With American combat power diverted to the Middle East and Latin America, European states are being ordered to shoulder the burden of a proxy war while absorbing the economic shock of a global energy crisis.

The imperial overstretch is extractive by design, forcing al-

lies to fund an inflated American military-industrial complex while receiving zero reliable protection in return.

Perhaps no episode reveals this imperial arrogance more starkly than the Greenland affair. A sitting American president openly threatened to annex the sovereign territory of Denmark, a founding NATO member, using military force if necessary.

When European leaders issued a joint statement declaring that Greenland belongs to its people, the White House reiterated that the military option remains available.

This is territorial predation directed at a fellow "partner." The mutual defense clause becomes legally and politically meaningless when the most powerful member of the alliance identifies itself as the potential aggressor.

The fractured road to Ankara

The outlook for the upcoming July summit in Ankara is justifiably bleak. The Secretary General will inevitably speak of unity, but the assembled leaders will arrive knowing that a blacklist exists and that the White House evaluates their worth based purely on transactional subservience.

The alliance is not collapsing because of external enemies. It is being destroyed from within by the predatory conduct of its most powerful member.

European military planners are already drafting contingency frameworks for a security order without the United States.

Recent developments have simply confirmed that the era of reliable American partnership is over, leaving a hollowed bloc to choose between perpetual vassalization and the difficult, necessary pursuit of genuine strategic autonomy.

MBZ undermined as Netanyahu pursues personal political gains

From page 1 ▶ The disclosure came at a bad time for the UAE as on average, the Arab public ranks Israel as the single greatest threat to the security and stability of the Arab world.

Israeli media outlets did not allow Abu Dhabi to create doubts among the Arab public about the visit.

The Times of Israel published specific details on the secret trip to further embarrass Abu Dhabi and deliberately undermine its denial.

The outlet said the meeting took place on March 26 in the oasis city of Al-Ain, near the Oman border and lasted several hours. The paper even said that "MBZ drove Netanyahu in his personal car from the plane to the palace".

Netanyahu's former chief of staff Ziv Agmon wrote openly on Facebook that he had accompanied his boss, that the visit was "top secret until today" and that MBZ had personally driven Netanyahu from the airport to the palace.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Mossad chief David Barnea had also travelled to the UAE at least twice during the war.

Others reported that Shin Bet director David Zini had also visited, while Israeli military chief of staff Eyal Zamir was separately reported to have made the trip too.

In his article, Bakir said publicly "confirming wartime intelligence cooperation with Israel lends credibility" to Iran's assertion about the complicity of certain Persian Gulf Arab nations with Israel.

Before the revelation, American officials, including U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee, had confirmed that Israel deployed Israeli soldiers to operate Iron Dome batteries on Emirati soil.

"At this point, two things are clear: Netanyahu did visit, and the UAE denied it," Bakir pointed out.

The UAE is now the victim. However, Netanyahu is the winner, especially as he is facing corruption charges, an arrest warrant by the International Court of Justice (ICC) for war crimes in Gaza, and legislative election in October.

At a time that he is under pressure at home for his military failures in Gaza and Lebanon, he wants to portray this idea to the public and his political opponents that he is still welcomed by an Arab state despite the Gaza war.

"There are additional motives. By bringing the visit into the public eye, Netanyahu is pushing the UAE towards a greater acknowledgement of their cooperation, which Abu Dhabi prefers to keep discreet," Bakir stated.

He added, "If the Emirates eventually confirms what it currently denies, that confirmation will become part of Netanyahu's legacy. If they do not, the leak still generates the headlines he wants. In every scenario, Netanyahu gains; in every scenario, the UAE loses."

Bakir also is of the opinion that the most consequential motive is Israel's desire to deepen the rift between the UAE and its regional rivals, especially within the fellow Arab states on the southern shores of the



Persian Gulf.

"Abu Dhabi's denial is not really about whether the meeting happened. It is about the consequences of admitting it. There are certain reasons why the Emiratis flatly rejected the meeting.

The most important reason is the public opinion in the Arab and Islamic world.

"With images of the Gaza genocide still vivid, hosting Netanyahu would inflame populations across the Arab and Muslim world and damage the UAE's standing within it," assistant professor notes.

UAE acting as Israel's proxy

Just before the war on Iran began, the UAE was already struggling to contain regional anger over its role in Yemen, Somalia, Sudan and Libya - theatres in which Abu Dhabi was widely seen as Israel's proxy. Surely, Netanyahu's leak leaves the UAE more vulnerable and isolated.

Netanyahu's unilateral disclosure broke the basic rules of clandestine diplomacy and was read in Abu Dhabi as a domestic political stunt at their expense.

This is not without precedent. In late 2020, Netanyahu leaked his visit to Saudi megacity Neom - a move that backfired badly. Riyadh put a break on normalization process and hardened its position.

Writing for The Jerusalem Post, security and political analyst Yossi Melman detailed Netanyahu's extensive history of using sensitive diplomatic breakthroughs as political tools, noting: "The specific leak regarding Netanyahu's visit to the Emirates was motivated by ego and political considerations... Once again, Netanyahu repeated his familiar ritual of publicizing a meeting with a senior Arab figure - a meeting that was supposed to remain secret."

Now some are beginning to ask whether the relationship is worth the cost.

Though the UAE rulers don't care about the public opinion, the leak has discredited them as

public opinion across the Arab world is showing more solidarity with Palestinians following the Gaza genocide. They view Israel as the primary threat to regional stability.

Now, 96% of Libyans, 95% of Jordanians, 94% of Kuwaitis, 91% of Palestinians, 89% of Lebanese and 89% of Qataris oppose normalization with Israel.

Data from the Arab Opinion Index, representing face-to-face interviews with over 40,000 respondents across 15 Arab nations, highlights a profound shift in regional sentiment.

Prior to the Gaza war, some indicators suggested a growing apathy, but the conflict galvanized regional sentiment, with a vast majority re-emphasizing that the issue belongs to all Arabs, not just Palestinians.

Hezbollah's war media footage shakes Israel

From page 1 ▶ The IOF circulated images of its vehicles and soldiers on one bank of the Litani River, in a futile attempt to establish positions there and occupy the area through repeated advances and withdrawals, but without success.

Those riverbanks instead turned into a swamp that revived old nightmares for IOF generals who once fought in South Lebanon, as Hezbollah drones and artillery continue to wear down their forces daily and inflict heavy losses.

These images released by the IOF are a desperate attempt to prove it was nearing a goal its leaders had declared: reaching the Litani River and controlling the area south of it. This objective was framed as part of what it calls restoring security along the Lebanese border and northern settlements. Yet with a single piece of footage, the resistance movement shattered that narrative by publishing recordings of recent operations targeting IOF positions along the Lebanese border using swarms of attack drones aimed at vehicles, soldiers, and equipment.

The footage confirmed the Zionists' own description of their soldiers as sitting ducks in a shooting range. Soldiers are seen fleeing drones, but without success, as the FPV drones consistently hit their targets.

While the Israeli leaders boast of destruction and showcase the demolition of homes and buildings, they remain unable to confront a single drone capable of killing soldiers and disabling vehicles.

When the war began, the regime claimed Hezbollah had been finished. Netanyahu appeared dozens of times on TV screens declaring that the resistance movement's military capabilities would not recover anytime soon.

In contrast, Hezbollah announced on Thursday that the IOF had withdrawn at dawn from Hadatha (which has turned into the regime's Vietnam) toward the town of Rashaf after days of fierce clashes with resistance fighters. The IOF also acknowledged that the commander of the 401st Armored Brigade was seriously wounded, along with nearly 10 other soldiers, after explosive drones detonated in southern Lebanon.

A few days ago, the resistance front's media also broadcast footage showing the lowering of the regime's flag above the headquarters of Brigade 226 in the town of Bayada in southern Lebanon, after repeated strikes on the site forced its evacuation.

This came in addition to the many attacks the resistance front announces daily, including the destruction of two Iron Dome systems and strikes on IOF gatherings wherever they are found.

This daily narrative by Hezbollah, often supported by visual documentation, has become a new weapon dismantling every enemy claim that the Lebanese resistance movement has been defeated.

Battlefield realities present a completely different picture. Despite the scale of the assault,



assassinations, and intense targeting of its military and logistical infrastructure, Hezbollah still retains its ability to initiate, maneuver, and inflict pain on the enemy.

Most importantly, it has succeeded in turning combat footage into an essential part of the battle and a field-documentation tool that undermines the Israeli regime's narrative moment by moment.

Every scene broadcast of a special operation, a strike on a military site, or the retreat of the IOF under fire carries a double message: first, to the regime's public, which was promised a "quick victory" that never materialized; and second, to Hezbollah's own support base that the initiative has not been stripped away, despite what the Zionist regime tried to suggest from the earliest days of the war.

Perhaps what most unsettles the IOF's military and intelligence establishments today is Hezbollah's ability to maintain the pace of confrontation and continue producing precise battlefield footage despite all

attempts at isolation and targeting the resistance movement.

This alone reflects that the resistance movement's structure has not collapsed, and that repeated IOF claims of "eliminating Hezbollah's capabilities" were only part of a psychological war that preceded actual results in the battlefield.

The Zionist regime has failed to impose its narrative and now finds itself facing a resistance force still capable of fighting, documenting, and influencing simultaneously.

A book on soft power once stated that "the victor and the strong side in war is the one whose narrative of events prevails."

Based on this, and judging by TV coverage, articles by senior military analysts, and what is written and said across major Zionist media outlets, the resistance movement in Lebanon has proven through the credibility of its narrative and the power of its imagery that it is the victorious and dominant force in this war.

Isfahan says restoration of war-damaged historic buildings 80% complete



From Page 1 ▶ Speaking to IRNA, Izadkhasti said local authorities, under the direction of provincial officials and in cooperation with cultural heritage bodies, launched both technical restoration efforts and public awareness campaigns following the attacks.

"In the first phase, extensive social and media initiatives, including the formation of human chains around historical monuments, were carried out so that the dimensions of this cultural tragedy would be heard around the world," he said.

Izadkhasti added that municipal authorities and the provincial cultural heritage department had prepared detailed technical and legal documentation assessing the scale of the damage. The files were submitted to Iran's National Commission for and other relevant international institutions.

The ancient city of Isfahan, one of Iran's leading tourist destinations, flourished between the 9th and 18th centuries and became the capital of the Safavid Empire under Shah Abbas the Great. Long regarded as a crossroads of trade and diplomacy, the city is known for its Islamic architecture, bazaars, Persian gardens and historic boulevards.

The Persian proverb "Isfahan nesf-e-jahan ast" — "Isfahan is half the world" — reflects the city's historical and cultural prominence.

According to Izadkhasti, explosions in southern districts of Isfahan damaged several structures in the historic Takht-e Foulad complex, one of the city's most significant historical cemeteries and religious sites.

He said restoration and emergency rescue operations began immediately after the attacks.

Among the damaged sites was the Kazerouni Tekyeh, a historical religious structure whose restoration had only recently been completed before it suffered what officials

described as severe damage during the strikes.

"Reconstruction work on the site has now begun again," Izadkhasti said.

He added that structural stabilization and reinforcement measures had also been carried out at Madar Shahzadeh Tekyeh to prevent further deterioration and ensure the building's stability.

Another historical structure, Mirzaei Tekyeh, located near the reported blast zones, was also exposed to significant damage and remains under active restoration and preservation efforts, he said.

Izadkhasti also outlined damage sustained in the Safavid-era Dowlatkhaneh complex, located in the historic core of Isfahan.

According to him, buildings surrounding the provincial governor's compound were heavily affected by nearby strikes, including the Rakibkhaneh Mansion, which houses Isfahan's Museum of Contemporary Art.

"The building sustained extensive damage, and our colleagues quickly entered the implementation phase of restoration," he said.

Izadkhasti stated that approximately 80% of repairs related to war damage in these areas had already been completed.

"Based on current planning, the operations will be completed within the next two weeks and the structural damage will be fully resolved," he said.

He noted, however, that restoration work at the Timurid Hall Mansion had not yet entered the implementation stage due to the building's architectural complexity.

"Experts are currently conducting precise evaluations of the extent of the damage and preliminary studies so that restoration work on this valuable monument can begin soon and with a high degree of accuracy," he said.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis

Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis is a serial transnational property that consists of the ruins of São Miguel Arcanjo in Brazil, and those of San Ignacio Mini, Santa Ana, Nuestra Señora de Loreto, and Santa María la Mayor in Argentina.

According to UNESCO, these are the impressive remains of Jesuit Mission settlements established in the 17th and 18th centuries on lands originally occupied by Guarani indigenous communities.

In Brazil, the ruins of the São Miguel Arcanjo church constitute the most intact and complete structure among this period's designated heritage properties. In Argentina, the four Jesuit-Guarani Missions, located in the southern Misiones province, provide an exceptional example of systematic and organized territorial occupation.

The properties' surviving ruins depict the experience of the Society of Jesus in South America, where there emerged a singular system of spatial, economic, social, and cultural relations in 30 settlements — referred to as reducciones — that included ranches, mate plantations, and networks of trails and waterways extending across the Uruguay River and its tributaries.

This particular model of the reducciones also included smaller structures and constructions designed to support the basic functions of the

settlements. Together, these elements, each closely integrated within productive lands, and each manifesting the distinct potential and complementary traits of the various settlements and the other Jesuit provinces in the region, inform this underlying interpretation, reflected by the serial heritage property in a singular and specific fashion.

An integral part of the evangelization campaigns, the Missions stand as an important testament to the systematic occupation of the area and to the cultural relations forged between the area's indigenous populations, mostly Guarani, and the European Jesuit missionaries.

Over time, these structures lost their original religious, residential, educational, and cultural functions. Today, the various Missions include fragments of walls corresponding to the original monuments (churches, dwellings, workshops, orchards). Their archaeological remains are deemed historic monuments and important to the development of the respective local communities. In exceptional cases, they are used for religious or recreational events. None of the components of the serial transnational property are under threat, having been preserved through direct government action in both Argentina and Brazil.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iranian Ashiq music tradition struggles for survival amid calls for greater support

ZANJAN - The centuries-old tradition of Ashiq music in north-western Iran remains a vital expression of regional identity and oral history, but a number of performers and enthusiasts say stronger institutional support is needed to preserve the art form for future generations.

In Iran's Zanjan province, Ashiq music is regarded as more than a musical genre. Combining poetry, storytelling, singing and instrumental performance, it has long served as a vehicle for transmitting ethical teachings, religious concepts, historical narratives and folklore across Iran's Azari-speaking communities.

Performed primarily with the "qopuz," a traditional string instrument, Ashiq music continues to resonate in weddings, literary gatherings and cultural ceremonies in the province, where veteran performers say the tradition has been passed down orally for centuries.

Cultural experts describe the art as one of the most authentic forms of regional Iranian music. The tradition is characterized by improvisation, with Ashiq performers simultaneously acting as poets, singers and musicians.

The lyrics, usually composed in Azari (Turkish) language, cover a broad range of themes, including mysticism, patriotism, romance and moral guidance. Specialists say the combination of music, poetry and narrative has helped make Ashiq art an important tool for preserving cultural values among younger generations.

The art of Ashiqs, practiced in parts of northwestern Iran and the broader Caucasus region, combines poetry, storytelling, dance and vocal and instrumental music into a traditional performance form regarded as one of the symbols of Azarbaijani cultural identity. Sometimes, Ashiqs are generally divided into two groups: performer-storytellers and poet-composers.

Despite its cultural significance, artists and researchers warn that Ashiq music faces mounting challenges in the digital era, including declining public attention, financial pressures and insufficient institutional support.

Artists in Zanjan have called for specialized festivals, expanded documentation projects and



the creation of comprehensive archives preserving the distinct styles of local Ashiq performers.

Cultural advocates say the formal preservation and documentation of this intangible heritage could help safeguard the tradition against gradual decline.

"Ashiq music should be transmitted to future generations as an intangible heritage so it is not forgotten," said veteran Ashiq performer Sattar Khodaei in an interview with IRNA.

Khodaei, one of Zanjan's best-known Ashiq musicians, said he was born in a village and moved to Zanjan city at the age of 13. His father was also an Ashiq musician, introducing him to the qopuz from an early age.

"Because of my interest in this field, I continued on this path and learned the stories from my father and other masters," he said.

Khodaei said his professional involvement with Ashiq music began in the 1980s, and over the years he learned 24 traditional narratives, which he later compiled into book form.

"This authentic music has been passed down from renowned masters over many years and it must also be transferred to future generations," he said.

He added that local Ashiq artists had participated in various festivals organized with the cooperation of provincial cultural and heritage authorities, but said more support from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance was needed to address artists' concerns.

According to Khodaei, provincial officials have established a

working group to examine the challenges faced by Ashiq musicians.

"Artists have continued their work throughout different periods without expectations," he said. "We hope the music of the Ashiqs remains alive and artists can continue their work without worries."

Another performer, Mehdi Najafi, from the Sohrein village in Zanjan's Qareh Poshtlou district, said he began learning Ashiq music in the mid-1990s.

Najafi said he had recently been honored during a cultural heritage event recognizing "living human treasures," organized by provincial cultural authorities.

"We ask lawmakers and officials to facilitate conditions for music artists and pay attention to the problems facing this community," he said.

Najafi also referred to social challenges faced by musicians, saying in some cases their professional background created difficulties for their children during recruitment and employment processes.

"That is very upsetting," he said.

Veteran musician Zolfaghar Isabeyglu, who has worked in Ashiq music for more than four decades, said he began learning the art alongside his father during childhood and started playing the instrument at the age of eight.

He said he continues to perform at traditional ceremonies such as weddings and now trains several students interested in learning the art form.

Isabeyglu welcomed recent ini-

tiatives recognizing Ashiq artists and praised government efforts to provide insurance coverage and retirement support for performers.

"I thank the government for paying attention to the insurance of this group and providing conditions for their work and retirement," he said.

However, he emphasized that preserving the tradition remained the central concern of veteran musicians.

"We want this intangible art to survive and be transferred to future generations because our ancestors also taught and passed this art on to us," he said.

Provincial heritage officials say they plan to continue organizing programs highlighting practitioners of intangible cultural heritage.

Mohammadreza Mohammadpour, deputy head of cultural heritage in Zanjan province, said local authorities recently organized ceremonies honoring registered bearers of intangible heritage during Iran's Cultural Heritage Week, observed in coordination with the .

Mohammadpour said the province intended to continue introducing heritage artists and practitioners to wider audiences, although he acknowledged that cultural institutions alone could not resolve all of the artists' economic and professional challenges.

"Even if there is not much we can do, holding such programs and listening to their concerns can produce positive results," he said.

151 Iranian artifacts to return from China after 'Land of Kindness' exhibit

TEHRAN - Following an extended loan exhibition in China aimed at strengthening cultural ties, Iran is arranging the return of 151 artifacts to the country, a senior cultural heritage official announced on Saturday.

Ali Darabi, Iran's deputy minister of cultural heritage, said the artifacts, exhibited under the title "Land of Kindness," are being kept in a secure location in China and are prepared for shipment back to Iran.

The collection, spanning from the third millennium BC to the 20th century, includes metalwork, ceramics, glassware, textiles, carpets and paintings drawn from several major Iranian museums, including Reza Abbasi Museum, Moghadam Museum, Glassware and Ceramic Museum (Abgineh), Carpet Museum of Iran, and the Museum of National Arts.

Speaking to IRNA, Darabi said the exhibition was designed to present "different dimensions of Iranian culture and a new narrative of Iran's ancient history" to Chinese audiences.

The exhibition toured several Chinese cities, including Chengdu, Guangzhou and Nanjing, and its fourth stop was hosted by the Inner Mongolia Museum in China, where the artifacts drew strong public interest, Darabi said.

According to available figures, the exhibition attracted more than 300,000 visitors in China and generated over 100 million views on social media platforms.

Organized by Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in cooperation with the China International Cultural Exchange Center, the exhibition also featured

selected works from Chinese museums to highlight centuries of cultural interaction between the two civilizations.

The Iranian artifacts included finely crafted metal objects, ceramics, silk textiles, seals and Persian carpets reflecting the development of Iran's Islamic-Iranian civilization. The displayed objects covered periods from the Mithraic era to the later Islamic centuries, illustrating major phases in Iran's cultural and artistic evolution.

Darabi said the exhibition was initially approved by the Iranian government for one year and the artifacts were scheduled to return to Iran in June last year. However, the timetable was disrupted by what he described as a 12-day war involving Iran.

"After the war, the Chinese government raised the issue of extending the exhibition during the visit of Iran's minister of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts to China," Darabi said. "The proposal was then submitted to the Iranian cabinet, which approved an extension until May 15, 2026."

He added that the artifacts are currently packed, sealed and ready for transportation from China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, stressing that "there is no cause for concern."

Iran has increasingly used cultural diplomacy and museum exchanges to strengthen political, economic and tourism relations with China, one of Tehran's closest international partners.

Darabi said previous exhibitions of Iranian antiquities had also been held in different Chinese cities with the aim of promoting tourism cooperation and attracting more

Chinese travelers to Iran.

He acknowledged that international exhibitions involve substantial costs related to insurance, transportation and security. In China, he said, the Agricultural Bank of China had supported the exhibition as part of its corporate social responsibility activities by covering insurance and organizational expenses.

"We hope that one day Iranian banks will also be able to provide similar support," he said.

Darabi noted that insurance remains one of Iran's main limitations in organizing exhibitions abroad, although he said all exhibited artifacts are insured. He pointed to a 2021 exhibition in Germany featuring Iran's ancient "Salt Men" mummies from Zanjan province as an example of successful overseas cooperation.

Responding to criticism over the prolonged absence of the artifacts from Iran, Darabi said the exhibitions also generate financial returns for the country.

According to him, China covers the costs of dispatching Iranian experts as well as their accommodation and hospitality expenses, while a percentage of ticket sales is transferred to Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage for use in supporting museum activities and exhibition organizers.

The "Land of Kindness" exhibition is among the largest recent showcases of Iranian cultural heritage in China and comes as both countries seek deeper cooperation across trade, tourism and cultural sectors.

National event on 'Iran's biodiversity' being held

TEHRAN – Organized by the Department of Environment (DOE), the national event on Iran's biodiversity kicked off on Saturday in Sari, Mazandaran province, and will run till Sunday.

The two-day event is being held concurrently with the International Day for Biological Diversity, which is celebrated annually on May 22, IRNA reported.

Shina Ansari, the head of the DOE; Farrukh Toirov, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Iran; and Ayshanie Medagangoda – Labé, the representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Iran, attended the event.

Considering Iran's biodiversity in different regions, the event is scheduled to come up with strategies that would improve the quality of biodiversity conservation.

The event comprised two sections. The first part was conducted this morning in the presence of the head of DOE. The poster of the national biodiversity campaign, and three books on biodiversity, namely 'Mammals of Iran', 'Global biodiversity framework', and 'Statistical yearbook of Iran' were unveiled in this section.

The second section started on Saturday afternoon and will continue till Sunday afternoon, hosting specialized panels on biodiversity. The panels on Saturday covered different topics such as the global biodiversity framework and the requirements of the framework implementation in the country, the national biodiversity action plan, strategic plans and measures for biosafety, and biosphere reserve programs.

The event also serves as a platform for the participants to exchange ideas on challenges, capacities, and the implementation of strategies.

The specialized panels on Sunday will focus on three main issues, including 'Scientific, integrated and participatory management of ecosystems', 'Ecosystem resilience to ecological and human threats', and 'Preservation and restoration of animal species'.

Some 27 articles were submitted to the event; out of which nine were selected to be presented at specialized panels on Sunday, and the rest of the articles will be showcased in the form of posters at the event venue.

Iran ranks among the top 20 countries in the world for biodiversity and is home to a variety of plant and animal species. However, in recent years, certain actions have destroyed habitats and pushed many species to the brink of extinction.

So far, more than two million plant and animal species have been identified in the world, of which 43,000 exist in Iran. In fact, there are 11 types of ecosystems in the world, including aquatic, terrestrial, natural, and artificial ecosystems. Iran has 9 of these 11 ecosystems. Also, out of the 42 types of wetlands in the world, 41 types have been identified in Iran.

According to the Department of Environment, some 2,000 animal species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and inland fish, and about 1,200 fish species have been identified in the country's ecosystems. Of these species, 210 mammal species, 640 bird species, 300 reptile species, 23 amphibian species, and 350 inland fish species can be mentioned.

According to statistics, Iran can be considered the cradle of genetic diversity in the world. Even in international classifications, it is considered among the countries with high biodiversity. However, Iran's biodiversity, like the rest of the world, faces many challenges such as habitat destruction, overhunting, drought, and climate change.

Studies show that 148 vertebrate species in the country are endangered, including critically endangered species, endangered species, and critically vulnerable species.

Given the current circumstances, let's all join hands to protect biodiversity, because the future of the Earth, the future of life, and the future of the next generations depend on our decisions and actions today.

A national comprehensive plan has been developed, setting its strategic goals for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by the Iranian calendar year 1430 (March 2051-March 2052).

In May 2025, President Masoud Pezeshkian issued an order, obligating the DOE to prepare a comprehensive plan for the preservation of biodiversity in the country, covering different environmental sectors.

In this line, several meetings have been convened with the participation of faculty members, environmental experts, and managers, as well as NGOs, IRNA reported.

During the meetings, the participants agreed on five main goals: promoting the integrity and resilience of biodiversity, conserving biodiversity for sustainable use, equitably sharing the benefits derived from genetic resources, raising public awareness, enhancing specialized knowledge, and modern technologies for effective biodiversity management, strengthening finan-



Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment

cial resources and national mechanisms for the implementation of the comprehensive strategic plan for biodiversity.

Finally, the national biodiversity conservation program will be revised based on the national biodiversity strategies and action plan (NBSAP3) by relevant executive agencies, academic experts, and non-governmental organizations, to be approved by the DOE.

DOE chief: Biosecurity is intertwined with national security



Farrukh Toirov, the representative of FAO to Iran

Addressing the event, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, said that 'biosecurity is tied to national security', highlighting that biodiversity conservation is a prerequisite for the country's sustainable development.

The official stressed that biodiversity serves as the foundation of the country's biological, economic, and cultural security, noting that nature conservation should not be considered a secondary issue.

"Nature and habitat conservation should be pursued with the participation of local communities, scientific governance, and cooperation of all sectors," she noted.

Referring to the theme of International Day for Biological Diversity, 'Acting locally for global impact', she said the theme is a reminder of the role of local communities, emphasizing that any effective measure to protect nature has to begin in villages, cities, forests, and wetlands.

The official noted that the media and national NGOs play a key role in raising public awareness and promoting environmental protection.

"Holding the national biodiversity event in the vicinity of Hyrcanian forests is a symbol of our national responsibility in one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots. Smart governance of nature must be based on science, constant monitoring, and inter-sectoral partnership," Ansari noted.

Highlighting that more than 19 million hectares of the country's land are under the supervision of the DOE, she said improving regional management using modern monitoring tools, training rangers, and enhancing infrastructures that safeguard the environment are among the top priorities of the DOE.

Ansari went on to say that restoring the role of the DOE in implementing the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most important measures of the current administration, which contributes to integrating policies and implementing Iran's commitments to biodiversity.

Referring to President Masoud Pezeshkian's order to develop a strategic plan to preserve biodiversity, Ansari said preservation of biodiversity is a national, cross-sectoral, and inter-generational responsibility.

Elaborating on the DOE measures in protecting endangered species like the Persian cheetah and yellow deer, Ansari said public participation, along with scientific collaborations, has always yielded positive results.

Currently, DOE supervises more than 1.34 million hectares of wetlands in the country, which is an important step to strengthen wetland protection. Habitats, forest degradation, land-use change, and unsustainable development

are among the major threats to biodiversity; the last two imposed wars against the country have severely damaged the wetland and coastal ecosystems, Ansari further noted.

The official went on to say that environmental protection and development should not be disregarded in conflicts. Rather, the development should be based on land capacities and principles of sustainable development.

FAO: Without biodiversity, food production would be at risk

Farrukh Toirov, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), delivered a speech, saying that without biodiversity and ecosystem services, food production itself would be at risk.

"For FAO, this message strongly resonates with our mandate and global work. Because biodiversity is not a standalone environmental issue. It is the living foundation of agrifood systems, food security, livelihoods, ecosystem resilience, and sustainable development," he stressed.

"This narrowing of biodiversity makes food systems increasingly vulnerable to climate shocks, pests, diseases, and market disruptions.

Iran is recognized as a country of significant global biodiversity importance. Iran's remarkable climatic, topographic and ecosystem diversity supports rich biological resources, including more than 8,200 plant species, around 197 mammal species, 535 bird species, 227 reptile species, 21 amphibian species, 160 freshwater fish species, and over 700 marine fish species," the FAO representative added.

"Iran is also home to several globally important and some endangered species, including the Asiatic cheetah, Persian leopard, and important populations of migratory birds and endemic species.

This rich biodiversity, together with valuable genetic resources and the presence of wild relatives of many important crop and livestock species, places Iran among the region's biologically significant countries.

At the same time, these valuable natural assets face increasing pressures from climate change, water scarcity, land degradation, and habitat loss, further underlining the importance of strengthened conservation and sustainable management efforts.

For a country such as Iran—with rich ecological diversity, unique genetic resources, and important but vulnerable natural ecosystems—these linkages are especially relevant," Toirov highlighted.

UNDP implementing two projects



Ayshanie Medagangoda – Labé, the UNDP representative in Iran

Ayshanie Medagangoda – Labé, the UNDP representative in Iran, addressed the participants, saying that Iran was one of the first members of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The country's efforts in forming the Ramsar Convention show its concern for the environment and biodiversity.

"Two plans to protect biodiversity against global warming in two protected areas in Semnan and Yazd provinces are being implemented in cooperation with the UNDP and the Department of Environment," she added.

Iran proposes establishment of BRICS arbitration center to resolve disputes

TEHRAN – Attending the BRICS Justice Ministers Meeting, Amin-Hossein Rahimi, Iran's Justice Minister, has proposed the establishment of a dedicated BRICS arbitration center to help resolve disputes among member states, stressing the importance of international law and peaceful legal mechanisms for economic cooperation.

The Meeting of Justice Ministers of the BRICS member states was held in Chandigarh, India, from May 21 to 22.

Addressing the meeting, Rahimi expounded on Iran's positions and described the US-Israeli aggressions against Iran as a shameful attack on international law and the conscience of humanity.

Quoting the Leader of Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, Rahimi said Iran has never sought war, conflict, or aggression. "Any attempt to acquire nuclear weapons is in contrast with our principles," the official continued.

The official went on to say that the US-Israeli coalition's war against Iran is a clear breach of the United Nations Charter. Referring to the intentional targeting of Shajareh Tayyeb elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, which led to the martyrdom of 168 innocent boys and girls aged 7-12, the official said that, to combat impunity, it is essential for the international community and international courts to prosecute criminals and bring them to justice.

Highlighting Iran's firm belief in the principles of multilateralism and good neighborliness, the official said, "lasting peace can be achieved not through force but justice and the strengthening of the principle of trust in the world. Helping to realize the lasting peace is a professional duty in these pivotal days, a duty that weighs heavily on the shoulders of all justice ministers."

On the sidelines of the meeting, he held talks with the ministers of justice of India, South Africa, and Russia, during which the parties exchanged views on expanding judicial cooperation within the BRICS framework.

IRCS gets third aid cargo from Turkey

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) received the third consignment of humanitarian aid dispatched by IHH Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation on Wednesday.

The land-based humanitarian aid included six trucks carrying 96 tons of essential food items and sanitary goods, the IRCS website reported.

About 45 tons of the shipment included ready-made meals, jams, Halva, and 51 other tons contained hygiene packages, laundry detergents, dishwashing liquid, and other essential items.

In April, the IRCS received the consignment of humanitarian aid from Turkey, including medical supplies and serum.

The shipment was transported in 16 trucks to the Bazargan border, with coordination from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ankara.

Upon arrival, the shipment will be handed over to the Food and Drug Organization for targeted distribution across pharmacies and healthcare centers nationwide.

The aid aims to support essential medical needs and improve patient access to critical treatments.

Following the outbreak of the US-Israel war against Iran on February 28, humanitarian shipments from different countries like China, Tajikistan, Iraq, Turkey, India, Russia, Azerbaijan, Dagestan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan have been sent to Iran.

In May, Kazakhstan delivered a consignment of humanitarian aid, including 30 wagons of flour, medicine, canned food, and sugar, to Iran.

The shipment entered the country through the Sarakhs border in the northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, IRNA reported.

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Iran, Ontalap Onalbayev, officially delivered the consignment to the Iranian Red Crescent Society on May 16.

Iran had also received the first consignment of humanitarian relief items from the Inter-

Declaration of justice ministers

Under India's BRICS 2026 Chairship, the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, announces that the "Declaration of the Ministers of Justice of the BRICS Countries on Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) through Capacity Building in Mediation and Arbitration" was adopted on May 21, at the meeting of the Hon'ble Ministers of Justice held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The Declaration, which was finalized by senior officials at a Senior Officials' Meeting held on 19–20 May 2026 in Gandhinagar and agreed in principle by representatives from BRICS countries, reflects a shared commitment to expand mediation and arbitration across member countries. Ministers of Justice from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates, together with delegations, participated in the meeting.

Key elements of the Declaration include strengthening capacity building initiatives for stakeholders, including Government Legal Officers, Mediators, Arbitrators, Judges, and Legal Professionals through training programmes; promoting institutional mediation and arbitration reforms to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and enforceability of ADR processes; and encouraging cooperation and knowledge-sharing on best practices, including the use of digital tools and innovation in ADR.

The adoption of this Declaration underscores BRICS members' collective vision to make mediation and arbitration more accessible and effective as preferred mechanisms for resolving disputes, thereby reducing the burden on courts and fostering a stable environment for trade and investment.

The Department of Legal Affairs welcomes continued cooperation among BRICS partners to implement the Declaration's commitments, and looks forward to follow-up initiatives and collaborative projects that will operationalise capacity building and institutional reforms in ADR.

national Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC).

The head of the IRCS, Pirhossein Kolivand, lauded humanitarian aid from friendly countries to support Iran during the US-Israeli war, noting that their empathy reflects deep human, cultural, and historical bonds with the Iranian nation.

The fourth humanitarian consignment from the Iraqi Red Cross Society included 28 equipped ambulances and 65 trucks carrying medical and construction equipment, IRNA reported.

The shipment also involved 11 loaders, backhoes, motorcycles, wheelchairs, tents, air-conditioning systems, and heaters. In return for their help, Iran dispatched 11 tankers of drinkable water, chlorine for disinfection, and a mobile laboratory to Wasit province in Iraq, where water distribution facilities had been destroyed.

The first consignment of the Chinese Red Cross included five Toyota rescue vehicles, 20 motorcycles, and the second shipment involved a loader, a backhoe, a mini-loader (bobcat), and 5,000 blankets. The third aid shipment contained 11 bobcats, two cranes, a backhoe, and eight motorcycles.

Azerbaijan also sent the third consignment of relief items via 10 trucks. The consignment included 200 tons of essential goods like flour, food and medical items, rice, sugar, drinkable water, oil, tea, and medical equipment, which were delivered through the land border in Astara, Gilan province, ISNA reported.

Russia was another country that sent relief items to the country. The shipment included 313 tons of medicines, Mehr news agency reported. Russia had formerly sent a shipment of 30 tons of medicine to the IRCS.

The Dagestan Republic also dispatched its first humanitarian aid to the country. Seven trucks transported 140 tons of relief items, including flour, rice, sugar, pasta, legumes, and oil.



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MAY 24, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

That knowledge which remains only on your tongue is very superficial. The intrinsic value of knowledge is that you act upon it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:30 Dawn: 03:11 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 04:53 (tomorrow)

Vintage photos about Gaza on display in Marseille

When Kegham Djeghalian photographed daily life in Gaza last century, the Palestinian territory was synonymous with Hollywood-inspired brides, fancy dress parties and excursions to smoke a hookah at the beach.

They are images from a time far removed from the rubble and tent cities of the now war-ravaged Gaza Strip, Al-Monitor reported.

"It's a Gaza we no longer know. A joyful Gaza, one full of hope, connected to the world, with trains and an airport," said his grandson, who has curated a show of his work in France's southern city of Marseille.

Djeghalian survived the Armenian genocide of 1915 - a term strongly denied by Turkey - then settled in Gaza, opening the city's first ever photo studio in 1944.

He refused to leave, despite the recurring conflicts hitting the small territory wedged between Egypt and what became Israel in 1948, spending four decades capturing images of the Palestinian society that had adopted him, up until his death in 1981.

Some 300 of his surviving photographs are on show in Marseille until September.

In one image, children have clambered onto each other to form a human pyramid in the courtyard of a school for Palestinian refugees displaced after the creation of Israel.

In another, women with voluminous hair blow-outs pose smiling next to a sewing machine.

In a third, French philosophers Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir have just stepped off a small propeller plane.

The photograph has no caption, but the pair visited the Gaza Strip in March 1967, when it was occupied by Egypt, shortly before Israel seized the coastal territory in the Six-Day war.

"I grew up with family stories about Kegham, the Gazan photographer who survived the Armenian genocide," the curator, who inherited the same name as his grandfather and calls himself Kegham Jr said.

The 41-year-old professor of visual culture, who spent part of his childhood in Egypt, says his father discovered over 1,000 photo negatives "by chance" in 2018 in three red boxes at the back of a cupboard in the family's Cairo apartment.

They included studio portraits and family photos, images of children on balconies and at the beach, and crowds in the streets.

"We see a diverse society: Armenians, Greeks, Palestinians, Bedouins. But also those displaced in 1948," said Kegham Jr.

Today two-thirds of Gaza's population are descendants of Palestinian refugees, according to the United Nations.

Kegham Jr said he did not want any captions or context to the pictures in the exhibition titled "Photo Kegham of Gaza: Unboxing", which is to travel to Bristol in the United Kingdom in October.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Cartoon of Day



Triumph of Pigs

Cartoonist: Vasco Gargalo from Portugal

Artworks by Mexican printmakers on display at TMOCA

TEHRAN – Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) is hosting the third program in the "Art and War" series, exploring the theme of war as seen by Mexican artists.

The exhibition features eleven works by Mexican printmakers, based on works from the museum's treasured collection, IRNA reported.

The show includes two valuable works by renowned Mexican artists, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, dating back to the 1920s, depicting the struggles of the people of Mexico.

Alongside these two works, a collection of nine contemporary Mexican works is also on display, focusing on scenes of wars of independence and the social formation of Mexican identity.

David Alfaro Siqueiros (1896 – 1974) was a Mexican social realist painter, best known for his large public murals using the latest in equipment, materials and technique. Along with Diego Rivera and José Clemente Orozco, he was one of the most famous of the "Mexican muralists".

José Clemente Orozco (1883 – 1949) was a Mexican caricaturist and painter, who specialized in political murals that established the Mexican Mural Renaissance together with murals by Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and others. Orozco was the most complex of the Mexican muralists, fond of the theme of human suffering, but less realistic and more fascinated by machines than Rivera. Mostly influenced by Symbolism, he was also a genre painter and lithographer.

The "Art & War" exhibition, featuring works from the treasured collection of the TMOCA, offers a unique opportunity to revisit and



analyze how contemporary wars influence the formation of different art movements.

The exhibition has been planned as an artistic reaction to the 40-day American-Zionist assault on Iran (from February 28 to April 8), which martyred about 3,500 people, including the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khomeini, several officials and military commanders, as well as numerous civilians, including women and children.

During the 40-day war (also known as the Ramadan War), besides some military targets, the US and Israel launched organized attacks against civilian infrastructure, including residential homes, hospitals, refineries, power plants, schools, universities, art and cultural spaces, bookstores, museums, and ancient sites in several cities, caus-

ing total or partial damage and injuring innocent people.

The TMOCA plans to gradually make more works available to audiences, so that with each visit, they can gain deeper insight into the impact of art when confronting historical and contemporary crises.

Established in 1977, the museum has more than 4,000 items that include 19th and 20th-century world-class Iranian, European, and American paintings, prints, drawings, and sculptures. Being the biggest collection of Western art in the eastern world, it includes works from almost all artistic periods and movements.

The museum was designed by Iranian architect Kamran Diba, who employed elements from traditional Persian architecture. The building itself can be regarded as an example of contemporary art, in the style of an under-

ground Guggenheim Museum.

Most of the museum area is located underground with a circular walkway that spirals downwards with galleries branching outwards. Western sculptures by artists such as Ernst, Giacometti, Magritte, and Moore can be found in the museum's gardens.

The first part of "Art & War" exhibition was dedicated to landmark works by famous artists of the Pop Art movement such as Robert Indiana, James Rosenquist, and Roy Lichtenstein, and the second part of the exhibition featured works by Spanish modernist painters including Pablo Picasso, Antoni Tàpies, Robert Motherwell, and Juan Gris.

The third part of "Art & War" exhibition will be open to visitors through May 30 at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, located next to Laleh Park on N. Kargar Street.

"Particles of Chaos" premieres at City Theater, honoring heroes of Frigate Dena

TEHRAN- The main hall of Tehran's City Theater Complex hosted the opening ceremony of the play "Particles of Chaos" on Friday evening. The event was marked by a tribute to the martyrs and brave survivors of the Iranian Navy's Frigate Dena.

The ceremony, attended by high-ranking cultural and military officials, began with a performance by the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy band in the theater's courtyard. Notable attendees included Mehdi Shafiei, Deputy Minister of Culture for Artistic Affairs; Kourosh Soleimani, Director of the City Theater; Amir-Hossein Shafiei, Director of the Soore Theater Club; and Ruhollah Sadeqi, Deputy Head of Public Relations for the Navy.

During the event, honors were presented to the families of martyrs Rasul Esfandiari, Sadra Bahmani-Moqaddam, Mohammad Hossein Qahramanvand, Mohammad Amin Mahdavi-Ara, and Hossein Naeini. Three survivors of the Frigate Dena—Amir Zangeneh, Meysam Chari-Rad, and Hamed Sarani—were also recognized for their courage.

Addressing the audience, Mehdi Shafiei emphasized the artist's role in documenting contemporary sacrifice. "It is the duty of artists to recreate our collective memory—a memory that empowers us to resist aggression throughout different eras, from the liberation of Khorramshahr during the Sacred Defense to the recent war," he stated. He added that the presence of the martyrs' families serves as a "living embodiment of resistance" that must be recorded for history.

The play's director, Ebrahim Poshte Kouhi, expressed the difficulty of speaking in the presence of such sacrifice. "The most valuable asset a human possesses is their life. Those who give theirs for their homeland are revered figures worldwide," he said. Poshte Kouhi explained that "Particles of Chaos" tells the story of the crimson soil of Hormuz Island, ensuring that future travelers never forget the blood shed to keep that land free.

Kourosh Soleimani, head of the City Theater, also paid his respects, noting that while no words can fully ease the pain of the grieving families, "the memory of these young men, who perished in ultimate oppression and solitude, will never be forgotten in the



history of this land."

Representing the Navy, Ruhollah Sadeqi assured the audience that the nation's maritime authority and peace are rooted in the sacrifices of the Dena and Jamaran crews. "We promise that we will never allow any enemy to cast an aggressive eye toward this country," he declared.

The ceremony concluded with a performance of "Particles of Chaos," a narrative of the Southern Iranian people's resistance against foreign invasion.

Written and directed by Ebrahim Poshte Kouhi and produced by the Soore Theater Club, the play offers a powerful narrative of steadfastness in the Persian Gulf.

The production is described as an epic chronicling the liberation of Hormuz Island from Portuguese occupation. This stirring narrative delves deep into the heroic triumph of the Persian Gulf's inhabitants as they stood defiant to safeguard their motherland's sovereignty, effectively dismantling the shackles of long-standing occupation and colonial ambition. It is a profound saga of a maritime uprising, where the resilient seafaring communities rose like the tide against foreign intrusion. Set against a visceral backdrop of passionate love and the heavy price of blood, the play masterfully captures the frenzy and magic inherent to Iran's southern

coast—a region where myth and reality blur.

The atmosphere is further heightened by evocative live musical performances that utilize traditional instruments and rhythmic chants, echoing the heartbeat of the coastal people. This artistic fusion does not merely recount a revolt; it explores the psychological and spiritual depth of a community that found its ultimate strength in unity. By intertwining the raw beauty of Southern folklore with the harsh realities of maritime warfare, the performance creates an immersive sensory experience that honors the ancestral courage of those who transformed the shores of Hormuz into a permanent bastion of freedom and national dignity.

The work is more than just a retelling of a historical event; it is a vivid, musical portrayal of the Iranian spirit of resistance, nurtured and defined within the embrace of the Persian Gulf. By highlighting the strategic and cultural significance of the region, "Particles of Chaos" depicts the grandeur of the Iranian soul and its resilience against colonial powers.

The production serves as a reminder that the Persian Gulf is not merely a name, but the very fountainhead of Iranian identity, resistance, and historical pride—a place where freedom resonates within the waves and history breathes along its shores.