Straight Truth

WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 500,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 47th year | No. 15339 | Tuesday | June 2, 2026 | Khordad 12, 1405 | Dhu al-Hijjah 16, 1447

'The Bill Comes Due'



Iran warns that the US naval blockade of its ports and Israel's continued aggression in Lebanon amount to a breach of the Tehran-Washington ceasefire and risk further escalation

▶ Page 3

AP

Mourners and paramedics carry the bodies of family members killed on Wednesday when their car was struck in an Israeli airstrike on a highway as they fled their village, during a funeral procession in the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon, Friday, May 29, 2026.

Mossad's 'poison machine': Iran International and the Pezeshkian resignation rumor

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Rumors about President Masoud Pezeshkian's alleged resignation have been amplified by mainstream Western media amid fresh revelations regarding Israel's role in sowing discord in Iran. ▶ Page 3

Iran: Lebanon must be included in any final agreement to end regional conflict

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei has emphasized that any future agreement between Iran and the United States aimed at ending the ongoing regional conflict must include a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire in Lebanon, describing the issue as inseparable from broader efforts to restore stability in the region.

Speaking at his weekly press conference in Tehran on Monday, Baqaei said recent developments in Lebanon demonstrate that the country continues to face serious security challenges despite the announcement of a ceasefire earlier this year. He accused Israel of repeatedly violating Lebanese sovereignty and carrying out actions that undermine regional peace and security. ▶ Page 2

Trump's incompetent diplomats and negotiators

TEHRAN – President Trump has consistently favored real estate developers, major business executives, and corporate negotiators for high-profile diplomatic and envoy positions.

In his first administration, roughly 43.5% of his ambassadorial appointments were political appointees rather than career diplomats—a historical high—with a heavy concentration of business magnates. That trend has leaned even further into utilizing personal business relationships for sensitive geopolitical assignments.

He has tasked high-profile real estate developers and business figures to deal with critical diplomatic and negotiating tasks.

Among these negotiators and diplomats are Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner, Thomas Barrack, etc.

Witkoff, a real estate developer, is one of Trump's most prominent diplomatic appointments. He is a billionaire New York property developer (founder of the Witkoff Group) with no prior foreign policy experience. He was appointed Special Envoy to the Middle East and Special Envoy for Peace Missions.

Israel suffers more casualties in southern Lebanon

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli occupation regime has acknowledged that another soldier has been killed and three others injured during clashes with Hezbollah resistance fighters in southern Lebanon.

According to details published by Hebrew media, the soldier from the Maglan special forces unit was killed by an explosive drone launched by Hezbollah. The reports added that one of the wounded soldiers remains in critical condition.

On Sunday, another soldier from the Givati reconnaissance unit was killed and four others injured following the explosion of an explosive drone in the area of eastern Zawtar in southern Lebanon, according to an admission by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF).

The IOF has acknowledged that Hezbollah's drones have become a genuine threat and that expanding the ground invasion has failed to prevent drones from being launched toward northern settlements.

Why Bahrain's monarchy treats its people as an enemy

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — There is an unspoken rule driving the security apparatus inside Manama: a population you deeply distrust can never be governed, only contained.

The Al Khalifa monarchy, an absolute Sunni ruling elite dominating a native Shia majority, acts less like a sovereign government and more like an anxious security regime.

Following the recent U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and the tragic assassination of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, this structural paranoia has turned the island into a garrison state.

Fearing a total popular uprising, the regime unleashed its harshest crackdown since the 2011 Arab Spring, treating all independent religious and political thought as an existential threat.

The anatomy of dynasty paranoia

The scale of this current campaign is staggering. Human rights monitors confirm that more than 350 individuals have been detained since the regional war began.

▶ Page 5

Economic fallout of US-Israel attack on Iran sparks chaos in global debt markets

TEHRAN- The US-Israel military offensive against Iran has sent shockwaves through global bond markets, triggering extreme volatility in government borrowing costs throughout May and inflicting heavy losses on investors.

According to Reuters, sovereign bond yields surged to multi-decade highs during the month as traders scrambled to reassess inflation and central bank policy amid escalating West Asia tensions.

The benchmark 30-year US Treasury yield climbed to around 5.2% on May 20 – its highest level since 2007 – as concerns over stalled peace talks and oil prices spiking above $110 per barrel fuelled fears that inflation will remain dangerously high for months to come.

The damage extended far beyond the United States. British government bond yields soared to their highest levels in decades, Japanese yields touched record highs, ▶ Page 4

Palestinian artist reframes Gaza's viral images in new Minneapolis exhibit

Minnesota's arts calendar is packed this weekend with live music, outdoor festivals and cultural celebrations across Indigenous and Asian communities.

In Minneapolis, a new exhibit features Palestinian American artist Lamia Abukhadra, whose paintings reflect on how images from Gaza are captured, circulated and experienced online, Sahan Journal reported.

At Minneapolis' Hair + Nails, 28 local and national artists will debut new work in the contemporary art gallery's second annual Painting Show.

Among them is Lamia Abukhadra, whose featured work asks how viewers engage with images of violence in the endless scroll of social media. ▶ Page 8



ISNA/Negin Hemmatzade

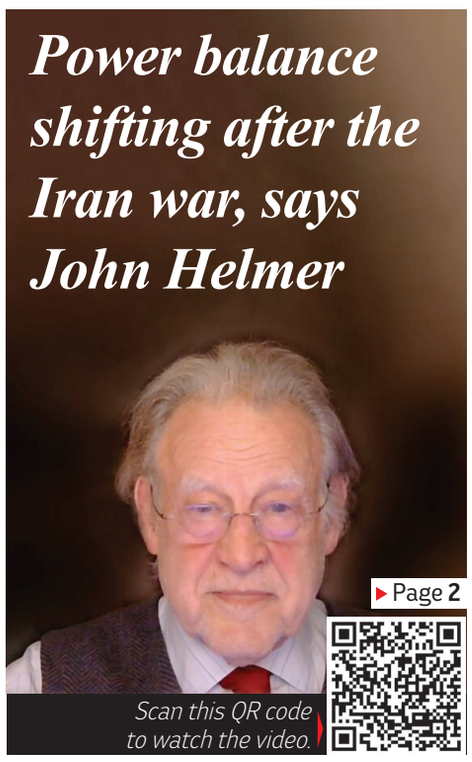
Pezeshkian attends "Champions of Iran" ceremony

TEHRAN — The "Champion of Iran" awards ceremony, celebrating the nation's top athletes, took place Sunday evening at the Summit Hall in Tehran.

The event was graced by the presence of President Masoud Pezeshkian, Ahmad Donyamali, Minister of Sports, and Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa, President of the National Paralympic Committee.

During the gala, Iran's most accomplished athletes were honored, recognizing their dedication and excellence in the world of sports.

Power balance shifting after the Iran war, says John Helmer



▶ Page 2

Scan this QR code to watch the video.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Suspend talks until enemy honors ceasefire

In an analysis, Kayhan discussed the US's repeated breach of commitment to the ceasefire and the necessity of suspending negotiations. Since the declaration of the ceasefire on all fronts, neither the US has stopped the aggression against Iranian ships in the waters, nor has the Zionist regime reduced its aggression against Lebanon. The least Iran can do in these circumstances is to suspend negotiations until the enemy adheres to the ceasefire provisions. Weren't negotiations with the US supposed to take place within the framework of the ceasefire?! That is why many analysts believe that the negotiations should be postponed until these acts of aggressions are over, whether in the waters, on land, or in Lebanon. Perhaps the enemy will use it as a trump card in negotiations with Iran after advancing in Lebanon!

Shargh: A healthy and dynamic economy and powerful armed forces in one direction

Shargh devoted its editorial to designing a new approach for Iran. Now, after the US invasion and attack, there is a need for a new approach in the economic and social fields more than ever. Designing a new approach for Iranian society is necessary. One of the most dangerous thoughts is that one must choose between a dynamic economy and a powerful armed force, or prioritize between the two. Both are necessary to achieve a stronger Iran. Considering the situation in the Middle East, the frequent military threats at the global level, and the need for continuous attention to the issue of deterrence, the question of the precedence and the delay of these two is wrong. A strong and law-abiding state, along with a dynamic and healthy economy, along with powerful armed forces, with the expansion of social freedoms, provides the basis for an efficient foreign policy.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Iran has won this battle so far

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz referred to Iran's victory in the unequal battle with the United States and Israel so far and wrote: Ramadan War is still ongoing and the current situation cannot be called the end of the war, but Iran has so far been the winner of this unequal battle. The United States and Israel are very strong militarily, but Islamic Iran has so far been the winner of the battlefield against two military superpowers. It is a war, and in the war, both sides suffer casualties and injuries. The important point is that Trump, due to the heavy defeat he suffered from Iran, repeats the victory and in every conversation or speech and publication of text in cyberspace, repeats the victory in the war against Iran. Trump is a losing gambler who lost to Netanyahu's trickery.

Etemad: The fragility of the negotiations space

Etemad examined the fragility of the diplomatic space between Iran and the United States. While the diplomatic space between Iran and the United States is on the verge of a decisive decision, a series of simultaneous movements in Washington, Tehran and the capitals of the region have revealed contradictory signs of the approach or collapse of a possible agreement. Meanwhile, there are different views among analysts about the extent to which these movements can lead to an agreement or even an escalation of tension. Some believe that the current space can be a prelude to an agreement and move towards managing the tension. On the other hand, another group believes that these contradictory movements and messages could be a sign of a sudden turn; a turn that would not even rule out the possibility of returning to more difficult and costly options, including military scenarios. However, what is common in both views is the fragility of the current situation and the high sensitivity of the decisions ahead; a situation in which any small change could completely change the course.

Iran: A calculation that failed

In a note, the Iran newspaper discussed the approach of the Persian Gulf countries during the Ramadan War. A realistic look at the performance of the countries in this region shows that their approach was based on a "multi-layered utilitarian calculation." However, the fear of the terrible economic consequences resulting from the complete blockage of the Strait of Hormuz and the concern about the continuation and expansion of Iran's crushing responses forced them to adopt a covert and active diplomacy to prevent their territory from becoming an official base for US offensive attacks against Iran. In fact, they reached the strategic understanding during the Ramadan War that the change in the political system in Iran and the destruction of Iran's military-defense power and even its nuclear program through foreign intervention were nothing more than an illusion, and the first loser of a comprehensive war in the region would be their long-term economic development plans.

Iran: Lebanon must be included in any final agreement to end regional conflict

From page 1 ▶ According to Baqaei, Lebanon remains subject to continued military pressure, resulting in civilian casualties and displacement. He argued that the situation reflects a broader pattern of instability driven by Israeli policies in both Lebanon and the Palestinian territories.

"Iran's position is clear: a ceasefire in Lebanon is an integral and inseparable part of any final agreement aimed at ending the war and establishing sustainable peace in the region," he said.

The spokesman described Israel as "the greatest threat to international peace and security," stating that ongoing actions in Lebanon and Gaza have contributed to a worsening humanitarian and security situation. He also criticized international institutions, particularly the United Nations and the UN Security Council, for 'insufficient action in response to repeated violations and escalating tensions.'



Baqaei stated that recent incidents represented clear breaches of the April 8 ceasefire framework and warned that the failure of the international community to address such violations could have consequences beyond West Asia. He argued that continued impunity for military actions and violations of sovereignty risks undermining international law and weakening global security mechanisms.

Addressing Lebanon specifically, Baqaei reiterated Tehran's support for the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said that defending national borders is the responsibility of every government and stressed that Lebanon has the right to protect itself against external threats.

The diplomat also highlighted the role of Lebanon's resistance movement, describing it as a major factor in preventing further Israeli expansionism over the past several decades. According to Baqaei, recent events have once again demonstrated the importance of local resistance forces in defending Lebanese territory and deterring external aggression.

"We consider ourselves committed to doing everything possible to help Lebanon preserve its security, stability, and sovereignty," he said.

Beyond developments in Lebanon, Baqaei addressed the broader state of Iran-US interactions and ongoing diplomatic efforts. He said that progress toward a potential understanding between Tehran and Washington has been slowed by 'inconsistent and contradictory positions' adopted by the United States throughout the negotiation process.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Power balance shifting after the Iran war, says John Helmer

'Neither Trump nor Netanyahu publicly acknowledge strategic miscalculations'

TEHRAN – The Moscow-based veteran geopolitical analyst and journalist, John Helmer, says the recent 40-day confrontation involving Iran, Israel, and the United States has exposed strategic limits in Washington's military calculations while accelerating broader shifts in the regional balance of power.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Helmer says despite continued military pressure and sanctions, the White House now faces the political consequences of expectations that failed to materialize on the battlefield.

According to Helmer, Washington's current approach combines escalation and de-escalation simultaneously. The distinguished independent journalist says while U.S. officials continue financial, trade, and maritime pressure, they are also exploring arrangements aimed at preventing wider conflict.

"This reflects political management as much as strategic planning," Helmer notes, arguing that Donald Trump's calculations remain closely tied to domestic political pressures, economic concerns, and electoral considerations.

With energy prices carrying direct political consequences inside the United States, Helmer believes Trump faces competing demands: maintaining support among Republican voters, preserving close alignment with Israel, and avoiding economic instability that could undermine public confidence.

He argues that Washington entered the confrontation expecting a short campaign capable of generating decisive political outcomes.

"What was anticipated was a rapid military operation followed by internal disruption that could be politically exploited," Helmer points out.

Helmer maintains that Iranian resistance capabilities, alongside regional actors aligned with Tehran—including forces in Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq—proved more resilient than anticipated by U.S. and Israeli planners.

At the same time, he says neither Trump nor Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appears prepared to publicly acknowledge strategic miscalculations.

U.S. interests remain primary driver

the geopolitical analyst rejects views that Israel dictates American policy in the Middle East, saying these are simplified interpretations that portray Washington as subordinate to Tel Aviv.

Instead, he argues that Washington's regional policy should be understood through a longer historical framework dating back to the post-World War II period.

According to Helmer, Washington's strategic priorities have historically centered on replacing European colonial influence, securing access to regional energy resources, and containing geopolitical rivals.

He believes that American policy toward Iran and the Arab world has consistently sought to preserve strategic influence while preventing independent regional power centers from emerging.

Helmer refers to historical patterns of intervention and regional restructuring explored in The Jackals' Wedding: American Power, Arab Revolt, the book he co-authored with his late wife, journalist Claudia Wright.

The title, he explains, comes from an Iraqi expression describing alliances that are temporary and ultimately self-destructive.

Within that historical framework, Helmer says that Israeli influence, although significant, operates inside broader American strategic calculations rather than replacing them.

"The dominant factor remains American interests."

At the same time, Helmer acknowledges that ideological and political currents inside the United States—including evangelical Christian constituencies and pro-Israel political networks—continue to reinforce Washington's regional orientation.

Regional balance of power under pressure

the Australian-born geopolitical analyst maintains that one of the most important outcomes of the recent conflict has been the growing perception across the Persian Gulf that traditional security assumptions may no longer be reliable.

According to his assessment, Persian Gulf Arab states increasingly recognize vulnerabilities in the regional security architecture. "The credibility of military protection has been weakened."

The inability to guarantee complete security against Iranian retaliatory capabilities has encouraged regional actors to diversify strategic relationships and reconsider dependence on existing arrangements, Helmer maintains.

He points to growing efforts by Persian Gulf governments to expand cooperation with emerging external partners while simultaneously pursuing greater regional flexibility.

At the same time, he emphasizes that these developments do not automatically represent a decisive geopolitical realignment.

From his perspective, Persian Gulf governments are unlikely to fully replace existing security structures with alternative blocs and instead will continue balancing among multiple powers.

Helmer also says that Iran increasingly appears to be operating according to a principle of strategic self-reliance.

Drawing on conversations with Russian and Arab contacts, he notes that Tehran's long-term conclusion appears to be that external partnerships can provide support but cannot substitute for domestic resilience.

"This does not mean isolation," he says, noting "survival under pressure ultimately depends on internal capacity."

A tactical pause or durable agreement?

Commenting on reports of a possible new U.S.-Iran understanding, Helmer urges caution regarding media narratives surrounding negotiations.

He points specifically to reports describing phased negotiations and temporary confidence-building measures.

According to Helmer, a step-by-step framework may align more closely with Iran's long-standing position that broader agreements require gradual implementation and reciprocal guarantees.

Among issues reportedly under discussion are temporary military restraint, maritime security arrangements, financial measures, and later-stage nuclear negotiations.

Helmer say from Tehran's perspective, "trust remains the central issue".

Any sustainable arrangement would require reciprocal commitments and tangible economic guarantees rather than unilateral concessions, he maintains.

One issue under discussion, he notes, concerns the release of frozen Iranian financial assets as part of confidence-building measures.

In his assessment, economic guarantees and regional security arrangements are increasingly interconnected.

The analyst suggests that the future of any agreement will depend less on public announcements and more on whether both sides demonstrate practical commitments that survive political and electoral cycles.

For now, he says, Washington appears to be attempting to manage confrontation rather than resolve it—while Tehran continues preparing for a longer strategic contest.

Pezeshkian: Main problem is restrictions imposed by US on Iran's shipping activities

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the main challenge facing maritime transit and trade in the region stems from restrictions and obstacles imposed by the United States on Iran's shipping and commercial activities, reaffirming Tehran's commitment to ensuring freedom of navigation and stability in international waterways.

In a telephone conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Monday, Pezeshkian thanked the Japanese government for its humanitarian and pharmaceutical assistance to Iran and reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's commitment to resolving regional issues and tensions through dialogue and diplomacy.

Referring to Iran's responsible approach in international relations, the president said the Islamic Republic has always regarded diplomacy as the most effective way to address existing challenges. He added, however, that some parties, including the United States, have undermined diplomatic efforts by failing to honor their commitments, while the destabilizing actions of the Israeli regime have further complicated diplomatic processes.

Pezeshkian also addressed regional developments, describing the repeated violations of the ceasefire in Lebanon, the continued displacement of Lebanese citizens, and US political and military support for Israeli actions as alarming. He called on the international community to play a more effective role in stopping the ongoing situation.

Elsewhere in the conversation, the Iranian president underscored the importance of security and freedom of navigation in international waterways.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to facilitate maritime transit," he said, adding that the main problem stems from restrictions and obstacles imposed by the US on Iran's shipping and trade activities.

Pezeshkian said Tehran would seriously pursue issues related to vessels connected to Japan and would work to ensure that Japanese ships can transit with greater ease and without difficulties.

He further stressed that Iran will do everything to normalize maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and preserve stability and security in the strategic waterway. He expressed hope that once conditions return to normal, greater opportunities will emerge for utilizing Japanese technical and engineering capabilities in the reconstruction and development of Iran's refineries, ports, and damaged economic infrastructure.

The president also called on the Japanese government to help facilitate Iran's access to its financial resources and assets held in Japan for the purchase of essential goods, medical equipment, and pharmaceuticals.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, Oman hold exclusive sovereign rights over Strait of Hormuz: deputy FM

TEHRAN- An Iranian deputy foreign minister has stated that Iran and Oman are the only countries with sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, noting that Tehran has established new regulations to control maritime traffic under wartime conditions.

"The Strait of Hormuz has two coastal states, Iran and Oman. These two countries have the right to exercise sovereignty over their territorial waters," said Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs.

"Under wartime conditions, Iran has defined new regulations for controlling maritime transit and will not allow any country to interfere," he stated.

Gharibabadi emphasized that "any arrangement must be coordinated with Oman," adding that consultations between the two sides have yielded positive results.

"We have made good progress in our consultations, and Oman also recognizes its sovereign rights," he said.

The deputy foreign minister further criticized the United States for violating international law, threatening Oman.

"The United States has violated international law by threatening Oman. We have urged Oman not to yield to such threats and to exercise its sovereignty during peacetime," he stated.

‘The bill comes due’

Iran warns that the US naval blockade of its ports and Israel’s continued aggression in Lebanon amount to a breach of the Tehran-Washington ceasefire and risk further escalation

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Iran has issued a stern warning to the United States and Israel over violations of the ceasefire that paused their joint aggression against Iran.

Iran’s Parliament Speaker and top negotiator, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said on Monday that the continuation of the US naval blockade against Iranian ports and Israel’s escalation in Lebanon amount to a direct breach of the truce.

“The naval blockade and escalation of war crimes in Lebanon by the genocidal Zionist regime are clear evidence of U.S. noncompliance with the ceasefire,” Qalibaf wrote on X. He added, “Every choice has a price, and the bill comes due. It will all fall into place.”

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also noted that Israel’s war on Lebanon constitutes a violation of the Tehran-Washington ceasefire.

“For immediate attention: The ceasefire between Iran and the US is unequivocally a ceasefire on all fronts, including in Lebanon. Its violation on one front is a violation of the ceasefire on all fronts. The US and Israel are responsible for the consequences of any violation,” the top Iranian diplomat wrote on X on Monday.

Iran’s military echoed the same stance. “The leaders of the brutal Zionist regime and its supporters



are warned that the continued savage crimes against Lebanon will not be tolerated by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” said Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, spokesperson for the Iranian Armed Forces.

Washington’s broken promises

The ceasefire between Iran and the US on April 8 paused the US-Israel war that initially began on February 28. Before the April 8 ceasefire was finalized, Iran explicitly communicated to the US that halting Israel’s war in Lebanon was among its mandatory conditions. According to Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Donald Trump had fully agreed to this condition at the time.

Tehran and Washington have since exchanged multiple proposals to permanently end the war, but Trump continues to shift his positions amid diplomatic efforts—mainly mediated by Pakistan—to reach a lasting agreement. The first round of Pakistani-mediated talks between Tehran and Washington, headed by Qalibaf, failed in Islamabad on April 11 due to what Iranian officials call the Trump administration’s “excessive” demands. Following the failure of those talks, Trump ordered a naval blockade of Iranian ports.

Furthermore, the truce has been directly undermined by continued American military aggression. The US has carried out attacks in southern Iran despite the April 8 ceasefire, targeting sites on Qeshm Island and other areas. In response, Iran’s powerful armed forces have struck the origins of these attacks located in Persian Gulf countries, including a recent retaliatory strike in Kuwait.

Trump shifts positions

Amid recent optimism that Iran and the US were in the process of finalizing a memorandum of understanding (MoU), American media outlets reported over the weekend that Trump has toughened the terms of the potential agreement and sent it back to Iran for consideration. Iran has already stressed that guarantees of non-aggression, lifting the US blockade on Iranian ports, removing US sanctions, unfreezing Iranian assets, recognizing Iran’s authority over the Strait of Hormuz, and ending Israeli strikes in Lebanon are among its conditions for any deal with Washington.

Netanyahu’s desperate sabotage

Amid Iran’s full control over the Strait of Hormuz, Trump needs a deal with Iran as the February 28 war has driven up energy prices globally, and inside the United States. Gas prices have jumped to over $6 per gallon in some US states, and inflation has spiked amid the wider repercussions of the conflict. Trump’s popularity has also hit a record low, and he remains under fire for lacking a coherent strategy toward the war on Iran. Additionally, the ongoing implications of the conflict could deal a severe blow to the Republicans and their supporters ahead of the midterm congressional elections.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Mossad’s ‘poison machine’: Iran International and the Pezeshkian resignation rumor

From Page 1 ▸ The UK-based Persian-language broadcaster Iran International, which has long been accused by Iranian officials of spreading propaganda and fueling unrest in the country, claimed on Sunday that Pezeshkian had submitted an official letter of resignation to the office of Iran’s Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei. Citing anonymous sources, the broadcaster alleged that Pezeshkian complained that he and his government have effectively been excluded from major decision-making processes, and that the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has assumed control over key state affairs. The outlet, which is widely believed to be funded by Israel, claimed that Pezeshkian had stated that “under such circumstances he is unable to run the government and carry out his legal responsibilities,” and had therefore requested to step down immediately.

Iranian officials, including government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani, swiftly rejected the report as baseless. Addressing a cabinet meeting on Sunday, President Pezeshkian also reaffirmed his commitment to serving the country. “We must be present on the scene, and with strength, God willing, we will manage the country’s affairs...I will continue as long as I breathe,” he said.

Claims of divisions between the government and military leadership are not new. Since the United States and Israel launched their war against Iran on February 28, several media outlets have alleged infighting among Iranian political and military leaders over the handling of the conflict. Pezeshkian and other senior officials have repeatedly dismissed such claims, stressing that they are intended to drive a wedge between officials at a time of unprecedented national unity and resilience in the face of US-Israeli aggression.

The Iran International claim about Pezeshkian’s resignation also came shortly after an Israel Hayom report took the lid off its role in fomenting unrest during the 2022 protests in Iran.

The report pointed to the role of the Mossad spy agency in efforts to create instability in Iran through media and information operations. As one example, it said Mossad operates a social media infrastructure dubbed the “poison machine,” which relies on fictitious accounts and coordinated campaigns to disseminate information aimed at undermining Iran’s stability.

Last week, the Financial Times also reported that the company owning Iran International had received £650 million in debt relief from its shareholders, strengthening the financial position of the London-based broadcaster. Iran International has openly supported Reza Pahlavi, the son of Iran’s deposed monarch, and has frequently provided a platform for groups advocating regime change and uprisings against the Islamic Republic.

For now, the resignation rumors appear to fit into a broader pattern of narratives aimed at portraying deep divisions within Iran’s political establishment. However, the swift rejection of the claims by government officials and Pezeshkian’s public reaffirmation of his commitment to office suggest that the reports may be part of an ongoing information campaign designed to undermine public confidence and weaken the image of national cohesion at a time when Iran faces significant external pressure.

LATEST NEWS

IRGC says 15 vessels passed through Strait of Hormuz in 24 hours

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy announced that 15 vessels, including four oil tankers, transited the Strait of Hormuz during the past 24 hours after receiving authorization and under its security coordination. The IRGC warned commercial ships and tankers operating in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz that any cooperation with what it described as hostile extra-regional forces would be considered an immediate security threat and addressed accordingly.

Iran to regulate Strait of Hormuz management

Iran’s Parliament is moving to legalize the country’s management of the Strait of Hormuz. Alaeddin Boroujerdi, a member of the National Security Committee, stated that the plan is in the legislative process, with talks underway with Oman on a cooperation framework.

He emphasized that Iran is already exercising control over the strait, and the proposed law aims to further solidify this management.

VP: Leader’s guidance and Pezeshkian’s loyalty have strengthened Iran’s authority

Mohammad Reza Aref, Iran’s First Vice President, said that the leadership of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and President Masoud Pezeshkian’s sincere loyalty to the nation and the Islamic establishment are unparalleled, stressing that these two factors have strengthened the country’s authority under wartime conditions.

He described the unprecedented 90-night presence of the people in the streets as remarkable and praised the performance of the negotiating team as positive.

Criticizing the media for failing to adequately reflect the country’s achievements and wartime developments, Aref emphasized the need to counter what he described as destabilization efforts by the CIA and Mossad.

Araghchi holds talks with French and Belgian counterparts on regional developments

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate telephone conversations on Monday with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot and Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot to discuss the latest regional developments and ongoing diplomatic efforts.

During his call with the French foreign minister, Araghchi exchanged views on the situation in the region, the Israeli regime’s attacks on Lebanon, and the consequences of ‘Israel’s aggressive actions.’

In a separate conversation with his Belgian counterpart, the Iranian foreign minister discussed bilateral relations, the latest developments in West Asia, and ongoing diplomatic initiatives aimed at preventing further escalation and bringing an end to the US-Israeli-imposed war against Iran.

The talks also focused on efforts to advance diplomacy and reduce tensions in the region.

Araghchi also discussed regional developments and the ceasefire in two separate calls with the Pakistani Foreign Minister and Army Chief.

UN resident coordinator presents credentials to Iranian FM

Christine Weigand, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Iran, met with the FM Abbas Araghchi in Tehran at the beginning of her mission and presented her credentials to the foreign minister.

MP: US has failed to achieve its objectives against Iran

Iranian lawmaker Gholamreza Dehghan Naserabadi, representing Kazerun in Parliament, said the United States has failed to achieve its stated objectives in its confrontation with Iran and has gained no tangible or reliable accomplishments from the conflict.

He stated that US President Donald Trump had not succeeded in realizing any of his goals against Iran, adding that the Islamic Republic possesses unique characteristics and foundations as a religious democracy that distinguish it from many political systems around the world.

The MP argued that these distinctive features have enabled Iran to withstand external pressures and challenges while preserving its national interests and political stability.

SPORTS

Defensive concerns cloud Iran’s World Cup preparations

TEHRAN – Iran’s road to the 2026 FIFA World Cup continues to be accompanied by a growing concern: the national team’s fragile defensive structure.

While Team Melli own one of Asia’s most dangerous attacking sides, recent performances have highlighted persistent issues at the back, raising questions about whether the team can compete effectively against elite opposition on football’s biggest stage.

The latest warning came in the friendly against Gambia, where Iran once again failed to keep a clean sheet. Defensive lapses, poor positioning, and moments of individual error allowed the opposition to create opportunities too easily, extending a troubling trend that has become one of the main headaches for head coach Amir Ghalenoei.

Much of the focus has fallen on Iran’s central defenders. Veteran defender Shoja Khalilzadeh continues to bring experience, but inconsistency remains a concern. Reports suggest that even in training sessions, some of his mistakes have drawn frustration from the coaching staff. Meanwhile, Mohammadhossein Kanaani has also struggled to provide the reliability expected from one of the team’s most experienced defenders, with occasional costly errors undermining confidence in the back line.

Ali Nemati has yet to establish himself as a consistently dependable option, while young defender Danial Eiri remains an intriguing but inexperienced prospect. Although Eiri could emerge as a surprise solution, relying on young players so close to a World Cup carries obvious risks.

The contrast with previous generations is difficult to ignore. Iran’s recent history featured defenders such as Jalal Hosseini, Pejman Montazeri, Hadi Aghili, Morteza Pouraliganji and Majid Hosseini, players who brought greater stability, concentration and leadership to the defensive unit. The current generation possesses talent but has struggled to match that level of consistency.

With time running short, Amir Ghalenoei may have little opportunity to transform the quality of his defenders individually. Instead, tactical adjustments, stronger midfield protection and improved defensive organization could offer the most realistic path forward. Just as importantly, rebuilding confidence and reducing psychological pressure may help limit the costly mistakes that have become too common.

Iran’s attacking stars remain capable of troubling any opponent. However, unless the defensive issues are addressed, Team Melli’s World Cup ambitions could be tested long before the knockout stages come into view.

Iran sends six Greco-Roman wrestlers to Mongolia

TEHRAN – Six Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers will represent Iran at the Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series 2026.

Ulaanbaatar Open, the third Ranking Series of the year, will be held in the Mongolian capital from June 4-7.

Payam Ahmadi (55kg), Ali Ahmadi Vafa (60kg), Erfan Jarkani and Mohammad Keshtkar (63kg), Javad Rezaei and Danial Sohrabi (72kg) are Iranian wrestlers in the tournament.

The World Ranking Series events are the main International Tournaments supervised by United World Wrestling. These events are fully integrated into the Ranking System.

These events provide points to each athlete in order to establish the World Ranking at the end of the year. 4 World Ranking Series events are organized every year (except the Olympic year where only 2 World Ranking Series are organized).

Iran U23s to hold training camp in Antalya

TEHRAN – The Iran U23 national football team have officially departed Tehran for Antalya, Turkey, embarking on a pivotal 12-day training camp.

This trip marks a fresh chapter for the squad as they begin their preparations for the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya.

Under the guidance of newly appointed head coach Hossein Abdi, the team are wasting no time. The Antalya camp is designed to instill a new tactical identity, with the coaching staff focusing on high-intensity drills and situational play to sharpen the roster.

While Iran’s participation in the upcoming Games was shrouded in uncertainty just months ago, the federation’s decisive move to appoint Abdi has provided much-needed stability. With the path to Nagoya now clear, the focus has shifted entirely to performance. For Abdi and his young side, this Turkish mission is the first real step toward building a squad capable of challenging for glory on the continental stage.

Sayyadmanesh leaves Westerlo after two and a half seasons

TEHRAN - Allahyar Sayyadmanesh will leave Westerlo after two and a half seasons. The 24-year-old Iranian international, (9 capes) said on social media.

The forward had arrived in January 2024 from Hull City, in the English second division, and has since played 84 games for the Campinois club of Jupiler Pro League, scoring 14 goals and delivering 13 assists. He has shaken the nets seven times this season, while Westerlo finished in fourth place in the Europe playoffs.

Sayyadmanesh and Westerlo have not reached an agreement at the end of his contract. No deal has been found and the player can therefore look for a new club. Recent reports have shared that Allahyar has attracted interest from Belgian heavyweights Club Brugge and Anderlecht.

On social media, he left a message to the fans.

“Another chapter of my life has come to an end. A chapter I will enjoy forever. Grateful for my 2.5 years in Westerlo,” said

Sayyadmanesh began his career in Iran at Esteghlal FC. He then wore the colors of Fenerbahce and Istanbulspor in Turkey, Zorya Luhansk in Ukraine, Hull City in the English Championship before arriving at Westerlo.

Cuneo complete signing of Iranian Rising Star Hossein Khanzadeh

TEHRAN – Cuneo Volley strengthened their roster for the upcoming SuperLega season with the signing of Iranian outside hitter Poriya Hossein Khanzadeh.

Known as “Terminator” in Iran for his powerful attacking game and explosive serve, the 21-year-old arrives in Cuneo after continuing his rapid rise on both the club and international stage. Standing 202 cm tall, Khanzadeh is regarded as one of Asia’s most promising volleyball talents.

Sporting director Paolo Brugiafreddo welcomed the addition, highlighting the player’s offensive qualities and recent development, worldofvolley reported.

“He’s a player with outstanding attacking and serving abilities who fits perfectly into our vision,” Brugiafreddo said. “His growth over the past year has been impressive, including earning Best Server honors in the Asian Champions League. We believe he can make a significant impact for our team.”

“The Italian league are one of the best in the world, and I’ve always wanted to compete here,” he said. “My goal is to give my best, help my teammates and the club, and make our fans proud.”

The Iranian international will also represent his country this summer in the Volleyball Nations League and the Asian Championship.

Born in Babol on July 1, 2004, Hossein Khanzadeh has already built an impressive résumé, including an Asian Games gold medal, a FIVB U21 World Championship title, multiple Iranian league championships, and several individual awards. Most recently, he was named Best Server at the AVC Champions League.

Iran's annual export to Eurasia increases 16%

TEHRAN- The Deputy Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, referring to a 16% growth in Iran's exports to Eurasia last year, described this regional agreement as a successful model for developing non-oil exports and expanding trade cooperation.

Amir Roshanbakht Ghanbari, Deputy for International Business Promotion at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, in an interview with Mehr News Agency, responding to a question about the plans of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in the field of industries and cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union, said: Last year, the country faced numerous political and security events, but despite these conditions, Iran's exports to Eurasian member countries increased by about 16%.

He said: This indicates how much trade and regional agreements can be effective in developing the country's foreign trade. We must utilize all the capacities of regional and international agreements for the development of non-oil exports.

Roshanbakht added: Eurasia is a successful and practical example of regional economic cooperation that was formed in the current government. This year, coinciding with the first anniversary of the implementation of this agreement, a good opportunity has been provided to evaluate its performance and achievements.

He continued: Now we can examine what measures have been taken in the past year to develop the country's exports and further connect Iran's economy to regional economies and free markets, and to what extent this path has been effective in achieving the country's trade goals.

The implementation of Iran's preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union, which entered its operational phase in May 2025, has created new opportunities for boosting Iran's trade with the five member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Iran's free trade agreement with Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan has laid the groundwork for facilitating the export of goods, reducing tariffs, and increasing the competitiveness of Iranian products.

Experts believe that this agreement will not only strengthen Iran's export capacities but will also lead to the development of stable, long-term economic relations between Iran and the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In August 2025, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), said that steel and petrochemicals are expected to account for 50 percent of the objectives set under Iran's free trade agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

He said the FTA, which entered into force on May 15, 2025, is unprecedented for Iran, reducing tariffs on 87 percent of traded goods.

He noted that while previous preferential trade agreements with the EAEU had expanded trade volumes, this latest agreement presents a unique opportunity for deeper integration.

"Trade agreements create both opportunities and challenges. The overall outcome is positive for both sides if vulnerabilities are addressed and opportunities maximized," Dehnavi said. He emphasized that steel and petrochemical industries are major drivers of



production and exports, and leveraging them effectively could achieve half of Iran's FTA objectives.

The official called on the private sector to actively engage in Eurasian markets, pointing to research identifying which Iranian products have the highest export potential. "Private companies should focus on maximizing profitability, while policymakers ensure collective benefits such as employment, economic growth, and foreign currency inflows," he said.

Dehnavi also noted that export opportunities vary across member states, highlighting Russia as one of the most lucrative markets for Iranian products and promising further studies to optimize engagement in the region.

According to Elham Haji Karimi, head of the Iran-EAEU FTA secretariat, the agreement, signed in December 2023 after more than two years of negotiations, covers 11 chapters, including trade in goods, technical measures, sanitary standards, rules of origin, customs cooperation, dispute resolution, government procurement, and sectoral cooperation in transport, energy, automotive industries, and free trade zones.

In late January, a senior Iranian foreign ministry official proposed establishing a Eurasian free zones organization to promote economic cooperation and synergy among member states.

Mohammadreza Nazeri, director general for economic coordination at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that free trade zones allow goods to be imported, exported or re-exported with minimal customs tariffs, while offering incentive and support frameworks for foreign investors.

He said Iran's free zones provide five to ten years of tax exemptions, guarantees for principal and profit repatriation, and facilitation of capital inflows and outflows. The foreign ministry also operates offices in these zones to ease the entry and exit of foreign visitors, he added.

Nazeri said cooperation among free zones should be framed around technology while adapting global knowledge to local models, noting that Iran has developed its free zones based on domestic expertise. He said the zones hold significant trade, tourism and geopolitical potential and have increasingly focused on production as the main form of investment.

Referring to the Chabahar railway and the Khorramshahr–Shalamcheh rail line, Nazeri said the routes could connect Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to the Indian Ocean and Iraq. He proposed the creation of a specialized Eurasian free zones cooperation body to strengthen member economies and improve access to open waters via Iran.

Oil minister announces faster-than-expected progress in rebuilding war-damaged energy infrastructure

TEHRAN- The Oil Minister, referring to the damage inflicted on energy infrastructure, announced that the reconstruction of these facilities has progressed beyond expectations and promised that these units would return to the production cycle in a shorter timeframe.

According to Mehr News Agency, Mohsen Paknejad, the Oil Minister, in his latest statements regarding the current state of energy facilities damaged during the third imposed war, stated: "Over the past 40 days, certain strikes have hit part of the energy infrastructure, which the public is aware of. These damages have affected the country's gas production, the gas that can be supplied to the network, as well as the supply chain and other petroleum products."

He added: "The reconstruction process of these facilities began shortly after the first days of the strikes, and so far the progress made has been beyond our expectations."

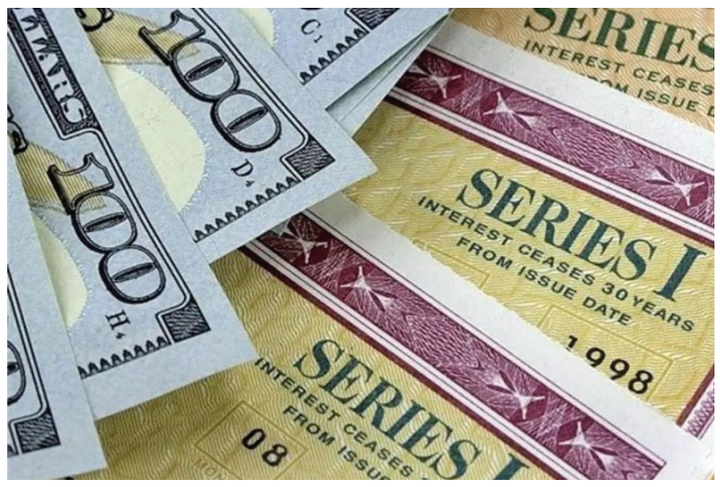
The Oil Minister, emphasising the ministry's serious determination to return to stable conditions, noted: "We will do our utmost to bring these facilities back into the production cycle within a shorter timeframe."

Economic fallout of US-Israel attack on Iran sparks chaos in global debt markets

TEHRAN- The US-Israel military offensive against Iran has sent shockwaves through global bond markets, triggering extreme volatility in government borrowing costs throughout May and inflicting heavy losses on investors.

According to Reuters, sovereign bond yields surged to multi-decade highs during the month as traders scrambled to reassess inflation and central bank policy amid escalating West Asia tensions.

The benchmark 30-year US Treasury yield climbed to around 5.2% on May 20 – its highest level since 2007 – as concerns over stalled peace talks and oil prices spiking above $110 per barrel fuelled fears that inflation will remain dangerously high for months to come.



The damage extended far beyond the United States. British government bond yields soared to their highest levels in decades, Japanese yields touched record highs, and Germany's 10-year yield rose to levels unseen since 2011. Long-dated UK gilts reached their most expensive borrowing costs since 1998, reflecting deep unease over the fiscal consequences of the conflict.

Analysts say the attack has worsened already fragile fiscal conditions, particularly in the US, where rising real yields signal that investor concerns go beyond inflation. The prolonged uncertainty has also undermined confidence in central bank policy credibility.

While hopes for peace later offered brief relief, UK bond yields remain significantly higher than before the conflict began – a stark reminder of the lasting economic scars inflicted by the US-Israel assault on Iran. The turmoil in May underscores how military aggression in the West Asia directly punishes global debt markets, raising borrowing costs for governments and businesses alike.

Strait of Hormuz transforms long-term oil market beliefs

TEHRAN- Geopolitical tensions in the Persian Gulf and disruption of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz have created one of the biggest oil shocks in the global oil market. Based on physical market evidence, the relative stability of oil prices will not last, and with the continuation of disruptions and declining storage, price increases will accelerate.

According to Shana, quoting the OPEC Department of International Forums and Organizations, the United States began a naval trade blockade of Iran on April 13. However, CAS data shows that Iranrelated vessels continue their routes by challenging this blockade, with six of these vessels leaving the Strait of Hormuz on April 21. In total, between April 13 and 21, 78 ships passed through Hormuz, of which 47 were attributed to Iran.

According to a Goldman Sachs report, oil production in the Persian Gulf region has fallen by 14.5 million barrels per day (bpd) — equivalent to 57% — compared to prewar levels (the USIsraeli war against Iran). The base case scenario envisions a quick but not complete recovery of production. Goldman Sachs analysts argue that if the Strait of Hormuz is fully and safely reopened and no further attacks on oil facilities occur, a significant portion of lost output will be restored within a few months.

Three factors support this view: First, reported evidence of physical damage to oil fields is limited compared to LNG facilities. Second, statements by Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser in March suggest Saudi Arabia's ability to increase production relatively quickly. Third, the history of supply disruptions indicates that Saudi Arabia and the UAE will likely use their estimated spare capacity of over 2 million bpd to stabilise markets during repairs.

Logistics constraints and operational recovery delays

Despite this relative optimism, Goldman Sachs emphasises significant operational bottlenecks that delay full production recovery. The first constraint is logistics and transport capacity. Unloading oil stored onshore and offshore requires available empty tankers, but it is estimated that empty tanker capacity in the Persian Gulf has fallen by about 130 million barrels (50%). Although historical records show that oil flow through the Strait of Hormuz can increase to 23.3 million bpd (3.3 million above the normal 20 million) and rerouting through pipelines could add at most 3.5 million bpd in spare capacity, the simultaneous need to drain accumulated floating storage and resume exports will put these routes under pressure.

The second and perhaps more complex constraint is the condition of wells and reservoirs. Mandatory production curtailment can create reservoir complexities that require workover interventions before wells are reopened. The report warns that the longer the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, the slower the resumption of production will be, because the need for more extensive workovers, slow supply of consumables such as drill pipes, and continued storagedrainage bottlenecks will delay recovery.

Full recovery of Iran's oil production

Although an unprecedented shock is ongoing, Goldman Sachs reviews past production recovery periods (e.g., the attack on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq, the Libyan civil war, and the Iran nuclear deal) and notes large differences in the speed and extent of supply restoration. The recovery period of Iran's oil production after the nuclear deal showed a gradual but relatively complete trend. According to reports, after implementation of the nuclear deal, stable production recovery took 12–18 months, and most production capacity was restored. Compared to other historical shocks such as Abqaiq, this pattern showed a slower recovery speed but greater sustainability due to the lifting of sanctions.

According to the report, the average forecast of institutions such as the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), the International Energy Agency (IEA), and Rystad Energy indicates that the percentage of lost supply recovered three months after reopening will be only 70%, and six months after that it will be 88%. These figures imply a 12% gap even in the most optimistic sixmonth period.

Finally, analysts warn that if tensions resume, the risk of permanent damage to oil production capacity — documented in several of the five previous major supply shocks — will increase seriously. The report concludes that a quick recovery of the majority of production is likely, but full and sustainable restoration faces many technical, logistical, and geopolitical uncertainties.

Japan's reaction to sharp energy price volatility

Meanwhile, Japan is facing an unprecedented challenge in crude oil storage and has been forced to release its strategic reserves. With the disruption of tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz starting in late February, Japan's crude oil storage — traditionally importing over 1.7 million bpd from West Asia — has fallen sharply.

Data from the Petroleum Association of Japan show that Japan's crude oil stocks fell to below 58 million barrels at the end of March, a drop of 4.7 million barrels (7.5%) from February — a drawdown of 150,000 bpd. The downward trend continued in the first half of April, with stocks falling another 2.1 million barrels (about 120,000 bpd), and withdrawal rates are expected to accelerate in the second half of the month.

In response to this supply crisis, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry announced that from May 1 it will withdraw crude oil equivalent to 20 days of consumption from its national reserves, totalling about 36.5 million barrels. This move is intended to offset the sharp drop in imports from West Asia and the difficulty of securing alternative supplies from other regions such as the United States (where April shipments barely exceeded 400,000 bpd).

The outlook for oil products is also worrying. The Petroleum Association of Japan has stopped publishing weekly oil product storage data due to reporting accuracy problems. Thus, no precise picture of product stock levels exists, but sharply reduced refining runs and continued crude stock draws suggest a likely drop in product stocks. In short, Japan faces rapidly depleting commercial and strategic crude stocks, falling refining output, and opaque product inventory data. Government reserve releases are the only shortterm way to contain the energy crisis caused by the closure of the vital Hormuz artery.

Brent price forecast raised

After the shock in the Strait of Hormuz, Goldman Sachs raised its Brent price forecast for the fourth quarter of 2026 from $62 to $90 per barrel — a jump of nearly $30, showing how a supply shock pushes oil prices much higher, both through physical stock draws and through changes in longterm expectations. In the first component, the 14.5 million bpd drop in Persian Gulf crude production in April created an unprecedented deficit of 1112 million bpd.

The initial price effect of this supply cut is estimated at $54, but compensatory policies (release of floating sanctioned oil, strategic reserve drawdowns and refills), demand destruction (a 1.7 million bpd drop in global consumption in Q2 due to historic product price spikes), higher supply outside the Persian Gulf (mainly Russia and the US), and alternative pipeline supplies offset $36 of that pressure. Nevertheless, the net loss of 1,236 million barrels from global commercial stocks by the end of 2026 still adds $18 to time spreads and strongly widens the gap between spot prices and longdated contracts.

The second part of the price increase — $9 in longterm prices — stems from eroded confidence in future supply. Goldman Sachs attributes $2 of this to permanent scarring of 500,000 bpd of Persian Gulf production capacity, especially in Iraq. But the larger $7 comes from what is called a security premium. Before the tensions, global spare capacity was 3.7 million bpd, almost all concentrated in the Persian Gulf. Increased market disruption risk discounts that spare capacity. Assuming a risk adjustment of onehalf (halving effective spare capacity), the report adds another $7 to longterm prices — a concept market players call a "fear premium."

Reports emphasise that risks are skewed toward higher prices. In an adverse scenario, with Gulf exports normalising by the end of July, Brent could touch $100. In a very adverse scenario — if capacity damage reaches 2.5 million bpd (i.e., Hormuz flow does not recover above 70%) — prices could spike to $120. Even in an optimistic scenario with early normalisation, visible global stocks fall to their lowest since 2018, and prices will not stay below $80.

In this environment, Goldman Sachs warns that if the shock is prolonged, the historical linear relationship between stocks and prices will break, making nonlinear price jumps unavoidable. This structure indicates that the oil market has moved from a temporary logistical crisis into a period of redefining a permanent supply premium.

Diversification of crude supply sources in Asia

Asian countries, following disruptions in oil flow through the Strait of Hormuz, have stepped up efforts to diversify crude supply sources. Even if this vital passage is reopened today, tankers carrying West Asian oil will take about three to four weeks to reach East and Southeast Asian countries — a fact that has heightened energy security concerns in the region.

Indonesia plans to import about 410,000 bpd (150 million barrels in total) of crude from Russia by the end of this year. However, this covers only part of its energy needs, as Indonesia still imports about 1 million bpd of oil. Indonesian energy authorities have stated that besides Russia, they are also seeking crude and LNG from other partners, including the United States. State oil and gas company Pertamina has said its refineries are technically capable of processing Russian crude, and if the government decides, there is no obstacle to using it.

Meanwhile, Japan has decided to release about 36.5 million barrels from its strategic reserves to counter supply shortage risks. This move, equivalent to about 20 days of Japanese oil consumption, comes as Japan sourced about 94% of its imported oil from West Asia last year. The Japanese government has announced it is trying to secure more than half of its oil needs through routes not dependent on the Strait of Hormuz.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel suffers more casualties in southern Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ This comes amid a significant increase in Hezbollah's military operations that are being waged in response to the ongoing Israeli aggression against southern and eastern Lebanon, as well as the capital Beirut's southern suburbs.

The resistance movement has carried out another extensive series of operations involving loitering drones, rocket barrages, artillery fire, guided missiles, and air-defense systems against IOF targets across northern settlements and southern Lebanon. The attacks struck IOF military vehicles, troop concentrations, command positions, artillery installations, electronic warfare equipment, and military infrastructure.

Among the operations were confirmed drone strikes against multiple Namer armored vehicles and Humvee command vehicles, attacks on IOF troop gatherings in Metula, Al-Qaouzah, Debbine, and the vicinity of Al-Shaqif Castle, as well as strikes on the IOF near Yohmor al-Shaqif and Maroun al-Ras.

Hezbollah also attacked a newly established artillery bunker in Odaisseh, a drone-jamming radar system, and military infrastructure in Nahariya, the Krayot area north of Haifa, Safed, and Tiberias with rocket barrages.

The military operations further included large-scale rocket and artillery bombardments against IOF positions, coordinated drone attacks on military sites, and the use of swarms of loitering munitions against personnel and fortified positions. In addition, Hezbollah engaged two IOF Hermes 450 (Zik) drones operating over southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley with surface-to-air missiles.

The resistance movement reiterated its commitment to defend Lebanon and its people, particularly as the enemy continues to exceed all bounds through its aggression, while emphasizing that "this is the minimum duty required to deter it and prevent it from persisting in its dangerous objectives against Lebanon, its state, its people and its resistance."



Hezbollah's war media has published more FPV drone footage on its Telegram channel documenting its retaliatory attacks against the Israeli military.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah's operations room published the following statement on the IOF's alleged presence at the historic Al-Shaqif castle:

"With the significant negative impact that the footage released by the Resistance showing its operations against the (regime's) army forces has had on the morale of settlers within the occupation entity, the enemy's army sought desperately to obtain an image it could promote as an overwhelming victory, hoping to calm the fears of the settlers of the north. Its objective was the historic Al-Shaqif Castle in southern Lebanon, located approximately 4 km from the Lebanese-Palestinian border.

"For more than five days, the enemy launched a series of violent aerial attacks and intense artillery bombardments against Yohmor Al-Shaqif town and the surrounding villages with the aim of controlling them and occupying Al-Shaqif Castle. However, as soon as it advanced toward the southern outskirts of the town, it encountered heroic and fierce resistance and heavy fire from the Resistance fighters, preventing it from achieving its objective. The enemy therefore resorted to the eastern outskirts of the town, characterized by rugged terrain. At sunset on Saturday 30-05-2026, an (IOF) infantry unit infiltrated under heavy smoke cover from the eastern side of Al-Shaqif Castle, where the routes are concealed from view. The unit reached the castle and took a number of photographs, which the enemy quickly distributed on Sunday morning, claiming that it had occupied the castle, despite the fact that the castle was devoid of any military presence belonging to the Resistance.

"Since dawn yesterday (Sunday) and up to the time of issuing this statement, the enemy has been facing great difficulty in maintaining its forces in the vicinity of the castle, where these forces are positioned near the rest area below the castle. The Resistance is waging a battle of attrition against the enemy's army forces present in the area, and the forthcoming footage will prove this."

Elsewhere, the United States has called for an end to Hezbollah's attacks against the IOF, while Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri stressed that the Zionist regime must cease fire first.

According to Reuters, citing an American official, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with both Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding diplomatic negotiations between the two sides.

The U.S. official said that Rubio proposed that Hezbollah halt all (retaliatory) attacks in exchange for the Israeli regime refraining from escalating its operations in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

The report added that Aoun attempted to advance the proposal, but parliament speaker Nabih Berri insisted that the Zionist regime bears responsibility for ending the aggression first.

On Sunday, Berri stated: "I can guarantee a full and immediate commitment to a ceasefire by the resistance (Hezbollah), but who will ensure that the enemy stops its aggression on land, at sea, and in the air, and halts the destruction of villages?"

Lebanese officials have come under sharp criticism for holding direct talks with the Zionist regime as it continues to slaughter civilians. The government has not taken any action to halt the U.S.-backed aggression beyond statements of condemnation. Instead, it is holding talks at the Pentagon with Israeli officials to advance the regime's agenda of disarming Hezbollah, despite a ceasefire that took effect on April 17 and was later extended for an additional 45 days beginning May 17.

The resistance movement remains the only party in Lebanon actively deploying fighters on the front lines against the aggression. It is also the only domestic actor with the leverage and military capability to impose costs on the aggressor through retaliatory operations that have increased casualties among the occupying forces. Critics contend that force is the only language the Zionist regime responds to, arguing that military pressure is the most effective means of deterring further aggression.

History shows that passivity or continued engagement with the regime and its staunch backer, the United States, while widespread destruction is underway, only emboldens further Israeli aggression and occupation. This dynamic reflects the broader objective associated with the Zionist ideology, as seen in Palestine and, more recently, events in Gaza, the West Bank, and Syria, which is evidence of a pattern of expanding control over Arab territory.

Why Bahrain's monarchy treats its people as an enemy



From page 1 ▶ On May 8, sweeping overnight raids targeted the Shia community, arresting 41 citizens, including prominent religious scholars like Sheikh Mohammed Sanqour and Sheikh Ali Al-Sadadi. This hostile dragnet directly targets anyone expressing pro-resistance views.

The fatal reality of this system became clear when 32-year-old Sayed Mohamed Almosawi was killed in state custody, his returned body bearing horrific marks of torture.

The regime's desperation extended to Decree 31 of 2026, a coercive measure that abolished the independent Jaafari Endowments Directorate.

By subsuming these 1000-year-old Shia assets under a political council, the monarchy aims to dismantle the material foundations of the indigenous community.

This containment strategy is executed by an apparatus that systematically excludes Shias from senior roles in the military, judiciary, and intelligence bodies, packing the security forces with naturalized Sunni mercenaries imported from Pakistan and Jordan.

The campaign of manufactured statelessness

The weaponization of nationality has become the regime's primary tool for silencing dissent. On April 27, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued a directive stripping the citizenship of 69 individuals and their family dependents, rendering infants and grandchildren legally stateless.

The regime justified this collective punishment by claiming the targets sympathized with Iranian retaliatory strikes.

Showing its absolute intolerance for internal criticism, the monarchy immediately expelled three sitting parliamentarians from their seats for voting against the draconian decree.

This scale of arrests has been rare, and it includes the systematic clearing of imams from mosques and seminaries.

Normalization and the imperial shock absorber

This hyper-vigilance stems from a profound strategic miscalculation. By hosting the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet at Naval Support Activity Bahrain, the monarchy transformed the island into a primary logistics hub for Western and Israeli aggression in the Persian Gulf.

The signing of the 2020 Abraham Accords marked a total betrayal of Islamic solidarity and the core will of the Bahraini public, who remain fiercely pro-Palestinian.

By allowing its territory and airspace to serve the U.S.-Israeli axis, the Al Khalifa family turned the country into a physical shock absorber for foreign interests.

When Iranian precision-guided missiles targeted the American naval base on February 28, 2026, the deep rift between the palace and the street was laid bare.

Viral social media footage showed local Bahrainis cheering the missile impacts and distributing sweets in Shia villages, signaling that the indigenous population rejects the colonial base and sides with Iran and the Axis of Resistance.

Western hypocrisy and the broken social contract

A glaring double standard in Western foreign policy sustains the ongoing trauma of the Bahraini people.

While Washington and London aggressively lecture the world on democratic values, they provide billions of dollars in weapons and total diplomatic immunity to the autocrats in Manama.

The United Kingdom maintains its own naval base at HMS Juffair while turning a blind eye to mass executions, unfair trials, and the fact that more than two dozen political dissidents languish on death row.

The historical continuity of this struggle proves that force cannot buy permanent stability. In 2011, the regime nearly collapsed and was saved only by a foreign military lifeline, when 1,000 Saudi troops and 500 Emirati police crossed the causeway to crush peaceful demonstrators at the Pearl Roundabout.

15 years later, despite the imported enforcers and Western security guarantees, the Al Khalifa family remains trapped in a state of chronic insecurity, ruling through fear because they lack the organic consent of the nation.

Trump's incompetent diplomats and negotiators

Personal business ties and loyalty are Trump's yardstick for naming diplomats

From page 1 ▶ Jared Kushner, also a real estate developer, served as Trump's senior advisor and de facto special envoy during his first presidential term.

Kushner, who is also Trump's son-in-law, and Witkoff have been acting miserably as Trump's chief negotiators to put an end to the Ukraine war.

Witkoff's diplomatic performance in the Ukraine conflict has been widely criticized as incompetent, largely due to his lack of regional expertise and his go-it-alone negotiation style.

Writing in MS Now in September 2025, Steve Benen said, "When it came time for Donald Trump to choose a special envoy to work on ending Russia's war in Ukraine, the president had a small army of experienced, knowledgeable and qualified diplomats to choose from. The Republican tapped Steve Witkoff for the job instead."

Witkoff effectively admitted as much to Tucker Carlson during an interview in March. "I underestimated the complications in the job, that's for sure," he said. "I think I was a little bit quixotic in the way that I thought about it. Like, I'm going to roll in there on a white horse. And no, it was anything but that, you know."

In August 2025, Politico wrote, "Some frustrated U.S., Ukrainian and European officials say part of the problem is the go-it-alone style of Witkoff, Trump's special envoy for peace missions and go-to negotiator on Ukraine. He has refused to consult with experts and allies, leaving him uninformed at times and unprepared at others, according to seven people familiar with internal discussions. Two said he misses the mark by viewing the conflict through a real estate lens, like a land dispute."

Multiple reports have indicated Witkoff acted as a parallel Secretary of State, frequently failing to consult with seasoned diplomats and State Department experts.

Witkoff's diplomatic negotiations with Iran have proven catastrophic.

Prior to the U.S. air strikes on three of Iran's nuclear sites – Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan - with B-2 bombers in June 2025, Witkoff held two rounds of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. The first round was held on April 12 in Muscat and the second round on April 19. The two rounds were mediated by Oman.

Witkoff and his master suffered and still continue to suffer from the illusion that complicated issues can be resolved easily and in a short time.

After the June conflict, known as the 12-day war, Iran agreed to hold talks again with the U.S. side upon insistence by friendly countries and a willingness by Tehran not to shut the door to diplomacy. Anyhow, the talks were resumed in early February. This time, Kushner joined Witkoff. They formally met on February 6 and February 26. Though Omani Foreign Minister Badr Al Busaidi, as a mediator, wrote on X that the sides made "substantial progress" on a potential nuclear framework, the U.S. and Israel suddenly started a war of aggression against Iran to the surprise of the world on February 28.

Another incompetent Trump diplomat is Thomas Barrack, a real estate investor. Trump nominated Barrack, his longtime friend and property mogul, to serve as ambassador to Turkey.

Middle East Eye reported on May 31 that Barrack would also serve as Trump's special envoy to both Syria and Iraq.

Before being named special envoy to these two countries, he made frequent visits to Beirut after the ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel in November 2024. However, his trips produced no results. He only tried to deepen divisions between the rival Lebanese political factions that helped Israel to continue violating the ceasefire.



The violation of the ceasefire continued until the war broke out on March 2, 2026, following the U.S.-Israel war on Iran.

Barrack is notoriously famous for his reckless remarks when talking to reporters at the presidential palace in Baabda, Beirut, on August 26, 2025, when he used the word "animalistic" as reporters, like anywhere else in the world, competed to ask their questions. He told them: "Act civilized, act kind, act tolerant... The moment that this starts becoming chaotic, like animalistic, we're gone."

Trump's ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland, also a hotel developer, marked the beginning of the emergence of a rift between the Trump administration and the EU, especially after Trump scuttled the 2015 Iran nuclear deal despite warnings by European leaders.

Sondland bypassed traditional State Department channels to act as a direct negotiator on trade and Eastern European policy.

Using real estate developers as diplomats and envoys represents a distinct approach to international relations in Trump's administration. Rather than relying on standard diplomatic protocols, these appointments leverage transactional, high-stakes corporate negotiation tactics. This strategy frequently places personal loyalty and private-sector bargaining experience directly at the center of Trump's foreign policy.



A heartbreakingly quiet moment outside the Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada, on May 30, 2026. Dozens of framed portraits, each holding the face of a young schoolchild killed by the U.S. in the Minab school massacre, rest on the plaza floor alongside solitary flowers. Behind this memorial, a solemn crowd stands in solidarity, raising flags in a raw, deeply human display of collective grief.

Traditional cuisine seen as one of key drivers of tourism growth in Yazd province



TEHRAN - Officials in Iran's central province of Yazd have highlighted the growing importance of traditional cuisine in strengthening tourism and supporting local economic development, saying that promoting indigenous foods can help preserve cultural heritage while attracting more visitors to the region.

Speaking on the occasion of a recent local exhibition dedicated to traditional and regional foods, Seyyed Mohammad Rastegari, Director General of the Yazd Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said the province's culinary traditions represent an important yet often underutilized component of its tourism sector.

"Yazd possesses enormous capacities in various fields of tourism and cultural heritage, all of which function as interconnected parts of a single chain," Rastegari said. "If one sector faces challenges, it inevitably affects the others."

He stressed that even modest support for traditional food producers and culinary initiatives could have a positive impact on tourism. According to Rastegari, local cuisine forms an integral part of the visitor experience and contributes to the preservation of regional identity.

The official also expressed concern over changing eating habits, noting that the increasing popularity of fast food and processed meals has altered public tastes and reduced interest in traditional dishes. He said the trend has not only weakened culinary traditions but has also been linked to growing health concerns.

Rastegari emphasized the role of public exhibitions and direct engagement with local communities in reviving interest in indigenous foods. Such events, he said, provide opportunities to introduce traditional dishes, food products and related handicrafts to both residents and tourists.

"Exhibitions and direct interaction with the public play a significant role in expanding and revitalizing this sector," he said, adding that the department is prepared to cooperate with organizers of food-related events. A new exhibition focusing on traditional cuisine is scheduled to open in Yazd this week.

Tourism experts increasingly view gastronomy tourism as one of the fastest-growing segments of the global travel industry. Once considered a secondary aspect of travel, food tourism is now regarded as a major economic driver capable of generating employment, supporting local businesses and encouraging sustainable development.

Seyyed Alireza Salar Hosseini, Deputy Director of Tourism at the provincial Cultural Heritage Department, said gastronomy tourism has a direct and meaningful connection with local communities and economic resilience.

"Food tourism is, in the truest sense, the management of the value chain from farm to table," he said.

According to Salar Hosseini, culinary tourism introduces visitors to Yazd's customs, traditions and cultural practices while creating economic opportunities for farmers, food-processing enterprises and traditional workshops. By linking agriculture, food production and tourism, the sector can generate income that remains within local communities.

The focus on culinary heritage comes as Yazd continues to build on its reputation as one of Iran's most important cultural destinations. In July 2017, the historic city of Yazd was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, becoming internationally recognized for its unique desert architecture and centuries-old urban landscape.

Known for its mudbrick buildings, narrow alleyways, wind catchers, qanat water systems and historic monuments, Yazd is widely regarded as a living example of human adaptation to harsh desert conditions. The city's historic core contains bazaars, mosques, public bathhouses, water cisterns, synagogues, Zoroastrian fire temples and traditional gardens, reflecting a long history of cultural and religious coexistence.

Local officials and tourism experts believe that combining the province's rich culinary traditions with its renowned cultural heritage can further enhance Yazd's appeal to domestic and international travelers, creating new opportunities for sustainable tourism growth while safeguarding local traditions for future generations.

Minister calls for specialized handicrafts centers to boost urban economies



TEHRAN - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has called for the establishment of specialized handicrafts centers across major Iranian cities, describing them as a crucial missing link in the marketing and commercialization of products created by artisans and craftspeople.

Speaking at a joint meeting with mayors of Iran's major metropolitan areas on Sunday, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri emphasized the role of handicrafts and cultural industries in urban development, saying cities need dedicated venues for the display, promotion and sale of traditional crafts more than ever before.

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, focused on strengthening cooperation between municipal administrations and the ministry to promote sustainable urban development, protect historical heritage and improve tourism infrastructure.

"Cities across Iran require specialized centers for the presentation, exhibition and promotion of handicrafts," Salehi-Amiri said. "The creation of these centers can complete the missing link in the marketing and commercialization chain of products made by artists and craftspeople."

According to the minister, one of the most significant challenges facing Iran's handicrafts sector is the issue of sales and market access. While the country possesses a rich and diverse handicrafts tradition, many producers continue to face difficulties in reaching consumers and expanding their businesses.

Salehi-Amiri said handicrafts markets and exhibition centers could play a vital role in strengthening domestic demand, while the ministry is also seeking to expand access to international markets through the use of digital technologies, startups and innovative business models.

The minister then pointed to successful cooperation between the ministry and Tehran municipality as a model that could be replicated in other cities. He said agreements reached in the capital have demonstrated the benefits of closer coordination between cultural heritage institutions and urban management bodies.

"We are prepared to work with mayors and the ministry's specialized departments to achieve effective and sustainable agreements in different fields," he said.

The minister stressed that balanced urban development can only be achieved when the interests of citizens and the state are considered within a common framework. He argued that many challenges facing cities can be resolved through dialogue, mutual understanding and institutional cooperation.

"Experience has shown that there is no issue that cannot be resolved through discussion, agreement and shared determination," Salehi-Amiri said.

He outlined three principles for successful cooperation among public institutions: a genuine commitment to solving problems, acceptance of dialogue based on equality and mutual respect, and simultaneous consideration of public and governmental interests in policymaking and decision-making.

The minister also highlighted the importance of preserving the historical identity of Iranian cities amid ongoing urban expansion. He said urban development requires clear regulations and boundaries to ensure that cultural and archaeological heritage is protected.

"The historical identity of cities has been formed through evidence, research and archaeological investigations," he said. "This civilizational asset must be taken into account in all urban development plans."

His remarks come as Iran moves to strengthen its handicrafts sector through a newly approved national policy framework. Earlier this year, the government adopted a comprehensive document aimed at managing the entire handicrafts value chain, including production, distribution, marketing and exports.

Approved under Article 83 of Iran's Seventh Five-Year National Development Plan, the framework seeks to improve production conditions, expand domestic and international markets and enhance the role of handicrafts within the country's cultural and creative economy.

The document describes handicrafts as both an economic and cultural asset, emphasizing their role in preserving national identity and promoting Iranian-Islamic cultural values. Officials classify the sector as a key component of Iran's identity-based economy.

Tourism authorities report that Iran is home to 299 recognized handicraft disciplines grouped into 18 categories, making it one of the world's most diverse centers of traditional craftsmanship. Officials hope that stronger cooperation between municipalities and cultural heritage authorities, combined with expanded marketing opportunities, will help transform the sector into a more powerful contributor to urban economies, employment and sustainable development.

Mesr village nears global recognition as model of sustainable desert tourism

TEHRAN – The desert village of Mesr, located in Khur and Biabanak county in Iran's central Isfahan province, has successfully passed the preliminary stages of international evaluation and is now on the verge of being included in the United Nations Tourism (UN Tourism) program recognizing the Best Tourism Villages worldwide.

Renowned globally for its vast sand dunes, starry skies, and unique desert landscape, the village is currently pursuing the international title with the aim of showcasing its sustainable tourism potential and preserving its cultural heritage.

The combination of a pristine desert climate with active eco-tourism infrastructure in Mesr has demonstrated a successful model of sustainable development. Preserving traditional architecture, the involvement of the local community in the tourism industry, and adherence to environmental standards are among the key indicators that have propelled this village from thousands of potential tourism sites into the final shortlist.

According to local tourism experts, the village's dossier meets all necessary standards for candidacy. Its global registration is expected to mark the beginning of a new era in introducing Iran's Central Desert as a safe, unique, and attractive destination for nature enthusiasts and stargazers from all over the world.



Higher airfares and fewer visitors: How the Iran conflict is hitting Southeast Asia tourism

Tourism across Southeast Asia was finally recovering from the pandemic. Now, soaring fuel prices, flight disruptions, and growing economic uncertainty linked to the Iran conflict are threatening to slow demand just as the region enters its crucial summer travel season.

Cheap flights, backpacker hostels and beautiful beaches have helped make Southeast Asia one of the world's most resilient travel regions.

Now, though, as the fallout from the Iran conflict ripples through global energy markets, that identity is far less stable.

From rising airfares and fuel costs to falling visitor numbers in tourism-dependent economies such as Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, the region is discovering just how vulnerable summer travel remains to events unfolding miles away.

The equilibrium of its upcoming peak tourist summer season is in doubt, as ceasefire uncertainties continue to prompt flight cancellations and higher ticket prices.

A recovering region in chaos

Tourism in Asia has yet to fully recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, which hit the region particularly hard.

Just a few years later, Southeast Asia is finding the ongoing war's repercussions for global energy supplies and prices particularly difficult.

Tourism is an economic lifeline for many developing nations. In Thailand, it contributes nearly 13% of gross domestic product, and nearly 9% in Vietnam, and underpins millions of jobs in Cambodia.

Recently, though, the Thai Ministry of Tourism and Sports reported that the number of visitors to Thailand fell 7% year-on-year in April, while European arrivals fell almost 16% and Middle Eastern arrivals sank 57%.

In neighboring Cambodia, the tourism department says that, in the first four months of 2026, the number of recorded international and domestic visitors to popular Siem Reap dropped by 37.5% compared to the same period last year.

Travelers also bring in much-needed foreign currency for import-dependent economies such as the Philippines and Nepal.

Experts say that the conflict will determine which tourism businesses can survive long enough to benefit from the eventual return of travelers.

"This, happening within five years of each other, first the pandemic and now the war, is horrible for the tourism industry," Jitsai Santaputra of The Lantau Group, an energy industry consulting firm, told the Associated Press.

Jet fuel shortages and surging costs have led Vietnam Airlines, the Malaysia-based AirAsia group, Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific and other carriers to cut flights or re-adjust schedules.

European carriers, which ferry passengers to Asia, often via the Middle East, face a squeeze from similar issues.

Airspace closures across the Persian Gulf early in the war and the intermittent closures of certain airports cut off key layover locations for Asia-bound flights or forced commercial aeroplanes to take longer, costlier routes.

At the same time, airfares have jumped – and stayed high – with airlines like Air India and Cathay Pacific implementing sharp increases in fuel surcharges, often double the previous amounts.

That's causing significant unease among travelers, Lavinia Lau, Cathay's chief customer and commercial officer, told the AP.

She says that travelers are booking closer to their departure dates than before – something that indicates real uncertainty.

On the ground in Southeast Asia, rising fuel costs in tourism-dependent areas are also squeezing taxi and ride-hailing app drivers, with some recording significantly lower profits since the war began.

The United Nations Development Programme has warned that higher airfares and weaker travel confidence can quickly spill over into household livelihoods and public revenues in economies where visitor arrivals are a major source of jobs, income and foreign exchange.

Travel is often the first expense people cut when the economy worsens, said Le Tuyet Lan, who runs bed-and-breakfast properties in Vietnam's Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

In times of crisis, luxury travelers tend to shift toward midrange options, midrange travelers move toward budget hotels, and the cheapest tier of the market becomes the most vulnerable.

"This will disrupt the whole industry," Le Tuyet Lan told the AP.

(Source: euronews.com)

DOE to designate Miqan as Wetland of Intl. Importance



TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has nominated Miqan wetland in the central province of Markazi to be included in the list of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List), aiming to strengthen preservation and sustainable management of the site.

Referring to the favorable condition of the wetland, Amir Ansari, an official with the provincial DOE, said that despite environmental tensions, more than 20,000 native and migratory birds are spotted in the wetland, IRIB reported.

The preservation of the wetland is directly connected to the health and livelihood of the local people. The drying out of the wetland can lead to increased air pollution and fuel dust storms in the region; therefore, its restoration, protection, and sustainable management are of great importance, Ansari highlighted.

Miqan Wetland hosts around 12,000 migratory birds annually, including species arriving from Siberia. More than 16 percent of Iran's bird species and 60 percent of the bird species recorded in Markazi province inhabit the wetland.

Recent heavy rainfall, along with restoration projects, has increased water flow into many wetlands, including Miqan. The wetland's 12,000-hectare water body has been restored following years of drought.

According to the head of the DOE, Shina Ansari, the increase in precipitation has increased hope to secure water rights for wetlands, but it does not obviate the need for water management.

Without sustainable management of water resources and consumption patterns, the temporary rise in water supply cannot prevent environmental crises, IRNA quoted Ansari as saying.

To handle climate change impacts, mid-term and long-term plans to reduce water consumption in agriculture and industry sectors, as well as manage water consumption, water recycling, and wastewater treatment systems, should be put on the agenda, she added.

Moreover, rainfalls have increased greenery and vegetation growth, which in turn enhances the possible frequency of fires in summer. Therefore, it is essential to be ready for any difficult situations in the future, the official highlighted.

Ramsar sites are protected under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.

The convention establishes that "wetlands should be selected for the list on account of their international significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology, or hydrology.

As of March 2026, 172 states have designated 2,526 sites to the list, covering 253,150,727 hectares (625,549,070 acres).

Wetlands conservation projects

Wetlands represent a vital ecosystem and are known as the kidneys of the Earth. These ecosystems, among other things, provide clean water, protect against floods, restore underground aquifers, and maintain surface water flow during dry periods.

These lands are critical to people and nature, given the intrinsic value of these ecosystems, and their benefits and services, including their environmental, climate, ecological, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic contributions to sustainable development and human wellbeing.

Iran's geography is distinct, teeming with diverse landscapes. In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value, with an area of over 3 million hectares, have been identified, 27 of which were listed in the International Ramsar Convention.

In 2025, the DOE announced the beginning of a new phase of the wetlands conservation project (2025 –2028) to strengthen sustainable livelihoods and alleviate pressure on the wetlands ecosystem.

Backed by successful experiences in Lake Urmia, the basins in Gilan, Fars, Parishan, and those in East and West Azerbaijan provinces, the project has provided the basis for promoting wetland protection and improving sustainable resource utilization, IRIB quoted Fereshteh Jadori, an official with DOE, as saying on November 25, 2025.

The pilot implementation of the project in Shadegan and Behbahan in the previous phase yielded significant results, and these achievements led the project to enter a new phase with the support of international institutions and domestic agencies, she added.

The official went on to highlight the role of technical and vocational education and training in empowering local people to protect wetlands and improve their income.

The most recent strategies taken for the conservation of the wetlands are as follows. In June 2025, the DOE and the Ministry of Agriculture signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to launch a national plan for empowering local communities to protect and promote the sustainable use of wetlands.

In February 2025, the DOE and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) extended their partnership by signing a three-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) to conserve Iranian wetlands projects in the country.

The MOU was signed by the head of DOE, Shina Ansari, and Resident Representative ad interim for UNDP in Iran, Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, in a meeting in Bushehr province, ISNA reported.

Launched in 2005, the Conservation of the Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) has been instrumental in safeguarding Iran's target wetlands through an ecosystem-based management approach.

During the meeting, the UN Resident Coordinator for Iran, Stefan Priesner, said this MOU and its extension are among the most important pillars of wetlands conservation in the UN road map.

Iran plays a key role in establishing the Ramsar Convention, highlighting that the Ramsar Convention is one of the initial international agreements on sustainable development, he added.

The official went on to say, "We are facing a triple environmental crisis, including climate change, biodiversity crises, and air pollution. The United Nations has a precise and coherent plan to solve these three problems."

Rainfall increases by 2.9% compared to long-term average



TEHRAN – Since the beginning of the current Iranian year, March 21, till May 30, the country has received 225.4 mm of rain, indicating an increase of 2.9 percent compared to 218.9 mm of rain recorded in the long term, according to the Meteorological Organization.

From March 21 to May 30, the country has received 70.2 mm of rain, which shows an increase of 22 percent in comparison to the 57.2 mm amount recorded in the long term, ISNA reported.

From May 22 to 30, one mm of rain is recorded on average across the country; compared to the long-term amount of 2.4, the precipitation has lowered by 60.1 percent.

Since the beginning of the current water year, September 23, 2025, till May 30, precipitation has been above normal in 14 provinces of the country. Recorded rainfall in Hormozgan and South Khorasan provinces has increased by 76.7 percent and 48.5 percent, respectively.

Despite increased rainfall, 17 provinces of the country are still struggling with water scarcity.

Tehran, Qom, and Semnan provinces have recorded the lowest amount of rainfall, receiving 39, 33.5, and 33.3 percent less rain than the normal amount.

El Niño can lead to normal precipitation in fall

As Iran has entered the El Niño phase, particularly in spring and summer, precipitation is forecast to be low in the southeast of the country in summer, but normal in fall, Ahad Vazifeh, the head of the Meteorological Organization, has said.

Currently, El Niño and La Niña phases are in neutral conditions, that is, the difference between the temperature of the water in the surface of the Pacific Ocean and 200 meters below the surface of the ocean, in central and eastern parts, is less than 0.5 degrees cooler compared to a normal situation, which indicates neutral conditions, he added.

However, based on simulated models, the temperature of water at the surface of the ocean is predicted to get more than 0.5 degrees warmer, and enter El Niño Southern Oscillation phase, ISNA quoted Vazifeh as saying.

The situation is not expected to affect summer much as summers are mostly dry in the country; rainfalls in the southern half of Sistan-Baluchestan, east of Hormozgan, and south of Kerman will be less than normal.

Precipitation in the fall will be influenced by El Niño and are projected to be normal, unlike last year, in which rainfall dropped significantly.

'El Niño' or "the boy" is widely used to describe the warming of sea surface temperature that occurs every few years, typically concentrated in the central-east equatorial Pacific.

'La Niña' or "the girl" is the term adopted for the opposite side of the fluctuation, which sees episodes of cooler than average sea surface temperature in the equatorial Pacific.

25 more rare diseases identified in Iran

TEHRAN – Twenty-five more rare diseases have been identified in the country, bringing the total to 518, according to an official with the Rare Disease Foundation.

A committee, run by the Rare Disease Foundation and comprising distinguished professors and faculty members from medical universities, is responsible for accurately diagnosing rare diseases, IRNA quoted Hossein Afra as saying.

A rare disease is defined as an illness that affects less than 5 in 10,000 citizens, and is mainly of genetic origin, with 70 percent of these conditions starting in childhood.

Diseases such as 'butterfly skin or EB', 'Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)', 'Metabolic diseases', 'Autism', 'Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)', 'Dystrophies', Diabetes, cancer, 'Mucopolysaccharidoses (MPS)', and immune deficiency diseases are among rare diseases.

The development of the atlas of rare diseases in Iran is one of the main achievements of the commission, he added. So far, the commission has released 4 volumes on neurology, metabolism, and genetics; the fifth volume will be published in the near future.

Developing insurance coverage for identified rare diseases, implementing a national document on rare diseases, and promoting social support for families of patients with rare diseases to lower financial burden and mitigate psychological distress are among the top priorities of the health system in the current Iranian year, which started on March 21, the official further noted.

According to the health ministry, about two million patients with rare and hard-to-treat diseases are covered by the Health Insurance Organization.

The Rare Disease Foundation also covers the patients, IRNA quoted Sajjad Razavi, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of the national day of rare and hard-to-treat diseases observed annually on the 18th of Ordibehesht, the second Iranian calendar month, which falls on May 8.

To safeguard the patients' health and lower financial burden on households, tens of specialized healthcare service packages have been defined for them, with some more being continuously developed.

The packages include diagnostic, therapeutic, pharmaceutical, rehabilitation, and dental services, whether in the form of outpatient or inpatient services, which are provided with minimal deductibles or free of charge.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), rare diseases are often complex and multi-systemic, affecting multiple organs and leading to comorbidities, and many of these conditions are chronic, progressive, and can consequently result in serious disabilities and premature death.

Out of a thousand population, 2 people get a rare disease, while the prevalence can be curbed by changing people's culture, screening, identifying, preventing births, and raising awareness.

Despite lower prevalence, rare and hard-to-treat diseases are among the top health priorities due to difficulties in their diagnosis and treatment.

There are no cures for rare diseases, and patients with rare diseases need supportive care and rehabilitation services throughout their lives. Hence, the day highlights the need for coherent planning, the development of recurrent specialized services, genetic counselling, the expansion of insurance coverage, and social support.

Among rare diseases, cancers are the most expensive ones covered by the Rare Disease Foundation; 70 percent of the funds are allocated to cancer-related medicines. The rise in cancers highlights the need for the development of preventive programs, early detection, targeted screening, and fair access to health services.

Promoting health literacy, strengthening the referral system, and expanding preventive services are key factors in lowering mortality among patients.

The budget allocated to rare and hard-to-treat diseases has increased over the past few years, rising from 50 trillion rials (about 33 million dollars) in the first year to 120 trillion rials (about 75 million dollars) this year.

Parliament of Students to establish a network of 5,000 volunteers

TEHRAN – Launched by the Welfare Organization, the Parliament of Students is set to develop a network of 5,000 students who are all under the organization's support services.

The main objectives of the Parliament of Students are to recognize and acknowledge the fundamental right of adolescents to actively participate in making decisions that affect their lives, IRNA quoted Arezou Zokaeifar, an official with the Welfare Organization, as saying.

It aims to engage with the target community to accurately identify challenges from their perspective, and to transform the students from passive beneficiaries to active agents, she noted.

The output can lead to revisions to directives and changes in the way services are provided to suit the real needs of adolescents, the official highlighted.

The Parliament of Students will contribute to strengthening different skills such as conversation skills, critical thinking, teamwork, emotional intelligence, effective communication, strategic thinking, media literacy, problem-solving, and meeting management. It will also help them get familiar with administrative and governance laws, Zokaeifar said.

The long-term goal of the Parliament of Students is to train and empower a new generation of managers who have first-hand experiences of challenges in Welfare Organization and are capable of managing different social sectors in the future, she added.

The creation of participatory organizations, such as the Parliament of Students, will have a great role in boosting social participation and collective policymaking among students.

Studies show that those students who have the experience of activity in participatory organizations will be more prepared in the future to take social responsibilities and roles.

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

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

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

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

The organization has brought dignity and



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

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

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

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

TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430

Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran **P.o. Box:** 14155-4843 **Zip Code:** 1599814713

JUNE 2, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Liberality is better than kinship, and a liberal man is kinder than a relative.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:02 Evening: 19:36 Dawn: 3:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:49 (tomorrow)

Palestinian artist reframes Gaza's viral images in new Minneapolis exhibit

Minnesota's arts calendar is packed this weekend with live music, outdoor festivals and cultural celebrations across Indigenous and Asian communities.

In Minneapolis, a new exhibit features Palestinian American artist Lamia Abukhadra, whose paintings reflect on how images from Gaza are captured, circulated and experienced online, Sahan Journal reported.

At Minneapolis' Hair + Nails, 28 local and national artists will debut new work in the contemporary art gallery's second annual Painting Show.

Among them is Lamia Abukhadra, whose featured work asks how viewers engage with images of violence in the endless scroll of social media.

Her oil painting is based on a photograph of a painting by Palestinian artist Dina Mattar, shown amid rubble and twisted metal after the destruction of a contemporary art gallery in Gaza where it was once displayed.

Abukhadra, who serves as arts and communications director for the St. Paul-based organization Mizna, examines what can be lost when Palestinian photographs are viewed primarily as documentation of violence, overlooking the risk and creativity behind the lens.

Born in Minneapolis, Abukhadra moved to Beirut, Lebanon in 2019 for an arts fellowship. During her six years there, she lived through the COVID-19 pandemic, political unrest and recurring power outages as conflict escalated in the region.

Many days were spent waiting for the electricity to return, gathering outside with neighbors for air during outages and forming close friends with fellow artists as they attended protests across the city.

"The amount of images being produced from people just holding smart phones and sharing them really exploded," Abukhadra said. "It corresponded with this desire to tell the world about what's happening. There isn't much you can do about the situation except witness it."

In one ongoing series, Abukhadra focuses on photographs taken from behind windows, where glass functions as both a barrier and a lens. Across Palestinian photography, she said she has noticed recurring visual patterns — windows, edges, silhouettes and partial framing — that emerged while documenting violence and resistance.

"People don't want to get too close to the event because they're either scared for their lives or scared they'll be seen filming," she said. "The images often reflect the conditions in which they were taken."

By translating digital photographs into oil paint, Abukhadra slows the pace at which such images are typically viewed online. She asks viewers to investigate what lies behind the frame, using painting as a way to question the cultural narratives within Palestinian images.

"I really think art has as much value as any other practice or research, in that art is the base for which the imaginary can open up possibilities or connections that we wouldn't necessarily see without it," Abukhadra said. "We can't stop art in order to take action. We have to do them together."

Cartoon of Day



Trump

Cartoonist: Gergely Bacsa from Hungary

Hand in Hand International Anthem Festival to kick off in Basra

By Samaneh Aboutalebi



TEHRAN- The fourth edition of the Hand in Hand International Anthem Festival is scheduled to take place in the Iraqi port city of Basra later this week on the occasion of Eid al-Ghadir, organizers announced in a press conference held in Art Bureau in Tehran on Monday.

Speaking at the event, Ahmad Torfi, the director of the Iraq and International Working Group at the Art Bureau, traced the festival's roots back four years. "The idea was born from a desire to create a specialized anthem event within Iran and then expand it to friendly neighboring countries including Iraq," Torfi said. He emphasized that the initiative is built upon the deep civilizational, cultural, and historical ties between the two nations.

"The solidarity between the Iraqi people and Iranians, particularly during recent conflicts and Ramadan War, demonstrates the profound bond between our nations," he added.

He noted that the festival serves as a platform for anthem groups from both countries to exchange expertise and collaborate. Despite the ongoing regional crises, organizers insisted on holding the event, recalling that last year's edition successfully proceeded even during the 12-Day War.

For his part, Hojjatoleslam Sheikh Raad al-Bahili, director of the South Cultural and Artistic Center in Basra, noted that organized ritual and artistic programs in Basra flourished after the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. He highlighted that the South Cultural Center was established following the vision of the late martyr Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis to institutionalize such cultural movements.

"This year, due to the sensitive situation in Iran, Lebanon, and Palestine, and given the immense importance of Eid al-Ghadir, the festival will be concentrated into a high-quality one-day event in the center of Basra province," Sheikh Bahili explained.

The festival, which has historically hosted groups from Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, and various Iraqi provinces, will this year feature five prominent groups from Bahrain, Lebanon, Iran, and Iraq. Notable participants include the renowned Bahraini singer Muhammad Ghaloum, famous for his work on "Salam Ya Mahdi," and Iraqi artist Ashraf al-Tamimi.

Representing the Islamic Republic of Iran, the acclaimed "Zahraeioun" and "Mukhtar" anthem groups will perform at the event. Organizers emphasized that the festival is non-competitive; instead, it serves as a showcase where distinguished groups are honored and invited for future collaborations.

Beyond the musical performances, the festival will feature side events, including calligraphy and painting workshops and exhibitions conducted by Iranian artists. The organizers expect a massive public turnout, noting that previous editions have drawn between 4,000 and 5,000 attendees annually.

The press conference concluded with the official unveiling of the festival poster, marking the final countdown to the event in Basra.

Eid al-Ghadir is one of the most significant spiritual and historical milestones in the Islamic calendar, marking the day when Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) formally designated Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) as his successor and the Imam after himself following an order from God. This event took place at Ghadir Khum, a location between Mecca and Medina, during the Prophet's return from his Farewell Hajj (Hajjat al-Wida).

Standing before thousands of Muslims, the Prophet delivered a profound sermon, famously declaring, "Of whomsoever I am the Mawla (master/leader), this Ali is also his Mawla." For Shias, this proclamation is viewed as the divine completion of the religion and the establishment of the Imamate, ensuring the continuity of spiritual and political guidance for the Ummah.

Today, Eid al-Ghadir is celebrated with immense joy and devotion as the "Greatest Eid of God" (Eid-ullah al-Akbar). It serves as a powerful symbol of justice, leadership, and the unbreakable bond between the Prophet's lineage and the faithful.

The day is characterized by various traditions, including the "Feeding of Ghadir" (offering meals to the community), visiting the descendants of the Prophet (Sayyids), and reciting poems of praise. Beyond the festivities, the holiday carries a deep message of loyalty and commitment to the values of truth and equity represented by Imam Ali (AS), inspiring Muslims to uphold these principles in their daily lives and social structures.

Iranian short film "Pasta Alfredo" competing in Albanian festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian short film "Pasta Alfredo" directed by Leila Noee is competing in the 13th Dea Open Air International Film Festival, which was launched on June 1 in Tirana, Albania.

A 2025 production, the 9-minute drama is present in the Student Film Program of the festival, ILNA reported.

The film shows Niloufar, a 14-year-old girl from a middle-class urban family in Iran, who is recovering from a serious illness—one that no longer confines her, yet has led her to withdraw from the outside world by choice.

Within a household marked by emotional distance—a restless mother, an irritable father—she longs to rekindle warmth and connection. On a quiet afternoon, she prepares a symbolic birthday party for her cat and cooks pasta, small gestures of care in a space that has forgotten tenderness. But as her gestures fade into silence, loneliness draws her deeper into the dark.

The cast includes Mohanna Seyyedi, Saeed Nejati, Sima Khanvakili, Barbod Farshidzadeh, and Mohammadreza Aryansadr.

Leila Noee is a filmmaker from Mashhad with a Master's degree in Media Management and a background in cultural journalism. For years, she worked as a writer and editor in the field of arts and culture, where her passion for human-centered storytelling—especially narratives involving children and adolescents—led her toward filmmaking.

After completing specialized training at the Soureh Film Club and the Iranian Youth Cinema Society, she embraced cinema as a medium to explore her social, cultural, and emotional concerns. Her films reflect a deep interest in everyday realities, emotional nuance, and the inner lives of young people. "Pasta Alfredo" is her second short film.

The 13th edition of Dea Open Air aims not only to present films in competition, but also to create an international space for communication among filmmakers, students, critics, scholars, and audiences. Throughout the festival, professional meetings, discussions, and activities fostering cultural exchange and reflection on contemporary developments in cinema will take place.

This year's edition of the festival will wrap up on June 5.

Red Crescent members honored at "Particles of Chaos" performance in City Theater

TEHRAN- The main hall of Tehran's City Theater Complex hosted a distinguished group of rescue workers, volunteers, and youth members from the Red Crescent Society of Tehran province on Sunday night for a special performance of play "Particles of Chaos."

The event, marking the ninth night of the play's run, was attended by several cultural officials, including Atabak Naderi, the Director General of Performing Arts at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and Mohammad Sadeq Kouchakzadeh, the Artistic Deputy of the Art Bureau.

Following the performance, the play's writer and director, Ebrahim Poshte Kouhi, took to the stage to address the audience. He noted that "Particles of Chaos" recently represented Iran at a major international theater festival in Iraq, where it received critical acclaim and standing ovations. "It is a great honor for us to host such an insightful audience tonight for a project centered on Iran and the Persian Gulf," Poshte Kouhi stated.

In a tribute to the Red Crescent members who were active during the recent conflict, the director remarked: "Some people simply move through time, but others strive to move within the depth of time. Tonight, the cast and crew of 'Particles of Chaos' are honored to host noble individuals from the Red Crescent Society who, in my view, moved within the depth of time during the recent imposed war."

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.