

TEHRAN TIMES

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A general view of the meeting room ahead of a quadrilateral meeting between the U.S., Iran, Pakistan, and Qatar at the Lake Lucerne Summit, aimed at advancing a deal to end the Middle East conflict, at Buergenstock Resort Lake Lucerne, near Stansstad, Switzerland, June 21, 2026.

No Photo Op: Iran Wants Action, Not Handshakes

Iran rejects a symbolic handshake with US officials in Geneva, insisting that progress on implementing the recent MoU matters more than diplomatic optics

Pezeshkian: Iran will not back down on uranium enrichment rights

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian has stressed that Iran will never abandon its nuclear rights in negotiations with the United States.

"We will not forgo our right to enrich uranium, and the other side will have no choice but to accept this right," Pezeshkian said at the 33rd Monetary and Banking Policy Conference held at the premises of the Central Bank of Iran in Tehran on Sunday. ▶ Page 2

Medvedev warns Israel may seek to undermine Iran-US MoU

TEHRAN- Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, has warned that Israel may attempt to derail the recently signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States, arguing that the accord reflects Washington's inability to achieve its military objectives against Tehran.

In a statement published on social media on Saturday, Medvedev said that despite extensive missile strikes and the targeted killing of senior Iranian officials during the conflict, the United States failed to secure a decisive victory.

According to the Russian official, Israel emerged from the war dissatisfied with its outcome and could seek to undermine the agreement through actions aimed at escalating regional tensions.

Medvedev specifically accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of attempting to weaken the deal through military operations in Lebanon ▶ Page 2

The price of choosing war over diplomacy

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

HAFIZABAD, Pakistan - For decades, American presidents, despite their differences, avoided a direct war with Iran. They understood that another conflict in the Middle East could drain resources, deepen instability, and pull the United States into a crisis with no clear end. They said no. But Donald Trump said yes.

This confrontation was never truly about America's national interest. Washington stepped into a conflict that served the strategic goals of Israel far more than those of the American people. While American taxpayers carried the financial burden and American forces faced the risks, the promised benefits for the United States remained difficult to see.

War is easy to start. Peace is much harder to build.

At a time when diplomacy still had a chance, military action pushed negotiations into the background. Opportunities for dialogue were replaced by rising tensions, uncertainty in global markets, and fears of a wider regional conflict. Every missile launched carried not only a military cost but also an economic and political price.

Israeli casualties mount in southern Lebanon

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Israeli military announces two more soldiers were killed and dozens were injured amid clashes and ambushes by Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

According to the spokesperson for the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), a soldier has been killed and more than twelve others injured, all of whom belonged to the elite Maglan Unit.

The IOF also confirmed the death of another elite soldier, bringing the military death toll since Thursday to at least six. Israeli media reported that dozens more troops have been wounded over the same period, some in critical condition.

Since the Israeli escalation of aggression in Lebanon began on March 2, nearly 40 IOF troops have been killed and more than 1,000 others wounded in fierce fighting with Hezbollah.

Military experts say the actual death toll is likely higher, arguing that the regime's strict wartime media censorship limits reporting on military casualties.

The little girl from Gaza who became a global reckoning

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN - For three agonizing hours on January 29, 2024, a five-year-old girl named Hind Rajab was the only living soul in a car filled with the bodies of her family.

Israeli tank fire had devastated their vehicle in Gaza City. Wounded and terrified, she stayed on the phone with emergency dispatchers and begged for rescue.

When a fully coordinated ambulance crew finally arrived, it too was obliterated by military fire.

Hind was killed alongside the paramedics. Her name could have become just another statistic in Israel's genocidal war. Instead, her final pleas sparked a legal catastrophe for the forces that killed her.

The Hind Rajab Foundation transformed her memory into a relentless transnational accountability campaign.

By mid-2026, the foundation had filed over 90 criminal complaints across 30 jurisdictions, spanning from Ecuador and Brazil to Sri Lanka and Romania. ▶ Page 5

Iran's resistance will have a systematic impact on US hegemony

By Dr. Jin Liangxiang

SHANGHAI - The past 100 days have witnessed Iran's most resolute resistance to joint U.S.-Israeli aggression. While the bravery shown by the Iranian people in this war against two hegemonic powers will be remembered by history, the implications for the future international order will be deep and far-reaching, manifesting in many ways. Perhaps the most profound of these is that U.S. hegemony will be systematically impacted.

First, the U.S. global strategic framework will be seriously shaken. Europe, the Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East are key pillars of U.S. global strategy, and all have been severely affected by this war.

NATO is a crucial strategic pillar for the U.S. in maintaining its global influence and hegemony. However, in recent years, U.S. policies on defense cost-sharing. ▶ Page 3

SCO education ministers censure attacks on Iran's scientific centers

TEHRAN - The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Education Ministers have condemned military attacks on Iran's civilian infrastructure, particularly scientific and educational centers, in the final statement of the tenth meeting, held in Minsk, Belarus, on June 16 and 17.

The SCO member states reviewed the presented reports and documents by Iran, voicing their deep concern over airstrikes on educational, research, and civilian infrastructures.

Referring to the SCO's prior stance, the statement highlighted the unacceptability of the use of force and the need to adhere to the principles of international humanitarian law.

SCO education ministers also called for the respect for the security of the scientific and educational centers and the protection of science against the consequences of the conflicts. ▶ Page 7



Robustness of Iran's food security structure proven during crises: agriculture minister

TEHRAN- The minister of agriculture, emphasizing the high resilience of the country's food security system, stated: Despite wars and domestic and international challenges over the past year, not the slightest disruption has occurred in ensuring Iran's food security, and now, relying on science and technology, dependencies in strategic areas must be reduced. ▶ Page 4

Chinese translation of Nizami's "Khamasa" unveiled at 32nd Beijing International Book Fair

TEHRAN - The complete Chinese translation of "Khamasa" (The Five Treasures), the most renowned work of Nizami Ganjavi, was unveiled on the sidelines of the 32nd Beijing International Book Fair in China.

Through the efforts of the Cultural Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran in China, and following the translation of works such as "Khosrow and Shirin," "Eskandar Nameh" (The Book of Alexander), and "Makhzan al-Asrar" in 2025, the publication of "Haft Peykar" (The Seven Beauties) and "Layla and Majnun" has now completed the Chinese translation of Nizami's timeless masterpiece "Khamasa".

The collection was unveiled during Iran Cultural Day (June 20) at the fair, in the presence of numerous Chinese and Iranian Iranologists, literary figures, professors, and researchers, ILNA reported. ▶ Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The Iran-US memorandum of understanding benefits Iran

Arman-e-Emrooz analyzed the text of the Iran-US memorandum of understanding and, quoting international affairs analyst Salah al-Din Khadiv, wrote: The publication of the full Islamabad memorandum ended many speculations. From any angle, the text appears more beneficial to Iran. So far, the only tangible concession the United States has gained is the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran, however, not only sees its ports unblocked but also receives sanctions exemptions and access to part of its frozen assets. Undoubtedly, this outcome is the product of Tehran's improved strategic position after the war and the attacker's inability to convert overwhelming military superiority into strategic dominance. The success of the current initiative depends on maintaining this balance. Iran's relative advantage in the current process hinges on preserving the leverage of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's effort to impose a new regime on this waterway aims to maintain its deterrent capacity against any future aggression.

Ettelaat: Netanyahu's fate lies in Trump's hands

Ettelaat examined the uncertainty surrounding Netanyahu's potential re-election. A report reposted by Trump from Just News claims that Netanyahu's chances in the fall 2026 elections depend heavily on Trump's stance, and that the US president now holds significant levers to influence Netanyahu's political future. Trump told Kan News that he will "probably" support Netanyahu. This statement is effectively a political warning, as Trump has repeatedly criticized Israel's handling of the wars—especially in Lebanon—arguing that it has harmed US efforts to stabilize the region. Trump views the recent US-Iran agreement as a key part of his strategy to end the conflicts, reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and ease pressure on global energy markets. Therefore, any Israeli action that disrupts this process could provoke strong dissatisfaction from him.

Farhikhtegan: Trump admits sanctions have backfired

In recent days, Trump and J.D. Vance have made notable remarks about the mutual damage the United States has suffered from sanctions on Iran. During a press conference in France at the end of the G7 summit, Trump said regarding the release of Iran's blocked funds: "We took a lot of their money, and we have their money. It's not our money; it's theirs, and we froze it at a certain point. I think we should give it back. If we don't, no one will ever invest in the dollar again." In other words, Trump justified the move as necessary to preserve global trust in the

US-Iran agreement could advance Palestinian cause, Al-Barghouti says



TEHRAN— Mustafa Barghouti, Secretary-General of the Palestinian National Initiative Movement, has said the recent agreement between Iran and the United States could positively influence the Palestinian cause by easing regional tensions and creating conditions more conducive to addressing Palestinian concerns.

In an interview with Arabi21, Barghouti stressed that Palestinian factions remain united on the need to fully implement the

US dollar, acknowledging that permanently seizing another country's assets could undermine confidence in the dollar-based international financial system. Even if Trump's shift in tone is partly for domestic consumption, it reflects global realities: declining trust in the United States and the gradual trend toward de-dollarization triggered by the weaponization of the dollar for sanctions.

Shargh: The agreement faces a difficult test

Shargh analyzed the challenging environment surrounding the new agreement. Escalating clashes between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon have placed the fresh US-Iran deals under their first serious test. On Thursday, J.D. Vance sharply responded to Israeli criticism of Trump, urging Israelis to "open their eyes." He reminded them that over the past three months, two-thirds of the defensive weapons protecting Israel were American-made and paid for by US taxpayers—an unvarnished reminder of Israel's security dependence on Washington. Trump, just hours before the agreement was announced, harshly criticized Netanyahu for strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, saying such actions could have derailed the negotiations. This is the core contradiction: the US wants to preserve the agreement with Iran; Israel wants to maintain freedom of action in Lebanon and the wider region; Hezbollah wants to show it still has the ability to strike. If the new agreement is to endure, it must survive these difficult tests.

Iran: The Leader's message as a guiding light for negotiations with the US

The message of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution regarding the Iran-US memorandum can be seen as a roadmap for how to proceed with one of the country's most important political issues in recent months. The message emphasizes deep distrust toward the United States and the principle of reciprocal action. At the same time, it expresses the highest level of confidence and explicit support for President Masoud Pezeshkian and his commitment—at the head of the Supreme National Security Council—to national interests and the system's defined frameworks. Perhaps the most important political point in the message is the warning against allowing the memorandum to become a source of internal conflict or polarization. The Leader's message presents three complementary principles to the public: vigilance toward the United States, trust in responsible officials, and avoiding the transformation of a national issue into partisan strife.

first phase of the Gaza agreement before moving forward with subsequent stages. He described the consensus among Palestinian groups as a critical factor in sustaining diplomatic efforts aimed at securing a lasting ceasefire and alleviating humanitarian suffering in the Gaza Strip.

Barghouti accused Israel of obstructing the implementation of the agreement and called on international mediators to intensify efforts to ensure compliance with existing commitments.

Commenting on the recent US-Iran agreement, Barghouti argued that efforts to halt the broader regional conflict reflect the failure of the military objectives publicly pursued by the United States and Israel. He said the emerging diplomatic process could help reshape regional dynamics in a manner that benefits the Palestinian cause.

Barghouti further maintained that reduced regional tensions could hinder initiatives that, in his view, were designed to marginalize the Palestinian issue and reinforce Israel's strategic dominance in the region. He expressed hope that ongoing diplomatic developments would create new opportunities for advancing Palestinian rights and securing a just and lasting resolution to the conflict.

Netanyahu's 'hallucinations': Israeli poll finds Iran clear winner of war

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has exposed Benjamin Netanyahu's efforts to derail the recent memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States, as the embattled Israeli prime minister seeks to cling to power by inflaming regional tensions.

Pezeshkian said on Sunday that Netanyahu is among those opposed to talks between Tehran and Washington. Referring to Israel's continued strikes in Lebanon and Gaza, he noted that the Israeli premier does not want peace and stability to take hold in the region.

The Iranian president said the "enemy" is attempting to create division and discord within the country.

"An examination of the plans and strategies drawn up by Netanyahu and the CIA suggests that their primary aim is to sow division within the country and undermine national unity and cohesion."

Pezeshkian's warning comes as Iran and the United States hold talks in Geneva to press for the implementation of a 14-point MoU. The negotiations are aimed at turning the MoU into a binding agreement to bring a permanent end to the joint US-Israeli aggression against Iran that began on February 28.

The first paragraph of the MoU clearly stipulates that Israel must stop its strikes in Lebanon. However, the Netanyahu government has continued military operations in Lebanon, kill-



ing dozens of people since it was signed by President Pezeshkian and his American counterpart Donald Trump on Wednesday.

Netanyahu's motives for sabotaging political engagement between Iran and the United States can be better understood in the context of recent reports in Israeli and American media, as well as remarks by Israeli officials.

Earlier this month, Israel HaYom reported that Iran had emerged stronger from the war, while Israel had emerged weaker. It also stated that Iran had won the war strategically.

According to a survey published on Sunday, more than 90 percent of respondents believe Iran has won the war launched by the United States and Israel on February 28.

The poll, conducted between June 17 and 20 by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in collaboration with the Agam Institute, also found that nearly 83 percent believe the war

weakened Israel's long-term security. In addition, over 72.5 percent said they do not believe Netanyahu's claims that Israel achieved significant gains, while 87.8 percent said Israel failed to achieve its objectives or achieved only partial success.

The war on Iran and Israel's continued strikes in Lebanon have also widened divisions within the Israeli establishment.

Former Israeli defense minister Moshe Ya'alon told Channel 12 that Tel Aviv is "paying the price for Netanyahu's hallucinations."

Ya'alon said Netanyahu is prolonging the war in Lebanon for "private and partisan political interests." Benny Gantz, another former defense minister, also criticized Netanyahu, calling for his removal from power.

Last week, opposition leader Yair Lapid also criticized Netanyahu for failing to deliver on his pledge of a "historic victory" through regime change in Iran.

In addition to Netanyahu, oth-

er Israeli politicians are infuriated by the MoU between Iran and the United States, believing Iran has secured concessions and pushed Israel into a corner.

Lapid and his coalition partner Naftali Bennett are seeking to capitalize on growing public anger in Israel over the MoU, as Israel prepares to hold elections before October.

Following the signing of the MoU, US intelligence agencies warned that Netanyahu may seek to undermine it.

Citing US intelligence officials, The Washington Post reported that, ahead of elections in Israel, Netanyahu's political survival is linked to showing his domestic audience that he will not withdraw troops from Lebanon and intends to escalate fighting with Hezbollah.

Netanyahu, who is facing corruption charges, now finds himself between a rock and a hard place. If he abandons his confrontational policies, it could mark a severe blow to his political career. If he continues to disrupt Iran-US engagement by escalating operations in Lebanon, he risks plunging Israel and the United States into a regional quagmire, with consequences far greater than those of the recent conflict paused by the April 8 ceasefire.

Israeli leadership is split after the war with Iran. In this context, Netanyahu risks being turned into a scapegoat as efforts grow to gloss over Israel's strategic setbacks.

Pezeshkian: Iran will not back down on uranium enrichment rights

From page 1 ▶ Pezeshkian clarified that Washington's sole demand is that Iran must not possess an atomic bomb, a position he said is fully consistent with Tehran's declared policy. He noted that the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, had repeatedly stated that Iran neither seeks nor intends to develop nuclear weapons.

Pezeshkian made the remarks as Iranian and US delegations continue negotiations in Geneva following the signing of a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday.

Iran has repeatedly stated that it will not accept a US "zero enrichment" policy, while

also insisting that its stockpile of highly enriched uranium will not be transferred abroad.

Under paragraph 8 of the MoU, Tehran says it would only agree to dilute its highly enriched uranium if Washington fully complies with its commitments.

Iran also argues that its position to uranium enrichment is grounded in Article IV of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which affirms the inalienable right of signatories to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under safeguards. Iranian officials say this provides an international legal basis for enrichment activities under



monitoring, reinforcing Tehran's stance that its nuclear program remains peaceful and treaty-compliant.

Medvedev warns Israel may seek to undermine Iran-US MoU

From page 1 ▶ and other measures that could jeopardize ongoing diplomatic efforts. He further claimed that even US President Donald Trump would have a limited ability to prevent such actions.

"Expecting a comprehensive peace settlement at this stage would be premature and unrealistic," Medvedev said, cautioning against assumptions that the agreement would immediately stabilize the region.

Addressing Iran's strategic leverage, Medvedev described the Strait of Hormuz as one of Tehran's most significant geopolitical assets, suggesting that Iran could employ its influence over the vital maritime corridor whenever it deemed necessary.

"It is premature to expect peace," Medvedev wrote, reiterating a position he had previously expressed regarding the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz. "It will be used if required."

Iran seeking lasting and guaranteed US compliance in Geneva talks

TEHRAN— Iran is seeking firm assurances that the United States will fully implement its commitments under the recently signed memorandum of understanding (MoU), Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said on Sunday ahead of high-level talks between Iranian and US delegations in Switzerland.

The talks, hosted at the Bürgenstock Hotel near Lucerne, mark the first high-level meeting between Iranian and American delegations since the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding. The agenda includes bilateral consultations with Qatari and Pakistani mediators in the morning, followed by quadrilateral discussions involving Iran, the United States, Qatar, and Pakistan.

"Iran has pursued the implementation of the memorandum from the very first day," Baqaei said, speaking to IRNA, emphasizing that Tehran views the establishment of a comprehensive ceasefire across all fronts as a central component of the ongoing negotiations and a prerequisite for advancing toward a final agreement, stressing that the value of any agreement lies in its execution rather than its signature. He added that diplomacy can only produce meaningful results when both sides fulfill their commitments in practice.

According to Baqaei, the Swiss meeting reflects Iran's determination to ensure that obligations undertaken by the other party are translated into concrete actions. He noted that Tehran is not interested in signing agreements without clear mechanisms to guarantee implementation.

The spokesperson said the discussions would focus primarily on implementing the provisions of the MoU. Under Paragraph 13 of the agreement, negotiations toward a final settlement can only begin after five key commitments are fulfilled, including the first provision calling for a cessation of hostilities on all fronts, particularly in Lebanon.

Baqaei argued that this requirement has yet to be fully met, citing "continued Israeli violations of ceasefire-related commitments in Lebanon." He said the issue would be among the principal topics addressed during Sunday's negotiations.

He also pointed to several other provisions requiring practical implementation measures, including the release of Iranian frozen assets abroad and the issuance of necessary authorizations to facilitate Iranian oil exports.

While indirect communication between Tehran and Washington has continued through mediators in recent months, Baqaei

noted that representatives of all four participating countries would convene in the same room during the current round of talks.

The Iranian delegation is headed by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who also leads Iran's negotiating team. The delegation arrived in Zurich on Saturday evening and includes Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Supreme National Security Council official Ali Baqeri, Central Bank Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati, National Iranian Oil Company CEO Hamid Bovard, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi, and Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei.

The US delegation includes Special Presidential Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. US Vice President J.D. Vance has also traveled to Switzerland to participate in the discussions.

Prior to his departure, Vance said the talks could last one to two days and would focus on implementation of the agreement, developments related to a ceasefire in Lebanon, and issues concerning Iran's nuclear program.

Senior representatives from the mediating countries, Pakistan and Qatar, are also in Switzerland.

No photo op: Iran wants action, not handshakes

Iran rejects a symbolic handshake with US officials in Geneva, insisting that progress on implementing the recent MoU matters more than diplomatic optics

TEHRAN - Iran and the United States held talks in Switzerland on Sunday to advance the implementation of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed a few days ago.

Parliament Speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi lead Iran's delegation in Geneva.

The US delegation is led by Vice President JD Vance and includes President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and his son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by Chief of Defense Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Asim Munir, is leading the mediation effort alongside Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

Upon arriving at the venue earlier on Sunday, Qalibaf held separate meetings with the Qatari and Pakistani mediators before leading his delegation into the four-party talks later in the day with US representatives.

Araghchi also met separately with his Swiss counterpart on Sunday morning.

Organizers and the US side had planned a joint photo opportunity, including a handshake between members of the Iranian and American delegations, before the start of the meeting. However, the Iranian delegation rejected the proposal and informed organizers that it would not participate in any joint media appearance with US officials. The move underscored Tehran's preference for substantive negotiations over symbolic gestures, avoiding imagery that could be used to suggest diplomatic progress regardless of the talks' actual outcome.

Esmail Baghaei, spokesperson for the Iranian delegation, said the ongoing fighting between Israel and



Hezbollah in Lebanon is at the top of the agenda in the talks with the United States, alongside issues such as frozen Iranian assets and Iranian oil exports.

"The Zionist regime continues to violate its commitments in Lebanon. This issue will be the main topic of discussion in today's talks," Baghaei said in a video shared by IRNA.

Speaking alongside Vance, the Qatari and Pakistani prime ministers thanked both the US and Iranian delegations for their efforts to promote peace in the Middle East.

"I think that every one of you has highlighted how important and historic this is, not only for the security of the region but also for the security of the world and for the global economy," the Qatari prime minister said.

"I would like to thank all of you for your leadership and determination that put us in this room. This is not really the main celebration; this is just the beginning, and I wish everyone all the best. Qatar will stay dedicated to this partnership to support this mediation until the end—until we reach a solution."

Vance said he hopes Washington and Tehran can reset their relationship, describing the Geneva meeting as "historic." He nevertheless repeated accusations that Iran is a

source of regional instability.

Trump also renewed threats against Iran.

"Iran must immediately stop their highly paid PROXIES in Lebanon from causing trouble," Trump wrote on Truth Social on Sunday morning. "If they don't, we'll hit Iran very hard again, just like we did last week, only harder!!!"

Trump's threats came despite the 14-point MoU signed by him and President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday. The interim agreement includes a commitment by both sides to pursue a final settlement within 60 days. It also calls for a permanent end to hostilities across multiple fronts, including Israeli strikes on Lebanon, the phased lifting of US sanctions, the removal of the naval blockade on Iran within 30 days, and the restoration of commercial traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

On Saturday, Iran's central military command officially declared the Strait of Hormuz closed to all maritime traffic over US and Israeli violations of the Tehran-Washington MoU.

Iran has stressed that Lebanon is a red line and that Israeli strikes constitute a violation of the MoU, which calls for an end to the regime's war.

Since the MoU was signed, Israel has killed dozens of people in Lebanon.

The United States and Israel launched a war against Iran on February 28. They believed that Iran would capitulate quickly. Despite Trump's claims that the war severely degraded Iran's military capabilities, Iranian missile and drone strikes against Israel and US bases in the Persian Gulf pushed Washington to accept a ceasefire on April 8.

Iran and the United States are now continuing post-MoU negotiations aimed at turning the agreement into a lasting settlement.

The war has come at a high cost for the United States. In late April, Democratic lawmakers and several economists estimated that the total cost of the conflict to the US economy could reach between \$630 billion and \$1 trillion. The war contributed to higher fuel prices and inflationary pressures, while a prolonged conflict risked creating additional political challenges for Trump ahead of the congressional midterm elections.

During the 39-day war, Trump was forced to confront the limits of military pressure against Iran. In late April, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the United States was being "humiliated" by Iran's leadership.

For now, Trump's latest threats, issued while negotiations are ongoing, appear aimed at deflecting attention from the setbacks suffered by the United States and Israel during the conflict. He is seeking to project an image of victory over Iran despite continuing debate within the United States over the war's outcome. According to assessments cited by several American media outlets, the campaign failed to achieve its stated strategic objectives. Israel Hayom also said earlier this month that Iran emerged stronger after the war, and Israel has become weaker.

Iranian parliamentary delegation arrives in Baku for PUIC summit

TEHRAN- An Iranian parliamentary delegation has arrived in Baku to participate in the 20th Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), a key gathering of lawmakers from across the Islamic world aimed at enhancing parliamentary cooperation and addressing shared challenges facing member states.

The conference, hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan, is being held in Baku from June 21 to June 25 and brings together parliamentary representatives from member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The five-day event features a comprehensive agenda, including meetings of the PUIC Executive Committee, the Association of Secretaries General of Member Parliaments, the Permanent Committee on Palestine, and the Committee on Muslim Communities and Minorities. The conference also includes sessions of the Conference of Women Parli-



mentarians of Islamic Countries and specialized standing committees focusing on legal and cultural affairs, dialogue among civilizations and religions, economic and environmental issues, and matters related to human rights, women, and family affairs.

In addition, delegates will participate in the 27th session of the PUIC General Committee, where a range of political, economic, and social issues affecting the Islamic world are expected to be discussed.

Iran's resistance will have a systematic impact on US hegemony

From Page 1 ▶ its reluctance to take on greater responsibility in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and Trump's vows to annex Canada and Greenland have caused deep discontent in Europe, sharply intensifying internal contradictions within NATO.

The discord over aggression against Iran has further widened the rift between the U.S. and its European allies. While European allies were deeply dissatisfied that Trump launched the war without consulting them, Trump was equally frustrated that NATO's European allies refused to provide support. The gap between Washington's disregard for its NATO allies and the allies' expectation of respect is a major manifestation of internal NATO tensions—and it was fully exposed during the war. In the future, even if NATO does not dissolve, it will struggle to maintain internal cohesion.

Beyond Europe, the U.S. strategic presence in other regions will also be impacted. Many U.S. military installations in the Middle East have suffered severe physical damage. According to reports, 228 U.S. military facilities in the region have been struck by Iran. Moreover, rather than providing protection for the Persian Gulf states, the U.S. has become a security burden for them, severely undermining the legitimacy of its military presence. The Persian Gulf states are also deeply dissatisfied with U.S. demands that they pay for war costs. Even if the U.S. military presence in the Middle East can be maintained after the war, it will be difficult to return to pre-war levels.

U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific will also be seriously affected. To cope with this war, the U.S. redeployed strategic resources from the Asia-Pacific to the Middle East, weakening not only its strategic footprint but also its credibility as a security guarantor in the region. Its strategic disadvantage in the region will grow further, and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy framework may suffer a crippling blow.

Second, U.S. financial dominance will be seriously undermined. U.S. financial hegemony, established in the early post-WWII period on the basis of American economic strength, has in recent years had to be propped up by U.S. military power as economic power has declined. By puncturing the bubble of U.S. military might, Iran's Operation True Promise has severely weakened the foundation of U.S. financial hegemony.

Another key foundation of U.S. financial hegemony is the petrodollar. Oil remains one of the most important commodities in international trade, and the commitment by Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states to sell oil in dollars in exchange for U.S. security guarantees is a crucial pillar of dollar dominance.

Since the Persian Gulf states have become the main battleground of this war, and the Strait of Hormuz—through which they export their oil—has been blockaded, the resulting security concerns will have far-reaching effects on the petrodollar. First, the Persian

Gulf states' share of global oil exports will drop significantly. Second, their overall economic strength will decline. Third, oil's position in the global energy mix will also fall. And fourth, because the U.S. failed to provide security protection for the Persian Gulf states, their incentive to continue settling oil trades in dollars will further decrease.

Third, U.S. political influence will be significantly reduced. American-style "liberal democracy" was once seen as a beacon lighting the way for the world, blindly admired in many countries. However, the U.S. has persisted in its policy of over-protecting Israel while ignoring the humanitarian catastrophe in Palestine, severely damaging its hypocritical image as a defender of "human rights" and "humanitarianism."

The Trump administration's tariff war, its attempt to annex Greenland, the kidnapping of a foreign leader, and its reckless war against Iran have greatly tarnished the U.S.'s international standing. In its aggression against Iran, the U.S. even used negotiations as a pretext to launch war, attacked numerous civilian facilities, and repeatedly crossed moral and legal red lines. As a result of this war, the U.S.'s "moral image" will be shattered.

The hegemony of the United States is an integrated system composed of its global strategic framework, its economic and financial dominance, and the ideology of "liberal democracy."

Historically, it is true that the U.S. has repeatedly recovered its hegemonic power after being mired in wars and crises. The main reason is that previous setbacks only damaged one aspect of its hegemony at a time.

Whether in the Vietnam War, the Afghanistan War, or the Iraq War, although the U.S. suffered military losses, its alliance system remained robust, and its "liberal democratic" values continued to be blindly admired around the world. Thus, the U.S. was able to recover by plundering allied resources and leveraging its "political appeal." The U.S. recovered from the 2008 financial crisis because not only its allies but also the G20 members were willing to "supply blood" to the U.S., out of considerations for globalization.

However, the impact of Iran's resistance—and the chain reactions it has triggered—on U.S. hegemony is comprehensive and systematic. Even if a permanent ceasefire is achieved on the basis of the current "fragile truce," the U.S. will still pay heavy strategic, economic, and political costs as a result of this war. Moreover, hostilities could reignite at any time, potentially costing the U.S. even more and making it impossible to fundamentally restore its hegemonic strength.

History will record that Iran has contributed to the weakening of U.S. hegemony.

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LATEST NEWS

■ US senator calls war on Iran a 'major blunder'

A Democratic US senator has criticized the recent US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran, calling it "an illegal war" that left Washington in a worse position than before.

In a message posted on X on Friday, Senator Chris Van Hollen said, "The illegal war in Iran has been a blunder & we are worse off than before it started."

"There's no good way out of a bad war," he wrote, rejecting the claims of those who supported the war and continue to advocate a confrontational approach toward Iran.

Addressing US warmongering officials and politicians, Van Hollen concluded with a warning: "When you're in a hole, stop digging."

■ Iran slams Australia's punitive policy against doctors over criticism of Israel

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, has sharply criticized Australia for "silencing" health professionals, condemning Canberra's punitive measures against medics who have spoken out against the Israeli regime's human rights record.

In a message posted on his X social network on Saturday, Gharibabadi described the potential suspension and ban on doctors in Australia for criticizing Israel as an attack on "professional freedom of expression and medical conscience."

He censured the Canberra government, in reference to the Israeli genocide and bloodshed in Gaza and Lebanon, saying, "Spreading hatred is one thing while defending the children killed and hospitals bombed is another."

The criticism came after Australia's health watchdog adopted a contested definition of the so-called antisemitism to guide its regulatory work, a move meant to appease the country's Jewish lobby. Advocacy groups warned it could silence health professionals from criticizing Israel for its crimes.

■ Surrender not in Iranians' nature: VP

First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref has emphasized that Iran has never retreated

from its red lines and national interests during negotiations, adding that "surrender is not in the nature of Iranians."

Speaking at the Iran Chamber of Commerce on Sunday, Aref said that the enemy was forced to back down due to its diplomatic weakness, and its opposition to Iran's nuclear program stems from concern over the country's technological advancement, not the issue of nuclear weapons.

He emphasized that Iran has achieved significant accomplishments in areas such as nuclear technology, nanotechnology, biotechnology, and radiology by relying on its scientists and elites.

■ Source: Hormuz Strait won't reopen unless Israel is restrained in Lebanon

A source close to Iran's negotiating team said the Strait of Hormuz will remain closed unless Israel's actions in Lebanon are brought under control, stressing that lifting the maritime blockade alone would not be sufficient to restore passage through the strategic waterway.

"If Israel's crimes in Lebanon continue and Lebanon's territorial integrity is not guaranteed, no negotiations on other issues will take place," the source close to the Iranian negotiating team told Tasnim on Sunday.

"As explicitly stated in Clause 13 (of the Islamabad MoU), failure by the United States to fulfill its commitment under Clause 1 means that Clause 5 will also not be implemented, and this means that the Strait of Hormuz will not be reopened," the source added.

■ Former IRGC commander warns against optimism in talks with US

Former Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Mohsen Rezaei has cautioned against excessive optimism in negotiations with the United States, arguing that Washington has repeatedly failed to honor its commitments.

In a post on X, Rezaei said the United States had sought to force Iran into submission through a strategy of "peace through strength" but failed to achieve its objectives. He argued that Washington's renewed emphasis on negotiations reflects its inability to attain its goals through pressure and confrontation.

"The enemy has demonstrated that it does not adhere to its commitments," Rezaei wrote. "Therefore, caution is a must, as any form of optimism could be exploited by the other side."

The former IRGC commander stressed that Iranian negotiators should remain vigilant and approach any diplomatic engagement with a clear understanding of past experiences and the challenges that may arise during the negotiation process.

■ Pakistani interior minister carried diplomatic messages, says Iran

Speaking after the visit of Pakistani Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to Tehran, Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni described the trip as productive, covering bilateral cooperation, regional developments, and ongoing talks in Switzerland. He also revealed that Naqvi carried diplomatic messages during the visit and expressed optimism that the negotiations are moving in a positive direction.

Iranian delegation shuns photo with US before talks start

Iran's negotiating team refused a planned exchange of handshakes and group photograph with the US team before talks began in Switzerland.

Tasnim news agency reported the refusal citing an unnamed "source close to the negotiations."

■ Regional security and stability depend on 'US-Iran relations, situation in Palestine'

Talks between the Turkish, Saudi, Egyptian, and Qatari foreign ministers in Egypt were aimed at rallying regional support for the 60-day de-escalation process, following JD Vance's appeal last week for Arab and Israeli backing of the Iran-US deal, Former Egyptian ambassador Hussein Haridy has told Al Jazeera.

"They expressed also the need to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank," Haridy added.

"When we talk about the security and stability of the Middle East and the future, the relations between the United States and Iran on the one hand and the situation in Palestine on the other hand are intertwined."

Robustness of Iran's food security structure proven during crises: agriculture minister

TEHRAN- The minister of agriculture, emphasizing the high resilience of the country's food security system, stated: Despite wars and domestic and international challenges over the past year, not the slightest disruption has occurred in ensuring Iran's food security, and now, relying on science and technology, dependencies in strategic areas must be reduced.

According to ISNA, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh, the minister of agriculture, at the unveiling ceremony of national programs in the food security domain, stating that the Innovation and Prosperity Fund has allocated a special place for the agriculture and food security sector in its planning, said: The events that have occurred in the country over at least the past year and globally over the past four to five years have revealed the importance of food security for societies and nations more than ever before; therefore, this area requires more serious attention and greater investment. In this regard, in addition to the necessity of finding solutions for shortages,



the country's existing assets should not be overlooked.

He added: The country's food security system possesses such strength, durability, and stability that over the past year, despite two wars and numerous domestic and international challenges, not the slightest disruption occurred in the country's food security—whereas in many countries, the occurrence of any one of these crises could have seriously disrupted food security, but in Iran, no damage was inflicted on this sector, indicating the robustness of the food security structure and the scientific basis of its foundations.

'Reducing Iran's oil exports to zero; A wish that never came true'

TEHRAN- The admission of the ineffectiveness of oil sanctions against Iran comes after the signing of the memorandum of understanding ending the war between America and the Zionist regime against Iran, voiced by American officials. This follows Mohsen Paknejad, the oil minister, having previously responded decisively to Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" order aimed at reducing Iran's oil exports to zero, declaring that America's maximum pressure policy on Iran's oil exports has failed and that reducing Iran's oil exports to zero is a wish they will never achieve.

After the agreement was signed between the presidents of Iran and America, when J.D. Vance, in his capacity as Trump's Vice President, was questioned at a press conference about the tenth clause of the agreement—concerning the freedom of Iran's crude oil exports and the concessions granted through it—he was compelled to admit: "To be honest, we did not consider this a major concession to the Iranians. The Iranians themselves did not view it as a concession either, because what had prevented their oil sales was not sanctions. They were still selling large quantities of oil and did not even have to offer discounts, because the sanctions at that time had essentially lost their effectiveness."

This is the first comment from a senior American official regarding the failure of the unilateral oil battle with Iran. These remarks from this senior Trump administration official come as the US President, since 2018 after entering the White House and tearing up the JCPOA agreement, declared that Washington's goal was to reduce Iran's oil revenues and bring Iran's crude oil exports to zero. Trump in 2025, after returning

to the presidency once again, while reviving maximum pressure against Iran, imposed the harshest sanctions on the oil industry, particularly on Iran's oil exports—a situation where the dominant view was using oil as a political tool to pressure Iran. This approach was based on the premise that crude oil and gas condensate exports, as the driving engine of Iran's economy, play a vital role in providing foreign exchange revenues and balancing the national budget, constituting a significant portion of government income.

Now, after years of this targeting, the retreat of White House officials has come with a clear admission of the ineffectiveness of sanctions in reducing Iran's oil exports to zero, declaring Trump's wish in this regard as unattainable.

Mohsen Paknejad, the oil minister, at that time responded to Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" order aimed at reducing Iran's oil exports to zero, decisively declaring that America's maximum pressure policy on Iran's oil exports has failed and emphasized that reducing the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil exports to zero is a wish they will never achieve.

Regarding the maximum pressure policy, or the use of such rhetoric as "we want to bring Iran's oil exports to zero," Iran's Oil Minister had said that this is a failed policy—a policy that had been tested before and yielded no results. If they test it again, they will get no results and will fail. In accordance with the conditions ahead, the expert staff of the oil industry in various fields, from production to export specialists, will adopt special and appropriate measures; the more restrictions we face, the more complex the measures adopted will be.

Target set for collecting 35mcm of flare gas to be achieved by end of 14th government

TEHRAN- Reza Khilaei, Director of Oil and Gas Production Supervision at the National Iranian Oil Company, in an interview with Shana, explaining the latest status of associated petroleum gas (flare gas) collection, announced: The amount of flare gas collection since the beginning of the fourteenth government's administration has increased from about 5 million cubic meters per day to over 9 million cubic meters, and it is predicted that with the implementation of approved plans, this figure will reach approximately 35 million cubic meters per day by the end of the government.

Flare gases, or associated petroleum gases, have long been recognized as one of the main challenges of Iran's oil industry—a vast energy capacity that, due to infrastructure limitations, incomplete processing chains, and historical focus on crude oil production, has been burned in flares instead of being converted into value-added. However, collecting these gases not only means preventing the waste of hundreds of millions of dollars annually from an economic perspective, but

also plays a decisive role from environmental and social perspectives in reducing pollution, improving air quality in oil-rich regions, and enhancing public health. Moreover, in conditions of energy imbalance, recovering these gases can provide a sustainable backup for supplying feed to industries, power plants, and petrochemical facilities.

For this reason, the issue of flare gas collection has become one of the government's main priorities in recent years. Masoud Pezeshkian, the President, has placed direct oversight of these projects on the agenda by holding regular meetings and weekly follow-ups on project progress, and through establishing centralized monitoring mechanisms, he emphasizes accelerating their implementation. Mohsen Paknejad, the oil minister, has also sought to reduce implementation obstacles through activating specialized working groups, revising plans, and facilitating contracting and investment processes, so that flare gas collection projects reach the operational phase with greater speed and coherence.

Annual monetary, forex policy conference calls for structural economic reform, inflation control

TEHRAN- The 33rd Annual Conference on Monetary and Foreign Exchange Policies opened on Sunday morning under the theme "Requirements for Aligning Fiscal and Trade Policies with Monetary and Foreign Exchange Policies to Protect the National Currency and Control Inflation." The event was attended by the President of Iran and held at the Central Bank of Iran's conference center.

The conference, regarded as the most important platform for announcing the Central Bank's monetary, foreign exchange, and banking policies, brought together senior Central Bank officials, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, economists, researchers, and business leaders.

At this ceremony, in addition to the President, Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh (Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance) and Asghar Abolhasani (Deputy Governor of the Central Bank) delivered speeches.

In his speech at this conference, the President emphasized that the continuation of chronic inflation and the persistent decline in people's purchasing power is unacceptable, stating that Iran's economy needs structural reform in the resource allocation system to overcome existing problems.

According to Mehr News Agency, Masoud Pezeshkian stated: We all have a duty to provide practical solutions for establishing justice and improving the country's economic conditions. The fact that a society lives with 40% and 60% inflation for years and witnesses a daily decline in people's purchasing power is not an issue that can be easily overlooked.

He added: In today's world, there are dozens and hundreds of solutions for overcoming economic problems, and it cannot be accepted that there is no way out of the current situation. It is the duty of policymakers, experts, and academic centers to identify and present practical and implementable solutions.

Resource-expenditure imbalance, the source of many economic crises

The President, referring to some imbalances formed in the country's economy, said: One of the most obvious economic issues is creating a balance between resources and expenditures. In many areas, including energy, gas, electricity, higher education, and urban development, new commitments and expenditures have been created without sufficient attention to resource capacity.

Pezeshkian added: When the level of consumption and created expectations exceeds the capacity to supply resources, the result will be crisis and imbalance. Development carried out without regard to the country's real capacities will ultimately lead to economic and managerial problems.

Referring to the country's energy consumption situation, he stated: In past years, infrastructure development and increased consumption commitments in some sectors have not been proportional to the real capacity of available resources, and today the government is facing the consequences of this situation.

Development without support will challenge the economy

The President, referring to the expansion of educational centers, urban development, and some past policies, stated: Development is successful when it is designed based on real needs, available facilities, and the country's economic capacities.

He added: In some cases, without regard to quality, facilities, and productivity, quantitative development was prioritized, re-



sulting in reduced efficiency and increased costs.

Resource allocation system requires serious revision

Pezeshkian, criticizing some methods of resource and facility allocation in the country's economy, said: The country's financial resources should be directed toward productive, technology-oriented activities with economic returns.

He added: One of the most important duties of the banking system is to ensure the proper use of resources and the return of paid capital. The process of allocating facilities, monitoring resource consumption, and evaluating the effectiveness of investments needs to be carried out with greater precision.

The President emphasized: Every rial spent in the economy must be clear in which sector it was consumed, how much value-added it created, and what impact it had on economic growth and employment.

Government seeks cost control and performance-based budgeting

Referring to the government's plans for reforming the country's financial and budgetary structure, he said: One of the government's serious axes is controlling costs and moving toward performance-based budgeting.

Pezeshkian added: Payments should be made in proportion to the performance and productivity level of organizations. The country's administrative system needs reforms in which efficiency, effectiveness, and performance outcomes become the basis for resource allocation.

Iran's economic future must be based on knowledge, technology, and innovation

The President, emphasizing the necessity of changing the country's development approaches, stated: In economic planning, more attention must be paid to knowledge, technology, innovation, artificial intelligence, and knowledge-based industries.

He added: Investment in technology and knowledge development can create much higher value-added compared to many traditional activities and pave the way for the country's sustainable economic growth.

Academics and experts should reach consensus on solving economic problems

Pezeshkian, addressing the professors, researchers, and experts present at the conference, said: Economic experts are expected to, by summarizing expert opinions, present specific and implementable solutions for solving the country's problems.

He added: Differences of opinion are natural, but the country needs a common language and expert consensus in policymaking to overcome economic problems.

Inflation exerts the most pressure on vulnerable groups

Pezeshkian, emphasizing the necessity of curbing inflation, said: The effects of inflation mostly affect low-income groups, retirees, the unemployed, and vulnerable segments of society.

He added: The government

considers itself obligated to strive for improving people's livelihoods, controlling inflation, reforming economic structures, and creating a brighter future for the country's younger generation, and will not allow economic and social gaps to widen further.

He continued by emphasizing the necessity of cooperation from all sectors of the country to solve economic problems, saying: Economic realities must be explained to the people, and academics, experts, the banking system, the media, and the government must work together to find scientific and practical solutions.

The President added: If the trend of high inflation continues, more pressure will be exerted on society, and everyone must help ensure that such conditions do not persist.

Economic war has begun; reforming economic governance is a prerequisite for victory

According to IRNA, Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, also stated at this conference, emphasizing that after the victory of the Iranian nation on the battlefield, the country has entered a phase of economic jihad, saying: Controlling inflation, reforming the banking system, revising budgeting, removing obstacles to production and trade, and reforming economic governance are the main prerequisites for overcoming recession and realizing investment on the path to building Iran 1414 (2035).

Referring to the country's conditions after the war, he said: Thankfully, this path ultimately led to the victory of the Iranian nation, and the battlefield and the streets, alongside the government, brought about this victory. The battlefield war has ended, but it can be said that the economic war has begun, and now we must enter economic jihad.

He added: The commanders and officers of this economic war must stand together so that, just as we were victorious on the battlefield, we may also achieve victory in the economic arena.

Madanizadeh, stating that the country in the coming year may still face the special conditions of the past year and the effects of the war, said: We are currently facing high inflation, and as the respected Governor of the Central Bank also reported, last year's economic growth was negative. Therefore, all economic officials have a duty to combat inflation and economic recession.

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance continued: If we properly examine the conditions created after the war, opportunities have been provided for the country that can pave the way for better planning to manage Iran's economy. The people need vision, hope, and confidence for production and investment, and accordingly, a clear picture of the country's economic future must be drawn.

Emphasizing the necessity of drawing a ten-year horizon for Iran's economy, he said: My suggestion is to think about the 1414 horizon; what Iran 1414 will be like, what characteristics it

should have, and what opportunities lie ahead for building it. The reason for choosing this time horizon is that due to rapid technological developments and fast-paced global changes, very long-term horizons cannot be accurately mapped.

Madanizadeh added: Economic policies and even educational policies in schools and universities must be based on how we define the country's goal for the next ten years. Iran on the 1414 horizon should be a country with high public participation in the economy; because the economy we have managed so far has been predominantly government-centered, and the private sector and the people have not had a sufficient role in it.

He identified economic and social justice as the second important axis in the future vision of Iran and said: Despite many slogans about justice, many adopted policies have in practice had the opposite effect. The future Iran must be an Iran in which economic and social justice has been realized.

Madanizadeh, stating that production is not possible without investment, said: Investment also does not take shape without stability, economic security, efficiency in the economy, and justice-orientation. If these factors come together, high-rate investment and, consequently, production will be realized.

He identified controlling inflation as an essential condition for creating economic stability and stated: With high inflation, uncertainty in the economy will not disappear. Therefore, to create a foundation upon which investment can take shape, inflation must be controlled, uncertainty reduced, and investment security established.

The Minister of Economy, elaborating on the main axes of the country's economic foundation, said: If we imagine this foundation as a pyramid, at its apex lies the country's banking, monetary, foreign exchange, and financial system. To control inflation, we have no choice but to reform the banking system, the monetary system, the foreign exchange system, and the financial system of the country.

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(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The little girl from Gaza who became a global reckoning

Hind Rajab's voice now echoes through every airport lounge and courtroom where Israeli war criminals once felt safe

From page 1 ▶ They are not waiting for paralyzed international courts to act. They are strategically mobilizing universal jurisdiction to walk indictments straight into the holiday resorts where perpetrators once felt untouchable.

The collapse of holiday impunity

As for the methodology for this wave of justice, the foundation does not rely exclusively on leaked documents.

It also relies on the grotesque vanity of the perpetrators. Israeli soldiers have turned their social media accounts into self-curated evidence lockers.

They post drone shots of leveled neighborhoods, selfie videos inside ransacked homes, and gloating captions over burning infrastructure.

Investigators capture and verify this digital footprint before it can be scrubbed. The desire of the war criminals for online validation becomes their legal undoing.

The tactic is devastatingly effective. When reservist Yuval Vagdanian landed in Brazil for a backpacking trip, a foundation complaint triggered a federal police investigation.

His dream trip was cut short abruptly, and he later admitted the probe felt like a bullet in the heart.

Naor Shlomo Dadon, a soldier who documented himself de-



stroying civilian areas in Rafah and burning the Hamad bin Khalifa School, was met in Greece by a 70-page dossier.

Tameer Mulla now faces prosecution in Spain after posting videos mocking the demolition of Palestinian infrastructure.

Shrinking borders for military personnel

The map is rapidly shrinking for these criminals. In June, a Santiago court recognized Chilean universal jurisdiction in the case of Rom Kovtun, a sniper who committed war crimes during the brutal siege of Al-Shifa Hospital.

That same month, the foundation demanded the arrest of Jake Burkon as he arrived in the United States for the World Cup, forcing a public reckoning over dual citizens.

Reservist Eitan Gilboa, who posted celebratory footage of demolitions in Khan Younis, was greeted in India by an urgent

arrest demand and fled shortly afterward.

These cases have deeply rattled the Israeli military establishment.

Commanders have issued frantic guidelines warning soldiers to hide their online identities and consult lawyers before crossing borders.

The reach of justice must extend

The reach of this accountability must not remain confined to Palestine. The culture of absolute impunity that enabled the killing of Hind Rajab is the exact engine that has driven American and Israeli aggression against Iran and Lebanon.

On February 28, the U.S. struck the Shajarah Tayyebah Elementary School in Minab, southern Iran, with a triple-tap missile barrage that killed 156 civilians, mostly schoolchildren.

Launching secondary strikes as a principal rushed children

to safety exposes a methodical contempt for life.

In Lamerd, a sports complex was targeted, killing teenage athletes.

In Sirik, water reservoirs supplying drinking water to 20,000 residents were intentionally targeted by the U.S. military in June despite the ceasefire, an act that constitutes depriving a civilian population of water.

These tragedies flow from a single doctrine that treats international law as a disposable convenience.

The Minab massacre, the destruction of Gaza infrastructure, and the mass killing and displacement in southern Lebanon are undeniable violations of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

The Rome Statute criminalizes intentional attacks on educational institutions and civilian survival resources.

The Hind Rajab Foundation has shown that accountability can be pursued with discipline, evidence, and persistence.

What follows now should be more of the same: parallel efforts in different courts and jurisdictions, directed not only at Gaza but at the wider pattern of violence in Lebanon, Iran, and beyond.

The message is simple enough. Those who commit or enable these crimes should no longer be able to rely on distance, delay, or geography to protect them.

'Greater Israel vision has been the cause of wars in Iraq, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iran'

TEHRAN – Two senior scholars believe that the absurd and dangerous doctrine of "Greater Israel" has been the cause of wars in Iraq, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iran.

Jeffrey Sachs, a globally famous Columbia University professor, and Sybil Fares, a senior advisor on government affairs, say this doctrine is backed by secular hardliners like Benjamin Netanyahu and the Jewish supremacist creed of Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir that "God gave the land (Palestine and neighboring Arab lands) to the Jews alone."

Writing an article on the Al Jazeera website on June 21, Sachs and Fares note that "Greater Israel is paranoia, megalomania and religious zeal braided into a single program."

This is the text of the article titled "Stop 'Greater Israel' to make peace":

On June 14, the United States and Iran agreed to a framework to end their war. The Strait of Hormuz is to reopen, the bombing of Lebanon is to end and – most importantly – the killing is to stop. After more than 100 days of war that killed thousands, including Iran's most senior leaders, and pushed the world economy to the brink, even a fragile truce feels like first light.

Let us welcome it, but also let us understand it. To grasp why this war happened, and the string of wars before it, we must name their common cause. That cause is "Greater Israel" – not the country of Israel but an idea of it – a terrible one. The idea of "Greater Israel" has been the cause of wars in Iraq, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iran.

It holds that Israel should stretch over all of historic Palestine – from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea – and to parts of neighboring countries as well. According to United States Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, a fundamentalist Protestant whose geopolitical compass is set by biblical texts from 500 BC, "Greater Israel" stretches from

the Nile to the Euphrates. Last summer, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu professed to be "very" attached to a vision of "Greater Israel" that, he said, takes in the Palestinian territories and neighboring Arab lands.

This absurd and dangerous doctrine has two parents. The first are secular hardliners like Netanyahu who say that Israel must control all the land from the river to the sea to be safe, and damn the eight million Palestinians in the way.

The second is the Jewish supremacist creed of Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir that God gave the land to the Jews alone: There is, in Smotrich's words, "no such thing as a Palestinian". Asked recently how Israel should answer its collapsing global standing, Smotrich vowed Israel would not relinquish military control of the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanese or Syrian territory: "We won't commit suicide to make them happy."

"Greater Israel" is paranoia, megalomania and religious zeal braided into a single program. The doctrine should have been repudiated on its first airing decades ago. Instead, it has driven Israel's foreign and military doctrine for three decades – and has survived until today because Netanyahu has taken the U.S. for a ride.

He has done it with two American constituencies: Jewish Zionists who love Israel and will forgive it anything and Christian Zionists who love the prophecy of the End Times and the Second Coming of Christ more than they love any living Palestinian or, for that matter, any living Israeli.

Delusion has led on to delusion, and the road has run from one war to the next. We are 30 years into this fiasco now.

The war on Iran was simply the latest "Greater Israel" fantasy. The government of 90 million people was to be toppled in a single, glorious day. Of course, it did not hap-



pen. Israeli and American bombs killed Iran's leaders on February 28, but that did not deliver the promised collapse. It resulted instead in thousands of dead, a choked Strait of Hormuz and a global oil shock.

We have seen this film before. The Israel-U.S. plan to bring down President Bashar al-Assad in Syria was also meant to be quick, one or two years at the most. Instead came a dozen years of carnage, fed by a covert war armed and financed by the CIA with Israel's ardent backing. The result was an ancient country reduced to rubble. The promised one-day victories always become decade-long graveyards.

U.S. President Donald Trump has been battered by joining the "Greater Israel" delusion, and he knows it. The new agreement with Iran is his escape valve, a way out of a fatuous war that was never his to win.

That is precisely why Israel's "Greater Israel" politicians are trying to strangle the new agreement in the cradle, for peace with Iran is a defeat for "Greater Israel". Even after the deal was sealed, Israel has continued to bomb Lebanon, killing 47 people in a single day on Friday and another 32 on Saturday hours after a Lebanon-Israel ceasefire took effect.

Here is the deeper truth: "Greater Israel" is not saving Israel. It is killing it. The friction now visible between Trump and Netanyahu is only the surface. Beneath it lies the collapse of Israel's standing throughout the world. According to a recent Pew opinion survey, the

world now holds an overwhelmingly unfavorable view of Israel. In the U.S., Israel's indispensable patron, six in 10 adults view it unfavorably.

A state that makes itself hated by the world, and by its only protector, is not pursuing security. It is threatening its own survival to feed a delusion.

So the way to peace in West Asia is to stop "Greater Israel". End the war on Iran, stop the genocide in Gaza and halt the strangulation of the West Bank. Most importantly, do the thing the doctrine forbids, which is to create the State of Palestine as the 194th United Nations member state alongside the State of Israel on the 1967 lines with genuine security for both countries and a regional framework to guarantee it, which should include Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and Syria.

The Iran ceasefire makes the case in miniature: It was won not on the battlefield but through mediation. It became possible when Washington decided it wanted peace more than it wanted "Greater Israel's" war.

Israel can survive, but not as "Greater Israel", a disastrous idea that has marched it and the U.S. from one war to the next.

The glimmer of hope today is real. Whether it becomes a true dawn depends on whether the U.S. finally lets Palestine be born, and thereby lets Israel live. The Arab world and Iran need to keep insisting to the U.S. that breaking with "Greater Israel" is the only path to lasting peace.

Israeli casualties mount in southern Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ The regime's Army Radio reported that the Maglan soldier was killed in a serious incident whose details were cleared for publication. The incident involved a missile, mortar, and explosive drone attack carried out by Hezbollah against the area of Kfar Tebnit village and the Ali Taher mountain range in southern Lebanon.

The radio station added that the attack occurred when Hezbollah targeted the occupation regime's troops with dozens of rockets, mortar shells, and explosive drones during an IOF attempt aimed at seizing control of the Ali al-Taher hills.

Hebrew media reported that all major security incidents that occurred in southern Lebanon in recent days have been concentrated near the Ali al-Taher hills area.

Several days earlier, the IOF acknowledged the death of Battalion 52 commander Lt. Col. Dor Gdalia Ben Simhon and three other soldiers after a tank was struck during a military operation in southern Lebanon.

The IOF announced the name of an armored corps sergeant who died "in combat" on Friday night, and believed to have been caused by an explosive drone carrying an anti-tank warhead.

According to the IOF, the sergeant was a member of the battalion commander's tank crew and was killed alongside him inside the tank. The names of the other two soldiers killed in the same incident have not yet been released.

Hebrew media reported that the tank remains in southern Lebanon and has not been evacuated, delaying completion of a comprehensive investigation.

Analysts have suggested the remains of all four troops have yet to be recovered after Hezbollah put up fierce resistance around the vicinity of the Ali al-Taher hills. The IOF is unable to reach the site of the Hezbollah ambush to recover the destroyed tank.

Israeli media revealed a preliminary investigation into what it described as a "complex Hezbollah attack" that involved anti-tank missiles and drones that attacked several IOF tanks.

The Israeli regime's Channel 7 reported that a drone penetrated one tank through its rear access point and is believed to have been carrying anti-tank munitions. The strike followed an attack involving missiles believed to be Kornet anti-tank missiles before the drone exploded inside the vehicle.

Hebrew media confirmed that the IOF had failed to capture the Ali al-Taher hills in Nabatieh, southern Lebanon.

Other reports said that numerous tanks were damaged during the IOF aggression and described the battles on the Ali al-Taher hills as exceptionally difficult, which result-



ed in the death of several IOF soldiers and injury of a "very large" number.

The Operations Room of Hezbollah stated that it had thwarted an infiltration attempt by an IOF commando force toward the Ali al-Taher Heights, inflicting deaths and injuries on the force. It also reaffirmed its commitment to the ceasefire while maintaining full readiness to confront any violations.

In a statement, the Operations Room said that the Israeli regime was once again resorting to false claims to justify breaching a ceasefire that it had never truly respected.

The statement said the Lebanese resistance movement had continued to abide by the ceasefire since Friday evening, despite IOF violations from the very first moments. Under the cover of the ceasefire, the statement added, the occupation forces attempted to infiltrate the Ali Taher Heights, a position they had previously failed to seize.

The statement continued that when the invaders' infantry force, belonging to the IOF's Commando Brigade, entered an ambush prepared by resistance fighters, it was engaged with appropriate weapons, resulting in confirmed deaths and injuries among its ranks.

It added that the Zionist regime subsequently launched intensive airstrikes both inside and outside the operational area, once again targeting civilians in an effort to conceal its military failure.

On Friday, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem declared that the Lebanese resistance movement had made a "Karabala-style decision" to continue confronting the IOF "without limits."

He emphasized: "We exercised patience when necessary and fought when necessary. For fifteen months, our patience itself was a form of fighting. Since March 2, our fighting has become direct fighting, and there will be no return to the period before March 2."

He also vowed that the IOF "will withdraw from every last inch of our land."

Despite the supposed ceasefire, Israel has continued committing massacres with strikes targeting villages in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley, resulting in civilian deaths and injuries.

The price of choosing war over diplomacy

From page 1 ▶ Critics of this policy argue that America gained nothing while paying heavily. The conflict added pressure to government spending, increased instability across the region, and damaged Washington's image as a force for diplomacy. Strategic influence is not measured only by military strength. It is also measured by trust, credibility, and the ability to bring rivals to the negotiating table.

Iran, despite years of sanctions and pressure, remained standing. The expectation that force alone would deliver quick political results proved far more complicated than many predicted.

History often asks a simple question: who benefited, and who paid the price?

Those who oppose this war believe the answer is clear. America spent money, political capital, and international goodwill. The region became more tense. The path to negotiations became narrower. And ordinary people, on all sides, bore the consequences.

The lesson is not that peace is easy. The lesson is that diplomacy should never be abandoned before every possible door has been tried. Nations become stronger through wise decisions, not endless wars. The future of the Middle East will be built at negotiating tables, not on battlefields.

The real question is not who fired first or who fired more. The real question is: what

did America gain?

Thousands of miles from home, billions of dollars spent, another generation pulled into a conflict that was never a direct threat to the American people. While Washington carried the cost, the direct impacts of this war-driven inflation on the U.S. economy include: surging pump prices, while others pursued their own strategic goals.

For years, U.S. presidents looked at the prospect of war with Iran but stepped back from the edge. They understood that starting a war is easy, but living with its consequences is not. Trump chose a different path.

History is rarely kind to wars that lack a clear purpose. It remembers the promises made before the first strike and compares them with the reality that follows.

If the goal was peace, the region is more tense. If the goal was stability, uncertainty has grown. If the goal was to strengthen America, many would argue that the opposite happened.

In the end, nations are not judged by the wars they start, but by the wisdom they show in avoiding them.

And when future generations ask who benefited from this confrontation and who paid the price, the answer may be far more uncomfortable than the slogans that sold it.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Ahmad Kohani claims Asian Championships bronze on rings

TEHRAN – Iranian artistic gymnast Mehdi Ahmad Kohani secured a bronze medal in the men's rings final at the Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships, marking a successful return to international competition after a two-year absence.

Ahmad Kohani delivered a strong routine to earn a score of 14.100 and finish third on the podium. China's Yang Haonan and Zhang Paheng claimed the gold and silver medals with 14.333 and 14.400, respectively.

The bronze medal represents a significant achievement for the Iranian gymnast, who was forced to spend the past two years away from competition before making his comeback on the continental stage.

Earlier in the day, Iran's Pouria Amanifard competed in the junior rings final and finished sixth overall.

Iran's campaign at the championships continues on Sunday, with Mehdi Olfati set to compete in the senior men's vault final, while Amanifard will return to action in the junior vault final as he looks to challenge for a podium finish.

Iranian brothers Nemati win gold in AKF Senior Championships

TEHRAN – Morteza and Mahmoud Nemati claimed two gold medals at the 2026 Asian Karate Federation (AKF) Senior Championships on Sunday.

Morteza Nemati defeated Nurkanat Azhikanov from Kazakhstan 3-2 in Male Kumite -75kg final.

Mahmoud Nemati also beat Sanad Sufyani of Saudi Arabia 4-0 in the Male Kumite +84kg final.

The Championships in Bali, Indonesia, brought together the continent's top karate athletes in the race for Asian titles.

Th competitions are being held from June 18 to 21.

Iran's Olfati seizes bronze in 2026 Asian Artistic Gymnastics

TEHRAN – Mehdi Olfati of Iran won a bronze medal in the 2026 Asian Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships on Sunday.

He finished in third place in vault, where Wataru Tanigawa of Japan and South Korea's Kim Jae-ho won gold and silver, respectively.

On Saturday, Olfati's countryman Mehdi Ahmad Kohani secured a bronze medal in the men's rings.

The 2026 Asian Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships are the 13th edition of the Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships and 19th Junior Asian Gymnastics Championships, and are being held in Zunyi, China from 18 to 21 June 2026.

Female kumite team win gold in AKF Senior Championships

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Japan 2-0 in the Female Team Kumite final of the 2026 Asian Karate Federation (AKF) Senior Championships on Sunday.

Japan had secured a 2-0 win over Thailand, while Iran advanced to the final with a 2-0 victory against Vietnam.

Also, Iran lost to Jordan 3-0 in the Male Team Kumite final and bagged a silver medal.

Iran had defeated Japan 3-1 in a competitive semifinal, while Jordan produced an impressive performance to overcome Uzbekistan 21-6.

The Championships in Bali, Indonesia, brought together the continent's top karate athletes in the race for Asian titles.

Th competitions are being held from June 18 to 21.

Bakhtiarizadeh extends deal with Esteghlal for two years

TEHRAN – Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh, head coach of Esteghlal Football Club, officially signed a two-year contract extension with the club on Sunday.

Bakhtiarizadeh attended the club's headquarters, where he finalized and signed his new agreement with the Blues.

The Esteghlal head coach met with Ali Tajernia, Chairman of the Board and Acting CEO of the club, before putting pen to paper on the two-year deal.

During the meeting, Tajernia congratulated Bakhtiarizadeh and wished him success and achievement in his role as head coach of Esteghlal's football team.

The contract extension reflects the club's confidence in Bakhtiarizadeh's leadership and their commitment to continuity as Esteghlal prepare for the upcoming seasons.

Iran's travel restrictions in U.S. to be eased

TEHRAN – Iran coach Amir Ghalenoee says he has been told U.S. travel restrictions on his World Cup team will finally be eased for their third group game.

Ghalenoee blasted the treatment his team has received so far, saying it damaged the team's on-field performance.

The Iranian squad arrived at the World Cup with its country still at war with co-hosts the United States, and has been based in Mexico while playing all its games in the U.S.

That has required frequent cross-border travel, and U.S. authorities have only permitted the team to remain in the country for a few hours after each game, with restrictions frequently shifting last-minute.

After playing Belgium in Los Angeles on Sunday, Iran's final group game will take place in Seattle on Friday against Egypt.

Ghalenoee says he has been told his team will have more flexibility for their final match, before quickly adding that it would have been "justice" for his team to have the same treatment for their first two games.

"They said in Seattle, you can do what you want, you can act the way you want to, and you can come earlier," he tells a press conference, without specifying who exactly the information had come from.

"But what I want, my problem is, why didn't they let us come earlier for the first two games as well? I just know for the last game, yes, they've allowed us to decide, to make our own decisions with regards to planning the travel.

"But unfortunately, for the first two games, others made these travel arrangements for us, and the timing for us."

Iran to compete at 2026 World ParaVolley

TEHRAN – Iran have continued to collect titles since winning the World Championship in Sarajevo, but they are not the only team to celebrate success on the road to Hangzhou.

Egypt, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Germany and Kazakhstan have all earned major medals during the current cycle, creating a crowded race for the men's world title.

Reigning men's world and Paralympic champions Iran begin their title defense against Poland on 10 July before facing Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan. The meeting between Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina on 11 July brings together the finalists from both the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and the 2022 World Championships.

The 2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships – Men's event is the 14th edition of the quadrennial world championship, contested by the senior men's national sitting volleyball teams, sanctioned by World ParaVolley.

It will be held in Hangzhou, China from 10 to 17 July 2026, marking the first time the event is held in the country and the first time it will be held in East Asia.

Iran finalizing UNESCO World Heritage nomination for historical windmills

TEHRAN – Iran is completing preparations for the UNESCO World Heritage nomination of its historical Asbads, traditional vertical-axis windmills located in the provinces of South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi and Sistan-Baluchestan, a senior cultural heritage official said on Saturday.

Ali Darabi, deputy minister of cultural heritage, said coordination efforts involving the three provinces and national authorities were in their final stages.

Speaking on the sidelines of a coordination meeting in Mashhad, Darabi said the nomination required cooperation among multiple government bodies because the heritage sites are distributed across three provinces.

"The necessary planning has been carried out to advance the nomination dossier," Darabi told reporters.

Darabi said approximately 1,400 Asbads have been identified across Iran. He described the structures as a symbol of the knowledge and ingenuity of earlier generations in harnessing the region's seasonal winds and managing natural resources.

Iran's Asbads, believed to be among the world's earliest industrial machines, date back more than a millennium. South



Khorasan, regarded as their main hub, contains more than 310 surviving structures, about 79% of the country's total.

Designed to harness the region's powerful seasonal winds, the Asbads differ from the horizontal-axis windmills later developed in Europe. Historical accounts trace the invention to Iranian engineers in the early Islamic period.

As mentioned by UNESCO, ver-

tical-axis windmills spread from Iran to other parts of the Islamic world, including Egypt, and were later introduced to China during the Mongol era. By the 11th century, they had reached Spain, Portugal, and the Aegean islands.

According to technology historian Robert Forbes, the windmill was originally an Iranian innovation that became a key energy source across Islamic territories in the 12th century for grinding grain, pumping water, and pro-

cessing sugarcane.

Made of natural clay, straw, and wood, an Asbad is typically comprised of eight chambers, with each chamber housing six blades. As the area's strong, steady wind enters the chambers it turns the blades, which then turn grindstones. The structures reach up to about 65 feet in height.

The Islamic Republic designated the Asbad as a national heritage site in 2002.

Dehdasht urban development plan approved after 20-year delay, linking growth to historic preservation



TEHRAN – Authorities in Iran's southwestern Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province have approved and issued a new comprehensive urban development plan for the city of Dehdasht after a 20-year delay, a move officials said would support tourism development and the preservation of the historic Belad-e Shapur district.

The plan establishes a framework for the city's development over the coming decade while incorporating regulations aimed at protecting the historic fabric of Belad-e Shapur, one of Iran's largest historical urban settlements.

Speaking at a meeting of the commission, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad Governor General Yadollah Rahmani said the approval of the new plan ended a long wait for Dehdasht residents and provided a roadmap for sustainable urban development focused on preserving the area's historical identity and promoting cultural tourism.

Rahmani said the preparation and approval

of urban development plans had been among the province's priorities and called for efforts to prevent lengthy delays in future revisions.

"Urban development plans should be updated in a timely manner so that cities can grow in line with contemporary needs," he said.

He said the process leading to the approval of the Dehdasht plan reflected coordination among government agencies, including technical, infrastructure and cultural heritage authorities.

Rahmani called on Dehdasht municipality and the provincial Roads and Urban Development Department to implement the plan's provisions.

Officials said the alignment of the new detailed urban plan with the protected boundaries and regulations governing the historic Belad-e Shapur district represented a significant development in the city's planning process.

At the same meeting, the director general of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts for Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province said the integration of heritage protection measures into the plan could facilitate private-sector investment in tourism projects, including traditional accommodation facilities and the restoration of caravanserais and historic buildings.

The official said the absence of an approved plan over the past two decades had created challenges for residents living near the historic district. "The new plan has been prepared in

full compliance with cultural heritage regulations to preserve the nationally registered historic fabric of Belad-e Shapur while also improving urban services in neighboring areas," the official said.

Belad-e Shapur, located in present-day Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province, dates back to the reign of Shapur I, the second ruler of the Sassanid Empire. The ancient city is considered one of the most important surviving urban centers from the Sassanian period in southwestern Iran.

During Shapur I's reign, the Sassanid Empire extended from the Caucasus and Central Asia to parts of the Arabian Peninsula and the Indus River region. The period saw major developments in architecture, craftsmanship, literature and rock relief sculpture across Iran.

In 2018, UNESCO inscribed the Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region on its World Heritage List, recognizing a collection of archaeological sites associated with the Sassanid era.

In addition, the lavish Sassanian art touched upon rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs carved on abrupt limestone cliffs. Best examples can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran.

In 2018, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran, titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region", to its World Heritage list.

Archaeologists uncover rooms and corridors in underground hand-carved complex in western Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists conducting the first phase of excavation and documentation at an underground hand-carved complex in Aligudarz, western Iran, have uncovered four rooms and six corridors, with evidence indicating the site was used during the late Sasanian period and the medieval Islamic era, officials said.

Ata Hassanpour, head of the excavation team and director-general of Lorestan province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said the first phase of excavation and documentation had been completed at the underground complex, also known as a Dastkand.

A Dastkand, or hand-carved structure, is a type of architecture created by excavating and shaping natural geological formations. The term means "dug by hand" in Persian and refers to structures carved directly into

the earth.

Hassanpour said the site was first surveyed in 1993 by archaeologist Nasser Nourzadeh Chegini, who documented parts of the complex and photographed sections that had been described as a mass burial area. Chegini identified the site as a burial monument.

He said additional administrative procedures for the site's survey, identification and registration were carried out in 2003.

According to Hassanpour, ownership of the site was transferred to Lorestan's cultural heritage department in 2013. He said the complex subsequently suffered damage from illegal excavations and unauthorized digging.

Funding for archaeological investigations was allocated during a visit by Iran's minister of cultural heritage to Lorestan province in 2025, Hassanpour

said. Financial support was later finalized following efforts by Aligudarz's representative in parliament.

Excavation work officially began on March 30, 2026, and concluded last week after an extension of the excavation permit, he added.

To access the main sections of the complex, archaeologists opened several test trenches to locate the original entrance. Once access routes were identified, documentation and clearance work began, revealing extensive damage caused by illegal excavations.

Hassanpour said the excavation reached a depth of about 7.5 meters below the current ground surface.

The project was carried out in two phases, excavation and documentation. Archaeologists have so far exposed four rooms, fully documented the main corri-

dor and identified five additional corridors within the complex, he said.

Among the most significant discoveries were pottery fragments dating to the late Sasanian period and the medieval Islamic era, suggesting the site was in use during those periods.

The function of the complex remains under investigation, Hassanpour said. Preliminary evidence raises the possibility that parts of the site were used for burials or as a mass grave, although the exact function of all rooms has not yet been determined.

He said the presence of large storage jars could indicate that at least part of the complex served a residential purpose.

Large sections of the underground complex remain unexplored, and further excavation will require additional funding, Hassanpour added.

IRCS proposes UN bodies set up humanitarian training center in West Asia

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has proposed that the United Nations resident coordinator and the director of the Regional Office for West and Central Africa launch a humanitarian training center in West Asia, announcing readiness to take the leading role in this regard.

The IRCS head, Pirhossein Kolivand, offered the proposal in a meeting with the UN resident coordinator, Christine Weigand, and the director of the Regional Office for West and Central Africa at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Charles Bernimolin.

Benefiting from 110,000 specialized and trained staff, as well as six million young volunteers, the Iranian Red Crescent Society has a high capacity in providing relief, educational, and humanitarian services, IRNA quoted Kolivand as saying.

The IRCS has an active presence in offering rescue and relief services to people in accidents and natural disasters. It is the only national society in the world that utilizes mounted volunteers to provide rescue services in insurmountable areas. The IRCS also has significant achievements in air rescue and the use of drones in rescue missions, he added.

Currently, the IRCS is cooperating with 19 countries across the world in manufacturing artificial and smart organs. The society has also developed the capacity to produce medical and pharmaceutical products.

The official highlighted that the IRCS measures during the recent US-Israeli war against Iran have drawn the attention of the international community and humanitarian institutions, which has paved the way to the expansion of collaborations.



He went on to say that the IRCS is ready to foster cooperation with the UN and its affiliated agencies in sharing relief experiences, holding joint educational courses, developing regional cooperation, enhancing human capacities, and even establishing a UN regional coordinating office in Iran.

For her part, Weigand lauded the IRCS efforts and accomplishments in concurrent management of the recent war and floods in the country, noting that the IRCS's precise and up-to-date reports and documents on the war have been a key factor in reflecting the realities, making humanitarian demands, drawing the attention of the international community, and attracting their support and aid for impacted individuals.

Bernimolin, for his part, said the activities and capabilities of the IRCS have been recognized internationally for years; the IRCS is recognized as a professional, capable, and respected society.

The IRCS's accurate reports and documents have greatly contributed to monitoring humanitarian conditions, assessing

needs, and planning humanitarian responses, he added.

He said that the future collaborations between UN and IRCS will be centered around promoting educational cooperation, sharing expertise, and benefiting from reciprocal capacities. The official called for enhancing joint efforts in addressing the needs of those affected, and strengthening humanitarian actions.

OCHA lauds IRCS for 'effective and valuable' management of human crises

In May, Gemma Connell, the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Office for the OCHA's Humanitarian Sector Division, appreciated the IRCS for its 'effective and valuable' role in human crises management.

While appreciating the provision of documentation, reports, and information related to humanitarian rights, she announced that the narrative of relief efforts provided by the Iranian Red Crescent Society had a significant impact on the OCHA officials.

She also praised the performance, sacrifice, and dedication of the aid workers of the IRCS, describing the role of the national society in providing relief to the affected people and managing humanitarian crises as effective and valuable, ILNA reported.

Connell emphasized the importance of developing cooperation, continuing specialized interactions, and strengthening coordination between the United Nations and the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

She made the remarks in a meeting with Pirhossein Kolivand, the president of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, in Geneva, during which Kolivand explained the extensive relief and operational capacities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

The IRCS head emphasized the need to develop humanitarian cooperation, strengthen international coordination in the field of crisis management, and promote the principles of humanitarian law.

In continuation, cooperation within the framework of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) was also stressed, and the effective role and operational capacity of the IRCS rescue and relief teams in international missions were emphasized.

During the meeting, Malaysian officials elaborated on the scientific and research capabilities of the UM as one of the oldest and best universities in Malaysia.

SCO education ministers censure attacks on Iran's scientific centers

From page 1 ▶ The official said that attacking universities is a crossing of red lines, highlighting that many universities and educational centers in the country were targeted by the United States and Israel during the recent war.

When a university is targeted, in fact, one of the most authentic centers of culture and civilization is attacked, and the harm is directed at the entire scientific community of the world, msrt.ir quoted Simaei-Sarraf as saying.

Elaborating on the US-Israeli military attacks on Iran, destruction, and assassinations of Iranian universities and scientists in the past year, he emphasized that universities should be safe havens for thought, dialogue, and hope, rather than victims of conflicts.

The official raised a question, asking participants, "Will the international community allow the most authentic centers of civilization to fall victim to violence?", and urged the global scientific community and international organizations to adopt a clearer, more responsible, and decisive stance in defending the security of universities, scientists, and scientific centers.

Silence in the face of these aggressions will lead to constant violence against science and civilization, he added.

Referring to transboundary challenges such as climate change, water and energy crisis, food security, and developments in artificial intelligence (AI), he stressed that co-



hesive scientific cooperation is critical for the future of mankind.

The official went on to highlight the unique, civilizational and academic capacities of the SCO member states in AI, basic sciences, advanced materials, and public health, and emphasized the need to transform these diverse advantages into a network of cooperation, noting the universities' success in the future will not only be measured by the production of pure knowledge, but their impacts on the quality of people's lives.

The official went on to propose that SCO become a successful model of problem-based convergence in which knowledge is a bridge between nations and a factor for sustainable development, prosperity, and building a safer and more humane future.

Hosting more than 30 representatives of SCO member states, including ministers of education and their deputies, university rectors, and officials from relevant agencies, the tenth meeting aimed to enhance multilateral scientific and technological cooperation among SCO member states.

Iranian, Malaysian scientific officials agree on joint engineering projects



TEHRAN – Iran's scientific counselor in East Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, Alireza Tavakolpour, and scientific officials of the University of Malaya (UM) have agreed on the implementation of joint engineering projects, including the establishment of twin laboratories and the issuance of double or dual degrees.

The officials met on Sunday to explore avenues for expanding science diplomacy and promoting research collaborations, IRNA reported.

The meeting was attended by UM officials, including Mohd Faizul Mohd Sabri, the deputy dean of research and innovation at the faculty of engineering, Nasrul Anuar bin Abd Razak, deputy dean of biomedical engineering, and Nurin Wahidah binti Mohd Zulkifli, head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Evaluating the research capacities of the Faculty of Engineering, UM, including mechanics, electrical engineering, chemistry, medicine, and civil engineering, the two sides highlighted the need to boost ties in emerging technologies.

Tavakolpour proposed implementing large-scale interdisciplinary research projects, which was welcomed by the Malaysian officials. The two sides also discussed the designation of joint supervising professors, professors, and student exchange.

Allocating special scholarship quota and offering sabbatical leaves to Iranian students were among other discussed issues.

UM officials and Tavakolpour had also met in May and explored the potential for the development of scientific and academic ties between Iranian universities and UM.

During the meeting, Malaysian officials elaborated on the scientific and research capabilities of the UM as one of the oldest and best universities in Malaysia.

For his part, Tavakolpour expounded on Iran's perspectives on the expansion of science diplomacy, presenting the capacities of Iranian elites and scientists, and shared the research fields that are a top priority for the country.

Malaysia determined to enhance scientific co-op with Iran

In May, Malaysian Minister of Higher Education, Zamry Abdul Kadir, in a phone conversation with Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, said that Malaysia is determined to boost scientific ties with Iran, particularly in the higher education sector, with consultations and planning currently in progress.

The two sides explored avenues for developing scientific interactions and enhancing academic collaborations between the universities of the two countries, msrt.ir reported.

They also highlighted the need for the preservation of the scientific centers during wartime.

Referring to his trip to Tehran in 2023, Abdul Kadir said upon his return to the country, he had shared information on Iran's scientific capabilities and capacities with Malaysian universities.

The official also condemned the US-Israeli attacks, which targeted scientific centers and universities in Iran, underlining that "we must protect the scientific institutions. Regardless of any political dispute and war, scientific centers need to be safeguarded in times of conflict under the Geneva Convention."

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf highlighted that in proportion to the two nations' capacities and commonalities, the current educational, technological, and research cooperation needs to be expanded through conducting more joint research projects, and supporting research grants among universities and scientific centers of the two countries.

Healthy, restored wetlands hosting migratory birds

TEHRAN – Improved environmental conditions in western Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province and northwestern West Azarbaijan province have brought many birds back to wetlands and lakes to nest and breed.

According to the provincial head of the Department of Environment (DOE) in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, Ruhollah Asgari, this year around 35,000 aquatic and waterside birds have nested to breed in Gandoman and Choghakhor wetlands.

Over 30 bird species, including ferruginous duck, common pochard (Aythya ferina), purple heron, great grebe, little grebe, black-necked grebe, spoonbill, and tern, are inhabiting in the wetlands.

Favorable habitat conditions, diverse vegetation, and rich food resources have established the wetlands as primary breeding centers for birds, he added.

In April, a Meadow Pipit (Anthus pratensis) bird was spotted for the first time in Gandoman wetland.

With the new bird recorded, the total number of bird species in the wetland amounts to 306 species, which indicates ecological dynamics and the habitat health of the wetland.

Gandoman Wetland was registered as Iran's 27th wetland of international importance in February 2025. Stretching to 1,070 hectares, it is one of Iran's top five birdwatching sites and the country's most important permanent habitats for migratory birds.

Choghakhor wetland is flowing on 1687 hectares, being designated as a hunting restricted area. It is home to 47 bird species. The wetland is home to more than one percent of the population of the common pintail and endangered species such as the white-headed duck and the eastern golden eagle. Choghakhor Wetland is also one of the most important habitats for the native Zagros fish in Iran.

Thanks to an 18-fold increase in the volume of water in Lake Urmia, reaching 4.28 billion cubic meters now, and the restoration of the food resources in this ecosystem, a large number of flamingos have returned to the lake.

With the improved water conditions, over 6,000 flamingos are expected to fly to Lake

Urmia and its satellite wetlands.

Filed surveys have shown the birds nesting and breeding in the southern parts of the lake.

Rainfall, restoration projects replenish many wetlands

Recent heavy rainfall, along with restoration projects, has increased water flow into many wetlands, including Shimbar, Zarivar, Helleh, and Hour al-Azim, bringing them back to life.

Thanks to a 3.7 percent increase in average rainfall, the water inflow to wetlands across the country has improved compared to last year, IRIB quoted Arezou Ashrafzadeh, an official with DOE, as saying.

In Gilan province, Bojag wetland is in good standing. Anzali wetland is in fair condition after the removal of invasive water hyacinths. However, Gorgan Bay, and Miankaleh wetland require additional measures to be restored. Sadly, in Golestan province, Alagol wetland is not in a favorable condition due to low rainfall, the official noted.

About 70 percent of Quri Gol wetland, the only fresh wetland, in East Azarbaijan, is filled with water. Compared to the same period last year, the water level of the wetland has increased by 27 cm, reaching 1912.43 meters now.

Presently, some 116 hectares of the wetland are filled with water. It has about 700 million cubic meters (mcm) of water, which is lower than the 3.8 mcm amount designated for the wetland.

Quri Gol wetland hosts over 92 bird species, which are all migratory birds, except redhead coots, 14 species of reptiles, 4 species of amphibians, and one species of fish, as well as 280 plant species.

In Fars province, 80, 30, and 10-15 percent of Maharloo, Arjan, and Bakhtegan wetlands are filled with water.

With an area of 600 sq. Km, Maharloo Lake in southern Fars Province is a perfect stop-over for migratory birds, including flamingos. In mid-summer, the lake loses its water due to high evaporation, leaving behind a white bed and pinkish-colored water.



The Arjan restoration project is in the beginning phase; it covers 2000 hectares. The water of the wetland depends on the amount of rainfall. The wetland is one of the main habitats for migratory birds like cranes, flamingos, wild ducks, and geese.

Bakhtegan is a Salt Lake with a surface area of 3,500 square kilometers, once Iran's second-largest lake. Several dams on the river had significantly reduced water flow into the lake, increasing its salinity and endangering the lake's populations of flamingos and other migratory birds.

In Khuzestan province, Hour al-Azim and Shadegan wetlands are in optimal shape. Until last year, Hour Al-Azim wetland, located on the border of Iran and Iraq, was grappling with water scarcity.

Bamdej wetland is being revived. The project to restore the wetland kicked off about two years ago with the help of the private sector, investing 1.3 trillion rials (around 8 million dollars), with 2 trillion rials (about 12 million dollars) more which is needed to complete the project.

Intense rainfalls have led Shimbar, Zarivar, and Helleh wetlands to be filled to 100 percent, and overflow.

Located at the foot of the Zagros mountains, Zarivar is a freshwater wetland designated as a Ramsar Site.

Marreh wetland in Qom province is in a favorable condition. Known as the "Desert Gem", the wetland stands as one of the five significant wetlands in Qom province, becoming a sanctuary for various bird species.

Sprawled about 40 kilometers north of the city of Qom and adjacent to the Qom – Tehran highway, Hoz-e-Sultan wetland, a salt lake, is struggling with water scarcity.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When this world favors somebody, it lends him the attributes, and surpassing merits of others and when it turns its face away from him it snatches away even his own excellences and fame.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:06 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:49 (tomorrow)

Photo exhibition on Ramadan War opens at Tehran gallery

TEHRAN- The latest works of photojournalist and visual artist Mohsen Rezaei were unveiled on Friday at 009821 Projects Gallery in Tehran.

Titled "The Survivor," the exhibition serves as a visual record of the harrowing events of the 40-day Ramadan War launched by the US and the Zionist regime on Iranian soil.

The collection is the result of Rezaei's immersive field experience, blending a rigorous documentary approach with a deeply personal perspective. Through his lens, the chaos of the conflict is distilled into a series of narratives that capture the lived experience of those caught in the crossfire, transforming a period of national crisis into an artistic exploration of resilience and loss.

Rezaei's approach in "The Survivor" transcends traditional photojournalism. By navigating the intersection of news photography, social documentary, and conceptual art, he seeks to explore the multifaceted impact of war on the social and psychological fabric of the city.

The exhibition invites viewers to contemplate the delicate relationship between the captured image, collective memory, and the visceral reality of survival.

Since beginning his professional career in 2014, Mohsen Rezaei has collaborated with leading domestic and international media outlets. A graduate in painting, Rezaei integrates his formal training in fine arts into his photographic work, often bridging the gap between raw journalism and conceptual art.

His professional trajectory is marked by numerous accolades, including selections in multiple editions of the Image of the Year festival and the prestigious Knight of Art award in the United States. His work has been featured in globally recognized publications, including Le Monde and The Washington Post, as well as the specialized Iranian journal Herfeh: Honarmand (Occupation: Artist).

"The Survivor" will remain on display until



July 3 at the 009821 Projects Gallery, located at No. 25, 18th Alley, Kheradmand St., Karim Khan Ave.

The Ramadan War is a significant event in Iran's recent history, characterized by intense aggression from the United States and Israel that began on February 28. This sudden escalation culminated in a series of devastating strikes that claimed the life of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, whose martyrdom sent shockwaves across the nation and the wider Islamic world.

The conflict, which unfolded during the holy month of Ramadan, was characterized by intense urban warfare and systemic attacks on strategic infrastructure, testing the resilience of the Iranian people and the strength of its national defense.

In the wake of this tragedy, the nation navigated a critical period of transition, leading to the appointment of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei as the new Leader by the Assembly of Experts on March 8. The ensuing weeks, often referred to as the "40-day conflict," saw the Iranian people mobilize in a profound display of unity and survival against external aggression. The legacy of this war remains etched in the collective memory through the immense human cost it incurred and the subsequent artistic and documentary efforts to immortalize the struggle, resilience, and mourning of a population faced with an existential threat.

Cartoon of Day



Overview

Cartoonist: Paolo Calleri from Germany

Chinese translation of Nizami's "Khamasa" unveiled at 32nd Beijing International Book Fair

TEHRAN – The complete Chinese translation of "Khamasa" (The Five Treasures), the most renowned work of Nizami Ganjavi, was unveiled on the sidelines of the 32nd Beijing International Book Fair in China.

Through the efforts of the Cultural Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran in China, and following the translation of works such as "Khosrow and Shirin," "Eskandar Nameh" (The Book of Alexander), and "Makhzan al-Asrar" in 2025, the publication of "Haft Peykar" (The Seven Beauties) and "Layla and Majnun" has now completed the Chinese translation of Nizami's timeless masterpiece "Khamasa".

The collection was unveiled during Iran Cultural Day (June 20) at the fair, in the presence of numerous Chinese and Iranian Iranologists, literary figures, professors, and researchers, ILNA reported.

A complete set of the work, bearing a handwritten note and signature from the President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian, was presented to the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, while another copy was donated to the Persian Language Section at Peking University.

"In honor of the radiant millennia of civilizational, cultural, and literary exchanges and the inseparable bonds between the land of Iran and ancient China, the gift of Nizami Ganjavi's "Five Treasures" is presented to the esteemed President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Xi Jinping," President Pezeshkian

43rd Munich International Film Festival to show restored version of Beyzai's "Bashu, the Little Stranger"

TEHRAN – In honor of the renowned Iranian filmmaker Bahram Beyzai, who passed away last year, the 43rd Munich International Film Festival will present the German premiere of the restored version of "Bashu, the Little Stranger".

The 1989 Iranian drama will be shown out of competition of the CineKindl section of the festival, which is to be held from June 26 to July 5 in Munich, Germany, ISNA reported.

As an anti-war masterpiece, "Bashu, the Little Stranger" has a simple story. It depicts the story of Bashu, a southern Iranian boy, who, after losing his family during the Iran-Iraq war, runs away in search of refuge and is taken in by Naii, a woman living with her two young children in a village in the northern part of the country.

Despite their linguistic, ethnic, and racial differences, neighbors' gossip, and the economic challenge of feeding a new family member, Naii accepts Bashu and prepares to convince her disabled husband when he arrives

ECI launches ECO Nameh to foster cultural connectivity across member states

TEHRAN- The Economic Cooperation Organization Cultural Institute (ECI) has announced the launch of ECO Nameh, a monthly cultural and artistic periodical dedicated to strengthening intellectual, artistic, and social bonds among the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Published in Persian, ECO Nameh serves as a strategic platform for the promotion and preservation of the region's vast tangible and intangible cultural heritage. By fostering dialogue and mutual understanding, the



Nematollah Iranzadeh, the Cultural Attaché of Iran in China (L) and Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, Iran's Ambassador to China (C) attend the unveiling ceremony of the Chinese translation of Nizami's "Khamasa" at the 32nd Beijing International Book Fair on June 20.

wrote in his note.

At the unveiling ceremony, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, Iran's Ambassador to China, emphasized the importance and status of Nizami's "Khamasa" in the history of Persian lyrical and philosophical literature. He voiced hope for the further expansion and deepening of scholarly and literary relations between Iran and China.

"China, one of the largest and most expansive countries in the world, symbolizes greatness and boundlessness in Nizami's magnificent poetry and serves as a mirror reflecting the power and glory of kings. Throughout the "Khamasa," in accordance with Persian poetic tradition, refer-

ences repeatedly appear to the Emperor of China, the beauty of the Chinese people, Khotan musk and Chinese perfume, Chinese bowls and fine porcelain, Chinese Turks, exquisite fabrics and garments such as brocade, silk, robes, and Chinese textiles, as well as other precious gifts from that land—Chinese hats, mats, embroidery, mirrors, painting, carpets, and crowns," he added.

Rahmani Fazli noted that China also features prominently in several of Nizami's most captivating stories, including "The City of the Bewildered and the Black-Clad People of China" in "Haft Peykar," the tale of "Bahram Gur and the Beautiful Chinese Princess in

the Sandalwood-Colored Dome," also known as "The Story of Good and Evil," and many other narratives. These references, he said, demonstrate the deep and long-standing cultural connections between the ancient civilizations of Iran and China.

Nizami Ganjavi (1141 – 1209) is considered the greatest romantic epic poet in Persian literature, who brought a colloquial and realistic style to the Persian epic. His heritage is widely appreciated in Iran, Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Kurdistan region, and Tajikistan. The "Khamasa," which is a collection of five long narrative poems, is Nizami's main and best-known work.



home from a work-related trip.

The touching, acclaimed drama, however, carries subtle undertones about human emotions like love, acceptance, loneliness, and unfamiliarity.

In 1999, "Bashu, the Little Stranger" was voted the best Iranian movie of all time by a poll of 150 movie experts.

Bahram Beyzai was an Iranian filmmaker, poet, playwright, and theater director. After making a name for himself as a playwright

in the 1960s, he turned to directing films in the 1970s and is considered a pioneer of the Iranian New Wave.

To this day, his works are regarded by critics as some of the best Iranian films of all time. In 2010, he became a professor at Stanford University. He died in December 2025 on his 87th birthday.

His debut feature, "Downpour," made in 1972, is regarded as one of the most successful Iranian films ever made.

His other films include "Stranger and the Fog" (1974), "Crow" (1976), "Ballad of Tara" (1979), "Maybe Another Time" (1988), "Travelers" (1992), "Killing Mad Dogs" (2001), and "When We Are All Asleep" (2009).

Beyzai's stories, plays, and screenplays, as well as his studies in various fields, have been published in over 70 books. Some of his plays have been translated into several languages and shown in many countries.

The Munich International Film Festival is the largest summer film festival in Germany and second in size and importance to the Berlinale. It has been held annually since 1983 and takes place in late June or early July. It presents feature films and feature-length documentaries.

The festival has identified emerging young filmmakers known for their talent and innovation, a practice that remains ongoing. With the exception of retrospectives, tributes and homages, all of the films screened are German, European, and world premieres.

publication aims to facilitate a deeper cultural exchange among the diverse populations of the ECO bloc. To date, eight issues have been released, with the digital edition made accessible via the ECI's official portal.

Each edition offers a comprehensive exploration of the region's civilizational tapestry, featuring in-depth coverage of literature, music, traditional handicrafts, and cultural tourism. A cornerstone of the magazine is its dedicated country-specific section, which highlights the unique cultural identity and her-

itage of a selected ECO member state. This focus is further emphasized by the magazine's cover art, which is curated to reflect the aesthetic and cultural hallmarks of the featured nation.

Beyond its artistic focus, ECO Nameh provides an institutional record of the ECI's regional initiatives. The publication documents the institute's programs, achievements, and the outcomes of various conferences, festivals, and exhibitions organized within the framework of ECO cultural cooperation. To ensure regional synchronization, each issue con-