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How the Lebanese government advances Israel's interests!

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The signing of the Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Iran and the U.S. dealt a great blow to the Israeli regime's expectations from the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations.

This sharp shift was reflected in remarks by Yechiel Leiter, the Israeli ambassador to the United States and head of its negotiating delegation, before the opening of the fifth round of talks with Lebanese diplomats in Washington on Tuesday.

Leiter likened the negotiation process to "a train derailing from its intended track," in what was widely seen as a direct criticism of the U.S. administration and President Donald Trump. ▶ Page 5

"Burnt Breaths" photo exhibition opens in Tehran to mark Sardasht chemical attack anniversary

TEHRAN- Concurrent with the 39th anniversary of the chemical bombardment of Sardasht and the National Day of Fight against Chemical and Biological Weapons, the "Burnt Breaths" conference and photo exhibition officially opened at the Melal Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday.

The event aims to elucidate the humanitarian, legal, and international dimensions of the war crimes resulting from the use of chemical weapons and serves to honor the martyrs of Sardasht, Mehr reported. ▶ Page 8

Karbala, where resistance was born

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

HAFIZABAD, Pakistan - Muharram is not a month of grief; it is a school of resistance.

In the year 680 CE, on the burning sands of Karbala, Imam Hussein (AS) stood with 72 companions against the massive army of Yazid. They were thirsty. They were outnumbered. They knew they would die. But they refused to bow to a tyrant. They chose dignity over submission. That day, resistance was born.

That spirit did not die in Karbala. It travelled across centuries. It crossed mountains and seas. Today, that same spirit burns in the hearts of the resistance fighters in Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, and beyond. Karbala teaches us that numbers and weapons do not decide who is right. Truth and justice do. Imam Hussein lost the battle but won the moral war. His sacrifice became an eternal flame of defiance against oppression. ▶ Page 5

Yemen will ensure the Somaliland scheme becomes a catastrophic trap for Israel

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Any temporary reduction of military hostility by Israel along its northern borders or toward Iran must not be misconstrued as a sign of regional peace.

Driven by long-term schemes and intense domestic political crises, including the looming prospect of early Knesset elections, Benjamin Netanyahu remains structurally dependent on a perpetual state of warfare for his political survival.

Trapped in severe international isolation and unable to convert immense tactical destruction into stable political outcomes, the Israeli "security" doctrine dictates projecting devastating aggression outward to satisfy the beastly, bloodthirsty voters and political elements within its fragile governing coalition. ▶ Page 5



Family members gather at the burial site of students killed in a U.S. attack on a girls school in Minab

'US and Israel Must Be Brought to Justice for Their Crimes'

Leader tells Judiciary to pursue prosecution of US-Israeli officials responsible for 2025 and 2026 attacks

Leader notes American and Israeli officials have effectively admitted committing criminal acts, with some openly boasting of their aggression, which under international law constitutes an acknowledgment of criminal liability.

By Soheila Zarfame

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has ordered Iran's Judiciary to pursue the prosecution of American and Zionist officials responsible for war crimes against the Iranian people, declaring that the restoration of the nation's violated rights is among the most urgent judicial matters facing the country.

In a message marking Judiciary Week, the Leader called for the perpetrators of unprecedented crimes against Iranian civilians to be held accountable in both domestic and international courts.

In the two wars the U.S. and Israel have launched against Iran over the past year, the two regimes have targeted thousands of civilian sites across the country.

The Minab attack, for instance, occurred in the southern province of Hormozgan and saw a U.S. missile strike the Shajarat Tayebah elementary school for

girls, killing over 170 students and teachers. Officials have described the strike as a blatant violation of international humanitarian law, noting that the attack was carried out during school hours.

In Lamerd, a city in Fars Province, a U.S. missile struck the Shahid Naimi sports hall while a girls' junior volleyball team was practicing. At least 24 civilians were killed and over 130 injured, including young girls and their coach. Iranian officials have characterized the attack, carried out with a newly developed Precision Strike Missile, as a "calculated decision" by Washington to test its weaponry on Iranian civilians.

Ayatollah Khamenei's message emphasized that the U.S.-Israeli crimes committed in 2025 and 2026 constitute numerous legal cases that must be pursued with full seriousness. He noted that American and Israeli officials have effectively admitted to the acts, with some openly boasting of their aggression, which under international law constitutes an acknowledgment of criminal liability. ▶ Page 3



Araghchi warns against foreign interference in Hormuz reopening

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned on Sunday that any foreign interference in Iran's management of the Strait of Hormuz would complicate efforts to restore maritime traffic and delay the reopening of one of the world's most strategically important waterways, as he held a series of high-level meetings in Baghdad focused on bilateral relations, regional security, and post-conflict diplomacy.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, Araghchi said the responsibility for reopening the Strait of Hormuz rests exclusively with Iran under the terms of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) reached with the United States following the recent conflict. ▶ Page 2

Iran to respond more forcefully to MoU violations after 2nd night of fire exchange with US

TEHRAN – In a statement released following overnight strikes on at least eight U.S. military installations and the diversion of unauthorized vessels attempting to transit the Hormuz Strait via an unconfirmed route, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) declared that it will hit American bases harder in the coming days and deal more decisively with ships attempting to pass through the strait without authorization. ▶ Page 3

Qalibaf: Iran seriously pursuing an end to Israel's war on Lebanon

TEHRAN — Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf announced on Sunday that Tehran is vigorously pursuing an end to the war in Lebanon, the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty, and the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories, describing these objectives as central to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding signed with the United States.

In a telephone conversation with his Lebanese counterpart, Qalibaf said that ending the war in Lebanon and preserving the country's territorial integrity were among the most critical issues raised during last week's negotiations in Switzerland, which was held with the U.S. in the presence of Pakistani and Qatari mediators. He noted that Iranian negotiators had pointed to serious violations of the first provision of the Islamabad MoU, which led to an agreement to establish a trilateral conflict control unit comprising Iran, the United States, and Lebanon to monitor the provision's implementation.

"Our objective is to end the war in Lebanon, enable displaced persons to return to their homes, end the occupation, and secure the withdrawal of the Zionist regime from Lebanese territory," Qalibaf said. "We are pursuing this matter with seriousness." ▶ Page 3

Iran-UAE trade reactivated

TEHRAN- The Deputy for Commercial Services of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization announced the reactivation of trade exchanges between Iran and the UAE via Jebel Ali Port, one of the most important ports in the southern Persian Gulf.

Seyyed Mohammad Sadegh Ghannadadeh, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, referred to Jebel Ali Port and stated: "This port is one of the most important southern transit ports of the UAE for trade with Iran, through which the majority of trade with Iran used to be conducted."

Recalling that during the recent imposed war, the transport and transit of goods through this port came to a halt, he continued: "There are various statistics on the accumulation of Iranian containers at this port, because Iranian traders have been unable to clear their goods in recent months due to the war conditions." ▶ Page 4

Iran war changing public perception shaped by Western media, says S Korean scholar



▶ Page 2

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

Strait of Hormuz is America's breathing passage

Kayhan, in an analysis, discussed the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's vital control over it. It wrote: The Strait of Hormuz is under the control, management, and security of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is not a place for America's presence or play. Any attack will receive a response beyond imagination. The Strait of Hormuz is the vital chokepoint of the global economy. America knows that if Iran closes the Strait, the West's "economic breathing" will stop. When Trump says that if we had not reached an agreement with Iran, our oil reserves would have run out in four weeks, why should we commit to reopening the Strait of Hormuz in any agreement? The cost of America's mistakes is extremely high. The U.S. and Israel cannot break Iran's will. They face a power that fears neither threats nor war. We have absolute sovereignty over our soil and waters. The IRGC Navy has defined the boundaries. Any vessel that tries to use unauthorized routes will face Iran's heavy response.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Delusions harm Persian Gulf Arab states

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to the meetings of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio with senior officials of Persian Gulf Arab states. The world is oriented toward a new order in West Asia based on the model of resistance, and even prominent political theorists stress that developments will not revert to the pre-U.S.-Israeli war on Iran (known as the Ramadan War). Yet, the leaders of the Arab states on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf still indulge in fantasies whenever they see American officials. The collective meeting of the (P)GCC foreign ministers with Rubio in Bahrain revealed a bitter truth: regional countries have still not learned lessons from the Ramadan War and America's behavior. This conduct, if repeated during any renewed U.S.-Israeli aggression against Iran, will place them—due to their cooperation with the aggressors—among Iran's legitimate targets. The consequences will fall on the leaders of these countries who remain deluded about staying in power through American support.

Javan: A new order in the Strait of Hormuz

Javan, in an article, referred to Friday night's military encounter in the Strait of Hormuz. The incident was less a naval clash and more a test of a new navigation order in the waterway. After Iran warned an oil tanker that had deviated from Tehran's approved route—and after America's retaliatory strike on Iran's southern coasts—maritime tracking data shows increased ship movement toward the northern corridor of Hormuz, the corridor Iran insists is the safe passage. It

now appears that Tehran, through step-by-step "security surgery," is turning its desired security geometry into operational reality. Alongside the traditional waterway, another route—said to have been shaped with US involvement—was proposed. But subsequent events aimed at challenging Iran in Hormuz revealed that Iran's new geometry for managing navigation in the strait is gradually becoming established.

Khorasan: Neither imposition nor surrender

Khorasan, in an interpretation piece, defended the ongoing Pakistan-mediated negotiations between Iran and the United States. In recent days, as political debate over negotiations has heated up, some platforms and media have tried to portray the decision to enter talks either as a sign of retreat or as something imposed on the highest level of national decision-making body. This behavior is analytically flawed and politically harmful to public understanding. At the highest level of national security governance, a good decision results from balancing ideals, interests, realities on the ground, and national capacities. One reason for the Leader's approval of negotiations was the quality of the draft understanding. When the text includes halting operations, managing conflict, safe passage through Hormuz, a technical path for removal of sanctions, partial release of assets, and a dispute-resolution mechanism, it cannot be said that negotiation equals retreat. A negotiation that forces the other side to register commitments, accept oversight, and pay political costs is simply the continuation of the battlefield through political tools.

Resalat: America's commitments must be verified

Resalat, in a commentary, discussed Iran's policy in the memorandum of understanding with the United States. Although the brief meeting made good progress toward fulfilling the conditions and advancing the process—and Iran could have framed each condition as a "victory narrative" in diplomatic combat—it chose not to. Two reasons explain this approach: First, Iran has no reason to trust the other side; the US may turn the tables and launch an attack at any moment. Second, Iran is not in a hurry. It will advance the understanding line by line, and if the other side breaks its promise, Iran can return to the starting point. Iran obtained everything it wanted at this stage and gave nothing in return. Iran's strategy in the Swiss negotiations is to verify America's commitments. This strategy has already shown its success in diplomacy. Meanwhile, on the military front, fingers remain on the trigger with full readiness.

Iran to pursue US war crimes in int'l courts



TEHRAN – Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said on Sunday that Tehran is determined to pursue legal action against 'US war crimes against the Iranian nation,' stressing that the Judiciary, in coordination with the Foreign Ministry and other bodies, is preparing cases for international courts.

Speaking at a meeting titled "American Human Rights Week," Ejei accused Washington of combining military aggression, economic pressure and media warfare to advance its objectives, saying the United States seeks to distort facts and conceal its actions through psychological operations.

He said Iran is compiling evidence, documents, images and witness testimonies in

accordance with international legal standards to support legal and criminal proceedings against those responsible. Ejei added that Iranian courts have already issued verdicts against a number of US officials and vowed that Tehran would enforce those rulings and seize the assets of convicted individuals whenever legally possible.

The judiciary chief also called for greater coordination among Iranian institutions involved in documenting and pursuing US actions, arguing that a unified approach would strengthen efforts to hold Washington accountable under international law. He further stressed that enhancing national unity, economic resilience and cultural strength remains essential to reinforcing Iran's position against external pressure.

Araghchi warns against foreign interference in Hormuz reopening

From page 1 ▶ He said the waterway would return to its pre-war operational capacity within 30 days once the remaining obstacles are removed by the Islamic Republic, stressing that no foreign country or international organization has any role in implementing the process.

"Any attempt to interfere in Iran's management of the Strait of Hormuz or to impose alternative arrangements will only complicate the situation and delay the reopening of the Strait," Araghchi said, calling on all parties to fully adhere to the memorandum of understanding and refrain from actions that could undermine the agreement.

Araghchi departed Baghdad early on Sunday for an official visit to hold talks with senior Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and regional and international developments.

The Iranian foreign minister described his visit to Iraq as taking place under "special and sensitive circumstances," noting that it was his first official foreign trip since the end of the recent military confrontation involving Iran, the United States and Israel. He thanked the Iraqi government and people for condemning the attacks against Iran and for their political support throughout the conflict.

Araghchi said the visit pursued three principal objectives: expressing appreciation for Iraq's solidarity with Iran, congratulating the country's newly formed government, and coordinating preparations for funeral ceremonies honoring the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in the Iraqi holy cities of Baghdad, Kadimiya, Karbala, Najaf and Samarra. He noted that numerous Iraqi political, religious and popular groups had expressed readiness to participate in the ceremonies.



The two foreign ministers also held extensive discussions on bilateral cooperation in the political, economic and security fields, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening as the two top diplomat said 'the strategic partnership between the two neighboring countries.'

Regional developments featured prominently in the talks, including the implementation of the Iran-US agreement, the situation in Lebanon, developments in the Persian Gulf, and prospects for establishing a new regional security architecture.

Araghchi argued that sustainable regional security should be built through cooperation among regional states without the involvement of outside powers. In this context, he welcomed Iraq's proposal for a regional dialogue mechanism bringing together Iran, Iraq and the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, describing the initiative as a constructive framework for promoting long-term stability.

The Iranian foreign minister also said that the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the US requires an end to hostilities across all fronts, including Lebanon. He criticized Israel for continuing military operations and said Washington

bears responsibility for ensuring full implementation of the agreement, including ending hostilities and facilitating compliance with its commitments.

Araghchi reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to expanding cooperation with Baghdad across political, economic and security sectors, emphasizing the importance of continued coordination between the two neighboring countries.

For his part, Hussein described relations between Iraq and Iran as historical, geographical, cultural, religious, economic and strategic, reiterating Baghdad's opposition to war and military escalation in the region. He warned that any prolonged disruption of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz would have serious consequences for Iraq's oil exports and the wider regional economy.

The Iraqi foreign minister emphasized that direct dialogue among regional countries remains the most effective way to address common challenges and build lasting peace. He also announced Baghdad's readiness to host a regional summit involving Iraq, Iran, and the Persian Gulf states to advance cooperation on regional security and stability.

Earlier in the day, Araghchi

paid tribute to the late IRGC's Quds Forces Commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi resistance commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis at the site of their assassination in Baghdad before beginning his official meetings.

He later met Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi, with the two sides discussing ways to deepen bilateral cooperation and coordinate regional initiatives aimed at promoting security and stability. According to the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office, the discussions also reviewed the recent agreement between Iran and the United States that brought an end to the conflict, as well as broader international efforts to uphold national sovereignty, preserve territorial integrity, and encourage dialogue as the primary means of resolving regional disputes.

According to a statement from the Iraqi prime minister's office, al-Zaidi welcomed the diplomatic process to end the war in the region, saying Iraq supports prioritizing an end to wars and adopting dialogue to foster regional stability.

Araghchi reaffirmed Iran's support for Iraq and underscored the importance of continued coordination and joint efforts to expand bilateral relations and cooperation.

Araghchi also met with Haibat al-Halbousi, the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament.

Araghchi's visit, which included consultations with senior Iraqi officials, underscores continued coordination between Tehran and Baghdad at a time when both countries are seeking to consolidate regional diplomacy following the recent conflict while advancing broader initiatives aimed at enhancing security, economic cooperation, and political dialogue across the region.

Iran war changing public perception shaped by Western media, says S. Korean scholar

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – For more than three decades, Professor Yu Dal-seung has devoted his academic career to studying Iran. As head of the Department of Persian Language and Iranian Studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFSS), he has introduced generations of South Korean students to Persian language, literature, history, and political thought. Few scholars in South Korea possess a deeper familiarity with Iranian society, and fewer still describe Iran as their "second homeland."

Speaking to the Tehran Times, Yu argues that recent regional developments—including the Gaza war and the subsequent U.S. and Israeli military strikes against Iran—have prompted many South Koreans to reconsider long-standing assumptions about the Islamic Republic. Yet he cautions that any shift remains fragile because South Korean media continue to rely heavily on Western sources for international news, allowing Western narratives to retain a dominant influence over public opinion.

For Yu, the challenge is not merely political. It is fundamentally one of communication, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding. While geopolitical crises may temporarily alter public attitudes, he believes only sustained educational and cultural engagement can produce lasting changes in how South Koreans perceive Iran.

A changing perception—but not yet a lasting one

Yu said he continues to stand by the position he articulated years ago: Iran should not be regarded as an adversary of South Korea, and Seoul would benefit from pursuing a more independent approach toward its relations with Tehran.

Recent military developments, he noted, have led many South Koreans to question prevailing narratives surrounding Iran.

"Many people regarded the recent war as unjust," Yu said, referring to the U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran. According to him, this has created a noticeable—though limited—shift in public attitudes.

He emphasized, however, that such changes should not be overstated.



"The influence of Western media remains very strong," he explained. "Therefore, this change in perception has not yet become deep or permanent." His assessment reflects the structural characteristics of South Korea's media environment. Much of the country's international news coverage is derived from Western news agencies and media organizations, meaning that dominant Western interpretations often become the primary lens through which South Koreans understand events in West Asia.

A new generation with broader sources of information

Despite the continued influence of traditional media, Yu sees signs of gradual change among younger South Koreans.

Unlike previous generations, many young people increasingly consume news through social media platforms and digital channels that expose them to a wider range of viewpoints.

This diversification of information sources has made younger audiences somewhat less dependent on traditional Western narratives and more willing to consider alternative perspectives on international affairs, including developments in Iran.

Nevertheless, Yu warned against interpreting this trend as evidence of a permanent transformation.

Public opinion, he observed, is often highly responsive to current events. The recent conflict may have encouraged greater curiosity about Iran, but such interest could fade unless accompanied by broader educational and cultural engagement.

"If access to accurate information increases and cultural exchanges continue to expand," he said, "today's temporary change could eventually become a lasting one."

The persistence of nuclear-centered narratives

Asked what image of Iran is most deeply rooted in South Korean public consciousness, Yu pointed to one issue above all others: Iran's nuclear program.

He believes decades of Western reporting have framed the issue primarily through the language of security threats, significantly influencing how ordinary South Koreans perceive the country.

Beyond the nuclear issue, Yu argues that limited knowledge about Iranian society has also contributed to widespread misconceptions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

'US and Israel must be brought to justice for their crimes'

Leader tells Judiciary to pursue prosecution of US-Israeli officials responsible for 2025 and 2026 attacks

From Page 1 ▶ Ayatollah Khamenei's message emphasized that the U.S.-Israeli crimes committed in 2025 and 2026 constitute numerous legal cases that must be pursued with full seriousness. He noted that American and Israeli officials have effectively admitted to the acts, with some openly boasting of their aggression, which under international law constitutes an acknowledgment of criminal liability.

"From the blood of the innocent martyrs of the Second and Third Imposed Wars, to the physical, psychological, material, and moral damages inflicted upon our beloved country and every member of the oppressed Iranian nation at home and even abroad; from the unprecedented child-killings and war crimes in Minab and Lamerd, to attacks on medical and service centers; from the killing of newborns just days old to beloved elders—and above all, the martyrdom of the



An athletic center and playground scorched and blasted by a US Army Precision Strike Missile in Lamerd, Iran, on February 28, 2026.

unparalleled figure, the unique jewel of the age, the great mujahid leader (may his noble station be exalted)—each constitutes a file among hundreds or even thousands of important legal cases that must be pursued with seriousness in domestic and international judicial courts," Ayatollah Khamenei wrote. "The

criminals must be held by the collar and brought to justice for their criminal acts," he stated, adding that the pursuit of these cases would also serve as a deterrent against future aggression.

The message came alongside a broader call for judicial transfor-

mation within Iran, with Ayatollah urging the Judiciary to ensure that the effects of reform are visible in the daily lives of citizens—through decisive action against corruption, faster proceedings, and greater access to justice. He stressed that the public must see the courts as a refuge for the oppressed, where even the powerful cannot transgress against the rights of others.

"Of course, achieving comprehensive judicial transformation and accelerating progress toward these goals requires various measures and prerequisites, most of which have been repeatedly articulated in the annual meetings of judicial officials and the detailed recommendations and emphases of the great martyred Leader," the Leader said. "Serious attention to them and efforts to realize them—which are the key to success for the esteemed officials of the Judiciary—are matters I firmly emphasize and demand."

Qalibaf: Iran seriously pursuing an end to Israel's war on Lebanon

From Page 1 ▶ The Lebanese Parliament Speaker, Nabih Berri, responded by affirming that Iran's efforts in Switzerland serve the interests of the Lebanese people, but cautioned that the Zionist enemy is attempting to circumvent the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty under the Islamabad framework through alternative channels. He described the separate agreement between Lebanon and the Zionist regime signed last week as a conspiracy and a sedition, quoting Imam Ali: "Sedition is worse than killing."

The exchange came as Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei reiterated Tehran's position on Lebanon's sovereignty, calling for a clear timetable for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from occupied areas.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Baghaei said the Islamic Republic considers the protection of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity—along with the dignity and security of all Lebanese citizens—to be a "fundamental prerequisite for any sustainable agreement."

Baghaei emphasized that Iran's position is rooted in the United Nations Charter and international law, and that this approach had shaped Tehran's demands during both the April ceasefire understanding and the June memorandum. He urged Washington to compel Israel to halt all acts of aggression and called for the prompt establishment of a withdrawal timetable.

The statements followed the signing of a 14-point framework agreement between Israel and Lebanon's government in Washington, which requires Israel to leave Lebanese territories only after the disarmament of Hezbollah, a Resistance group analysts believe possesses more military power than Lebanon's army.

Since March 2, when Israel launched its latest aggression against Lebanon, at least 4,246 people have been killed and 12,190 wounded, according to Lebanese authorities. Hezbollah has continued military operations against Israeli forces, maintaining that resistance remains necessary as long as occupation persists.

The signature and the reservation

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - The signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United States and Iran marks a definitive rupture in the security architecture of West Asia, following months of protracted asymmetric conflict.

Western media coverage has largely fixated on the transactional clauses of the accord, measuring its implications through the narrow metrics of economic concessions and nuclear thresholds. Such readings obscure the most

revealing dimension of the event. The true significance of the memorandum crystallized in the public address by the Wali, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, upon validating the text. His statement operates as a document of constitutional statecraft, delineating the precise boundaries of Iranian diplomacy.

Grasping this document requires discarding the categories of conventional political science and observing the Islamic Republic through its own institutional logic and its specific mode of political theology: the intimate

articulation between theological discourses and the political and social imaginary, entirely divorced from Western secular connotations. The trajectory of negotiations between Tehran and Washington has long been defined by mutual suspicion and conflicting paradigms of international order, where previous diplomatic efforts collapsed precisely by ignoring these underlying conceptual ruptures.

Western analysis frequently reduces the architecture of the Islamic Republic to a singular cen-

ter of decision-making, attributing the entirety of state strategy either to the Wali or, more recently, to the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps. Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei's message dismantles this orientalist simplification. By explicitly citing the commitments of President Masoud Pezeshkian, his authority as head of the Supreme National Security Council, and the consensus of the state's high command, the Iranian leader renders visible the institutional plurality of the system.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

LATEST NEWS

■ Velayati: Hezbollah safeguards Lebanon

Senior adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and former Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said political independence is indispensable to genuine freedom, arguing that liberty without sovereignty amounts to "a golden cage."

In a statement posted on social media, Velayati said that after years of diplomatic experience, he had concluded that political independence is the foundation of real freedom. He also described Hezbollah as "the pillar of the tent" and "the true protector of Lebanon's existence and independence," underscoring the movement's role in safeguarding the country's sovereignty.

■ VP: Funeral of martyred Leader among century's most significant events

Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said the upcoming funeral of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution ranks among the 21st century's most significant events, announcing that all state institutions have completed preparations.

■ Pezeshkian warns against attempts to undermine national unity

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian warned that some groups inside and outside the country are seeking to undermine national unity, stressing that preserving solidarity and internal cohesion is essential to overcoming the country's current challenges.

Speaking during a meeting with Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi in Qom on Sunday, Pezeshkian outlined his administration's performance across the executive, economic, so-

cial, and diplomatic sectors. He also reviewed the government's measures during the past four months, including its response to the recent US-Israeli war against Iran, saying the administration had mobilized all national resources to maintain stability, ensure the continuity of public services and minimize the war's impact on the Iranian people.

■ Pakistan urges ceasefire deal to be observed

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and the EU's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, have "reviewed the rapidly evolving regional situation", according to Pakistan's Foreign Ministry.

In their phone call, Kallas "appreciated Pakistan's sincere efforts culminating in the signing of the Islamabad MOU, but she expressed serious concerns about ceasefire violations".

Dar "emphasised the necessity for all parties to abide by the ceasefire agreement", the statement added.

■ Iran slams Italy over support for US-Israeli war

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Sunday rejected Italy's assertion that its role in the recent US-Israeli war against Iran was limited to "technical and logistical support," arguing that such assistance constituted direct involvement in 'an unlawful act of aggression.'

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei, responding to remarks by Italian officials on social media, said Rome's claim that it had provided only technical and support services while denying any participation in the conflict was a contradiction intended to avoid responsibility for complicity in an internationally wrongful act.

"This is a glaring contradiction and a fallacious argument aimed at evading responsibility for complicity in a grave internationally wrongful act: publicly denying any aid or assistance to the aggressors, while openly acknowledging the 'technical and logistical' support that enabled and facilitated the unlawful American-Israeli war of aggression against Iran," Baqaei wrote on X.

He argued that providing technical and logistical assistance to the attacking parties amounted to a clear and direct contribution to 'an illegal war of choice,' adding that such support constituted a serious violation of international law.

■ Italy calls for restraint from all sides to maintain ceasefire

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said on X: "It is essential to avoid any escalation that could jeopardize the understandings reached."

■ Pakistan, Saudi Arabia voice deep concern over regional developments

Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his Saudi counterpart expressed deep concern over the latest regional developments during a telephone conversation, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working for regional peace in line with the Islamabad memorandum, while the two ministers emphasized the importance of continued coordination and diplomatic efforts to promote stability and de-escalation across the region.

Iran to respond more forcefully to MoU violations after 2nd night of fire exchange with US



Frame grab from undated footage of a retaliatory missile strike by the IRGC

From Page 1 ▶ Iran has enforced restrictions on passage through the Hormuz Strait since the U.S. and Israel attacked it on February 28—less than a year after their earlier illegal aggression against the country. Under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the U.S. in June, Iran agreed to restore passage to previous levels within 30 days, provided that ships use only routes approved by Tehran.

Since last week, the U.S. has been attempting to open a parallel path through the strait, aiming to undermine Iran's leverage in ongoing negotiations and prevent the two littoral states—Iran and Oman—from receiving compensation for the environmental and security services they have provided free of charge for decades. Iran has responded to these unauthorized attempts by firing warning shots at violating vessels. In turn, the U.S. has breached the MoU once again and struck targets in southern Iran. The IRGC has retaliated by attacking U.S. military installations in the region.

In its statement, the IRGC announced that it returned fire for the second straight night, targeting American bases—particularly the Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain and the Ali Al Salem base in Kuwait.

"The aggressor enemy, whose very nature is defined by breaking commitments and violating agreements, attacked five coastal

outposts of the Islamic Republic in the early hours today under the pretext of responding to the IRGC Navy's confrontation of a trespassing vessel [in the Strait of Hormuz]," the statement read. It added that in response, the IRGC launched an operation involving ballistic missiles and drones, successfully destroying the targeted facilities at both massive bases.

"Any future aggression by the enemy, regardless of the pretext—even if, as seen last night and tonight, it targets objectives deemed to be of minor importance—will be met with a crushing response," the statement warned.

The IRGC also cautioned that violating vessels will be handled more "firmly" in the future. It further indicated that, in response to U.S. actions, Iran may decide to withdraw from ongoing peace talks aimed at limiting its nuclear program and reopening the Hormuz Strait in exchange for the lifting of U.S. sanctions and a commitment to refrain from further attacks on Iran.

"The enemy should understand that violating the ceasefire constitutes a breach of Clause One of the Islamabad understanding and will result in the complete suspension of all related processes," the statement added.

The IRGC's announcement came shortly after the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) declared that it had carried out new acts of aggression against targets inside Iran.

Iran pledges to pursue accountability for Sardasht chemical attack

TEHRAN— Iran has reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing legal accountability for those responsible for the 1987 chemical bombardment of the northwestern city of Sardasht, with senior officials describing the attack as one of the gravest war crimes of the Iran-Iraq War and a lasting reminder of 'international double standards' over the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Marking the anniversary of the attack, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said Tehran would continue to seek justice for the victims and hold accountable those responsible for the assault as well as the governments that enabled it.

"Sardasht was not only a victim of chemical bombs; it was also a victim of double standards and silence in the face of the countries—particularly Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands—that armed Saddam's regime with these inhumane weapons and then turned a blind eye to the suffering of thousands of victims," Gharibabadi wrote in a post on X on Saturday.

"We will seriously pursue the responsibility of the perpetrators of this crime," he added.

On June 28, 1987, Iraqi warplanes under former dictator Saddam Hussein dropped chemical bombs on four densely populated districts of Sardasht, making it the first city in the world to be targeted with chemical weapons against a civilian population after World War II. The attack killed at least 110 civilians and exposed nearly 8,000 others to mustard gas, many of whom continue to suffer from chronic respiratory illnesses, vision impairment, skin disorders, and other long-term health complications decades later.

The Sardasht bombing has been widely recognized in Iranian and international accounts as one of the deadliest chemical at-

tacks against civilians during the Iran-Iraq War. The assault formed part of a broader campaign in which Iraq repeatedly employed chemical weapons against both Iranian civilians and military personnel despite international prohibitions, while many of the foreign suppliers of dual-use materials and technology faced little or no accountability.

The anniversary coincides with Iran's National Day of Combat against Chemical and Biological Weapons, observed each year to commemorate the victims of Sardasht and to highlight the humanitarian consequences of chemical warfare.

In a message delivered at a commemorative ceremony on Saturday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran remains the "standard-bearer" in the global campaign against weapons of mass destruction and reiterated Tehran's determination to pursue justice for survivors of chemical attacks.

Araghchi said legal and procedural obstacles would not weaken Iran's resolve to seek accountability, arguing that the chemical attacks carried out during the Iran-Iraq War were made possible through the support and silence of certain Western governments that helped arm Saddam Hussein's regime with weapons of mass destruction.

The foreign minister also drew parallels between the legacy of the Sardasht attack and 'the recent U.S. and Israeli military aggression against Iran,' saying the anniversary serves as a reminder that impunity for violations of international law continues to threaten regional and international security.

He reiterated that Iran would continue to seek justice for the victims of chemical warfare while maintaining its long-standing position against weapons of mass destruction, describing accountability and adherence to international law as essential to preventing similar tragedies in the future.

Iran-Turkey annual trade exceeds \$5.6b



TEHRAN- The representative of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, referring to the value of trade between the two countries, stated that in 2025, the trade between Iran and Turkey surpassed \$5.6 billion.

Ibrahim Dogan Salman, during a meeting with members of the Board of Directors of the Yazd Chamber of Commerce, added that the preferential trade agreement implemented between the two countries in 2015 has provided a solid foundation for the development of these cooperations.

Referring to the history of economic and cultural relations between Iran and Turkey, he said: "There are deep-rooted cooperations between the two countries, and we are interested in strengthening these relations more than ever."

Dogan Salman, stating that "we are not on two sides of the Silk Road, but rather walk side by side on this road," added: "Iran and Turkey have always been neighbors throughout history and have known and understood each other. What binds the two nations together is a shared history, culture, and civilization."

The Istanbul Chamber of Commerce representative, referring to the value of trade between the two countries, stated: "In 2025, the trade between Iran and Turkey exceeded \$5.6 billion. Furthermore, the preferential trade agreement implemented between the two countries in 2015 has provided a solid foundation for the development of these cooperations."

He cited the active presence of entrepreneurs from both countries as the most tangible sign of this bond and said: "Currently, 7,288 companies with Iranian investment are operating in Turkey, and at the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce alone, the number of companies of Iranian origin has reached 2,040."

Dogan Salman also referred to the people-to-people ties between the two countries and added: "In 2025, more than three million Iranians visited Turkey, and this statistic shows that Iran and Turkey are not merely each other's markets, but are also true partners."

The Istanbul Chamber of Commerce representative emphasized: "To strengthen the bond between the chambers of commerce on both sides, we are prepared to hold joint meetings, bilateral talks, and specialized exhibitions."

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

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

The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce stated that in the logistics sector, given the restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, Turkey will be one of the suitable routes for us. He continued: However, there are problems at the Bazargan border that require more measures regarding customs affairs. Iran is ready to transfer 500 trucks through customs daily, but Turkey only permits 200 trucks to cross.

Hassanzadeh, referring to other areas of joint cooperation, said: In the field of petro-

chemical supply, food industries, especially greenhouse production, as well as pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, there are good capacities and facilities for joint cooperation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On May 22, the head of Iran's Customs Administration said that trade routes and the ease of truck traffic at the Iran-Turkey customs borders will be reviewed and facilitated.

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

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

From Page 1 ▶ The Deputy for Commercial Services of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization emphasized: "Now, after the return of relative calm to the region, we are witnessing the clearance of goods and containers from this port to Iran."

Stating that trade routes with the UAE have resumed, he said: "Trade is gradually picking up, and we hope it returns to the normal conditions before the war."

Iran has invited Emirati investors to participate in major projects across its economy, the country's economy minister said during a meeting with the United Arab Emirates' new ambassador to Tehran, in mid-February.

Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, Iran's minister of economic affairs and finance, told Khaled Abdullah Belhoul that trade and economic ties between the two countries are extensive, describing the United Arab Emirates as Iran's second-largest foreign trade partner.

While bilateral trade volumes remain significant, Madanizadeh said efforts should focus on facilitating trade and financial exchanges and expanding banking

Iran-UAE trade reactivated



cooperation to further strengthen economic relations.

He pointed to large, unnamed investment projects across various sectors of Iran's economy that could offer opportunities for Emirati investors.

Government-issued investment licenses were among the incentives available, he said, adding that such guarantees could enhance the attractiveness of projects.

The minister also highlighted opportunities in the digital economy and underscored Iran's

geographic position as a transit corridor providing access to northern regional markets.

For his part, Khaled Abdullah Belhoul, ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Iran, expressed hope that the two countries' joint economic committee, scheduled for next year, would provide a platform to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Back in December, Iran's transport and urban development minister said the country's commercial ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have room to

expand well beyond their current level, citing deep historical, geographic and cultural links between the two neighbors.

Farzaneh Sadegh, speaking at an event marking the UAE's fifty-fourth national day, congratulated the Emirati government and people and underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral relations on the basis of good-neighborliness and shared interests.

She said the presence of more than 500,000 Iranians in the UAE and roughly 300 weekly flights between the two countries reflect the depth of people-to-people ties. She added that these connections should be preserved and further expanded.

Sadegh described the UAE as one of Iran's principal trade partners and said the economic potential between the two countries extends far beyond the current level of cooperation. She called for joint efforts to unlock new opportunities.

Reiterating Iran's policy of prioritizing relations with its neighbors, she said Tehran welcomes any initiative aimed at deepening ties with the UAE.

Iran, Kazakhstan sign \$25m contract for establishing a logistics center at Shahid Rajaei Port

TEHRAN- The investment contract for establishing a logistics center of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the hinterland of Shahid Rajaei Port, in Iran's southern Hormozgan province, was signed in a ceremony attended by the head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), and Ontalap Onalbayev, the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran.

Hossein Abbasnejad, Director General of Ports and Maritime Department of Hormozgan Province, had said earlier on Sunday morning: "Negotiations and coordination with the Kazakh side have been ongoing for about a year, and preliminary memorandums of understanding were signed earlier. Today, this contract will be officially signed."

He added: "This project involves the construction of a logistics center at Shahid Rajaei Port on an area of about 15 hectares, which will serve as a link in the chain of logistics centers in Kazakhstan, origin ports, and Shahid Rajaei Port for the development of transit."

Referring to the investment amount for this project, he said: "The investment is about \$25 million, which will be made as foreign direct investment by the Kazakh side."

Abbasnejad described this project as one of the few examples of foreign direct investment in Iran's ports in recent years and added: "In this project, unlike some past projects, 100% of the investment is made by the Kazakh side."

He continued: "A construction period of two years has been considered for this project, after which operation will begin. In the operational phase, the annual transit volume is estimated at about 1.5 million tons, which has the potential for increase and expansion."

The Director General of Ports and Maritime Department of Hormozgan Province stated: "The contract duration is 27 years, which will include about 25 years of operation, and provisions have been made for review in five-year periods according to future conditions and increases in transit volume."

Back in last December, Mohammad Ali Dehghan-Dehnavi, deputy industry minister and head of the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), said: "Trade ties between Tehran and Astana are entering a more dynamic phase following the recent presidential visit to Kazakhstan, with both sides seeking to expand economic cooperation through logistics projects and regional partnerships."

He said: "Cooperation between provinces of the two countries was a key pillar of bilateral trade policy, adding that political relations had outpaced economic ties despite strong potential."

Speaking at a meeting on logistical cooperation with Kazakhstan, attended by senior officials and business representatives, Dehghan-Dehnavi said closer coordination and joint infrastructure projects were needed to

rebalance economic relations and raise trade volumes.

In mid-December 2025, Private-sector representatives from Iran and Kazakhstan signed nine cooperation agreements during a visit by a trade delegation from the Iran Chamber of Commerce to Astana, aimed at expanding bilateral business ties.

The delegation, led by ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh, included chamber officials and business representatives from engineering services, agriculture, food industries, mining and mineral sectors. Participants held B2B meetings with Kazakh counterparts to explore joint projects.

Iranian delegation accompanied President Masoud Pezeshkian in his visit to Kazakhstan during which the two countries Joint Economic Committee meeting also convened.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce signed three memorandums of cooperation, including two with KazTrade and the Kazakhstan Trade Development Council and one with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs Atameken, covering trade data exchange, business delegations, logistics and green freight transport.

Six additional agreements were signed between Iranian and Kazakh companies in sectors including agriculture, mining, copper production and food processing. One of the deals is valued at more than \$1 billion.

Iran, Azerbaijan discuss joint investment, greater use of border trade capacity

TEHRAN- The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture and the head of the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs' Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan emphasized the expansion of joint investments between the two countries and making greater use of border trade capacity.

Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, on the sidelines of the 40th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Chamber, which is being held in Ankara with the presence of heads and representatives of chambers of commerce of member countries, stating that Iran has always sought peace, security and tranquility, said: "We hope that the outcome of the ongoing negotiations between Iran and the US will also benefit the economy of the entire world, especially our neighboring, friendly and brotherly countries."

Referring to the cultural commonalities between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, he emphasized the dispatch and reception of trade delegations between the two countries and stressed: "Let us update the list of joint investment opportunities as well as the

items that the two countries can focus on for trade."

Qadir Qiyafeh, Vice President of the Iran Chamber, also said in this meeting: "Iran and Azerbaijan are two brotherly countries with a shared culture; therefore, we must overcome the negative propaganda that seeks to prevent the expansion of relations between the two countries."

Emphasizing the necessity of expanding economic cooperation between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, he said: "We are interested in having joint investments and joint projects, and for our peoples to become closer to each other."

Qadir Qiyafeh expressed hope: "We will witness social development, economic development and sustainable peace in the region, and the enemy's mischief cannot disrupt the development process of the countries in the region."

Mohammad Musayev, head of the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs' Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the Board of Aqrar Credit, also welcomed the joint investment of Iranian and Azerbaijani traders at this meeting and emphasized making greater use of the shared border capacity.

Seyed Hamed Asgari, Deputy for International Affairs of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, Mohammad Karbasi, Director General of ICRC, and Sama Farokhnezhad, Director General for the Mediterranean at the International Department of the Iran Chamber, are accompanying the head and vice head of the Iran Chamber on this trip.

On June 19, Mehdi Heydari, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, held bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Board of Executive Directors of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Baku with the head of Azerbaijan's Export and Investment Agency.

Mehdi Heydari, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, in a meeting with Yusuf Abdullayev, the head of Azerbaijan's Export and Investment Agency, while referring to the capacities and programs on the organization's agenda to encourage and improve foreign investment, emphasized

the exchange of experiences and identification of common points and projects for cooperation.

Referring to the signing of the memorandum of understanding of the Joint Investment Committee during President Pezeshkian's visit to Azerbaijan, Heydari said that it was decided to hold the first meeting of the said committee, but the desired conditions were not provided, but it is possible to hold it at the earliest opportunity.

He added that the axes agreed upon at the meeting of the Joint Commission of the two countries can be the agenda of the committee.

Referring to the economic capacities of the two sides, common opportunities for cooperation, and the capabilities of Iranian companies, he emphasized that the necessary platform for action is provided.

In this meeting, the list of projects prepared for foreign investment in Iran was presented to the Azerbaijani side, and the conditions of each sector were explained.

How the Lebanese government advances Israel's interests!

From page 1 ▶ The regime's initial premise at the start of negotiations with Lebanon was that all parties, over the previous four rounds, had "boarded the same train heading in a clear direction: full peace and normalization between the two sides, the dismantling of Hezbollah, and the removal of its weapons."

However, according to Leiter, that train risked going off the rails following the U.S.-Iran MOU. He warned that the Lebanese resistance has received a boost of encouragement and undoubtedly "feels stronger and bolder."

Instead of focusing, from the Israeli perspective, on disarming Hezbollah, the objective of the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations had shifted to translating the U.S.-Iranian understandings into tangible measures on the ground.

This served to prevent any disruption to what Washington deems the more critical track: advancing discussions on the MOU toward a final agreement. This is especially relevant given Iran's insistence on implementing the first clause of the MOU, which focuses on ending hostilities on all fronts, including Lebanon, with a ceasefire and withdrawal from occupied Lebanese territories, before moving forward on other issues outlined in the memorandum.

Leiter's aggressive and sharp statements represented an escalation in the Israeli regime's stance and clearly reflected its anger and dissatisfaction with the unfolding situation. The regime feared that the next step after solidifying a ceasefire would be demands for a full withdrawal from southern Lebanon, pushed through various Iranian formulas and maneuvers.

When Trump's talks with Iran resulted in meeting the Iranian condition of including Lebanon in the ceasefire, Netanyahu's cabinet and supporters slammed the Israeli prime minister for an embarrassing defeat in Lebanon.

But Netanyahu found no better option than the Lebanese government's negotiating team, finding an escape route from the predicament Iran had imposed on him in Lebanon.

Under the cloak of preserving "Lebanese sovereignty" and the pretext of "blocking Iranian interference in Lebanon," the Lebanese authori-



ties handed themselves over to the Israeli delegation, which arrived armed with maps and conditions that it imposed on them, stripping Lebanon of its sovereignty and all its leverage.

Netanyahu thus achieved what he wanted, while the Lebanese authorities suffered disappointment and humiliation. In a formal agreement, they signed off on the regime's illegal occupation of a significant part of Lebanese territory. This provided the occupying regime with additional leverage to continue blackmailing and pressuring Lebanese officials. Furthermore, Lebanese authorities signed off on a formal acknowledgment of their concessions after decades in which such positions were prohibited and criminalized. The two sides are officially still at war.

The stone Netanyahu hurled at the head of the Lebanese negotiating delegation struck more than one bird, which he proudly boasted on Saturday as achievements gained against Lebanon at the negotiating table. The first of these gains is that as Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) withdraw from "two pilot zones," the IOF redeploys and adjusts to curb attrition from Hezbollah strikes should tensions escalate in the future.

As long as the regime entrusts the Lebanese army with the task of removing Hezbollah and its resistance fighters from these zones and preventing their return, this could, according to Israeli hopes and under pressure, lead to a transformation in the Lebanese army's functional role and weaponry, shifting from protecting Lebanon's independence to internal fighting.

Any deal that pits the Lebanese government and Hezbollah against each other is a win for the Netanyahu

regime, a trap the Lebanese government unfortunately fell into.

Even after the withdrawal of the IOF from two so-called "pilot zones" in Lebanon, Netanyahu did not forget to remind his people that the IOF "does not need" to occupy these Lebanese areas, one of them above the Litani River.

This corroborates what some Israeli circles suggested before the current "ceasefire" took effect: that the IOF had deepened its occupation into certain areas of Lebanon with the intent to later withdraw and bargain with the Lebanese state. This strategy frames the pullback as a "major concession" granted to Trump, who is, under immense public pressure at home over the unprovoked Iran war and is obsessively driven to advance the agreement with Tehran and prevent anything that might disrupt it.

In practical terms, this shifts blame away from the Israeli regime and relieves U.S. pressure, placing the burden on the Lebanese authorities, who must now prove their good intentions, competence, and ability to enforce Israeli conditions by pursuing Hezbollah and disarming it in these areas.

To demonstrate such a qualification, Netanyahu, notoriously famous for inventing pretexts, delays and stalling, will likely drag out this process for months. The withdrawal from the "pilot zones" may even be the first and last of its kind.

What the IOF is doing in Gaza cannot be concealed by relying on supposed "good intentions" or tested American guarantees.

More importantly, the hardline Israeli rhetoric before and during this negotiation round, including repeated official statements reject-

ing withdrawal from the so-called "yellow line," exaggerating the difficulty of negotiations, and inflating the idea of the regime's concessions, serves as a programmed tool of pressure.

It was designed to establish red lines and defensive barriers before President Trump, so that he would settle for these minimal Israeli offerings as the maximum possible allowance for its security concerns, which Washington is assumed to understand.

In doing so, Netanyahu defuses tensions with Trump and restores the previous closeness of relations, after Iran had created a rift that escalated into confrontation and mutual accusations, before the Lebanese government stepped in to bridge the gap with Lebanese blood, sacrifices, dignity, and land.

Moreover, the outcome of this negotiation process carries major significance for the Zionist regime not only in Lebanon, but also in Gaza and possibly Syria, where U.S. demands may clash with Israeli interests. From now on, the Israeli regime's red lines in Lebanon will serve as non-negotiable thresholds in other arenas as well, even under U.S. pressure or presidential anger.

Israel is also fighting in Lebanon to preserve its deterrence and regional standing, after becoming the subject of ridicule among allies and adversaries alike following the U.S.-Iran memorandum. Netanyahu understands that what is underway is a broader restructuring of West Asia involving regional and global powers, foremost among them Iran.

Israel believes a major outcome will be decided in Lebanon. Before Lebanon came Syria, and before that Gaza. What is decided today in Lebanon will shape the "Greater Israel" project for years, which is why Netanyahu insists on maintaining his red lines, while the Lebanese authorities surrendered all their colors: red, green, and white flags.

Still, the final measures have not yet been taken by the actual decision-maker on war and peace in Lebanon. Hezbollah has rejected the framework agreement with the Zionist regime and its outcomes as "null and void", urging Netanyahu not to rush in announcing any "good news" to his settler colonial supporters.

Karbala, where resistance was born



From page 1 ▶ That spirit did not die in Karbala. It travelled across centuries. It crossed mountains and seas. Today, that same spirit burns in the hearts of the resistance fighters in Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, and beyond. Karbala teaches us that numbers and weapons do not decide who is right. Truth and justice do. Imam Hussein lost the battle but won the moral war. His sacrifice became an eternal flame of defiance against oppression.

The school of Imam Hussain teaches that resistance begins with moral courage. It teaches that faith must be accompanied by responsibility, and that remembrance must be accompanied by action. Every generation faces its own tests, its own forms of injustice, and its own choices between convenience and conviction.

This is why the "Axis of Resistance" exists today. Hezbollah, Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, Ansarullah of Yemen, and the brave fighters of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces all draw strength from the legacy of Karbala. They are the modern-day warriors standing against the Yazids of our time.

Look at Lebanon. The Israeli aggression has bombed cities, killed civilians, and tried to break the spirit of the Lebanese people.

That is what makes us different from them. They fight with weapons. We fight with graves that turn into banners. Every time they kill one of ours, a hundred more rise.

Every time they bomb a city, the whole world sees their barbarism.

They think they are weakening us, but they are only sharpening Iran's retaliation.

They assassinated Iran's Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but they couldn't silence the voice of the resistance. His blood set the region ablaze with an unquenchable thirst for vengeance. Every drop that stained the ground became a thousand new hands ready to carry his flag. The Americans, in their endless hubris, thought a single strike could decapitate a revolution, but they only exposed their own cowardice and stupidity. They don't understand Iran's land, Iran's faith, or Iran's fury. They killed a man, but they awakened a storm that will chase their bases, their ships, and their puppets across the entire region until not a single boot of theirs touches Iranian soil. His blood is their sacred oath.

The resistance is not just in Lebanon. It is in Gaza, where the people face starvation and siege. Like Karbala, today the Zionist enemy has cut the water supply and food, causing

Yemen will ensure the Somaliland scheme becomes a catastrophic trap for Israel

From page 1 ▶ Tel Aviv has been actively re-directing its military focus and espionage assets toward other vital pillars of the Resistance Front, with Yemen possibly emerging as a primary target for an aggressive campaign.

The Somaliland triad and the displacement agenda

This strategic shift is materializing rapidly across the Gulf of Aden through an expanding political and military alliance between Israel and the unrecognized Somaliland.

While the regime has quietly maintained intelligence collaborations in East Africa, recent formal training agreements have accelerated this penetration.

We can identify three core objectives for this presence.

First, it establishes a forward bridgehead near Yemen to gather proximity intelligence, monitor the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and support local proxies in partitioning the south.

Second, it builds a new southern corridor that allows Israeli assets to target southern and central Iran while bypassing Arab airspace.

Third, this presence prepares the logistical ground for the possible forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza.

The psychopathic officials in Tel Aviv regard the total ethnic cleansing of Gaza as their ultimate goal, yet this depends on establishing secure maritime corridors.

Yemen stands as an absolute, unyielding barrier to this colonialist architecture.

By enforcing a naval blockade, Ansarullah can successfully choke Israel's maritime economy and expose its absolute vulnerability.

To circumvent this, the United Arab Emirates may have issued a blank check to Israel.

Working through National Security Advisor Tahnoun bin Zayed and the infamous Moham-



med Dahlan, Abu Dhabi has been linking its investments in Berbera Port with Israeli military requirements, possibly attempting to encircle the Yemeni resistance from the west.

Proxy fragmentation and domestic collapse

To distract Ansarullah, external patrons have simultaneously activated internal fronts.

Intense clashes have flared along the Ad Dali front, where Ansarullah forces utilized heavy artillery and drone strikes to crush the aggressive UAE-backed "Southern Transitional Council" infiltrations along the line of contact.

The heavy losses sustained by these separatists forced them to appeal to the Saudi-backed "Presidential Leadership Council" for emergency reinforcements, exposing the deep instability plaguing the proxy alliance.

Similar skirmishes in southern al-Hodeidah, paired with hasty military exercises by Saudi-backed shield forces in Marib, reveal a desperate desire to lock Sanaa into a localized war of attrition.

This proxy strategy has been faltering. Social media footage shows massive tribal mobilizations and formal defense ceremonies, with the Bani Nof coalition deploying substantial reinforcements to al-Jawf to check anti-Ansarullah movements.

Politically, foreign manipulation is obsolete. Nasruddin Amer, Ansarullah's Vice Chairman of

Media, announced that the status quo of national division is over.

Amer made clear that those seeking peace must negotiate directly with Sanaa, completely sweeping away the external mediation frameworks managed by Riyadh.

The definitive maritime red line

Yemen's internal consolidation feeds into a formidable regional posture.

In a speech on June 25, Ansarullah leader Sayyid Abdul-Malik Badr al-Din al-Houthi formally extended the country's deterrence perimeter across the Red Sea.

He warned that any Israeli military or intelligence presence established in Somaliland would be met with immediate strikes.

Al-Houthi asserted that Yemen will not stand idly by, framing future actions as a defense of both regional waters and Somalia's territorial integrity.

Crucially, he re-emphasized that Ansarullah remains in continuous coordination with all other active branches of the joint Resistance Front. By establishing this definitive maritime red line, Sana'a has proactively disrupted Tel Aviv's encirclement strategy before it can fully materialize in the Horn of Africa.

Should Netanyahu seek an escalatory diversion against Yemen to alleviate his compounding domestic political crises and snap election pressures, he will not find a localized or isolated adversary.

Instead, any direct aggression threatens to activate a highly coordinated, multi-front response from the joint Resistance Front, fundamentally upending the strategic architecture of the Red Sea corridor and rendering the calculations of the Israeli-American alliance obsolete.



But like Imam Hussein's loyalists, they have refused to surrender. Recently, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem declared that the resistance has defeated the Israeli-American plan. He said: "The light of Karbala is spreading, and freedom is on its way."

And what about the great martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah? He was the lion of resistance. He led Hezbollah for decades from the liberation of southern Lebanon in 2000 to the 2006 war. He stood firm against Israel when others trembled. He was martyred in an Israeli airstrike, but his blood, like the blood of Imam Hussein, watered the tree of resistance. His martyrdom has only strengthened the resolve of the resistance. Under the wise leadership of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the blood of these martyrs echoes across the entire world, awakening every conscience. Ashura ceremonies were held at his grave. The people mourned him, but they also drew courage from his sacrifice. As Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei said, the foundation that Nasrallah built will continue. He is not dead; he is alive with the martyrs.

Our leaders are not flesh and bone. They are ideas.

And ideas do not die from bullets. You can kill the teacher, but you cannot kill the lesson. You can destroy the mosque, but you cannot destroy the faith. You can murder the leader, but you can never, ever murder the resis-

severe starvation in Gaza. Yet, the people refuse to leave their land, just as Imam Hussein refused to bow. Iran has stood firm against decades of sanctions and threats. Iran's Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani has said that the Axis of Resistance has emerged stronger. He warned that no one can stand against Hezbollah.

Today, the enemy is the same as it was in Karbala. It is arrogant and tyrannical. It is full of hatred.

At the time of Karbala, Yazid was defeated. His name became a curse in history. His empire crumbled. But Imam Hussein's name became eternal.

Today, Yazid has reemerged as Trump and Netanyahu. Partners in crimes against humanity. They bomb children. They starve families. They destroy homes. They think their bombs and their dollars will win. But they are wrong. Just like Yazid, they will be defeated. Their names will be forgotten in disgrace, while the names of martyrs, including Haj Qassem Soleimani, Hassan Nasrallah, Yahya Sinwar, martyr Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and all the heroes of the resistance, will be remembered forever.

The resistance started in Karbala. It continues today. And it will continue until every tyrant falls and every oppressed person is free.

Long live the resistance. Long live the martyrs. Death to America. Death to Israel.

Our main goal is securing a Paralympic berth: Hadi Rezaei

TEHRAN – Hadi Rezaei, technical director of Iran's national sitting volleyball teams, says the primary objective at the 2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships in China is to qualify for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

Iran's men's team will begin their campaign on July 10, facing Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Japan in the group stage.

The Iranian women's team have been drawn alongside Rwanda, Kenya, and hosts China.

Speaking exclusively to the Tehran Times, Rezaei stressed that although the World Championships are a prestigious event, securing Paralympic qualification remains the team's top priority.

"While we are competing in the World Championships, our main objective is to earn a place at the Los Angeles Paralympic Games," he said. "The top two teams will qualify directly, while the remaining teams will have to compete in additional qualification tournaments to secure their spots."

The veteran coach said the men's squad are in good condition despite the lack of international warm-up matches.

"Our players are in relatively good shape. Although we were unable to play any friendly matches due to the existing circumstances, the team are physically and tactically well-prepared for the competition," Rezaei said.

He added that Iran will arrive in China two or three days before the tournament begins and hopes to arrange friendly matches with Brazil and Germany.

"We have already held discussions with the coaching staffs of Brazil and Germany and hope to play friendly matches before the tournament starts," he noted.

Rezaei also expressed optimism about the women's team.

"The women's team have shown good progress so far," he said. "Our goal is to finish among the top eight teams in the 16-team tournament, which would give us the opportunity to compete for higher positions."

He concluded by expressing hope that both Iranian teams would achieve their objectives at the World Championships in Hangzhou, China.

Iran crowned champions of CAFA Women's Futsal Championship 2026

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Tajikistan 8-1 on Saturday to win the CAFA Women's Futsal Championship 2026.

The Iranian women had previously defeated Kyrgyzstan 5-0 in their opening match.

The team is headed by Shahrzad Mozafar.

Maral Torkan of Iran was named as Most Valuable Player. Iran's women's futsal team also won Fair Play Award.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan finished in second and third place, respectively.

The 2026 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship is taking place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Iran's World Cup dream ends in heartbreak

TEHRAN – In a cruel twist of fate, Iran narrowly missed out on a historic place in the World Cup knockout stage. Had just one of three results elsewhere gone in their favor, Team Melli would have reached the Round of 32 for the first time. Instead, every outcome worked against them.

Iran endured numerous challenges throughout the tournament, many of them beyond the team's control. One of the biggest obstacles was the demanding travel schedule.

After every match, the squad were forced to return to Tijuana without adequate time for recovery before traveling back to the next host city just one day before kickoff. Despite FIFA's assurances, logistical issues remained unresolved, leaving the Iranian players physically exhausted and mentally drained. Yet, in the end, those difficulties were not the main reason behind their elimination.

Iran had every opportunity to make history in a favorable group but failed to capitalize. Amir Ghalenoei's side could have taken a giant step toward qualification with a victory over New Zealand in the opening match. They also failed to make the most of the 30-minute numerical advantage after Belgium were reduced to ten men. Even against Egypt, a more ambitious approach—similar to the attacking display shown in the closing stages—might have been enough to secure progression.

Instead, Iran entered the tournament with a safety-first mentality, focused primarily on avoiding defeat. While that cautious approach earned respectable results, it ultimately fell short when the team needed a winning edge.

Iran's fate eventually rested in the hands of others. Had Croatia lost to Ghana, Congo failed to defeat Uzbekistan, and Algeria's match against Austria had a winner, Team Melli would have advanced. But relying on other teams to determine your destiny is rarely a recipe for success.

Another major concern was the age profile of the squad. Iran arrived at the World Cup with an experienced but aging team, despite having the opportunity to begin a generational transition after the 2023 AFC Asian Cup. Although Ghalenoei had promised to inject youth into the squad, that rebuild never truly materialized.

Success at the World Cup demands both experience and youthful energy. The right balance gives teams the intensity and resilience required to compete at the highest level. Without it, fatigue inevitably takes its toll.

Now, Iranian football must look ahead. The priority should be building a new generation capable of pursuing greater ambitions on the world stage. That process also requires a shift in vision at the federation level. Under the leadership of Mehdi Taj, who has overseen the federation during each of Iran's last three World Cup campaigns, the national team have failed to break new ground. Iran has also fallen short of expectations in recent AFC Asian Cups, raising legitimate questions about whether new leadership is needed to move the country's most popular sport forward.

This heartbreaking elimination will sting for a long time. But football always offers another chance. Iran must learn from this disappointment, rebuild with purpose, and rise again—because the journey never truly ends.

Iran defeat Cuba in 2026 VNL

TEHRAN – Iran ended Week 2 of the 2026 FIVB Men's Volleyball Nations League on a positive note with a hard-fought 3-1 victory over Cuba in Pool 4 on Sunday.

Team Melli claimed the opening two sets 25-22 and 25-21 before Cuba responded by taking the third set 25-20. Iran showed composure under pressure in a thrilling fourth set, edging their opponents 30-28 to seal an important win.

Outside hitter Ali Hajipour spearheaded Iran's attack with an impressive 19 points, delivering crucial kills in key moments, especially during the tense final set. Cuba relied heavily on Marlon Yant Herrera, who produced a match-high 23 points, but his efforts were not enough to prevent his team's defeat.

The victory marked Iran's first success of the second week after a difficult run of results. Roberto Piazza's men had opened the week with a narrow 3-2 defeat to Olympic champions France, followed by a straight-sets loss to the United States. Iran then pushed Japan to five sets but fell just short in another heartbreaking 3-2 defeat.

The win over Cuba provides a timely confidence boost as Iran prepare for the decisive third week of the VNL. Team Melli will face Ukraine, Germany, Slovenia, and Turkey, hoping to build momentum and improve their standing before the tournament enters its final stages in July.

Iran minister announces memorial initiatives for Minab school attack victims

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, said on Sunday that the government plans to establish a national campaign to commemorate those martyred in the missile strike on Shajareh Tayyebeh Elementary School in Minab, including the creation of a museum, a permanent secretariat and a nationwide cultural initiative.

Salehi-Amiri said commemorating the victims of the Minab school attack was "a moral, human and national responsibility."

The strike took place on Feb. 28, the first day of the US-Israeli war with Iran, when school's roof collapsed, killing 156 civilians, including 120 schoolchildren. The victims also included 26 female teachers, one of whom was six months pregnant, seven parents, a school bus driver and a technician at a nearby clinic.

Salehi-Amiri said one of the ministry's first measures would be to establish a Museum of the Minab Victims at Tehran's Saadabad Cultural-Historical Complex to preserve the memory of the incident.

He also proposed upgrading the existing cultural committee established for the victims into a National Headquarters for the Minab Victims, saying all government bodies, institutions and organizations willing to participate



would be invited to join.

The minister said a proposal had been made to establish a support fund overseen by the ministers of the five member ministries to pool financial resources and coordinate projects related to commemorating the victims.

He said members of the committee were motivated by humanitarian and social responsibility rather than administrative positions.

Salehi-Amiri said he had raised the Minab school strike during a recent visit to Spain, adding that the issue received media attention and that the international community should be informed

about what he described as a humanitarian tragedy.

He also announced plans to expand tourism infrastructure in Minab, saying discussions had been held with investors over the construction of a hotel in the city.

The ministry also intends to invite academics, artists, cultural figures and other public personalities to visit Minab and document the events surrounding the attack, he said.

Salehi-Amiri said cultural, artistic and media resources should be used to strengthen national solidarity and present Iran's account of the attack.

He announced plans to launch a national Minab mourning pro-

cession the country, involving cultural and artistic groups to commemorate the victims. The ministry also plans to produce short films and visual works for screening at Iranian diplomatic missions abroad.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi-Amiri said one of the committee's future meetings would be held in Minab and that a permanent secretariat would be established there.

He added that Iran would continue legal and international efforts to document and condemn the attack and seek compensation from the United States, which he described as the hostile state responsible for the strike.

Iran seeks larger share of Muslim health tourism market



TEHRAN – Iran should shift its medical tourism strategy from relying primarily on attracting foreign patients to exporting healthcare services, developing joint investments abroad and expanding regional partnerships, the head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce's tourism commission said during a meeting with industry representatives in the southern province of Fars.

Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi on Sunday said Iran needed to move beyond the traditional model of bringing patients into the country and instead focus on exporting healthcare services, establishing joint medical facilities in neighboring countries and strengthening

the value chain of its healthcare sector, ILNA reported on Sunday.

Mousavi said recent regional developments showed that companies focused on neighboring markets had demonstrated greater resilience during periods of crisis, adding that Iraq, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Pakistan should become priorities under Iran's new health tourism strategy.

Mousavi said Iraq remained Iran's largest target market for medical tourism but warned that part of that market was being lost because of Iran's limited direct presence. He said Iran should pursue joint investments, establish specialized clinics with Iraqi partners, deploy Iranian specialists and

provide preliminary consultations in patients' home countries rather than relying solely on bringing patients to Iran.

He said the Iran Chamber of Commerce would soon dispatch specialized delegations to Iraq with the aim of creating direct links between Iranian hospitals, medical universities, physicians and Iraqi healthcare centers to facilitate exports of medical services and medical equipment.

"Although Iraq had invested in expanding its healthcare infrastructure in recent years, it continued to face shortages of specialist medical personnel, creating opportunities for Iranian healthcare providers."

He also said that while most Iraqi medical tourists currently travel to Mashhad, the cities of Shiraz, Isfahan and Yazd also have the capacity to become major health tourism destinations with coordinated planning.

The meeting also highlighted the growth potential of the global medical tourism market. According to figures cited during the event, the sector was valued at more than \$50 billion in 2024 and is projected

to approach \$200 billion within the next decade, supported by annual growth of nearly 20%.

Moreover, Mohammad Jahangiri, president of the Iranian society for international health services, said medical tourism represented one of the country's key future industries and extended beyond patient treatment to include telemedicine, specialist training, clinical services and exports of medical expertise.

Jahangiri, who also heads the medical tourism working group of the Iran Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Commission, said Shiraz, Mashhad and Qom had been designated as Iran's "golden triangle of travel, pilgrimage and health," targeting between 250 million and 300 million people across Muslim-majority countries. He said linking these destinations with Iraq's pilgrimage cities could further expand Iran's health tourism market.

Jahangiri added that a specialized delegations to Iraq would also seek to promote joint investments, strengthen cooperation between scientific and medical institutions in both countries and expand exports of medical engineering services.

French archaeologist cracks 4,000-year-old Elamite script from Iran

TEHRAN – French archaeologist François Desset has decoded the 4,000-year-old Linear Elamite writing system from ancient Iran, unlocking one of the last undeciphered scripts of the ancient Near East after years of research.

Desset, a researcher at the University of Liège in Belgium, said his breakthrough came after studying newly accessible inscriptions on ancient silver vases from the Mahboubian Collection in London. The additional texts enabled him to identify recurring royal names that provided the key to understanding the script, according to France 24.

Linear Elamite, a writing system consisting of 77 geometric signs, was used during the Bronze Age by the Elamite civilization, which flourished in what is now southwestern Iran. The script was first rediscovered in 1903 during French archaeological excavations at the ancient city of Susa but remained undeciphered for more than a century because of the limited number of surviving inscriptions.

Desset said his interest in the script began in 2006 while participating in excavations in southern Iran, where Linear Elamite tablets were unearthed. He spent years attempting to decipher the inscriptions before gaining access to ten previously unavailable texts that proved decisive.

"The key to deciphering a script, as is so often the case, lies in proper names: names of places, gods, kings," Desset said.

He said the breakthrough came after identifying the name of the Elamite ruler Shilhaha, who reigned around 1950 BC. A repeated sequence of symbols matched the repeated ending of the ruler's name, allowing him to assign phonetic values to several signs and gradually decipher the script.

The achievement has drawn comparisons with Jean-François Champollion, the French scholar who deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphs in the early nineteenth century using royal names such as Ptolemy and Cleopatra. Desset said Shilhaha served as his equivalent of Champollion's royal inscriptions.

Following the breakthrough, Desset has been able to study and interpret 45 Linear Elamite inscriptions. He now plans to focus on the even older Proto-Elamite script, one of the earliest known writing systems, which remains largely undeciphered.

The Elamite civilization emerged during the early urbanization of the ancient Near East around the fourth millennium BC. Centered initially in Anshan and later in Susa, Elam occupied much of present-day Khuzestan and Ilam provinces in Iran, extending into parts of modern-day southern Iraq. Its language, considered unrelated to any other known language family, continued to be used in official administration during the Achaemenid Persian Empire.

Despite ongoing regional tensions, Desset ex-



An Archaemenian clay tablet written in the Elamite scripts is shown at Iran's National Museum in Tehran, May 1, 2004. (Behrouz Mahri, AFP)

pressed hope that his research would contribute to preserving Iran's cultural heritage.

"I hope that this work will have a positive impact on Iranian culture and identity once things have returned to normal," he said.

Pakistan proposes setting up scientific working group with Iran

TEHRAN – The Pakistani Minister of State for the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Wajih Qamar, met with the Iranian Minister of Science, Research, and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, proposing that the two countries establish a joint scientific working group.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 7th Turkey Educational Technologies Summit (known as TETZ 2026), which was held in Istanbul from June 26 to 28.

Iran's recent achievements in the international arena are inspiring for many countries, including Pakistan, ISNA quoted Qamar as saying.

Highlighting the emotional, spiritual, historical, and cultural ties between the two nations, the official said, "Pakistan will stand by Iran in its initiatives and actions, and the relations between Tehran and Islamabad will remain strong and stable based on these commonalities."

The two sides need to promote collaboration to fully utilize the respective capacities of each other, she added.

The deep linguistic, religious, and civilizational ties between the two countries will contribute to the development of cooperation, the official further noted.

Referring to the scientific and educational accomplishments of Iran, Qamar said Pakistan can benefit from Iran's valuable expertise in skills training, agriculture, construction, and production sectors.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf noted that current scientific, academic, and technological collaborations between Iran and Pakistan are not proportionate to the capacities of both parties.

The official also stressed the need to establish Persian and



Urdu language chairs in reciprocal countries.

Highlighting the scientific capabilities of Sistan-Baluchestan University, the science minister announced the university's readiness to attract Pakistani students.

Iran's high scientific capacity

Simaei-Sarraf delivered a speech at the 7th TETZ 2026, highlighting the country's high scientific and research capacities despite sanctions.

Despite illegal sanctions, Iran secures first place in cognitive sciences among Islamic nations and ranks ninth globally in advanced materials. Numerous prestigious Iranian universities and institutions are included in international rankings. These accomplishments underscore the country's scientific capabilities, IRIB quoted Simaei-Sarraf as saying, addressing the TETZ.

Iran serves as a great opportunity to invest in higher education and modern technologies. The country has one of the largest

higher education systems in the region, with more than three million students and over seventy thousand faculty members and researchers.

Highlighting that the rapid development of emerging technologies, including AI, is fundamentally transforming human relationships and higher education systems around the world at an unprecedented pace, Simaei-Sarraf said that effective use of smart technologies requires the establishment of a system based on algorithmic transparency, educational justice, accountability, protection of learners' rights, and responsible data governance.

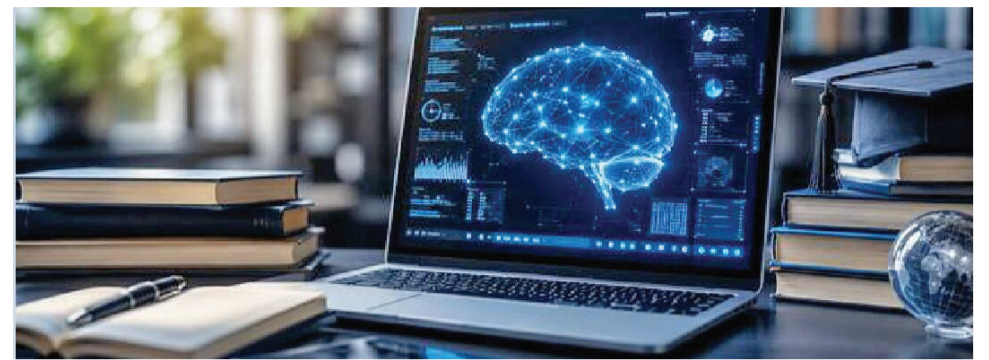
According to science minister, cultural and social requirements need to be institutionalized in the design and deployment of these technologies, which will help pave the way to promote social trust, facilitate the use of smart education, and its acceptance without posing data governance risks at national and international

levels.

The official went on to say that the development of smart education requires the enhancement of synergy, the exchange of expertise, and the utilization of shared capacities of countries more than ever. He expressed hope that the summit would lay the basis for the expansion of academic ties, the exchange of knowledge, and the development of collaborative initiatives in the smart education sector, which would in turn expand higher education at national, regional, and global scales.

TETZ 2026 is taking place as a globally focused AI-driven Ed-Tech event. The international summit has brought together global leaders and stakeholders to explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can transform education and how it can be used for peace, humanity and common tomorrows.

AI education to expand from schools to universities



TEHRAN – The Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy has emphasized a comprehensive strategy to expand artificial intelligence (AI) education from schools to universities, highlighting the importance of strengthening AI-related training across the country.

According to Emadeddin Fatemizadeh, the head of the Secretariat of the Headquarters for AI Technology Development and Applications, the future of the global economy, industry, and technology will be profoundly shaped by artificial intelligence, IRNA reported.

He stressed that AI education should begin at the primary education level and continue through universities and specialized academic institutions under a coherent national plan.

He noted that promoting AI literacy in schools, training teachers, incorporating AI-related subjects into university curricula, and enhancing students' specialized skills are essential to advancing the technology in the country.

These measures, he said, will help cultivate a skilled workforce, improve the country's problem-solving capabilities, and strengthen the competitiveness of indigenous technologies.

In line with these objectives, the headquarters has identified several key priorities for the current year, including supporting specialized AI training programs, expanding public awareness and outreach initiatives, strengthening collaboration with universities, schools, research institutes, and knowledge-based companies, developing indigenized educational content, identifying and nurturing young and talented students, and providing students and researchers with enhanced infrastructure required for AI research and development.

Following the development of Iran Digital, a national program which aims to teach artificial intelligence (AI) to four million students free of charge, the Ministry of Education started teaching AI to 200,000 students in March.

"Fortunately, in two metropolitan cities of the country, namely Tehran and Mashhad, we have managed to train 40,000 teachers in the AI sector, holding in-person and virtual courses," IRNA quoted Ahmad Mahmoudzadeh, an official with the Ministry of Education, as saying.

Moreover, a total of 100 individuals have received advanced training as instructors and experts to help empower students in AI in other provinces of the country, he added.

Also, the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology has announced the finalization of an AI action plan, which highlights the pivotal role of AI in the country's scientific advancement.

Iran shakes with 376 earthquakes in a month

TEHRAN – A total of 376 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a month from May 22 to June 21, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 323 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 48 earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4, four earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5, and one earthquake with a magnitude between 5 and 6 have occurred in the country, IRNA Reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 5 on the Richter scale, which occurred on June 9 in Hormozgan province.

Among the provinces of the country, Kerman experienced the highest number of earthquakes, with 42, followed by Khorasan Razavi and Ilam with 40 and 37 earthquakes.

During the same period, nine earthquakes were recorded in Tehran; the biggest had a magnitude of 3 on the Richter Scale.

The plan has been developed in cooperation with the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, IRNA reported.

The action plan was unveiled during a meeting held on December 3, 2025, with the presence of First Vice-President Mohammad-Reza Aref.

The main pillars of the action plan include 'transformation in education and training human resources, 'empowering research and innovation capacity building', 'promoting and commercializing AI', 'expanding science diplomacy and international cooperation', and 'improving the scientific status of the country'.

Empowering research and innovation capacity building involves the establishment of five national laboratories in selected universities, development of interdisciplinary majors at post-graduate programs focusing on AI, the inclusion of 'AI and digital transformation' for undergraduate students, essential for engineering majors, and supplementary for other majors.

Promoting and commercializing AI focuses on selecting and supporting a number of universities as the country's AI research and development center. Supporting the development of at least 3 fundamental AI models (including language vision models) based on domestic data, and launching a platform to collect and share research and educational data securely.

Expanding science diplomacy and international cooperation highlights expediting the formation and growth of AI startups and holding AI competitions.

Expanding science diplomacy and international cooperation involves enhancing educational and research collaborations with top universities from Shanghai and BRICS member states, as well as members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

According to Nature Index, the country's ranking in scientific production in AI has improved from 33 to 30, placing the country among the top 50 leaders, Hossein Afshin, an official with the vice-presidency of science and technology, said in December 2025.

Iran's ranking in the region fluctuates between 14 to 17, which is mainly due to focusing on quality, he said, adding, "We're optimistic to improve the country's scientific position within the next two years," IRNA reported.

The official went on to say that the country is following up on developing AI infrastructure, including the AI platform and the AI assistant, in the near future.

A total of 2,380 earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 2.5 on the Richter scale were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2025–March 2026), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, Mehr news agency reported.

Out of recorded earthquakes, 910 had a magnitude greater than 3, 130 had a magnitude greater than 4, and 15 had a magnitude greater than 5 on the Richter scale.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran, but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world's earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes.

Intl. Day of Tropics marks challenges, opportunities

TEHRAN – Marked on June 29, the International Day of the Tropics celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics, highlighting challenges and opportunities tropical nations face.

The day provides an opportunity to take stock of progress across the tropics, to share tropical stories and expertise, and to acknowledge the diversity and potential of the region.

The Tropics are a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn. Although topography and other factors contribute to climatic variation, tropical locations are typically warm and experience little seasonal change in day-to-day temperature.

An important feature of the Tropics is the prevalence of rain in the moist inner regions near the equator, and the seasonality of rainfall increases with the distance from the equator. The tropical region faces several challenges such as climate change, deforestation, logging, urbanization, and demographic changes.

The tropics are home to around 80 percent of the world's biodiversity. They host nearly 95 percent of the world's mangrove forests by area and 99 percent of mangrove species.

Unfortunately, the first global assessment of mangroves by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified mangrove forests in the Persian Gulf as vulnerable (VU) overall.

The mangrove forests are classified as 'vulnerable' in Changes in Geographic Distribution, 'least concern' in Restricted Geographic distribution, 'least concern' in Abiotic components, and 'least concern' in Biotic components of ecosystems, ISNA reported.

The IUCN assessment results can be the basis for national and regional decision-making and intervention. The results indicate that planning, ongoing monitoring, and integrated management of these ecosystems should be prioritized. Otherwise, these ecosystems are likely to move into a more dangerous category.

Mangrove ecosystems are crucial for biodiversity conservation, providing essential goods and services to local communities and mitigating the impact of climate change. For this reason, understanding the risk of ecosystem collapse has serious socioeconomic implications.

According to data published in various sources, the total extent of mangrove forests in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman is about 250 square kilometers, with Iran having the largest share with 138 square kilometers.

Mangrove forests in Iran mostly consist of the Avicenna marina, known as Hara, named after the 11th-century great Iranian scientist Avicenna, or Abu-Ali-Sina. Hara forest area covers more than 27 thousand hectares.

The forests spread from Nayband Bay in the southwestern Bushehr province to Govater Bay in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province on the coast of the Sea of Oman.

More than 90 percent of these forests, both in terms of quality and quantity, are located in the southern Hormozgan province, such as Khamir Port and Qeshm Island, although there is a part in the Khor Azini site, in Sirik county in Hormozgan, which hosts the Rhizophora mucronata species.

Contamination from oil, gas, and petrochemical industries in the vicinity of mangroves, effluent from aquaculture farms, timber harvesting, livestock grazing, and substandard construction, unregulated tourism, plant pests, reduced freshwater inflow due to dam construction, and agricultural pesticides are among the main challenges faced by mangroves.

Threats menacing mangroves are evolving rapidly: degradation from wood exploitation, deforestation for agriculture and shrimp farming, and indirect impacts from dam construction altering freshwater and sediment fluxes. Today, mangroves face additional challenges due to climate change, including sea-level rise and an increased frequency and severity of cyclonic storms.

According to the first global assessment, fifty percent of Mangrove Ecosystems units are at risk of collapse (in the IUCN threat categories of Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), or Critically Endangered (CR)); equally, they represent 50 percent of the world's mangrove area. And one out of five are at severe risk of collapse (either Endangered or Critically Endangered). The other units are Near Threatened (NT), Least Concern (LC), or Not Evaluated (NE).

Mangrove ecosystems are exceptional in their ability to provide essential ecosystem services to people, including coastal disaster risk

reduction, carbon sequestration and long-term storage, and ecological support for fisheries and biodiversity.

The Human System

Tropical nations have made significant progress but face a variety of challenges that demand focused attention across a range of development indicators and data in order to achieve sustainable development.

By 2050, the region will host most of the world's people and two-thirds of its children.

Consistent with the higher levels of poverty, more people experience undernourishment in the Tropics than in the rest of the world.

The proportion of the urban population living in slum conditions is higher in the Tropics than in the rest of the World.

Mangrove forests in Iran

According to a study by researchers at the National Institute of Oceanography, mangrove ecosystems in the northern Persian Gulf are facing a range of environmental and anthropogenic pressures.

Mangrove forests in Iran mostly consist of the Avicenna marina, known as Hara, named after the 11th-century great Iranian scientist Avicenna, or Abu-Ali-Sina.

The study assesses the ecological dynamics of the Mangroves of Dayyer City (MDC) in the northern Persian Gulf using a multidimensional approach involving satellite-derived, drone-based, and field-measured data.

Satellite imagery from Google Earth (2011–2022) reveals fluctuations in the MDC area, with notable afforestation efforts until 2018, followed by rapid degradation.

The mangrove forest, initially covering 2.2 hectares in 2011, expanded to 3.2 hectares by 2015 due to afforestation efforts but declined to 1.7 hectares by June 2022.

The construction of a nonstandard road and a bridge in 2018 obstructed freshwater flow from upper areas, emerging as a major factor responsible for the degradation.

Drone-based observations in March 2023 provided a detailed map, revealing that 44 percent of healthy mangroves had been damaged. Field measurements conducted in November 2023 showed higher salinity levels at MDC compared to other adjacent mangrove areas.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430



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

JUNE 29, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who constantly jests, exposes a part of his intelligence to destruction.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:52 (tomorrow)

Kiarostami's "Certified Copy" to be shown at 60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival



TEHRAN – Abbas Kiarostami's 2010 art film "Certified Copy" will be screened at the 60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, which is set to be held from July 3 to 11 in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic.

The film screening is part of the honoring ceremony for the French actress Juliette Binoche, who is to receive the Crystal Globe for Outstanding Artistic Contribution to World Cinema at the festival, Mehr reported.

Written and directed by Kiarostami, "Certified Copy," set in Tuscany, focuses on a British writer (William Shimell) and a French antiques dealer (Juliette Binoche), whose relationship undergoes an odd transformation over the course of a day. The film is a co-production of France, Italy, and Belgium.

The film premiered at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival, where Binoche won the Best Actress award for her performance. Critically acclaimed, the film is considered to be among the best of the year and the decade.

Kiarostami and Binoche first met and became friends in the mid-1990s. Since then, they had both desired to work together and in 2008 Binoche appeared briefly in Kiarostami's experimental film "Shirin".

During a visit to Tehran by Binoche, Kiarostami told her the synopsis of "Certified Copy" as a casual anecdote, which she said that she fully believed until he confessed to having made it up.

According to Kiarostami, studying the reactions of Binoche as she listened to the story was a vital part of the film's further develop-

ment. "The film started to build according to the story that I was telling, but also according to my knowledge of her as a woman with her vulnerability, with her sensitivity, with what I knew about her soul, about her relationship with her children."

Kiarostami is normally known for making films with amateur actors and almost no budget, but said he had no difficulties in making the transition to European cinema: "This was the simplest film for me to work on—even simpler than the work I've done on my shorts, because I was working with a professional team both in front of and behind the camera."

The Karlovy Vary International Film Festival is the largest film festival in the Czech Republic and the most prestigious such festival in Central and Eastern Europe. It is one of the oldest A-list film festivals (i.e., non-specialized festivals with a competition for feature-length fiction films), a category it shares with the festivals in Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Locarno, San Sebastian, Montreal, Shanghai, and Tokyo.

Among filmmakers, buyers, distributors, sales agents, and journalists, KVIFF is considered the most important event in all of Central and Eastern Europe.

Every year, the festival presents some 200 films from around the world, and regularly hosts famous and important filmmakers. The Karlovy Vary festival is intended for both film professionals and the general public, and offers visitors a carefully designed program, excellent facilities, and a broad range of other services.

Cartoon of Day



Flammable

Cartoonist: Alex Falcó Chang from Spain

"Burnt Breaths" photo exhibition opens in Tehran to mark Sardasht chemical attack anniversary

TEHRAN- Concurrent with the 39th anniversary of the chemical bombardment of Sardasht and the National Day of Fight against Chemical and Biological Weapons, the "Burnt Breaths" conference and photo exhibition officially opened at the Melal Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday.

The event aims to elucidate the humanitarian, legal, and international dimensions of the war crimes resulting from the use of chemical weapons and serves to honor the martyrs of Sardasht, Mehr reported.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by high-ranking civil and military officials, chemical weapons survivors, medical professionals, and the families of the martyrs, the report added.

Addressing the audience, Abbas-Ali Rezaei, the director of Iran's Martyrs and Veterans Affairs Foundation emphasized that the nation's current security and authority are rooted in the sacrifices of the martyrs and veterans.

"Today, approximately 67,000 chemical weapons survivors live in our country, grappling with complex physical and respiratory complications for decades. Yet, they remain steadfast in their commitment to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution with exemplary spirit," he stated.

Rezaei further highlighted that the Islamic Republic of Iran is among the world's primary victims of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). He underscored that the Iranian nation has never sought to produce or use such weapons, having always been the victim of such heinous crimes. He also stressed the importance of transmitting the culture of sacrifice and narrating the grievances of chemical victims to future generations.

Hojatoleslam Mousavi-Moghaddam, the Representative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution at the Martyrs and Veterans Affairs Foundation, also delivered a speech, calling for the legal and international pursuit of the victims' demands.

Critiquing the performance of international organizations, he noted: "Despite numerous treaties



banning chemical weapons, many perpetrators and supporters of these crimes have yet to be held accountable." He added that the suffering caused by these weapons persists for generations, far beyond the initial moment of impact.

He described chemical survivors as symbols of the Iranian nation's patience and resilience. He asserted that documenting and legally pursuing these crimes must be taken seriously to ensure the voices of the victims reach global public opinion and to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies.

Seyyed Kamal Louh-Mousavi, Secretary-General of the Association for Defending Victims of Chemical Weapons, remarked that the "Burnt Breaths" exhibition seeks to narrate the historical suffering of the victims through the lens of photography.

"Sometimes, a single photograph can convey the depth of a human catastrophe more effectively than hundreds of pages of reports or speeches," he noted.

He stated that during the Sacred Defense (Iraq's imposed war on Iran), the country was targeted by chemical attacks 572 times. Over 100,000 people were exposed to chemical agents, with 67,000 officially registered as survivors suffering from long-term pulmo-

nary, skin, ocular, and neurological damage.

The ceremony also featured a message from Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, in which the Sardasht bombardment was described as a symbol of the Iranian nation's innocence and resistance. The message reiterated Iran's commitment to pursuing the legal rights of the victims on the international stage.

The "Burnt Breaths" photo exhibition, showcasing the humanitarian consequences of chemical warfare, will remain open to the public at the Melal Cultural Center for ten days.

The chemical bombardment of Sardasht on June 28, 1987, remains one of the most harrowing chapters of the Iraq-Iran war and a dark stain on the history of the 20th century. The Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical weapons on the Iranian town and the surrounding regions, killing over 1000 and injuring over 8000 civilians, many of whom were permanently disabled.

On that fateful afternoon, the Iraqi regime under Saddam Hussein deployed mustard gas against the defenseless civilian population of this Kurdish city, marking the first time a populated urban center was targeted with such lethal chemical agents.

The immediate impact was devastating, turning a peaceful afternoon into a landscape of horror where thousands struggled for their next breath. Because the attack targeted civilians in their homes and markets, the casualties were predominantly women, children, and the elderly, whose innocence stood in stark contrast to the calculated brutality of the international community's silence at the time.

Iran was subjected to several violent attacks with chemical weapons by Iraq during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. According to a study, about 6,000 Iranians were killed during the attacks, and today, about 55,000 survivors of these attacks are still suffering from the aftereffects.

Today, Sardasht is not just a city of grief, but a global symbol of resistance and a moral reminder of the urgent need for a world free of weapons of mass destruction. The annual commemorations serve to ensure that its people are never forgotten and that the quest for international legal justice remains a priority for the Iranian nation.

Adaptation of Sartre's play "No Exit" to be staged at Iran Mall Black Box

TEHRAN – An adaptation of Jean-Paul Sartre's play "No Exit" will be staged at the Iran Mall Black Box performance hall on June 29.

Titled "Frankl in Sartre's Hell", the play is directed by Danial Ziabakhsh and built around the idea that "Hell is other people," a place where you are constantly exposed to the judgment of others, IRNA reported.

Jean-Paul Sartre, the great French existentialist, displays his mastery of drama in "No Exit," an unforgettable portrayal of hell.

The play is a depiction of the afterlife in which three deceased characters are punished by being locked into a room together for all eternity. It is the source of Sartre's especially famous quotation "Hell is other people," a reference to Sartre's ideas about the Look and the perpetual ontological struggle of being caused to see oneself as an object in the world of another consciousness.

The main cast includes Danial Ziabakhsh, Sofia Boulhasani, Mahya Oraei, Amirhossein Shabani, Mohammadreza Pishkhani, and Hamid Salehi-Yousefabad, as well as a number of performance artists.

The Iranian adaptation, in the psychodrama, psychological horror genre, will run for 40 nights. It explores the discovery of hell, while the performance artists create an atmosphere of psychological terror and dread, forming a stage



experience that, according to the creators, has not previously been seen in Iranian theater.

Jean-Paul Sartre (1905 – 1980) was a French philosopher, playwright, novelist, screenwriter, political activist, biographer, and literary critic, considered a leading figure in 20th-century French philosophy and Marxism.

Sartre was one of the key figures in the phi-

losophy of existentialism (and phenomenology). His work has influenced sociology, critical theory, post-colonial theory, and literary studies. He was awarded the 1964 Nobel Prize in Literature despite attempting to refuse it, saying that he always declined official honors and that "a writer should not allow himself to be turned into an institution".

Ashura-themed artworks by Ruholamin on display at Tehran gallery

TEHRAN- In observance of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and the arrival of the holy month of Muharram, the Malek ash-Shoara Bahar Gallery in Tehran is hosting an exhibition featuring the works of Iranian painter Hassan Ruholamin.

The exhibition showcases ten original paintings curated from the historical and cultural archives of the Qasr Museum, Tasnim reported.

Born in Tehran in 1985, Hassan Ruholamin is a prominent figure

in contemporary Iranian art, renowned for his evocative depictions of the tragedy of Ashura. His work is characterized by a deep fusion of religious themes and a sophisticated mastery of light and composition, drawing heavily from the classical and

Baroque periods.

The exhibition will remain open to the public until July 22 at the gallery, which is located within the Qasr Museum historical complex.