

TEHRAN TIMES

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More Lebanese figures reject the “framework agreement”

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Opposition to the Lebanese government’s “framework agreement” with the Zionist regime continues to grow, as the country’s political parties and public figures condemn it for legitimizing occupation and lacking legal or national legitimacy.

Lebanon’s Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri has condemned the framework agreement, calling it “contradictory and impossible to implement.”

“This agreement will not pass, and it will not be implemented in its current form,” Berri said in a statement, adding that it was “an agreement of ‘dictates’, not an agreement that preserves Lebanon’s rights.” ▶ Page 5

Charging a fee in Hormuz Strait is legitimate

By Christoph Hörstel

BERLIN – The Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Iran and the U.S. has undergone its real-world test.

The MOU includes 14 points. However, the U.S. and Israel (collectively called USrael) are not abiding by it.

Point 1 explains: “The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran and their allies in the current war, by signing this MOU, ▶ Page 5

Israel maliciously turns Armenian grief into diplomatic grenade masking Gaza atrocities

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — On June 28, the Israeli cabinet executed a maneuver it had fiercely resisted for decades.

In a unanimous vote, ministers approved Foreign Minister Gideon Saar’s proposal to formally recognize the mass killings of Ottoman Armenians during World War I as a “genocide.”

The motion was publicly championed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the very man who for years had suppressed it in order to preserve a lucrative partnership with Turkey, a NATO ally that formally recognized the regime as early as March 1949. On the surface, the regime tried to present a polished performance of historical duty. ▶ Page 5

“Tent of Art” Ashura gathering opens in Tehran

TEHRAN- The second edition of the “Kheimeh Honar” (“Tent of Art”) Ashura gathering commenced at the City Theater complex in Tehran on Sunday.

The event opened with a powerful performance of traditional percussion instruments from Southern Iran by the Avaye Sahel group. Hadi Lashkari, a performer of the Damam, highlighted that these instruments are among the most significant symbols of mourning music and funeral rites in Southern Iran, forming a core part of the regional musical identity.

The opening day featured a diverse array of performances, including a regional music ensemble from Mazandaran under the direction of Reza Divsalar, and a wind instrument orchestra.

The program also showcased a vocal performance by Iranian musician Seyyed Mohsen Hosseini. ▶ Page 8



Soccer Football - FIFA World Cup 2026 - Group G - Belgium v Iran - Los Angeles Stadium, Inglewood, California, U.S. - June 21, 2026 Iran players pose for a team group photo before the match

Eliminated on Paper. Victorious in Character.

How did the US lay landmines for Iran’s football team inside the 2026 World Cup?

Throughout the tournament, Iranian players and coaches repeatedly argued that they were competing under conditions unlike those experienced by any other team.

By Hossein Amiri

TEHRAN – The scoreboard says Iran’s journey at the 2026 FIFA World Cup ended in the group stage. History will record three draws against New Zealand, Belgium, and Egypt before Team Melli narrowly missed a place in the knockout rounds. Yet numbers alone cannot tell the story of Iran’s campaign in North America.

For millions of Iranians, this was never just about football.

It became a tournament where every training session, every border crossing, every press conference, and every ninety minutes on the pitch carried a weight that few national teams have ever been asked to bear. Iran left the World Cup without a defeat, but also without the reward many believed its performances deserved.

From the moment qualification was secured months before the tournament, uncertainty surrounded Team Melli’s participation. Questions over visas, travel permissions, and logistical arrangements overshadowed football itself. Several members of the managerial and support staff reportedly faced visa difficulties, while the team’s preparations were repeatedly disrupted.

Instead of enjoying the stability afforded to most World Cup participants, Iran was forced to establish its base in Tijuana, Mexico, crossing the border into the United States before each match and returning shortly afterward. Long overnight journeys, repeated immigration procedures, and an exhausting travel schedule became part of the team’s daily routine during the biggest tournament in world football.

Despite those challenges, Iran’s side refused to surrender.

Iran opened its campaign with an entertaining 2-2 draw against New Zealand before producing one of its most disciplined performances against Belgium. The match finished goalless, but Team Melli saw a first-half goal rule out after a VAR review. Against Egypt in the decisive final group match, the drama reached another level. Mehdi Taremi missed an early penalty, Iranian efforts struck the woodwork twice, and a dramatic stoppage-time winner was eventually ruled out for a marginal offside decision after celebrations had already begun. The 1-1 draw ultimately proved insufficient.

The final heartbreak came not in an Iranian stadium, but hundreds of miles away. ▶ Page 3



Pezeshkian meets grand ayatollahs in Qom

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian traveled to the holy city of Qom for a series of meetings with the leading Shiite clerics, during which he discussed the government’s domestic agenda, regional developments, and the latest diplomatic achievements, including the planned release of \$6 billion of Iran’s frozen assets held in Qatar.

During his visit, the president held separate meetings with Ayatollah Alavi Boroujerdi, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Saeedi, the custodian of the Holy Shrine of Hazrat Masoumeh (SA) and the Leader’s representative in Qom Province, Grand Ayatollah Ja’far Sobhani, Grand Ayatollah Karim Jafar Karimi Jahromi, Grand Ayatollah Hossein Nouri Hamedani, and Grand Ayatollah Mousa Shobeiri Zanjani. ▶ Page 2

Iran and Oman hold first Hormuz committee talks as sovereignty push intensifies

TEHRAN – Iran and Oman convened for the inaugural session of their newly formed joint committee on the Strait of Hormuz, with talks centering on the strategic waterway’s long-term administration.

The announcement came Monday from Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran’s deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, who posted on X that the meeting took place during his visit to Muscat. Oman was represented by Abdulaziz al-Hinai, the sultanate’s minister of state for foreign affairs. ▶ Page 2

Iran calls for ‘Indigenous Persian Gulf Security Framework’ during Iraq visit

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has reaffirmed Tehran’s readiness to engage in dialogue with the Persian Gulf littoral states to establish a collective regional security mechanism, stressing that any future security architecture should be inclusive, indigenous, and free from the involvement of extra-regional military powers.

Speaking during a meeting with Iraqi National Security Adviser Qasim al-Aboudi in Baghdad on Sunday, Araghchi said recent regional developments underscore the need for all countries in the region to work together toward a comprehensive security framework encompassing political, economic, and development dimensions while excluding foreign military interference. ▶ Page 2

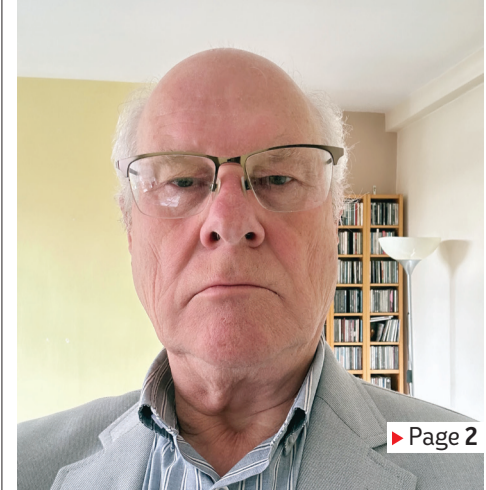
NIDC completes drilling of 23 oil, gas wells in Q1

TEHRAN- The CEO of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) said: 23 oil and gas wells were drilled and completed in the first three months of this Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 20), through the efforts of the drilling crews and the utilization of the company’s drilling fleet, in the country’s on-shore and offshore oil-rich areas.

Morteza Fuladi stated in an interview with IRNA: Of these wells, 6 were developmental and appraisal wells, and 17 were workover wells.

He stated: 19 of the completed wells were in the operational area of the National Southern Oilfields Company, 1 in the Offshore Oil Company, and 3 were drilled and completed within the framework of projects and handed over to client companies. ▶ Page 4

Starmer’s Iran policy left Britain complicit in Washington’s wars, says British activist



▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Invalid agreement

Shargh interviewed Mohsen Pak-Ayeen, a foreign policy analyst, about the fragility of the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States. In his view, although the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the presidents of Iran and the United States — along with the first round of talks in Switzerland — had raised hopes for a new chapter in bilateral relations and a sustainable agreement to reduce regional tensions, the events of Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday, and the exchange of attacks between the two sides once again exposed how fragile the situation remains. These developments showed that the path of diplomacy still faces serious obstacles, and no agreement can guarantee peace and stability unless it is backed by practical commitment and genuine political will. Meanwhile, developments in Lebanon — especially the agreement between its government and Israel and the disputes over the future of Hezbollah and disarmament — have added to the complexity of the regional equation. If the United States truly wants to implement the understanding with the Islamic Republic of Iran, it must begin by carrying out the provisions of the first clause with utmost precision, seriousness, and responsibility.

Jam-e-Jam: Trump lost in America too

Jam-e-Jam analyzed the latest CBS poll and wrote that the new data not only reflects widespread doubt about the effectiveness of current U.S. policies, but also shows that the public's desire to end the conflict outweighs all other priorities. Between 68% and 79% of Americans believe goals such as stopping "Iran's nuclear program" or "changing Iran's political behavior and structure" are practically unattainable. This finding is a warning sign for Trump's team, which has consistently emphasized achieving a better deal or forcing Iran to yield. The CBS poll presents not only a picture of a war-weary public but also a clear warning to US officials that maintaining the legitimacy of their policies requires a fundamental reconsideration of Iran-focused fear narratives and a shift toward realistic diplomacy.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Power struggle over MOU

Donya-e-Eqtasad pointed to ongoing tensions between Iran and the US despite the ceasefire and the signed memorandum of understanding (MOU). It wrote that although a ceasefire is in place and the 60-day negotiation period has begun, tensions persist. From verbal clashes and recent nighttime confrontations in the Strait of Hormuz to Israel's intermittent attacks on southern Lebanon, the situation suggests that both sides — rather than abandoning the memorandum of understanding or returning to war — intend to engage in a show of force over narrative control, bargaining leverage, and asserting sovereignty before any final agreement is reached. According to Andrea Dessi, professor at the American University of Rome, both sides are eager to demonstrate that control or command of the Strait lies in their hands. Nevertheless, Iran and the United States ultimately have no choice but to reach some form of diplomatic settlement.

Hamshahri: Why a lasting Iran-US reconciliation is impossible

Hamshahri interviewed Saeed Leylaz, a political and economic analyst, about the impossibility of long-term reconciliation between Iran and the United States. Leylaz argues that from a geopolitical perspective, such reconciliation is unlikely and unachievable. The reason, he says, is that the United States is an imperial power and cannot tolerate the existence of an independent actor in the global arena. From the beginning of the recent memorandum of understanding, both Iran and the US expressed objections, and Washington repeatedly violated it, including recent developments in Lebanon, which he says aim to uproot Shiism in the region. Multiple complex obstacles stand in the way of any permanent settlement with the US. In the short term, one should not expect strategic problems with America to be resolved. Under current conditions, any agreement with the US is temporary, creating an opportunity for Iran's political system to strengthen its military capacity, stabilize the economy, and improve state-society relations.

Pezeshkian meets grand ayatollahs in Qom

From page 1 ▶ Speaking during his meeting with Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani, Pezeshkian announced that \$6 billion of Iran's frozen assets currently held in Qatar will be released and transferred to Iran under recently agreed arrangements.

The president said the funds represent half of the approximately \$12 billion in Iranian assets currently frozen in Qatar, adding that negotiations are continuing to secure the release of the remaining balance.

Pezeshkian described the asset transfer as one of the key outcomes of the recently signed Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States, calling the agreement 'a significant diplomatic achievement.' He said the understanding also includes the lifting of sanctions targeting Iran's oil and petrochemical sectors.



The president praised the Iranian people for 'their resilience in the face of external pressure and recent military aggression,' saying national unity had prevented Iran's adversaries from achieving their objectives despite the loss of senior officials, military commanders, prominent figures, and students during the conflict.

He accused the United States and Israel of attempting to weaken Iran through economic pressure and attacks on critical infrastructure—including gas production facilities, steel plants, petrochemical complexes, and the country's oil exports—but said those efforts had failed because of public solidarity and coordinat-

ed action by the government and the armed forces.

Reaffirming Tehran's long-standing position on its nuclear program, Pezeshkian said Iran remains committed to the peaceful development of nuclear technology within its declared policies and reiterated that the country is not seeking nuclear weapons.

The president also said the government is simultaneously pursuing post-war reconstruction while expanding social welfare measures.

Throughout his meetings with the grand ayatollahs, Pezeshkian briefed them on the latest developments in the country's governance, the government's economic and reconstruction programs, diplomatic efforts, and the overall state of national affairs, while exchanging views on issues of public interest and receiving their guidance and recommendations.

Iran calls for 'Indigenous Persian Gulf Security Framework' during Iraq visit

From page 1 ▶ Describing the recent US and Israeli military aggression against Iran as a 'threat targeting the entire region,' the Iranian foreign minister said Tehran had adopted a responsible diplomatic approach to end the conflict despite 'repeated US violations of its commitments and breaches of the Islamabad memorandum of understanding.' He emphasized that lasting peace and stability can only be achieved through a consensus-based regional mechanism built on cooperation among neighboring states.

Al-Aboudi, for his part, praised the long-standing relations between the two neighboring Muslim countries and described Iran's support for Iraq—particularly during the campaign against the Daesh terrorist group—as unforgettable. The two officials also reviewed bilateral cooperation on border security and



discussed the full implementation of the Iran-Iraq security agreement to combat terrorism and strengthen shared security.

Araghchi arrived in Baghdad early Sunday for an official visit to hold talks with senior Iraqi officials on bilateral relations, regional and international developments. During his visit, he met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad

Hussein, Prime Minister Ali Faleh al-Zaidi, and National Security Adviser Qasim al-Aboudi, with discussions focusing on expanding political, economic, security, trade, and cultural cooperation, enhancing coordination on regional issues, and promoting joint efforts to preserve regional peace and stability.

In a separate meeting with Prime Minister al-Zaidi, the Iraqi premier reaffirmed his government's determination to broaden relations with Iran across all sectors, describing the ties between the two neighboring countries as deep-rooted and strategic. Araghchi, meanwhile, reiterated Tehran's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation and emphasized the importance of continued coordination between the two countries in support of regional security and the fight against terrorism.

Iran and Oman hold first Hormuz committee talks as sovereignty push intensifies

From page 1 ▶ According to Gharibabadi, the two delegations examined both pressing matters related to the strait and its broader governance framework going forward.

Iran moved to close the passage to adversaries and their affiliates after the latest wave of unprovoked U.S.-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic. The country subsequently imposed tighter navigational controls following President Donald Trump's

announcement of a continued naval blockade of Iranian vessels and ports—a measure that was deemed illegal and in violation of the ceasefire terms brokered on April 7.

A memorandum of understanding, mediated by Pakistan, was recently signed between Tehran and Washington in an effort to resolve the cycle of hostilities. Its fifth clause explicitly affirms Iran's sovereignty over the strategic chokepoint.

Since the onset of the aggression, Iran and Oman have engaged in discussions on the strait's future administration, rooted in the littoral states' sovereign prerogatives.

"During the meeting, in addition to reviewing current issues concerning the Strait, we exchanged views on its future management within the framework of the fifth clause of the Islamabad memorandum of understanding and the sovereign rights of the littoral

states," Gharibabadi stated.

The session follows a joint statement issued on June 22 after a visit to Muscat by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. In that declaration, Oman and Iran jointly underscored that any arrangements pertaining to the Strait of Hormuz must fully uphold the sovereignty and sovereign entitlements of both coastal nations.

Tehran demands US adherence to MoU before any technical discussions begin

TEHRAN - Iran's deputy foreign minister on Monday dismissed reports that technical working groups with Washington would convene this week in Doha, accusing the United States of violating key articles of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding during two days of skirmishes in the Strait of Hormuz—violations that were met with a decisive Iranian response.

Kazem Gharibabadi told reporters that "holding technical meetings of the working groups has not been scheduled for this week," contradicting a Truth Social post by U.S. President Donald Trump claiming talks were set for Tuesday. "The first round of technical talks will be held once

conditions are met and after agreement is reached on the date and venue," he said.

Gharibabadi's statement came after a Saturday-Sunday confrontation in which Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) naval forces repelled a U.S. attempt to open an unauthorized shipping corridor inside the strait. Under Article 5 of the MoU signed in mid June, ships are only allowed to pass through the Strait of Hormuz under Iranian arrangements. Iran fired warning shots at violating vessels during the weekend and appears to have now dismantled the unauthorized route. Following the Iranian shots, the U.S. attacked targets in Iran's southern territory, another violation of the MoU, to which

Iran responded with heavy attacks on U.S. military installations in Bahrain and Kuwait.

"Consultations with Qatar are continuing, including efforts to follow up on the implementation of the opposite side's commitments," Gharibabadi said, linking the delay in technical talks directly to Washington's bad-faith implementation of the agreement.

The MoU, brokered by Pakistan, launched a 60-day negotiating clock during the first round of four-way talks in Switzerland on June 21, where the Iranian delegation, led by Parliament Speaker Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Araghchi, pressed for full implementation.

Iran's Trojan Horse in US: Team Melli's presence in WC

By Haj Habib Ahmadzadeh

TEHRAN— Without a doubt, this is the first time in history that a country has hosted the World Cup while simultaneously attacking another nation—a nation, as it happens, that is a guest in that very tournament.

What makes this situation even more surreal is that the host country barred several members of the visiting team from entry. Consequently, the Iranian football team was forced to set up their training camp in neighboring Mexico, only being granted entry into the United States—strictly to travel to stadiums in Los Angeles or Seattle—mere hours before each match. Furthermore, upon their departure, they were subjected to repeated fingerprinting at the airport. Yet, despite these restrictions and the psychological warfare, the Iranian national team remained on the verge of qualifying with three draws and zero

losses, only to be eliminated due to sheer misfortune.

Donald Trump, having failed to secure a Nobel Peace Prize despite all his maneuvering, had consoled himself by accepting this hollow, fabricated peace trophy from the FIFA president. Throughout this ongoing conflict with Iran, Trump had officially claimed more than five times that the Iranian government had surrendered and collapsed.

However, during this very World Cup, Trump was forced to watch, on three separate occasions, as the Iranian flag was unfurled across half of the stadium pitch, right before the eyes of the world. Three times, the Iranian national anthem was played at maximum volume in his own stadiums, compelling every spectator present to stand in respect, while billions of people outside U.S. borders listened via their television sets in every foot-

ball-loving home across the globe. Through a simple appearance on the pitch, the exact opposite of everything Trump had claimed was unintentionally proven: he had achieved none of his objectives in his war against Iran.

There is a proverb in the Middle East that can be simply translated into English:

"An enemy's conspiracy can become a blessing in disguise."

Throughout his life, Trump has never truly understood the resilient people of Iran—how they come together in difficult situations and guard their country like a football goalkeeper.

And finally, a piece of advice for the greater good of all people worldwide: Perhaps it would not be a bad idea to add a rigorous intelligence and childhood trauma assessment to the requirements for all candidates in future U.S. presidential elections.



INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

First Announcement

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29/06/2026

Agricultural Support Services Company

Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 3×50000±5% MTS of Granular Triple Super Phosphate through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Tuesday dated 30/6/2026 until Saturday dated 11/7/2026 (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 3390397822635006500000000000008

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Saturday dated 8/8/2026 (During official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on Sunday dated 9/8/2026 at 10:00 a.m. with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

1- The bid bond value should be at € 495310 or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer selling rate on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on 22/6/2026 for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.

2- The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% will be IRR 829304651824 which must be only submitted by the bidders.

3- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)

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Eliminated on Paper. Victorious in Character.

How did the US lay landmines for Iran's football team inside the 2026 World Cup?

From Page 1 ▶ With three points from three draws, Iran's hopes depended on results elsewhere. For a brief moment, Algeria's late goal against Austria appeared to send Team Melli into the Round of 32. Then, in the dying seconds of stoppage time, Austria equalized. Within moments, Iran's World Cup dream was over. It was elimination by the narrowest of margins—a cruel ending for a team that had remained unbeaten throughout the group stage.

The football itself, however, became only one chapter of a much larger story.

Throughout the tournament, Iranian players and coaches repeatedly argued that they were competing under conditions unlike those experienced by any other team. Head coach Amir Ghalenoei said he hoped such treatment would never become the norm at future World Cups, while captain Mehdi Taremi questioned FIFA's handling of the situation, saying the squad had been forced to "fight against everything" throughout the competition.

Ghalenoei described his players' resilience as something "history should record," arguing that they had endured extraordinary circumstances while continuing to represent their country with professionalism.

Perhaps the strongest endorsement of Team Melli's conduct came from voices outside Iran.

An opinion piece published by USA Today warned that the treatment of Iran had established a dangerous precedent, arguing that political considerations had overshadowed FIFA's commitment to equal treatment for all qualified teams. The article suggested that allowing a host nation to impose exceptional restrictions on one participant risk undermining the integrity of future World Cups.

South African comedian and broadcaster Trevor Noah also drew widespread attention after praising the Iranian players for maintaining their professionalism throughout the tournament. He questioned why footballers from Iran and other Middle Eastern nations were repeatedly asked to answer political questions rather than instead of discussing football, while players



from Western countries were rarely subjected to similar scrutiny. Noah concluded by applauding Team Melli for "carrying that weight" with dignity.

Other international commentators echoed similar concerns, arguing that the tournament exposed inconsistencies in how politics intersected with football and raising broader questions about FIFA's ability to shield the sport from geopolitical disputes.

Yet amid all the controversy, what endured most was football. Iran never looked overwhelmed. Against technically superior opponents, Team Melli displayed discipline, tactical maturity, and relentless determination. The players fought for every ball, defended with courage, and attacked with belief until the very final whistle of the group stage.

Ramin Rezaei admitted he could not understand how fortune had repeatedly deserted the team, insisting Iran deserved more from its performances.

Taremi, meanwhile, chose pride over regret, saying the players had given everything to their country and could leave the tournament with their heads held high regardless of the outcome.

That sentiment may ultimately define Iran's 2026 World Cup more than the standings themselves.

The statistics will show three matches, three draws, three points, and an early exit.

They will not show the endless hours spent crossing borders. They will not capture the emotional burden carried by players who found themselves answering questions far removed from football. Nor will they reflect the resilience required to remain unbeaten while navigating extraor-

inary logistical and political challenges.

Every World Cup leaves behind stories that transcend goals and trophies.

For Iran, this tournament became one of endurance rather than celebration; one where hope survived until the final seconds of another match, where every setback was met with determination, and where elimination came not through defeat on the field but through the finest of margins.

Team Melli returns home without a place in the knockout stage, but with something equally enduring: the respect earned through resilience, unity, and unwavering commitment under extraordinary circumstances.

Sometimes, football is measured by victories.

Sometimes it is measured by character.

For Iran, the 2026 World Cup will be remembered as a tournament in which the team left the field unbeaten, left the competition heartbroken, and left the world with a story far greater than its final position in Group G.

Commentators, journalists, and football supporters from across the political spectrum ultimately found common ground on one undeniable truth: whatever their views on governments or geopolitics, the Iranian players deserved to be judged by what they produced on the pitch.

And on the pitch, they earned respect. Iran's World Cup campaign became more than a football story. It became a lesson in resilience.

Physical fatigue accumulated. Mental exhaustion became impossible to ignore. Endless travel, relentless scrutiny, and

extraordinary pressure followed the team from the opening match to the final whistle. Yet when kick-off arrived, none of it became an excuse.

There were no complaints after missed opportunities. No public collapse after controversial decisions. No surrender after heartbreak. Instead, there was composure. There was discipline. There was unity.

Team Melli battled circumstances. It battled exhaustion. Above all, it battled politics—while never losing sight of the game itself.

But those who watched every minute will remember something entirely different.

They will remember a team that simply refused to surrender.

Every World Cup crowns champions. Every World Cup sends teams home.

Only a handful leave behind a story that transcends football.

Iran became one of them.

Despite extraordinary logistical challenges, relentless travel, political scrutiny, and immense emotional pressure, Team Melli completed its unbeaten campaign. It departed the tournament without a victory—but also without a defeat.

Sometimes, football rewards courage with trophies.

Sometimes it rewards courage with respect.

This time, respect became Iran's greatest victory.

The players leave North America without the knockout place they believed they had earned. They leave without the celebrations they dreamed of sharing with millions of supporters.

But they also leave with something no league table, no statistic, and no final whistle can ever measure.

They leave having shown professionalism under pressure, dignity under scrutiny, and resilience in circumstances that tested far more than footballing ability.

The memories tell a far greater story. Because in the end, football is not always measured by the victories that are celebrated. Sometimes, it is measured by the character revealed when victory remains only a heartbeat away.

Iran honors 'pioneer of public diplomacy' assassinated in US-Israeli strike

TEHRAN – Iran's political and cultural elite gathered Sunday to unveil a commemorative volume honoring Martyr Dr. Seyed Kamal Kharrazi, the former foreign minister assassinated on April 9 in a U.S.-Israeli airstrike on his Tehran residence.

The 432-page memorial book, *Jamal-e Kamal* ("The Beauty of Kamal"), compiles documents, personal reminiscences, and interviews with leading Iranian figures. Published jointly by the Iran Cultural and Press Institute and IRNA, it stands as a testament to one of the most influential diplomats in modern Iranian history.

At the ceremony, former Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif called Kharrazi the pioneer of public diplomacy in Iran's Foreign Ministry. Zarif said Kharrazi worked to correct global misperceptions about Iran

and was deeply committed to improving the country's international image.

"He was one of the world's bravest leaders," Zarif said. "The Iranian nation is mourning his loss, and his absence will be felt in every field."

IRNA CEO Hossein Jaber Ansari described Kharrazi as "a symbol of forgotten virtues," praising his humility, intellectual discipline, and Islamic values.

Kharrazi also headed the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations. His assassination was part of a broader U.S.-Israeli military campaign against Iran that began in late February. Kharrazi's killing is seen as an act of state terrorism and a clear attempt to destabilize the Islamic Republic of Iran and undermine its sovereignty—including its nuclear rights.

Narrative power and strategic miscalculation

When narratives become strategy

TEHRAN – Foreign policy is often described as a response to material reality. In practice, it is frequently a response to interpreted reality—a filtered construction shaped by institutions, expertise networks, and dominant narratives. Nowhere has this been more evident than in Western policy toward Iran over the past three decades.

Since the early 1990s, Iran has occupied a singular position in the Western security imagination. It has been described as a proliferator of nuclear risk, a sponsor of regional instability, and a central driver of West Asian conflict dynamics. These concerns were mostly invented by Iran's rivals. Over time, a more consequential development occurred: Iran was transformed from a policy challenge into a structuring idea—a lens through which much of West Asia was interpreted.

Western Iran policy has been shaped by a process of systematic threat inflation embedded within a dense transatlantic knowledge ecosystem. This process did not simply exaggerate Iran's threats; it increasingly narrowed the interpretive range through which Iran's capabilities were understood. The result was a widening gap between perceived and actual power dynamics, contributing to sanctions overreach, recurrent strategic misjudgements, and persistent overestimations of Iranian vulnerability. The Western policy ecosystem gradually constructed a self-reinforcing narrative architecture that displaced analytical pluralism with interpretive convergence.

The cognitive foundations of misperception

Any serious analysis of foreign policy must begin with the recognition that states do not act on objective reality, but on perceived reality. As Robert Jervis demonstrated in his foundational work, decision-makers interpret information through cognitive shortcuts, pre-existing beliefs, and institutionalized expectations. Once formed, these cognitive structures tend to filter incoming evidence rather than revise themselves in response to it.

This dynamic is particularly pronounced in high-salience security environments, where uncertainty is high and stakes are existential. Under such conditions, policymakers gravitate toward simplifying narratives. Complexity is reduced into legible categories: ally and adversary, stabilizer and spoiler, status quo power and revisionist actor.

Iran gradually became embedded in Western policy discourse as a paradigmatic "revisionist state." Over time, this categorization hardened into a structural assumption rather than a falsifiable hypothesis. The consequence was not simply analytical bias, but institutionalized interpretive rigidity.

After the Iranian revolution, Iran emerged as a central object of analysis in Western strategic thought. The initial drivers were clear: concerns over export of revolution, nuclear proliferation, ballistic missile development, and Iran's regional activities following the 1979 revolution and the end of the Iran-Iraq War. Yet what followed was not merely sustained attention, but analytical concentration. Iran



increasingly became the default explanatory variable for a wide range of regional phenomena. This shift was reinforced by a transatlantic ecosystem of policy institutions, including the Brookings Institution, Council on Foreign Relations, RAND Corporation, CSIS, Atlantic Council, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

While these institutions differ significantly in ideological orientation—from engagement-oriented liberal internationalism to hard-line containment perspectives—they share a structural role in policy production: they translate complexity into policy-relevant narratives. Over time, Iran became one of the most heavily "worked" policy objects in the Western strategic system.

This intensity of focus produced a subtle but important effect: analytical convergence without analytical consensus. Even when prescriptions differed, the underlying problem definition increasingly aligned. Iran was treated as the principal strategic challenge in the Middle East.

In Europe, institutions such as Chatham House, ECFR, SWP, and Clingendael reproduced a similar framing, albeit with greater emphasis on diplomacy and institutional engagement. Yet even in more engagement-oriented discourse, Iran remained fundamentally categorized as a security problem requiring containment, management, or behavioural modification.

Regional actors and the amplification of threat narratives

No narrative ecosystem develops in isolation. Regional actors—most notably Israel and several Persian Gulf Arab states—played a significant role in reinforcing Iran-centered threat perceptions within Western policy circles.

Israel's strategic doctrine has consistently emphasized Iran as a long-term existential challenge, particularly in relation to nuclear capabilities and regional proxy networks. Arab states, meanwhile, have increasingly framed Iran as the principal source of regional instability and strategic imbalance.

Through sustained diplomatic engagement, intelligence sharing, policy forums, media outreach, and structured partnerships with Western think tanks, these actors contributed to the internationalization of regional threat perceptions. The result was fabrication of concern, and amplification and institutional embedding of a specific interpretive frame. Over time, Iran was not only analyzed as a regional actor—it became the central organizing principle of regional analysis itself.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Starmer's Iran policy left Britain complicit in Washington's wars, says British activist

Stephen Bell says the PM prioritized US interests while abandoning Britain's independent diplomatic role.

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – Stephen Bell, Treasurer of the Stop the War Coalition and a longtime anti-imperialist activist, believes the recent US-Israeli war against Iran has exposed the limits of Western military coercion while intensifying public opposition to interventionist policies.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Bell discusses the strategic consequences of the conflict, Britain's role in supporting Washington and Tel Aviv, the erosion of Western credibility, and why growing anti-war sentiment could reshape the political debate over foreign policy in the United Kingdom.

"From the 1st of March" the day after the opening of the war the British government allowed US B-1, B-2, and B-52 bombers to fly from RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire to conduct strikes against Iran, the political writer states.

The following is the full text of the interview:

The military campaign against Iran was presented in Western capitals as a security necessity. Looking back at the conflict, do you believe the primary objective was genuinely non-proliferation, or was it part of a broader attempt to reshape the regional balance of power?

If the primary objective of the military campaign was genuinely nuclear non-proliferation, then the first question we have to

ask is: where is the evidence?

Those advocating military action ignored the Supreme Leader's fatwa declaring the production and possession of nuclear weapons to be contrary to Islamic principles. They also disregarded the assessment of U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, who told Congress in March 2025 that there was no evidence Iran was producing a nuclear weapon. Likewise, they ignored the International Atomic Energy Agency's May 2025 report, which found no evidence that Iran was attempting to develop a nuclear weapon.

In other words, they ignored the available evidence. Ironically, the countries presenting themselves as guardians of the global non-proliferation regime are the United States—the only country ever to have used nuclear weapons in war—and Israel, which is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), possesses an undeclared nuclear arsenal, and permits neither public scrutiny nor international transparency regarding its nuclear capabilities.

This suggests that the June 2025 attack on Iran, particularly its nuclear facilities, was driven not by non-proliferation concerns but by a political calculation that Iran had become strategically vulnerable. Western leaders interpreted the change of government in Syria and the severe blows dealt to Hezbollah's leadership as signs that Iran's regional position had weakened. On that basis, they concluded that it was the right moment to

launch the June war.

In my view, the purpose of the campaign was not non-proliferation but the projection of military power. Ultimately, however, the United States had to intervene to rescue Israel after it became clear that Israel had failed to achieve its military objectives against Iran's nuclear program and that its missile defense systems had been penetrated. In that sense, the initial assault on Iran failed to accomplish its strategic aims, and it had nothing to do with nuclear non-proliferation.

Do you think Western policymakers fundamentally misunderstood Iran's political resilience and its capacity to withstand external pressure?

I believe Western policymakers' approach to Iran has long been shaped by what many would describe as racism or, to use Edward Said's term, Orientalism. That mindset has profoundly influenced their judgment, leading them to miscalculate both Iran's resilience and how its society and political system would respond to external pressure.

They believed that the unrest in January 2026 had isolated and seriously weakened the Iranian government. In my view, they became victims of their own propaganda. There is a well-known saying that drug dealers should not "get high on their own supply," and I think that analogy applies here. They came to believe the narrative they themselves had helped create.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Kazakh investment at Shahid Rajaei Port to triple bilateral trade, guarantee annual transit of 1.5m tons of goods

TEHRAN- The Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization said that with the implementation of the Kazakhstan investment agreement at Shahid Rajaei Port, the volume of goods traded between the two countries will increase threefold, and the annual transit of 1.5 million tons of goods will be guaranteed.

According to Mehr News Agency, Mohammad Shakibi-Nasab, made the remarks on June 28 at the signing ceremony of the Kazakhstan investment agreement at Shahid Rajaei Port that this agreement is an important step towards realizing the policy of attracting foreign investment and developing the North-South International Corridor.

He stated that this project is being implemented with the support of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and within the framework of the Ports Organization's plans to strengthen Iran's transit position.

Stating that this agreement guarantees the annual transit of 1,500,000 tons of goods through the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added that the realization of this goal, in addition to increasing Iran's share of the regional transit market, will lead to the improvement of economic indicators, an increase in transit revenues, and the enhancement of the position of the country's ports in the international transport chain.

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development stated that this investment, in addition to developing infrastructure and supplying port equipment, will provide the ground for job creation, increasing the operational capacity of Shahid Rajaei Port, and boosting the ports located along the North-South Corridor.

Referring to the strategic position of Kazakhstan in the regional transport network, he said: Kazakhstan, as one of the important logistics and transit hubs of the region, can play an effective role in making the North-South Corridor more active. The presence of investors from this country in Shahid Rajaei Port, whether in the field of infrastructure development or in the field of equipment supply, will help boost this international corridor and expand the economic cooperation of the two countries.

Shakibi-Nasab, emphasizing the economic and social effects of this investment, clarified: The implementation of this project, in addition to creating new job opportunities, will lead to the prosperity of ports along the North-South Corridor, increasing the productivity of port infrastructure, and the growth of trade exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan, so that the volume of goods traded between the two countries will increase threefold with the implementation of this agreement.

Head of Kazakhstan's Trade Development Fund: Shahid Rajaei Port will become core of first Kazakh port

At the end of this ceremony, Aman Mal Gazhvarov, Director General of the Trade Development Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan, expressing his satisfaction with the finalization of this agreement, considered it a strategic step in developing the economic and transport cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan and said: We have been working continuously on this project for nearly a year, and today we are happy to witness the signing of this agreement.

Emphasizing the long-term vision of this project, he added: We do not consider this project merely a dock, warehouse, or terminal, but rather regard it as the initial core of establishing a Kazakh port in Shahid Rajaei Port; a project that can play an important role in the development of regional transit corridors.

The Director General of the Trade Development Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan, referring to the investment commitment of the Kazakh side, stated: The amount of our investment commitments in this project is about 1,500,000 dollars, and we will seriously follow up on its implementation.

Gazhvarov concluded by referring to the trade capacities of the two countries: Currently, the value of goods traded between Iran and Kazakhstan is about 400 million dollars, and we hope that with the implementation of this agreement and the operation of the logistics center, this figure will at least double or triple.

Shahid Rajaei Port will become Kazakhstan's logistics hub in Persian Gulf

According to Mehr News Agency, the investment agreement and the creation of a logistics center for the Republic of Kazakhstan in the hinterland of Shahid Rajaei Port were signed on June



28, in the presence of Mohammad Shakibi-Nasab, Head of the Ports and Maritime Organization, and Ontalap Onalbayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran.

The establishment of a Kazakh logistics center in the hinterland of Shahid Rajaei Port is considered one of the most important joint projects between Iran and Kazakhstan in the field of transport, logistics, and trade, which will be implemented with the aim of strengthening economic and transit cooperation, developing trade exchanges, and enhancing the position of the North-South International Corridor.

This center will operate as a base for consolidating, storing, processing, distributing, and transiting Kazakhstan's export, import, and transit goods.

By facilitating the supply chain, reducing the time and cost of cargo transportation, and increasing efficiency in logistics processes, it will play an effective role in developing the economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Also, utilizing the capacities of Shahid Rajaei Port as Iran's largest commercial port will provide the possibility of direct access for Kazakh goods to open waters and the markets of the Persian Gulf region, East Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and other international markets, and will further strengthen Iran's position as a link between Central Asian countries and the global trade network.

Hossein Abbasnejad, Director General of Ports and Maritime Department of Hormozgan Province, had said earlier in the morning of the ceremony day: "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.

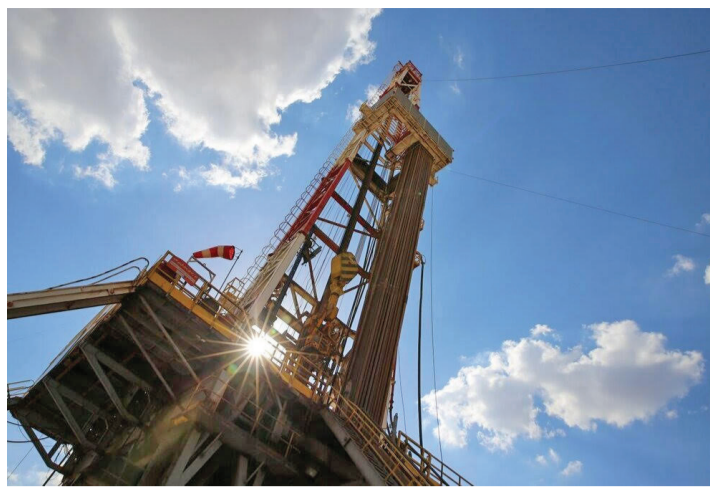
NIDC completes drilling of 23 oil, gas wells in Q1

TEHRAN- The CEO of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) said: 23 oil and gas wells were drilled and completed in the first three months of this Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 20), through the efforts of the drilling crews and the utilization of the company's drilling fleet, in the country's onshore and offshore oil-rich areas.

Morteza Fuladi stated in an interview with IRNA: Of these wells, 6 were developmental and appraisal wells, and 17 were workover wells.

He stated: 19 of the completed wells were in the operational area of the National Southern Oilfields Company, 1 in the Off-shore Oil Company, and 3 were drilled and completed within the framework of projects and handed over to client companies.

Fuladi noted that the drilling footage recorded during this period amounted to 41,515 meters, and said: Currently, 8 heavy and light onshore drilling rigs are being relocated in the operational areas.



According to this report, the National Iranian Drilling Company currently owns 73 onshore and offshore drilling rigs (in light, heavy, and ultra-heavy classes).

Iran's oil and gas drilling industry is anchored by the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC), a state-owned subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). Founded in 1979 with just six rigs, NIDC has grown into one of the largest drilling service companies in the

region. Headquartered in Ahvaz? it provides over 90% of the drilling services needed domestically and operates across more than 10 provinces—from the Caspian Sea in the north to the Persian Gulf in the south.

NIDC manages a vast fleet of 73 onshore and offshore drilling rigs in light, heavy, and ultra-heavy classes. Its services include exploration, development, workover, and well completion, as well as specialized operations

like cementing, acidizing, and drill stem testing. Over its history, the company has drilled over 9.5 million meters of wells and completed more than 4,700 oil and gas wells.

In recent years, NIDC has significantly boosted its performance. In the first year of the current administration, it drilled and completed 114 wells with over 115,000 meters drilled. Last year, the company completed 100 wells, and recent reports show drilling fleet productivity reaching 78% with a 9.1% reduction in standby time.

To maintain momentum, NIDC is modernizing its fleet through a \$800 million initiative to overhaul rigs and acquire 15 new onshore rigs. It is also localizing equipment manufacturing to reduce dependence on imports—a critical strategy given international sanctions. With around 17,500 employees, the company remains central to Iran's efforts to sustain and grow its oil and gas production.

Africa can supply part of Iran's import needs

TEHRAN- The head of the Iran-East Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce announced plans to develop trade and investment relations with African countries and said: The vast capacities of this continent can meet part of Iran's import needs, and in return, Iran will also export the industrial goods and products required by these countries.

Masoud Berahman, in an interview with Iran Chamber Online, referring to the holding of the general assembly of this joint chamber, clarified: The main approach of this chamber in the current year is to focus on countries that have shared comparative advantages for expanding economic cooperation.

Accordingly, the development of trade relations, increasing exports and imports, as well as expanding joint investments, have been prioritized in the chamber's programs.

Referring to the existing diplomatic capacities between Iran and African countries, he added: Iran has 24 active embassies in the African continent, and 19 African countries also have embassies in Iran. This capacity can provide a suitable platform for greater coordination and defining shared economic goals in the coming year.

Berahman also announced a proposal submitted to the government to develop trade with Africa and stated: Studies conducted show that Iran needs to import livestock inputs, basic commodities, and raw materials. Therefore, the joint chamber has proposed that a part of these imports be supplied from African countries, and in return, Iran export the industrial goods and products required by these countries. This barter model can help reduce dependence on some traditional markets while contributing to the development of economic relations between the two sides.

The head of the Iran-East Africa Joint Chamber emphasized: Many of the goods that Iran imports are abundantly found in African countries, and in return, these countries also need Iranian industrial products and manufactures. Hence, there is a suitable capacity for the formation of mutual trade and bartering of goods between the two sides.

In another part of his remarks, this economic activist referred to the positive view of African countries towards cooperation with Iran and said: African countries are interested in developing economic relations with Iran, but to benefit from these capacities, the dispatch and reception of trade delegations

must be increased, Iran's economic and commercial attachés in these countries must be strengthened, and joint economic commissions should play a more active role.

Berahman further cited financial transfer problems, logistical constraints, and the lack of regular transport lines as the most important obstacles to developing trade with Africa, and added: Developing direct flights, launching regular shipping lines, and providing financial and guarantee support from the government can help facilitate the presence of Iranian companies in African markets.

Referring to the successful experience of countries like China, India, and Turkey in the African market, he said: These countries have paved the way for the expansion of their companies' activities through extensive support, especially in the area of subsidies for participation in exhibitions and trade trips. Iran also needs to adopt similar supportive policies to increase its share of the African market.

The head of the Iran-East Africa Joint Chamber also announced plans to empower medium-sized Iranian companies and stated: Many large companies have the ability to be present in African markets, but the chamber's main goal is to prepare and support medium-sized companies to enter these markets. Additionally, expanding the presence of Iranian knowledge-based companies in African countries is on the agenda.

He noted: Through synergy between the private sector, the government, and institutions such as the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, it is possible to pave the way for a more prominent presence of Iranian companies in African markets and take advantage of the vast opportunities of this continent for the development of non-oil exports.

Back in last December, Berahman stated that Iran will support investments by Iranian firms in Africa and efforts to expand exports to the continent, with export credit guarantees and development financing expected to underpin trade growth.

Masoud Berahman said the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) would back up to \$3.0 billion of Iranian investments across Africa as part of broader efforts to strengthen commercial ties and reduce risks for private-sector investors.

He added that the National Development Fund (NDF) would provide around €2.0 billion to support startup and entrepreneurial proj-

ects linked to trade development.

Berahman said Africa, with its large population and broad consumer base, offered significant opportunities for Iranian goods, technical and engineering services and investment, but warned that realizing this potential would require stronger infrastructure, clearer policies and sustained government support.

He criticized the lack of a comprehensive trade roadmap, saying Iran's export sector continues to face multiple challenges that make it difficult to systematically monitor markets and assess country-specific trade conditions.

Berahman said the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran, the economic diplomacy department and the Iran Chamber of Commerce should work more closely with the private sector to strengthen digitalization and develop an operational trade roadmap, warning that fragmented approaches risk reinforcing what he described as an "island economy."

"A shared roadmap is needed to guide our move toward target markets such as Africa," he said, noting that the continent, with a population of about 1.45 billion, represents a future growth market for both goods and technical services.

He said Iran's regional trade experience showed that relying mainly on neighboring markets, including Iraq, would not be sufficient to achieve sustainable export growth, calling instead for clear strategies and stronger state backing to diversify trade destinations.

Berahman stressed the need to professionalize export capacity building and move away from short-term, reactive approaches, arguing that a well-designed export roadmap based on detailed market analysis would help Iranian firms enter global markets, particularly in Africa.

He also highlighted the role of commercial attaches in expanding trade ties, noting that Turkey maintains 44 trade counsellors across Africa, compared with only three active Iranian counterparts, and called for greater use of economic diplomacy tools.

"Iran must expand its trade with neighboring countries, Africa and other emerging markets," Berahman said, adding that coordinated policies and long-term planning would be essential to achieving that goal.

Iran-Afghanistan trade targeted to reach \$10b over next 3 years

TEHRAN- The commercial attaché of Iran in Afghanistan said that trade between the two countries reached \$2.7 billion in the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20), and the target of \$10 billion in trade is being pursued over the next three years.

According to the Mehr News Agency, Hossein Roustaei, the commercial attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Afghanistan, stated that given that Afghanistan is currently the fifth trading partner of the Islamic Republic of Iran, trade between the two countries in the year 1404 amounted to \$2.7 billion.

According to the announcement of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, he added that it is expected that with the strengthening of industrial and mining cooperation, the targeting of \$10 billion in economic relations between the two countries will be realized over the next three years.

Back in late February, the head of the Chamber of Commerce of Birjand (center of South Khorasan province), stated that South Khorasan in the east of Iran, has emerged as a key gateway in Iran's trade with Afghanistan, with a significant share of Iranian exports to its eastern

neighbor transiting through the province's borders.

Alireza Khomehzar, chairman of the Birjand Chamber of Commerce, said a large volume of goods exported from South Khorasan is destined for the Afghan market, adding that an important portion of Iran's total exports to Afghanistan is transported through the province's border crossings.

He said South Khorasan has secured a "respectable position" in supplying the needs of the Afghan market, underscoring the province's growing importance in bilateral trade.

Khomehzar noted that region-

al developments and restrictions on some of Afghanistan's trade routes have drawn Kabul's attention more strongly toward the Iranian market.

He described the situation as a major economic opportunity for Iran, particularly for South Khorasan, which shares a long border with Afghanistan.

He said that in trade, three factors – speed, accuracy and cost reduction – are decisive. Improving infrastructure, including transport and border facilities, could significantly reduce shipping times and enhance the competitiveness of exports from South Khorasan.

Israel maliciously turns Armenian grief into diplomatic grenade masking Gaza atrocities

From page 1 ▶

A moral epiphany forged in political spite

Israel did not suddenly unearth hidden archival evidence in the middle of 2026.

For decades, the regime ruthlessly prevented its own politicians from uttering the word “genocide” in relation to 1915, viewing Turkish friendship as an indispensable asset.

The shift occurred only because that relationship collapsed. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has become a critic of the ongoing genocidal campaign in Gaza and other Israeli crimes, partly suspending trade and issuing condemning statements. The sudden recognition is naked retaliation.

The profound suffering of the Armenian people deserves sincere acknowledgment rather than transactional exploitation.

Estimates point to immense trauma and massacres that left a deep communal wound. Simultaneously, Turkish accounts place the events within the catastrophic collapse of an empire, emphasizing reciprocal violence and total war.

Both narratives carry the weight of immense historical pain. Healing requires sovereign dialogue and mutual respect. Sinister outsiders who hijack this history to settle unrelated geopolitical scores only trivialize the dead.

The Azerbaijan paradox and the betrayal of Artsakh

The hypocrisy of this sudden awakening becomes grotesque when viewed alongside the Israeli alliance with Azerbaijan.

While politicians in Tel Aviv



now weep for the Armenians of 1915, Israeli military technology dictated the fate of their descendants in Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh.

Between 2016 and 2020, Israel supplied around 70 percent of Azerbaijan's major arms imports. Advanced weaponry, including Harop drones and LORA missiles, proved decisive in the devastating 2023 offensive.

Following a brutal blockade, that military operation triggered the exodus of over 120,000 ethnic Armenians from their homeland, leaving hundreds of civilians dead and entire communities completely shattered.

Throughout this period, Azerbaijani cargo planes landed at the Ovda airbase in Israel over 90 times to load munitions.

Israel willingly exchanged Armenian lives for Azerbaijani oil supplies, and a reported malevolent outpost for intelligence and military operations in the broader neighborhood.

Arming the violent displacement of a people yesterday while claiming to protect their historical memory today is the zenith of

geopolitical sociopathy.

The commodification of trauma

This behavior belongs to a deeper pathology of selective humanity.

The Jewish historical experience birthed the rallying cry of “never again.” Yet, Israel has particularized this legacy, using it as a tribal shield.

American political scientist Norman Finkelstein, whose parents were Holocaust survivors, dissected this dynamic in his work on “The Holocaust Industry,” demonstrating how authentic trauma can be refined into political capital.

Israel is currently manufacturing an Armenian memory industry for the exact same purpose, seeking moral immunity while dodging international scrutiny.

The German-born American political theorist Hannah Arendt warned that folding human suffering into political calculation corrupts compassion and normalizes atrocity.

Palestinian-American academic Edward Said similarly illuminated how imperial power

dictates whose pain is registered as fully human and whose is rendered invisible.

When a genocidal regime invokes historical suffering merely to secure tactical leverage, it desecrates remembrance.

A smokescreen for the annihilation of Gaza

The timing of the recognition is tied to the horrors unfolding in the Levant. As Israeli officials speak of moral duties regarding 1915, they are actively commanding the starvation and bombardment of a trapped civilian population.

A recent UN commission of inquiry confirmed that Israeli forces deliberately target Palestinian children, contributing directly to findings of genocide.

At least 73,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, including more than 20,000 children, with tens of thousands more permanently maimed.

Historian Ilan Pappé has mapped how this violence is a direct continuation of the ethnic cleansing that began before the 1948 Nakba.

The sudden Israeli focus on a centennial tragedy in the Caucasus is a desperate psychological operation. It is designed to fracture regional alliances and launder the reputation of a state facing unprecedented genocide charges at the International Court of Justice.

True moral courage demands the uncompromising and universal application of international justice and human rights.

The dead must not be used as disposable poker chips in a broader U.S.-Israeli war designed to dominate the Middle East.

More Lebanese figures reject the “framework agreement”



From page 1 ▶ He also warned that it was meant to fuel divisions within the country, stating: “This agreement was designed to sow discord between the Lebanese, which I categorically reject.”

The head of the Lebanese Democratic Party and political chief of the Druze sect, Talal Arslan, stressed that the agreement between the Lebanese government and the Israeli occupation regime is “unbalanced in both form and substance, legitimizes the occupation, and violates Lebanon's sovereignty.”

Arslan added that the agreement “represents a practical step toward an internal strife project” and that it serves the Israeli regime's “primary objective, which we have repeatedly warned against.”

Lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah, a member of Hezbollah's Loyalty to the Resistance parliamentary bloc, insisted that the “agreement of humiliation will never be implemented,” adding, “Our weapons will remain to liberate our land and protect our people.”

Similarly, Lebanese MP Ibrahim Mousawi stated that “when Netanyahu describes the framework agreement as an achievement, it reflects submission to the enemy's dictates.”

Mousawi also affirmed that the so-called “framework agreement” is legally and constitutionally invalid and carries no legitimate authority.

Meanwhile, Grand Mufti Sheikh Ahmad Qabalan, addressing the Lebanese people and political factions, said, “Put out the fire of the current government's strife before it consumes all of Lebanon.”

He warned, “It is unacceptable for Lebanon to burn before our eyes for the sake of a group appointed to fuel this conflict. Lebanese people, we want to live together as one national family under a national defense framework that guarantees Lebanon's sovereignty.”

The Lebanese Popular Conference declared that “the ill-fated Washington framework agreement constitutes a dangerous coup against the Taif Agreement and a humiliating surrender by the authorities before the Zionist enemy.”

The political bureau of the Amal Movement also denounced the “framework agreement” between the Lebanese authorities and the regime as “unbalanced,” emphasizing that “most of its provisions reinforce realities in the enemy's favor at the expense of Lebanon's national interest.”

The movement added that “the agreement carries serious political and sovereignty-related risks,” rejecting it because it “cannot serve as the basis for a fair agreement that safeguards Lebanon's rights.”

These statements came after the United States announced on Friday that the Lebanese and Israeli governments had reached a “framework agreement,” which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed as a significant achievement. The agreement was also praised by Israeli ministers and officials, particularly Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir.

At the same time, the announcement sparked widespread rejection and angry protests across several Lebanese regions, while numerous political figures, parties, and prominent public personalities expressed their firm opposition to this course of action.

Israeli Channel 12 revealed that the agreement between Lebanon and the occupation regime, which was published in full, including on the U.S. State Department's website, was accompanied by a security annex that remained

classified as secret. It noted that the main reason its contents were not made public was an explicit request from the Lebanese government.

According to the channel, the agreement contains a clear commitment by both parties that no measure will be implemented according to fixed timetables, but only once specific conditions on the ground have been met. This means there will be no automatic withdrawals, and that any withdrawal will remain tied to what Israel describes as “success on the ground” and an assessment of the results.

The channel also reported that there will be no expansion of the “pilot zones” in the foreseeable future without Israeli approval, explaining that the two “pilot zones” agreed upon are currently the only ones authorized.

According to the news channel, the official Lebanese authorities granted Israel approval for freedom of action within the so-called “Yellow Line.” The regime's news outlet also reported that “following the signing of the agreement with Lebanon, Israel's security and military establishment is preparing for a presence in Lebanon that will last for years.”

Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem stated that the government was, through this agreement, legitimizing the regime's occupation in Lebanon for many years.

Sheikh Qassem warned that the agreement means “depriving the Lebanese people of returning to their land,” and could ultimately lead to “the annexation of Lebanese territory to the Zionist entity.”

Hezbollah has declared that it will never surrender the option of resistance “no matter what the price.” For Hezbollah, the issue is not just an option but a national duty enshrined under international law to expel the occupation army. It added that the resistance movement continues to confront the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF).

The IOF confirmed the death of an officer and the injury of another soldier during fighting in southern Lebanon.

An IOF spokesperson said, “A company commander holding the rank of captain from Battalion 12 of the Golani Brigade was killed, while another soldier was wounded during combat in the town of Deir Siryan in southern Lebanon.”

The regime's Channel 15 revealed additional details about the confrontation that took place.

According to the channel, “At around 2:00 a.m., Golani Brigade troops encountered a Hezbollah operative after entering the area to investigate a suspicious target or individual in the Deir Siryan region.” It added, “During the exchange of fire, Captain David Hazot was killed, while another soldier sustained injuries.”

The report also stated that “following the incident, (the IOF) launched search operations for the Hezbollah operative and struck additional targets in the area. Efforts to eliminate the Hezbollah operative remain ongoing, and troops continue conducting search operations throughout the region.”

The Israeli military continues its aggression on southern Lebanon through fighter and drone strikes, dropping of explosive munitions from aircraft, artillery shelling, and ground operations accompanied by fires and demolitions intended to destroy homes, despite the “framework agreement” between the Lebanese and Israeli governments.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese resistance front has repeatedly stated in successive announcements that it continues to monitor the Israeli violations of the ceasefire agreement.

Charging a fee in Hormuz Strait is legitimate

The US and Israel are violating the terms of the MOU

From page 1 ▶ declare the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon, and undertake from now on not to initiate any war or any military operation against each other, and to refrain from the threat or use of force against each other, and ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon. The final deal will confirm the permanent termination of the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon.”

Point 7 also demands the termination of all sanctions, including the UN sanctions resolutions against Iran. It states: The United States of America undertakes to terminate all types of sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the United Nations Security Council resolutions, i.e. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors resolutions and all unilateral U.S. sanctions, primary and secondary, in an agreed upon schedule. As part of the final deal, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America acknowledge the critical importance of the sanctions termination issue above mentioned, and express their intentions to immediately address these issues in the negotiations in order to achieve mutual agreement on them.”

However, U.S. President Donald Trump has promised what he simply cannot deliver. Lifting sanctions against Iran requires the approval of Congress, which is firmly in the grip of AIPAC's satanic Zionists.

Moreover, Trump himself has delivered a serious blow to the MOU as he has repeatedly threatened Iran with annihilation and even threatened the lives and safety of the Iranian negotiating delegation while in Switzerland.

“You won't even make it back to your f-king country,” Trump told Iran's leaders, according to Fox News correspondent Trey Yingst.

History of U.S. failure to honor commitments

The U.S.-led West did not honor the 2015 JCPOA—concluded under Obama—for a single day, whereas Iran did so.

Trump himself called the JCPOA “the worst ever deal negotiated,” and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell characterized it as “flawed.”

It is also worth noting that American negotiators with Iran, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, are reportedly members of the supremacist Zionist Armageddon sect of Chabad.

Trump's constant threats against Iran

Trump's constant, indirect threats to wipe out Iran could only be carried out using nuclear weapons. Prominent experts on American affairs, including myself, doubt that Trump would do this at all. In a Press TV interview, I stated that the U.S. knows they could face a response from Iran that neither the world nor USrael had anticipated.

The smaller nuclear warheads on the 24 Trident missiles aboard each of the two American Ohio-class submarines cannot break Iran; the U.S. population would rebel, and Europe would turn away.

Israel's actions are to blame for the current predicament; it is almost always essential to punish the guilty party directly. Though the first point of the MOU clearly states that Israel must stop its aggression in Lebanon, Israel is pounding Lebanon unstopably.

With the Strait of Hormuz kept at least partially open, Iran could take military action against Is-



rael until all IDF soldiers leave Lebanon and Gaza, alongside the full opening of Gaza's border crossings and withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank. Faced with this, the settler-colonialists would be too cowardly to carry out their raids.

Iran, growing rapidly in military and political strength, would thus expand its official strategy, because Israel habitually takes revenge on Palestinians whenever it is denied the freedom to murder in Lebanon and elsewhere. In doing so, Iran stands up for the Ummah as a leading power—a cause for which Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, like General Qassem Soleimani, has become a martyr, so that all people in the Middle East may live freely, peacefully, and with dignity.

“Greater Israel” project

The violations of the ceasefire agreements with Hamas and Lebanon are concrete examples.

Also, President Trump has not halted American arms shipments to Israel for even a single day, proving to the entire world that both countries continue, as they always have, to fundamentally break every treaty they sign.

It is because the Zionists are seeking a “Greater Israel” project. At least 4,106 people have been killed and 12,153 wounded in Lebanon since fighting began between Israel and Hezbollah on March 2. Israel is occupying

an expanding strip of the border region and is devastating cities and communities at an accelerating rate, making them resemble Gaza.

No point in the MOU explains that Iran is prohibited from taking action against the perpetrators who are committing further killings and deploying troops in Lebanon. Therefore, Iran is permitted to do so—quite officially.

Furthermore, the party that “does” want the Strait of Hormuz closed is the global deep state, which I sometimes call the “Rothschild gang.” Their criminal strategy involves global economic decline alongside the isolation of Iran, accompanied by wars and orchestrated catastrophes. Consequently, the weapon of closing the Strait of Hormuz is too blunt an instrument.

Charging a fee and then allowing passage is entirely legitimate under current circumstances—helping to clear the backlog—and is increasingly accepted worldwide. If Trump forbids this, the blame and responsibility lie exclusively with him.

Iran's ambassador to France, Mohammad Amin-Nejad, has said Iran and Oman are discussing a system under which ships would pay for navigation, security, and environmental services.

Iran has stated that the Strait of Hormuz will not return to its previous state.

Nenad Kljaic officially appointed Iran handball head coach

TEHRAN - Iran Handball Federation has officially appointed renowned Croatian coach Nenad Kljaic as the new head coach of the Iran men's national handball team.

The agreement was formally signed at the Iranian Embassy in Croatia, bringing an end to the federation's search for a new national team manager.

The contract was signed on Friday in Zagreb in the presence of Iran Handball Federation President Alireza Pakdel and Iran's Ambassador to Croatia, Hassan Gharibnejad. According to the federation's schedule, Kljaic will arrive in Tehran on Tuesday, July 1, to officially begin his tenure.

Kljaic is one of the most decorated figures in Croatian handball. During his playing career, he earned 69 international caps for Yugoslavia and 145 appearances for Croatia. His list of achievements includes the Olympic gold medal at the 1996 Atlanta Games, two EHF Champions League titles, and a European Super Cup triumph.

The 57-year-old coach holds the highest international coaching certification (Level A) and previously managed Croatian powerhouse HC Zagreb, guiding the club to the semifinals of European competition.

Kljaic also brings extensive experience in Asian handball. He served as head coach of Saudi Arabia on two separate occasions, leading the team to qualification for the IHF World Championship, a top-four finish at the Asian Championship, and the gold medal at the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games.

At club level, he guided Qatar's Al Rayyan to the runners-up spot in the Asian Club Championship and has also coached Olympiacos of Greece, Al Arabi of Kuwait, and Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates.

In addition to his coaching accomplishments, Kljaic holds a degree in kinesiology, is fluent in four languages, and serves as an official instructor for international handball coaching courses.

Iran will be hoping the highly experienced Croatian can lead the national team into a new era and strengthen its position among Asia's leading handball nations.

Piazza: Iran's players have improved, but I'm still not satisfied

TEHRAN - Iran men's national volleyball head coach Roberto Piazza said his players have made noticeable progress but stressed that the team are still far from his ideal level following a 3-1 victory over Cuba in the final match of Week 2 of the 2026 FIVB Volleyball Nations League.

Speaking after the match, Piazza praised the high level of competition in the Volleyball Nations League, emphasizing that there are no easy matches, as every team face some of the world's strongest opponents.

Reflecting on the match against Cuba, Piazza said Iran performed well until the closing stages of the second set, but the serious injury to Javier Concepción changed the course of the game. According to the Italian coach, the incident had an emotional impact on both teams, causing Iran's players to temporarily lose their focus.

Looking ahead to Week 3 of the competition, Piazza noted that the team still have sufficient time to prepare. He said the coaching staff will use the break to analyze the team's performances through technical meetings and identify areas for improvement.

Piazza concluded by saying: "The players have improved compared to the past, and they are making progress. However, that level of improvement is still not enough for me. We need to identify our weaknesses so that we can enter the third week of the tournament better prepared."

Nassaji and Mes Shahr-e Babak secure promotion to 2026/27 PGPL

TEHRAN - Mes Shahr-e Babak sealed promotion to the 2026/27 Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) after defeating Nirooy-e Zamini Tehran 1-0 with three rounds remaining in the Azadegan League season.

The victory lifted Mes Shahr-e Babak to 61 points, confirming their place in Iran's top flight in commanding fashion before the conclusion of the campaign.

Earlier, Nassaji Mazandaran had already secured automatic promotion, meaning the two direct promotion spots to the 2026/27 PGPL have now been decided.

Under the league's competition format, the team that finish third in the Azadegan League standings will face Mes Rafsanjan in a promotion/relegation playoff. The winners of that match will claim the final place in next season's Persian Gulf Pro League.

Taj: Iran fought until the very end

TEHRAN - Iran Football Federation President Mehdi Taj praised the national team for their determination and commitment following the conclusion of their 2026 FIFA World Cup campaign, saying the players and staff fought until the final whistle in pursuit of making the nation proud.

Speaking to players and federation officials in Tijuana, Taj expressed his gratitude to everyone involved with the team.

"I would like to sincerely thank the entire squad and staff for their hard work and dedication. They fought until the very last moment and gave everything they had to bring joy to our people," Taj said.

He highlighted Iran's unbeaten record in the tournament, noting that Team Melli remained undefeated throughout its three matches.

"The national team played three matches and avoided defeat in all of them. Across all three games, the players showed passion, commitment, and tremendous fighting spirit."

Taj also extended his appreciation to every member of the delegation.

"I congratulate and thank every member of the national team—from the administrative and executive staff, to the coaching team, players, and everyone who contributed behind the scenes."

The federation chief went on to acknowledge the support received throughout the tournament.

Looking ahead, Taj emphasized that the development of Iranian football remains an ongoing process.

"The path of the national team is a continuous and dynamic one. Every tournament provides valuable lessons, and through careful evaluation we can continue improving and moving forward."

Pourmousavi appointed Zob Ahan head coach

TEHRAN - Zob Ahan have appointed Sirous Pourmousavi as the club's new head coach following weeks of deliberation by the board of directors.

The experienced Iranian coach takes charge of the Isfahan-based side ahead of the new season, replacing the previous coaching staff.

Pourmousavi brings extensive experience in Iranian football, having previously managed Esteghlal Khuzestan, Foolad Khuzestan, Pars Jonoubi Jam, Naft Masjed Soleyman, and Sanat Naft Abadan.

Zob Ahan will be hoping his experience and familiarity with the Persian Gulf Pro League can help the club enjoy a successful campaign in the 2026/27 season.

Martyred leader's funeral ceremonies to be nominated for national heritage status

TEHRAN - Iran's minister of cultural heritage said on Monday that the government plans to seek national heritage registration for the planned funeral ceremonies of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Mehr news agency reported.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri described funeral processions as one of the country's most significant forms of intangible cultural heritage since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the report said.

The ministry plans to nominate the funeral rites for inclusion on Iran's national list for intangible cultural heritage. Mehr had earlier reported that the ministry has begun procedures to register the martyred leader's residence and office as national heritage sites because of their historical significance.

Beyt-e Rahbari (the Leader's House) in central Tehran was heavily damaged by massive airstrikes on Feb. 28, the first day of the war



with the US-Israeli regime.

Farewell ceremonies and funeral processions are scheduled to take place between July 4 and July 9 in Tehran, Qom, Mashhad and Iraq.

Mehr reported that between 15 million and 20 million people are expected to attend the ceremonies in Tehran, with total nationwide attendance estimated at about 35 million.

Separately, Iranian media reported that Iran's foreign minister held talks with the head of Iraq's High Committee Coordinating Funeral Ceremonies to discuss preparations for events planned in Iraq.

Isfahan unveils tourism roadmap, plans heritage restoration after recent damage

TEHRAN - Isfahan province has prepared a new tourism development roadmap, launched plans to revive historical corridors and begun restoring heritage sites damaged during recent US-Israeli airstrikes, Governor-general Mehdi Jamalinejad said on Monday.

Speaking at the 37th meeting of the Strategic Council of Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in Isfahan, attended by Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, senior ministry officials and provincial heritage managers, Jamalinejad outlined the province's heritage assets, challenges and development priorities.

He said Isfahan is not only one of Iran's industrial, agricultural and economic hubs but also one of the country's principal cultural and historical regions, playing a significant role in the development of Iranian-Islamic civilization over centuries.

The governor-general said the province is home to more than 22,000 historical, cultural and tourism attractions, extending beyond the city of Isfahan to counties including Kashan, Natanz, Ardestan, Golpayegan, Khansar, Fereydunshahr and Semirom.

He said the province's 114 cities and more than 1,000 villages provide extensive opportunities for the development of cultural, historical, rural and nature-based tourism, adding that many of

its towns and villages could be regarded as open-air museums.

Jamalinejad said Isfahan has continued its development despite challenges including water shortages, land subsidence, energy imbalances and environmental pressures.

He said several historical monuments were damaged during recent US-Israeli attacks, including sites within the Safavid Dowlatkhaneh complex, surrounding historical areas and the Takht-e Foulad historical cemetery. Documentation, damage assessments and restoration planning began immediately after the incidents, he said.

"Some valuable historical buildings located near the targeted sites sustained damage, and protecting these monuments as part of the country's national identity is being pursued seriously," Jamalinejad said.

He thanked the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and the provincial heritage department for their efforts to safeguard historical monuments, saying the protection of cultural heritage during times of crisis also means protecting the nation's historical memory and civilizational identity.

The governor-general added that tourism has been designated as the province's primary strategic development priority under the new provincial administration, with specialized meetings held weekly to advance tourism policies.

Few Iranian heritage sites located in high-risk land subsidence zones, official says

TEHRAN - Only a limited number of Iran's historical monuments are located in areas facing a high risk of land subsidence, and concerns about damage to heritage sites are often overstated due to confusion with ordinary structural settlement and moisture-related deterioration, a senior cultural heritage official said.

Mohsen Tousi, acting director general for the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historical buildings and sites at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, told IRNA on Monday that land subsidence remains a threat to cultural heritage but its actual impact is lower than commonly perceived.

"In technical terms, land subsidence is not inherently more dangerous than other hazards," Tousi said. "It becomes critical when a historical monument is located on the edge of a subsidence zone or where different parts of the structure rest on soils with different stability."

He said specialists assess risk by identifying cases in which part of a monument is built on subsiding ground while another part rests on stable soil, or where a structure lies along the boundary of a subsidence zone. In such cases, vulnerable buildings may require engineering intervention.

Tousi said extensive studies conducted in the central city of Isfahan showed that cracks found in several historic buildings were caused by moisture and the expansion and contraction of clay soils rather than land subsidence.

He said many concerns about subsidence stem from confusion with ordinary building settlement, which occurs because of structural weight, soil characteristics and moisture conditions. Similar damage may also result from collapsed qanats, stormwater wells, sewage pits or broken water and sewer pipes, he added.

"These types of settlement should not automatically be attributed to land subsidence," Tousi said.

He said subsidence zones have been mapped and incorporated into urban planning data, with the results showing that very few historical monuments are located within high-risk areas.

Tousi also said Iran's deputy minister for cultural heritage is pursuing the establishment of a specialized task force on land subsidence to strengthen scientific monitoring of heritage

sites using modern technologies.

He underlined the importance of documenting historical monuments to improve disaster preparedness, noting that the Iranian plateau has experienced frequent earthquakes throughout its history. "We document heritage sites so that, if earthquakes or ground changes occur, we have the necessary informa-

tion to protect and restore the country's cultural heritage."

He added that where traditional materials cannot provide sufficient structural reinforcement, modern engineering technologies and supporting structures should be used alongside historic buildings to improve earthquake safety while preserving the monuments.

AUCTION SJSO. D140505

Sirjan Jahan Steel Company is pleased to announce the sale and export of 25,000 tons DIRECT REDUCED IRON (DRI), on basis of FAS at the Buyer's warehouse in Bandar Abbas, IRAN according to INCOTERMS 2020. Interested applicants are hereby invited to obtain the tender documents by visiting the official website of Sirjan Jahan Steel Company at sjsco.ir, through the Sales and customer portal, Tender and Foreign Tender section.

Alternatively, interested bidders may collect the physical tender documents in person from the head office of Sirjan Jahan Steel Company at the following address: 2nd FLOOR, No. 2, JOOBIN ALLEY, SHAHIDI STREET, JAHAN KOODAK JUNCTION, TEHRAN, IRAN.

All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than **Monday, July 13, 2026**.

For more information, please contact us at:

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Iran puts forward proposals to expand SCO women's co-op

TEHRAN – Narjes Abolqasemi, an official with the Vice-Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, has delivered a speech at the Women's Forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), offering proposals to enhance collaborations among women of SCO member states.

Themed 'Women's Leadership', the Forum was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on June 26 and 27.

"The Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states can benefit from women's capabilities to present a new model of inclusive, balanced, and sustainable development in the region," IRNA quoted Abolqasemi as saying

The establishment of a co-operation and entrepreneurship network of SCO women to share expertise and showcase successful models, the development of a collaborative digital platform to introduce women entrepreneurs' services, and products, as well as expedite their access to regional markets, and the enhancement of joint training programs in digital skills, innovation, and knowledge-based economy for women entrepreneurs were the four proposals suggested by the Iranian official.

"Global experiences and development studies have shown that whenever women have had the opportunity to invest in the economy, economic productivity has increased, innovation has been fostered, and community resilience has strengthened," she noted.

The official also elaborated on the country's efforts to empower women. Referring to articles 20, 21, and 28 of the Constitution, Abolqasemi said Iranian women's participation in the economic sector has been defined in line with the principles of human dignity, gender justice,



and the utilization of all human features, and the same attitude is clearly reflected in the Constitution, macro policies, and national development.

"The laws of labor in Iran prohibit discrimination in employment, wages, and working conditions based on gender. The Seventh National Development Plan (2023-2027) focuses on providing opportunities for women's economic empowerment and addressing the problems that hinder their growth and prosperity.

The country has implemented specific programs to develop women's professional and entrepreneurial skills and to support women-led businesses through skills training, digital skills development, and improved access to financial resources."

Supporting small businesses, developing local production and market networks, and using modern technologies to access broader markets are on the agenda, and more than 70 percent of home-based business licenses are granted to women, with over 80 percent of the loans allocated to female-led small businesses, Abolqasemi added.

Women's businesses, partic-

ularly in local, community, and family domains, not only generate employment and income but also help bolster social capital, alleviate poverty, and preserve environmental resources, she further noted.

The SCO Women's Forum discussed current issues related to women's roles in public and political leadership, their participation in economic development, and new opportunities in the context of digital transformation.

Representatives of government agencies from SCO member states, international organizations, and civil society, as well as experts, women entrepreneurs, and women's movement leaders, participated in the forum.

Women's economic, social empowerment

The administration pays special attention to empowering women in social and economic areas, as well as improving their access to social services and facilities through implementing certain national programs.

According to Zahra Behrouz-Azar, the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, more than 2,700 female managers were appointed in the country as deputy ministers, director

generals, deputy director generals, governors, district governors, and heads of research institutes in the past two years.

"President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration has always highlighted the importance of national unity and empowering women. As a result, for the first time, we have Sunni female governors in the country," IRNA quoted Behrouz-Azar as saying in August 2025.

The official went on to say that in Iranian year 1403 (2024 – 2025), efforts were made to identify and address harmful issues to women, including the bill on the elimination of violence against women, the hijab, and women riding motorcycles. Moreover, the vice-presidency for women and family affairs has offered loans and other facilities for childbearing.

Iran has always focused on programs that empower women, particularly those who are heads of household, economically and socially. Actions taken by the country have always aimed to promote women's status by observing the principles of the constitution and Islamic teachings, she further noted.

Referring to the country's remarkable achievements in education, health, science, technology, and entrepreneurship, she underscored the prominent role of Iranian women in these fields. Mehr news agency quoted Behrouz-Azar as saying in November 2024.

The official further said the seventh National Development Plan has stressed the need to overcome barriers to women's professional development. Accordingly, the current administration has put supporting women's entrepreneurship and home business growth on the agenda despite unfair sanctions.

Iranian, Russian universities ink MOU

TEHRAN – Shahid Beheshti University has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Peoples' Friendship University of Russia to deepen cooperation within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) agreements.

The MOU was signed on the sidelines of the tenth meeting of the SCO Education Ministers, which took place in Minsk, Belarus, on June 16 and 17.

Accordingly, both parties will collaborate to expand network cooperation, develop and implement joint educational programs and courses, particularly at the post-graduate level.

Proposals to foster SCO scientific ties

Addressing the tenth meeting of the SCO Education Ministers, Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, put forward three proposals to enhance academic, research, and technological collaborations among the universities of the SCO member states.

"Universities are custodians of shaping the future of societies. Today, they are faced with different challenges like revising curricula, making research projects applicable, and making theses and research studies more useful to society. SCO can serve as a platform for member states to boost their academic capacities through an executive and problem-based network," IRNA quoted Simaei-Sarraf as saying.

To promote scientific cooperation among member states, the science minister offered three proposals. The first one focused on 'exchanging elites and scholars'. Accordingly, Iran is ready to grant 100 scholarships to post-graduate and Ph.D. students, and 10 more to post-doctoral researchers of SCO member states to do research on the real problems in the region under the supervision of professors.

The establishment of the 'Shanghai technological and innovative universities network' with the help of leading universities and technology parks was the second offered suggestion. According to Simaei-Sarraf, this network would provide the ground for commercializing scientific achievements and

strengthening connections between universities and industry. He also announced Iran's readiness to host its secretariat.

The 'development of a collaborative research consortium in smart management of natural resources, particularly water, artificial intelligence, and modern pharmaceutical technologies' was the third proposal, which is expected to be an effective strategy to improve the scientific capacities of SCO member states.

The science minister went on to say that the universities are not merely the centers of education, but they should be the standard bearers of rationality, entrepreneurship, hope, and international scientific cooperation.

The top universities of Iran, with all their laboratory capacities, growth centers, and scientific capabilities, will be there to implement these programs in cooperation with the universities of the SCO member states.

Need to boost scientific cooperation

On June 10, Simaei-Sarraf and Russian Science and Higher Education Minister, Valery Falkov, reviewed strategies for developing scientific, educational, and academic cooperation between the two countries with an emphasis on expanding professor and student exchanges, strengthening research cooperation, and facilitating academic interactions.

In a telephone conversation, Simaei-Sarraf expressed hope that in-person meetings between the two sides will be held in Tehran and Moscow in the near future, IRNA reported.

He also announced the upcoming holding of a meeting of the presidents of top Iranian and Russian universities in Tehran, and considered the development of Russian language chairs in Iranian universities and Persian language chairs in Russian universities as a sign of deepening scientific and cultural ties between the two countries.

Falkov, for his part, pointed out the beginning of a new university admission period in Russia and the welcoming of Iranian students to study at the country's universities, emphasizing the importance of providing employment opportunities and utilizing the

academic potential of graduates after their return to Iran.

Referring to the decrease in the number of Russian universities approved in Iran's evaluation system, he called for a review of the methods of evaluating and validating educational qualifications.

Simaei-Sarraf continued by emphasizing the readiness of the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology to review the evaluation system of Russian universities and develop joint educational and research cooperation.

The two sides also agreed to continue cooperation on developing professor and student exchanges and expanding scientific cooperation between the universities of the two countries. The discussion ended with Simaei-Sarraf and Falkov mutually emphasizing the continuation of consultations, strengthening academic cooperation, and planning for face-to-face meetings in the near future.

In December 2025, the second scientific conference between Iran and Russia was held in Moscow on Monday, with Iran's ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali; science attaché, Hadi Goudarzi, and representatives from universities and scientific institutions of the two countries in attendance.

Referring to Iran's unique history and the civilizational commonalities between the two countries, Russian Presidential Aide Andrei Fursenko emphasized the need to strengthen cultural and academic relations between Iran and Russia, msrt.ir reported.

"The Russian government is completely ready to promote collaborations with Iran in the science and technology sectors. Russia and Iran need to rely on their capabilities in the pursuit of global development and play their historical role," he noted.

Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, Denis Sergeevich Sekirinsky, for his part, said the two nations have their own distinguished civilizations, maintaining cultural traditions and spiritual values. These historical commonalities have resulted in mutual respect and trust, as well as fostering cooperation.

Tehran, Ankara discuss bolstering scientific ties

TEHRAN – Minister of Science, Research, and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, and Turkish Minister of National Education, Yusuf Tekin, have explored ways to enhance scientific, research, and educational cooperation.

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.

Conducting joint research projects, exchanging students and professors, and promoting educational interaction were among highlighted issues, IRNA reported.

The Turkish official condemned US-Israeli attacks on Iran and expressed Turkey's solidarity with the country, noting that, unfortunately, Muslims have failed to produce enough scientific articles on human rights, and the Western perspective of human rights has become a tool for powerful nations to put pressure on oppressed ones, rather than serving justice.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf said even in legal wars, it is essential to observe ethical, humanitarian principles, and international norms. However, the US-Israeli imposed assaults targeted Iranian universities and schools, martyring hundreds of students, professors, and members of the country's scientific community.

The Iranian minister also held a meeting with Mehmet Akif Kirecci, President of Economic Cooperation Organization Institute (ECOEI), msrt.ir reported.

During the meeting, Kirecci expressed the ECOEI's readiness for the development of educational cooperation in the artificial intelligence (AI) sector with Iran, noting that ECOEI activities mostly focus on emerging technologies.

The two sides highlight the expansion of scientific collaborations through exchanging professors and students, holding collaborative educational workshops, implementing research projects, supporting technological initiatives, and utilizing evolving educational technologies like AI.

Previously, Simaei-Sarraf met the Pakistani Minister of State for the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Wajih Qamar, who proposed that the two countries establish a joint scientific working group.

Iran's high scientific capacity

Simaei-Sarraf delivered a speech at the 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 EdTech 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.

Intl. Seminar on Polymer Science and Technology to be held in November

TEHRAN – The 17th International Seminar on Polymer Science and Technology (ISPST 2026) will be held from November 17 to 19, 2026.

Jointly organized by Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic) and the Iran Polymer Science and Engineering Society, the event will provide a platform for researchers and industry professionals to present and discuss the latest scientific and technological advances in the field of polymer science, IRNA reported.

The seminar will focus on three special themes: the application of artificial intelligence in polymers, advanced high-value-added polymers, and the circular economy in polymer science.

The conference will also feature presentations and discussions across a broad range of specialized topics, including biopolymers; biocompatible polymers and tissue engineering; polymers, the environment, and sustainable development; polymer blends, composites, and nanocomposites; polymer physics and physical chemistry; polymer fibers, films, and membranes; polymer synthesis and characterization; rheology and polymer processing; emerging applications of polymers; resins, adhesives, and coatings; smart and functional polymers; polymerization processes; as well as modeling and simulation.

The seminar is expected to bring together

leading academics, researchers, and industry experts to exchange knowledge, foster collaboration, and explore innovative solutions to current challenges and future opportunities in polymer science and technology.

In January, the national document for the development of advanced material science and technology was unveiled.

Approved by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution in the Iranian year 1403 (March 2024 – March 2025), President Masoud Pezeshkian signed and declared the document on December 25, 2025, IRNA reported.

The national document acts as a comprehensive roadmap for the promotion of advanced materials in the country. It aims to improve Iran's position in the global science and technology arena and contributes to achieving sustainable development goals.

Improving the country's ranking in science and technology, particularly advanced materials and modern techniques for materials processing, enhancing the export of knowledge-based products in the advanced materials sector, boosting productivity and lowering environmental impacts of Iranian-made products, improving the quality of life and enhancing social impact, and completing the value chain with an approach to reducing raw material sales are among the main objectives of the document.



JUNE 30, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Blessed is the man who always kept the life after death in his view, who remembered the Day of Judgment through all his deeds, who led a contented life and who was happy with the lot that Allah had destined for him.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:52 (tomorrow)

20th Cinema Verite unveils call for entries

TEHRAN- The Documentary & Experimental Film Center (DEFC) has officially unveiled the call for entries for the 20th edition of Iran International Documentary Film Festival "Cinema Verite".

Scheduled to take place in November under the leadership of Secretary General Mohammad Hamidi Moghaddam, this edition is poised to serve as an intersection of artistic expression and social inquiry, Mehr reported.

This year's edition aims to provide greater analytical depth than its predecessors, integrating specialized panels with elites, filmmakers, and researchers to explore the influence of national and global crises on the language of documentary cinema, with a particular emphasis on the historic, truth-bearing role of filmmakers during the Ramadan War, the report added.

The festival's structural framework is expansive, featuring a diverse array of competitive sections. The National Competition will highlight creative Iranian works that explore the intricate layers of contemporary life, while the prestigious Shahid Avini Award continues its tradition of honoring films that embody the spiritual and humanistic values of resistance and justice.

Furthermore, a dedicated competitive section titled "Iran" will focus on national narratives of resilience, and a separate Student Film Competition will seek to identify and support emerging talents who bring a fresh, innovative perspective to the cinematic medium.

On a global scale, the International Competition acts as a mirror to world cinema, providing a multi-vocal platform for narratives that engage with the complexities of human existence across various cultural and linguistic landscapes. This section is dedicated to works that address global humanitarian, social, and environmental crises through the



lens of justice and freedom.

Complementing these competitions, the international non-competitive program will offer a curated look at global cinema, including a special focus on the documentary landscape of Spain, portraits of influential personalities, and Realism films that dissect significant historical and geopolitical events.

Beyond the screen, the festival will extend its reach through the "Documentary Gaze" photography competition, an interdisciplinary project that challenges photographers to move beyond the single image and create narrative "frame sequences" that can inspire the documentary filmmaking process. This intellectual rigor is further supported by a series of research and educational events, including specialized workshops, interdisciplinary panels, and the "DocTalks" forum, which facilitates a direct dialogue between filmmakers and critics.

The window for participation opens on July 11, with online registration and the uploading of works commencing on that date. The submission period will remain open until September 5. As it enters its second decade, Cinema Verite remains committed to welcoming creative and form-breaking voices, aspiring to reflect a free and honorable Iran through the pursuit of cinematic truth.

"Tent of Art" Ashura gathering opens in Tehran

TEHRAN- The second edition of the "Kheimeh Honar" ("Tent of Art") Ashura gathering commenced at the City Theater complex in Tehran on Sunday.

The event opened with a powerful performance of traditional percussion instruments from Southern Iran by the Avaye Sahel group. Hadi Lashkari, a performer of the Dammam, highlighted that these instruments are among the most significant symbols of mourning music and funeral rites in Southern Iran, forming a core part of the regional musical identity.

The opening day featured a diverse array of performances, including a regional music ensemble from Mazandaran under the direction of Reza Divsalar, and a wind instrument orchestra.

The program also showcased a vocal performance by Iranian musician Seyyed Mohsen Hosseini, a traditional Pardeh-khani (literally, reading aloud from the screen/ from the curtain) session depicting the "Arrival of the Imam in Karbala" by Mohammad Reza Majuni, and a tazieh, Iranian passion play portraying the martyrdom of Hazrat Abbas (AS), directed by Hossein Zamani.

Building on the success of its inaugural edition, which was hosted



at the Rudaki Open-Air Theater, "Tent of Art" has evolved into a vibrant platform for cultural expression and spiritual reflection. The initiative by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance aims to unite artists and enthusiasts from diverse disciplines, including music, performing arts, and visual arts, to pay tribute to the tragedy of Ashura and celebrate Islamic heritage through creative expression.

The event commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS),

the third Imam and grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and his 72 loyal companions. This historical occurrence remains one of the most dramatic and significant events in Islamic history, symbolizing sacrifice, faith, and resistance.

The second edition of the gathering is organized by the Deputy for Cultural and Artistic Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, in collaboration with the Ministry's Music Office, the Directorates of Visual and Perform-

ing Arts, and the Office for the Development of Artistic Education.

Other supporting institutions include the Imam Reza (AS) Foundation, the Iranian Performing Arts Association, the Iranian Music Association, the Municipality of District 11 of Tehran, the Tehran Municipality Beautification Organization, the Rudaki Cultural and Artistic Foundation, the Institute for the Development of Contemporary Visual Arts, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and the City Theater complex.

Tahereh Mafi's bestselling novel "Shatter Me" to be adapted into film by Warner Bros.

TEHRAN - Iranian-American author Tahereh Mafi has revealed that Warner Bros. has secured the film rights to her bestselling young-adult dystopian "Shatter Me" series, marking a major milestone as the franchise approaches its 15th anniversary.

Originally released in 2011, "Shatter Me" centers on Juliette Ferrars, a 17-year-old girl whose deadly touch forces her into isolation. Imprisoned because of her uncontrollable ability, Juliette becomes the target of a powerful authoritarian government known as "The Re-establishment," which seeks to turn her into a weapon. Faced with impossible choices, she must decide whether to submit to their control or fight for her own freedom.

Over the past few years, the series has experienced a dramatic resurgence in popularity. The novels have sold more than 15 million copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages, and published across 38 territories, expanding into one of the most recognizable young-adult fantasy franchises of the last decade, Filmnet reported.

TEHRAN - The Persian translation of the play "DNA" by Dennis Kelly has been released in the bookstores across the country.

Translated by Mehrganj Gahremani, the play has been brought out by Ghatreh Publication, Mehr reported.

When a group of teenagers' bullying of another student goes too far, they are left with an unplanned



Mafi has stated that she drew inspiration from "an interest in human nature and [humanity's] ability to overcome great obstacles" when it came to writing the book.

"Shatter Me" is the first of a series of seven books along with five novellas, published from 2011 to 2021. They have all been translated into Persian and released by various publishers in the past years.

Regarding the movie adaptation, Mafi has emphasized that she intends to stay closely

involved throughout development. She said that preserving the heart of the story and respecting the fan community has always been her highest priority, adding that she believes the creative team has the potential to deliver a strong adaptation. As an executive producer, she noted that she plans to advocate for readers throughout the production process.

The announcement arrives at a time when Hollywood has largely stepped away from the young-adult dystopian genre that dominated theaters during the 2010s with franchises such as "The Hunger Games," "Divergent," and "The Maze Runner". If successful, "Shatter Me" could help spark renewed interest in dystopian stories for a new generation of moviegoers.

Based in Santa Monica, California, Tahereh Mafi, 37, is known for writing young adult fiction. Mafi's parents are immigrants from Iran. She identifies as Muslim.

She is the #1 New York Times bestselling, #1 international bestselling, and National Book Award-nominated author of over a dozen novels.

Dennis Kelly's "DNA" published in Persian

The mixed-up group panic and decide to cover up their involvement in Adam's death. However, when they realize their deception has worked and actually brings peace to their confused lives, how do they move forwards?

The teenagers split into two camps when they realize that their actions have framed an innocent man for their crime. But is this

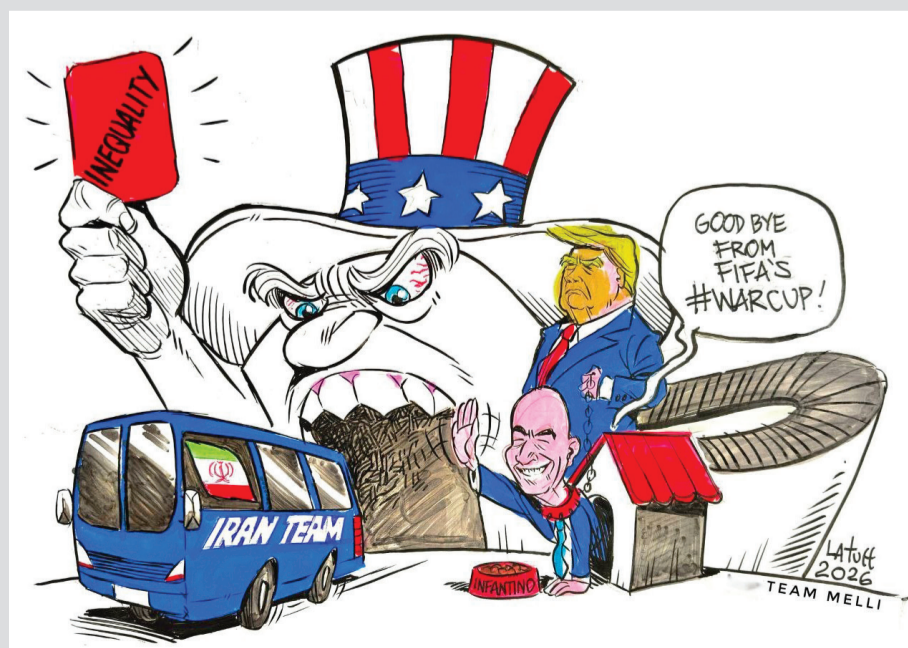
enough of an incentive to put right their wrong? And what happens when the presumed dead come back to life?

Kelly's 21st-century play for young people calls society's response to cruelty, bullying, peer pressure and pack mentality into question. Are these behaviors societal and learned, or are they inherent in us all?

The main themes of the play are bullying, gang membership, social responsibility, morality, and leadership.

Dennis Kelly is a British writer and producer. He has worked for theater, television, and film. His play "DNA," published in 2007 and first performed in 2008, became a core set-text for GCSE in 2010 and has been studied by approximately 400,000 students each year.

Cartoon of Day



FIFA War Cup 2026
Cartoonist: Carlos Latuff from Brazil

Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia opens new show dedicated to Palestinian embroidery

Embroidery and textile arts are rarely afforded significant space in museums, making the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia's (IAMM) newly opened exhibition, "Tatreez: Reclaiming Palestine Through Embroidery," a notable undertaking.

The exhibition highlights the rich tradition of Palestinian embroidery and is accompanied by the publication of a book, The Straits Times reported.

As the museum - located in the vicinity of Perdana Botanical Garden in Kuala Lumpur - aptly notes, tatreez is more than a decorative art form. It is "a visual language of memory, identity and cultural continuity, passed down by the skilled hands of women who have preserved its patterns over centuries".

Every part of Palestine has its own distinctive cultural features, while sharing a common identity. It is a living archive of Palestinian history, memory and identity.

Every stitch tells a story - of villages, families, traditions and resilience. As the craft continues to evolve and gain international recognition, tatreez remains a vibrant expression of

Palestinian culture, connecting past and present through the enduring language of thread.

In recent decades, tatreez has experienced a remarkable revival. Palestinian artists, designers and cultural organizations have worked to preserve traditional patterns while adapting them for contemporary fashion, accessories, and artwork.

Social media and digital archives have also played an important role in documenting historical patterns and teaching the craft to a new generation.

In 2021, the embroidery tradition known as Palestinian tatreez was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, recognizing its cultural importance and the efforts of Palestinian communities to safeguard the practice.

IAMM director Syed Mohamad Albukhary said the journey towards "Tatreez: Reclaiming Palestine Through Embroidery" began more than 15 years ago, with the museum building its collection through acquisitions from the Inaash Association in Lebanon, an organization that has provided vital support amid one of the world's

longest-running humanitarian crises.

The collection, he added, "would not have been possible without the assistance of private collectors who have for decades been gathering the finest examples".

Through the exhibition and its accompanying 324-page publication, Syed Mohamad said the museum seeks to highlight that the Palestinian plight extends beyond the loss of land and lives, as "their identity and heritage are also endangered".

For centuries, tatreez has served as a visual language through which Palestinian women have expressed identity, history, social status, and connection to the land.

The origins of tatreez can be traced back hundreds, and possibly thousands, of years. Historically, Palestinian women embroidered dresses, known as thobes, by hand, using patterns that were unique to their villages and regions. These motifs often reflected local landscapes, agricultural life, religious beliefs, and community traditions.