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Art, cultural programs held across Tehran for Martyr Leader

TEHRAN – Deputy for Artistic Affairs of the Tehran Municipality's Arts and Cultural Organization, Mohammad Khorasanizadeh, explained a series of literary, visual arts, musical, and theatrical programs that were held alongside the farewell and funeral ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in Tehran from Saturday to Monday.

"We sought to ensure that art in these historic days would not merely serve a decorative role, but would instead become the people's language for expressing their emotions, devotion, loyalty, and renewed commitment to the Martyr Leader," he was quoted as saying by Mehr. ▶ Page 8

Brutal and regular torture of Dr. Abu Safiya is horrible

TEHRAN – Hussam Abu Safiya, who was the director of the Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza until he was detained by Israeli forces, is fearing for his life.

Abu Safiya is being held for 18 months without charge or trial. He was unbelievably detained in December 2024 along with other medical staff and patients.

Rights groups and his family say he shows signs of having been regularly tortured.

Abu Safiya, a pediatrician, was a prominent voice highlighting Gaza's decimated health-care sector and continued to work despite the death of one of his sons in an Israeli drone strike. ▶ Page 5

The transactional rot of NATO predators in Ankara and 'Euroslopulism'

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Far from a triumphant display of transatlantic resolve, the 36th NATO summit at Ankara's Be?tepe Presidential Compound lays bare an alliance in structural decay.

The gathering has stripped away the remnants of the alliance's Cold War era mythology, exposing a crude, transactional protection racket governed by imperial extraction and personal ego.

Washington no longer simulates an alliance of equal partners. Instead, the United States demands absolute loyalty and economic tribute from a subservient European continent, turning an institutional treaty network into a personalized playground for American hegemony. ▶ Page 5



An aerial view of mourners attending the funeral procession of the Revolution's martyred Leader at Jamkaran Mosque on the outskirts of Qom, July 7, 2026.

The Tide of Mourners Reaches Qom

The coffin of Iran's martyred Leader was transferred to the holy Iraqi city of Najaf following a magnificent and historic funeral in Qom

Iran FM: Talks on final deal with US will not begin unless threats end

TEHRAN – Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has stressed that Iran will not commence talks with the United States on a final agreement unless Washington ends its threats against Tehran.

"Millions of proud Iranians rallied in unity to honor Grand Ayatollah Khamenei and his legacy. Neither they nor our brave Armed Forces are moved by any threats," Araghchi wrote on X after attending the funeral ceremony of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in Qom on Tuesday. ▶ Page 3

Growth of Iran's peaceful nuclear program driven by martyred Leader's vision, AEOI chief says

TEHRAN — Iran's peaceful nuclear achievements were made possible through the strategic vision, steadfast guidance, and unwavering support of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, according to Mohammad Eslami, Vice President and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

Speaking during a TV program, Eslami paid tribute to the martyred Leader, describing him as the principal architect behind the country's scientific and technological progress, particularly in nuclear energy. He said Ayatollah Khamenei's long-term guidance enabled Iran's nuclear industry to pursue its objectives through an indigenous, knowledge-based approach despite years of sanctions and external pressure. ▶ Page 2

Iran rejects IMO draft, defends legal position on Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN – Iran has formally rejected a draft proposal before the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council, describing it as politically motivated, legally unfounded, and beyond the Council's technical mandate, while reaffirming that navigation through the Strait of Hormuz remains open under safety and security coordination measures.

In a document submitted to the IMO Council on July 6, the Islamic Republic argued that the primary source of maritime instability in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz is 'military aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran.' The submission also criticized the involvement of several regional states, asserting that their participation or support had contributed to heightened risks for international shipping. ▶ Page 2

Leader's collective responsibility policy for environmental protection

TEHRAN – Elaborating on the late Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's mindset on the environment, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, said the Leader's environmental policies underlined the collective responsibility of each individual to protect the natural environment.

In the Leader's point of view, preserving natural resources and combating environmental degradation constituted a governmental, national, and religious obligation that requires the participation of all the people and all the governmental bodies, IRIB quoted Ansari as saying.

The official made the remarks on Monday on the sidelines of the late Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's funeral procession. ▶ Page 7

Martyr Leader's economic vision: self-reliance, value chains, food security, reform

TEHRAN – The Martyr Leader's economic vision was far more than a collection of policies; it was a holistic national doctrine aimed at liberating Iran from the chronic vulnerabilities of raw-material dependency, structural defects, and external domination.

As this report traverses his strategic perspective on oil where he reframed crude not as a budget-financing commodity but as a tool for value creation, job generation, and resistance against sanctions it also reveals the wider architecture of his thought: a self-reliant economy anchored in knowledge-based production, agricultural self-sufficiency, and sustainable capital accumulation through the National Development Fund. Former Economy Minister Khandozi underscores that the Second Step statement, ▶ Page 4

Iraq prepares for historic farewell as millions expected to honor Iran's martyred Leader

TEHRAN – The journey of farewell for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, entered a new chapter on Tuesday as his body left the Iranian holy city of Qom for Iraq, where millions are expected to gather in the sacred cities of Najaf and Karbala to pay their final respects before his burial in Mashhad.

Three days after an unprecedented funeral procession in Tehran that drew vast crowds from across Iran, the mourning ceremonies have evolved into a regional tribute, reflecting the enduring spiritual, religious, and historical bond between the Iranian and Iraqi peoples. ▶ Page 3

River of tears: A nation's defiance and a superpower's confusion

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

HAFIZABAD, Pakistan — Millions poured into every corner of the capital, Tehran. Their tears were wetting the ground as they were bidding farewell to their beloved martyred Leader. This is not merely a funeral procession. This is a declaration of a nation rising as one, showing the world that no pressure, no threat from any foreign power can break the will of the Iranian people. The sheer scale of this gathering has left global observers breathless and sent chills down the spines in Washington.

Yet across the ocean, the White House's reaction has been bewildered. President Donald Trump admitted he was "shocked." Why? Because for years, he has lived inside a bubble of lies. His intelligence agencies had told him Iranians hate their Leader. ▶ Page 3

The funeral in Tehran that the West cannot explain

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Every history is a narrative: an attempt, from a specific political present, to answer how that present relates to the pasts it reconstructs and the futures it anticipates. There is no neutral way to tell it. Composing a historical discourse is an interpretive, aesthetic, moral and political exercise, and it is so even before a single fact has been discussed. Writing about Iran requires accepting this as a starting point. The Western account of the Islamic Republic is driven by an epistemological urgency: to catalogue, domesticate or dismiss whatever escapes its liberal categories. When confronted with a political project born outside the secular matrix, European and American thought tends to diagnose a lack—the absence of its own institutions—and translates that lack into a historical anomaly that must be corrected. ▶ Page 3

Growth of Iran's peaceful nuclear program driven by martyred Leader's vision, AEOI chief says



From page 1 ▶ Eslami said the late Leader's emphasis on self-reliance laid the institutional foundations for the development of Iran's peaceful nuclear program, allowing the country to overcome technological restrictions imposed by foreign powers.

Reflecting on the challenges faced by the sector, Eslami said Iran's nuclear industry had continued its advancement despite sustained efforts by adversaries to obstruct its progress. Those efforts, he said, ranged from sanctions and restrictions on international cooperation to acts of industrial sabotage, the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists, and military threats aimed at denying Iran access to advanced nuclear technology.

According to Eslami, these pressures failed to halt the country's scientific development because of domestic expertise and public support. He praised 'the Iranian nation's resilience and awareness,' saying public unity had strengthened the country's standing on the international stage.

The AEOI chief highlighted nuclear energy as a central pillar of Iran's long-term energy strategy, noting that the country has prioritized the expansion of clean and sustainable electricity generation in line with global trends. He recalled that although nuclear power projects had initially relied on foreign studies before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the late Leader later charted an independent course for the industry.

Eslami said Ayatollah Khamenei first called in 2007 for Iran to develop the capacity to generate 20,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity,

describing the target as a strategic national objective that continues to guide the country's energy planning.

Addressing ongoing infrastructure projects, he said the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant has achieved record levels of electricity generation while significantly contributing to the national grid. Plans are also underway to expand nuclear power generation along Iran's southern coastline and in the provinces of Khuzestan and Golestan, with additional projects, including one in Hormozgan Province, aimed at supporting the long-term goal of increasing nuclear power capacity.

Eslami stated that the electricity produced by the Bushehr plant has saved approximately 131 million barrels of oil. He also noted that the facility has generated economic returns estimated to be about two and a half times its original investment cost over more than a decade of operation.

The government is seeking to encourage greater public participation in investment across the nuclear energy sector, he said adding that the new nuclear power plants will be developed gradually under Iran's 20-year strategic plan to meet growing industrial and public demand for electricity.

Beyond power generation, Eslami underscored the expanding role of nuclear technology in healthcare, describing radiopharmaceutical production as one of the country's most significant scientific achievements.

He said the AEOI currently produces around 80 types of radiopharmaceuticals, which are supplied to hospitals and nuclear medicine centers nationwide. Approximately 1.5 million patients benefit from these products each year, he said, while Iran has also expanded exports of domestically manufactured radiopharmaceuticals.

According to Eslami, despite years of sanctions and technological restrictions, many of Iran's domestically developed radiopharmaceuticals have progressed beyond research and clinical testing and are now being produced for commercial and medical use.

Iran rejects IMO draft, defends legal position on Strait of Hormuz

From page 1 ▶ The document urges the IMO to preserve its role as a neutral and technical body, warning against turning the organization into a forum for political disputes. Tehran argues that the Council lacks the legal authority to determine international responsibility, adjudicate sovereignty disputes, or define the legal regime governing strategic waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the submission, Iran remains committed to ensuring maritime safety, search and rescue operations, environmental protection, and the uninterrupted flow of commercial shipping. It stresses that the Strait of Hormuz has not been closed and that maritime traffic continues under 'appropriate supervisory and security coordination measures implemented by the coastal state.'

Tehran rejects allegations that it sought to disrupt international navigation, insisting that the measures adopted in and around the Strait are regulatory and precautionary responses to exceptional security conditions created by military threats and acts of aggression. The document maintains that these actions are intended to safeguard navigation, protect seafarers, and prevent the waterway from being used to facilitate hostile military operations.

A central element of Iran's submission is its longstanding legal position on the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran reiterates that it is not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and therefore does not recognize the treaty-based regime of transit passage invoked by some states. Instead, Iran maintains that navigation through the Strait falling within its territorial waters is governed by the principle of innocent passage, under which the coastal state retains sovereign authority to adopt laws and security measures necessary to protect its peace, order, and national security. The document also highlights ongoing consultations with the Sultanate of Oman regarding traffic management and coordination in the Strait, describing the discussions as part of bilateral efforts to ensure safe navigation in accordance with international law and national regulations.

Iran further accuses the draft IMO document of presenting a selective account of regional developments by omitting 'unlawful blockade measures imposed by the United States, the seizure of Iranian commercial vessels and cargoes, and attacks on Iranian maritime infrastructure.'

According to the submission, the conflict has caused significant damage to Iran's maritime sector. According to Tehran 116 maritime incidents involving 367 vessels were recorded during the recent conflict and ceasefire period, including the destruction of 254 ships. It also reports casualties among seafarers, damage to vessel traffic service stations, maritime operations centers, and other navigation infrastructures.

The document dismisses allegations that Iran engaged in mine-laying activities in the Strait of Hormuz, calling the accusations entirely baseless and unsupported by credible evidence. It argues that such claims are intended to construct a false narrative and undermine Iran's standing in international maritime affairs.

In its concluding recommendations, Tehran calls on the IMO Council to reject the draft proposal, reaffirm the organization's technical and impartial character, avoid taking positions on disputed legal issues concerning the Strait of Hormuz, and ensure that future reports reflect 'all sources of regional maritime risk, including military actions against Iran, coercive maritime restrictions, and interference with Iranian commercial shipping.'

Iran also urges the Council to ensure that any future arrangements concerning maritime safety, traffic coordination, emergency response, or technical cooperation in the Strait of Hormuz are developed in full consultation with the beneficiary coastal states and without prejudice to their sovereignty, legal positions, and jurisdiction.

The submission concludes that preserving the neutrality and technical integrity of the International Maritime Organization is essential to maintaining confidence in the UN maritime agency and preventing it from becoming a platform for political pressure against member states.

The tide of mourners reaches Qom

The coffin of Iran's martyred Leader was transferred to the holy Iraqi city of Najaf following a magnificent and historic funeral in Qom

TEHRAN - Millions of grief-stricken mourners from across Iran and beyond converged on the holy city of Qom on Tuesday to bid farewell to the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in a majestic display of national unity, unwavering loyalty, and steadfast commitment to the path he championed throughout more than three decades of leadership.

The sacred city, home to Iran's most prestigious Islamic seminaries and revered as one of the spiritual centers of the Shiite world, witnessed an unprecedented outpouring of devotion as pilgrims, religious scholars, senior clerics, government officials, military commanders, and ordinary people filled every corner of the Holy Jamkaran Mosque and its surrounding boulevards long before dawn.

Mourners had begun arriving in Qom since Monday afternoon from every province of the country, many traveling throughout the night by bus, private vehicles, and on foot to participate in the historic farewell. By sunrise, the mosque's courtyards, prayer halls, rooftops, and surrounding streets had become an ocean of black-clad mourners united in grief over the martyrdom of the Leader, who was assassinated on the first day of the joint US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28.

The city came to a virtual standstill as endless streams of pilgrims continued to pour into Qom from every direction. Religious seminaries, mosques, schools, and public buildings opened their doors to accommodate the influx of visitors, while thousands of volunteers worked through the night preparing reception centers and service stations for the unprecedented gathering.

Grand Ayatollah Abdullah Javadi Amoli led the funeral prayers before a congregation of millions, joined by eminent religious authorities, seminary scholars, senior government officials, commanders of the Armed Forces, representatives of resistance movements, and delegations from across the region, all paying tribute to a Leader whose life-long struggle was dedicated to defending Islam, justice, and the dignity of the Muslim Ummah.

Following the prayers, the funeral cortege embarked on its solemn journey from the Holy Jamkaran Mosque toward the revered Shrine of Hazrat Fatima Masumeh (SA), transforming the several-kilometer route into a sea of humanity. Millions accompanied the procession on foot, reciting verses of the Holy Quran, mourning elegies, and prayers while renewing their pledge to remain faithful to the ideals for which Ayatollah Khamenei devoted his life.

The streets of Qom were draped in black mourning banners alongside Iran's flags and crimson banners symbolizing the enduring path of martyrdom and the sacred duty of seeking justice for the blood of the martyrs. Giant portraits of Ayatollah Khamenei overlooked the procession.

Throughout the procession, chants of "Labbaik Ya Khamenei," "Death to America," and "Death to Israel!" reverberated through the city as mourners reaffirmed their commitment to the Leader's path of resistance and independence. Many participants also carried banners declaring that the martyrdom of the Leader would further strengthen the resolve of the Iranian nation in confronting oppression and foreign aggression.

Thousands of volunteers established service stations



throughout the procession route, distributing food, drinking water, tea, and medical assistance to mourners despite the intense summer heat. Residents of Qom welcomed pilgrims into their homes, mosques, and religious schools, reflecting the city's longstanding tradition of hospitality toward visitors to its holy shrines.

The historic farewell in Qom represented far more than a funeral. It became a powerful manifestation of the profound bond between the Iranian nation and the martyred Leader, whose decades of steadfast leadership shaped the course of the Islamic Republic and inspired generations both inside Iran and beyond its borders.

Yet Tuesday's ceremonies were only one chapter in a historic week of national mourning. They followed the unprecedented funeral rites held in Tehran, where millions of Iranians gathered in one of the largest public assemblies in the country's modern history. The funeral procession carried the flag-draped casket of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei alongside the coffins of members of his family who were martyred in the February 28 attack. Stretching for kilometers, the procession moved through central Tehran as mourners showered the cortege with flowers, recited verses from the Holy Quran, and chanted slogans pledging to



preserve the path of the Islamic Revolution.

President Masoud Pezeshkian, Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i, senior military commanders, cabinet ministers, lawmakers, and prominent religious figures walked alongside ordinary citizens during the procession, underscoring the unity of the Iranian nation in the face of a criminal act of aggression.

The Tehran ceremonies had begun days earlier at Imam Khomeini Mosalla, where millions gathered to perform funeral prayers for the martyred Leader and his family.

Grand Ayatollah Ja'afar Sobhani led the funeral prayers before an immense congregation that included senior clerics, political leaders, military officials, foreign dignitaries, and representatives of resistance movements from across the region. The ceremony reflected the profound reverence in which Ayatollah Khamenei was

held as both a religious authority and a statesman whose influence extended far beyond Iran's borders.

Among the most emotional moments of the Tehran ceremonies was the farewell to members of the Leader's family who lost their lives in the attack. The martyrdom of his relatives deeply moved mourners, who regarded the tragedy as further evidence of the brutality of the aggression against the Islamic Republic. Throughout the ceremonies, countless participants paused in silent prayer as the coffins passed before them, while many openly wept and offered condolences to the surviving members of the family.

Across the country, mosques, seminaries, universities, and public institutions held memorial ceremonies attended by millions of people. Black flags flew over government buildings and religious sites, while continuous recitations of the Holy Quran and mourning elegies echoed throughout cities and villages, reflecting the deep sense of loss felt by the Iranian nation.

The funeral ceremonies also drew an unprecedented international presence. Heads of state, senior government officials, parliamentary delegations, religious scholars, and representatives of international organizations traveled to Tehran to offer condolences and participate in the offi-

tutional framework. The smooth continuation of government affairs, together with the orderly organization of nationwide funeral ceremonies, demonstrated the resilience and stability of the Islamic Republic despite the magnitude of the tragedy.

Analysts noted that the seamless transition of leadership and the unified appearance of the country's political, military, and religious leadership throughout the mourning period conveyed a clear message that attempts to undermine Iran's political system had failed. Rather than creating division, they said, the aggression had strengthened national solidarity and reinforced public support for the principles of the Islamic Revolution.

Officials repeatedly stressed that the massive public participation in the funeral ceremonies represented not only an expression of grief but also a renewed pledge to uphold the ideals of independence, justice, dignity, and resistance that Ayatollah Khamenei championed throughout his lifetime. Millions of Iranians, they said, transformed mourning into a demonstration of national resolve.

Following the ceremonies in Tehran and Qom, the funeral procession will continue beyond Iran's borders to the Iraqi holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, where millions of pilgrims are expected to participate in funeral processions and commemorative ceremonies at the shrines of Imam Ali (AS) and Imam Hussein (AS). Iraqi authorities have announced extensive preparations to accommodate the anticipated influx of mourners from across the region.

The final chapter of the historic farewell will take place in Mashhad, where Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei will be laid to rest at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), fulfilling his final wishes. The burial will conclude an extraordinary period of national mourning that united millions of Iranians in honoring a Leader whose life and martyrdom have left an enduring imprint on the Islamic Republic.

For those who filled the streets of Tehran and Qom, the funeral ceremonies represented far more than a farewell. They stood as a solemn renewal of allegiance to the ideals for which the martyred Leader devoted his life and ultimately embraced martyrdom. From the Holy Jamkaran Mosque to the Shrine of Hazrat Fatima Masumeh (SA), and from Tehran to Mashhad, the unprecedented gatherings sent a resounding message that the Iranian nation remains steadfast in its commitment to the path of the Islamic Revolution and is determined to preserve the legacy of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for generations to come.

Iraq prepares for historic farewell as millions expected to honor Iran's martyred Leader

From Page 1 ▶ For many mourners, the farewell is no longer confined to national borders. It has become a shared expression of grief—one that echoes through the shrines, streets, and sacred cities long associated with the history of sacrifice and resistance.

Najaf Finalizes Preparations

The administration of the holy shrine of Imam Ali (PBUH) announced that all logistical, security, and organizational preparations have been completed for the funeral ceremonies in Najaf.

According to shrine officials, a comprehensive operational plan has been developed in coordination with Iraqi authorities to manage security, transportation, media coverage, public services, and the expected influx of millions of mourners.

Haider al-Issawi, a member of the shrine's administrative board, said extensive coordination meetings and field inspections had been conducted to finalize procession routes and mobilize personnel and equipment.

Adnan al-Arabi, director of public relations for the central media committee overseeing the ceremonies, said the funeral would be conducted with the dignity and solemnity befitting the stature of the late Leader.

Iraqi officials said Ayatollah Khamenei's body was scheduled to arrive at Najaf International Airport on Tuesday afternoon, where senior Iranian and Iraqi officials would attend an official reception ceremony.

The main funeral procession is expected to begin early Wednesday morning, moving from bridge of Kufa to Najaf before continuing later in the day to the holy city of Karbala, where mourners will accompany the procession to the shrines of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and Hazrat Abolfazl al-Abbas (PBUH).

Iraq Mobilizes for a Historic Gathering

Authorities across Iraq have launched one of the country's largest logistical operations in recent years in preparation for the ceremonies.

Karbala Governor Nassif Jassim



al-Khattabi said the Iraqi government had implemented extensive security and logistical measures to ensure the funeral proceeds smoothly.

He noted that thousands of mourners from across Iraq had already begun arriving in Najaf and Karbala, while more were expected over the coming hours.

To support the event, Iraqi authorities have deployed 150 ambulances along the procession routes, while emergency medical teams remain on standby to assist participants.

Meanwhile, Kirkuk Governor Mohammad Samaan Agha announced that all government offices in the province would close on Wednesday to enable citizens to participate in the funeral ceremonies.

Across Baghdad, Basra, Najaf, Karbala, and other provinces, government institutions, tribal leaders, religious organizations, and security forces have intensified coordination efforts for what Iraqi media describe as 'one of the largest public gatherings in recent memory.'

Iraqi Leaders Highlight Shared History

Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, head of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, described the funeral ceremonies as a powerful reflection of the solidarity between Iran and Iraq.

In remarks to Lebanon's Al Mayadeen television network, Hakim said the ceremonies carry profound religious, humanitarian, and politi-

cal significance, recalling the widespread mourning witnessed across Iraq following Ayatollah Khamenei's assassination.

He emphasized that the historical and cultural ties between the two neighboring nations are rooted too deeply to be weakened by external pressure, adding that relations between Baghdad and Tehran have increasingly evolved into institutional state-to-state cooperation founded on mutual trust.

Hakim also reaffirmed 'the continuity of the principles established by Imam Khomeini and upheld by Ayatollah Khamenei throughout his life.'

Funeral Reflects Spiritual Unity

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Quds Force, Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, said the funeral ceremonies in Iraq would further demonstrate the deep spiritual connection uniting the peoples of Iran and Iraq.

In a message released Tuesday, Qaani said the extensive preparations undertaken by Iraqi authorities and the overwhelming public desire to host the ceremonies reflected the affection and respect held for the late Leader across Iraq.

He recalled Ayatollah Khamenei's support for Iraq during the struggle against Daesh (ISIS), describing the joint sacrifices of Iranian and Iraqi fighters as a defining chapter in the shared history of the two nations.

"The road of resistance," he said, "is illuminated by the sacrifices of those who gave everything so future

generations could walk in dignity."

Massive Humanitarian Operation Underway

Alongside Iraqi emergency services, Iran has deployed extensive humanitarian assistance for the ceremonies.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society announced the dispatch of 36 specialized rescue and relief teams to Najaf and Karbala to provide emergency medical coverage throughout the funeral events.

According to Red Crescent President Pirhossein Kolivand, four medical clinics and the society's Imam Ali Hospital in Najaf have been placed on full alert, supported by nearly 500 physicians, rescue workers, nurses, and volunteers.

Separately, Khuzestan Province dispatched an additional 15 rescue teams equipped with emergency vehicles and experienced personnel to reinforce medical coverage during the ceremonies.

Officials said the teams will remain in Iraq until all funeral events conclude.

Final Journey to Mashhad

Following the ceremonies in Najaf and Karbala, Ayatollah Khamenei's body will return to Iran, where the final stage of the week-long farewell will take place in the northeastern holy city of Mashhad.

He is scheduled to be laid to rest on Thursday at the shrine of Imam Reza (AS), bringing to a close a day of mourning that have stretched from Tehran and Qom to Iraq's holiest cities.

For countless mourners, however, the funeral is more than the conclusion of a life. It is a moment they believe will be remembered as part of the collective memory of two nations bound by faith, history, and shared sacrifice.

As the procession moves from one sacred city to another, the sea of black-clad mourners, the whispered prayers, and the unwavering silence of millions stand as a solemn reminder that while leaders may depart, the ideals they leave behind continue to resonate far beyond their final resting place.

River of tears: A nation's defiance and a superpower's confusion

From Page 1 ▶ His propaganda machine insisted the Islamic Republic is fragile. He truly believed one military strike would make Iran crumble. So when he saw millions of people crying for their Leader, his entire worldview collapsed.

This shock was not political; it was psychological. A narcissist like Trump cannot handle being wrong. His ego is too fragile. He needs the world to work exactly as he imagines. When reality hits him in the face, he panics. He stammers. Like a child who just lost a game he thought he had already won, he says, "I am shocked." A strong man studies his enemy and respects the truth. A weak man hides from the truth and cries "shock" when it finally catches up with him. Unable to process the grief, Trump chose to insult it. He said he saw millions of people were mourning, but their sorrow was "fake."

Psychologists call this projection. It is when a person accuses others of the very flaw that lives inside himself. Donald Trump is a man who has never felt genuine love for anyone except himself. He fakes his smiles. He fakes his anger. He fakes his hair, his tan, and even his handshakes.

Everything about him is manufactured and hollow. So when he looks at millions of Iranians crying from the bottom of their heart, his empty soul cannot understand it. He claims: "Maybe those were fake tears." He does not understand loyalty. He does not understand sacrifice. He does not understand that a nation can love its Leader more than its own life. Calling Iranian tears fake was not an insult to Iran. It was a confession of his own emotional bankruptcy. He told the whole world that he has no heart.

He followed with a boastful military threat, claiming that with "one shot" his military could wipe out Iran's top leadership. He even audaciously said he was giving Iran a "week off" to bury their dead because America is "nice." These are not the words of a leader. These are the desperate ramblings of a man who realizes he does not understand the enemy he threatens. The U.S. stands as a symbol of humiliation, while IRAN stands as a symbol of dignity, unity, and power.

Trump's words are a mirror held up to America itself. The so-called superpower is led by a man who cannot comprehend human



emotion, who projects his own hollowness onto others, and who panics when reality does not match his fantasies. A nation that cannot read its enemy's feelings cannot win. America thinks it can bomb Iran into submission. But how do you bomb love? How do you destroy grief shared by millions? How do you kill an idea? You cannot. Trump's confused, panicked words prove he knows he cannot. His panic is Iran's victory.

The Iranian response was immediate and fierce. The Iranian embassy in Armenia issued a statement reminding the so-called superpower that while bodies can be destroyed, the soul of a nation cannot. It accused Washington of lacking civilization, history, and basic human honor. America's tanks and fighter jets cannot defeat an idea. America's billion-dollar bombs cannot kill the memory of a martyr.

As the flag-draped coffin moved through the capital, the people gave their own answer. Chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" echoed off the buildings, rising like thunder over the city. The rage was palpable. A poet asked why "the most bastard man in the world" is still breathing—the roaring response shook the very ground. This was not just grief. This was pure, unadulterated rage. This was a warning the American president should never forget.

But this gathering was about more than anger. It was a strategic message that Washington's officials are desperately trying to ignore. The unity on display is a direct warning to the U.S. that it tries

to ignore. The unity on display is a direct warning to the American economy. The Islamic Republic stands strong, and the people are more united than ever.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran FM: Talks on final deal with US will not begin unless threats end

From Page 1 ▶ He added, "Paragraph 13 of the MoU is clear: Negotiations on a final deal will not commence if threats continue. Honor your signature."

Araghchi's remarks came after Donald Trump warned that Washington was prepared to use military force if diplomacy failed.

"We're either going to make a deal or we're going to finish the job. Okay, and it won't be tough

to finish the job. I'd rather make a deal because I don't want to affect 91 million people," Trump told reporters at the White House.

Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, also reacted sharply to Trump's remarks, demanding that he address Iran with respect and warning that otherwise, Iran's response would be different.

The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) between Washington and Tehran, brokered by Pakistan, entered into force on June 18 after President Masoud Pezeshkian and Trump signed it electronically.

The 14-point agreement initiated a 60-day period of diplomacy through indirect talks between Iran and the United States aimed at reaching a lasting peace agreement following the February 28 US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

LATEST NEWS

■ Nasrallah's son says martyrs' blood will strengthen resistance

Jawad Nasrallah, son of the late Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, said the relationship between his father and the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was "a bond of light from light and soul from soul."

Speaking to AlMasirah, he said their martyrdom would deepen the resolve for justice while strengthening the resistance movement. He also conveyed heartfelt greetings from Lebanon's resistance to the "heroic, steadfast, and honorable" people of Yemen.

■ PUIIC chief expresses solidarity with Iran, offers condolences over martyrdom of Leader

Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIIC) Muhammad Qureshi Nias has extended condolences to Iran over the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. In a message to Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, he conveyed the PUIIC's deepest sympathy to the Iranian people, reaffirmed the union's solidarity with Iran during this difficult period, and prayed for mercy upon the martyred Leader and all those killed alongside him.

■ Iran's top security chief warns Trump against threats

Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr has strongly

condemned US President Donald Trump's latest threats against Iran, warning that Tehran will respond "in another language" if Washington continues its confrontational rhetoric. In a message issued Monday, Zolqadr urged Trump to address the Iranian people with respect, arguing that previous threats had failed. His remarks came after Trump said the US would either reach a deal with Iran or "finish the job."

■ Iran to respond decisively to any aggression: ministry

Iran will continue to pursue diplomacy from a position of strength but will respond "decisively, effectively, and proportionately" to any act of aggression or violation of its red lines, Defense Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Reza Talaei-Nik said. He also described the massive turnout at the funeral of the martyred Leader as a demonstration of national unity, adding that Iran's growing indigenous defense capabilities and deterrence have strengthened the country's resilience against external threats.

■ Egyptian political analyst says huge funeral sent powerful message to US

Egyptian political scientist Gamal Zahran said the massive turnout at the funeral of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution sent a clear political message to the United States and Israel, reflecting national unity and public support for Iran's leadership. Speaking to Al-Masirah TV, Zahran said the ceremonies demonstrated the Iranian people's cohesion and reaffirmed the

country's determination to pursue its strategic objectives while maintaining 'its right to respond to recent developments.'

■ World media figures examine global coverage of funeral ceremony in Iran

A specialized panel titled "Who is Khamenei?" was held in Tehran with international journalists and analysts from the US, UK, Ireland, Pakistan, and Lebanon.

Participants examined global media coverage of the martyrdom of Seyyed Ali Khamenei and the ensuing "battle of narratives."

American journalist Patrick Henningsen described the funeral as "a symbol of a nation's resilience."

Irish activist Tadhg Hickey praised Iran's stance against colonial powers.

London-based Bushra Shaikh criticized Western media for "one-sided narratives and news blackouts."

■ Official says martyred Leader's blood has united Iranians

Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the Leader's representative to Iran's Defense Council, said the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has inspired a nationwide awakening and strengthened national unity. He said the Iranian people remain committed to resisting "humiliation and oppression" and standing firmly by the ideals of the Islamic Revolution.

The funeral in Tehran that the West cannot explain

From Page 1 ▶ On June 6, 1989, millions of Iranians filled Tehran's streets to bury Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Mourners beat their chests to funeral chants, while the wailing of women rose above the din. Records recognize that funeral as the largest proportional gathering ever assembled: some 10.2 million people, roughly one-sixth of Iran's population.

That funeral took place in a moment of almost absolute discursive stability. In the absence of an alternative referential system, the relationship between words and their referents was fixed at the level of the multitude itself: millions of present bodies suppressed any attempt at public reinterpretation of the sign. One consequence was that Khomeini's figure, and with it the Islamic Republic itself, remained for years unthinkable outside the framework of historical victory. Political defeat had no vocabulary within that symbolic horizon.

During Khomeini's years as Wali e Faqih, the supreme magistracy of Iran's constitutional architecture, public space was saturated by the signifier "martyr", particularly during the Iran-Iraq war, known officially as the "Sacred Defense". The Islamic government granted the martyr, his family and his close circle a structural position. To die that way symbolically reordered the individual's place and lineage within the political-theological body, incorporating them into a discourse of honor and sacrifice that removed grief from the private sphere and turned it into an act of state sovereignty.

Documentary filmmaker Morteza Avini spent years accompanying young men who left their families to head to the war fronts with the expectation of martyrdom. The question running through his films is sim-

ple: what drove those young men to walk towards death with that disposition? In Avini's framework, Western history appears as a history of the material—the body, technique, innovation—where each era is defined by its technological transformations. Against it, he proposes an unwritten history, that of the soul, linked to the tradition of the prophets and imams in Twelver Shi'ism. Khomeini occupies, within that scheme, a place exceeding politics: he appears as a figure in that same spiritual continuity, someone who inaugurates a new chapter in the history of the soul. From there, war ceases to be a territorial conflict and becomes a theological project demanding willing subjects. What Avini's cameras register are multitudes traversed by a language of love, duty and devotion, in which dying in combat is inscribed within a narrative of meaning repeated with methodical rigour.

Avini was part of that discursive framework, with Imam Khomeini as its most visible expression. Imam Khomeini's funeral occurred when nothing threatened that centrality: words and their referents remained fixed at the level of the multitude, without any alternative system capable of destabilizing them.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral, which began on Friday (July 3) and continues until Thursday (July 9), is taking place in a radically different historical moment. Imam Khamenei died on February 28, 2026, in a joint US-Israeli airstrike that marked the start of that year's war against Iran. The funeral, originally scheduled for March, was postponed until now. Processions have travelled through Tehran, Qom and the Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala, before the final burial in Mashhad.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Over 140m tons of goods transported via roads in Q1



TEHRAN-The Director General of the Freight Transport Office of the Road Maintenance and Transport Organization reported the issuance of 9 million waybills and the transport of 140.4 million tons of various goods through the public transport fleet on the country's road network during the first three months of the current year.

According to Tuesday's report from IRNA, cited from the Road Maintenance and Transport Organization, Mehrdad Hamdollahi stated that during the aforementioned period, 49.1 million tons of construction and mineral goods, and 28.1 million tons of agricultural, livestock, and food products were transported

across the roads.

He added that during the first three months of this year, 5.5 million tons of various essential goods and livestock inputs were unloaded from the country's ports and transported and distributed by the public transport fleet on the roads.

The Director General of the Freight Transport Office of the Road Organization continued: Currently, more than one million 358,000 drivers along with their families covered by them have registered on the supplementary health insurance website and are benefiting from supplementary health, life, and accident insurance services for drivers.

Post-war era: smart reconstruction, not a return to past: energy expert

TEHRAN- An oil and gas expert stated: Wars do not only destroy infrastructure; they also transform the logic of investment. Any country emerging from a security crisis faces two choices. The first is merely compensating for past damages, and the second is building a more resilient, competitive, and attractive economy for investment from the heart of the crisis.

According to ISNA, the full text of the commentary by Samaneh Gheybi, an oil and gas expert, provided to ISNA, is as follows:

Iran, too, finds itself at such a point after the third imposed war. Now, the main question is not how much capital we need; the more important question is where and how to deploy the existing capital.

In the post-war environment, government financial resources are limited, the private sector makes decisions cautiously, foreign investors assess the country's risk with greater sensitivity, and global markets continue to face geopolitical fluctuations. Under such conditions, successful investment is no longer the product of intuitive decisions or temporary pressures; it is the result of data-driven governance and the scientific selection of projects.

Studies show that even in an industry like oil and gas—which is considered the main engine of Iran's economy—it is impossible to implement all projects, and choices must be made among them. This selection must be based on the analysis of various scenarios, the economic value of each project, and its resilience to uncertainty.

This logic is not limited to the oil industry. Today, the entire Iranian economy needs such an approach.

If national investments are to be launched in areas such as energy, petrochemicals, the digital economy, transportation, water, communication infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and advanced industries, a portfolio of priority projects must first be formed—projects that generate the highest economic returns, the most employment, the greatest foreign currency earnings, and the most significant impact on Iran's economic security.

The experience of successful countries follows the same path. After major crises, governments have allocated their limited resources to projects capable of activating private sector growth as well. In other words, rather than being the largest investor, the government has taken on the role of investment architect.

For Iran, the new era must also be accompanied by a change in the philosophy of investment. We can no longer prioritize any project merely because of its history, regional pressures, or administrative considerations. Every

project must be able to pass the value-creation test from economic, strategic, technological, energy security, employment, and export development perspectives.

One of the most important messages of this analysis is that uncertainty should not be an excuse to halt investment. On the contrary, uncertainty must be incorporated into the decision-making model. Smart investment is one that simulates various scenarios in advance and is prepared for any possible change.

In the post-war environment, this perspective gains double importance. Energy prices may change, trade routes may shift, new technologies may replace old ones, or even the geopolitical rules of the region may transform. Iran's economy must be flexible enough to withstand these changes.

On the other hand, domestic and foreign investors are seeking predictability more than ever before. Capital flows into countries where the project selection process is transparent, data-driven, and defensible. The existence of scientific frameworks for project evaluation reduces the cost of capital and increases investor confidence.

This issue holds particular importance for the Chamber of Commerce as well. The private sector must demand from the government that the list of national projects be compiled based on clear criteria, risk analysis, rate of return, developmental impacts, and economic scenarios. Such an approach fosters healthy competition among projects and directs the country's resources toward the highest added value.

Iran's economic reconstruction after the war depends above all on investor confidence. This confidence is not built through slogans; it is shaped by the quality of decision-making. The more scientific, transparent, and data-driven the project selection process, the more confidently capital will enter the economy.

The future of Iran's economy will not be determined by the volume of capital, but by the intelligence in capital allocation. Countries that have achieved sustainable growth after crises learned to manage their limited resources better before acquiring more resources.

Now, the best opportunity has been provided for Iran to move beyond the reconstruction phase and enter the phase of national smart investment—a phase in which every rial of capital serves to increase productivity, strengthen economic security, expand exports, advance technology, and build a resilient economy for future generations. This is the path that can transform the post-war era from a period of damage compensation into the starting point of a major economic leap.

Martyr Leader's economic vision: self-reliance, value chains, food security, reform

TEHRAN- The Martyr Leader's economic vision was far more than a collection of policies; it was a holistic national doctrine aimed at liberating Iran from the chronic vulnerabilities of raw-material dependency, structural defects, and external domination.

As this report traverses his strategic perspective on oil—where he reframed crude not as a budget-financing commodity but as a tool for value creation, job generation, and resistance against sanctions—it also reveals the wider architecture of his thought: a self-reliant economy anchored in knowledge-based production, agricultural self-sufficiency, and sustainable capital accumulation through the National Development Fund. Former Economy Minister Khandozi underscores that the Second Step statement, issued in 2019, serves as the Leader's definitive testament, diagnosing seven critical axes including structural flaws like oil dependency, centralism, and corruption, while warning that a weak economy invites foreign domination. Agriculture Minister Nouri affirms that his guidance illuminated the path to food security as a pillar of national authority, and National Development Fund Chairman Ghazanfari celebrates the Leader's final authorizations as enduring blessings for major energy projects. Together, these testimonies paint a unified picture: the Martyr Leader's legacy is a comprehensive, actionable roadmap—from completing oil value chains and empowering rural producers to insulating the budget from price volatility and fostering knowledge-based enterprise—that demands a genuine renewal of allegiance through implementation, not ceremony, as Iran stands at a post-war crossroads where reform, social justice, and anti-corruption are prerequisites for a more powerful and resilient nation.

Such a vision could not be achieved through raw sales, which monopolize knowledge and income at the extraction stage. He insisted that the processing chain must extend to its final link, secured through petro-refineries.



rent expenditures. He repeatedly cautioned that using oil for daily expenses undermines productive capacity; oil wealth must instead fund national infrastructure and the country's future. His vision rested on two pillars: insulating the government budget from oil price volatility and converting oil revenues into sustainable capital through the National Development Fund. The goal was not survival but development—modernizing industries, supporting knowledgebased enterprises, and building infrastructure.

Translating his vision into operational strategy, the Martyr Leader consistently argued that real power lies in processing—moving beyond simple refineries into petrochemicals, polymers, and downstream industries. This is not merely economic but a security imperative. While crude oil export sanctions can devastate the economy, sanctioning thousands of petrochemical and final products is nearly impossible and costly for adversaries. Moreover, returns multiply as we move downstream, transforming Iran from a vulnerable supplier into a resilient producer.

Completing value chain: a weapon against sanctions

Above all, what he repeatedly emphasized was not export revenues but reliance on enduring human capital—oil and gas create wealth only in the hands of specialists, engineers, and knowledgebased youth. Today, achievements such as domestic drilling rigs, catalyst technology, nanostructures in petrochemicals, and GTL advances all embody the "We Can" spirit he inspired. These successes show that shifting from extraction to knowledge transforms the oil industry from extractive to knowledge-driven.

Ultimately, his view looked to a future where oil serves not just foreign currency needs but national authority. Through value chain completion, engineering employment, and converting natural resources into powerful industries, Iran would escape the rawmaterial trap and become a pillar of the resistance economy and global industry.

At the heart of the Martyr Leader's analysis lay a bitter truth—structural inequality in global energy trade. In the early years of his leadership, he foresaw the "cheap sale" trap. In his Nowruz speech of 1994, he warned that oil-producing countries gift their future to industrial nations by selling crude. He asked: if oil were in the hands of great powers, would they sell a single drop cheaply? Western industrial civilization, he stressed, was built on our oil, yet we lose this wealth through raw exports, and its cost returns to us via expensive refined products.

From budgeting to wealth creation

A primary concern was the misuse of oil revenues for cur-

align with this new path and move in step with the people's awakening.

Khandozi identified the post-war era as an opportunity not just for reconstruction but for redefining government-nation relations. He pointed to the Leader's intellectual framework, emphasizing that overcoming Iran's "structural defects"—oil dependency, weak currency policy, inequality, corruption, and declining public participation—is the most urgent lesson. The social capital generated after the recent war offers a rare chance for genuine reform; if lost by returning to past errors, the costs will be immense. A strong economy, social justice, practical anticorruption, and empowering people in production and investment are prerequisites for a more powerful Iran.

Oil as a strategic asset, not a budget crutch

Regarding the Leader's economic thought, Khandozi noted a turning point in 2011, when UN, US, and EU sanctions began. From then, the Leader's focus shifted decisively toward "domestic production" and national self-reliance, as reflected in the annual slogans and the Second Step statement issued in February 2019. That statement, Khandozi argued, is no less than a testament for present and future generations.

He highlighted the seven axes: (1) science, research, and technology; (2) spirituality and ethics; (3) economy—with emphasis on a "strong economy" versus a "weak economy," explicitly linking economic weakness to foreign domination. The Leader identified "structural defects" (oil dependency, centralism, budgeting flaws) as root causes. (4) justice and anticorruption—acknowledging achievements but admitting a deep gap from the ideal. (5) independence and freedom; (6) national dignity and delineation from the enemy, including warnings against trusting US negotiations; and (7) lifestyle.

Khandozi stressed that the Leader's perspective was validated by subsequent events—US withdrawal from the JCPOA, the assassination of Soleimani, and two military attacks on Iran in 2025. The Leader had warned that beneath the velvet glove lies an iron fist; today, many more Iranians and elites recognize his foresight. He argued that if economic policies after the Ramadan War do not return to old wrong tracks but instead foster growth, control inflation, stabilize the currency, and combat corruption effectively, then Iran's economic strength can deter a third war. Conversely, if past rentseeking, monopolies, and corruption per-

sist, the immense social capital from the war will erode.

Khandozi concluded that the necessary blueprints are already in the Second Step statement. The main challenge is whether the policymaking system will implement them. The people, who preserved the nation even without a leader, have shown their resolve; now officials must match that with a genuine renewal of allegiance—not ceremonial, but substantive—to the Martyr Leader's vision. He urged frank discussion of structural defects in all domains—political, cultural, social—and warned that those who once accused the Leader of extremism or idealism have now seen that the world is exactly as he described.

Nouri: Martyr Leader's guidelines illuminated path to food security

Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji stated that the Leader's guidelines have made the government's path for supporting domestic production, self-sufficiency, and food security clearer and more solid. He emphasized that the Leader's thought will continue to guide officials, and they are determined to implement his policies.

Noting the Leader's special attention to agriculture, Nouri said he always considered food security a key component of national authority and stressed rural development, support for underprivileged areas, and strengthening the agricultural sector. The Leader believed that Iran's agriculture is ruralbased, so supporting rural producers must be a policy priority.

Nouri added that one major factor in the government's success in food security, despite numerous challenges, was the Leader's guidance, which gave officials motivation and a clear direction.

National Development Fund: Martyr Leader's Legacy for Development

Mehdi Ghazanfari, Chairman of the National Development Fund, wrote that one of the Leader's last effective measures for Iran's development was authorizing the Fund to remove financing obstacles for major development projects—blessings now bearing fruit as energy production enhancement projects come online. He described the Leader as a rare hero who, alongside Imam Khomeini, transformed Iran into an independent and capable regional power, forcing the US-led coalition to withdraw after a year of brutal aggression. Rising from Mashhad, nurtured in a school that changed global equations, the Leader's life was an epic of resistance, insight, and steadfastness. He played an unparalleled role in advancing science, technology, and the knowledge-based economy as the foundation for sustainable growth and endogenous national authority.

The transactional rot of NATO predators in Ankara and 'Euroslopulism'

From page 1 ▶

Built on extraction and sycophancy

The institutional humiliation of the European establishment is perfectly encapsulated by Secretary-General Mark Rutte.

Ever since his infamous subservience, where he cast Donald Trump as the "daddy" figure for the continent, Rutte has turned strategic groveling before Washington into an art form.

"I just like the man [Trump]; I think what he is doing for NATO is great news," he recently told Politico.

In the buildup to Ankara, Rutte presented the White House with a gold-lettered "Trump Trillion" chart, boasting of a 1.2 trillion dollar surge in European military outlays.

The alliance operates as an extortion mechanism, forcing European nations to clear a 300 billion dollar backlog of military equipment orders that flow directly into the coffers of the American military-industrial complex.

Trump openly admitted he only attended the summit because of his personal affinity for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, underscoring that Western security arrangements now partly hinge on personal relationships rather than institutional commitments.

The bloody tracks of European complicity

For the region, the most damning indictment of this summit is its connection to the recent U.S.-Israeli war of aggression against Iran.

The war has permanently shattered the deceptive narrative that NATO is a defensive bloc.

While European capitals routinely perform public hesitation



to placate their domestic populations, their infrastructure tells a far bloodier story.

Rutte has defended Europe's record by reminding Washington that up to 5,000 American warplanes utilized European bases and airspace to launch offensive sorties before the recent ceasefire.

This exposes European sovereignty as an illusion. Continental runways served as the logistical backbone for an unprovoked campaign of regional terror that killed thousands of innocent civilians.

Thus, European nations have forfeited their moral standing, revealing themselves as active accomplices to the geopolitical whims of Washington and Tel Aviv.

The double-dealing bazaar of Bestepe

The choice of Ankara as host highlights the profound structural contradictions tearing at the alliance.

President Erdogan has tried to cultivate a public image as a fierce opponent of Western imperialism and a vocal critic of Israeli atrocities, characterizing the same regime that Turkey has formally recognized as early as

to ensure they remain divided.

'Euroslopulism' and the shifting burdens of war

The deep internal fractures of the bloc are further obscured by a wave of performative theater that Irish economist Philip Pilkington has beautifully described as "Euroslopulism."

The pre-summit friction between Trump and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, marked by internet mockery over photo opportunities, is a prime example of this hollow posture.

Meloni plays the part of the outraged leader for her domestic audience, pretending to stand up to Washington's bullying, much like the pathetic posturing of German Chancellor Friedrich Merz while quietly rushing to hit military spending targets.

Once inside the Bestepe compound, this populist defiance evaporates. European elites trade public outrage for quiet compliance, eagerly submitting defense spending receipts and begging for a permanent American troop presence.

This capitulation is painfully evident in the management of the Ukraine proxy war.

Washington has engineered a financial trap, forcing Europe to assume a staggering 70 billion euro military aid package for the next two years.

This massive funding architecture relies entirely on European bilateral commitments and EU loan facilities derived from frozen assets, requiring zero direct funding from the American treasury.

The United States provoked a multi-year quagmire on the continent, walked away from the checkbook, and left its vassals to absorb the economic ruin while purchasing American weapons to replace depleted stocks.

March 1949 as genocidal.

Yet, by hosting the very military machine that enables these regional crimes and by flattering the murderous and corrupt U.S. president, Ankara is engaged in diplomatic double-dealing, attempting to harvest global prestige while remaining tightly bound to the Western military architecture it rhetorically condemns.

This is also driven by a degrading competition between Turkey and Israel for Washington's favor.

While Israel enjoys unconditional access to advanced American armaments to terrorize the region and murder innocents, Turkey must leverage personal friendships to beg for the removal of CAATSA sanctions and a return to the F-35 fighter jet program.

Netanyahu's public campaign to block the Turkish aircraft deal to preserve Israel's so-called qualitative military edge exposes how Washington manages competing client states.

Trump's willingness to dangle the F-35 as a personal favor to Erdogan reveals how Washington exploits its regional clients, keeping them locked in a bitter struggle for American patronage

Ex-CENTCOM chief suggests US needs to move bases from Persian Gulf

The US needs to relocate its bases in the Persian Gulf to Israel and neighboring countries to better protect its assets from Iran's missiles and drones, the former head of US Central Command (CENTCOM), General Frank McKenzie, said at a webinar last week.

"No one in their right mind would ever put the CENTCOM forward headquarters, you know, 100 miles away from Iran, [in Qatar], yet that's where it is," he told the Jewish Institute for National Security of America, referring to al-Udeid military base.

McKenzie, who was the top military official overseeing US forces in the Middle East from March 2019 to April 2022, said that in 2022, he and other officials told the Biden administration that the constellation of US bases around the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain was vulnerable to Iranian attacks and US forces should be dispersed to the West, including to Israel.

"We proposed to [the] then Biden administration that we consider moving bases to the West to include Israel, to include Egypt...places we might flush to the West if we get into a fight with Iran," he said, adding that the Biden administration "aggressively" shut down the idea.

McKenzie said that the current US basing system in the Middle East has become an "artefact", describing it as a legacy of the Cold War, when the US was concerned about a potential Soviet Union invasion of the oil-rich Persian Gulf Arab states and later, the counter-insurgencies the US waged in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"[The US] strategy does not

match the reality on the ground," he added.

McKenzie's comments echo a June report by Middle East Eye that cited former senior US officials and analysts saying that the US basing system would likely need to be restructured, given the vulnerabilities Iran exposed during the war.

Iran effectively forced the US away from the Persian Gulf coast. MEE was the first to report that the US gained access to Taif Air Base in Saudi Arabia in March after Iran pummeled Prince Sultan Air Base, southeast of Riyadh.

Further to the east, US military bases along the Persian Gulf coast were hit hard by Iran.

Iran targeted Bahrain, home to the US Fifth Fleet; Qatar, home to US Central Command's headquarters; and air bases in Kuwait and the UAE.

Open-source analysts and some officials have debated the extent to which Iran destroyed US military bases.

McKenzie warned that satellite imagery could be deceiving when assessing whether a damaged base was still operational. He said a base could have several structures destroyed, such as hangars, radar installations, and barracks, but the underground fueling systems and runways could still be intact, allowing warplanes to land and take off.

"What we've got is a situation where it's good to be close to your potential enemy because it's a short commute to the fight," McKenzie said.

"But it's bad to be close to your potential enemy, because he has the ability to strike you very quickly."



McKenzie said he supports maintaining a presence in Persian Gulf states in a show of solidarity with Washington's Arab partners. He said the US could use Persian Gulf facilities to refuel, but switch its long-term presence to countries like Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast.

"We need to look West. We need to look at basing in Israel. I think it's a great idea," he said.

McKenzie said Israel is preferable to other countries because it would impose the fewest restrictions on access, basing, and overflight, collectively known as ABO. McKenzie said Israel would also offer superior air defense protection compared to the Persian Gulf states.

The US needs to negotiate ABO with host nations. Persian Gulf

states originally prevented the US from using their airspace to attack Iran.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE later joined the US in conducting strikes on Iran and approved the Trump administration's ABO requests. However, as the war progressed, Saudi Arabia used its veto to prevent new US attacks on Iran, The Wall Street Journal reported.

"Of all the countries, one thing that's significant is the [host] country...they're going to want to have a say in where those jets go when they take off," McKenzie explained.

"Probably Israel is the place where you're going to have the fewest ABO restrictions on your aeroplanes. That's why Israel is a particularly attractive location."

Brutal and regular torture of Dr. Abu Safiya is horrible

Abu Safiya is violently tortured for treating Palestinians injured in the Gaza war



From page 1 ▶ The psychological and physical torture of a physician, whose only crime was to treat the Palestinians subjected to relentless slaughters in Gaza, is enough to indict Israel.

While Israel behaves so savagely against a prominent physician, imagine what it does against ordinary Palestinians held in captivity. Those Western countries that still back Israel despite all these horrific acts should be ashamed of themselves.

"The details emerging about the deteriorating conditions of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya's detention are truly horrifying. We are deeply alarmed by the reports from his lawyer indicating that his life is at imminent risk amidst his ongoing unlawful detention. It is unconscionable that a pediatrician, who has dedicated his life to saving others in the occupied Gaza Strip, is being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment – including severe physical and psychological abuse and prolonged solitary confinement – while being detained without any justification," said Erika Guevara Rosas, Senior Director for Research, Advocacy, Policy and Campaigns at Amnesty International.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found Israel's actions violated multiple articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The UN rights body added that Abu Safiya's case was one of many it has investigated and "may indicate a widespread or systematic practice of arbitrary detention" in Israel.

Nasser Odeh, his lawyer, says Abu Safiya is almost unrecognizable because of severe injuries inflicted in Israeli detention. The lawyer says the doctor is facing "tangible danger to his life".

Abu Safiya met his lawyer on 2 July, after a transfer to Israel's notorious underground Rakefet prison in late June. He had difficulty breathing and speaking continuously. The lawyer said he was so weak that he struggled to sit upright, and repeatedly seemed on the verge of losing consciousness.

"They brought me here to kill me. I don't see myself surviving. This is the end," Odeh quoted him as saying, in a joint statement with Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI), who along with other organizations, are calling for his release.

His detention is part of a broader pattern of Israeli attacks on healthcare across occupied Palestine, said Milena Ansari, PHRI's director for the area.

Abu Safiya had become the face of health

workers struggling to treat patients throughout the war in Gaza before his detention. He is being held indefinitely, along with thousands of other Palestinian civilians, in prisons that Israeli rights groups say have become torture camps.

In late May, he was transferred from Ketziot prison to the Ganot prison complex and put in solitary confinement without explanation, Odeh said.

Abu Safiya described an attack there by guards using hammers and batons, shortly after appearing via video link at a supreme court appeal hearing challenging his detention. He was then moved to the Rakefet facility on June 24, where Odeh noted a severe and dangerous deterioration in his condition.

"I have visited Dr Abu Safiya several times since his detention, but the individual I encountered during this latest visit was not the same person I had previously met," Odeh said on July 5, calling for an immediate independent medical examination. "His physical and psychological state, the severe injuries visible on his body, and his personal testimony leave no room for doubt: his life is in immediate danger."

Abu Safiya appeared frightened, distressed and reluctant to speak freely in the meeting, Odeh said, but told his lawyer that he was subjected to daily beatings in the Rakefet jail, and had lost consciousness several times as a result.

Rakefet, where prisoners never see daylight, was built in the 1980s to hold senior organized crime figures before being closed on the grounds it was inhumane. It was reopened on the orders of the far-right national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir.

Other Palestinians detained there reported feeling breathless and choking in the unventilated, overcrowded cells, even without injuries like those sustained by Abu Safiya.

An Israel prison service spokesperson said allegations made by Odeh were "false and entirely without factual basis", but declined to comment on Abu Safiya's health, citing privacy concerns.

Guevara Rosas from Amnesty International also said it is utterly reprehensible that a doctor who refused to abandon his patients, and who became one of the most prominent voices denouncing the devastation of Gaza's healthcare system, remains arbitrarily and unlawfully detained under Israel's baseless designation as an "unlawful combatant".

History will neither forget nor forgive Israel for imprisoning and torturing even Palestinian physicians who treated people sustaining severe injuries in Israeli attacks.



Iran volleyball coach Totolo lauds performance in 2026 VNL Week 2

TEHRAN – Iran men's volleyball team assistant coach Tomaso Totolo believes the team have made significant progress in the 2026 FIVB Volleyball Nations League (VNL), insisting the only thing missing is more victories.

Iran concluded the Week 2 of the preliminary round with a 3-1 victory over Cuba but suffered defeats to France, the United States, and Japan. The team have now arrived in Belgrade, Serbia, where they are preparing for the final week of the preliminary phase.

Reflecting on Iran's performance, Totolo said the team had taken important steps forward despite recording only one win in Week 2.

"We are quite happy with our second week because we improved both our style of play and our system. Unfortunately, we earned only one victory, and that's the only thing we are missing. We definitely deserved two more wins, but we are pleased with the progress the team have made in every aspect," the Italian coach said.

Totolo highlighted Iran's competitiveness against some of the world's strongest teams.

"The most important thing was that we played against very powerful teams such as France, Japan, and the U.S., and we were on the same level as all of them. That's something we should be happy about," he said.

"Of course, we have to finish matches better because the difference between winning and losing came down to only a few points. We missed opportunities that we should have converted."

Iran have once again chosen Serbia as their training base before the final week of the competition, a decision Totolo believes will benefit the squad.

"We had a very good training camp here last year, and it helped the team improve. Everything is ideal for training, and we believe staying here is much better than continuing to travel around the world, which we've been doing for the past month," he said.

Looking ahead to Week 3, Totolo expects another tough challenge but remains optimistic.

"We definitely expect to perform better in the third week. We want to finish matches more effectively and achieve better results. Every team in this year's Volleyball Nations League are of a high standard, so every match will be difficult."

Iran will face Ukraine, Germany, Slovenia, and Turkey in Belgrade from July 15 to 19.

Totolo warned that Ukraine, in particular, have become a much stronger side.

"Ukraine are a different team compared to last year. They had a good VNL campaign then, but this year they have higher-ranked and more experienced players. Slovenia, Germany, and Turkey are also very strong teams."

"Our objective is to win as many matches as possible because we want to improve not only our VNL standing but also our position in the FIVB World Ranking. Above all, however, our priority is to continue raising the level of our performance," he concluded.

Iran come 12th at AVC Girls' U18 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Hong Kong 3-2 (25-23, 19-25, 18-25, 25-16, 12-15) at AVC Girls' U18 Volleyball Championship 11th-12th place on Tuesday.

Iran lost to the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong in the competition and just defeated Australia.

The 2026 AVC Girls' U18 Volleyball Championship is the 16th edition of the biennial tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) in collaboration with the Thailand Volleyball Association (TVA). The competition is being held in Nakhon Ratchasima from July 1 to 7.

The tournament also served as the Asian qualification event for the 2027 FIVB Volleyball Girls' U19 World Championship, with China,

South Korea, Thailand and Japan their places at the global tournament as the AVC's representatives.

Iran defeat Palestine at FIBA U18 Asia Cup WABA qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Palestine 97-87 at the FIBA U18 Asia Cup WABA qualifiers on Tuesday.

Soheyl Soleymannezhad led Iran with 33 points, while Palestine's Mohammad Farhan scored 21 points.

The Iranian team are scheduled to face Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon in the following days.

The competition is being held from July 7 to 11 in Amman, Jordan.

Mehdi Tartar takes charge of Persepolis

TEHRAN – Mehdi Tartar has been appointed as the new head coach of Persepolis.

The Tehran-based club had been expected to appoint Dragan Skocic, but the two parties failed to reach a final agreement.

Tartar joins Persepolis after a successful spell in charge of Gol Gohar. He replaces Brazilian coach Osmar Vieira at the helm of the Iranian giants.

A former Persepolis player, Tartar returns to the club as head coach for the first time in his managerial career.

Meanwhile, Mehdi Rahmati has been named as Tartar's successor at Gol Gohar. Rahmati most recently managed Kheybar Khorramabad during the 2025-26 season in the Iran Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL).

Iran beat Syria at 2027 FIBA World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran have completed the 2-0 sweep over Syria, following the 73-52 victory earlier today at the Prince Hamza stadium in Jordan.

In the process, Team Melli's veteran power forward Arsalan Kazemi improved upon a personal milestone unlikely to be replicated anytime soon.

Iran have finished their First Round engagements by topping the Group C table with a 5-1 record.

They head into the Second Round facing the likes of Australia, Philippines and New Zealand.

Iraklis Thessalonikis interested in Milad Mohammadi

TEHRAN – Greek second division side G.S. Iraklis Thessaloniki has put Milad Mohammadi high on their transfer list, aiming to strengthen the left side of defense ahead of the new season.

The 32-year-old Iranian left-back, who previously wore the AEK jersey, along with the management team are making efforts to confirm his signature.

Mohammadi comes from a full season with Persepolis, recording 21 appearances and three assists, while before returning to his homeland he had also played for Adana Demirspor.

Mohammadi represented Iran in matches against New Zealand, Belgium, and Egypt in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Iraklis F.C., also known as Iraklis VENETIS BAKERIES after its title sponsor, is a professional football club based in the city of Thessaloniki, Macedonia, Greece. Created in 1908, they serve as the professional men's football department of the multisports club of G.S. Iraklis Thessalonikis.

They play their home matches at Kaftanzoglio Stadium. As of 2026, the club competes in the first-tier level Super League 1.

Sanandaj Church: A testament to faith, history, and Kurdish heritage

TEHRAN – Hidden within one of the oldest quarters of Sanandaj, the capital of Iran's Kordestan province, Sanandaj Church stands as a remarkable symbol of religious coexistence, cultural diversity, and architectural beauty. As the only surviving historical church in the province, it offers visitors a unique opportunity to discover an often-overlooked chapter of western Iran's history while exploring one of the country's most important centers of Kurdish culture.

The story of Sanandaj Church dates back to the final years of the Safavid era. Around 250 years ago, during the reign of Shah Abbas II, many Armenians were displaced by the Ottoman Empire and sought refuge in Iran. They were warmly welcomed by local communities across the country, including in Sanandaj, where a group eventually settled. It was here that they built the church that still stands today, although the identity of its architect and builder has been lost to history.

Covering approximately 1,200 square meters of land, the complex occupies a rectangular plan with a built-up area of around 700 square meters. Its architecture reflects the elegant Isfahan style, blending traditional brick construction, vaulted spaces, and local building techniques into a harmonious and distinctive design.

Visitors enter the church through a sequence of corridors that gradually reveal the building's impressive architectural features. The entrance is marked by arched doorways, decorative brickwork, graceful portals, and a large wooden gateway that leads into another corridor lined with intersecting semi-circular chambers. The portals are adorned with painted lotus flowers and medallion motifs, decorative elements believed to have been created by local artisans, adding a distinctly regional touch to the monument.

At the heart of the church lies the spacious nave, a grand hall supported by six sturdy pillars and illuminated through eight arched wooden windows. The hall also contains twelve adjoining rooms and fifteen wall-mounted lights. Its mosaic-covered floor



and white plastered walls create a calm and understated atmosphere. Today, visitors can still find simple furnishings, including wooden chairs, carpets, decorative flowers, picture frames, and even a broken piano, all contributing to the building's quiet, timeless character.

The altar, positioned two steps above the nave at the northern end, serves as the spiritual focal point of the church. It features a large depiction of Jesus Christ alongside a statue of the Virgin Mary dressed in blue, surrounded by traditional lanterns. In the southern section of the building lie the graves of two priests, preserving the memory of the church's religious past.

Outside, a peaceful courtyard enhances the church's tranquil setting. Walnut trees provide welcome shade, while colorful flowers and a stone pool create a serene atmosphere. The pool and nearby fountain are supplied by a traditional qanat, an ancient underground water system that has long been part of Iran's engineering heritage. Several historic graves

scattered throughout the courtyard further enrich the site's historical significance.

Among the church's most distinctive architectural elements are its bell tower and minaret, decorated with brick inscriptions and intricate tilework, showcasing the exceptional craftsmanship of Iranian builders.

A visit to Sanandaj Church is also an invitation to explore the vibrant city that surrounds it. Although Sanandaj's history spans only about 250 years, it has become one of the leading centers of Kurdish culture, celebrated for its rich traditions of music, poetry, and world-renowned carpet weaving.

Combining Armenian heritage, Persian architectural artistry, and Kurdish cultural identity, Sanandaj Church offers travelers an unforgettable journey through history. It remains one of western Iran's most distinctive historical landmarks and an enduring symbol of the country's long tradition of cultural diversity and peaceful coexistence.

Historic plaza in Isfahan to undergo restoration



TEHRAN – Authorities in Isfahan have approved a restoration and revitalization project for the historic urban plaza facing the renowned Abbasi Hotel, a landmark that forms part of the city's rich architectural and cultural heritage.

The decision was announced following a meeting of the supreme council for the historic fabric of Isfahan, recently held to discuss key initiatives aimed at protecting, restoring, and revitalizing the city's historic districts.

Chabahar launches restoration of historic neighborhood

TEHRAN – Chabahar authorities have launched the restoration of its historic Sorkh Rig neighborhood as part of a broader strategy to preserve the southeastern Iranian port city's historical identity, cultural heritage and indigenous architecture, the council's chairman said.

Vahedbakhsh Dorbin, chairman of the Chabahar City Council, said sustainable urban development required balancing infrastructure projects with the preservation of the city's historical character and cultural heritage, according to ILNA.

"Chabahar, as Iran's largest oceanic port and one of the oldest cities in the country's southeast, possesses valuable historical, cultural and architectural assets whose protection must advance alongside urban development," Dorbin said.

He said the city council, in cooperation with the municipality and other government agencies, had launched programs to preserve, restore and regenerate the city's historic and

city and adopted plans to accelerate conservation efforts.

Among the meeting's most significant resolutions was the restoration and rehabilitation of the historic plaza located opposite the Abbasi Hotel, formerly the Safavid-era Abbasi Caravanserai. The project will be carried out by the Municipality of Isfahan under the supervision and in cooperation with the provincial cultural heritage authorities, ensuring that all conservation work complies with national standards for the protection of historic monuments.

Karamzadeh emphasized that the project will preserve the architectural and historical character of the nationally registered site while enhancing the quality of one of Isfahan's most prominent public spaces. He added that members of the council reaffirmed their commitment to continued cooperation between the municipal government and cultural heritage authorities to safeguard the city's historic urban fabric, protect nationally registered monuments, and improve Isfahan's cultural and tourism infrastructure.

The Amadgah Plaza, situated directly opposite the Abbasi Hotel, is recognized as a notable example of contemporary architecture in Isfahan. It was inscribed on Iran's National Heritage List in 2018, under registration number 31945.

The restoration is expected to further enhance the appeal of the area surrounding the historic Abbasi Hotel, one of Iran's most celebrated heritage hotels, which continues to attract domestic and international visitors alike.

Once the capital of the Safavid Empire, Isfahan flourished as a major crossroads of international trade, diplomacy, and culture. Today, it remains one of Iran's premier travel destinations, renowned for its magnificent Islamic architecture, bustling bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and elegant tree-lined boulevards. The city's enduring beauty and historical significance are reflected in the famous Persian saying, "Isfahan nesf-e jahan ast"—"Isfahan is half the world"—a tribute to its extraordinary cultural and architectural legacy.

traditional districts while supporting tourism and promoting Chabahar's cultural heritage.

Dorbin said the restoration of the historic Sorkh Rig neighborhood, one of Chabahar's oldest quarters, was among the main projects under way.

He said the rehabilitation project would preserve the neighborhood's traditional architecture and historical character while improving living conditions for residents. The restored district is also expected to become a tourist attraction showcasing the region's history and culture, he added.

Dorbin said the city council and municipality were seeking to ensure that urban development projects balanced infrastructure expansion with the preservation of indigenous architecture so that new construction remained compatible with the region's climate, cultural traditions and architectural heritage.

He said preserving local architectural traditions would help protect Chabahar's historical

identity, improve the urban landscape, support tourism and strengthen residents' sense of belonging.

He added that the city council and municipality had planned educational and cultural programs to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving traditional architecture, historic neighborhoods and cultural heritage. Training courses for architects, engineers and residents are also planned.

Dorbin said Chabahar's development should be based on preserving the city's historical identity and cultural assets so that future generations could benefit from them.

Located in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar is the country's only oceanic port and a free-trade zone. Its name is derived from the Persian phrase Chahar Bahar, meaning "four springs," reflecting the city's year-round mild climate. Chabahar is also a strategic gateway for regional trade and lies about 170 km west of the Pakistani port city of Gwadar.

Leader's collective responsibility policy for environmental protection

TEHRAN – Elaborating on the late Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's mindset on the environment, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, said the Leader's environmental policies underlined the collective responsibility of each individual to protect the natural environment.

In the Leader's point of view, preserving natural resources and combating environmental degradation constituted a governmental, national, and religious obligation that requires the participation of all the people and all the governmental bodies, IRIB quoted Ansari as saying.

The official made the remarks on Monday on the sidelines of the late Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's funeral procession.

From his perspective, the environment is not a luxury or a secondary issue; environmental conservation is a critical issue and a shared responsibility that must be embraced by all policymakers, planners, and citizens—regardless of their political leanings, she added.

Referring to the Leader's expert and scientific outlook, Ansari said the Leader highlighted the need to criminalize environmental destruction, take decisive legal action against violators, and prevent encroachment and deforestation.

He believed that the conversion of public wealth into private wealth through the destruction of nature is a clear violation of the rights of future generations.

Promoting the culture of environmental protection and raising awareness in society were among his top priorities.

Highlighting the key concepts, including 'intergenerational justice and rights', 'management of climate change impacts', 'development of green economy', and the 'establishment of an integrated national environmental system', used by the Leader, Ansari said his statements delineated the roadmap for safeguarding the country's environment for the coming years.

Martyred leader was devoted to environmental protection

Every year on the National Tree Planting Day, the martyred leader invited people to plant trees and protect the environment, saying that doing such important work requires national support.

Martyred Leader contributes to release of prisoners for 20 years

TEHRAN – Over the past two decades, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, contributed to the continuous release of prisoners of unintentional crimes, allocating a sum of 1.65 billion rials (around 97,000 dollars).

The Leader was martyred on February 28. A week earlier, he donated around 50 billion rials (some \$29,000) for the release of the prisoners of involuntary crimes, IRNA quoted Seyyed Asadollah Joulai, an official with the Blood Money Organization, as saying.

The Blood Money Organization was established in 1990. It has helped to release around 195,000 prisoners of unintentional crimes so far. The late Leader started supporting the organization in 2006. Since spring 2019, each week or two weeks, the Leader would make contributions to the organization.

Interestingly, his donations to the release of prisoners did not stop even after his martyrdom. His office continued supporting the Organization, donating funds



In March 2025, the martyred Leader said planting trees is a beneficial act that highlights the nation's foresight for creating wealth for future generations.

All people should participate in planting trees as a good and righteous act so that with the increase of trees, the living environment will be refreshed and clean, Ayatollah Khamenei stressed.

Experts believe that in addition to planting fruit trees, trees that produce wood should be planted because the export of wood has a significant effect on the country's economy, the martyred leader stressed.

The destruction of forests and the environment and vegetation is equivalent to the degradation of national interests, and the depletion of part of the forests for construction, except in emergencies, is definitely to the detriment of the nation, he added.

He believed that planting trees is a beneficial act that highlights the nation's foresight for creating wealth for future generations. Environmental degradation poses a big threat to the future of humans, so it has to be addressed.

So, all people should participate in planting trees as a good and righteous act so that with the increase of trees, the living environment will be refreshed and clean.

The martyred leader emphasized that planting trees is a profitable and rewarding investment. He noted that trees offer numerous advantages, like in-

creasing oxygen levels and helping to reduce pollutants, making it a profitable investment choice.

He also reminded the importance of the connection between man and nature and the preservation of the environment in Islam, noting that planting trees is not only related to young people. All people of different ages should find enthusiasm and motivation towards this important, necessary, and beautiful work.

Referring to a national plan, kicked off in December 2023, to plant up to one billion trees across the country over the course of four years to combat desertification and restore forests, the martyred leader said: "If each Iranian plants three saplings, the government's goal to plant one billion saplings over the next four years will be realized."

The National Tree Planting Day (March 5) was observed this year in the special memory of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei who always recommended planting trees as a good and righteous act toward environmental protection.

The day is observed annually on the fifteenth day of Esfand, the last month on the Iranian calendar, marking the first day of the natural resources and watershed management week.

The occasion has been approved to be registered on the national calendar as 'Environmental Protection Education Day'.

In 2015, the martyred leader announced the general policies

on the environment, emphasizing the need for comprehensive, harmonious, and organized management of vital resources based on ecological capability and sustainability, particularly by increasing capacities and appropriate legal and structural capabilities accompanied by public participation.

Improving environmental conditions with the purpose of helping society enjoy a healthy environment, administering justice and observing intra-generational rights, preventing and prohibiting the circulation of all kinds of unlawful pollutants, recording crimes related to the environment, administering efficient and preventive punishment of polluters and destroyers of the environment, and forcing them to compensate for their actions were also among the policies.

Now, the tree-planting campaign is still going on with a high level of participation in cities and villages of the country. The campaign would contribute to developing vegetation across the country, promoting the culture and the social responsibility of preserving the environment, combating pollution, and minimizing damage to the environment.

This year, the great man who had planted trees for years in Iran is not among us, but the trees that are planted in his memory indicate that the tradition will go on, and one day the planted saplings will turn into strong trees, narrating the story of a nation that puts a top priority on preserving nature.



on May 5, which indicates the late Leader's particular support and attention to the release of prisoners. Over roughly 21 years, his contribution led to the release of 344 prisoners, Joulai further noted.

The Leader allocated funds every year to help free these prisoners, and the amount of these regular contributions gradually increased over time.

Joulai explained that the Leader's office would typically notify the organization just

minutes before the fundraising ceremony that he had authorized a financial contribution for the charitable initiative.

"This practice continued uninterrupted for nearly two decades. However, on February 21, we received a letter from the Leader's office informing us that, upon his instruction, 50 billion rials had been transferred to the Headquarters' account as a donation to secure the release of financially distressed prisoners convicted of unintentional crimes," he said.

Receiving the letter was unusual because the ceremony was still about a week away, whereas in previous years the Leader's donation had normally been announced only minutes before the event began.

"Sadly, one week later, the tragic event of the Leader's martyrdom occurred, and we realized that this contribution had been his final gift before his martyrdom," he added.

The Leader would consistently laud and encourage the benefactors and the charities to raise and allocate money to help release prisoners of involuntary crimes. He always highlighted that a part of the money raised on the specific occasions, like the fasting month of Ramadan, should be dedicated to freeing prisoners.

The Blood Money Organization, with the help of benefactors, has released 850 prisoners of involuntary crimes in 31 provinces across the country to commemorate the Leader's martyrdom.

HQ for medicinal herbs, Tehran University of Medical Sciences ink MOU

TEHRAN – The headquarters for developing traditional medicine and medicinal herbs and the Pharmaceutical Technology Incubator Center affiliated with the Tehran University of Medical Sciences have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to strengthen the innovation, research, and commercialization chain, support knowledge-based companies, and develop technological infrastructure.

The MOU was signed by Mahmoud Biglar as chief manager of the Pharmaceutical Technology Incubator Center affiliated with the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and Hossein Rezaeizadeh, the head of the headquarters for developing traditional medicine and medicinal herbs.

The collaboration can serve as a platform for establishing and supporting knowledge-based companies in the natural products sector, foster the development of innovative products, and strengthen the link between the synthetic and natural pharmaceutical sectors in response to the country's health needs, IRNA quoted Biglar as saying.

For his part, Rezaeizadeh said an innovation center for traditional, herbal, and natural products will be established in collaboration with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and relevant faculties.

The center will include a laboratory and a pilot plant infrastructure for producing prototypes of plant-based products, including syrup and capsule production lines.

Based on the MOU, Tehran University of Medical Sciences will be responsible for providing the superstructure and the technical and operational infrastructure, while the headquarters for developing traditional medicine and medicinal herbs is responsible for supporting the equipment and the inauguration of the factory.

The design and implementation of this innovation center—including a fab lab and a pilot plant—are scheduled for the next six months; the center is intended to function as a hub for students, researchers, and knowledge-based companies to facilitate education, technology development, and product commercialization.

The collaboration will be an effective step toward developing the knowledge-based economy and advancing the country's health-oriented technologies in traditional pharmacy through establishing a joint specialized working group, implementing technological projects, and strengthening skill-based training.

Promoting herbal medicine using nanotechnology

The headquarters for developing nanotechnology and microtechnology and the headquarters for developing traditional medicine and medicinal herbs held a meeting on January 13 aimed at using nanotechnology for promoting herbal medicine.

Damoun Razmjouei, the secretary of the headquarters for developing traditional medicine and medicinal herbs, and Emad Ahmadvand, the secretary of the headquarters for developing nanotechnology and microtechnology, attended the meeting, IRNA reported.

The two sides discussed ways to use the capacity of nanotechnology in manufacturing standardized products, increasing the efficiency of products, and developing knowledge-based products, especially herbal medicine.

Over the past Iranian year (March 2024 – March 2025), a total of 1,735 nanotechnology products received nanoscale certificates from the Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council and were commercialized by 201 companies.

The total sale of these products amounted to 973 trillion rials (some 700 million dollars) in the Iranian year 1403, indicating a 57 percent increase compared to a year earlier, and 72 percent in comparison to 200 trillion rials (some 140 million dollars) in the past four years. This growth is about 31 percent higher than the country's average annual inflation rate.

The export of these nano-products consti-

tutes 10 percent of the sales, about 183 million dollars.

The sales value of domestically-manufactured nano-tech products over the past year is estimated to be around 1.8 million dollars based on the average daily dollar exchange rate.

The three main industrial sectors, including transportation, civil engineering, and nanomaterials, had the highest share of the market, respectively.

More than a quarter of the country's secondary market for nanotechnology products is related to the automotive and transportation sectors.

Global status in traditional medicine

According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), Iran ranks third in traditional medicine trials in the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), highlighting the country's status as one of the world's pioneers in traditional and complementary medicine.

China and India rank first and second, respectively, the health ministry's website reported.

The share of clinical trials in traditional and complementary medicine in Iran makes up about three percent of all clinical trials registered in the country, while just about 0.3 percent of the healthcare staff are experts in traditional and complementary medicine. The report shows the high capacity of Iranian researchers to move towards evidence-based medicine.

Iranian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

It is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sauda). The concept of the four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

So far, about 30,000 plant species have been identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species, which is more than the whole number of species found in Europe.

Around 500 Persian medicine experts are providing health and medical treatment services across the country.

More than 1,000 general practitioners who have passed the Persian medicine courses approved by the health ministry are also offering services.

Currently, nine faculties of Persian medicine enroll students in the country's universities.

Training Persian medicine experts has always been at the top of the Persian medicine office's agenda. Therefore, different skill courses have been developed and held under the supervision of the health ministry.

During the closing ceremony of the second World Health Organization (WHO) Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, Iran pledged commitments to advance the implementation of the Global Strategy for Traditional Medicine 2025-2034.

Co-organized by the WHO and the Government of India, the second global Summit on Traditional Medicine was held from December 17 to 19, 2025, in New Delhi, under the theme 'Restoring Balance: The science and practice of health and well-being'.

The head of the health ministry's traditional medicine office, Hossein Rezaeizadeh, the advisor to the health ministry's traditional medicine office, Arman Zargarani, and the ambassador to India, Mohammad Fathali, attended the event.

Iran's five commitments include launching a WHO collaborating center, launching a national platform for clinical trials, strengthening research and evidence, publishing in reputable journals, compiling five standard operating procedures (SOPs) for specialized Persian procedures, and integrating traditional medicine into the health system, the health ministry's website reported.

During the ceremony, 26 other member states and 60 non-governmental centers, approved by the WHO, announced their commitments.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you are greeted then return the greetings more warmly. If you are favored, then repay the obligation manifold; but he who takes the initiative will always excel in merit.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon: 12:09 Evening: 19:44 Dawn: 3:12 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:56 (tomorrow)

Ramallah Arts Festival returns for first time since Gaza war

Ramallah's Contemporary Arts Festival, one of the largest in the occupied West Bank, began on Monday for the first time since the war in Gaza shut down most cultural activities there.

Khaled Aliyan, the festival's director, said that the festival had returned "after a forced two-year suspension due to the genocidal war on the Gaza Strip."

Aliyan said the festival, previously limited to contemporary dance, had expanded to include Palestinian artists from all fields.

Art, theater, and film festivals that had previously been held in Ramallah and other parts of the West Bank came to a halt amid escalating violence, Israeli military raids, and attacks by Israeli settlers after October 2023.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967.

"Culture and art historically play an important and distinctive role in our struggle ... because they reflect our identity and reinforce our role as a Palestinian society," Aliyan added.

The festival began on Monday at Ramallah's Cultural Palace with a showing of *Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyyah*, a musical play.

Based on an Arabic poem of the same name, the play tells the story of the Banu Hilal tribe, a subject of one of the most famous

Arab folk epics.

The Khashabi Theater, a Palestinian acting company based in Haifa in northern Israel, performed the play for the first time in the Palestinian territories after touring Europe.

Ola Hanna attended the opening performance with her family from the Arab town of Rameh in northern Israel.

She said she hoped Palestinian cultural life would return to what it was before the war in Gaza.

"Without music and joy, for me there is no life," she said.

The festival will continue until July 16, featuring 48 artists and artistic groups, including dance, theater, circus performances, and video art.

The festival will also host the Palestine Arts Forum, bringing together 22 artists, cultural programmers and arts institutions from 15 countries.

Art critic Youssef Al-Shayeb told AFP that hosting such a large festival with a diverse program of contemporary performing arts, despite the hardships of life in the Palestinian territories, was an achievement.

"Simply continuing life is, in itself, an act of resistance," he added, pointing to settler violence, increased checkpoints, and Israeli military operations in the West Bank.

Cartoon of Day



Still Beaten
 Cartoonist: Yau Yiu Ting from Hong Kong

Art, cultural programs held across Tehran for Martyr Leader

TEHRAN – Deputy for Artistic Affairs of the Tehran Municipality's Arts and Cultural Organization, Mohammad Khorasanizadeh, explained a series of literary, visual arts, musical, and theatrical programs that were held alongside the farewell and funeral ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in Tehran from Saturday to Monday.

"We sought to ensure that art in these historic days would not merely serve a decorative role, but would instead become the people's language for expressing their emotions, devotion, loyalty, and renewed commitment to the Martyr Leader," he was quoted as saying by Mehr.

"To this end, a collection of artistic events was designed and carried out across different parts of the city, particularly along the route of the farewell ceremony and funeral procession. These programs were organized with the participation of the specialized departments of the Deputy for Artistic Affairs within the Tehran Municipality's Arts and Cultural Organization, with each initiative aiming to preserve and immortalize a part of the people's emotions and narratives during these historic days," he added.

He stated that the creation of graffiti artworks focusing on resistance, the Martyr Leader, and the epic spirit of the Iranian people along the funeral route was carried out by the Iranian House of Cartoon. In addition, a group of visual artists gathered at Valiasr Square to create live paintings and portrait drawings of the Martyr Leader, an initiative managed by the Organization's House of Visual Arts.

Khorasanizadeh noted that the literary event "The Last Meeting" was jointly organized by the House of Literary Creations of the Tehran Municipality's Arts and Cultural Organization and the Art Bureau at Imam Khomeini Mosaalla. This unprecedented event brought together approximately



300 poets from Iran and other countries, who continuously recited elegiac poetry in mourning for the Martyr Leader over a 48-hour period in the Mosalla's main prayer hall.

Regarding musical productions, he explained that the House of Musical Creations produced and released a number of musical works specifically for the occasion, contributing its artistic voice to narrating this historic event by offering compositions reflecting mourning, heroism, and resistance.

Khorasanizadeh further stated that stage performances—including regional folk music, tazieh (passion plays), children's and youth choirs, religious eulogies, and theatrical performances—were organized by the House of Theater at Valiasr Square and other designated locations, where they were welcomed by the public.

Responding to the interactive art project "The Oath," which was created through public participation using images of clenched fists, Khorasanizadeh explained: "This artwork was designed and implemented through the direct

participation of the public. Hundreds of participants attending the farewell and funeral ceremonies for the Martyr Leader contributed by recording images of their own clenched fists. These digital images were then assembled into a single five-meter-wide portrait depicting the clenched fist of the Martyr Leader. The work symbolizes the people's solidarity, loyalty, and renewed pledge to the ideals of the Martyr Leader. Its defining characteristic was that the public were not merely viewers of the artwork—they became an integral part of its creation."

Referring to the strong public reception of the artistic activities along the funeral route, he added that the enthusiastic participation of citizens alongside artists and their engagement with the works demonstrated that art remains one of the most effective means of expressing collective emotions and preserving historic moments.

Khorasanizadeh also highlighted other initiatives held during this period, including participation in a visual arts event, the storytelling program "Farewell to the Sun," and the public

narrative campaign "Me and My Martyr Leader," each sought to document and preserve people's emotions, memories, and personal accounts of the Martyr Leader through various artistic and cultural forms.

He further emphasized that the activities extended far beyond the central farewell and funeral ceremonies. Simultaneously with this historic occasion, cultural centers, arts centers, galleries, and institutions affiliated to the Tehran Municipality's Arts and Cultural Organization hosted specialized artistic events across Tehran. Artists throughout the city paid tribute to the Martyr Leader and interpreted this historic event through visual arts, literature, theater, and music.

In conclusion, Khorasanizadeh said: "What took place during these days was not simply a collection of cultural programs, but an artistic effort to document a historic event and to fulfill the artistic community's duty toward the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution. During these days, art demonstrated its ability to preserve, document, and immortalize the collective memory of a nation."

Artists from Iran, Lebanon, Yemen create mural in Tehran



TEHRAN - Coinciding with the farewell and funeral ceremonies of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the international event "Abna al-Sayyid" (children of the Sayyid) was held in

Tehran, organized by the Art Bureau.

During the two-day event, held on Saturday and Sunday at the Vali-e Asr junction, artists from Iran, Lebanon, Yemen created a mural titled "And Allah will surely support those who support Him," to depict their grief and devotion to the Martyr Leader and the cultural and artistic solidarity of the Resistance Front, Mehr reported.

The event was conducted in collaboration with the "Bil-Ruhiyya" (With the Spirit) art group, which was formed following the martyrdom of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, and has since created numerous works on the walls across Lebanon.

The group consists of artists who have dedicated their art to the martyrs and to raising awareness about them. Graffiti was chosen as their medium because it has a direct

presence among the people, aligning perfectly with their professional backgrounds in graphic design and painting.

Now, nearly two years since the group's formation, the streets and alleys of Lebanon are filled with murals bearing the "Bil-Ruhiyya" signature. These wall paintings and graphics largely focus on the faces or quotes of the martyrs—phrases that have since found their place among the people and even become symbols.

The artists participating in the "Abna al-Sayyid" event included Kamal Sharaf from Yemen, Rida Kassir, Mohammad Attieh, Ayman Jaber, Hawraa Kobayssi, Ahmad EL-Hajj, Sara Ismail, Fatma EL-Shami, Hassan Fneich, and Hussein Kassir from Lebanon, and Mohammad Reza Doust-Mohammadi, Ali Hayati, Saber Sheikh-Rezaei, and Mikaeil Barati from Iran.

Iranian singer Mostafa Ragheb facilitates release of 10 inmates of unintentional crimes in Yazd

TEHRAN- In observance of the mourning period of Muharram, renowned Iranian singer Mostafa Ragheb has donated four billion rials (approximately \$2,300) to facilitate the release of 10 prisoners convicted of unintentional crimes in Yazd.

Ragheb has participated in the campaign to free inmates of unintentional crimes for four consecutive years, IRNA reported on Monday.

This philanthropic act highlights the artist's commitment to social responsibility and his support for underprivileged families, establishing a noble tradition for the singer during the month of Muharram, the report added.

Since 2023, Ragheb has helped secure the release of 35 needy prisoners through his contributions. As part of his ongoing efforts, he has launched the "Bazm-e Eshgh" campaign, inviting his fans and supporters to join



this humanitarian movement and contribute to the release of more prisoners.

Furthermore, the artist previously dedicated all proceeds from the signing event of one of his albums, held in Yazd province, to the cause of freeing non-intentional crime prisoners.

The practice of securing the release of prisoners, particularly those convicted of non-intentional crimes, is a deeply rooted social and religious tradition in Iran. Such philanthropic efforts often peak during sacred periods, most notably in the months of Muharram and Ramadan, when a wide range of individuals—from prominent public figures and artists to ordinary citizens—come together to settle blood money payments. These gestures of mercy are widely viewed as an expression of the values of sacrifice and compassion that characterize these holy months, reinforcing social cohesion and humanitarian support across the country.