

The West Bank: Between neglect and settlement expansion

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – As the region is engulfed by wars and fast-moving developments that are difficult for observers to keep up with, attention to what is happening in the West Bank has steadily declined. Public interest has waned.

First, it is essential to understand what has unfolded on the ground in the occupied West Bank since October 7, 2023.

At least 1,200 Palestinians have been killed, 12,600 more have sustained injuries ▶ Page 5

Iranian students win gold, silver medals at IPhO 2026

TEHRAN – The five-member team of Iranian students has demonstrated a remarkable achievement, garnering three gold medals and two silver medals at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO).

Held from July 4 to 12 in Bucaramanga, Colombia, the IPhO 2026 brought together over 400 students from more than 90 countries, Javanonline.ir reported.

Hirbod Foudazi, Kian Zarrabian, and Mohammad Mirmohammadi secured gold medals, while Amir-Sam Goharpey and Nima Koushki won silver medals.

The primary goal of IPhO is to examine, to the highest level, the knowledge, analytical skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in theoretical and experimental physics. ▶ Page 7

VP attending OIC ministerial conference on women

TEHRAN – Zahra Behrouz-Azar, the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, is participating in the ninth Ministerial Conference on Women of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) being held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on July 12 and 13.

Titled “Socio-Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Countries: Challenges and Way Forward”, the conference has brought together some 190 delegates from the 57 OIC member states.

The conference aims to boost cooperation among member states on women's empowerment by enhancing greater socio-economic and political participation across OIC member countries. ▶ Page 7

A chicken hawk named ‘Lady G’ and the innocent lives spent to feed his imperial sadism

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The announcement blamed sudden cardiac arrest on July 11, 2026, but the heart inside Lindsey Graham had withered into an instrument of imperial sadism decades ago.

Returning to his Capitol Hill home from a weapons-peddling trip to Kyiv, the 71-year-old senator from South Carolina collapsed and “died suddenly” in his room.

For decades, Graham forecast that “the days were numbered” for the Islamic Republic of Iran, for Cuba, and for any sovereign nation resisting the American-Israeli imperium.

In a pristine twist of historical irony, his biological timeline expired first, leaving his targets to witness his exit. ▶ Page 5



Smoke rises after Iranian missiles struck a U.S. military base in the Al-Mina area of Kuwait, July 12, 2026.

Hormuz Locked: Iran Crushes US Military Might

The Iranian authority overseeing the Strait of Hormuz said the strategic waterway has been closed to all maritime traffic following recent “illegal movements” by the US military.

TEHRAN – The continuous military strikes executed by the United States against Iran in blatant violation of the recent interim agreement mark yet another severe miscalculation in Washington's historically hostile approach toward the Islamic Republic.

The US military's Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that it had targeted approximately 140 sites in Sunday's waves of strikes, hitting several southern coastal installations, missile and drone launch positions, ammunition depots, and critical communications infrastructure. Loud explosions echoed across the strategic southern port cities of Bandar Abbas, Sirik, Chabahar, Bandar-e Deyr, Jask, and Asaluyeh. Local media confirmed that an Iranian navy officer was martyred during the early morning

aggression. While CENTCOM claimed the strikes were launched in response to an Iranian operation against a commercial vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, the reality on the ground reflects a desperate superpower unable to enforce its dictates.

In a swift and crushing retaliation, the Iranian Armed Forces launched precise counter-strikes targeting US military installations spread across Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman, while simultaneously declaring the strategic Strait of Hormuz closed until further notice.

The Iranian authority controlling the

Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf said on Sunday the waterway is closed to all transit following recent “illegal movements” by US military forces in the region.

In a brief announcement on its X account, the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) said passage through the Strait of Hormuz is currently unavailable.

In a statement released early Sunday, the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) declared that the United States had sought to “once again test what has already been tested.” The IRGC noted that Washington attempted to impose its will on the Omani government and deliberately provoked regional tensions through the illegal movement of several warships south of the Strait of Hormuz. ▶ Page 3

Iran tightens control over Strait of Hormuz, suspending maritime traffic

TEHRAN – Iran has suspended maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and intensified its control over the world's most strategically important energy corridor, accusing the United States of violating the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by attempting to impose unauthorized navigation routes and interfering in the waterway's administration.

The developments mark the sharpest escalation yet in the maritime dispute between Tehran and Washington since the end of the recent US-Israeli war against Iran, with Iranian military and civilian authorities insisting that responsibility for managing navigation through the strait rests exclusively with Iran under the bilateral understanding reached in Islamabad. ▶ Page 2

Technology promotion, focus of industrial units reconstruction

TEHRAN- The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade said: The Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, simultaneously with the reconstruction of industrial units, pursues modernization and technology promotion based on state-of-the-art knowledge and the training of specialized managers.

According to the Mehr News Agency, citing the Majlis (Parliament) News Agency, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, regarding the plan of major industries for attracting elites, ▶ Page 4

The MoU is dead, the real war resumes

By Kurosh Alyani

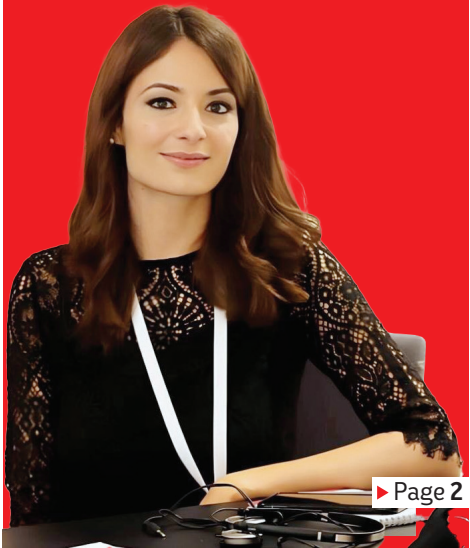
TEHRAN – The most important event of the past two days was not the attacks on commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf. It was the collapse of the political framework that had temporarily restrained military escalation.

Once the United States proved either unable or unwilling to fulfill its commitments under the MoU, the document ceased to exist as a strategic instrument. Agreements do not survive because they are signed; they survive because they shape behavior. Once they no longer constrain behavior, they become historical artifacts rather than political realities.

This is the context in which the recent attacks in the Persian Gulf should be understood.

Most observers will focus on the immediate questions: Which tanker was struck? What weapon was used? Who was responsible? These are tactical questions. Strategy begins one level higher. ▶ Page 3

Hormuz remains Iran's single most potent lever against US, says SpecialEurasia director



▶ Page 2



Iranians believe the martyrdom of Leader will awaken Islamic world

TEHRAN – Mourners in Iran have gathered in public places in cities, squares, and mosques to mourn the martyrdom of their leader and demand revenge against those responsible for his martyrdom. They also believe that the event will bring unity and awakening among Muslims.

The head of the Iranian Army's Ideological-Political Organization said on Sunday that the martyrdom of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution could strengthen resistance, unity, and Islamic awakening across the Muslim world, describing the event as one of the most consequential developments of the contemporary era. ▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Responding to enemy attacks with heavy blows to US strategic infrastructure

Kayhan dedicated an article to the recent US attacks on Iran's infrastructure. It wrote that the terrorist US military has continued its aggressive strikes on Iran, targeting not only coastal infrastructure along the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and southern islands, but also two corridor points in Iran's northeast. Iran must not tolerate continued attacks on its infrastructure and should impose painful consequences on the enemy. Striking essential US and allied infrastructure is the only effective deterrent against further attacks. While targeting US bases in Bahrain and Kuwait is described as positive, Kayhan insists it is not sufficient on its own. These seemingly civilian infrastructures have long supported US and Israeli operations since the 12-day war. The piece concludes that although the US, Israel, and Europe have a regional plan, Iran's deterrent and punitive actions—such as the 40-day war—will defeat it.

Iran: A special message to the United States

The Iran newspaper interviewed Sabah Zangeneh, former Iranian ambassador and OIC representative, about the large Iraqi turnout at the funeral of Iran's Leader. One of the key messages of this event was directed at the United States. The ceremony demonstrated that Ayatollah Khamenei's social, cultural, and political standing in the region is far greater than some US political circles assume. The main message is the emphasis on the unifying capacity of nations and the importance of mutual respect among states. If some governments have misjudged Iran's position and the role of its leaders, Zangeneh says this is an opportunity to revise their views and move toward mutual understanding. Regional stability will only emerge when dialogue, cooperation, and respect replace confrontation, pressure, and destabilizing actions.

Etemad: Redefining the regional balance of power

Political analyst Gholamreza Karimi spoke with Etemad about the nature of the latest US attacks on southern Iran. He argues these strikes cannot be seen merely as an immediate reaction to recent incidents. Instead, he calls them “a turning point in a long-term strategic competition.” The core issue is not a few tankers but control over the world's most important energy chokepoint—the Strait of Hormuz—and the rules governing the Persian Gulf. From Washington's perspective, Iran's insistence on maximum control over the Strait after the recent understanding created conditions for a new round of attacks, leading to a broad military response across five Iranian provinces. Karimi describes this as a “strategic warning” meant to raise the cost of any unilateral

Iranian action. Tehran and Washington are both trying to redefine the regional power equation, and the current confrontation is part of a prolonged struggle over Iran's place in the Persian Gulf security order.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Entering an era of developmental deterrence through smart governance

Ehsan Chitsaz, deputy for ICT development policy at the Ministry of Communications, explained the concept of “developmental deterrence” in an interview with Arman-e-Emrooz. He argues that Iran must move beyond defensive deterrence and enter a new phase: deterrence through development. This means the enemy must understand that Iran is resilient not only against military attack but also against sanctions, technological warfare, financial pressure, cognitive warfare, supply-chain disruption, and data isolation. Iran has reached a level of missile, drone, cyber, intelligence, and human-capital capability that dramatically increases the cost of aggression. But deterrence is not produced by missiles alone—it is the product of universities, laboratories, knowledge-based companies, industry, engineers, scientists, and human capital. The mission now is to turn security into an investment and technology into public welfare. Investment in science and technology must become the top national priority, and AI should be deployed across health, energy, agriculture, education, industry, and governance.

Sazandegi: The fragility of the understanding

Sazandegi, in an article examining why the recent understanding between Iran and the United States is fragile, writes that the Tehran-Washington arrangement is less a stable mechanism for peace and more a tool for crisis management. In the United States, the rapid shifts in Donald Trump's positions, along with the influence of domestic political competition, congressional pressure, and electoral considerations, have made Washington's behavior difficult to predict. On the other side, Iran faces its own challenges: redefining its command structure and responding to internal pressures to retaliate against foreign attacks — factors that can shape strategic decision-making. Beyond these internal dynamics, external actors will also play a decisive role. The degree of coordination between Israel and the United States, the stance of China and Russia regarding the continuation of the understanding, and the economic consequences of the crisis — especially for global energy markets and the security of the Strait of Hormuz — will all influence the future of the agreement. The article concludes that as the economic costs of tension rise, regional and global powers will have stronger incentives to maintain diplomatic channels.

Future defense capability depends on advanced technologies, Iran says

TEHRAN- The deputy commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force said the country's future defense capability will depend more than ever on knowledge, innovation, and advanced technologies, stressing the military's support for cutting-edge projects in artificial intelligence, smart systems, and indigenous technologies.

Brigadier General Mohammad Yousefi Khosh-Ghalb made the remarks during a visit on Sunday to the Army's training center in Tehran,

During the visit, the deputy commander toured an exhibition showcasing scientific achievements at the training center, reviewing research projects, inventions, and technological innovations developed by engineers.

Khosh-Ghalb described talented young personnel as one of Iran's most valuable national assets, saying their scientific and intellectual potential plays a vital role in ad-



vancing technology, strengthening self-reliance, and enhancing the country's defense capabilities.

Iran tightens control over Strait of Hormuz, suspending maritime traffic

TEHRAN - Iran has suspended maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and intensified its control over the world's most strategically important energy corridor, accusing the United States of violating the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by attempting to impose unauthorized navigation routes and interfering in the waterway's administration.

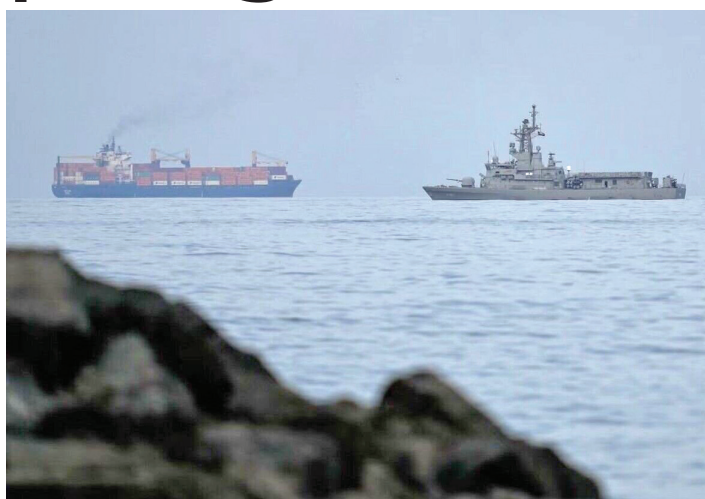
The developments mark the sharpest escalation yet in the maritime dispute between Tehran and Washington since the end of the recent US-Israeli war against Iran, with Iranian military and civilian authorities insisting that responsibility for managing navigation through the strait rests exclusively with Iran under the bilateral understanding reached in Islamabad.

Speaking on state television on Sunday, Iranian Army spokesperson Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia said the United States had once again demonstrated ‘a longstanding pattern of failing to honor its international commitments,’ comparing the current dispute with Washington's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement and ‘violations of the recent ceasefire arrangement.’

Akraminia said the Islamabad MoU explicitly assigns Iran responsibility for organizing transit and navigation arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz and obliges the Iranian Armed Forces to ensure the security of maritime passage.

“The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are obligated to provide the necessary security for passage through the Strait of Hormuz and to implement the arrangements stipulated under the agreement,” he said, adding that Iran would firmly defend the rights granted to it under the memorandum.

He accused Washington of attempting to establish an unauthorized maritime corridor south of the Strait of Hormuz in violation of the agreement, warning that such actions undermine regional stability and threaten the interests of the Persian Gulf littoral states.



Reflecting Tehran's position, Akraminia said Iran has strengthened its oversight of the Strait of Hormuz following the recent US-Israeli military campaign against the country, arguing that protecting navigation through the strategic chokepoint has become an essential element of safeguarding regional security after the conflict.

The spokesman also warned that Iran's Armed Forces had used the ceasefire period to enhance operational readiness, saying the military's “target bank has been updated” and remains prepared for all scenarios. He added that previous attacks on Iranian islands, coastal facilities, and military positions had always been met with retaliation and warned Washington against further intervention in the region.

The military statements came as the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy announced the suspension of all traffic through the Strait of Hormuz until further notice and until the ‘end of American military intervention in the region.’

In a statement issued early Sunday, the IRGC said repeated warnings had been ignored after several vessels attempted to transit the strait through routes not approved by Iranian authorities. According to the statement, one vessel that allegedly disabled its tracking systems and ignored repeated warnings was halted by a warning fire.

The IRGC said the suspension

of navigation was a direct response to ‘foreign interference in maritime traffic management’ and warned that any further military action by the United States would trigger broader retaliation against additional American military bases across the region.

In a separate statement later Sunday, the IRGC announced that a second vessel accused of violating navigation regulations had also been intercepted during retaliatory operations following ‘continued US attacks on Iranian coastal military facilities.’

The Guards also added that ballistic missiles struck the US Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, targeting facilities used for aircraft maintenance and command-and-control operations, while warning that any continuation of US-Israeli military action would provoke stronger responses.

Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Affairs Authority (PGSA) subsequently confirmed that all transit through the Strait of Hormuz had been suspended until further notice, citing ‘illegal movements by US military forces in the region.’

The authority said transit applications would be reviewed only after stability is restored and reminded shipping companies that passage permits can be obtained exclusively through the official Iranian maritime administration.

Iranian officials maintain that the tighter controls are part of

a broader security framework introduced after the recent war with the United States and Israel. Tehran has argued that the conflict fundamentally altered the security environment in the Persian Gulf and made stronger supervision of maritime traffic necessary to ensure safe navigation through the strategic waterway.

The latest military measures come as Tehran and Muscat continue diplomatic efforts to establish long-term arrangements for navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi agreed during talks in Muscat to continue political, legal, and technical consultations aimed at developing a common framework for ensuring the security and safety of navigation through the strait.

According to Baqaei, legal and technical delegations from both countries discussed future mechanisms for administering maritime traffic while respecting the sovereign rights of the two coastal states, applicable international law, and Article 5 of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.

He said Iran believes that any future framework governing navigation in the Strait of Hormuz must be developed exclusively through consultations between the two littoral states and should reflect the security realities that emerged after the recent US-Israeli war against Iran.

The spokesman added that representatives of Qatar participated in part of the discussions, reflecting Doha's continuing role in facilitating indirect contacts between Tehran and Washington.

The parallel diplomatic negotiations underscore Tehran's effort to combine military deterrence with regional diplomacy as it seeks to establish a new security architecture for one of the world's busiest maritime chokepoints following the recent conflict.

Hormuz remains Iran's single most potent lever against US, says SpecialEurasia director

“Trump's behavior is more consistent with coercive bargaining than deliberate rupture”

TEHRAN - The Strait of Hormuz remains Iran's most valuable asymmetric leverage against Washington, but repeated disruption of traffic through the waterway carries a rising cost, including damage to China, Iran's top oil customer, and a stronger push by coastal and Turkey toward pipeline alternatives that could erode the chokepoint's strategic value, according to Silvia Boltuc, the Managing Director of SpecialEurasia.

Speaking to the Tehran Times, the international affairs specialist and business consultant addressed the wider collapse of the US-Iran memorandum of understanding (MoU), hours after American strikes hit Iranian territory on July 8, 2026. She said the open-source record does not establish Washington's intent with certainty but does establish a pattern consistent with a “pretext” reading.

She argued that Iran's tanker strikes, carried out July 7, occurred at the most legally ambiguous point in the MoU: the document, finalized June 17-18, required reopening Hormuz without resolving who controls passage, leaving both sides free to blame the other for breaking the deal first.

She pointed to Trump's language calling the talks a “waste of time” and Iranian officials “sick people” — remarks made July 8 at the NATO summit in Ankara (July 7-8) — arguing this reads less like reluctant abandonment than an attempt to project power and push Tehran toward negotiation over escalation.

A US official reportedly said Trump's decision was shaped partly by irritation at being upstaged by the July 7 tanker strikes, alongside frustration over Tehran's slow-walking of nuclear talks, said the director of the Rome-based geopolitical intelligence firm. Even so, she noted, Washington calibrated its response,



striking the nights of July 7-8 and 8-9 then pausing, while Trump kept talks open on July 8 even as he declared the ceasefire “over” — behavior more consistent with coercive bargaining than deliberate rupture.

On the nuclear file, Boltuc pushed back on the premise that Washington ever committed to collecting Iran's enriched uranium, adding Article 8 of the June 17-18 MoU only commits both sides to resolving the stockpile's disposition through a mutually agreed mechanism, with on-site down-blending under IAEA supervision as baseline — dilution inside Iran, not confiscation.

“What has shifted is Trump's rhetoric: from insisting in early May 2026 that Iran must hand over the material even if unusable, to telling reporters in early June that Washington didn't need a deal to get it, to declaring on June 17, at the G7

summit the same day the MoU was finalized, that Washington was in no rush to retrieve uranium already buried,” the specialist explained.

“That swing within six weeks, absent any new technical finding, suggests the narrative mobilized domestic and allied audiences rather than reflecting a fixed requirement,” Boltuc said, adding Iran “should treat Washington's nuclear red lines as elastic, not fixed.”

Asked whether Israel drove Washington's decision to abandon the MoU, Boltuc distinguished between Lebanon, where Israeli obstruction is documented, and the July 7-10 Hormuz episode, where such evidence is weaker. She cited a Jerusalem Post report and denials from US and Israeli officials that Israel joined that round, noting the July 7 tanker strikes stemmed from Iran's own jurisdictional dispute with Washington.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Hormuz locked: Iran crushes US military might

TEHRAN - The continuous military strikes executed by the United States against Iran in blatant violation of the recent interim agreement mark yet another severe miscalculation in Washington's historically hostile approach toward the Islamic Republic.

The US military's Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that it had targeted approximately 140 sites in Sunday's waves of strikes, hitting several southern coastal installations, missile and drone launch positions, ammunition depots, and critical communications infrastructure. Loud explosions echoed across the strategic southern port cities of Bandar Abbas, Sirik, Chabahar, Bandar-e Deyr, Jask, and Asaluyeh. Local media confirmed that an Iranian navy officer was martyred during the early morning aggression. While CENTCOM claimed the strikes were launched in response to an Iranian operation against a commercial vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, the reality on the ground reflects a desperate superpower unable to enforce its dictates.

In a swift and crushing retaliation, the Iranian Armed Forces launched precise counter-strikes targeting US military installations spread across Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman, while simultaneously declaring the strategic Strait of Hormuz closed until further notice.

The Iranian authority controlling the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf said on Sunday the waterway is closed to all transit following recent "illegal movements" by US military forces in the region.

In a brief announcement on its X account, the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) said passage through the Strait of Hormuz is currently unavailable.

In a statement released early Sunday, the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) declared that the United States had sought to "once again test what has already been tested." The IRGC noted that Washington attempted to impose its will on the Omani government and deliberately provoked regional tensions through the illegal movement of several warships south of the Strait of Hormuz. According to the IRGC, its Aerospace Force successfully struck key American military infrastructure at Jordan's Prince Hassan Air Base during the opening phase of the retaliatory operation. In a subsequent statement, the IRGC confirmed that a second offending foreign vessel violating maritime regulations in the Strait of Hormuz was struck and brought to a definitive halt, warning: "The American-Zionist enemy should know that the continuation of its aggression will bring even more crushing responses."

Concurrently, the Iranian Army's Public Relations Office announced it had deployed waves of self-destructive drones against US military assets in Kuwait and Bahrain in response to aggression in southern Iran. The Army detailed that its precision drones successfully targeted a Patriot air defense system, a primary ammunition depot, and a tactical radar site operated by the US military in Kuwait. A second wave hit a critical US military communications hub and radar installation in Bahrain. The Army explicitly warned that full responsibility for the consequences of these hostilities and the resulting insecurity in the region rests squarely



with the "American-Zionist enemy," emphasizing that any repeat of these missteps would be met with far more severe responses.

These fresh US attacks stand in clear violation of the 14-point memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between Tehran and Washington on June 17, which explicitly called for a permanent end to hostilities on all fronts and committed both sides to final agreement negotiations within 60 days. Under Article 5 of that very agreement, the US had officially accepted Iranian management of the Strait of Hormuz in collaboration with regional neighbors. Merchant vessels can only transit the strategic waterway through direct coordination with Iran—a reality established since the US and Israel launched their broader war of aggression on February 28.

Fars News Agency reported on Sunday evening that Iran launched three ballistic missiles toward the Al Mina area in Kuwait, targeting the launch site of US ATACMS missiles. According to the reports, three US soldiers were killed in the strike.

That war, which was briefly paused by a Pakistani-mediated ceasefire on April 8, saw the US-Israeli axis martyr thousands of Iranian citizens, the vast majority of whom were civilians, alongside the initial martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and senior military commanders. In response to that initial aggression, Iran executed 100 waves of drone and missile strikes that dealt severe blows to US military infrastructure. The subsequent enforcement of Iran's sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz triggered soaring global fuel prices and inflation, driving Donald Trump's domestic popularity to near-record lows and forcing him to accept the April 8 truce. Trump's recent claims that the ceasefire outlined in the June MoU is "over"—while simultaneously trying to keep the door open for talks—only highlight the erratic nature of his administration's foreign policy.

While the original US-Israeli war goals were aimed at decimating Iran's military might and forcibly altering the country's leadership, senior global officials, alongside admissions in US and Israeli media, have widely described Iran as the definitive strategic winner of the conflict. Washington completely failed to forcibly reopen the

waterway during 39 days of active warfare, and it failed to dictate terms at the negotiating table. The latest round of strikes indicates that the US is repeating its historical miscalculations, vainly attempting to dominate the strategic strait through raw force.

As Mohsen Rezaee, an adviser to Iran's Leader, observed, the Strait of Hormuz remains "one of the vital components of the country's deterrence and plays a decisive role in ensuring security and national interests." Rezaee firmly added, "Hormuz acts as a strategic deterrent, and Iran will protect the country's interests and security by relying on its defense capabilities and national strength."

The volatile escalation of threats and unilateral actions by Trump represents a transparent attempt to mask a profound strategic crisis, offering bombastic rhetoric to divert global attention from Washington's tangible failures on both the battlefield and the diplomatic stage.

By authorizing fresh strikes and declaring the ceasefire void, the US president is actively trying to gloss over the reality that his administration has been decisively defeated in its military objectives. The failure of the US military to force open the Strait of Hormuz during the height of the conflict, coupled with the immediate and devastating precision of the IRGC and Iranian Army counter-strikes against American regional bases, has completely shattered the myth of Western conventional supremacy. Trump's reliance on theatrical bellicosity underscores a desperate effort to control the domestic political narrative as the economic fallout of the war—manifested in rampant domestic inflation and soaring energy costs—erodes his political survival at home.

Diplomatically, the immediate US violation of the June 17 memorandum of understanding exposes the structural bankruptcy of Washington's statecraft. Rather than operating from a position of strength, Trump's sudden pivot back to force reveals a total inability to secure concessions through legitimate diplomacy, rendering US signatures meaningless in the eyes of the international community. Tehran's disciplined enforcement of exact reciprocity has effectively trapped Western planners in an asymmetric dilemma where every act of aggression is met with immediate, cost-inflicting countermeasures against American infrastructure. Trump has failed to realize that empty threats and localized airstrikes can neither erase the strategic victory achieved by Iran nor alter the permanently shifted balance of power in West Asia, where the limits of US-Zionist military coercion have been fundamentally exposed.

people would remain "unconquerable" despite continued US-Israeli aggression, reaffirming its support for Tehran and backing Iran's right to defend itself.

In a statement on Sunday, the Yemeni Foreign Ministry said the continuation of US-Israeli aggression against Iran would fail to achieve its objectives and instead harm the attackers as well as the global economy.

The ministry said it supported Iran's "full right" to defend itself and to target US interests, adding that Yemen stood alongside Iran under the "unity of fronts" framework.

It said the two countries maintained ongoing coordination over regional developments and that Yemen had additional options it could employ if necessary.

Iran reports zero security incidents at massive funeral rallies for late leader

Iran's Deputy Interior Minister Ali Akbar Pourjamshidian confirmed that funeral processions for the late Leader concluded without any security breaches, despite extreme heat exceeding 45 C and active terrorist threats. He credited intelligence agencies for neutralizing potential plots by Takfiri groups. The ceremonies, held across Iran and Iraq, drew tens of millions of mourners. Health emergencies remained minimal, marking an unprecedented logistical success.

Yemen reiterates support for Iran
Yemen's government says that the Iranian

The MoU is dead, the real war resumes

By Kurosh Alyani
TEHRAN - The most important event of the past two days was not the attacks on commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf. It was the collapse of the political framework that had temporarily restrained military escalation.

Once the United States proved either unable or unwilling to fulfill its commitments under the MoU, the document ceased to exist as a strategic instrument. Agreements do not survive because they are signed; they survive because they shape behavior. Once they no longer constrain behavior, they become historical artifacts rather than political realities.

This is the context in which the recent attacks in the Persian Gulf should be understood.

Most observers will focus on the immediate questions: Which tanker was struck? What weapon was used? Who was responsible? These are tactical questions. Strategy begins one level higher.

The real issue is whether the center of gravity of the conflict has shifted from destroying military assets to continuously increasing the cost of maintaining the American-led security architecture in the region.

For a long period, Washington has relied on the assumption that it could guarantee freedom of navigation while imposing strategic pressure on Iran at relatively low cost. That assumption is now under sustained attack. Every damaged tanker, every increase in insurance premiums, every additional naval deployment, every adjustment in commercial shipping routes represents a small but cumulative erosion of that model.

This is not a strategy designed to produce a dramatic battlefield victory. It is designed to alter the strategic equation through accumulation. The objective is not to sink fleets. The objective is to make the existing security order progressively more expensive, less predictable, and ultimately less sustainable.

The purpose, however, extends beyond imposing costs. Attrition is a means, not an end. The strategic destination is the emergence of a new regional order in which security is no longer guaranteed by extra-regional military dominance but by an equilibrium centered on Iran. In classical terms, one might describe this objective as the gradual emergence of a Pax Iranica: not peace through the uncontested supremacy of a distant empire, but stability built upon the recognition that no durable security architecture can exist in West Asia against Iran or without Iran.

Whether this order ultimately remains regional or evolves into a broader principle affecting the international system is a separate question. Yet from Tehran's perspective, every incremental increase in the cost of preserving the existing order simultaneously reduces the cost of constructing a new one.

That distinction is critical.
The effectiveness of this approach should



not be measured by explosions at sea, but by changes inside Washington's decision-making process. Every time American policymakers are forced to allocate additional military resources, justify higher economic costs, reassure increasingly nervous regional partners, or reconsider the long-term viability of their posture in the Persian Gulf, the campaign has already achieved effects that cannot be measured in destroyed hardware alone.

This is why the death of the MoU matters far more than the attacks themselves.

The agreement represented an attempt to freeze the conflict before these long-term dynamics could mature. Once that mechanism disappeared, the conflict naturally returned to the arena where Iran has increasingly sought to compete: not through decisive battles, but through strategic attrition.

Many analysts continue to search for a decisive military confrontation that will determine the outcome. They are looking for another Desert Storm. They are likely to be disappointed.

The more plausible trajectory is a prolonged contest in which no single incident appears decisive. Yet, each one marginally increases the burden borne by Iran's adversaries while simultaneously making a Pax Iranica appear less like an ideological aspiration and more like a strategic necessity. Orders built on external military primacy rarely collapse in a single battle. They erode as their maintenance becomes prohibitively expensive and viable alternatives become increasingly unavoidable.

The strategic question, therefore, is no longer who controls the next engagement. It is who controls the pace at which costs accumulate.

If that pace is increasingly dictated by Iran rather than by its adversaries, then the balance of power is already changing. And if the long-term destination of that process is a Pax Iranica, history may eventually conclude that the decisive victories were not the spectacular battles that filled the headlines, but the countless incremental pressures that quietly reshaped the strategic landscape.

Doesn't this echo that stark Pulp Fiction line: "Z is dead, honey. Z is dead." The wishful thinking is over. Only the raw fear, desperate maneuvering, and attritional violence of the real war remain.

Iranians believe the martyrdom of Leader will awaken Islamic world

TEHRAN - Mourners in Iran have gathered in public places in cities, squares, and mosques to mourn the martyrdom of their leader and demand revenge against those responsible for his martyrdom. They also believe that the event will bring unity and awakening among Muslims.

The head of the Iranian Army's Ideological-Political Organization said on Sunday that the martyrdom of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution could strengthen resistance, unity, and Islamic awakening across the Muslim world, describing the event as one of the most consequential developments of the contemporary era.

Speaking at a memorial ceremony attended by senior commanders and personnel of the Iranian Navy Headquarters, Hojjatoleslam Abbas Mohammadhassani said the long-term impact of the assassination would become increasingly evident in the years ahead and would influence future developments across the Islamic world.

He said the widespread memorial ceremonies held in Iran and abroad demonstrated the late leader's spiritual influence and popularity among the Iranian people, Muslims, and supporters around the world.

Drawing a parallel with the aftermath of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), Mohammadhassani said the assassination of the martyred leader could catalyze strengthening the spirit of resistance, solidarity, and unity among Muslim nations.

He added that one of the late leader's strategic aspirations was the formation of a unified Islamic community, stressing that current circumstances require greater cooperation among Muslim countries and stronger support for the Axis of Resistance.

The senior cleric also warned of continuing security threats, economic pressure, and 'hybrid warfare against Iran,' calling for national unity, stronger defense preparedness, support for domestic production, and the implementation of resistance economy policies.

Meanwhile, mourning ceremonies for the martyred leader continued across Iran for another day. Large crowds gathered in Tehran, Rey, and Mashhad, while memorial services were also held in mosques across Shiraz, Isfahan, and Tabriz. Participants condemned the assassination and called for those responsible to be identified, punished, and avenged, as public commemorations continued nationwide.

UN Lebanon envoy meets Iranian FM to discuss ceasefire implementation

UN Special Envoy for Lebanon Jean Arnault met with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran on Sunday to discuss regional stabilization and the enforcement of a recent ceasefire framework. Arnault offered condolences over Iranian casualties from recent US-Israeli aggression and outlined UN efforts to consolidate the truce. Araghchi condemned US military strikes and Israeli operations against Lebanon, urging the UN to take a firm stance. He reaffirmed Iran's unwavering support for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Senior adviser says Iran remains in wartime despite ceasefire

A senior military adviser to Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution said Sunday that the country remains in a state of war despite the ceasefire and that all state institutions must maintain full operational readiness. Speaking at a memorial for the martyred Leader, Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi said recent US-Israeli attacks failed to weaken Iran, instead reinforcing national unity. He urged continued vigilance, stronger indigenous capabilities, and national cohesion, warning that external threats and attempts to sow internal divisions persist.

Pezeshkian pays tribute to former Qatari Emir's role in bilateral relations

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on

Maritime economy, lasting legacy of Martyr Leader

TEHRAN- Morteza Bakhtiari, President of Khorramshahr University of Marine Science and Technology, in an interview with Tasnim News Agency correspondent in Khorramshahr, referring to the strategic view of the Martyr Leader of the Revolution on science and technology, emphasized: For him, the university was not merely an educational institution, but a bastion of knowledge production and national progress.

He added: The Martyr Leader never allowed universities to deviate from their main path, which is nurturing researchers and solving the country's fundamental problems, and always emphasized mission-orientation as the fundamental principle in the higher education system.

Bakhtiari said: This profound perspective has served as a guiding light for scientific centers such as Khorramshahr University to seek to address the real needs of society and industry, relying on their inherent mission.

This university professor stressed: Margins must not overshadow the main mission of the university, and it must utilize its scientific capacities in the direction of solving the country's issues.

The President of Khorramshahr University of Marine Science and Technology described the maritime economy as one of the most valuable and enduring legacies of the Martyr Leader and noted: The realization of this major strategy can not only help the country in neutralizing oppressive sanctions and overcoming economic bottlenecks, but will also pave the way for comprehensive and sustainable development in coastal areas and the creation of productive employment for the youth of these regions.

He clarified: Utilizing the vast capacities of the



country's southern waters requires the training of specialized and efficient human resources, and Khorramshahr University of Marine Science and Technology, with careful planning, considers itself responsible for this important matter and has taken effective steps in this direction by formulating a document for the transformation of marine science education.

Bakhtiari concluded by referring to the wise statements of the Martyr Leader, who always considered the path of progress open and emphasized its continuation, expressing hope that with the doubled efforts of the academic community and the support of officials, the movement towards achieving the goals of the maritime-based economy will never stop.

While appreciating the unique wisdom and insight of the Martyr Leader in drawing this vision, he said: Today, our duty is heavier than ever, and we must continue the proud path of science and development with greater strength by acting upon his guidance, so that this precious legacy is passed on to future generations and Islamic Iran achieves its deserved status in the field of marine sciences.

Technology promotion, focus of industrial units reconstruction

TEHRAN- The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade said: The Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, simultaneously with the reconstruction of industrial units, pursues modernization and technology promotion based on state-of-the-art knowledge and the training of specialized managers.

According to the Mehr News Agency, citing the Majlis (Parliament) News Agency, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, regarding the plan of major industries for attracting elites, developing co-operation with knowledge-based companies, and the supports of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in this field, said: In the joint meeting of the Parliament's Education, Research and Technology Committee with the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, a proper report was presented on the measures taken in this regard, among which we can mention the implementation of the program for training one thousand managers at the Industrial Management Organization and the Organization for Development

Synergy among bodies necessary to implement FTA with EAEU: TPO head

TEHRAN- The Head of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) while emphasizing the need for synergy among executive bodies in the effective implementation of the Iran-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Free Trade Agreement, described this agreement as a joint project among all institutions related to trade.

According to a Sunday report by IRNA from the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, in a cross-agency coordination meeting for implementing the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union, while stressing the continuous review of the performance of relevant bodies and the challenges of implementing the EAEU Free Trade Agreement, added: Based on the coordination carried out, the agencies must prepare their performance reports, implementation obstacles, and their two-month action plan for presentation at the meeting scheduled for early Mehr (late September).

He described the EAEU Free Trade Agreement as a joint project among all executive bodies related to trade and said: The swift follow-up of agreements and negotiations within the framework of joint working groups with the EAEU must be pursued seriously.



TEHRAN- The violation of numerous clauses of the Islamabad memorandum of understanding by the United States and Iran's decision to halt shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is not merely the end of a political agreement; it is an event that could once again turn "geopolitical risk" into one of the most critical variables affecting the global economy, according to IRNA.

Less than a month after the understanding between Iran and the US led to a relative reduction in military tensions in the region and raised hopes for the return of diplomacy, Donald Trump's statements declaring the agreement over, and his country's terrorist army's three-phase attacks on parts of Iranian territory, have once again pushed the region's political and economic equations into a new phase. Although the full dimensions of this new adventurism remain unclear to political and military observers, from the perspective of economists and market actors, the return of "uncertainty" to the region can in itself have significant economic consequences, as serious as a security crisis.

Global financial markets have always reacted to geopolitical developments more swiftly than governments. Investors, without waiting for official decisions, reflect potential future risks in asset prices. That is why, only hours after the US president's remarks about the end of the agreement, traders' attention turned again to the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the global energy market – areas that, over the decades, have become the most significant focus of global economic concern whenever political tensions have escalated.

Of course, over the past three months, although the disputes between Tehran and Washington had not completely ended, the existence of a relative understanding had removed some geopolitical risks from the markets. This had contributed to relative stability in oil prices, reduced anxiety among economic actors, and calmer financial markets. Now, however, with this understanding being called into question, conditions have shifted once more.

Why are markets more worried than politicians?

The global economy is more dependent than ever on the free flow of energy. Although many countries have tried to reduce their oil dependency in recent years, oil and gas remain the main pillars of the world economy. Any threat to energy transit routes immediately manifests itself in oil prices, transportation costs, insurance rates, stock markets, and even inflation rates across countries.

From this perspective, the end of the US-Iran understanding is not just a political dispute; it is a signal that can change the expectations of economic actors. Economic experience has shown that markets suffer more from the prospect of war and prolonged uncertainty than from actual conflict. When an investor sees an unclear future, they

halt new projects, banks become more cautious in lending, and international companies postpone investment decisions. That is why many analysts believe that although the end of the agreement does not necessarily mean the start of military confrontation, it could inject a new wave of uncertainty into the global economy – a wave whose effects will extend far beyond the borders of Iran and the US.

Strait of Hormuz: Beating heart of energy market

Among all economic variables, perhaps no issue draws as much attention from global markets as the security of the Strait of Hormuz. This strategic waterway carries a significant portion of the world's crude oil and liquefied natural gas, and any disruption to its security directly impacts the energy market. Therefore, the Washington Post, in a report examining recent developments, described the Strait of Hormuz as still the main axis of the crisis, writing that any insecurity along this route could subject the global energy market to a fresh shock. According to the newspaper, as tensions escalated, Brent crude prices rose by more than five percent, and concerns over energy supply disruptions intensified once again.

The newspaper also referred to a warning from the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, which called on shipping companies to exercise more caution in transiting the Strait of Hormuz until safe passage is guaranteed. Although we have not yet seen a widespread halt in maritime transport, such warnings are typically enough to raise ship insurance premiums and increase cargo transport costs.

In the global economy, transportation costs are not merely a number on shipping companies' balance sheets; they are a factor that ultimately passes through to consumer goods, raw materials, industrial products, and even food prices. For this reason, any increase in risk in the Persian Gulf can set off a chain of cost increases across the world economy.

The Washington Post, in its continuing report, described the collapse of the agreement as a significant setback for Trump, because he had presented the initial deal as a step toward preventing the expansion of war and stabilizing the security of the Strait of Hormuz. In the newspaper's view, not only has the goal of safely reopening this strategic waterway now become ambiguous, but nuclear negotiations and talks on sanctions relief have also fallen into an uncertain state.

The report also points to the differing narratives from Tehran and Washington regarding the negotiation process. Trump claims that after reaching preliminary agreements, Iran denied the negotiation terms in its public positions, thereby undermining mutual trust. Conversely, Iranian officials hold the US responsible for escalating the crisis and believe that Washington's recent actions have eliminated the basis

for continuing the understanding.

Global economy faces three scenarios

In the current situation, rather than awaiting a new war, the global economy is assessing three different scenarios – each of which could alter the course of global markets in the coming months.

The first scenario is a return of both parties to the negotiating table; although Trump's recent remarks have inflamed the political atmosphere and his military actions have exacerbated the crisis, to the extent that the recent Muscat talks have led nowhere and failed to meet either side's expectations. In this scenario, after a period of volatility, markets would gradually regain calm, and oil prices would correct part of their recent increase.

The second scenario is the continuation of the current state – sustained but controlled tensions, leading neither to an agreement nor to direct war. Many analysts consider this scenario more likely. In that case, the global economy would face chronic but manageable risk: energy prices would remain above the average of recent months, maritime transport costs would rise, and international companies would invest more cautiously in the region.

The third scenario is a return to military conflict – although still assessed as less probable than the other two, it has generated the greatest anxiety in global markets. Should such a situation occur, the first markets to react would be oil, gold, currency, and maritime shipping, followed by a fresh wave of inflation that could engulf many of the world's economies.

Naval blockade, Hormuz, and return of chronic risk to global economy

Alongside concerns over the future of diplomacy, some media reports suggest a possible shift in Washington's approach toward Iran. CNN, citing Israeli sources, reported that the Trump administration may, instead of moving toward a full-scale war, adopt a policy of "maximum naval blockade" against Iran – which, if implemented, could intensify pressure on regional trade and maritime transport.

In the view of economists, such an approach, even without direct war, could have far-reaching economic consequences. Because restricting maritime traffic or increasing transport risk in the Persian Gulf directly affects global trade costs and energy prices. Accordingly, following the third round of attacks by the US terrorist army on Iranian territory, based on a statement issued early Sunday by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, due to illegal foreign interference, the Strait of Hormuz is closed until further notice and until the end of US interventions in the region, and no vessel will be allowed to transit.

On this basis, we must reiterate economists' warnings that a sharp reduction in shipping traffic and stoppages in the Strait of Hormuz will undoubtedly deliver

a fresh blow to the energy market – a market that, in recent years, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the Ukraine war and geopolitical crises, has repeatedly faced supply disruptions.

In such circumstances, the markets' primary concern is not only a potential decline in oil supply but also rising tanker insurance costs, extended shipping routes, and disruptions to global supply chains. Past crises have shown that even a limited reduction in vessel traffic through strategic waterways can have significant effects on energy and commodity prices. The International Monetary Fund, in its latest assessment, has warned that the global oil market will likely not return in the short term to the conditions prevailing before the military actions against Iran, and that continued tensions could turn higher energy prices into a lasting reality.

If this forecast materializes, the global economy will face consequences beyond higher oil prices; because costlier oil means higher production costs, intensified inflationary pressures, slower interest-rate cuts by central banks, and ultimately reduced economic growth in many countries. Meanwhile, the US website Axios, citing American officials, claimed that the current conflict has become an open-ended battle over one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints, with no clear horizon. The report stressed that the intensification of tensions could last days, weeks, or even months, making uncertainty the most important variable affecting global markets.

Economists believe that in such an environment, even if a full-scale war does not break out, prolonged uncertainty can be as costly as a military conflict. Investors postpone decisions amid ambiguity, companies halt new projects, and financial markets face greater volatility. For this reason, some analysts hold that the main risk confronting the global economy is not a short-term war but rather entering a long period of instability in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz – a situation that could affect the energy market, global trade, and the international growth outlook for months.

The end of the understanding between Iran and the US is not merely the conclusion of a political agreement; it is an event that could once again turn "geopolitical risk" into one of the most significant variables influencing the global economy. Rising oil prices, higher maritime transport costs, supply-chain pressures, increased inflationary expectations, and greater investor caution will be the first consequences of such a situation. For Iran's economy, the most important threat is not only mounting external pressures but also the possibility of returning inflationary expectations and declining confidence among economic actors. In these conditions, policymakers' success depends more than ever on their ability to maintain macroeconomic stability, manage markets, and prevent a political crisis from turning into an economic one.

A chicken hawk named ‘Lady G’ and the innocent lives spent to feed his imperial sadism

The ledger lines of a closeted warmonger owned by Israel and military contractors

From page 1 ▶

The psychology of imperial overcompensation

Johnny Cash sang about a boy named Sue, a child given a shameful moniker who fought his whole life just to prove his toughness to a world that mocked him. Lindsey Graham was the American empire's boy named Sue.

For decades, the press pool protected the open secret of his closeted private life, which leaked under the moniker Lady G.

Operating within an intelligence apparatus fueled by blackmail, Graham fought a psychological war against his own identity.

He resolved his inner shame through absolute violence. He became the loudest bully in the Senate, adopting an ultra-aggressive machismo to prove he belonged in the imperial court.

A classic chicken hawk, he safely manipulated paperwork while enthusiastically sending working-class youth to be dismembered in foreign deserts. War and global destruction became his substitute for meaning.

The corporate ledger of a legislative mercenary

This pathology was funded by the military-industrial complex. Graham was a mercenary for the war pigs, pocketing millions from weapons manufacturers such as Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, and Boeing.

He held the federal debt ceil-



ing hostage in 2023 until his corporate sponsors secured an extra eight billion dollars in defense appropriations.

A vetted attendee of the Bilderberg meetings, Graham openly boasted that the war against Iran was a sound investment to capture oil reserves, openly saying that the United States would make a ton of money from the slaughter.

The failed crusade against ‘the mothership’

Iran was Graham's manic, lifelong obsession. He hounded the Islamic Republic for years, barking that Washington must take “the mothership of Iran” down.

His crusade peaked before and during the U.S.-Israeli campaign of aggression against

Iran at the end of the last winter of his life.

Graham cheered the airstrikes that martyred Iranian civilians and senior leadership, predicting the imminent collapse of the government. But the Islamic Republic held firm.

Graham died knowing his life's crusade was a strategic failure, outlived by the nation he swore to destroy.

A lexicon written in civilian blood

This evil was fully unmasked in his defense of Israel. Following October 2023, Graham abandoned all humanitarian pretenses, declaring a “religious war.” “I am with Israel. Do whatever the hell you have to do to defend yourself. Level the place.”

He explicitly advocated for a nuclear holocaust against Gaza, demanding the exact ordinance to create “a Hiroshima and Nagasaki on steroids.”

When confronted with the mounting death toll in Gaza, which included thousands of children, Graham refused to acknowledge any limit to civilian casualties. “What is too many?” he asked.

He also threatened to crush the economies of “allies” if they assisted the International Criminal Court with arrest warrants.

The unholy mourners of the sadistic courtier

Judged by his friends, the executioners who have gathered to weep provide his definitive indictment.

Benjamin Netanyahu released a fawning tribute, mourning a servant who even argued with Israeli leadership to keep billions in American aid flowing.

Volodymyr Zelensky praised him, highlighting wartime visits where Graham treated foreign crises as an endless repository for weapons contracts.

While this bourbon-and-bombs senator has expired, the vampiric architecture remains intact. Corporate donors will manufacture a replacement.

However, the courtier who forecast the numbered days of others discovered his own heart was far more fragile than the sovereign resolve of the nations he tried to erase.

The West Bank: Between neglect and settlement expansion



By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – As the region is engulfed by wars and fast-moving developments that are difficult for observers to keep up with, attention to what is happening in the West Bank has steadily declined. Public interest has waned.

First, it is essential to understand what has unfolded on the ground in the occupied West Bank since October 7, 2023.

At least 1,200 Palestinians have been killed, 12,600 more have sustained injuries of varying degrees, while Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have carried out 24,000 arrests. During the same period, the IOF has destroyed 55 percent of the Jenin refugee camp, displacing more than 25,000 residents, over a quarter of whom have lost their livelihoods.

The IOF has also demolished 40 percent of the buildings in the Nur Shams and Tulkarm refugee camps, forcing more than 40,000 residents to flee their homes, the largest displacement of Palestinians since 1967, according to UN reports.

Amid these displacement campaigns, the crisis at the land crossing (the bridge) between Palestine and Jordan came to the forefront. For Palestinians in the West Bank, the King Hussein Bridge is their only door to the world. But the regime controls it, restricting hours, limiting travelers, and shutting it down at will.

Since October 7, this has left Palestinians stranded, families separated, and patients cut off from medical care. Jordan is on the other side but cannot open it, though critics say it has not tried hard enough. The result is that Palestinians are trapped, with no way out and no control over their own movement.

Yet almost no one discussed the increase in departures from the West Bank, whether to Jordan or beyond, as one of the factors behind the crisis and as a direct consequence of the mounting IOF restrictions imposed on Palestinians and the closure of every avenue for normal life.

On the ground, the occupying regime's government has, since October 7, built 30 new settlements, set up 165 outposts, approved plans for 61 new settlements, mostly concentrated in Jenin and Hebron, and added 2,721 new settler units to existing settlements.

The objective, as the terrorist Itamar Ben-Gvir put it, is to “bury the Palestinians' dreams of any form of independence.” At the same time, the Zionist government announced the annexation of crown lands belonging to the Jordanian government and reactivated the Absentee Property Law, through which it seized vast areas of land in Palestine occupied since 1948.

Politically, the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority, continues to comply with U.S. policies supporting the Zionists, even though the regime's aggression and settlement expansion have extended beyond Palestine into southern Syria and Lebanon. The military dimension of this expanded occupation has also morphed into an explicit declaration of intent to remain permanently and establish settlement projects, as has occurred in the Yarmouk Basin in southern Syria.

The so-called U.S. “Peace Council” tasked with administering the Gaza Strip, announced that there would be no place for UNRWA in Gaza. This coincided with the Israeli authorities' decision to prevent UNRWA from providing its services in al-Quds (Jerusalem). Together, these decisions estab-

lish a political precedent that will likely be extended to refugee camps throughout the West Bank.

If the project in Gaza relies on attracting foreign investment and commercial interests in the hope of turning the public away from resistance, then the extension of this same project to the West Bank, amid the absence of regional support and the mounting crises facing the Ramallah Authority, can only be seen as another major step toward the displacement of Palestinians.

Some may ask why U.S. policy, working alongside the Zionist regime and the Ramallah Authority, has not adopted plans for the West Bank similar to those being pursued in Gaza. The answer is straightforward: the West Bank lies at the very heart of the Zionist project in Palestine, and the existence of large Palestinian population centers fundamentally challenges that core objective.

Annexing the West Bank while this large Arab population remains would fundamentally alter the structure of the envisioned Jewish state. Consequently, the goal is to remove as many Arabs as possible, whether through forced expulsion or, more commonly, through “soft displacement” by turning the West Bank into a place where Palestinian Arabs can no longer sustain a livable existence.

Beyond this, the West Bank serves as the gateway to the “peace” that colonial interests view as both a political and economic project, enabling the Zionist regime to integrate into its Arab surroundings, particularly the Persian Gulf states, where the colonizers' greatest economic interests lie. Control over the Persian Gulf and its resources has become even more significant amid the global economic race led by China and the United States.

Hence, efforts are underway toward integrating the region's economy with its colonial spearhead in Palestine. Politically, through so-called peace agreements/normalization, and economically via the Indian trade corridor project, which begins in the Persian Gulf and reaches the port of Haifa via Jordan.

Strategically, the Zionist regime views the 1948 Palestine's eastern front as the greatest threat to its existence. This front stretches for 650 kilometers, while the 1948 Palestine's maximum width (from the river to the sea) is no more than 70 kilometers. In other words, if Palestinian resistance forces cross from the West Bank, they can reach the Mediterranean coast in hours.

This represents the most profound strategic and existential concern for both the colonial and biblical dimensions of the Zionist project. It can only be neutralized through complete control of the West Bank.

Viewed through this lens, the West Bank can be understood as the central arena of confrontation with the colonial project in the region. The drive to seize it is the principal force behind many Zionist policies, beginning with the genocide in Gaza, extending through southern Lebanon and Syria, and culminating in the U.S.-Israeli aggression against Iran.

This is why a substantial share of the region's political efforts must be directed toward the occupied West Bank, while providing its people with every possible form of support, particularly by strengthening the local economy. Such action must rest on the firm conviction that any so-called peace agreements are nothing more than illusions promoted by colonialism.

Netanyahu's remarks on settler violence ring hollow

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Israeli police admitted that four settlers were arrested after an attack on CNN and other journalists in the occupied West Bank on Saturday.

The journalists were near the village of Sinjil north of Ramallah to cover the one-year anniversary of the killing of Saif Musallet, a Palestinian-American who was beaten to death by settlers last July, CNN reported.

Within minutes of arriving at the location where Musallet was killed, Israeli settlers descended on the area. As the CNN team and other journalists tried to leave, a group of four settlers blocked the road with their car and tried to keep the vehicles from moving forward.

The four settlers were wielding wooden and metal rods and stones. One settler brandished a knife and tried to puncture the tires of CNN's vehicle.

The settlers then began to jump on the vehicle behind CNN's — carrying another group of journalists — and smashed the windshield of that vehicle. Another group of settlers tried to block a separate exit route before chasing the journalists towards the town of Sinjil.

After the killing of Musallet in July 2025, US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee called it a “criminal and terrorist act,” urging authorities to investigate. But Musallet's father told CNN no one has been arrested since the killing.

This attack on journalists comes just days after The village has a population of thousands of Palestinian-Americans who have come under repeated attack by settlers in the area.

Khanna visited the village to show solidarity with American citizens who have told CNN they feel forgotten by their government.

“I saw the arrogance in the eyes of those settlers, 21- and 22-year-olds with guns, laughing that they had detained us, the arrogance of those young IDF soldiers that my tax dollars are funding, having no respect for the fact that they were detaining Americans, no respect that there was an American congressperson in that bus, and laughing when our translator told them that there are Americans there and the American embassy is concerned,” Khanna told Reuters.

In an interview with CNN on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is himself wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza, said the issue of settler violence has “blown up beyond belief.” However, his remarks are misleading.

Netanyahu described the perpetrators as a group of 150 “juvenile delinquents.” He also claimed that the police and military “take actions,” while asserting that Israel's courts “are very lenient” toward those convicted of settler violence.

The occupied West Bank has witnessed a sharp surge in settler violence, with numerous incidents in which Israeli soldiers have stood by without intervening, as the Israeli government has simultaneously accelerated the expansion of settlements across the territory.

The central question is what policies and actions have emboldened settlers.

The continued expansion of settlements in the occupied West Bank, coupled with the displacement of Palestinians as part of the “Greater Israel” project, has further emboldened extremist settlers. Yet Netanyahu refuses to acknowledge that these acts are a direct consequence of policies pursued by



U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna was detained by settlers near the village of Turmus Ayya in the West Bank.

successive Israeli governments, including his own.

Netanyahu is unwilling to confront settler violence against Palestinians. When the objective is to drive Palestinian from their own lands, such attacks can be seen as serving broader territorial ambitions associated with the “Greater Israel” project.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich have played prominent roles within Netanyahu's coalition in advancing policies that encourage settlement expansion and further inflame tensions.

Israel's occupation of the West Bank is regarded as illegal under international law, and the UN Security Council has adopted resolutions obliging Israel to withdraw from the territories it captured in 1967, including the West Bank. However, Israel has not withdrawn from these territories and has continued expanding settlements there.

As settlers observed the Netanyahu government conducting military operations in Gaza for more than 1,000 days, many appeared increasingly em-

boldened to intensify attacks against Palestinians, including assaults with metal rods, while establishing their own colonies. It is therefore not surprising that settler violence has increased significantly since October 7, 2023.

Even U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee, who had described the killing of Saif Musallet as a “criminal and terrorist act,” is inherently happy with the crackdown on the native Palestinians. Huckabee, whom Tucker Carlson has described as a Christian Zionist, has openly argued that Israel has a biblical right to control territory extending well beyond its internationally recognized 1948 borders. As a close ally of President Donald Trump, he has aligned himself with Israeli extremists who seek to advance the “Greater Israel” project.

Public condemnation of settler violence carries little weight if those responsible are not held accountable. The absence of meaningful enforcement, particularly under the influence of Ben-Gvir and Smotrich, has contributed to a climate in which violent settlers act with a sense of impunity.

End of an era: Alishah bids farewell to Persepolis

TEHRAN - Every great club have players who become more than just footballers—they become symbols. For Persepolis, Omid Alishah has been one of those rare figures.

After 13 unforgettable seasons in the famous red shirt, the club's long-serving captain has brought his remarkable journey to an end, leaving behind a legacy built on loyalty, leadership, and silverware.

Alishah's story is deeply intertwined with one of the most successful periods in Persepolis history. During his time at the club, he lifted an incredible 10 major trophies, including five Persian Gulf Pro League titles, two Hazfi Cup championships, and three Iranian Super Cups. His consistency, determination, and winning mentality made him an essential part of a golden generation that dominated Iranian football.

Statistics, however, tell only part of the story.

What truly made Alishah special was his unwavering commitment to the badge. Whether wearing the captain's armband or fighting for every loose ball, he embodied the passion and spirit that Persepolis supporters demand from their players. He was never afraid to sacrifice himself for the team, earning the respect of teammates and becoming one of the most beloved players in the club's modern history.

His name will also forever be linked with the Tehran derby. Alishah delivered some of his finest moments against arch-rivals Esteghlal, scoring crucial goals and producing influential performances when the pressure was at its highest. Those derby memories have secured his place in Persepolis folklore and strengthened his bond with generations of fans.

As one chapter closes, another begins. Persepolis now says goodbye to one of their greatest captains, but Alishah's legacy will remain woven into the fabric of the club. Trophies can be counted, records can be broken, but loyalty and devotion are far more difficult to replace.

For 13 years, Omid Alishah gave everything to Persepolis. He leaves as a champion, a captain, and above all, a club legend whose name will always be remembered whenever the greatest servants of Persepolis are discussed.

Lebanon edge Iran at FIBA U18 Asia Cup WABA qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Lebanon 74-73 at the FIBA U18 Asia Cup WABA qualifiers on Saturday.

Lebanon won the title and Iran sit in the second place.

Iran had defeated Palestine, Iraq, Syria and Jordan in the campaign.

The Iranian team book their place at the 2026 FIBA U18 Asia Cup WABA

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

Ghalenoei remains as Iran head coach despite World Cup disappointment

TEHRAN – Amir Ghalenoei will remain head coach of the Iran national football team and will lead Team Melli into the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, despite the country's disappointing campaign at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The Iranian Football Federation (FFIRI) confirmed that Ghalenoei has retained the confidence of its leadership after Iran failed to progress from Group G in the World Cup.

Team Melli opened the tournament with a 2-2 draw against New Zealand before playing out a goalless stalemate with Belgium. A 1-1 draw against Egypt in the final group match left Iran without a victory, and the team narrowly missed out on a place in the knockout stage, failing to qualify as one of the tournament's eight best third-placed sides.

The World Cup exit marked another major setback for Ghalenoei, who also fell short of expecta-

tations at the 2023 AFC Asian Cup. Iran's hopes of ending a long wait for continental glory were dashed in the semi-finals, where they suffered defeat to hosts Qatar.

Despite those results, FFIRI president Mehdi Taj has publicly backed the 61-year-old coach to continue in charge.

“Mr. Ghalenoei will remain the head coach of the national team. We have already received his plans for the AFC Asian Cup,” Taj said.

He also revealed that preparations for the next international window are about to begin.

“The national team's training camp for the upcoming FIFA international window will start soon. There are also several developments planned for our national teams.”

The federation's decision signals a commitment to continuity rather than change as Iran begin their preparations for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

Ghalenoei now faces the challenge of rebuilding confidence after consecutive disappointments on the international stage, with expectations remaining high for one of Asia's traditional football powerhouses.

For now, the message from the federation is clear: despite criticism following the World Cup and Asian Cup exits, Amir Ghalenoei will continue to lead Team Melli into the next chapter.

Iran sweep Philippines at 2026 AVC Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated the Philippines in straight sets (25-17, 25-20, 25-13) in their opening match at the 2026 AVC Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship on Sunday.

The young Persians will play India and Bahrain on Monday and Tuesday respectively in Pool B.

Pool A features defending champions China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, and Indonesia. Pool C is composed of Pakistan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan; while Pool D includes Japan, South Korea, Australia, and Saudi Arabia.

The 2026 AVC Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship is the 16th edition of the Asian Men's U18 Volleyball Championship, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with China Volleyball Association (CVA).

The tournament is scheduled to take place at Haikou Wuyuanhe Gymnasium in Haikou, China from 12 to 18 July.

This tournament will serve as the qualification tournament for the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship. The top four teams of the tournament will advance to the 2027 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship as the AVC representatives.

China are the defending champions after beating Iran 3-2 at the final in Manama.

Iran are the most decorated team in the competition, having won seven times, followed by Japan with three titles.

2026 Sitting Volleyball World: Iran's women's beat Kenya

TEHRAN - Iran's women battled back from first set loss to win 3-1 (21-25, 25-8, 25-7, 25-16) against Kenya at the 2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships on Sunday.

Team Melli had defeated Rwanda in straight sets (25-11, 25-11, 25-11) in their opening match.

Iran are scheduled to meet powerhouses China in Pool A on Monday.

Iran's women's national sitting volleyball team make their third consecutive appearance at the World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Hangzhou, having also qualified for the 2018 edition in Rotterdam and the 2022 championships in Sarajevo.

Their place at the 2026 tournament extends the team's presence at the sport's highest level after securing qualification through the 2025 Para Volley Asia Oceania Sitting Volleyball Zonal Championships.

Tehran, Seoul discuss broader cooperation in culture and tourism

TEHRAN – Tehran and Seoul discussed expanding cooperation in culture, tourism, handicrafts and creative industries during talks between Iran's minister of cultural heritage and the South Korean ambassador on Saturday.

Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri met Kim Junpyo and said Iran was pursuing programs to develop cultural and creative industries in coordination with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, according to the report carried by IRIB new agency.

Salehi-Amiri said entering the creative industries economy was one of the strategic priorities of Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts and that South Korea's experience in the sector was valuable for Iran.

He said Tehran expected South Korea to play a more active role in developing bilateral relations and added that cooperation could deepen cultural and civilizational ties between the two countries.

Salehi-Amiri said Iran currently had 29 sites inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and 58 sites on its tentative list, adding that the possible inscription of Alamut cultural landscape on



UNESCO's World Heritage List, is expected to be announced during a World Heritage Committee meeting in South Korea.

He also proposed holding reciprocal exhibitions of historical and cultural artifacts in museums in both countries, implementing joint training projects in the restoration of historical monuments, expanding cooperation between universities and specialized centers, and increasing scientific collaboration and the use of new technologies.

Alamut cited as a historic evidence of political, cultural and engineering ingenuity in UNESCO



TEHRAN – Mohammad-Hasan Talebian, manager of the UNESCO nomination dossier for the Cultural Landscape of Alamout, said the site represents evidence of political, cultural and engineering ingenuity during a specific period of Iran's history, as the country seeks inscription of the property on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Talebian said a technical evaluation by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) had confirmed one of the criteria for the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial nomination, which consists of seven strongholds and related fortifications linked to the Nizari Ismaili state of the 11th to 13th centuries. (Nizari Ismailis were the largest segment of the Ismailis, who were the second largest branch of Shia Islam after the Twelvers.)

According to Talebian, the nomination presents an integrated picture of governance, engineering, water management, territorial defense and cultural life through a network of interconnected fortifications in

the eastern and western Alamut regions on the southern slopes of the Caspian Sea.

Talebian said the seven components formed a coherent defensive and administrative system connected through visual, structural and functional relationships across the Alamut valley. Comparative studies with similar sites in Iran, Syria, Jordan and Europe identified the network as an exceptional example of mountain governance and defense, he said.

He said Alamut Castle, built atop a high rock outcrop, served as the political, administrative, cultural, religious and intellectual center of the Nizari Ismaili state, while the other fortifications provided surveillance, defense, logistical support and control of communication routes.

The fortifications incorporate advanced engineering, water storage systems, food depots, watchtowers, tunnels, canals and defensive structures designed in coordination with the surrounding mountain environment, Talebian said.

He said the defensive system

Salehi-Amiri said Iran was ready to participate in cultural exhibitions in Seoul and invited South Korea to take part in the Tehran International Tourism Exhibition.

He added that Iran was interested in benefiting from South Korea's experience in digital technologies and artificial intelligence in the fields of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts.

Mr. Kim Junpyo, for his part, said his first provincial trip in

extends across roughly 2,000 square kilometers and includes villages, farms, orchards and agricultural systems supported by local water resources, forming what he described as a coherent cultural landscape.

Talebian said Alamut was also a major intellectual center, citing its library and the presence of scholars from Iran and across the Islamic world engaged in astronomy, medicine and philosophy.

Among the individual components, Talebian said Lambarsar Castle played a strategic role in defending the western approaches to Alamut and resisted Mongol attacks for years. Navizarsah Castle occupied a commanding position over the surrounding region, while Shams Kalayeh demonstrated the integration of architecture with the mountain landscape through its use of natural caves, stairways and fortified walls.

Shirkuh contained 11 cisterns and a complex system for collecting and storing rain and snow water, while Qostin Lar and Ilan helped control regional access routes, Talebian said.

He said the nomination's significance lay in preserving architecture, engineering, water management, agriculture, defense, governance, social and economic life, and spatial organization within a single integrated system.

According to Talebian, ICOMOS recommended recognition under Criterion III of the World Heritage Convention, concluding that the property provides exceptional testimony to the cultural tradi-

tion of the Nizari Ismailis during the 11th to 13th centuries. The report also confirmed the authenticity and integrity of the property, conservation programs, management systems, tourism planning concepts, monitoring mechanisms and community participation.

The nomination will be examined at the upcoming session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Busan, where a final decision on inscription will be made.

Talebian said the mountainous location of the fortifications and the difficulty of access in the Alborz Mountains had made the dossier one of Iran's most complex World Heritage nominations, requiring years of documentation, archaeological research, conservation work and multidisciplinary studies.

Alamut fortifications were captured by Mongol ruler Hulagu Khan in 1256 using diplomatic trickery, having earlier forced the surrender of the Ismailis' spiritual leader (Sabbah's successor).

Sabbah's rule from Alamut (which he renamed the City of Good Fortune) is shrouded in mystery and enigma. This is partly because most Ismaili records of the era were destroyed by the invading Mongols while the writings of their detractors survived.

For centuries, Alamut Castle was almost forgotten and only returned to public consciousness with the publication of Stark's 1930s travel diary, Valleys of the Assassins. A copy of that recently reprinted volume makes a great companion for the trip.

Findings and technical analyses will be published after the studies are completed.

Pasargadae, covering about 160 hectares, contains some of the earliest examples of Persian art and architecture. The site includes the limestone tomb attributed to Cyrus the Great, the fortified platform known as Tall-e Takht, and a royal complex originally arranged within a formal garden layout.

UNESCO describes Pasargadae as an exceptional witness to the Achaemenid Empire, which extended from the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Indus River. Researchers consider the site an early phase in the development of Persian architecture that later reached its fullest expression at Persepolis.

Historical mihrab discovered at Pasargadae World Heritage site

TEHRAN – A historical mihrab has been discovered during restoration and conservation work at a caravanserai within the UNESCO-listed Pasargadae archaeological site in southern Iran.

On Saturday, Seyyed Abdolmajid Abedi, the head of the Pasargadae World Heritage site, said the mihrab was identified during protective and restoration operations at the caravanserai and was immediately documented by specialists.

He said the find could provide new information about the site's religious history, historical developments and architectural styles.

“This mihrab is of considerable importance in terms of its architectural and artistic fea-

tures,” Abedi was quoted as saying by the Mehr news agency.

Specialists are carrying out further studies, including detailed documentation, damage assessment and comparative analysis, to determine the precise historical period of its construction and its original function, he said.

According to Abedi, experts believe the quality of the decorative elements indicates a high level of craftsmanship and suggests the structure held a significant place within the architectural complex of the site.

Emergency conservation and documentation work is being conducted in accordance with international standards to prevent possible damage to the artifact, he added. The final

findings and technical analyses will be published after the studies are completed.

Pasargadae, covering about 160 hectares, contains some of the earliest examples of Persian art and architecture. The site includes the limestone tomb attributed to Cyrus the Great, the fortified platform known as Tall-e Takht, and a royal complex originally arranged within a formal garden layout.

UNESCO describes Pasargadae as an exceptional witness to the Achaemenid Empire, which extended from the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Indus River. Researchers consider the site an early phase in the development of Persian architecture that later reached its fullest expression at Persepolis.

Iranian students win gold, silver medals at IPhO 2026

TEHRAN – The five-member team of Iranian students has demonstrated a remarkable achievement, garnering three gold medals and two silver medals at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO).

Held from July 4 to 12 in Bucaramanga, Colombia, the IPhO 2026 brought together over 400 students from more than 90 countries, Javanonline.ir reported.

Hirbod Foudazi, Kian Zarrabian, and Mohammad Mirmohammadi secured gold medals, while Amir-Sam Goharpey and Nima Koushki won silver medals.

The primary goal of IPhO is to examine, to the highest level, the knowledge, analytical skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in theoretical and experimental physics.

Two five-hour tests, drawn up by the host country and amended by the leaders of the teams involved, are open to candidates competing individually. The first is experimental, using equipment supplied to the candidates. The second is theoretical, focusing on phenomena and their modeling.

The team's stellar performance went beyond winning medals, as Zarrabian excelled and finished in first place in the experimental physics test; a candidate from South Korea ranked first in the theoretical test.

At the 66th edition of the competition in Australia in 2025, the Iranian team placed 12th in the world with two gold, three silver and one bronze medal, improving from 19th place the previous year.

Iran's Physics Olympiad team achieved an astounding triumph at the International Scientific Physics Olympiad 2026, winning two gold medals, a silver, and a bronze.

Hirbod Foudazi was ranked first among all participants, receiving the title of absolute winner, achieving the best result in the Theoretical Exam, and grabbing the gold medal and the national diamond, IRNA reported.

Amir-Sam Goharpey won the other gold medal; Kian Zarrabian



and Mohammad Mirmohammadi received a silver medal and a bronze medal, respectively.

The ISPhO-2026 Olympiad was held exclusively online from June 21 to June 30, 2026.

The 55th edition of the IPhO was held in Paris. Iranian students managed to win a gold medal and four silver medals.

The country's Olympiad success has extended beyond mathematics and physics.

At the 36th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2025) in the Philippines, Iranian students won three gold medals and one silver, securing second place overall among 81 participating countries.

The result improved on Iran's third-place finish at IBO 2024 in Kazakhstan.

The steady stream of international accomplishments has coincided with growing enthusiasm for scientific Olympiads at home.

According to Reza Hosseini, head of Iran's Young Scholars Club, participation in the country's national Olympiad competitions increased by 40 percent year on year, rising from 87,000 students in the Iranian year 1403 (March 2024–March 2025) to 121,000 in 1404 (March 2025–March 2026).

Hosseini described the figure as the highest level of participation in a decade, saying the surge reflects the growing interest of Iranian students in

science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Recent achievements

The Iranian team showed brilliance, claiming the championship at the fourth International Mathematics Summer Camp (IMSC) held in Beijing, China, from June 17 to July 12, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and dedication to mathematics.

Held from July 4 to 12 in Colombia, the IPhO 2026 brought together over 400 students from more than 90 countries.

Aryan Zandi, Arsha Azizoddin, Seyyed Amir-Hossein Tayeb, Ali-Reza Sharifi, Radin Nik-Eqbali, and Ali Joonbakhsh Najafabadi won 4 gold medals and two silver medals, outperforming students from Poland and Brazil, IRNA reported.

This year's event brought together 58 teams from 46 countries and regions, including 41 international teams and 17 teams from China, with over 500 Chinese and international students, teachers, and coaches in total.

Four Iranian female students attended the Open International Geography Olympiad (OpenGeo) 2026, winning four medals, in-

cluding a silver medal and three bronze medals for the first time.

Artina Heidari won the silver medal; Setayesh Haqazari, Sana Karbalaee Vali, and Helia Khodabandelou received the bronze medals, IRIB reported.

The achievement showcased the Iranian students' comprehensive expertise in geography and serves as a significant step in preparing students for successful participation in the International Geography Olympiad (IGO).

The OpenGeo aims to promote interest in geography among secondary school students worldwide; develop geographical thinking, analytical, and practical skills among school students and future geographers; and support international connections between young geographers.

Organized by the Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow State University High School, and Primakov School, the competition was held online on June 20 and 21, with competitors from 27 countries attending the contest.

The participants were students aged between 14 and 19 years old enrolled in secondary school or graduating in 2026.

The competition consisted of a Written Response Test (WRT) taking 2.5 hours, a Practical and Mapping Exercise (PME) taking 2.5 hours, and a Multimedia Test (MMT) taking one hour.

Iran outlines policies on women, family at BRICS WWG

TEHRAN – Narjes Abolqasemi, an official with the Vice-Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, has elaborated on the country's macro-level policies on women and family at the BRICS Working Women Group (WWG) Meeting held in Kerala, India, on July 6-7.

The empowerment of women requires a transition from sporadic measures to strategic and sustainable policies; in Iran, women's entrepreneurship and economic development serve as driving forces for strengthening national resilience and the family foundation. Therefore, the policies are designed and implemented with a family-centered approach, IRNA quoted Abolqasemi as saying.

She also highlighted the importance of the four priority areas of the meeting, which included promoting women's participation in governance and leadership, advancing digital and financial inclusion, strengthening women's entrepreneurship and skill development, and enhancing the role of women in climate action, food security and nutrition.

Referring to the country's experience in expanding the women entrepreneurship ecosystem, she said Iran focuses on establishing support models for women-led innovative businesses, developing modern skills, and benefiting from the potential of the digital economy.

Iran's participation in the WWG meeting provided a great opportunity to share indigenous experiences, expand joint efforts, and develop new initiatives to achieve economic justice and sustainable development among BRICS member states, Abolqasemi noted.

Underscoring the significance of fostering specialized collaboration among BRICS

member states, the official announced Iran's readiness to utilize its scientific, policy, and executive capabilities to assume an effective role in the design of innovative models for women's economic empowerment and expanding multilateral cooperation within the BRICS framework.

The WWG Meeting was held under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," which reflects a people-centric and humanity-first approach to global cooperation.

It brought together senior government officials from BRICS member countries in the two-day event to discuss key issues related to women's empowerment, women-led development and enhanced cooperation across shared priorities.

Top female entrepreneurs honored

During the third national congress on Iranian women, held in December 2025, 60 of the most successful women entrepreneurs, who have played a key role in the country's social and economic development, were honored.

Held annually, the congress aims to empower women, improve their skills, and introduce the most successful women in social, cultural, and economic fields, IRIB reported.

The event involved specialized meetings, discussion sessions, and interactive programs. Establishing a network of empowered women, the event served as a great opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences, and offer effective strategies to enhance women's status in society.

The current administration focuses on empowering women in social and economic areas, as well as improving their access to

social services and facilities through implementing certain national programs.

Addressing the National Women's Day ceremony, President Masoud Pezeshkian, along with other key figures, reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality, justice, and the empowerment of women, both in domestic policy and international diplomacy.

In Iran, the birthday of Hazrat Fatima (SA), the daughter of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), is marked as National Women's Day.

This year, the day fell on December 22, 2025, On National Women's Day, Iranian officials highlighted the critical role of women in shaping the country's progress and called for the unwavering protection of human rights.

Addressing the audience, Pezeshkian reaffirmed women's equality, praising their potential to lead and excel. He called for creating more opportunities for women and girls to participate in the country's development, emphasizing that their contributions are vital for a just society.

"Women are not only equal to men but often excel in many areas," he said. "Superiority lies in piety, not in gender." He highlighted the role of mothers in shaping future generations and stressed that no nation can thrive without the support of capable and dedicated women.

Concluding his speech, Pezeshkian called for greater inclusion of women in leadership roles and a renewed commitment to addressing the nation's challenges. "Women have a unique ability to nurture and shape the next generation," he said. "This must be recognized as a cornerstone of national progress."

VP attending OIC ministerial conference on women

TEHRAN – Zahra Behrouz-Azar, the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, is participating in the ninth Ministerial Conference on Women of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) being held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on July 12 and 13.

Titled "Socio-Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Countries: Challenges and Way Forward", the conference has brought together some 190 delegates from the 57 OIC member states.

The conference aims to boost cooperation among member states on women's empowerment by enhancing greater socio-economic and political participation across OIC member countries.

It is built on the outcomes of previous OIC ministerial meetings on women, particularly the one held in Cairo in 2021, which focused on women's empowerment, protection frameworks and enhancing their socio-economic participation.

The conference aims to boost cooperation on women's empowerment by enhancing socio-economic and political participation.

Women's economic, social empowerment

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

According to Behrouz-Azar, more than 2,700 female managers were appointed in the country as deputy ministers, director generals, deputy director generals, governors, district governors, and heads of research institutes in the past two years.



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

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

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

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

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

DOE chief: waste, plastic pollution are big challenges



TEHRAN – According to the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, waste and plastic pollution are the two main challenges facing the country's environment.

The waste management law was passed in the Iranian year 1383 (March 2004–2005), but it has not been implemented properly, ISNA quoted Ansari as saying.

She made the remarks at a press conference held to mark the start of a national campaign titled 'Say no to plastic'.

Plastics have revolutionised industries. Plastic is derived from crude oil and is a product of the petrochemical industry. Given the oppressive sanctions, lowering plastic use is not a luxury but a necessity that benefits the environment and impacts the country's production processes.

The current campaign does not aim to eliminate plastic; it focuses on single-use plastics and the problems they cause. Micro-plastics are now found in lakes, rivers, seas, freshwater sources like drinking water, and the food chain, posing potential risks that demand attention. This problem is not exclusive to our country; a global consensus and agreement on the restriction of plastic consumption is expected to be reached in the future, she noted.

"Iran, the same as many other countries, has adopted measures, particularly developing culture on reducing the use of plastic, to tackle plastic pollution, but they were all temporary.

For example, in 2022, the regulation for the removal of plastic bags with a thickness of below 25 microns was put on the agenda, but it failed to monitor its implementation.

In Iran, over 95 percent of plastic bags are used only once, yet they persist in the environment, taking 200 to 400 years to decompose. We are committed to supporting domestic production through a circular economy approach and the 'Say no to plastic' campaign, as a national initiative," Ansari highlighted.

The campaign aims to reduce the use of plastic and harmful products through promoting culture and transforming the campaign into a coherent, traceable initiative with the cooperation of all sectors, including industries and environmental experts.

Highlighting the role of media in the success of the campaign, Ansari noted that the campaign is not merely a cultural initiative; it is designed based on measurable indicators and short-term, mid-term, and long-term planning; the media will play a crucial role in achieving the campaign's objectives through information dissemination, advocacy, and constructive criticism.

The official went on to say that the DOE has established a specific secretariat to evaluate, audit, and rank government agencies in terms of plastic waste management; this ranking system has been integrated into the budget law, making a portion of the budget contingent upon it, which enforces compliance among the agencies.



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

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



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

JULY 13, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:42 Dawn: 3:16 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:59 (tomorrow)

The Long Road to Light

By Farheen Kazmi

From Tehran's dark gates, where the mourners assemble,

The black tide moves east, hear the iron wheels tremble.

Each turn of the axle, a sob on the track,

Each city left grieving, not calling him back

But sending him forward, where mercy is poured,

To the feet of the King, to the shrine of the Lord.

The dust of Qom rises, the cypresses sway,
Kashan's old gardens have wept into gray.
Neyshabur whispers his name on the wind,
As the caravan halts and the faithful begin
To beat their chests, to tear at their clothes,
For the kind-hearted man who in service arose.

O servant of Reza, your footsteps are worn
On the stones of the path that the blessed have borne.

You swept every threshold, you healed every tear,



Now the end of your journey is finally here.
Mashhad unveils her gold dome to the sky
The gates swing open, the angels draw nigh.

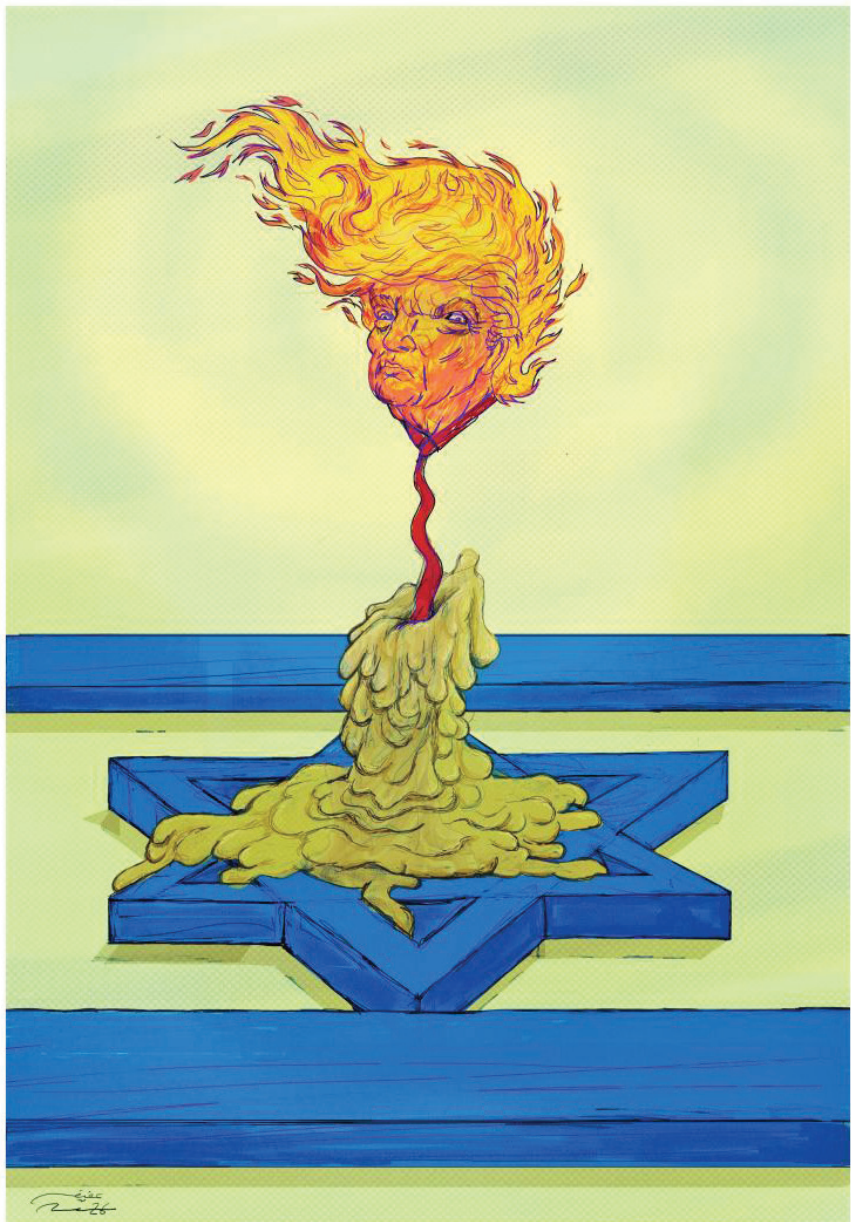
Imam, stretch Your hand through that radiant space

Embrace him, O Reza, with infinite grace.

Let Tehran's farewell be lost in Your light

The kind-hearted man rests in Your arms tonight.

Cartoon of Day



Trump

Cartoonist: Mohammed Afefa from Palestine

Five Iranian films win awards at Russian festival

TEHRAN – Five films from Iran were among the award winners of the 21st In the Family Circle Film Festival, which was held in the Yaroslavl Region, Russia.

In the Main Feature Film Competition of the festival that concluded last week, the Grand Prix of the main feature film competition went to the Iranian film “Whisper My Name,” directed by Rasoul Sadrameli, and the joint production of Iran and Tajikistan, “Fish on the Hook,” directed by Muhiddin Muzaffar, won two awards, including the Best Actor Award for Abdullah Abdulrahimzoda and the Best Sound Design Award, IRNA reported.

“Whisper My Name” tells the story of a young girl named Ziba who, on her birthday and while striving to find her path to independence, has her life complicated by the sudden appearance of her father, who has escaped from a psychiatric hospital.

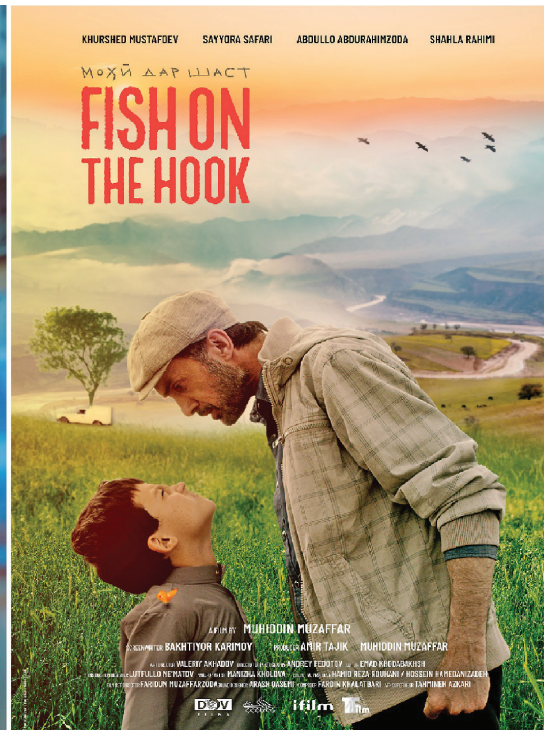
The 2025 drama stars Amin Hayai, Juliet Rezai, Mehran Ghafourian, and Setareh Pesiani. It won the Best Film Award at the 2025 Fajr Film Festival.

“Fish on the Hook” is about Daler, a ten-year-old boarding school student, who sets out on a journey with Samad, a gambler, to find his mother, Khursheda. Along the way, they face various challenges that help Daler mature and understand the impor-



tance of choice. Upon meeting his mother, the boy must make a fateful decision that could change his life forever.

In the Main Short Film Competition, the Special Jury Prize went to “Farewell Paris,” directed by Mohammad Ebrahim Shahbazi, “Paper Flowers,” directed by Ramak Aminkazemi, won the Best Animation Award, and the Best Cinematographer Award was presented to cameraman Ali Hosseinzadeh for “The Exile,” directed by Seyed Sajad Hosseini.



This year, the competition programs of the festival were judged by renowned filmmakers from Russia, China, South Korea, and Iran.

Iranian screenwriter, producer, and college professor Shadmehr Rastin was on the jury. He is a member of the Oscar Academy and a screenwriter for Iranian films and television series since 1996.

The festival presents the best movies from around the world

– more than 20 participating countries annually – for a family audience. Its main goal is the popularization of films, which talk about love and faithfulness and keep the rebirth of family values as their general idea. The program of the festival includes three competitions – features (main), features and animation (for children), and shorts, as well as business and social events. This is the largest family film festival in Russia.

Cinema Museum to show restored version of Nasser Taghvai's “Unruled Paper”

TEHRAN – The restored version of the film “Unruled Paper,” written and directed by the late Nasser Taghvai, will be screened for the first time at the Cinema Museum of Iran.

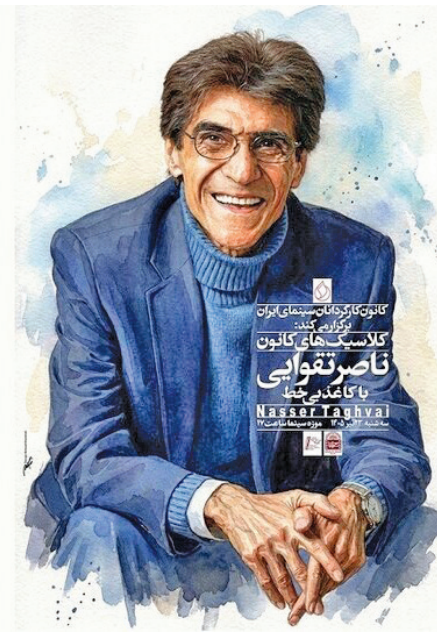
This version of the film, restored by the National Film Archive of Iran, will be premiered on Tuesday at 5 p.m. and will be analyzed and discussed by film critic and writer Saeed Ghotbizadeh, IRNA reported.

The discussion will delve into the various dimensions of Taghvai's cinematic vision, his narrative style, and the film's significance within his artistic career.

“Unruled Paper” is a 2002 film based on an original script by Nasser Taghvai and Minoo Farshchi.

The principal roles in the film are played by Khosrow Shakibai (Jahangir) and Hadyeh Tehrani (Roya). Roya, mother of two children, tries to follow her dream of becoming a writer, while her life and relationship with her shady architect husband, Jahangir, get into some serious drama, which leads to a question if everything is really what it seems to be.

For his role, Khosrow Shakibai was nom-



inated for the Crystal Simorgh Award, in the category of men, at the 20th Fajr International Film Festival in 2002, received the second-Best Actor of the Year Award from

Writers and Critics, in the category of men, in 2002, and was awarded the Golden Tablet from Iran Actor Site in 2003.

Hadyeh Tehrani's acting in this film has been praised by many critics as equally superb and laudable. For her role, she was nominated for the Crystal Simorgh Award, in the category of women, at the 20th Fajr International Film Festival in 2002.

The title of the film is derived from a remark by Roya that she never was able to write neatly on ruled paper, but this changed when she wrote on unruled paper, thus giving voice to the blessings of freedom.

The film received critical acclaim in Iran: Various critics have described the movie's dialogues as pithy and thought-provoking, and the language used as both natural and powerful. The quality of the acting and directing have both been praised as well.

Taghvai attempts to pay attention to the most minute details of the film. The dialogues of the film are replete with terse remarks and critical commentaries on the contemporary political and social conditions of the country.

ECO Cultural Institute launches international mobile photography festival

TEHRAN- The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) has officially announced a call for entries for the first-ever ECO International Mobile Photography Festival, titled “Our Heritage.”

Centered on the theme “Passing on Heritage,” the festival seeks to capture the living essence of cultural transmission.

Citizens of ECO Member States are invited to submit mobile photographs that document the passing of traditional knowl-

edge, ancestral skills, customs, and cultural practices from one generation to the next.

The initiative aims to highlight the active preservation of regional identity, focusing on moments such as the teaching of traditional handicrafts, the performance of folk music, the observance of ancient rituals, and the art of oral storytelling.

The call for submissions is open to nationals of all ECO Member States, including Af-

ghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The window for entries will run from July 12 to September 12, 2026.

According to a statement from the ECI, all entries must be captured exclusively using mobile phone cameras. Submissions can be made through the Institute's official website or via email at festival@ecieco.org.

The competition will feature

three main prize categories, with a Special Certificate of Recognition awarded to the top-ranked entry from each participating Member State.

The festival will culminate in October 2026 with a closing ceremony and an exhibition showcasing the selected works. Detailed participation guidelines and full regulations are available on the official ECO Cultural Institute website.

“The Threads of the Heart” at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- “The Threads of the Heart” by French novelist Carole Martinez has been published in Persian.

Amut is the publisher of the book translated by Kamran Hosseini.

“The Threads of the Heart” is about Frasquita, a woman possessing a rare and mystical gift passed down through generations of women in her family. In her small Andalusian village, Frasquita is whispered to be a healer or perhaps even a sorceress, owing to her uncanny ability to transform mere rags into magnificent, living garments. These creations are not merely clothes; they possess a transformative power, masking any physical defect or deformity and bestowing a blinding, otherworldly beauty upon whoever wears them.

However, this supernatural talent becomes a double-edged sword. While her gowns bring beauty, they also ignite a poisonous jealousy among the villagers, marking Frasquita as an outsider in her own home. Her precarious social standing is further destabilized by her husband, whose gambling addiction brings financial ruin and misfortune upon the household. Forced to flee the resentment of her village and the instability of her marriage, Frasquita embarks on a perilous journey across southern Spain and into Africa, taking her five children with her.

What begins as a forced exile evolves into a quest for survival and redemption. As they navigate unfamiliar lands, the journey becomes a search for a better life and a sanctuary away from the prejudices of their past.

Yet, for Frasquita, the journey is also deeply personal and maternal. Having lived through the burden of her ancestral powers, she is determined to break the cycle of occultism. Her primary motivation is to find a way to liberate her daughters from the inevitable fate of their family of sorcerers, hoping to spare them from the isolation and superstition that have defined her own existence.

“The Threads of the Heart” is a lyrical exploration of the intersection between art, magic, and motherhood. It examines the cost of extraordinary gifts and the lengths a mother will go to protect her children from a legacy that is as much a curse as it is a blessing. Through its journey from Andalusia to Africa, the novel weaves a tapestry of resilience and the eternal search for belonging.