

Netanyahu turns his deterrence dilemma into a nuclear gamble

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Benjamin Netanyahu's use of Dimona as a platform to threaten Iran exposes the failure of decisive victory and the erosion of Zionist deterrence.

It also exposes the international community's hypocrisy in shielding Israel's nuclear warhead arsenal while allowing the regime's aggression to continue without punitive measures, threatening the security of both the region and the wider world.

Dimona was the true speaker, while Netanyahu served as the voice of the project seeking to deliver its message from there. The city was more than just the setting for a speech, and his visit to the Atomic Energy Commission site was far more than a symbolic stop. ► Page 5

The ghost of 1986 and the geography of confrontation

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

HAFIZABAD, Pakistan – The year was 1986. The Cold War divided the world, and Ronald Reagan occupied the White House. On April 15th, American warplanes struck targets in Tripoli and Benghazi in Operation El Dorado Canyon. The official reason was retaliation for the La Belle discotheque bombing in West Berlin, an attack attributed to Libyan agents. The strikes lasted barely 12 minutes, but the repercussions rippled for decades.

In the immediate aftermath, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi delivered one of his most controversial speeches. ► Page 5

Trump's reckless gamble: How American aggression against Iran is crippling global economy

TEHRAN- Just weeks after a fragile ceasefire offered a glimmer of hope for stability in the Persian Gulf, the Trump administration has once again plunged the region—and the world—into a dangerous abyss.

The renewed American military aggression against Iran, initiated on July 7, is not merely a bilateral conflict; it is an act of economic warfare against the entire world. By recklessly tearing up the Islamabad memorandum of understanding and reinstating a naval blockade on Iranian ports, Donald Trump has demonstrated a profound disregard for global stability, prioritizing a misguided and belligerent foreign policy over the well-being of the international economy. ► Page 4

30 Iranian NGOs, institutions call for intl. action to protect cultural heritage after war damage

TEHRAN – A coalition of 30 Iranian non-governmental organizations and cultural heritage institutions has called on international organizations, including UNESCO, the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to take urgent action to protect Iran's cultural heritage following damage to historical sites during the recent military conflict involving Iran and the combined forces of the United States and the Israeli regime.

In a joint statement released on Tuesday and reported by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the coalition condemned what it described as damage to 132 historical monuments and sites across 18 provinces during the conflict. The organizations characterized the destruction of cultural heritage as an attack on the collective memory of humanity and urged international bodies to investigate the reported damage and pursue legal accountability. ► Page 6



Pezeshkian: Diplomatic Apparatus Will Never Compromise on the Nation's Rights

Iran achieved results that exceeded expectations and successfully managed challenges within a short period.

TEHRAN — Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday that Tehran will not compromise on the nation's rights in ongoing diplomatic efforts.

"The diplomatic apparatus will never back down from the nation's rights," Pezeshkian insisted.

The president also stressed that national unity must be preserved and should not be undermined by "irresponsible public remarks".

Speaking at a ceremony marking National Industry and Mining Day, Pezeshkian also praised the country's manufacturers and industrialists for maintaining production and supporting the economy despite the pressures of war and sanctions.

He said Iran's foes had sought to trigger domestic instability by placing the country under severe economic and military pressure. However, he said, the resilience of producers and the private sector prevented those objectives from being achieved and ultimately pushed the op-

posing side toward negotiations

The president praised domestic cohesion as the key factor behind Iran's success, adding that his administration remains committed to addressing the concerns of businesses by removing barriers to production and improving the economic environment.

Pezeshkian also credited manufacturers with ensuring the steady supply of essential goods during the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, saying coordinated efforts by the government, private sector and the public helped prevent major shortages despite attacks on energy infrastructure that disrupted electricity supplies.

Pointing to diplomatic negotiations with the aim of putting an end to disputes with the U.S., the president said Iran entered talks based on the principles of dignity, wisdom and national

interest, while emphasizing that the country's negotiating team "will never retreat from the rights of the Iranian nation."

He said one of Tehran's principal objectives in the negotiations was reopening the Strait of Hormuz to facilitate oil exports and safeguard other strategic interests. Although he accused the opposing side of failing to honor its commitments, Pezeshkian said Iran had achieved results that exceeded expectations and successfully managed a range of complex challenges within a short period.

The president also cautioned against 'uninformed and politically motivated criticism of the negotiations,' arguing that such statements diminish national achievements and risk weakening domestic cohesion.

'Unity and solidarity are the foundations of national strength,' Pezeshkian said, adding that preserving internal consensus remains essential as Iran pursues both its economic priorities and diplomatic objectives.

Iran demonstrates unrivaled strike capability across region

TEHRAN — Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) on Tuesday announced a new wave of missile and drone operations against US military assets across the Persian Gulf, saying it had destroyed American air defense systems, radar installations and military infrastructure in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan as hostilities between Tehran and Washington continued to escalate.

In a series of statements, the IRGC said its Aerospace Force carried out the 24th wave of Operation Nasr-2 (Victory-2), targeting US military positions in retaliation for 'continued American attacks on Iranian territory and civilian infrastructure.' ► Page 2

Iran, Pakistan focus on trade, border, security and regional stability

TEHRAN — Iran and Pakistan have agreed to deepen cooperation in trade, border infrastructure and security following a series of high-level meetings in Islamabad between Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni and Pakistan's civilian and military leadership.

Momeni, who arrived in Pakistan on Monday, held separate talks on Tuesday with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, as the neighboring countries sought to strengthen bilateral relations amid heightened regional tensions. ► Page 3

Iran demands UN action following US strike on Darkhovin nuclear plant

TEHRAN — Iran has formally petitioned the United Nations Security Council to condemn recent US military strikes against the Darkhovin Nuclear Power Plant, characterizing the action as a grave threat to international safety standards and global non-proliferation frameworks.

In an official letter delivered Monday to the President of the Security Council and the UN Secretary-General, Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's permanent ambassador to the UN, condemned the bombardment as a "flagrant violation of international law" and urged the international body to intervene immediately.

The bombardment took place over the weekend when American forces launched multiple missiles at the Darkhovin facility. Although still under construction, the site remains fully registered under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards in accordance with Tehran's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. Ambassador Iravani emphasized that all activities at the plant are "exclusively peaceful, fully transparent, and entirely consistent with the country's rights and obligations under the NPT." ► Page 2



Human chain in show of solidarity for Iran's sovereignty

Ordinary people in the port city of Bandar Abbas formed a 5-kilometer human chain on Monday, July 20, under the name of "Sacrifice of Life for Iran and the Persian Gulf" to show their readiness to defend the country's sovereignty. The move followed renewed intensified U.S. military attacks against Iran, particularly in southern coastal cities and islands, after a lull in bombardments following a ceasefire that went into effect with Pakistan's mediation.

Attacks on Iran's infrastructure may amount to 'collective punishment': Italian analyst



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

America knows how to start a war, not how to end one

In a commentary, Kayhan argues that US military calculations have reached a dead end. The article claims that Iran's crushing responses against CENTCOM positions have pushed the White House into an arms-related impasse and an energy crisis. Trump's hasty retreat and renewed turn toward the trick of negotiations, the paper says, signal a strategic defeat for Washington on the battlefield. Following precise and heavy Iranian strikes on strategic positions, military bases, and supply arteries of the United States in the region, the White House is portrayed as facing a collapse of its military planning and even its decision-making centers. According to Kayhan, a wave of harsh criticism has erupted across the American political system, Congress, and media, all pointing to one conclusion: the United States and its "terrorist army" may know how to start a war, but they do not know how to finish one.

Shargh: What is the United States seeking?

Shargh discussed the new phase of US illegal aggression and devoted its editorial to the beginning and underlying causes of the new round of unlawful US attacks against Iran. According to the editorial, Washington has used disagreements over the Strait of Hormuz as a pretext for renewed aggression and for launching an international media campaign aimed at legitimizing its actions. The paper argues that it is obvious the United States could have addressed these disagreements through diplomatic channels. In any case, the editorial claims that the issue of the Strait of Hormuz has become a major, personal, and symbolic matter for Donald Trump, making it unlikely that he will easily accept Iran's conditions regarding the Strait. The US strategy in the ongoing conflict is said to revolve primarily around the Strait of Hormuz and the claim of "reopening" it. To achieve this, Washington is focused on disrupting Iran's surveillance and monitoring capabilities along its southern coastline and islands, targeting Iranian communications and radar infrastructure as well as offensive assets — including missile and drone facilities — from Chabahar to Mahshahr.

Khorasan: Responding at the source of the threat

Khorasan analyzes the apparent reduction in the intensity of US attacks on Iran. The paper notes that although it is too early for a definitive judgment, an optimistic scenario is that Iran's increased pressure on regional states has discouraged Washington from expanding the scope of the conflict. The United States relies on bases, ports, airports, and logistical networks located in

Arab countries to continue its operations. Washington wants to use these countries' geography against Iran without paying the price of Iran's retaliation. Iran's strategy, the paper argues, is to break this equation: certain states must be struck hard enough that Arab lobbying networks pressure Trump to restrain the war. The message is clear — cooperation with the United States not only brings no benefits and security guarantees; it also entails direct costs. If Kuwait and the UAE become part of the chain of attack, they will also become part of the chain of response, because destabilizing the regional rear base increases political pressure on Washington.

Hamshahri: Should we abandon the Strait of Hormuz?

Hamshahri examines the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz and criticizes those who downplay it. The paper notes that while Iran's southern coastline has recently been subjected to heavy US attacks aimed at weakening Iran's strategic position in the Strait, some voices still propose sidelining this vital asset, ignoring the geopolitical realities on the ground. According to Hamshahri, recent experience shows that the Strait of Hormuz is not only a strategic energy corridor but also one of Iran's most important deterrence tools against external pressure. Abandoning it would weaken Iran's bargaining power, undermine deterrence, and send a message of weakness to adversaries — even raising public suspicion about the intentions of those advocating such an approach.

Arman-e-Melli: America trapped between two Straits

In an article analyzing Trump's precarious position in the region, Arman-e-Melli quotes international affairs analyst Jafar Ghanad-bashi. He argues that the United States suffers from military weaknesses that prevent it from overpowering Iran. Iran and the Resistance Front, he says, possess powerful levers — notably the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab — which can immobilize the US militarily. According to Ghanad-bashi, Washington now faces a dangerous crossroads. One path is an extremely risky option: a large-scale attack on Iran, which could bring enormous dangers for both the United States and the region. Regional states and America's European allies, he notes, strongly oppose such a scenario. The situation has become unpredictable and chaotic for Washington, especially as American media have reported rising US casualties, intensifying fear of Iran's decisive response.

Iran demands UN action following US missile strike on Darkhovin nuclear plant

From page 1 ► According to the Iranian diplomatic mission, this latest incident represents the 18th attack directed at Iranian nuclear infrastructure since joint military operations involving the US and Israel intensified in June 2025. Iranian officials warned that targeting non-military nuclear sites "gravely endangers nuclear safety and security, and seriously undermines the integrity, credibility, and effectiveness of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime." The appeal also noted that on July 19, 2026, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran sent a formal request to the IAEA Director General calling "for taking effective and appropriate actions against such acts of aggression that endanger the integrity and credibility of the global nuclear non-proliferation norms."

Referencing longstanding global legal norms, Iravani reminded the council that "the international community has consistently affirmed that armed attacks against, or threats of attack against, peaceful nuclear facilities are unacceptable under any circumstances." Citing past IAEA General Conference resolutions and Security Council declarations regarding the inviolability of monitored nuclear sites, Tehran requested that UN leadership carry out their mandate under the UN Charter "without delay and without discrimination or double standards."

Specifically, the Iranian petition asks the Secu-



urity Council to unequivocally denounce the assault on Darkhovin and reaffirm that any strike or threat against peaceful nuclear facilities violates international law. Furthermore, the representative demanded that the council insist the United States "immediately cease all attacks and threats of attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran, including against its peaceful nuclear installations," while holding Washington "fully accountable under international law for its internationally wrongful acts and for all consequences arising therefrom."

The formal complaint comes amid broader regional military escalation, with American forces striking civilian infrastructure across southern Iranian provinces. Late last week, US operations destroyed six key bridges in Hormozgan Province following repeated warnings from US leadership regarding targets on Iran's power grid.

Iran demonstrates unrivaled strike capability across region

From page 1 ► According to the IRGC, missile and drone strikes destroyed a US radar installation and an air defense system in Al-Muharraqa, Bahrain, while a Patriot missile battery in Al-Riffa was simultaneously hit and rendered inoperable. The force said the operation was intended to eliminate defensive obstacles ahead of 'broader military operations.'

The Guard Corps later announced a second phase of the campaign, saying cruise missiles struck the central data infrastructure of Amazon in Bahrain, which it is supporting US operations in the region.

The military campaign also expanded to Kuwait, where the IRGC said it targeted a long-range radar site, communications facilities, satellite reception systems and a missile-defense radar. It further stated to have struck an MQ-9 drone hangar at Ali Al Salem Air Base, destroying or severely damaging several unmanned aerial vehicles.

In another statement, the IRGC said several US military personnel were killed in a strike on an American military compound in the Rukban area of Jordan.



Separately, Iran's Army announced that its Ground Force had launched surface-to-surface missile attacks against US HIMARS rocket systems stationed at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait as part of the latest phase of Operation Thunderbolt, describing the strikes as retaliation for recent US attacks inside Iran.

The military announcements came as senior IRGC commanders inspected frontline positions overlooking the Strait of Hormuz. Brigadier General Mohammad Karami, commander of the IRGC Ground Force, visited operational units deployed along Iran's southern coastline and strategic islands, emphasizing that combat readiness, contin-

uous surveillance and enhanced defensive capabilities remain central to safeguarding security in the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, Iran also reported new maritime operations in the Strait of Hormuz. The IRGC Navy said two commercial tankers attempting to transit 'an unsafe southern shipping corridor' were stopped after catching fire, with rescue teams evacuating their crews. In a separate statement, Iranian authorities said a Kuwaiti oil tanker traveling through a US-designated maritime route had also been intercepted after disabling its Automatic Identification System (AIS).

Iranian military officials reit-

erated that commercial navigation through the Strait remains subject to Iranian security measures, asserting that vessels using routes coordinated with Tehran have continued transits while ships attempting alternative southern passages have faced increasing risks.

The latest operations follow days of intensified military exchanges between Iran and the United States after Washington launched repeated airstrikes on targets inside Iran. Iranian officials say the strikes constitute violations of the Pakistan-brokered Memorandum of Understanding signed on June 17, which was intended to halt hostilities and pave the way for renewed negotiations.

Tehran has repeatedly stated that its military operations will continue as long as US attacks persist, while senior commanders have warned that additional phases of Operation Nasr-2 are being prepared. The escalating confrontation has further heightened tensions across the Persian Gulf, raising concerns over regional security, commercial shipping and global energy markets as instability deepens around one of the world's most critical maritime corridors.

Trump's treacherous knife in Iran's back: Betraying the Islamabad MoU and the world's hope for peace

By Mir Mohammad Alikhan

ISLAMABAD - I stood there in Tehran, amid a sea of millions, my own eyes stinging with tears that refused to fall. As a state guest of Iran for the funeral of the martyred Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, I witnessed something no amount of Western propaganda can erase: a nation united not in defeat, but in unbreakable resolve. This wasn't just mourning. This was a resurrection of spirit. And yet, even as those millions poured into the streets, Donald Trump once again stabbed the entire peace-loving world in the back by violating the Islamabad MoU. This isn't Trump's first betrayal. It won't be his last. But the blood on his hands and Netanyahu's will stain history forever.

Witness to martyrdom – millions united in Tehran

The air in Tehran during those July days of 2026 was thick with grief, yet electric with defiance. I arrived as a state guest to attend the state funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, assassinated in the opening salvos of the US-Israeli war. What I saw shattered every



lie peddled by empire's mouthpieces. Millions upon millions of Iranians—from every corner of the Islamic Republic flooded the streets, beating their chests, chanting slogans of resistance, and carrying portraits of their martyred leader like beacons in the darkness.

These weren't coerced crowds. These were fathers holding their children's hands, mothers weeping openly, young people who had never known another Supreme Leader linking arms with elders who remembered

The geography of the strait speaks for itself

By Mohammad Javad Akhavan

TEHRAN - If we look at the map of the physical geography of our beloved country and carefully examine the position of the Strait of Hormuz on it, an important truth becomes evident: the Strait of Hormuz is not merely a waterway, but the natural, submerged continuation of the body of the Iranian Plateau. Relying on two fundamental characteristics—the convexity (arc) of the coastline toward the interior of Iran and the geological extension of the seabed from the heart of the Zagros mountain range—it becomes clear that this Strait constitutes an inseparable part of the natural domain of the Iranian Plateau, and any other interpretation amounts to disregarding undeniable geographical facts.

The convexity (the northward curvature) of Iran's coastline is more than a natural phenomenon; it is a God-given geometric design embedded in geography that has made Iran's complete mastery over this chokepoint possible. The deepest—and the only navigable—channel for supertankers lies precisely adjacent to the apex of this arc and the Iranian islands of Qeshm, Larak, and Hengam. This means that, in practice, the "vital artery" of maritime traffic flows in the embrace of Iran's geogra-

phy, and no country can gain access to the Persian Gulf without passing beneath the shadow of this arc.

The aforementioned arc has shaped the Strait into a concave bow, with the strategic islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, Qeshm, Larak, Hengam, and Hormuz arranged precisely along the tip of this arrow. These islands, which military experts describe as "unsinkable aircraft carriers," enjoy a 360-degree field of vision and dominance over the shipping route without the need for movement, forming the first line of defense for Iran's maritime borders.

The narrow width of the channel and the existence of shallow sedimentary areas along the edges of the arc place severe limitations on the maneuverability of foreign naval fleets. Under such circumstances, asymmetric tactics such as the "mass deployment of fast attack boats" and the "laying of naval mines" become highly effective, and Iran, relying on its complete knowledge of the seabed, holds the security of this waterway in its hands.

Furthermore, by extending its sphere of surveillance to the port of Jask, east of the Strait, the Islamic Republic of Iran has transformed this arc into a "complete crescent." As a result,



the line of defense extends beyond the chokepoint itself, enabling Iran to detect any movement kilometers before vessels enter the Persian Gulf from the Sea of Oman.

Beyond all this, from a geological perspective, the Strait of Hormuz is nothing other than the submerged continuation of the Zagros mountain range and part of the body of the Iranian Plateau. The sedimentary layers and salt domes beneath the Strait correspond entirely in structure to the southern mainland of Iran and originated from the very tectonic processes that shaped the Iranian Plateau itself. Moreover, during the last Ice Age, the Persian Gulf formed

part of the dry land of the Iranian Plateau, while the Strait of Hormuz was an ancient valley through which the great rivers—the Karun and the Euphrates—flowed. This historical continuity bears witness to the intrinsic belonging of this seabed to the land of Iran.

Hydrocarbon reserves also speak to this reality. The enormous oil and gas fields beneath the Strait are the natural continuation of the resources found in the southern mainland of Iran, and this economic continuity further affirms the inseparable connection of this expanse with the territory of Iran.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, Pakistan deepen strategic partnership with focus on trade, border, security and regional stability

From Page 1 ► The meetings focused on expanding economic cooperation, improving border connectivity and enhancing joint efforts to combat terrorism and cross-border crime, while the two sides also exchanged views on regional developments and broader security issues.

A key outcome of the talks was the reaffirmation of both governments' commitment to raising annual bilateral trade to \$10 billion through improved transport links, streamlined customs procedures and the removal of barriers to commercial exchanges.

During discussions with his Pakistani counterpart, Momeni outlined three priorities for Tehran: facilitating the movement of commercial trucks between the two countries, accelerating bilateral trade growth, and modernizing railway infrastructure at the Taftan-Mirjaveh border crossing to strengthen regional connectivity.

The Iranian minister noted that Iran has already extended its railway network to near the Mirjaveh border and expressed hope that Pakistan would expedite the



modernization of its rail infrastructure on the Taftan side, describing the project as essential for expanding trade and freight transport.

Momeni also called for increased commercial activity at the Rimdan-Gabd border crossing, urging Islamabad to adopt additional measures to facilitate cross-border trade and improve logistical efficiency.

For his part, Naqvi welcomed Momeni's visit to Islamabad, describing it as a positive step toward closer regional cooperation. He said the participation of senior

Iranian officials from the ministries of industry, petroleum, agriculture, and transport reflected both governments' determination to broaden economic engagement and create new opportunities for investment and commerce.

Security cooperation featured prominently in the discussions. Both sides identified terrorism as a shared threat and reaffirmed their commitment to preventing militant groups and their financial networks from undermining stability along the nearly 900-kilometer Iran-Pakistan border.

Naqvi called for closer coordination

between the two countries' security and intelligence agencies to dismantle terrorist networks and disrupt their sources of financing. He also highlighted the need for stronger bilateral cooperation against human trafficking, including efforts to prevent criminal organizations from exploiting maritime routes for illegal migration.

In meetings with Prime Minister Sharif and Field Marshal Munir, Momeni also reviewed broader regional developments and emphasized the importance of sustained political dialogue and strategic coordination between Tehran and Islamabad.

Beyond official talks, the Iranian minister visited Pakistan's National Monument in Islamabad to pay tribute to the country's founders and those who lost their lives in the struggle for independence. He also toured the headquarters of the Islamabad Capital Territory Police and was scheduled to visit Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force as part of efforts to expand cooperation in law enforcement and counter-narcotics operations.

Attacks on Iran's infrastructure may amount to 'collective punishment': Italian analyst

Chinappi says targeting ports and power networks reflects a hybrid warfare model designed to erode civilian life

TEHRAN - Giulio Chinappi, an Italian political analyst and researcher from the Center for Mediterranean Eurasia Studies (CeSEM), believes the collapse of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding reflects not a failure of diplomacy but a deliberate turn toward coercion by Washington and Tel Aviv.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Chinappi discusses the structural weaknesses behind the memorandum's breakdown, Israel's strategic objectives, Europe's alignment with Washington, and the legal questions raised by attacks on civilian infrastructure.

The following is the full text of the interview:

Only weeks before the renewed attacks, diplomatic channels still appeared to be open. Looking back, do you think diplomacy genuinely failed, or was military escalation becoming the preferred option for one or more of the parties involved?

I would not describe what happened as an inevitable failure of diplomacy. Diplomacy did not exhaust all its possibilities; rather, it was progressively subordinated to a strategy of military and economic coercion. The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding demonstrated that a negotiated framework was possible. The 14-point document provided for a ceasefire and a 60-day period in which the outstanding disputes could be addressed. Its very existence disproves the argument that there was no diplomatic alternative.

The fundamental problem was that diplomacy was not understood in the same way by the two sides. Tehran regarded it as a reciprocal process that should end hostilities, remove the blockade, protect Iranian sovereignty and create the conditions for separate negotiations on the nuclear question. Washington appeared to regard the ceasefire as a temporary instrument through which it could reopen the Strait of Hormuz and then extract strategic concessions from Iran while retaining military and economic pressure.

In my assessment, escalation became the preferred option for those in Washington and Tel Aviv who were unwilling to accept an agreement between sovereign equals. They expected negotiations to produce Iranian capitulation rather than a balanced settlement. Once it became clear that Iran would not surrender its fundamental rights, military force was reintroduced as a means of changing Tehran's calculations. The renewed blockade and successive rounds of American air strikes therefore represented a political choice, not the unavoidable result of diplomatic failure. The current military campaign has expanded despite evidence that earlier attacks had failed to force Iran into strategic submission.

The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding was initially seen as a potential breakthrough. In your assessment, what were the structural reasons behind its collapse, and who ultimately benefited from

the failure of that diplomatic process?

The memorandum collapsed because it rested on fundamentally incompatible interpretations. Iran viewed it as the beginning of a reciprocal process leading to the definitive end of the war. The United States treated it more as a provisional arrangement designed to restore maritime traffic while postponing—or preserving—its principal instruments of pressure.

The first structural weakness was the absence of credible enforcement guarantees. Iran was expected to comply with restrictions and security commitments, while Washington retained control over sanctions, the naval blockade and the timing of military operations. This created an inherently unequal arrangement. The second weakness concerned sequencing. Tehran insisted that the cessation of aggression and the removal of the blockade could not be made conditional upon concessions concerning its peaceful nuclear program. Washington instead sought to connect the end of hostilities to nuclear, missile and regional issues.

A third problem was the accumulated deficit of trust. Agreements cannot survive when one party reserves the right to reinterpret or suspend its obligations unilaterally. Iranian officials repeatedly stated that Tehran would respect the memorandum provided that the United States did the same, but subsequently accused Washington of plunging the agreement into crisis through unilateral measures.

Israel's role must also be considered. Any agreement that ends the war while leaving Iran sovereign, territorially intact and capable of maintaining an effective deterrent conflicts with the more maximalist Israeli objective of permanently weakening the Islamic Republic. For those pursuing regime change or the strategic disarmament of Iran, a reciprocal settlement was therefore less attractive than prolonged confrontation.

In the immediate term, the failure benefited the political and military forces that opposed compromise and sought to preserve the logic of permanent pressure. It also allowed the Israeli leadership to keep the United States militarily engaged in a conflict that serves Israel's regional objectives. In strategic terms, however, there has been no genuine beneficiary. The renewed conflict has destabilized energy markets, increased fuel prices, endangered navigation and intensified the suffering of civilian populations throughout the region. In the United States, average petrol prices have again exceeded four dollars per gallon as fighting has disrupted traffic through Hormuz.

Several countries attempted to facilitate dialogue between Tehran and Washington before the latest escalation. Why were these mediation efforts unable to prevent renewed military confrontation?

Pakistan, Qatar, Oman and other regional actors performed an important diplomat-



ic function, but mediation has clear limits. A mediator can transmit proposals, reduce misunderstandings and create a negotiating environment. It cannot compel a major power to respect an agreement or prevent a third party from acting as a spoiler.

The central problem was therefore not the quality of the mediation, but the absence of political will among the actors possessing the greatest military power. Pakistan could help draft an agreement, but it could not guarantee that Washington would remove the blockade permanently. Qatar and Oman could maintain channels of communication, but they could not oblige Israel to accept a settlement that preserved Iran's strategic capabilities. Nor could any mediator provide Tehran with an enforceable guarantee against renewed attacks.

The imbalance of power also weakened the process. Washington continued to regard military and economic pressure as legitimate negotiating tools, while Iran was expected to demonstrate restraint before receiving reciprocal guarantees. Under those conditions, mediation risked becoming a mechanism for managing coercion rather than overcoming it.

Recent conflicts have increasingly blurred the line between military operations and attacks on critical infrastructure. In the case of Iran, are we witnessing a new model of warfare in which a country's economic arteries, transportation networks, and public infrastructure become the primary battlefield. What strategic logic underpins such an approach?

What we are witnessing is a model of total or hybrid warfare in which the distinction between the military battlefield and civilian economic life is deliberately eroded. Ports, airports, energy installations, communication systems, transportation networks, payment systems and maritime routes become components of the war plan.

The strategic logic is to produce cascading effects. Destroying or blockading a port does not affect only military logistics; it interrupts imports, exports, employment and access to essential goods. Damaging an electricity network also affects water distribution, hospitals, refrigeration, communications and industrial production. Striking transport infrastructure interferes with both the movement of goods and the normal life of the population.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

How human values and national scientific advancement became the driving forces behind Iran?

By A.R. Shahani

In recent days, more than forty million people participated in the farewell and funeral ceremonies for the martyred leader of the Revolution, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei, in just five cities across Iran and Iraq: Tehran, Qom, Mashhad, Najaf, and Karbala. These ceremonies were marked by deep emotions and anti-American and anti-Zionist slogans. At the same time, similar large-scale public gatherings were held in many other cities in Iran as well as in several other countries, including Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Nigeria, Pakistan, and India, although no official statistics have been released regarding the total number of participants. These events point to one fundamental reality: that the Islamic Revolution of Iran and its martyred leader have established a profound connection with the hearts of people around the world. This article seeks to explain the reasons behind this enduring public support by examining three interrelated themes: the historical foundations of the Islamic Revolution, the leadership of Ayatollah Khamenei, and the central role of science and technological advancement in preserving Iran's independence and confronting with the hegemonic international order.

1. The circumstances of the occurrence of the Islamic Revolution of Iran

The Islamic Revolution of Iran took place at a time when the international system was divided between two competing power blocs: the Western bloc led by the United States and the Eastern bloc led by the Soviet Union.

For centuries, the front of truth had found little opportunity to emerge on the global stage. It was under these circumstances that the Islamic Revolution of Iran, following a massive popular uprising in response to the call of Imam Khomeini, triumphed. The Islamic Revolution represented an independent alternative to both blocs. Inspired by Imam Khomeini's leadership and guided by the slogan "Neither East nor West, but the Islamic Republic," the Revolution sought to establish a political order founded upon two essential pillars: Islam as the ideological and legal framework of the state and popular participation as the foundation for establishing, administering, and safeguarding the political system. In essence, the Revolution was realized on the basis of the Iranian people's

profound belief in the Islam of the Prophet Muhammad, Imam Ali, and Imam Husayn.

The first decade following the Revolution, under the leadership of Imam Khomeini, was devoted to laying the foundations of the new political order and introducing and consolidating the values of the Islamic system. The significance of this ten-year period lies in the fact that the Islamic Republic—understood as a system of governance based on the teachings of the Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt—was established at a time when no previous model or practical precedent for such a system existed within the prevailing international order. Consequently, the design and institutionalization of this novel model in the modern era stand among Imam Khomeini's most significant and enduring achievements.

Throughout this entire decade, however, the country was confronted with numerous crises and challenges, including the eight-year War of Suddaam's regime with Iran.

2. The leadership of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei

Following the death of Imam Khomeini, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei assumed the leadership of the Islamic Republic for the next thirty-seven years. During this period, the collapse of the Soviet Union transformed the international system into a predominantly bipolar order centered on the United States. This made the period particularly challenging for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This era also coincided with significant technological advances in the West, during which the United States and its Western allies prominently promoted the concept of globalization. According to this perspective, globalization represented an American theoretical framework for consolidating its dominance over the world's peoples and establishing a modern form of hierarchical international order. By taking advantage of modern technology, this project was presented with an attractive appearance intended to appeal to global public opinion. Beneath this appealing image—characterized by the age of communications, closer interaction among nations, and the removal of borders—lay a darker agenda designed to advance hegemonic objectives. These underlying characteristics included:

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Former NCTC director warns US cannot defeat Iran, demands immediate Middle East withdrawal

TEHRAN — In a scathing public statement, former National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) Director Joe Kent called on the US government to immediately halt military operations in the Middle East, pull back troops, and negotiate directly with regional adversaries, warning that American forces cannot defeat Iran militarily.

Kent's comments mark a significant escalation in his criticism of current US foreign policy, following his high-profile resignation from his post on March 17, 2026, when he stated he could no longer support the administration's military campaign against Tehran.

In his statement posted to X, Kent argued that Washington has reached a strategic dead end and cautioned against further military involvement across the region. "Keep in mind that we could not militarily defeat the Houthis in 2025. We know we can't militarily defeat Iran now. We will certainly not be able to defeat both of them simultaneously," Kent wrote. He urged policymakers to "skip the decades of carnage" and negotiate exit deals immediately, drawing parallels to previous American military exits from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria.

Focusing on global shipping and economic security, Kent emphasized that Iran currently controls two vital maritime transit corridors: the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandeb. Rather than attempting a high-risk military solution to reopen these passages, he urged strategic realism, arguing that pulling US troops out of harm's way would actually increase American diplomatic leverage and



prevent a crippling global energy crisis.

Kent also directed sharp criticism toward Washington's national security establishment, urging leaders to tune out "the neocons and the Israeli lobby's tired talking points about WMD," which he characterized as bait used to draw the country into a disastrous quagmire. Reinforcing the rationale behind his March resignation, Kent reiterated his position that Tehran poses no imminent threat to the US homeland and that American involvement in the conflict has been largely driven by pressure from foreign allies and domestic lobbying networks.

A former Green Beret and CIA officer with 11 combat deployments, Kent served as the Director of the NCTC until his departure. Directly addressing President Donald Trump, Kent concluded that withdrawing forces now provides the best opportunity to avoid a mass-casualty event or an economic collapse while restoring public trust.

Iran celebrates national industry, mining day with vows of unity, resilience

TEHRAN- The ceremony for the National Day of Industry and Mining was held on the morning of Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at the IIRB Conference Center, attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian, the minister of industry, mining and trade, and a group of industrialists, enterprises, entrepreneurs, and representatives of industrial associations.

You thwarted great powers: president

Pezeshkian began his remarks by stating: The enemies imposed an all-out war on the Iranian nation with the aim of creating internal pressure and social collapse, but you, the proud producers and industrialists, stood firm against all difficulties with unparalleled endurance and thwarted the great powers in achieving their nefarious goals; to the extent that they were forced to abandon war in favor of interaction and dialogue.

The President attributed this great victory to domestic unity, empathy, and cohesion, and emphasized: We, too, in the government, in the shadow of this sectoral and cross-sectoral synergy, have pledged to fulfill your rightful demands as economic activists. We will strive day and night with all our might to give proper responses to the demands and concerns of the owners of economic processes and enterprises.

Pezeshkian further expressed his gratitude for the unparalleled role of producers in supplying the country's needs during the harsh days of the war, noting: In fact, it was you who fought the enemies on the economic front and prevented the country from facing shortages and famine in those critical circumstances. Although the enemy's attacks on energy infrastructure caused disruptions in the electricity and energy sectors and placed pressure on you, through the participation and cooperation of the people and the coordination of all executive bodies, we managed to control electricity consumption. The enemy thought that by targeting vital facilities, it would bring the country to collapse, but the empathy of the people and the harmony of officials foiled their plots.

The President identified synergy and constructive interaction as the key to the country's progress and prosperity, adding: Everyone must join hands to resolve the problems of industrialists, economic activists, and all segments of society. As the President and all members of the cabinet, we consider ourselves duty-bound to fulfill our commitments to producers and enterprises; however, this important task requires comprehensive interaction, collective wisdom, thoughtful deliberation, and coordination among all pillars of society.

Pezeshkian, referring to the destruction and damage to the country's infrastructure in the two recent wars, stated: We will manage the conditions in a way that imposes minimal pressure on production units, and we will take the necessary measures to remove obstacles.

Production is bottleneck of economic power: minister

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, also emphasized at the ceremony that today, production must become a common and shared discourse among all pillars of the establishment, stating: Just as the Strait of Hormuz is the main artery of our territorial sovereignty, the production sector is the bottleneck of the country's economic power, and protecting it is a national and public duty.

Referring to the current critical situation of the country, he stated: Today, we are at a historical turning point and a special economic juncture. The decisions we make today will have a direct impact on the future of the country and future generations; hence, the responsibility of those in charge of the industry and mining sector is much heavier than before.

While honoring the memory of the martyrs of service and paying tribute to the efforts made during the difficult periods of the past, he added: The dignity and authority of the country today and the enhancement of Iran's international standing in global equations are owed to the spirit of self-belief and national resilience. This self-belief, especially in the industry and mining sector, is a debt that we must repay through dedicated and round-the-clock efforts.



The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, pointing out the limitations facing the economic sphere, emphasized: In the current situation, speed and proper timing in making economic decisions are of double importance. Timely and swift decisions increase national capacity, while any hesitation or wrong decision in these specific circumstances will impose heavy costs on the country.

Atabak, stressing "unity and empathy" in the 14th government, said: Experience has shown that empathy and convergence among institutions have always been a solution. Today, to maintain the country's stability, all institutions and ministries must set aside sectoral perspectives and pursue the continuity of production as their primary and shared goal.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, expressing gratitude for the round-the-clock efforts of those active in the industry sector, stated: I sincerely thank all responsible managers, entrepreneurs, specialists, and workers who stood firm with all their might during difficult times and periodic crises and did not allow the wheels of production and the supply of people's necessities to stop. Undoubtedly, the criterion by which future generations will judge us will be our performance during the hard days.

Supporting private sector means supporting families: ICCIMA head

In the commemoration of the National Day of Industry and Mining, Samad Hassanzadeh, the Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, considered maintaining employment the most important function of the private sector in wartime conditions and said: About 65 percent of employed heads of households receive their salaries from the private sector, so supporting the private sector means supporting workers, families, and a vast network of jobs.

He commemorated the National Day of Industry and Mining by appreciating all the strivers in this field, especially entrepreneurs, producers, and industrialists who have kept the light of the country's production on in the most difficult circumstances, and said: This occasion is an opportunity to think about the future of Iran's economy and to redefine the position of industry and mining in maintaining the country's stability, security, and economic survival.

Elaborating on the role of industry and mining in economic resilience during and after the war, Hassanzadeh described industry and mining as the pillars of the country's economic resistance, adding: Industrial and mining enterprises have always been an important part of the country's national security infrastructure and the first lines of economic resistance, a role that has become more prominent under conditions of war and sanctions; because they play a decisive role in producing essential goods, maintaining employment, and preserving social hope.

He added: Production units that continue to operate despite limitations in the supply of raw materials, difficulties in financial transfers, liquidity shortages, energy imbalances, and rising production costs, are in effect maintaining a part of the country's economic and social stability.

At the end of this gathering, with the President in attendance, selected industrial and mining units in various sectors were honored. Additionally, a group of veteran economic activists and owners of industries and mines, while presenting reports on the current situation, shared their concerns, suggestions, and solutions for improving the management of the wartime and post-war period with the President, and emphasized the necessity of continued government support to overcome the challenges ahead.

Trump's reckless gamble: How American aggression against Iran is crippling global economy

TEHRAN- Just weeks after a fragile ceasefire offered a glimmer of hope for stability in the Persian Gulf, the Trump administration has once again plunged the region—and the world—into a dangerous abyss.

The renewed American military aggression against Iran, initiated on July 7, is not merely a bilateral conflict; it is an act of economic warfare against the entire world. By recklessly tearing up the Islamabad memorandum of understanding and reinstating a naval blockade on Iranian ports, Donald Trump has demonstrated a profound disregard for global stability, prioritizing a misguided and belligerent foreign policy over the well-being of the international economy.

The administration's actions are indefensible. In a flagrant violation of the recent truce, the U.S. has launched relentless strikes, including attacks on civilian infrastructure. In the southern province of Hormozgan alone, U.S. strikes have resulted in civilian casualties, with reports of roads and bridges being bombed, killing and trapping innocent people. As of July 20, the U.S. has pounded Iran for consecutive nights, an escalation that has seen the bombing of bridges, an airport, and coastal defense systems. This systematic targeting is a clear attempt to cripple a nation and punish its people, not for any legitimate security concern, but to force their leaders into submission. The Trump administration's claim of moral superiority rings



hollow as its actions risk constituting war crimes.

However, the most devastating impact of this folly is being felt far beyond the battlefields of the Middle East. By targeting the Strait of Hormuz—the world's most vital artery for oil and gas—the Trump administration has effectively held the global economy hostage. The strait, a critical chokepoint for energy flows, has seen shipping grind to a near-halt. This blockade and the ensuing hostilities have sent shockwaves through global markets, driving up energy prices and reigniting inflationary pressures that were only beginning to ease.

The economic damage is quantifiable and severe. The International Monetary Fund now projects global growth to slow to a meager 3% in 2026, down from previous averages. More alarmingly, the IMF expects global consumer prices to increase by 4.7% in 2026, effectively stalling two years of progress against

inflation. Oil prices have surged, jumping as much as 6% following Trump's declaration that the ceasefire was "over", and have since crossed the \$90 a barrel mark. This is not just a statistic; it translates to higher gasoline prices for American families, which have already crossed the \$4 per gallon mark, and increased costs for goods and services worldwide.

The consequences are particularly acute for Europe. A simultaneous heatwave has crippled the continent's river transport, with the Rhine River—a crucial route for coal and oil—seeing water levels drop so low that barges cannot operate at full capacity. This logistical nightmare, compounded by the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, has pushed energy costs and inflation even higher. In Germany alone, the early summer heatwave has already inflicted an estimated €6 billion in damages, a figure expected to rise as such events become more frequent.

Economy Ministry plans to eliminate laws hindering production, reform tax system

TEHRAN-The Minister of Economy announced the drafting of a reform package to eliminate laws that hinder business, as well as revising the tax system to reduce traditional audits and corruption.

According to the Mehr News Agency, Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, while appreciating entrepreneurs for continuing their activities in difficult circumstances, stated: The Ministry of Economy has placed the identification and removal of obstacles caused by cumbersome laws and regulations on its agenda for the past several months to facilitate the operating environment for producers.

Referring to the resolution of last year's currency concerns, he added: A set of redundant and production-hindering laws have been identified with the focus of the Economic Department, the Center for Improving Business Environment, and the Trade Office, which are in the form of a reform package on the agenda of the government's economic commission.

Part of these reforms, which require changes in the law, will be pursued through the Parliament or the heads of the three branches, he added.

Madanizadeh asked entrepreneurs to sub-

mit their proposals to complete this package.

The Minister of Economy also elaborated on the reform of the tax system and said: Traditional mechanisms are being revised so that by making processes smart and systematic, while creating transparency and combating corruption, the need for traditional audits and direct interaction of entrepreneurs with auditors is minimized.

This amendment is currently under review in the Economic Committee of the Parliament, and we hope its implementation will be an effective step towards improving the country's business environment, he noted.

Qatari market has high potential for expanding Iranian summer fruits export

TEHRAN- Iran's Commercial Attaché in Qatar, while pointing to the capacities of the Qatari market for importing horticultural products, has declared the fresh fruit market of Qatar as one of the most attractive regional markets for Iranian exporters, given the country's heavy dependence on fruit imports.

According to the Public Relations Department of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Abbas Abdolkhani, describing Qatar's climatic conditions, stated: "Limited water resources and limited agricultural production have meant that a large part of the country's need for various fruits is met through imports. On the other hand, demand for fresh, high-quality fruits is continuously increasing."

Abdolkhani, noting that Iran possesses competitive advantages due to its climatic diversity, four-season production, high quality of horticultural products, and short maritime distance to Qatar, added: "Products such as grapes, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums, cherries, figs, pears, apples, and Iranian kiwis are able to compete with rival products in the Qatari market in terms of quality, taste, variety, and price."

According to the Commercial Attaché, the short sea transport time from Iran's Dayyer Port to Qatar's Al Ruwais Port helps maintain the freshness of the product, reduces waste, and increases the shelf life of the fruit in the destination market – an advantage that many distant competitors do not enjoy.

Abdolkhani also pointed out the intense competition in this market, stating: "Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, South Africa, India, Pakistan, and European countries have made extensive investments in packaging, branding, and marketing in recent years and have managed to capture a significant share of the Qatari market. This shows that product quality alone is not enough for success."

Abdolkhani further offered suggestions for the sustainable presence of Iranian exporters in the Qatari market, adding: "They should pay special attention to improving sorting, grading, standard packaging, maintaining the cold chain, using refrigerated containers, continuous supply, and creating reputable export brands. Furthermore, direct cooperation with importers, distribution companies, and Qatari chain stores can help consolidate the presence of Iranian products in this market."

Emphasizing that the Qatari market seeks stable suppliers of horticultural products, he clarified: "The Qatari market is looking for a supplier that can guarantee uniform quality, regular delivery, proper packaging, and stable supply, rather than just the cheapest product. Therefore, success in this market requires a professional approach, long-term planning, and consistent marketing by private sector actors."

Finally, the Commercial Attaché stated: "Paying attention to international standards and investing in branding and marketing can significantly increase Iran's share of Qatar's fresh fruit market. This, in addition to increasing foreign exchange earnings, will lead to the prosperity of horticultural production, the development of the packaging industry, the reduction of agricultural waste, and the creation of new opportunities for private sector activists and Iranian exporters."

On July 5, Abdolkhani announced the reopening of Qatar's Al Ruwais port to Iranian goods and the resumption of maritime trade between the two countries.

Referring to the resumption of Iran-Qatar trade, Iran's Commercial Attaché in Doha stated: After

Trump's war is exacerbating a climate-induced crisis, creating a perfect storm of economic disruption.

Furthermore, the conflict has exposed the hollowness of the administration's strategic thinking. While claiming to target Iran's military capabilities, the U.S. has merely engaged in a costly and unwinnable war of attrition. The conflict has become a "race against time," as one analyst put it, a dangerous game where the only certainty is mounting economic and human costs.

Instead of diplomacy, the Trump administration has chosen escalation. Instead of pursuing peace, it has pursued a path that benefits no one, except perhaps those with interests in volatile energy markets. Even U.S. allies and international figures like Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov have condemned the renewed aggression as a violation of the memorandum and a threat to global economic security. The administration's myopic policy is a blatant act of international sabotage.

As the U.S. and Iran trade blows, the world watches in dismay. It is time for the international community to unequivocally condemn the Trump administration's reckless gamble. The path to a stable and prosperous world does not run through the Strait of Hormuz on a warship, but through dialogue and a return to the rule of law. For the sake of the global economy and the lives of millions, this madness must end.

Netanyahu turns his deterrence dilemma into a nuclear gamble

From page 1 ▶ The location itself was part of the threat, and perhaps more dangerous than the words themselves.

From there, Netanyahu warned Iran's leaders not to "bet on calm" if they attacked his genocidal regime, and not to expect a repeat of what happened in previous rounds, because the next response, according to him, would be "very different and far more powerful." He then declared that the days when the regime was attacked without responding with a "double strike" were over.

Yet the speech, when stripped of the illusion of strength and intimidation, reveals more than its speaker intended to conceal. It came from Dimona, the city that houses the nuclear reactor not subject to comprehensive international oversight, and it was directed at a country that has not been proven to seek nuclear weapons.

It came after wars that Netanyahu claimed had destroyed Iran's capabilities and changed the region's balance of power, only for him now to prepare for "all scenarios" and warn of a new Iranian attack.

However, the danger is no longer confined to Iran and the Axis of Resistance. What the Israeli regime has done, from Gaza and the West Bank to Lebanon, Syria, and Iran, reveals a project that views unchecked force as a permanent means of redrawing the region and subjugating its peoples.

As a result, Netanyahu and other Zionist fascists have transformed from a threat against a particular state or axis into a direct threat to regional security and international peace.

The first contradiction lies in Netanyahu's choice of the symbol of the Israeli nuclear project to threaten Iran in the name of security and preventing nuclear proliferation.

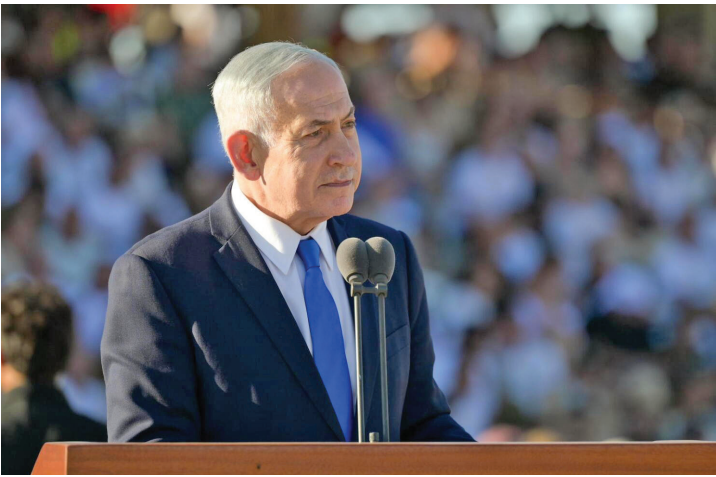
Israel is the only party in the region that has not joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), does not place its facilities under comprehensive supervision by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and maintains a policy of "nuclear ambiguity" even though that ambiguity now exists only in diplomatic language that has become a cover for complicity.

The ghost of 1986 and the geography of confrontation

From page 1 ▶ Standing before a crowd in Tripoli, he made a claim that was largely dismissed as the propaganda of a cornered dictator. He argued that the gravest threat to the United States would not come from Soviet missiles or foreign armies, but from within its own political system, a system he claimed was held hostage by narrow interests. At the time, it was political theater, the rhetoric of a man locked in a bitter confrontation with a superpower.

Nearly four decades later, fragments of that speech continue to circulate. Why? Because they seem to speak to a present that is remarkably different from the Cold War context in which they were uttered. However, historians caution against treating political speeches as prophecy. Context matters. Gaddafi's rhetoric was aimed at an unequal international order and a history of colonial interference, themes that resonated across the Middle East. He presented Libya as resisting domination, but his rule, centralized around his personal leadership, was authoritarian. His Green Book spoke of direct democracy, while his Libya became increasingly isolated.

The 1986 raid demonstrated American willingness to proj-



The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute estimates that the Zionist regime's arsenal contains around 90 nuclear warheads and that it continues to modernize its capabilities and delivery systems.

By contrast, Iran, regardless of disagreements over enrichment levels and the scope of its cooperation with the IAEA, remains a party to the NPT, and no competent international body has announced that it is seeking to develop a nuclear bomb.

Nevertheless, Iran's program is treated as the greatest nuclear threat, while Israel's nuclear-armed arsenal enjoys political immunity almost equal to its military's war crimes.

This is a fully developed form of international nuclear hypocrisy: those who abide by treaties are surrounded and pressured, while those who stand outside are protected. Iranian nuclear facilities are bombed in the name of preventing danger. At the same time, the Dimona reactor is allowed to operate in the dark, its arsenal granted immunity from oversight and accountability and even the ability to threaten the region.

The issue is not about preventing proliferation; it is about monopolizing power. The Zionist regime does not want a "Middle East" free of nuclear weapons. It wants a "Middle East" in which it alone possesses such weapons, while other states are not even allowed to use nuclear technology for civilian purposes.

Dimona was not a backdrop for Netanyahu's speech; it was a signal of what the regime possesses while refusing to officially acknowledge possessing it. Yet Netanyahu, by bringing the reactor into the arena of threats,

ect power decisively. It did not, however, resolve the underlying tensions. Today, similar calculations are being made, but the geography is different. The current confrontation with Iran presents a strategic challenge far more daunting than Gaddafi's Libya.

Consider the geography. Kharg Island, Iran's primary oil export hub, is often discussed as a target. It is the size of Iwo Jima, where the United States endured weeks of bombardment and devastating casualties. Qeshm Island, in the Strait of Hormuz, is larger than Okinawa, a territory that took months to secure and cost thousands of lives. Iran has had decades to tunnel these islands, study American tactics, and prepare for this scenario. Unlike Japan in WWII, they possess precision missiles that can reach every inch of the Persian Gulf.

A sobering assessment from former Navy SEAL Matt Bracken frames the reality: "If we went into Iran, I think we will lose everybody we send in, the more we send in, the more we lose, and the Iranians have been very open about saying, come on in, we welcome you." This is not defeatism; it is arithmetic. The islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb form an "arch

weakened the very policy of ambiguity that has protected the Zionist nuclear project for decades. Ambiguity loses its meaning when a nuclear site becomes a platform for sending messages of war.

The second contradiction lies in the fact that Netanyahu's threat, presented as a display of strength, carries within it an admission of failure to achieve a decisive victory.

If the American-Zionist strikes destroyed Iran's nuclear program and crippled its missile capabilities, then why does he expect a new Iranian attack? Why does he announce readiness for all scenarios? And why does he need to promise that the next response will be stronger than the previous one?

The side that has won a war does not stand before its audience warning them of another war, and the side that has fully restored its deterrence does not need to exaggerate what it will do if that deterrence is tested again.

The rounds of confrontation have proven that military and technological superiority does not guarantee the ability to achieve a decisive victory.

Despite the strikes and losses it suffered, Iran has been able to preserve its will to retaliate and retain a significant portion of the tools required to do so, while bringing the war into Israel's territory and against American bases in the region.

Therefore, Netanyahu's threats do not negate Iran's ability to respond; they confirm it, because they are based on the assumption that Tehran is still capable of inflicting damage that requires a response "far more powerful."



defense," a curved chain that allows Iran to monitor and disrupt traffic through the strait. They are "unsinkable aircraft carriers," immune to naval sinking. Neutralizing them requires direct military action, a costly and complex proposition.

The historical echo of 1986 is not a prediction. Gaddafi's speech was about influencing his present, not describing our future. The current confrontation with Iran is shaped by geography and military reality, not just rhetoric.

But there is another dimension to this confrontation that extends far beyond the Persian Gulf. The global economy remains dangerously dependent on the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. Approximately one-fifth of the world's petroleum passes through this

Netanyahu is also attempting to reverse the sequence of aggression and retaliation. The regime that participated in launching the illegal war against Iran, targeting its territory, facilities, scientists, and leaders, now presents itself as the threatened party and demands that Tehran refrain from responding; its response will be considered a new act of aggression requiring a "double strike."

In this way, the regime grants itself the freedom to start and resume wars, while turning the other side's self-defense into a pretext for expanding aggression.

However, the threat extends beyond the battlefield to the negotiating table. The American-Iranian memorandum of understanding, signed on June 17, established an initial 60-day negotiation process addressing the cessation of military operations, freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's nuclear program, and sanctions. Israel is not a direct party to these negotiations, but it seeks to possess veto power over their outcomes.

In essence, Netanyahu is addressing Washington as much as he is addressing Tehran. His message is that any American-Iranian understanding that does not meet Zionist conditions will not prevent the regime from returning to war.

He wants to raise the ceiling of American demands and prevent an agreement that recognizes Iran's rights, preserves any missile or deterrence capabilities, or limits Israel's freedom to launch attacks whenever it chooses.

Netanyahu and his terrorist regime fear not so much the alleged Iranian bomb as they fear the emergence of a regional balance that would put an end to the regime's monopoly over power and its control over decisions of war.

Israeli decision makers want the region to remain on the edge of ignition, negotiations to take place under a bombing campaign, and Washington to remain captive to the Zionist narrative and its conditions.

The most dangerous thing Netanyahu has done is transform Dimona from a symbol of nuclear ambiguity into an open element in the discourse of war.

narrow waterway each day. Any sustained disruption, whether through missile strikes, naval blockades, or mining operations, would send shockwaves through energy markets worldwide.

The immediate impact would be felt in gasoline prices at pumps from Tokyo to London. But the ripple effects would be far more severe. Industrial supply chains, already fragile after years of pandemic disruptions and regional conflicts, would face unprecedented strain. Shipping insurance rates would skyrocket. Alternative routes, already operating near capacity, could not absorb the volume lost through Hormuz. The result would be a global economic contraction, rising inflation, and widespread job losses across multiple continents.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

US greenlights Saudi nuclear enrichment without safeguards: CNN

The Trump administration has tentatively agreed to allow Saudi Arabia to enrich uranium without enacting international safeguards intended to prevent nuclear weapons development, according to sources familiar with the matter and documents reviewed by CNN.

The draft nuclear accord that outlines U.S. support for Riyadh's civilian nuclear program is awaiting President Donald Trump's signature despite U.S.-Saudi negotiations concluding in October 2025.

Two sources familiar with the matter indicated that the ongoing war with Iran — which according to Trump was launched in part to prevent Tehran from using its enriched uranium to build nuclear weapons — has played a role in delaying Trump's signature. Some on Capitol Hill also believe the Trump administration is delaying sign-off because it could face a bipartisan disapproval resolution blocking the deals from going into effect, said one of the sources.

Experts told CNN the deal could potentially provide Saudi Arabia with a path to nuclear weapons unless stringent safeguards are put in place.

Four sources said the agreement, which includes a civil nuclear cooperation deal known as a 123 agreement and a mandatory nuclear safeguards agreement, still has not been sent to Congress for review, as federal law requires

the White House to do once signed.

The White House did not answer questions regarding the agreements and instead referred CNN to an October 2025 statement from Energy Secretary Chris Wright announcing the end of negotiations.

"We've come together on a deal for civil nuclear cooperation," Wright said at the time. "Together, with bilateral safeguard agreements, we want to grow our partnership, bring American nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia and keep a firm commitment to non-proliferation."

The Saudi Arabian embassy in Washington, DC did not respond to a request for comment.

The Trump administration briefed some on Capitol Hill on the basic outlines of the Saudi nuclear accords earlier this year and even then, it was previewed as having a special arrangement allowing for a degree of domestic uranium enrichment and/or plutonium reprocessing, according to a source familiar with the matter. The source said that would be "unprecedented" for such a deal.

The uranium enrichment provision includes stipulations imposed by the US, two sources told CNN, but details of potential limitations are unclear.

The 123 agreement also will not provide the final word on whether Saudi Arabia gets sensitive technology and material.

New Hamas chief says assassinations cannot break their resolve

TEHRAN - Khalil al-Hayya, the newly elected head of Hamas's Political Bureau, has said in a brief message that Palestinians are the rightful owners of their country.

"I tell the occupiers that we are the rightful owners of Palestine," the Shehab News Agency quoted al-Hayya as saying on Tuesday.

The new Hamas chief also said the assassination of the resistance leaders and commanders or the killing of their children cannot cause a crack in their determination to resist occupation.

"Neither the killing of our children nor the martyrdom of our leaders and commanders will intimidate us or cause us to lose our resolve," he said while pointing to Israel's growing occupation of Palestinian lands.

According to Middle East Observer, al-Hayya also said, "We are not afraid of martyrdom in this path."

Over the years, al-Hayya has survived several assassination attempts. Israel tried to kill him in Qatar in September 2025, striking a building housing the Hamas delegation.

Al-Hayya survived the attack in Doha, but his son Hommam, his office director and several aides were killed.

His eldest son, Osama, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren were killed in the bombing of the family home during the 2014 war.

Hamas's growing strength

Al-Hayya's election as head of Hamas's Political Bureau also prompted reactions within Israel. Among them, Avigdor Lieberman, lead-

er of the Yisrael Beiteinu party, described the appointment as further evidence of Hamas's growing strength and another failure for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Criticizing Netanyahu and his cabinet, as well as the prime minister's claims of having defeated Hamas, Lieberman said of al-Hayya's appointment: "After three years, Hamas is becoming stronger, recruiting tens of thousands of fighters, and has now chosen a new leader. This is the prime minister's 'total victory.'"

Palestinian sources announced on Monday that Khalil al-Hayya, a Palestinian politician and senior Hamas leader, had been elected head of the movement's Political Bureau. Observers view the appointment as a sign of continuity in the leadership approach established by the movement's commanders in the Gaza Strip, the persistence of the resistance, and the preservation of strategic ties with the Axis of Resistance.

In an official statement issued on Monday, Hamas said that Khalil al-Hayya had been elected the resistance movement's new leader following the completion of an internal electoral process conducted through its consultative and organizational mechanisms. Representatives from various constituencies—including the Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank, Israeli prisons, and Palestinians living abroad—participated in the election.

Khalil al-Hayya was born in 1960 into a well-known family in the Gaza Strip. He holds a doctorate in Islamic studies and is regarded as one of the founders of Hamas and one of its leading political figures.

Israel has frantically spent \$100m to manipulate American public opinion

Further revelations have emerged about the millions fueling Israel's frantic battle to win back American public opinion. They follow reports that Israeli officials were furious after a multimillion-dollar influence campaign failed to halt the collapse in support for Israel among young American conservatives.

According to an investigation by Haaretz, Israel has committed roughly \$100 million to overseas campaigns aimed at improving its image and shaping perceptions of its genocide in Gaza and war on Iran since 7 October 2023, Middle East Monitor said.

The report uncovered government procurement documents and filings submitted under the U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) which reveal an extensive network of digital advertising campaigns, public relations firms, influencers and civil society organizations. Despite the unprecedented investment, polling shows that Israel's standing among

Americans has continued to deteriorate.

The largest documented commitment was a 174-million-shekel campaign, equivalent to approximately \$52 million, managed by Israel's Government Advertising Agency. The operation began during the 12-day war with Iran in June 2025 and continued until December.

Authorities are said to have allocated 90 million shekels, (\$27 million), to Google's advertising platforms; 60 million shekels, (\$18 million), to YouTube; ten million shekels, (\$3 million), to X; and 14 million shekels, (\$4.2 million), to Outbrain and Teads.

The revelations provide new detail to earlier reporting that Israel has flooded American phones with AI-generated messages while creating websites, articles and other online content intended to influence the information produced by chatbots such as ChatGPT and Claude.

Iran march into 2026 Asian Junior Handball Championship QFs

TEHRAN – Iran defeated India 63-14 on Tuesday to book their place at the 2026 Asian Junior Handball Championship quarterfinals.

The Iranian team had previously defeated Kuwait and Qatar, lost to South Korea and Japan and were held to a draw against the UAE in Group B.

Iran are scheduled to play in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Group A consists of China, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong.

The 19th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship is being held in Chuzhou of China from 15 to 26 July 2026.

The event serves as qualification event for the 2027 IHF Men's Junior World Championship.

Republic of Korea hold the distinction of being the most decorated team overall, having won a total of 13 medals, comprising three gold, seven silver, and three bronze medals. The host nation China, claimed their lone championship title during the 2nd edition in 1990, which was held in Tehran, Iran.

The Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship is the official competition organized by Asian Handball Federation for junior men's national handball teams of Asia, and takes place every two years.

Carrying Iran’s flag is a great honor: Golshadnezhad

TEHRAN – Iranian karate star Atousa Golshadnezhad, who has been selected as one of the flag bearers for Iran's delegation at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, says she hopes to combine the honor of leading her country into the opening ceremony with winning a gold medal.

"It is a great honor for me to carry the Iranian flag at such a prestigious event," she said. "I hope our delegation achieves outstanding results at the Games."

Golshadnezhad, who made history last year by winning Iranian women's first-ever medal at the World Karate Championships, thanked the Ministry of Sports and the National Olympic Committee for choosing her as Iran's flag bearer.

"I appreciate the trust they have placed in me. My goal is not only to proudly carry the flag but also to win the best possible medal for my country and make the Iranian people happy," she said.

Golshadnezhad added that she is currently in full preparation for the Games, with the national women's karate team holding training camps under head coach Pegah Zangeneh.

"We are already in good shape, but we still have time before the Asian Games, and I believe we will reach our peak by then," she said.

The reigning Asian champion also expressed confidence ahead of the competition, saying she has thoroughly studied her opponents.

"I know my rivals very well and have a complete understanding of their strengths and fighting styles," Golshadnezhad said.

The Iranian karateka missed this year's Asian Karate Championships due to injury but has now fully recovered.

"I was under medical supervision during my recovery, and fortunately I am back to full fitness. After the injury, I became even more motivated to return to competition and face my opponents," she said.

Regarding her preparations, Golshadnezhad revealed that the team is scheduled to compete in a warm-up tournament in Turkey next month, although participation will depend on the Iranian Karate Federation's final decision.

"We currently have no problems in our training camp, and everything is going according to plan," she added.

The 20th Asian Games will be held in Nagoya, Japan, from Sept. 19 to Oct. 3, 2026.

Iran sitting volleyball extend historic reign

Featuring 16 men's and 16 women's teams, the 2026 World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships brought together the sport's leading nations and newcomers in a battle for world titles

Reigning Paralympic champions Iran and the U.S. captured the men's and women's titles respectively at the 2026 World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Hangzhou, China, Paralympic.org wrote.

Featuring 16 men's and 16 women's teams, the tournament brought together sitting volleyball's leading nations and newcomers in a battle for world titles.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continued their remarkable dominance in men's sitting volleyball, securing a record-extending ninth World Championship title on Friday, 17 July, after defeating long-time rivals Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-1 (25-21, 25-20, 20-25, 25-16) in the gold medal match.

The victory adds to Iran's world titles won in 1985, 1986, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2010, 2018, and 2022. The team has also claimed eight Paralympic gold medals since the sport made its Games debut at the Arnhem 1980 Games.

Two years after meeting in the Paris 2024 Paralympic final, Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina renewed one of sitting volleyball's greatest rivalries on the world stage.

Iran controlled the opening two sets before Bosnia and Herzegovina responded to take the third. The defending champions regrouped in the fourth set, limiting their opponents to just seven attack points to seal the title in one hour and 39 minutes.

Kazakhstan completed a historic tournament by claiming the bronze medal, defeating Brazil 3-2 to secure the country's first-ever Sitting Volleyball World Championship medal.

Perdebay Namuratov starred with a match-high 38 points, including 32 attacks and five aces, while Erik Kaskabayev contributed 28 points in Kazakhstan's landmark victory.

Nazon terminates Esteghlal contract over unpaid wages

TEHRAN – Haiti international Duckens Nazon has unilaterally terminated his contract with Esteghlal after the club failed to settle his outstanding wages.

According to reports, Nazon had served the club with a formal notice one month ago over the unpaid salary. After receiving no response from Esteghlal officials, the striker exercised his contractual right to terminate the deal and is now expected to pursue his financial claims through FIFA.

Nazon becomes the latest foreign player to part ways with the Tehran giants amid ongoing financial disputes.

He joins Joel Kojo, Moussa Djénepo and Jasir Asani, who have also terminated their contracts with Esteghlal, leaving the club facing a growing exodus of foreign players.

The latest departure adds to Esteghlal's off-field challenges as the club continues to deal with contractual and financial issues ahead of the new season.

Sayyadmanesh makes Lech Poznan debut

TEHRAN – New signing Allahyar Sayyadmanesh made his debut for Lech Poznan during their 3-1 Polish Super Cup victory over Gornik Zabrze at the Poznan stadium.

Maksim Klan opened the scoring for Gornik in the 14th minute.

Lech Poznan followed with three unanswered goals, scored by Antoni Kozubal, Mikael Ishak and Pablo Rodriguez, to secure their seventh Polish Super Cup.

Lech Poznan are now focused on the second round of Champions League qualification on Tuesday, away to Aarhus GF in Denmark.

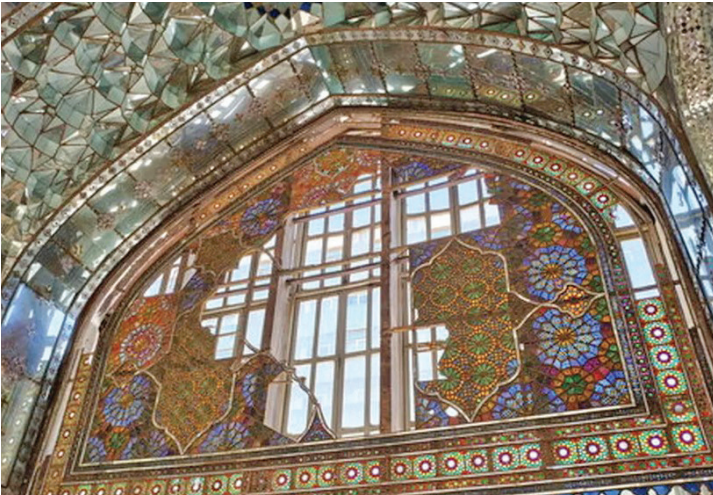
30 Iranian NGOs, institutions call for intl. action to protect cultural heritage after war damage

TEHRAN – A coalition of 30 Iranian non-governmental organizations and cultural heritage institutions has called on international organizations, including UNESCO, the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to take urgent action to protect Iran's cultural heritage following damage to historical sites during the recent military conflict involving Iran and the combined forces of the United States and the Israeli regime.

In a joint statement released on Tuesday and reported by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the coalition condemned what it described as damage to 132 historical monuments and sites across 18 provinces during the conflict. The organizations characterized the destruction of cultural heritage as an attack on the collective memory of humanity and urged international bodies to investigate the reported damage and pursue legal accountability.

According to the statement, the appeal was addressed to the United Nations secretary-general, UNESCO, the ICC, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), Blue Shield International and the International Committee of the Red Cross, ILNA reported on Monday.

The coalition said its figures were based on documentation from Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, media reports and field observations by members of specialized heritage organizations. It said military attacks between Feb. 28 and the early hours of April 8, 2026, caused serious damage to 132 historical buildings and monuments in 18 provinces.



The statement follows an earlier announcement by Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, which said that 149 historical buildings and structures across 18 provinces had sustained damage during the recent conflict. The report did not explain the difference between its earlier figure and the total cited in the NGOs' statement.

The coalition added that several internationally recognized monuments were among the damaged sites, including the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Golestan Palace and Naqsh-e Jahan Square in Isfahan. It also named Chehel Sotoun Palace, the Imam Mosque (Masjed-e Jameh Abbasi), Azadi Tower, Sepahsalar Mosque, the Tomb of Baba Taher, Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress, Safiabad Palace and the Kuh-e Khajeh archaeological site as having suffered damage.

The organizations argued that attacks on cultural property violate international humanitarian law, citing the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its protocols. They said deliberate attacks on protected cultural property may constitute war crimes un-

Tehran reviews draft regulation to coordinate medical tourism development

TEHRAN – Iranian officials from multiple ministries and government bodies met on Tuesday at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts to review a draft regulation aimed at strengthening coordination in the country's medical tourism and supporting plans to expand the sector.

The meeting brought together Aboutorab

Talebi, secretary of the government's cultural and social commission, Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpey, Diako Abbasi, secretary of the medical tourism steering council at the tourism ministry, Jamshid Kermanchi, head of the medical tourism office at the Ministry of Health, Hossein Nekounam, head of the Iran health tourism society, and

representatives of other government agencies, IRIB reported.

Participants reviewed the draft regulation, which has been signed by First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, and discussed the responsibilities of the ministries and organizations involved in implementing the proposed framework. *(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)*

Iran’s East Azarbaijan, Kazakhstan seeks to expand tourism co-op

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department in East Azarbaijan said on Tuesday that Tabriz is ready to host tourism delegations from Kazakhstan as the two countries seek to expand cooperation in tourism, museums, handicrafts and cultural exchanges.

Ahmad Hamzehzadeh made the remarks during a meeting with Kazakhstan's ambassador to Iran, Ontalap Onalbayev, ILNA news agency reported.

Hamzehzadeh said the historical and cultural ties between Iran and Kazakhstan provide a basis for developing joint tourism projects.

He said the provincial tourism department is prepared to receive specialized tourism delegations, travel agency representatives and tour guides from Kazakhstan to visit Tabriz and explore opportunities for designing joint travel packages and increasing tourism exchanges.

Hamzehzadeh also proposed pursuing a sister-city agreement between Tabriz and a city in Kazakhstan, saying such cooperation could strengthen cultural, tourism and economic relations between the two sides.

He said East Azarbaijan is home to more than 4,800 identified historical sites, including more than 2,200 nationally registered monuments and six UNESCO World Heritage sites, making it one of Iran's leading tourism provinces.

The official also proposed cooperation between museums in the two countries, including joint exhibitions and exchanges of historical artifacts in line with professional regulations.

He said the Azarbaijan Museum in Tabriz, Iran's second-largest archaeological museum [after the National Museum of Iran], is ready to host exhibitions featuring historical objects from Kazakhstan, citing shared historical links, particularly during the Timurid period.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Second Announcement



2229274
1

National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OIL FIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0540005

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	SLICKLINE, SPOOLED ON IRON REEL H2S, CO2 AND CHLORIDE ION TRIM TYPE: SUPA-75 OR SANICRO-26 MATERIAL: HIGH CROSION RESISTANCE STAINLESS STEEL UNS N08926 (ALLOY 25-6 NDT TEST INCLUDING EDDY CURRENT TEST A ALSO WRAP TEST SHOULD BE PERFORM & DOC DIAMETER & LENGTH AS SPECIFIED: REF. "SANDVIK (ZAPP-GROUP)", "BRIDON" SIZE 0.082 INCH X 18000 FEET	22RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 26,304/76 EURO or 43,864,971,540 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN. PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D. INCLUDING AN ADVANCE PAYMENT. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://iets.mporg.ir> www.setadiran.ir

Science minister in Islamabad for ECO meeting

TEHRAN – Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday to participate in the 6th Meeting of Science Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and hold talks with senior Pakistani officials.

Upon his arrival at Islamabad International Airport, Simaei-Sarraf was welcomed by Ambassador Reza Amiri-Moqaddam, along with officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology, IRNA reported.

During his visit, the minister is scheduled to attend the Board of Trustees meeting of the ECO Science Foundation and deliver a keynote speech at the 6th ECO ministerial meeting.

The election of the next president of the ECO Science Foundation is also on the agenda. The foundation is currently headed by Komeil Tayyebi from Iran.

As part of his three-day visit, Simaei-Sarraf will also meet with Pakistan's minister of science and technology and the chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), visit several leading universities in Islamabad, tour the ECO Science Foundation, and hold discussions with professors of the Persian language.

Joint scientific working group

On the sidelines of the 7th Turkey Educational Technologies Summit (known as TETZ 2026), which was held in Istanbul from June 26 to 28, the Pakistani Minister of State for the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Wajiha Qamar, met with Simaei-Sarraf, proposing that the two countries establish a joint scientific working group.

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

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

IRCS volunteers provide diverse services in 3 months

TEHRAN – The volunteers affiliated with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) have provided a wide range of services, from dispatching medical teams and donating blood to conducting projects in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year that started on March 21.

During the same time, 275,381 more volunteers joined the IRCS, bringing the whole number of volunteers to more than 1.8 million individuals. Over 152,400 participated in different programs of the IRCS, providing services to more than 1.65 million people, Mohammad-Javad Ezzati, an official with the IRCS, has said.

A total of 481 volunteer medical teams spent over 75,000 voluntary hours, providing health services to 94,358 individuals in deprived areas. The volunteers also distributed 9,876 food packages among them, he added.

Moreover, 4,544 volunteers collaborated and conducted 1,098 projects. Benefactors donated 514 billion rials (about 268,000 dollars). Some 90,000 people benefited from these services.

Some 3,348 volunteers in collaboration with 218 nongovernmental organizations conducted 369 joint projects. They provided different services to 94,471 people. Public contributions exceeded 586 billion rials (around 300,000 dollars), Ezzati noted.

Within the first three months, 13,103 volunteer activities were carried out with the participation of 90,493 volunteers, totaling over 1,233 million hours of service that benefited nearly one million people. Additionally, more than 11,206 tents and health stations were set up, and allocated public contributions reached over 3,329 billion Rials (almost 170,000 dollars), the official said.

Some 9,504 volunteers, re-

cording over 30,000 hours of service per volunteer, visited 704 centers and homes of 5,603 elderly and needy individuals, providing support to 20,583 people. They contributed over 128 billion rials (around 65,000 dollars).

During the same period, 28,712 volunteers also donated 31,642 units of blood, playing a significant role in supplying blood reserves.

With the help of 593 volunteers, 6,179 medical items were lent to patients; some 3,047 individuals received these services.

Furthermore, 3,744 beneficiaries received financial support from the organization; the total aid amounted to more than 273.778 billion rials (about 140,000 dollars), Ezzati further noted.

Hundreds of thousands of youth volunteers join IRCS projects

The Iranian Red Crescent Society has engaged hundreds of thousands of teenagers and young adults in education, relief, and volunteer activities through a series of educational and social projects over the past year.

In recent years, the IRCS has sought not to limit its vision of the future to relief operations alone, so that an important part of this vision focuses on building a generation trained and prepared to play an effective role in difficult situations and moments of crisis.

This path begins in school, where teenagers are first introduced to the basic concepts of relief, first aid, and social responsibility.

This training then goes beyond the initial level of familiarity and leads to the formation of student and youth volunteer teams in the form of various projects.

Ultimately, these programs strive to create a network of



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

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

The minister is scheduled to attend the Board of Trustees meeting of the ECO Science Foundation and deliver a keynote speech.

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

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

parties.

The official also stressed the need to establish Persian and Urdu language chairs in reciprocal countries.

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

On the sidelines of the 43rd Session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from October 30 to November 13, 2024, Simaei-Sarraf met with the Pakistani Minister of State for the Ministry of Federal Education, Wajiha Qamar.

During the meeting, the two sides underlined cultural, civilizational ties between the two countries and called for the expansion of scientific, academic, and educational cooperation.

The Pakistani minister lauded Iran's achievements in technology and digital transformation.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf voiced the country's readiness to share scientific and technological expertise with Pakistan.



prepared and informed forces who, in addition to the Red Crescent's main missions, also play an active role in society.

According to the latest statistics, there are currently 4,974,111 volunteers in the IRCS, of whom 3,257,455 are young people under the age of 35.

Providing first aid training in schools in the form of the "Skilled Trainer" plan was one of the most extensive areas of the Red Crescent's activity last year. The plan has been implemented in 9,000 schools and about 350,000 students have been trained in these programs.

Rather than being purely technical, these trainings focus on recognizing dangerous situations, correct behavior in the event of an accident, and learning simple but vital skills.

The goal is to ensure that students are not tied down when faced with unexpected situations and are able to make the right initial decisions.

Another part of these activities is related to attracting young people under the age of 35 to attend relief bases. These forces help provide services as active volunteers alongside relief and rescue teams in various situations.

In addition, various social and cultural projects have also been implemented for young people. These activities are not only educational in nature, but also try to strengthen the sense of social responsibility among the younger generation and involve them in collective and voluntary work.

In addition to relief training, the Red Crescent Society has also paid attention to the field of psychological support.

Projects in this section focus on times of crisis and various incidents and try to help the affected people spiritually and socially.

In the field of cultural activities, events combine ritual and religious activities in the form of collective programs. In addition, participation in blood donation continues to be an important part of voluntary activities, so that last year, more than 8,000 people participated in this humanitarian action.

These activities show that the Red Crescent is not only active in times of crisis, but also focuses on building the next generation that is introduced to the concepts of relief from primary schools, will gain experience in volunteer projects, and will ultimately be able to play an effective role in real situations.

Iranian delegation attending BRICS health ministerial meeting

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation led by Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi is participating in the 16th BRICS Health Ministerial Meeting being held in Chandigarh, India, from July 21 to 25.

The event is bringing together BRICS nations to deepen cooperation, exchange best practices, and shape the future of resilient, innovative, and sustainable healthcare.

It serves as a great opportunity to strengthen ties with BRICS member states and explore potential to expand cooperation, particularly in pharmaceutical raw materials, health technologies, and medical equipment, IRNA quoted Ali Jafarian, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

The Iranian delegation represents different health sectors including Persian medicine, mental health, communicable diseases, and international affairs.

The five-day programme, from July 21 to 25, is being held under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.”

The health minister is scheduled to hold meetings with his counterparts from member states, such as India, Russia, and China.

Given the illegal sanctions imposed on the country, Iran intends to leverage BRICS member states' capacity to facilitate access to essential healthcare supplies.

Chandigarh is hosting the BRICS health ministerial meeting and the BRICS meeting on Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM), the Times of India reported.

The five-day programme, from July 21 to 25, is being held under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.”

A major highlight will be the high-level ‘Health Without Borders’ conference, featuring 26 technical sessions involving ministers, policymakers, public health experts and researchers from participating countries.

Traditional, complementary and integrative medicine will be at the centre of the Chandigarh deliberations. The ministry of Ayush will lead discussions on integrating traditional medicine into mainstream healthcare and strengthening international cooperation through evidence-based practices.

Some 75 earthquakes hit Iran in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 74 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from July 11 to 17, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 62 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 12 earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4, and no earthquakes with a magnitude over 4 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 3.9 on the Richter scale, which occurred on July 15 in Golestan province.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi and North Khorasan experienced the highest number of earthquakes, each with 10, followed by Kermanshah with 7, Kerman and Yazd with 6 earthquakes.

During the same period, no earthquakes were recorded in Tehran, West Azarbaijan, Alborz, Chahar, Zanjan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Lorestan, and Hormozgan provinces.

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



Participating countries are expected to finalise the Terms of Reference for a BRICS expert working group on TCIM, paving the way for collaboration in research, clinical validation, digital knowledge-sharing, regulatory harmonisation and protection of traditional medical knowledge.

The health ministerial meeting will also review progress on nine priority areas under the BRICS health agenda, including preventive healthcare, mental health, pandemic preparedness, tuberculosis research, digital health architecture, regulatory convergence for medicines and strategies to tackle diseases linked to social and economic determinants of health.

Boosting health ties with BRICS counterparts

In May, Zafarqandi explored avenues to expand cooperation with his counterparts from BRICS member states in different fields of the health sector.

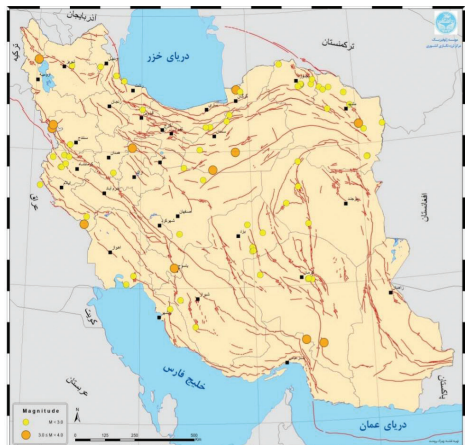
Zafarqandi held several meetings on the sidelines of the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA), which is being held from May 18 to June 23 in Geneva, Switzerland, IRNA reported.

Holding a meeting with the Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda, Zafarqandi highlighted the role of India in the pharmaceutical industry and emphasized the need for the enhancement of ties in the field of health.

For his part, Prakash Nadda expounded on India's capacity in the health sector and announced the country's readiness to maintain and promote cooperation with Iran.

The two sides agreed to form a joint committee to follow up on the development of academic, medical, and pharmaceutical ties.

Also, Zafarqandi held meetings with his Russian, Brazilian, Chinese, South African, Egyptian, and Ethiopian counterparts, elaborating on the impacts of the US-Israeli war on the country's civilian and health infrastructures, while discussing ways to enhance collaboration among the BRICS member states in the health sector.



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

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

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



JULY 22, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:37 Dawn: 3:25 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:05 (tomorrow)

Tehran cultural center to review “Project Hail Mary”

TEHRAN- The Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran is scheduled to review the 2026 American science fiction film “Project Hail Mary” on Wednesday evening.

Film critic Kourosh Jahed is set to attend a screening of the film followed by a review session.

Co-directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, the film is based on the 2021 novel by Andy Weir.

Starring Ryan Gosling, Sandra Hüller, James Ortiz, and Lionel Boyce, “Project Hail Mary” is about the desperate struggle for survival and the unexpected bond of friendship between two sentient beings from different worlds. Set in a future where Earth faces an existential threat, the story follows Ryland Grace, a former molecular biologist and middle school teacher who awakens from a chemically induced coma aboard the interstellar spacecraft Hail Mary. Suffering from amnesia, Grace gradually discovers he is the sole survivor of a mission to the Tau Ceti system, located nearly twelve light-years from home.

Through a series of fragmented memories, the gravity of his mission is revealed. Scientists had discovered the “Petrova line,” an infrared phenomenon caused by a solar-consuming organism called “astrophage.” This parasite was dimming the Sun at a rate that would trigger a global ice age within thirty years, effectively ending human civilization. Recruited by the ruthless but determined Eva Stratt, Grace was tasked with finding a solution. The Hail Mary was designed as a “long-shot” suicide mission; the ship possessed only enough fuel for a one-way journey, meaning any discovered cure would have to be transmitted back to Earth via automated probes.

While orbiting Tau Ceti, Grace’s solitude is interrupted by the arrival of an alien vessel. He meets “Rocky,” a five-legged, rock-like being from the planet Erid. Despite the vast biological differences—Rocky communicates through musical tones and “sees” via echolocation—the two forge a profound alliance. Using a makeshift translation system, they discover they are kindred spirits: both are



engineers and the last survivors of their respective missions to save their home stars from the same astrophage infection.

As they collaborate, they discover a microbial predator on a nearby planet, which Grace names “Adrian,” capable of consuming the astrophage. However, the victory is marred by tragedy. During a perilous attempt to harvest the predator, a mechanical failure leaves Grace unconscious and Rocky severely injured. In the process of recovery, Grace uncovers a dark truth about his own journey: he hadn’t volunteered for the mission; he had been drugged and forced aboard by Stratt, who believed he was the only one capable of ensuring the mission’s success.

The climax of their journey arrives when they prepare to return to their respective worlds. Grace realizes that the predator, which he calls “taumoeba,” has evolved to eat through the very material—xenonite—that makes up Rocky’s ship. If Rocky proceeds, the taumoeba will consume his fuel, stranding him in space and dooming the planet Erid.

In a final, selfless act of sacrifice, Grace chooses to abandon his own dream of returning to Earth. He uses his remaining fuel to divert his course and rescue Rocky, ensuring the Eridians are saved. He sends his research and the taumoeba samples back to Earth via the probes, providing humanity with the key to survival. While Earth is saved by Stratt’s team, Grace finds a new home on Erid, living in a specially designed biodome, forever remembered as the man who sacrificed his world to save two.

Cartoon of Day



The World Strikes Back

Cartoonist: Javad Takjoo from Iran

Iranian actress wins award at SCO Intl. Film Festival, dedicates prize to Minab’s martyrs

TEHRAN- Iranian actress Shabnam Qorbani has been honored with the Golden Crane award for Best Actress at the 4th edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) International Film Festival for her performance in the feature film “The Gambler.”

The award was presented during the festival’s closing ceremony on Sunday evening, Mehr reported.

In the absence of Qorbani at the closing ceremony, the film’s director, Mohsen Bahari, accepted the prize. In a symbolic move, Bahari attended the ceremony wearing a garment featuring the “Minab 168” design, symbolizing a tribute to the martyred children of Shajareh Tayyebah elementary school in Minab.

During his acceptance speech, Bahari dedicated the award to the memory of children in Minab who were killed during the initial strikes by the United States and the Zionist regime against Iran.

He recalled that two missiles directly targeted a school in Minab, resulting in the martyrdom of 168 students and teachers, including children as young as seven to twelve years old. “We dedicate this award to their souls, and we are certain that with their own small hands, they will seek their own justice,” Bahari stated.

“The Gambler,” a social-mystery thriller produced by the Farabi Cinema Foundation, competed in the official selection of the international event. The film has already gained critical acclaim and international recognition, securing two awards at festivals in North Macedonia and Kyrgyzstan. The international distribution of the film is managed by the International Affairs Department of the Farabi Cinema Foundation.

The film features a cast com-



Iranian director Mohsen Bahari (R) accepts the Best Actress award on behalf of Shabnam Qorbani during the closing ceremony of the 4th SCO International Film Festival on July 19, 2026.

posed of Kourosh Tahami, Armin Rahimian, Shabnam Qorbani, Amir Norouzi, Roshan Rostampour, and Emad Emami.

The plot centers on a high-stakes cyber-attack targeting one of the country’s banks during the 12-day war against Iran. The narrative follows an expert agent who grows suspicious of one of the bank’s programmers, sparking a tense race to uncover the truth and safeguard national security.

On February 28, the Shajareh Tayyebah elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a devastating massacre as the United States and Israel initiated their strikes against Iran.

While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a missile strike that

caused the building to collapse, trapping children and teachers beneath the rubble. Iranian authorities confirmed a final death toll of 168 people, with at least 95 others wounded, marking one of the most harrowing incidents of the conflict’s opening day.

Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations have painted a starkly different picture.

An analysis by Al Jazeera’s digital investigations unit, utilizing over a decade of satellite imagery and recent video clips, revealed that the school was a clearly distinct civilian facility, separated from any adjacent military sites for at least ten years. Furthermore, witness accounts and satellite-based analyses confirmed

that the school was triple tapped by three separate, deliberate strikes, leaving no doubt about the nature of the attack.

The international community has faced mounting evidence regarding the responsibility for this atrocity, with investigations from major global outlets including The New York Times, BBC Verify, CBC, and NPR all concluding that the United States was responsible for the strike.

These findings have raised fundamental questions about the intelligence used to justify the bombing, as the patterns of the strike suggest a direct targeting of a civilian educational institution. The Minab school tragedy now stands as a somber testament to the immense human cost of the aggression and a focal point for those demanding international accountability.

Chantal Mouffe’s “The Democratic Paradox” available in Persian

TEHRAN - The Persian translation of “The Democratic Paradox,” a collection of essays by the Belgian political theorist Chantal Mouffe, has been released in bookstores across the country.

Pouya Nematollahi has translated the book and Logos Publication has brought it out in 170 pages, Mehr reported.

Originally published in 2000, the essays offer further discussion of the concept of radical democracy that Mouffe explored in Hegemony and Socialist Strategy, co-authored by Ernesto Laclau.

In this collection, Mouffe deals with the specific conflicts between the post-Marxist democratic theory that she and Laclau theorized

in Hegemony and Socialist Strategy and the competing democratic theories proposed by Jürgen Habermas and John Rawls.

The eponymous paradox of democracy that this collection of essays deals with is the internal conflict within modern liberal democracy that is created by the union of two separate strands of political thought: the tradition of classical liberalism and the tradition of democratic theory, forming the institution of liberal democracy.

Mouffe sees Radical Democracy as a means for continuing to sustain the balance between the values of liberalism and democracy. This balance is accomplished through the agonistic practice of valuing and sustaining dissent

in the democratic process as a more important goal than consensus. This point is where Radical Democratic theory diverges from both Habermas and Rawls, as it contradicts Habermas’s quest for rational consensus and Rawls’s project for political liberalism.

Mouffe describes the importance of the radical democratic alternative in a 2009 interview, saying that “The aim of a pluralist democracy is to provide the institutions that will allow them to take an agonistic form, in which opponents will treat each other not as enemies to be destroyed, but as adversaries who will fight for the victory of their position while recognizing the right of their opponents to fight for theirs. An agonistic democracy requires the availability of a choice between real alternatives.

Tehran’s City Theater to stage Martin McDonagh’s “The Beauty Queen of Leenane”

TEHRAN- The City Theater in Tehran will host the play “The Beauty Queen of Leenane,” written by Martin McDonagh, from next week.

Directed by Hirbod Oliyai, the play will begin its performance on July 26 and will run through August 19, Mehr reported.

Mobina Kalateh, Ghazal Tafahomi, Shayan Torghheh, and Amir

Hossein Zareian are in the cast and Nima Reisi is a voice actor in the play.

Written in 1996, the original London production was nominated for Best New Play at the 1997 Laurence Olivier Awards, and the 1998 Broadway production was nominated for six Tony Awards, winning four.

Set in the mountains of Conne-

mara, County Galway, “The Beauty Queen of Leenane” tells the darkly comic tale of Maureen Folan, a plain and lonely woman in her early 40s, and Mag, her manipulative aging mother, whose interference in Maureen’s first and possibly final chance of a loving relationship sets in motion a train of events that leads inexorably towards the play’s terrifying dénouement.

It is a tale of family dysfunction at its finest. Packed with biting humor and searing tension, this McDonagh masterpiece won the 1998 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play.

A darkly comic and at the same time devastating play, “The Beauty Queen of Leenane” explores the dark side of human nature and the malevolence of people living hopeless lives.

Oscar-winning Javier Bardem says Gaza war has changed global views on Palestine

Oscar-winning Spanish actor Javier Bardem has said growing global support for Palestine is a direct result of what he described as Israel’s “genocide” in the Gaza Strip, adding that the situation is clear to anyone with “the minimum amount of common sense.”

Speaking to journalist Mehdi Hasan on the Zeteo platform, Bardem said: “There is no justification for killing innocent civilians anywhere in the world, but what Israel has been doing for years is a documented genocide.”

Asked about the shift in global public opinion, particularly in the United States where recent polls have shown rising support for Palestine even among people with little interest in politics or sport, Bardem said he had been surprised by the change but welcomed it. He said it

was a natural response to what he described as war crimes and genocide, Middle East Monitor reported.

“The acts we have witnessed against the Palestinian people are so horrific that anyone with the minimum amount of common sense knows they are wrong,” he added.

Bardem also criticized Argentine President Javier Milei for his public support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the far-right ministers in his government. He said it was unfair to present Argentina as being represented by those figures.

He added that bringing political positions into the World Cup final between Spain and Argentina had placed “an extra burden” on the

match that did not belong there. He said many Argentini-ans do not support Milei’s policies, just as many Americans do not support President Donald Trump.

Just hours after the final game wrapped, with Spain defeating Argentina 1-0 to reclaim the World Cup trophy after 16 years, Bardem headed back to his hotel room and joined Mehdi for an exclusive live chat on YouTube and Substack.

The two of them discussed the game itself; Donald Trump embarrassing himself during the trophy presentation; whether the match was a proxy for Palestine vs Israel, given the latter’s loud support for Argentina and Spain’s backing of the Palestinians in Gaza; and also, the Spanish government’s anti-war stance on Iran.