

How Yemen trapped Saudi Arabia in a double chokehold

By staff writer

TEHRAN — When Saudi warplanes struck the port city of Al-Hudaydah and Kamaran Island on the night of July 24, the royal court in Riyadh believed it was projecting strength.

In reality, the strikes on telecommunications facilities and coastal positions merely exposed the strategic desperation of a monarchy trapped in its own arrogance.

For twelve years, the Saudi coalition, backed by Washington and Tel Aviv, has subjected the Yemeni people to a ruinous air, sea, and land siege. ► [Page 5](#)

Amid broadening Israeli aggression, where is Gaza heading?

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN — Israel's ongoing aggression and expansion of its occupation in Gaza leave Palestinian resistance forces with difficult choices ranging from enduring attrition, a limited breakthrough, to returning to full-scale confrontation.

It is no longer possible to describe the assassinations, bombardment, destruction, and expansion of Israeli-controlled areas in the Gaza Strip as violations of the so-called U.S.-brokered "ceasefire agreement" signed nearly ten months ago. ► [Page 5](#)

'Hormuz Strait cannot return to pre-war status'



► [Page 2](#) Scan this QR code to watch the video.



A statue symbolising the hand of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei next to a billboard depicting Trump laid in a coffin, in Tehran, Iran, July 23, 2026.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council:

Targeted Strikes Will Continue Until the Enemy's Total Surrender

By Mamoud M. Ravii-Nejad

TEHRAN — Iranian officials have accused the United States of systematically violating the Pakistan-brokered ceasefire framework that ended weeks of hostilities earlier this year, warning that Washington's actions have created a new phase of confrontation stretching from the Strait of Hormuz to Iraq while further eroding

prospects for regional stability.

The accusations came as senior Iranian military commanders vowed to intensify retaliatory operations, international ana-

Iran says every Iranian civilian killed in US strikes will result in the death of an American service member. This is a permanent operational doctrine rather than a temporary wartime measure.

lysts questioned Washington's handling of the conflict, and reports emerged of fresh security incidents across West Asia.

Tehran declares new rules of engagement

Iran's military leadership signaled 'a fundamental shift' in its operational doctrine following continued US military actions. ► [Page 3](#)

Iran blasts EU human rights rhetoric amid silence on US-Israeli war crimes

TEHRAN — The Iranian Foreign Ministry has fiercely denounced European Union Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas over her recent statements on human rights, accusing Brussels of blatant hypocrisy and complicity in US-Israeli war crimes against the Iranian nation.

In a direct response posted on his X account on Saturday, Esmail Baghaei, the ministry's spokesman, called out the European bloc's professed humanitarian concerns as political theater designed to mask its support for foreign aggression. ► [Page 2](#)

Iran urges UN action, calls US strike on rescue vessels a 'war crime'

TEHRAN — Iran has formally lodged a complaint with the United Nations, accusing the United States of committing a war crime by deliberately attacking two Iranian maritime search-and-rescue vessels, saying the ships were engaged exclusively in humanitarian operations and enjoyed protection under international humanitarian and maritime law.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the president of the UN Security Council, Gholamhossein Darzi, Iran's ambassador and deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, said the vessels Naji-15 and Naji-16 were struck in the early hours of July 23 while conducting search-and-rescue missions in Iran's territorial waters off Hormozgan Province. ► [Page 3](#)

US warmongering against Iran exposes European weakness, American industrial impotence

TEHRAN- The United States' reckless escalatory posture toward Iran is not just a catastrophic diplomatic failure—it is a calculated act of economic warfare that is actively strangling its European allies, all while masking America's own humiliating industrial decline. ► [Page 4](#)

Why isn't Jordan telling its people the whole story?

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

TEHRAN — In recent days, as the United States resumed military attacks against Iran and the regional conflict entered a new phase, Jordan has sought to present a carefully managed image of its role in the crisis to its domestic audience. The official narrative from Amman revolves around one central message: Jordan is not a party to the war; it is merely defending its airspace and territorial security. Jordanian officials have repeatedly stressed that any missile or drone entering the country's airspace constitutes a threat to national security and that the armed forces will respond accordingly. ► [Page 3](#)

July 17 U.S. missile strike on a bridge in southern Iran changed the lives of an entire village forever

'I pulled my 11-year-old brother from the burning car and shook him, hoping he was still alive, but...'

By Akram Hosseini Shabestari

In the early hours of Friday, July 17, 2026, a U.S. strike on a rural bridge along the old Bandar Abbas-Khamir road changed the lives of several families forever. The bridge had long served as the old route connecting residents of nearby villages with the cities of Khamir and Bandar Abbas. For years, local people relied on it for their daily commute, and even after a new highway was built, it remained an important access road for surrounding villages. ► [Page 7](#)

Celebrated actor, comedian Akbar Abdi passes away at 66



► [Page 8](#)



Fishermen in Bandar Abbas are moving their boats into city streets to protect them from US military attacks. Dozens of fishing boats have already been destroyed in the strikes, leaving many local fishermen without work.



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Explosion in oil prices: Trump's nightmare

Kayhan wrote in an article about Iran's optimal use of the current situation: The explosion in global oil prices is Trump's nightmare. Iran is in a position where it can destroy the entire flow of Western energy. Targeting Iran's infrastructure carries a cost that not only the United States, but the entire Western world cannot afford. Trump speaks with force and threats, and the response to him must also be deterrent. When the US president threatens to strike Iran's infrastructure, he must be confronted with the threat of destroying everything that shapes the Western world. We must impose an equation in our favor on the enemy at both diplomatic and military levels. If we want to increase security and deterrence, our response must be far more painful and far stronger. Weakness and passivity only give the enemy excuses. Any official active in the country must impose the equation of power on the enemy.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The United States is confused and angry

Siasat-e-Rooz analyzed Iran's military response to US attacks. According to the paper, the missile and drone strikes by the Army and IRGC, carried out with complete precision and purpose, continue to destroy US bases in the region. The destructive drones and missiles of Iran's armed forces strike US forces and bases in such a way that there is no ability to counter them. Rising casualties among the US terrorist military due to Iran's attacks have left senior American officials—especially Trump—confused and angry. Heavy and widespread strikes by Iran's Army and IRGC on US positions continue, even as the lying US president has so far said 106 times that we defeated Iran, and 95 times that we destroyed Iran. But the developments on the ground tell a different story, and punitive operations continue.

Hamshahri: This is how Iran fights

Hamshahri analyzed regional developments and Iran's deterrent power. It wrote: The Persian Gulf region, in the past week, witnessed one of the most strategic military battles of recent decades—a battle that, although initiated by America's aggressive attacks, ultimately saw Iran fundamentally reshape the military equations in West Asia, with consequences extending far beyond the battlefield. What was initially designed by the US as a “limited operation” against Iran became a stage for Iran's deterrent power to emerge, marking strategic turning points—from control of the Strait of Hormuz and influence over the global energy market to precision missile and drone strikes—now

recorded in the history of regional developments. Iran's strategic blows, with significant losses and casualties for the US military, discredited Washington's official narrative of the battlefield and confronted the Trump administration with serious domestic and international challenges. It is precisely due to such developments that regional observers emphasize a ‘reconfiguration of the balance of power in West Asia.’

Khorasan: Mossad's footprint in US threats

Khorasan wrote about Trump's recent threat: Trump once again openly threatened to bomb the Kolang mountain facility in Isfahan Province. Neither Trump nor the Americans have any reliable information about the activities of this site. The very important point, however, is the footprint of the Israelis in influencing the US president's decision-making. Israel has reported that Iran has transferred centrifuges to the underground Kolang site—news that reflects the continued influence of Mossad on the decision-making system in the White House. As explained, the likelihood of success for such an operation is far lower than the likelihood of failure. Nevertheless, if the enemy once again miscalculates and attacks this facility, Iran's response must not be limited to escalating the conflict or issuing symmetrical retaliations. Rather, the attack must be met with appropriate responses outside the current pattern of rising tensions—responses with new surprises that fundamentally alter the enemy's calculations.

Ettelaat: We must break the defective cycle

Ettelaat analyzed Iran's approach in the current situation, quoting military expert Hossein Kanani-Moghaddam: With rising tensions and speculation about military confrontation between Iran and the US or a return to diplomacy, analyzing the dimensions of ‘economic war’ and ‘war economy’ has become even more important. The cycle of war, negotiation, peace, and then ceasefire is defective, and we must break it. We must keep the Strait of Hormuz closed for at least three months so that America's strategic oil reserves decrease. We are currently engaged in two wars: one is the economic war, and the other is the war economy. But in contrast, they are trapped in another issue: the war economy itself. America cannot endure a war economy, and right now it is taking the oil dollars of Arab countries. When Arab countries have no oil, they cannot pay America, and this will cause America to lose.

Iran blasts EU human rights rhetoric amid silence on US-Israeli war crimes

From page 1 ► Addressing Kallas directly, Baghaei questioned how European officials can preach about human rights while actively facilitating strikes against Iranian civilians: “@Kajakallas speaks of the European Union's human rights concerns” regarding Iran. How can a professed commitment to human rights be so easily reconciled with providing logistical and technical support for lethal aggressions against the Iranian people — aggressions that deliberately target civilians and critical national infrastructure?”

Baghaei highlighted the total absence of European sympathy or condemnation for innocent lives lost under Western-backed bombardments: “All while refusing to condemn even the most blatant war crimes, and offering not a single word of sympathy for Iranian children slaughtered by American-Israeli bombs and missiles enabled by the EU's own ‘logistical and technical support.’”

The Iranian spokesman concluded that such conduct goes beyond a routine geopolitical double standard, characterizing Brussels' posture as “not merely a loss of credibility. It is the banality of evil — and the purest form of hypocrisy.”

Baghaei's critique followed Kallas's Friday announcement that the 27-member bloc

had imposed new sanctions on five Iranian judges and a cyber official under the pretext of human rights concerns. Kallas attempted to justify the move by claiming the EU would not “lose sight of Iran's repression against its own people” amid the broader regional conflict.

The spokesman's remarks come against the backdrop of persistent European silence regarding the joint US-Israeli military campaign launched on February 28.

In the course of 39 days of war, American and Israeli airstrikes repeatedly targeted Iranian civilian population centers, economic assets, and critical national infrastructure, resulting in civilian casualties, including women and children.

Despite widespread documentation of civilian deaths and severe damage to non-military infrastructure, the European Union has consistently refused to condemn the US-Israeli strikes or demand an immediate halt to attacks against Iranian territory. Instead, Brussels has maintained diplomatic alignment with Washington and Tel Aviv while continuing to supply logistical, technical, and intelligence support—a stance Tehran views as direct participation in war crimes against the Iranian people.

‘Hormuz Strait cannot return to pre-war status’

West Asia analyst says Iran must make aggression costly for US and its Arab allies

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - In an interview with the Tehran Times, West Asia analyst Gheis Ghoreishi argues that the Strait of Hormuz is Iran's most valuable strategic card in its war with the United States, and that any return to the pre-war status quo would be a fatal mistake.

He also dismisses talk of a “comprehensive deal” with the West as an illusion, criticizes Iran's southern Persian Gulf neighbors for their role in the illegal war against Iran, and notes that the U.S. has reached its limits.

Below is the full text of the interview, edited for clarity and conciseness:

Iran and the U.S. signed an MoU in mid-June after almost 40 days of fighting. Washington, however, was neither willing nor able to uphold it from the very beginning, and it ended up attacking Iran again. Why do you think the Trump administration signed the MoU in the first place?

The intellectual class worldwide agrees that the limits of U.S. power became evident in this war. Accepting that agreement—with conditions mostly in Iran's favor—showed America wanted a pause, driven by domestic pressure and energy woes. Western Europe is America's key ally, and weakening Europe weakens America. The energy pressure Europe faced from the Hormuz closure—compounded by Russia cutting off supplies in 2022—was unsustainable. So the U.S. clearly wanted a breather.

But after resting, the 40-day war had already exposed America's ceiling. The U.S. used its best weapons and equipment against Iran, and its strategic reserves built for Russia and China were depleted anyway. Estimates suggest that between 30 and 55 percent of those reserves were used. The agreement's terms—stating that Israel should stop attacks on Lebanon and that Iran would control all shipping passage through the Strait—clearly favored Iran and showed U.S. desperation for a pause.

Now that America has caught its breath, its blows remain ineffective. Hormuz cannot revert



to pre-war status, and Iran's new governing posture is irreversible. For the Trump administration, continuing the past course costs Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the U.S. itself heavily. Ending also carries security and political costs for the U.S., its Arab allies, and Israel.

For two decades, Iran was never America's top enemy—China and Russia were. If the U.S. cannot handle a middle power like Iran, its hegemony is questioned, because a hegemon must be able to give credible guarantees. Can America still do that? The reality is that if it tells shippers “come through Bab al-Mandab and Hormuz,” no one listens. America's guarantee is now void, and since it could not resolve this conflict by force or diplomacy, its real troubles are just beginning.

The limits of American power were laid bare in this war. Iranians are now known worldwide as skilled players in diplomacy and asymmetrical warfare. It does not seem logical to wage another all-out war against Iran. There is nothing more the U.S. could do that it did not already do in the Ramadan war; it is not going to do anything much greater. We were surprised then, but we cannot be surprised anymore. The continuation appears to be a limited battle focused on Hormuz—not overthrow, regime change, or assassination. For now, the war to reopen the strait or take it from Iran's grasp does not seem to have any particular future. Ultimately, no ship passes without Iran's permission, and with Iran's threat, shipping companies are forced not to pass for economic

reasons. On this basis, the future for the U.S. regarding Iran is truly ambiguous, and there appears to be no real operational goal.

What do you think Washington's goal and strategy is in its ongoing strikes against Iran's southern cities and ports?

By holding the Strait of Hormuz card, Iran holds the upper hand in any negotiation. According to the rules of negotiation, you lay out your cards beforehand so that your strengths outweigh your weaknesses. In any negotiation where Iran holds the Hormuz card, the U.S. will be in a weak position. In nuclear negotiations, with that card on the table, Iran certainly will not make significant concessions. Iran has gained the ability to transfer crises beyond its own region. This card is so strategically important that, logically, the U.S. must do everything in its power to either take it away from Iran or diminish its value, in order to regain the upper hand in future negotiations—whether over the nuclear issue or other matters.

For Iran, the Hormuz card is so valuable that it guarantees the upper hand; Iran would offer fewer concessions because it simply does not need to—it has already won this game. The U.S. came to weaken and contain Iran's power, but instead turned Iran into a global player. From this point forward, if any country wants to impose sanctions on Iran, Iran has the capacity to transfer the pain directly to the citizens of that country by blocking entry and exit through the strait. Therefore, it was not logical for the U.S.

to gift the strait to Iran, nor is it logical for Iran to risk losing this historically invaluable card. Anyone inside the country who seeks to weaken this position is lying if they claim to have studied political science; and if they are officials, their judgment should be called into question. Your most important negotiating card with the West will be the strait. To relinquish or weaken it under the guise of ethics—claiming we should observe ethical principles in security conflicts while our enemy is completely unethical —is bizarre and amounts to complicity with the enemy. In at least the past 48 years, Iran has not possessed a negotiating card of this credibility.

Some who oppose Iran's insistence on holding the Strait of Hormuz card argue that by closing the strait for an extended period, Iran has already proven it possesses this card. They say that if another war breaks out, Iran can simply close it again. So perhaps Iran should not apply too much pressure now and should allow the situation to return to normal until a comprehensive deal is reached. What do you think of this view?

That is a lie. A comprehensive deal is an illusion—it is selling a fantasy. The real discussion is about whether Iran's role in the region is accepted or rejected. The Strait of Hormuz is Iran's card for securing that acceptance. If you go back and accept the previous regime, what effect does that have? You must impose the regime you want. The mistake is returning to a cost-free situation. If a war is waged against you, assassinations occur, infrastructure is hit, and you simply say, “It's fine, I'll go back to the previous status quo,” that is a disaster. You must impose a cost. Does that mean every three or four years they can destroy infrastructure and we just return to normal? That is a strategic error. Anyone who says this—whether a politician or a civil activist who has suddenly become a geopolitics expert—is wrong.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Pentagon accused of hiding US casualties in war with Iran

TEHRAN — Senior former American national security officials have openly accused the Pentagon of orchestrating a systematic cover-up to conceal the true scale of casualties inflicted on US forces since Washington launched its war against Iran on February 28.

Former Defense Secretary and CIA Director Leon Panetta strongly criticized the Department of War for engaging in a deliberate effort to deceive both the American public and the international community regarding troop losses. Panetta described the state-enforced media blackout as a shameful approach to governance, warning that military officials in Washington are attempting to downplay a campaign that is rapidly collapsing into an unsustainable quagmire.

Despite intense information suppression and aggressive public relations management by Washington, official reports confirm that at least 18 American service members have been killed and between 430 and 500 troops have suffered physical injuries since hostilities erupted on February 28. Following the breakdown of a fragile ceasefire, over 100 US personnel were struck in retaliatory Iranian missile and drone operations.

Independent observers stress that actual casualty figures are likely far higher than the numbers reluctantly released in social media posts by US authorities. Discrepancies have further fueled accusations of dishonesty. The Pentagon's official casualty tracking page quietly altered its recorded death toll downward from 18 to 14 without explanation. Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell claimed the discrepancy was merely a temporary data disruption, an excuse widely criticized by analysts as a clumsy attempt at statistical manipulation. Former State De-



partment official Ned Price noted that leaders in Washington fear intense public backlash ahead of upcoming national elections, calculating that disclosing the full extent of physical and psychological trauma among troops would inflict severe political damage.

To protect its narrative of military dominance, the Defense Department—recently rebranded under the title of the Department of War—has dismantled standard media access and has failed to host a standard press briefing for over two and a half months. Under Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, accredited journalists from major international news outlets were stripped of their long-held credentials and replaced by political loyalists, podcasters, and influencers. Remaining reporters face extreme movement restrictions and mandatory armed escorts, while main press offices were declared classified spaces to block external scrutiny entirely. Representatives from Reporters

Without Borders and the National Press Club condemned these restrictions as an extraordinary suppression of information regarding military operational developments.

The inability of US forces to achieve their objectives since launching the war on February 28 has generated chaotic political infighting inside Washington. During a combative Senate hearing, Hegseth faced fierce condemnation over the soaring financial costs of the conflict, which have surpassed 37.5 billion dollars. When challenged directly over the total absence of a coherent victory plan or exit strategy, Hegseth erupted in anger at lawmakers, prompting Democratic Senator Gary Peters to state that military leadership itself is operating without a long-term strategy to win or resolve the conflict. Meanwhile, domestic support for the war has plummeted as the American public endures steep fuel price spikes and severe inflation directly resulting from the ongoing regional disruption.

Targeted strikes will continue until the enemy’s total surrender

From Page 1 ► Major General Ali Abdollahi, commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, announced ‘a new battlefield equation’ governing Iran’s response to future attacks.

He warned that every Iranian civilian killed in US strikes would be matched by the death of an American service member, describing the policy as a permanent operational doctrine rather than a temporary wartime measure.

The statement came as Iranian officials accused the United States of continuing aerial attacks against civilian targets despite the ceasefire reached after more than a month of fighting.

Echoing that position, Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, said Iranian retaliatory strikes would continue until the enemy’s “complete surrender.”

According to Zolqadr, every plume of smoke rising across the region represented strikes against American military, security or financial assets, while framing Iran’s military campaign as retaliation for attacks that killed civilians, including children, in southern Iranian cities such as Minab and Lamerd.

Questions emerge over US commitment to ceasefire

Iranian accusations received unexpected support from outside the country after former Israeli negotiator Daniel Levy argued that Washington, rather than Tehran, was responsible for undermining the preliminary understanding reached earlier this year.

Speaking in an interview, Levy said the United States failed to fulfill several key commitments contained in the framework agreement negotiated largely by US Vice President JD Vance.

Among the violations, he cited Washington’s failure to release frozen Iranian assets and unilateral demands regarding commercial



shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz that were not included in the original agreement.

Levy also revealed that Israel encouraged Washington to resume military pressure by providing intelligence assessments that later proved inaccurate, including allegations concerning Iranian nuclear activities and threats against President Donald Trump.

According to Levy, the breakdown of the agreement reflected a mistaken belief within Washington that renewed military pressure could force Tehran into additional concessions despite the changing military balance following the conflict.

European voices question outcome of conflict

Similar assessments have emerged in Europe.

Former European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell described the military campaign against Iran as unsuccessful for its initiators, arguing that the preliminary diplomatic framework ultimately strengthened Tehran’s negotiating position.

Borrell criticized ‘Israel’s reliance on military power’ to reshape the regional balance while also faulting European governments for failing to exert meaningful diplomatic pressure despite mounting regional instability.

He warned that fragile ceasefires and stalled diplomatic efforts con-

tinue to threaten prospects for lasting peace.

Analysts cite major advances in Iran’s missile capability

Meanwhile, military analysts quoted by The Guardian said the recent conflict demonstrated a significant evolution in Iran’s missile capabilities.

According to the report, Iran’s retaliatory strikes against American military facilities reflected substantial improvements in precision guidance, intelligence integration, terminal maneuverability and coordinated missile operations.

Andreas Krieg, Associate Professor at King’s College London’s School of Security Studies, described the changes as a “real transformation” resulting from several years of technological development.

The report noted that maneuverable re-entry vehicles, combined with optical and thermal terminal guidance systems that are largely immune to electronic jamming, have significantly increased the effectiveness of Iran’s ballistic missile force.

It also cited assessments suggesting that despite extensive US and Israeli strikes, roughly 70 percent of Iran’s missile arsenal remained operational.

Analysts further argued that dwindling interceptor inventories, including Patriot and THAAD systems, have complicated the task of

defending American military installations and critical infrastructure throughout the region.

Multidimensional insecurities in West Asia

Against this backdrop of heightened tensions, local media in Iraq’s Kurdistan Region reported explosions near Erbil on Saturday.

Initial reports suggested that a drone approached the vicinity of the airport, where US military facilities are located.

A regional security source later said air defenses intercepted and destroyed the aircraft before it reached its target.

No organization immediately claimed responsibility, and officials released no confirmed information regarding casualties or damage.

The incident nevertheless underscored the continuing volatility surrounding US military deployments across the region as confrontation between Washington and Tehran increasingly extends beyond direct exchanges into multiple operational theaters.

Diplomatic uncertainty persists

The latest developments illustrate the widening gap between the diplomatic framework established after the ceasefire and the realities on the ground.

While Tehran argues that Washington’s repeated violations have rendered the agreement increasingly ineffective, Western political figures and independent analysts are also questioning whether renewed military pressure can achieve its stated objectives.

At the same time, continued military exchanges, growing concerns over regional security and repeated incidents involving US interests suggest that the confrontation has entered a more unpredictable phase—one in which diplomacy remains formally alive but increasingly overshadowed by an expanding cycle of military escalation.

Why isn’t Jordan telling its people the whole story?



From Page 1 ► Yet what Jordanians hear from state media and government officials differs noticeably from the picture presented by international media outlets. The government’s messaging is generally brief, tightly controlled, and centered on a single theme: Jordan is not involved in the conflict, it is only protecting its airspace and its citizens, and it will not allow the country to be drawn into the war.

Official statements consistently emphasize that any missile or drone entering Jordanian airspace is intercepted solely to safeguard national security. Authorities also stress that public services continue to operate normally, the situation remains calm, and security forces are fully in control. Missing from this narrative, however, are discussions about Jordan’s role in the region’s security architecture, the presence of US forces on Jordanian soil, or the direct impact the conflict could have on the country’s strategic position. As a result, citizens are presented less with the image of a country affected by a regional war and more with that of a state simply protecting its borders.

This approach to communication is more than a media strategy; it forms part of a broader effort to manage public opinion. The government’s first concern is preventing domestic unrest. Over the past two years, Jordan has witnessed repeated large-scale demonstrations in support of Palestine and against Israeli policies. A significant share of the population is of Palestinian origin, and developments in Gaza are viewed as deeply personal and identity-related. In such an environment, any widespread perception that Jordan is directly or indirectly assisting US military operations could trigger a new wave of public protests.

For this reason, the government has sought to frame the conflict not as a geopolitical issue but as a purely national security matter. Under this framework, the public hears little about the broader regional dimensions of the crisis and instead receives messages focused on protecting citizens, defending borders, and keeping Jordan out of the war. By shifting the narrative in this way, authorities reduce the likelihood that an external conflict will evolve into a domestic political issue.

Another important factor is the government’s concern over strong pro-Palestinian public sentiment. In recent years, Jordanian society has become increasingly critical of US policies and Israel’s actions, making any visible security cooperation with Washington politically sensitive.

Consequently, the government prefers to keep military or intelligence cooperation with its allies largely out of public view while emphasizing national independence and the protection of Jordan’s own interests.

Managing fear and public anxiety is another key objective. Jordan’s economy continues to struggle with inflation, unemployment, and declining purchasing power. Any perception that the regional conflict could spread further risks intensifying these pressures. The government understands that insecurity carries not only psychological consequences but also economic ones, affecting investment, tourism, consumer confidence, and overall social stability. As a result, official messaging focuses less on the dangers of war and more on the state’s ability to maintain order and manage the crisis effectively.

Another major reason behind this communication strategy is preserving the legitimacy of the state during a period of heightened regional tension. For years, Jordan has portrayed itself as an island of stability in an increasingly volatile Middle East—a country that has avoided the civil wars, state collapse, and widespread unrest experienced by many of its neighbors.

Maintaining this image depends on convinc-

ing the public that the government remains firmly in control. If official messaging were to emphasize escalating threats or Jordan’s complex involvement in the regional crisis, that carefully cultivated image of stability could be undermined.

Accordingly, state media tend to present information in ways that reinforce public confidence in the government’s authority and control. Reports highlighting the interception of drones, the protection of borders, the readiness of the armed forces, and Jordan’s political neutrality all fit within this communication strategy. This does not necessarily mean the information being released is inaccurate; rather, it reflects deliberate choices about which aspects of reality are emphasized and which receive less attention.

Control over the domestic media narrative is equally significant. During periods of crisis, governments often seek to channel information through official sources to limit rumors, misinformation, and conflicting accounts. Jordan has followed this familiar pattern. As regional tensions have intensified, statements from the armed forces, government spokespersons, and the official news agency have become the primary sources of information, all reinforcing the same central message: safeguarding national security while keeping Jordan out of the conflict.

However, this strategy now faces a significant challenge: the growing gap between the official narrative and what citizens encounter on social media. Jordanians today no longer rely solely on domestic media. Videos shared online, reports from international news organizations, and user-generated content provide alternative perspectives on unfolding events. When citizens are exposed to two different versions of the same developments, questions about the completeness and credibility of official information naturally arise.

As a result, public trust in government messaging has increasingly come under pressure. The wider the gap between official statements and what people see circulating online, the greater the potential for skepticism and distrust. The government therefore finds itself balancing two competing objectives: preventing fear and public unrest while preserving the credibility of its official communications.

Ultimately, what is unfolding in Jordan is not simply a media policy but part of a broader strategy for managing public opinion during a regional crisis. The government seeks to keep citizens focused on daily security, domestic stability, and normal life rather than encouraging debate over Jordan’s potential role in wider geopolitical developments. While this approach may help contain tensions in the short term, sustaining it will become increasingly difficult as access to diverse sources of information continues to expand.

In the end, Jordan’s restrained public narrative appears to reflect a combination of security, political, and social considerations. Preventing domestic protests, responding to widespread pro-Palestinian public sentiment, managing fear and insecurity, preserving the state’s legitimacy, controlling the domestic media narrative, and minimizing the political costs of the regional crisis have all shaped the government’s communication strategy. Yet in the age of social media, traditional methods of managing public opinion are becoming less effective. Citizens are no longer passive recipients of official messaging; they actively compare it with alternative sources of information. That growing comparison may ultimately become the greatest challenge facing the Jordanian government, because in today’s world, controlling the flow of information is far more difficult than controlling a country’s borders or airspace.

Iran urges UN action, calls US strike on rescue vessels a ‘war crime’

From Page 1 ► According to the letter, the two vessels sustained significant damage despite being dedicated solely to humanitarian rescue operations and having no involvement in military activities or hostilities.

Darzi described the incident as part of ‘a broader pattern of attacks on protected humanitarian assets’ since the United States and Israel launched military operations against Iran on February 28, 2026. He said Iranian search-and-rescue vessels and sea ambulances engaged in life-saving missions had repeatedly come under attack during the conflict.

Iran argued that the deliberate targeting of maritime rescue vessels constitutes a grave breach of international humanitarian law and international maritime law, citing Article 27 of the Second Geneva Convention of 1949, which requires states to respect and protect vessels

employed in coastal rescue operations.

“The vessels Naji-15 and Naji-16 fall within the scope of this protection and were not engaged in any military activity or direct participation in hostilities,” Darzi wrote, adding that their intentional targeting therefore amounted to a serious violation of international humanitarian law and constituted a war crime.

The Iranian diplomat said the attack endangered not only the lives of rescue personnel but also the safety of all mariners in distress, regardless of nationality, warning that such actions undermine the international legal framework established to protect humanitarian operations and ensure maritime safety.

Iran condemned ‘unlawful attack’ and said the United States bears full responsibility for its consequences.

Tehran called on the UN Security Council to condemn the strike, ensure accountability

for those responsible and take effective measures to prevent future attacks against humanitarian maritime assets and personnel.

The letter also urged Secretary-General Guterres to denounce the incident and engage relevant international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to reinforce compliance with international humanitarian law and safeguard maritime search-and-rescue services.

Darzi reaffirmed that Iran would continue to provide “safe, uninterrupted and non-discriminatory” search-and-rescue services to all people in distress at sea in accordance with its international obligations.

“No act of aggression will deter Iran from fulfilling its humanitarian responsibilities or diminish its resolve to safeguard human life at sea,” the letter concluded.

LATEST NEWS

ances and is placing its trust in Iran and resistance forces.

Al-Khatib said past “bitter experiences” taught Lebanese people not to believe promises.

“We rely on the patience of our people and our resistance, which will not surrender its weapons to empty promises and oaths,” al-Khatib said in a statement.

He also praised “the support of our allies, brothers and friends – at the forefront of them is the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has never failed to support us or fulfil its promises to us”.

US pressing Arab states as Qatar pursues diplomatic initiative: Rai Al-Youm

The Arabic-language newspaper Rai Al-Youm said that the United States is pressing several Arab countries to align with its policy toward Iran amid heightened regional military tensions.

According to the report, Qatar, with support from Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, is pursuing an urgent diplomatic initiative aimed at preventing a broader regional war.

The Atlantic: US entered conflict without strategy, returned to war without clear objectives

The Atlantic argued that the United States entered its confrontation with Iran without a coherent strategy and was ultimately forced into an agreement after encountering unexpectedly strong Iranian resistance. Drawing on the military adage that “everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth,” the magazine questioned why Washington has resumed military operations without clearly explaining how its objectives differ from the previous campaign.

Axios: Mediators present new proposal to Washington and Tehran

Axios reported that international mediators have presented a new proposal to the United States and Iran aimed at reducing tensions. According to the report, the proposal includes lifting restrictions affecting Iranian ports, reopening the Strait of Hormuz, and establishing a mechanism under which vessels transiting the strategic waterway would pay shipping security or transit service fees. Axios said discussions remain ongoing and no agreement has been finalized.

Araghchi: Iran has no hostility toward regional states

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran harbors no hostility toward neighboring countries despite current tensions following recent regional conflict.

In an interview with the Iran newspaper, Araghchi said strained relations with countries including the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia were a natural consequence of recent hostilities but stressed that Iran’s military actions targeted US military bases and facilities during the 40-day conflict and were carried out solely in self-defense.

“We were defending ourselves against aggression, and our actions were fully consistent with the inherent right of self-defense,” Araghchi said, adding that Iran’s position remains unchanged.

Lebanese Muslim leader says trust lies with Iran, not US or Israel

Sheikh Ali al-Khatib, deputy head of the Higher Islamic Shia Council and a prominent Hezbollah-aligned figure, says Lebanon won’t be deceived by US or Israeli assur-

1,200 inactive mines revived, permit-selling combatted in mining sector



TEHRAN- The spokesperson of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade announced the reactivation of 1,200 inactive mines in the country and said: By delegating part of the headquarters' authorities to the provinces, shortening administrative processes, and offering investment packages, the ground has been prepared for a broader presence of the private sector in the mining sector.

Ezzatollah Zarei, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, referring to the high cost of exploration activities, stated: Government financial resources alone cannot meet the needs of this sector; therefore, by synergizing resources and creating economic attractiveness, we must pave the way for private sector entry into exploration and exploitation of mines.

He added: Developing private sector investment both benefits economic actors and secures the government's interests, because with the exploitation of mines, revenues such as state royalties, ownership rights, and taxes are realized.

Zarei, stating that the mining sector, alongside the oil industry, can play a significant role in the country's economy, said: Mining cannot be considered a complete substitute for oil, but this sector has the capacity to have a large, and even greater, share in the country's economy and revenue generation alongside oil.

Targeting 13.5% growth for mining sector

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, referring to the goals of the Development Program Law, stated: According to the program, the growth of the mining sector must reach 13.5% by the end of the period. To achieve this goal, a series of actions have been initiated regarding the activation of mines, infrastructure development, and facilitating the investment process.

He continued: In this regard, 1,200 inactive mines have been reactivated. Also, part of the authority related to mining areas, inactive mines, and transfer of permits has been delegated to the provinces so that decisions can be made more quickly.

Zarei explained: Previously, a miner operating, for example, in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, had to refer to the ministry's headquarters to follow up on many matters. Now, by delegating authority to the provinces, we have tried to make the decision-making structure agile and shorten the path for investors to enter.

Combating permit-selling in mining sector

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade considered the transparency of the mine transfer process as one of the other programs of the ministry and said: In the past, it was possible for an individual to hold several mining files or permits, leading to the phenomenon of permit-selling. Now, the transfer of mining areas is done through auctions, and the provinces, according to their capacities, hold auctions every three or four months.

He added: Applicants who intend to acquire several mines must have the necessary standards, qualifications, and capabilities; otherwise, the mine will not be transferred to them. The implementation of this policy has helped increase transparency in the mining sector.

Defining 95 investment packages

Zarei reported the design of 95 investment packages in the field of mining exploitation and said: These packages have been defined for offering to investors in various parts of the country. Some mines may not have sufficient economic attractiveness on their own; therefore, we are trying to provide the ground for

investment in them by offering the necessary support and incentives.

He also stated regarding the presence of foreign investors: There is foreign investment in some of the country's mines, but its amount is not proportionate to Iran's capacities. Chinese investors have been present in sectors such as dimension stone, gypsum, and copper, and investors from Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, have also operated in some mining fields.

According to Zarei, the limited foreign investment in the mining sector is influenced by the general economic and international conditions of the country.

Construction of 66 km of access roads to mines

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, emphasizing the importance of developing mining infrastructure, announced: So far, 66 kilometers of access roads to mines have been constructed or upgraded. The Ministry considers access roads to be part of the essential infrastructure of mines and is pursuing actions such as construction and asphalt paving of routes in this regard.

He added: Facilitating access to mines reduces the operating costs for exploiters and makes conditions more favorable for investors.

Continuation of collecting export duties on raw materials

Zarei also said about export duties on raw and semi-raw materials: According to the program law, a list of raw and semi-raw materials, as well as materials the country needs, must be prepared and duties determined for their export in accordance with domestic demand.

He continued: The expert reviews and the relevant list for amending the duties had been carried out, but due to wartime conditions, its final notification and approval were postponed; because in such circumstances, the country may be forced to export some raw materials to secure foreign currency.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade emphasized: The postponement of amending the duties does not mean their elimination, and exporters of raw and semi-raw materials must still pay the performance tax and duties determined under the previous resolution. The resolution of the year 2024 (1403 in the Persian calendar) is still valid and being implemented.

Import of mining machinery not produced domestically

Zarei further pointed to the obsolescence of part of the mining machinery fleet and said: Renovation of mining equipment is essential, because new machinery consumes less fuel and increases the productivity of mining activities.

He added: Permits have been issued for the import of mining machinery without foreign currency transfer, and the specialized office of the Deputy for Mines and Mining Industries is pursuing this matter; although the entry of equipment still faces difficulties.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, considered supporting domestic manufacturers as one of the principles of policy-making in this area and noted: For machinery that has a domestic sample, imports are not approved. We must use domestic production so that manufacturers can gradually improve the quality of their products; however, the import of machinery and equipment that are not produced domestically will be approved.

US warmongering against Iran exposes European weakness, American industrial impotence

From Page 1 ▶ As detailed in energy market analyses, the sustained US-backed attacks and military threats against Iran have brutally spiked global liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices. Europe, which foolishly bet on a diplomatic resolution to the Strait of Hormuz crisis, now finds itself in a devastatingly fragile position. With strategic gas reserves at their lowest since 2022, European governments are being forced to pay exorbitant prices for LNG, fully aware that Washington's belligerence has obliterated any economic logic for winter purchasing. The US, safe across the Atlantic, is cynically betting that conflict will allow its own fracking tycoons to profit while European industries shutter and households shiver.

Yet, beneath this veneer of US military bravado lies a deeply embarrassing reality. While the US Pentagon rattles its sabers against Iran,



America's domestic industrial base is a pathetic shadow of its former self. The recent announcement of a partnership between Siemens and South Korea's HD Hyundai to establish a digital shipyard in the United States is the ultimate confession of US weakness. A nation that presumes

to police the waters of the West Asia and threaten the Strait of Hormuz is literally incapable of building or modernizing its own commercial and naval fleets without begging for foreign technology and Asian expertise.

Let this irony not be lost: The US government preaches aggression

and sanctions against Iran while simultaneously needing German software and South Korean engineers to teach it how to build ships on its own soil. This is not the posture of a global superpower; it is the pitiful admission of a rusting bully whose military projections far outpace its actual productive capabilities.

The US is actively destabilizing global energy markets, leaving Europe to face the brutal consequences of skyrocketing inflation and supply chaos—all while hypocritically sheltering behind foreign-made shipyards to sustain its own naval ambitions.

The attacks on Iran are not about security; they are a desperate, cynical act of distraction from America's systemic decline. Washington is willing to set the West Asia ablaze to hide the fact that its industrial empire is crumbling leaving its European puppets to freeze in the dark.

Iran, Armenia chart a new roadmap for energy cooperation

TEHRAN- Iran's oil minister announced the agreement between Iran and Armenia to form a joint specialized working group in the energy sector and said: Tehran has proposed that, by defining a new model for gas trade, the grounds for developing energy cooperation with Yerevan and even exporting gas through Armenia to other markets be examined.

According to Shana, Mohsen Paknejad made the remarks on Saturday in a meeting with Davit Khudatyan, Armenia's Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, stating that Yerevan has stood by Tehran during difficult days, adding: Iran is ready to assist the friendly country of Armenia within the framework of its capabilities and to develop cooperation.

Referring to the negotiations between the two sides, he said: In this meeting, the areas of cooperation in the energy sector, including trade, export of technical and engineering services, construction of a refinery, and meeting Armenia's needs in the field of petroleum products, were reviewed.

The Oil Minister, referring to the friendly relations between Tehran and Yerevan, considered Armenia one of Iran's important neighbors and emphasized: There are suitable capacities and grounds for developing bilateral cooperation, especially in the energy sector, between the two countries.

Paknejad announced the agreement to form a joint specialized working group and stated: It was proposed to the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia that this working group start its activities as soon as possible so that the results and achievements of the follow-ups can be reviewed at the next meeting.

Referring to the current cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector, he stated: The current model of cooperation between Iran and Armenia is based on gas-for-electricity barter, but the clear proposal of Iran is to define a new commercial model for gas exports.

The Oil Minister emphasized: Implementing this proposal requires examining the existing infrastructure and the possibility of expanding gas trade, even beyond Armenia's market and through its territory.

Paknejad, stating that this model has tech-

nical and commercial complexities, said: Examining the various dimensions of this plan requires forming a joint specialized working group and conducting expert studies to prepare the ground for its implementation.

Armenia's Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure announced the agreement between Tehran and Yerevan to form a joint specialized working group in the energy sector and said: The two countries are determined to expand bilateral cooperation across all relevant areas with the start of this working group's activities.

After his meeting with Paknejad, Davit Khudatyan said: In this meeting, we reviewed the areas of cooperation between Iran and Armenia and reached an agreement on forming a joint specialized working group.

He added: It was decided that this working group would be formed and start its activities in the shortest possible time to expand the cooperation between Iran and Armenia in all areas related to the duties of the two ministries.

Armenia's Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, referring to the current cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector, said: Armenia currently cooperates with Iran in the field of petroleum products and uses Iranian bitumen for road construction projects.

Khudatyan, stating that energy cooperation between the two countries is based on gas and electricity exchange, specified: Armenia receives and consumes gas in exchange for sending electricity to Iran and is interested in increasing the volume of these exchanges and bilateral cooperation more than ever.

Back in mid-June, a specialized meeting between the Head of Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization and the Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia was held at the Ministry of Economy in Yerevan, focusing on facilitating trade and transit and reducing international transportation barriers between the two countries.

During this meeting, the Head of the organization, referring to Iran's strategic position in the North-South and East-West international corridors, emphasized the need for the full activation of transit and logistics capacities on both sides.

Reza Akbari stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the region's main transit routes, has always welcomed the development of transportation cooperation with its neighbors, and Armenia, due to its special geographical location and cultural and historical ties, is considered a key partner on these routes.

The Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia, while appreciating the active presence of the Iranian delegation and the accompaniment of the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and diplomatic representatives, announced that his country is determined to remove road transportation barriers and reduce transit costs.

Emphasizing that Armenia is seeking mechanisms to make the movement of transport fleets between the two countries smoother and more economical, he added: Adjusting border tolls and coordinating customs procedures are among our main priorities.

The Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia added: The presence of senior customs and transit officials from both sides in this meeting demonstrates a serious determination to implement the agreements.

In this meeting, five main axes were discussed and exchanged with an operational approach and the active participation of the Iranian and Armenian delegation members.

The two sides agreed on reducing border tolls, deciding to form a joint working group under the direct supervision of customs managers to review the cost structure of crossing shared borders and plan for their gradual reduction.

The expansion of truck and cargo fleet traffic was also placed on the agenda, and it was decided that, in addition to increasing the traffic quota, smart systems for reserving crossing times and controlling traffic at the borders should be launched to prevent the formation of long queues.

Activating transit and logistics capacities was another important axis of this meeting, based on which both sides emphasized the full utilization of logistics terminals on both sides of the border and the creation of joint centers with private sector cooperation.

NDF allocates \$2b in foreign currency to boost border region trade

TEHRAN- The head of the National Development Fund(NDF), pointing to the government's strategic outlook on border areas, announced the allocation of \$2 billion in foreign currency resources to support foreign trade in these regions.

According to IRNA, Mehdi Ghazanfari stated on Saturday at the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding for granting facilities to economic sectors in less-developed areas: Customers in this sector must be traders and exporters so that the process of repatriating resources can be carried out in foreign currency with complete confidence.

He added: The memorandum of understanding for granting facilities (in Rials and foreign currency) to economic sectors in less-developed areas was signed between the National Development Fund and the Vice

President's Rural Development Department.

The official continued: Our goal with this new approach is to prevent the accumulation of resources in the banking system and ensure that facilities are directly disbursed to final applicants. At the same time, this does not mean a change in the Fund's priorities; rather, the Fund will continue its activities with full strength in the sectors of oil, mining, new technologies, and the reconstruction of war-affected areas with the same approach.

Ghazanfari, emphasizing that rural development is one of the vital pillars of national development, stated: The era of villages benefiting from natural resources without the need for technology has ended. Today, it is expected that the same level of welfare available in urban centers will also prevail in remote areas, and

this is precisely justice.

He stated: National development and rural development have a reciprocal relationship. When a village is developed, it contributes to national development, and the prosperity of national development must also serve as the driving engine for rural development. Therefore, part of the success in this area requires synergy among the oil, industry, and broader economic sectors.

The head of the National Development Fund's Board of Trustees pointed to the Fund's negligible share of the country's total Rial facilities and said: The National Development Fund is essentially a foreign currency fund, and the Rial is not defined in its articles of association. Nevertheless, according to Article 52 of the law, over the past years, about \$10 billion of the Fund's foreign currency resources were converted

into Rials, which, given exchange rate fluctuations, is worth much less today in dollar terms than its initial value.

Referring to the failed experience of allocating \$1.5 billion for rural development, he added: The banking network was unsuccessful in effectively disbursing these resources to final applicants, and a large portion of this money accumulated in banks instead of reaching producers and villagers.

The official noted: Given the bitter experiences of the past and the accumulation of resources in banks, the National Development Fund objects to previous methods and is currently seeking to change its approach and adopt a new methodology for genuinely supporting the economy of villages and underprivileged areas.

How Yemen trapped Saudi Arabia in a double chokehold

Sanaa turns twelve years of starvation into counter-deterrence

From page 1 ► That campaign starved millions, shattered public infrastructure, and turned basic humanitarian access into a tool of political coercion. Yet, as recent developments demonstrate, the era of unpunished aggression has ended.

Retaliation at the core of the Saudi energy machine

The Yemeni response to the strikes on Al-Hudaydah came with swift and undeniable precision. On July 25, the Yemeni Armed Forces announced two qualitative military operations that struck directly at the primary arteries of the Saudi economy.

Utilizing dozens of indigenously developed ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drone swarms, Yemeni forces hit sensitive Saudi Aramco facilities in Jizan and Yanbu.

Satellite imaging and regional reports confirmed direct impacts, showing rising smoke columns over Jizan's refinery complex and triggering air defense alerts across Yanbu.

The selection of these targets carries immense strategic weight. Yanbu represents the crown jewel of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea oil export apparatus, designed specifically to bypass maritime vulnerabilities in the Persian Gulf.

By extending its strike envelope over a thousand kilometers north to Yanbu while simultaneously maintaining pressure on Jizan, Sanaa has effectively started



to close the kingdom's western escape route.

The multi-billion-dollar Western air defense umbrella, including American Patriot batteries, failed once again to intercept co-ordinated saturation strikes.

The math of modern asymmetric warfare has proven unyielding: inexpensive Yemeni strike platforms consistently bypass multi-million-dollar interceptors.

The blockade for blockade equation

These military actions represent the enforcement of a deliberate doctrine. On July 20, following the Saudi strike on Sanaa International Airport that disrupted diplomatic channels, the Yemeni Armed Forces declared a targeted maritime embargo against Saudi shipping.

As Ansarullah officials clarified, the current measure does not

close the Bab al-Mandeb Strait to global trade. Rather, it imposes a strict counter-blockade on Saudi-flagged vessels and cargo bound for the aggressor's ports.

When Yemeni forces targeted non-compliant oil tankers, they established an operational formula: blockade for blockade, and siege for siege.

For over a decade, Western capitals remained silent as Saudi Arabia strangled Yemeni ports, causing an unprecedented humanitarian emergency that left millions of people in acute need.

Today, those same Western powers express outrage when Sanaa exercises its sovereign right under international law to retaliate.

This blatant double standard exposes the hollow nature of Western rhetoric regarding freedom of navigation, which serves only to protect imperial monop-

lies while sanctioning the starvation of independent nations.

United against imperial aggression

The escalation in Yemen is inseparable from the broader regional confrontation.

As the United States and Israel waged their reckless campaign of aggression against Iran and the Resistance Front, Riyadh functioned as a compliant instrument of imperial policy.

By launching airstrikes and maintaining economic strangulation against Yemen, the Saudi monarchy seeks to divide the Resistance and relieve pressure on the American-Israeli axis.

Sanaa has dismantled this design through absolute solidarity. The July 25 statement from the Yemeni military leadership, anchored in the Quranic principle of just retaliation against oppression, confirmed that Yemen will not tolerate ongoing violations of its sovereignty.

By linking Red Sea security to the broader regional struggle, Ansarullah has shown that the Resistance operates as a single, cohesive shield.

Riyadh's attempt to isolate Yemen has instead drawn the kingdom into a war of attrition it cannot win, proving that those who weaponize siege will ultimately find themselves encircled by the very forces they sought to destroy.

Amid broadening Israeli aggression, where is Gaza heading?

From page 1 ► The scale of the regime's daily, systematic military operations, which kill and injure dozens of Palestinian civilians, goes far beyond isolated breaches and is approaching the level of a broad military aggression.

This means, beyond any doubt, that the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), acting under clear orders from the political leadership headed by war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu, have effectively abandoned Gaza's fragile ceasefire.

Since it was announced on October 10 of last year, the agreement has produced neither meaningful progress nor any genuine breakthrough.

Instead, economic conditions for the Strip's residents have continued to deteriorate amid the near-total suspension of emergency humanitarian aid, the continued closure of border crossings, and the prevention of any reconstruction efforts or even the removal of millions of tons of rubble and debris.

The regime's determination to collapse the ceasefire and return to the path of genocidal war can be seen in many of the developments unfolding across the besieged and devastated enclave.

Foremost among them is the sharp increase in assassinations targeting Palestinian resistance members. These attacks have grown both in frequency and sophistication, reaching unprecedented levels over the past two months in particular.

Dozens of members have been killed alongside their families, neighbors, and passersby, with no regard for the laws of war established under international conventions.

The assassination campaign in Gaza has expanded far beyond targeting senior commanders or high-ranking officials among Palestinian resistance forces. It now extends to anyone with even the most distant connection or family relationship to resistance members.

In Gaza, this is viewed as an ex-

tremely dangerous development, warning of an unprecedented expansion in Israeli aggression during the coming period, especially with fewer than one hundred days remaining before the regime's parliamentary elections, which have historically coincided with a higher Palestinian death toll.

Expanding the 'Yellow Line' and shrinking the strip

Another notable development is the IOF's expansion of the area under its control beyond the so-called "Yellow Line." Although this has been taking place since the "ceasefire" began, it has reached particularly alarming levels over the past two weeks, especially around Gaza City, where the line continues to expand toward Salah al-Din Street.

The expansion also includes Deir al-Balah and the camps of the central governorate, where the "Yellow Line" is being enlarged for the first time to encompass vast areas. At the same time, preparations are underway to completely separate certain geographic areas from the rest of the Strip, as has already occurred in Rafah.

Along Rafah's northern boundary, which separates it from neighboring Khan Younis, the IOF has installed iron gates closely resembling those that divide towns and villages across the occupied West Bank, signaling its intention to reduce the Gaza Strip to the smallest possible territory.

If current conditions persist, that territory could eventually shrink to less than 20 percent of its original area, fragmented by barriers and checkpoints into isolated cantons cut off from one another.

Other developments include reducing the operations of international and humanitarian organizations to an absolute minimum, further worsening the suffering of Gaza's residents, alongside the renewed destruction of residential blocks and the forced evacuation of civilians from what remains of their



homes, and even from their worn-out tents.

All of this has cast a dark shadow over the lives of Gaza's residents, who had hoped for at least a minimal level of safety and stability.

It also means that the "agreement" they had counted on to achieve those goals has failed. It has deepened their suffering to an unprecedented degree while simultaneously sparing the regime from a broad wave of international criticism and pressure, which, despite its largely symbolic nature, had represented a significant source of pressure before the ceasefire agreement was reached.

Slim chances of the 'agreement' holding

In light of these developments, the chances of the "ceasefire agreement" surviving appear extremely slim, particularly given the striking inability of the mediators and guarantors to compel the occupying regime to halt or even reduce its escalation, or even to hold it responsible for the potentially catastrophic consequences that could plunge the entire region into the unknown.

This is especially true as the entire region stands on a knife's edge amid the U.S.-Israeli aggression against Iran, which could eventually expand to engulf the region as a whole.

Three possible scenarios appear likely in the near future, each carrying significant consequences for all parties concerned with the "agreement". The Pales-

tinian people in Gaza, however, will undoubtedly bear the greatest impact, whether for better or for worse.

Scenario one: The status quo continues

The first scenario is that conditions remain unchanged, driven by the Palestinian resistance factions' determination not to give the regime the opportunity to completely destroy the "agreement" and return to the genocidal war sought by Netanyahu and the rest of his far-right fascist coalition.

Under such circumstances, the Palestinian resistance would have to absorb heavy losses within its ranks, including a considerable number of fighters and cadres, while dozens of civilians continue to be killed alongside them.

This also raises the risk of partially losing its popular support base. Although much of the public still stands behind the Palestinian resistance and supports its choices, many have grown weary of the prolonged wait and have largely lost hope that the current situation can offer any escape from the relentless succession of crises surrounding them.

Although this scenario still appears to be the Palestinian resistance's preferred option, at least for now, it leaves it cornered in an extremely difficult position and imposes costs far greater than it likely anticipated when it agreed to the ceasefire.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



The empire strikes The Hague

A coordinated U.S.-Israeli campaign neutralized the International Criminal Court



By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The unprecedented removal of International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan is the swift execution of international law at the altar of Zionism.

When 82 member states gathered at the United Nations to vote by secret ballot for his dismissal, they dismantled the illusion that the rules-based global order applies to the United States or its Israeli outpost.

The architecture of coercion

The official narrative demands blind faith in a compromised disciplinary procedure. Assembly of States Parties President Paivi Kaukoranta announced that member states concluded Khan committed serious misconduct.

Yet this conclusion was reached through a flawed executive vote while the court remained under illegal American sanctions. As Khan's lawyer, Tayab Ali, pointed out, his client was denied basic due process and never given a fair opportunity to be heard.

More than 180 Palestinian civil society organizations desperately warned that this process had been reduced to a cynical political referendum. Their warnings were deliberately ignored.

The secret ballot allowed cowed nations to capitulate to American extortion without public accountability. 13 states voted against the motion, and 15 abstained, but the absolute majority bent the knee.

This political theater has nothing to do with UN oversight. The true, unforgivable sin committed by Khan was seeking arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former War Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and the Gaza genocide.

The moment he held powerful architects of ethnic cleansing to the standard applied to the Global South, his career was terminated.

Dismantling justice brick by brick

Washington and Tel Aviv have waged ruthless campaigns against those who have opposed them using carrots and sticks.

Bribes, promotions, and funding have been offered to those willing to play along, matched by extortion, blackmail, and firings for anyone who has resisted.

International bodies have not come out unscathed, and the Trump administration has made its intentions clear.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio explicitly promised that Washington would use every tool at its disposal to dismantle the ICC "brick by brick." The U.S. flatly demanded the end of the court to shield the Palestinian genocide from legal scrutiny.

This assault extends beyond The Hague. The International Court of Justice has faced relentless attacks whenever it examines Israeli conduct.

As scholars such as Norman Finkelstein have documented, the entire infrastructure of Western diplomacy has been mobilized to protect this genocide. The message from Washington is that international law may exist in name, but only as long as it never touches the empire's conduct.

The liberal media and interventionist complicity

Most revealing is how seamlessly the liberal interventionist establishment fell in line behind this neoconservative agenda.

The sudden materialization of Khan's accuser on Christiane Amanpour's CNN program provided a massive platform to legitimize the ouster. Amanpour long functioned as a mouthpiece for

military interventionism, and her framing perfectly served the broader geopolitical objective.

Similarly, Ken Roth from Human Rights Watch flooded social media with posts demanding Khan step down.

Roth spent his career championing regime change in adversarial nations such as Venezuela and Syria. He unsurprisingly became an open cheerleader for removing the one prosecutor trying to hold Netanyahu accountable.

The blatant hypocrisy of selectively enforcing international law by applauding the warrant for Vladimir Putin while destroying the man who indicted Netanyahu reveals the moral bankruptcy of the Western political class.

A cynical defection and the Global South

The most cynical betrayal came from expected quarters of resistance. Right after American and Israeli influence networks successfully infiltrated Venezuelan diplomacy, Foreign Minister Felix Plasencia Gonzalez announced an irrevocable decision to denounce the Rome Statute.

Venezuela initiated its definitive withdrawal from the ICC just as the court faced its darkest hour. Caracas justified this cowardly retreat by claiming the court is biased against the Global South.

This hollow excuse insults the intelligence of the global public. Rubio's Venezuela suddenly discovered this alleged bias exactly when the court indicted the leaders of the most bloodthirsty genocidal regime in the world.

During Nicolás Maduro's presidency, Venezuela repeatedly invoked international law, including the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Rome Statute framework of the ICC, to defend its diplomatic premises and to challenge U.S. pressure.

In 2020, Maduro's government asked the ICC to investigate U.S. sanctions, with Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza saying Venezuela was "seeking refuge with international law." Meanwhile, in the 2019 embassy standoff, U.S. authorities moved to hand the Venezuelan embassy in Washington to Juan Guaidó's representatives after removing protesters from the building, prompting accusations that Washington was violating the Vienna Convention.

Now, in a clear quid pro quo demanded by Israeli and American pressure, they abandon the field. Not a single Venezuelan official could honestly claim this withdrawal had nothing to do with the Zionist campaign.

Justice punished for looking up

The Global South must recognize the chilling precedent established this week. If the chief prosecutor of the world's highest criminal court can be systematically destroyed for prosecuting Israeli war crimes, absolutely no institution is safe.

The Hague may be transformed into a crude instrument of American foreign policy. It may continue issuing warrants for designated enemies while guaranteeing absolute impunity for the perpetrators of the Gaza genocide and other U.S.-Israeli crimes such as the illegal war on Iran.

The successful purge of Karim Khan is a dark global confession and proves that the entire architecture of international human rights was always a weapon meant to be pointed strictly outward at designated adversaries.

The moment it turned toward the empire, it was ruthlessly dismantled from within. The international community is no longer watching a legal process unfold; it is witnessing the violent reimposition of colonial immunity.

Men’s handball in Group of Death: 2026 Asian Games

TEHRAN – The draw for the 2026 Asian Games men’s handball tournament in Nagoya has been completed, and Iran’s national men’s team have landed in Group B — widely considered the “Group of Death,” featuring at least four of Asia’s top powerhouses.

Iran will face Bahrain, South Korea, Kuwait, and Kazakhstan in the group stage.

Bahrain are the reigning Asian champions, having claimed the continental title just months ago. Kuwait finished third at the 2026 Asian Men’s Handball Championship, proving they’re a rising force. South Korea, meanwhile, remain one of the most historically dominant teams in Asian handball.

Group A consists of Qatar, Japan, China, and Hong Kong.

The path to the medal rounds starts with a battle for top-two positioning in the group.

The 2026 Asian Games, also known as 20th Asian Games and Aichi-Nagoya 2026, will be a multi-sport event which will be held from 19 Sept. to 4 Oct. around Aichi Prefecture in Japan.

Iran U23 football team learn opponents at 2026 Asian Games

TEHRAN – The draw ceremony for the men’s football tournament of the 20th Asian Games has been completed, and Iran’s U23 team learned their group-stage opponents.

Coached by Hossein Abdi, Iran have been placed in Group B alongside China, the UAE, and North Korea. Iran entered the draw from Pot 3.

Full Group Draw — 2026 Asian Games (Nagoya) | Men’s Football

Group A: Japan, Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand

Group B: China, UAE, Iran, North Korea

Group C: Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Philippines, Kuwait

Group D: South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Qatar

The 2026 Asian Games, also known as 20th Asian Games and Aichi-Nagoya 2026, will be a multi-sport event which will be held from 19 Sept. to 4 Oct. around Aichi Prefecture in Japan.

Men’s volleyball discover rivals at 2026 Asian Games

TEHRAN – The draw ceremony for the volleyball tournament of the 2026 Asian Games has been completed, and Iran’s national men’s volleyball team now know their group-stage opponents.

Iran have been placed in Group B, where they will face Indonesia, Thailand, and Kyrgyzstan.

Full Group Draw — 2026 Asian Games (Nagoya) | Men’s Volleyball

Group A features hosts Japan alongside Pakistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

Group B consists of Iran, Indonesia, Thailand, and Kyrgyzstan.

Group C brings together Qatar, India, Vietnam, and Hong Kong.

Group D round out the competition with South Korea, China, Chinese Taipei, and the Philippines.

Iran enter the tournament as one of the heavy favorites, having consistently dominated Asian volleyball over the past decade. Their group appears manageable on paper, but Indonesia — who have shown steady improvement — could pose a challenge. The real tests are likely to come in the knockout rounds, where teams like Japan and Qatar will be waiting.

Women’s and men’s kabaddi teams learn fate: 2026 Asiad

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s and men’s kabaddi teams know their group-stage opponents at the

2026 Asian Games.

The men’s team landed in a relatively favorable group, while the women’s team face a much tougher path.

Iran’s men have been placed in Group B alongside Nepal, Thailand, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

Group A consists of India, Bangladesh, South Korea, Chinese Taipei, and Japan.

Iran will be looking to build on their status as one of Asia’s top kabaddi nations. Pakistan remain the biggest threat in Group B, while India — the traditional powerhouse — await in the knockout rounds from Group A.

Iran’s women face a significantly tougher draw. They have been placed in Group A alongside hosts Japan, Bangladesh, and defending champions India — a group packed with title contenders.

Group B features Sri Lanka, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, and Nepal.

For the women’s team, every match in Group A carries immense pressure. India are the benchmark in women’s kabaddi, while Japan as hosts will have strong crowd support. Iran will need to be at their sharpest from match one to advance.

The 20th Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan will take place from Sept. 19 to Oct. 4, with over 12,000 athletes from 45 nations competing for medals. Iran will send a delegation of 282 athletes across 39 sports.

Iran lose to Chinese Taipei at 2026 Asian Junior Handball

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Chinese Taipei 35-30 at the 2026 Asian Junior Handball Championship on Saturday.

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

Iran will meet China on Monday for the seventh place.

The 19th Asian Men’s Junior Handball Championship is being held in Chuzhou of China from 15 to 27 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.

Persepolis close in on signing Mohebbi

TEHRAN – Persepolis have reached a full verbal agreement to complete another key signing, with winger Mohammadmehdi Mohebbi set to join the Tehran giants. Although the contract has yet to be officially signed, the deal is expected to be finalized ahead of the new season.

The 26-year-old right winger, who was born in Tehran, began his football journey in Esteghlal’s academy before making his senior debut with Naft Masjed Soleyman. After an impressive breakthrough season, he went on to shine for Paykan and Mes Rafsanjan, where he worked under current Persepolis head coach Mehdi Tartar.

Tractor had previously attempted to sign Mohebbi but failed to reach an agreement, allowing Persepolis to enter the race. With several wingers departing this summer, the Reds identified the technically gifted attacker as a priority target.

Following unsuccessful pursuits of Ahmad Nourollahi and Shahriar Moghanlou, Persepolis were determined not to miss out on another major signing. Intensive negotiations over the past few days have now brought the transfer to the brink of completion.

Tehran, Tashkent discuss direct flights and visa facilitation

TEHRAN – Tehran’s ambassador to Tashkent and the head of Uzbekistan’s Tourism Committee have discussed expanding tourism cooperation, increased direct flights and facilitated visas for Iranian citizens during talks in Uzbekistan’s capital, according to Uzbek media reports published on Friday.

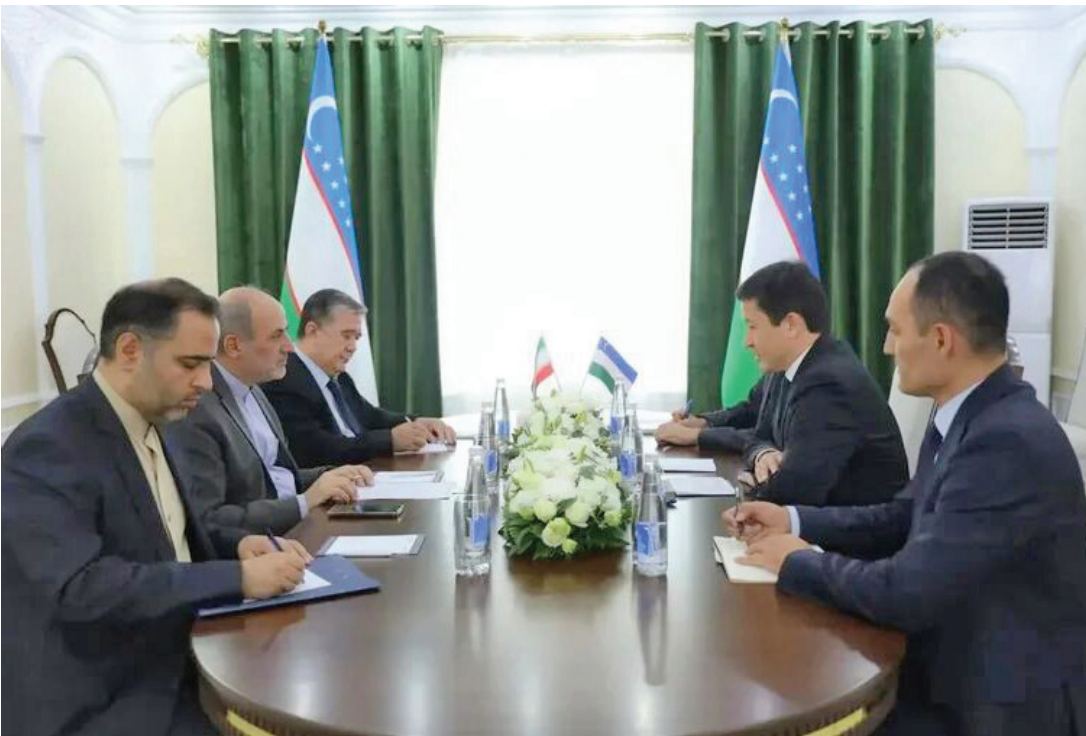
According to Uzbekistan’s UZ Daily, Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Ali Eskandari met Abdulaziz Akkulov, chairman of the Tourism Committee of Uzbekistan, and proposed easing visa issuance for Iranian travelers.

They also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in tourism, make better use of existing tourism potential and increase two-way tourist flows between the two countries, the report said.

The discussions also focused on promoting tourism opportunities in Iran and Uzbekistan, and developing cooperation in medical tourism.

The officials also agreed to make greater use of the two countries’ historical and cultural heritage to promote Uzbekistan’s tourism market in Iran and steadily increase reciprocal tourism exchanges.

The talks form part of broader



efforts by Tehran and Tashkent to expand bilateral relations across multiple sectors.

Separately, the office of Uzbekistan’s president said President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian held a telephone conversation in which they agreed to further develop bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade, the economy, investment, transport and cultural

and humanitarian exchanges.

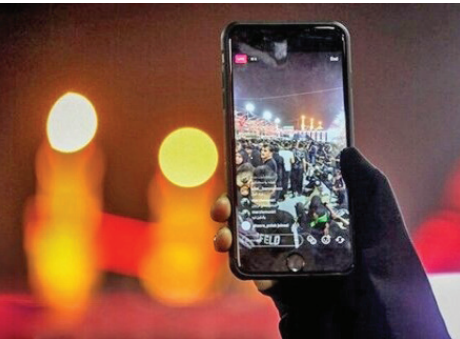
According to the presidential statement, the two presidents reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening practical cooperation in key sectors of the economy.

During the call, Mirziyoyev also expressed concern over continuing tensions in the Middle East and stressed the importance of restraint and the resumption of

dialogue to reduce tensions, the statement said.

Iran and Uzbekistan have sought to deepen economic cooperation by expanding trade, transport connectivity and investment links. The two countries have also worked to strengthen regional transit corridors and broaden cooperation in logistics and other sectors to support cross-border trade.

Free Internet service launched for Arbaeen pilgrims at Iran’s Shalamcheh and Chazabeh border crossings



the Shalamcheh and Chazabeh border terminals to improve communication services and support Arbaeen pilgrims,” Fallahzadeh said.

He said pilgrims could connect to the Public WiFi network without charge to access messaging applications, obtain travel information and use other online services throughout their journey.

According to Fallahzadeh, the project forms part of a wider communications upgrade that includes expanding bandwidth capacity, extending fiber-optic infrastructure and providing continuous technical support at both border crossings to improve the reliability of communications during the pilgrimage.

He said the free Internet service and technical support teams would remain available around the clock until the end of the Arbaeen ceremonies.

The launch follows earlier measures announced by Khuzestan’s Information and Communications Technology Department, which said it had deployed eight mobile telecommunications sites at the Shalamcheh and Chazabeh crossings to strengthen network coverage and communications services for pilgrims.

Earlier this week, Ali Khanqaei, deputy head

of the Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, said authorities had completed preparations at six main border crossings with Iraq ahead of Arbaeen.

“We have tried to eliminate the shortcomings of previous years and prepare the border terminals so that pilgrims can cross with the fewest possible difficulties,” Khanqaei said. The official added that cooling systems at all border terminals had been upgraded and emergency generators installed to ensure uninterrupted services during power outages. Authorities have also expanded shaded areas, installed misting systems and covered pedestrian routes to improve conditions for pilgrims travelling during the summer.

Khuzestan province, which is home to the Shalamcheh and Chazabeh international border crossings, serves as one of Iran’s main gateways for pilgrims travelling to the Iraqi holy city of Karbala during Arbaeen.

In Shia Islam, Arbaeen (also spelled Arba’in) marks 40 days after Ashura, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (A.S.), the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the third Shia Imam. Millions of pilgrims travel to Karbala each year, many on foot, to commemorate the occasion.

Ancient Espi Mazget up for restoration, tourism development by private sector



Bagheri also visited the historical Poneh Brick Bridge together with the governor of Rezvanshahr and the director general of Gilan’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department. The officials reviewed the bridge’s condition, tourism potential and conservation requirements, ISNA reported.

The governor’s office said the Poneh Brick Bridge is one of Rezvanshahr’s important historical landmarks and that its protection and promotion could support tourism development in the

region.

Espi Mazget, meaning “White Mosque,” is located about 80 km west of Rasht, the provincial capital, and 22 km south of Talesh in Gilan province, which is bounded by the Caspian Sea.

According to sources, the monument dates to the pre-Islamic period and continued to be used during the Seljuk and Safavid eras. It was registered on Iran’s National Heritage List in 2000 under registration number 2796.

Only the monument’s main en-

trance, part of its prayer hall and several adjoining walls remain standing. The entrance features a high arch associated with Seljuk architecture.

Espi Mazget has often been described as a former Sassanid-era (224-651) fire temple that was later converted into a mosque. However, archaeological excavations have not uncovered Sassanid architectural remains or pottery at the site. Surviving inscriptions date the structure to the fourth and early fifth centuries of the Islamic calendar, while all pottery recovered from the site belongs to the eighth century AH, corresponding to the Ilkhanid period.

Gilan is divided into a coastal plain, including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz range. In the course of history, the Gilan region was within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

“I pulled my 11-year-old brother from the burning car and shook him, hoping he was still alive, but...”

July 17 U.S. missile strike on a bridge in southern Iran changed the lives of an entire village forever.



People hold a funeral procession for Homayoun Chatrzarin



Homayoun Chatrzarin is seen in an undated photo



Mazyar Chatrzarin is seen in an undated photo

From page 1 ► Several passing vehicles were struck in the attack, killing a number of civilians. Among the victims were Homayoun Chatrzarin, a 32-year-old man who, despite suffering from a severe visual impairment, was the main pillar of support for his family, and his 11-year-old brother Mazyar Chatrzarin, an elementary school student.

Hassan Chatrzarin, their brother, was among the first people to reach the scene only minutes after the strike. He still vividly remembers his brother's final phone call, the road engulfed in smoke and flames, and the moment the beam of his flashlight fell on his brothers' vehicle.

What follows is his account of the hours that began with a single phone call and ended with the loss of two brothers, turning that night into the darkest chapter in the Chatrzarin family's life.

Before we talk about the night of the attack, could you tell us a little about your family? How many siblings are there, and what roles did Homayoun and Mazyar play within the family?

We are a large family—six brothers and two sisters. Two of my brothers, Homayoun and Mazyar, were killed in the U.S. attack, while the other four brothers are still alive. Thankfully, both of my parents are alive as well, and I pray they remain healthy for many years to come.

My father spent many years working as a driver for a cement company and is now retired under Iran's Social Security Organization. He devoted his entire life to supporting our family through hard work.

We are from the village of Nimeh kar, in Khamir County, Hormozgan Province. It is a village of around 2,000 people, located roughly 80 to 85 kilometers from Bandar Abbas. Most residents work as truck drivers or are self-employed, and almost everyone knows one another.

Homayoun, my older brother, was 32 years old. He never married because he dedicated most of his life to caring for our parents and supporting the family.

Mazyar was the youngest son in the family. He was only 11 years old. He had just completed the fourth grade of elementary school and was excitedly preparing to begin fifth grade.

Both of your brothers had physical disabilities. Could you tell us more about their conditions?

Yes. Several years ago, Homayoun was involved in a serious traffic accident in which he lost one of his eyes, leaving him with a severe visual impairment. Despite that, he never stepped back from his responsibilities toward our family.

Mazyar had been born with strabismus and had been receiving medical treatment since childhood. Both of them were supported by Iran's State Welfare Organization, but neither allowed these conditions to diminish their hope for life or their dreams for the future.

Now let's go back to the night of the attack.

That night, we were gathered at one of my brothers' houses, right next to ours. Suddenly, we heard an enormous explosion—so powerful that it shook every door and window. Moments later, the electricity across the area went out completely, leaving everything in darkness.

At that very moment, Homayoun called my mother. All he managed to say was, “Mother, where are you?” Before she had a chance to

answer, the call was cut off.

After that, no matter how many times we tried to call him back, he never answered. With the power outage, communications were severely disrupted, and even making phone calls became extremely difficult.

From that moment on, a terrible sense of anxiety gripped all of us.

When we asked where Homayoun was, my mother told us that, at Mazyar's insistence, the two brothers had gone to the hot springs near our village for therapeutic treatment. After Homayoun's call was disconnected, she kept trying to reach him, but there was no response.

With every passing minute, our worry grew. None of us wanted to imagine the worst, but deep down we all had an unsettling feeling—one that we later realized had not been unfounded.

My cousin and I got into a car and drove toward the site of the explosions, unaware that within minutes we would be confronted with the most heartbreaking scene of our lives.

From the moment we got into the car, we were all deeply worried, though we still hoped nothing had happened to my brothers. None of us wanted to believe that something so tragic could have taken place. We kept telling ourselves that perhaps the phone lines were down, or that they had been delayed somewhere and we would hear from them soon.

The closer we got to the scene, the greater our anxiety became. From a distance, the sky was filled with smoke, and after the second explosion, the flames were visible from far away. The silence of the night had been shattered by the sound of sirens, the cries of people, and flames lighting up the sky. At that moment, I felt that something had happened that could never be undone.

When you arrived at the scene, what was the first thing you saw?

The fire was so intense that no one could get close. The flames were enormous, and everyone kept warning me not to go any farther because it was too dangerous. I had a flashlight with me. As soon as I got out of the car, I pointed its beam toward the scene.

That was when I saw my brothers' car.

It had come to a stop right at the end of the bridge—perhaps only one or two meters short of making it across. The moment I saw it, it felt as if my whole world had collapsed. I still wanted to believe they were alive, but that single image was enough to make me realize that what had happened was far worse than we had imagined.

There have been different accounts about this bridge. Could you explain what it was used for?

It was a local bridge on the old Bandar Abbas-Khamir road, a route that people from nearby villages had used for years in their daily commute. After the new highway was built, most heavy vehicles began using the new route, while the old road remained primarily in use by local residents.

It was not a military base, a government facility, or a location where military forces were stationed. It was simply a road used by ordinary people—people traveling to and from the city for work, medical treatment, shopping, or visiting relatives.

Besides your brothers, were there other victims in the attack?

Yes. Another car was traveling immediately behind my brothers' vehicle. There were four people inside—a husband and wife,

their daughter, and the wife's mother.

Later, their relatives told us they had gone to Bandar Abbas to visit a family member in the hospital and were on their way home when they were caught in the attack.

They all lost their lives.

So it wasn't only our family that was left grieving that night. Several other families also lost their loved ones.

Were you the first member of your family to find your brothers?

Yes. As far as I remember, I arrived before the others.

The moment I saw the car, I completely lost control of myself. All I could do was scream, “My brothers are inside the car... Help them!”

Villagers, friends, relatives, and everyone who had rushed to the scene tried to help, but the intensity of the fire made any rescue effort extremely difficult.

Had emergency responders arrived by then?

No. During the first few moments, no rescue teams had reached the scene.

We couldn't wait.

My cousin, several local residents, and I tried to pull my brothers' bodies from the vehicle ourselves.

The other car, however, was completely engulfed in flames, and it was impossible to get close to it.

What went through your mind when you pulled Mazyar from the car?

I will never forget that moment.

When I carried him out, I still couldn't bring myself to believe he was gone. I stroked his face, called his name, and gently shook him, hoping he might respond.

But there was no response.

That was the moment I realized I had lost my little brother.

I truly don't know how to put that feeling into words. Only those who have seen a loved one die with their own eyes can understand what a person goes through in such a moment.

Was your mother also at the scene?

Yes, but our relatives and other family members wouldn't let her come closer.

She could hear me screaming and kept saying, “My children are still alive... Please save them.”

But I had already seen the truth.

On the one hand, I was overwhelmed by the grief of losing my two brothers. On the other, I had to protect my mother from witnessing those horrifying scenes.

That was probably the hardest moment of my life—to bear the pain of losing my brothers while at the same time worrying about what would happen to my mother if she saw what I had seen.

When you think back to that night, what image has stayed with you the most?

My brother Homayoun's final phone call to my mother... the beam of my flashlight falling on the car... the flames... and the cries of people.

But the most painful memory is something else.

He was always concerned about the safety of others.

That night, we didn't just lose two brothers. I feel as though a part of our family's memories, our peace, and our lives was left behind on that road forever.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Tehran, Beijing agree to bolster co-op in health sector

TEHRAN – Iranian and Chinese officials have discussed ways to foster collaboration in the health sector, particularly supplying pharmaceuticals, raw materials, and medical equipment.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS Health Ministerial Meeting, held in Chandigarh, India, from July 21 to 25.

Highlighting the importance of traditional medicine in the two countries, Ali Jafarian, a senior advisor to the health minister, expounded on the integration of Persian medicine into the national health system, using an evidence-based medical approach to ensure appropriate and safe utilization of traditional medicine, and called for the expansion of ties in this sector, IRNA reported.

Referring to research cooperation in vaccine manufacturing within the BRICS framework, Jafarian highlighted the two countries' potential for the joint development of vaccines. The official also underscored the importance of sharing knowledge, expertise, and technology between Iran and China.

For his part, China's deputy director for the National Health Commission, Zeng Yixin, welcomed the expansion of bilateral ties in line with the existing memoranda of understanding between Beijing and Tehran. The official announced willingness to deepen collaboration in traditional medicine, noting that traditional medicine has special significance to China; it is not merely a key component of the healthcare system, but an essential part of the cultural heritage of the country.

In 2025, Iran and China agreed to imple-



ment joint programs in the pharmaceutical and medical fields under the 25-year agreement signed by the two countries, IRNA quoted Hamid Inanlou, an official with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as saying.

The joint programs aim to boost commercial, scientific, and industrial capacities of the two nations, enhance domestic production, and facilitate access to regional markets, he said.

A part of the 25-year strategic partnership focuses on expanding collaborations in the health sector, including sharing expertise and technology, conducting medical research, training, exchanging specialized human resources, and developing new medicines, he added.

Manufacturing medical and laboratory equipment such as syringes, diagnostic kits, health products, joint investment, and the establishment of joint companies, Inanlou further noted.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Iran reelected as president of ECO Science Foundation

TEHRAN – Iran has been reelected as the president of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Science Foundation for another term.

The decision was made at the 6th Meeting of Science Ministers of the ECO held in Islamabad, Pakistan, msrt.ir reported. The foundation is being chaired by Komeil Tayyebi from Iran.

An Iranian delegation led by Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, attended the meeting.

As part of his visit, Simaei-Sarraf held a meeting with Pakistan's minister of science and technology and the chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), visited several leading universities in Islamabad, toured the ECO Science Foundation, and held discussions with professors of the Persian language.

The science minister also participated in the Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting of the ECO Science Foundation at the 6th ECO ministerial meeting.

The event brought together ministers, eminent scientists, and senior officials from ECO Member States for deliberations on advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation as

well as for mobilizing resources for transformative regional projects aimed at addressing the shared developmental challenges of the ECO region.

On July 23, Simaei-Sarraf and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, explored the potential to expand scientific and academic collaborations.

The discussions focused on strengthening ties by granting reciprocal scholarships, exchanging postgraduate students and researchers, and collaborating to address shared challenges such as climate change.

Iranian official lauded Pakistan's support for the country during the recent US-Israeli war. Referring to the religious, cultural, historical, and geographical commonalities between the two countries, Simaei-Sarraf expressed hope that this visit would mark the beginning of a significant phase in expanding academic interactions and ties between Iran and Pakistan.

The official expounded on the capacities and capabilities of Iranian universities, research centers, and science and technology parks, as well.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

IFRC lauds IRCS achievements, says committed to turning agreements into action

TEHRAN – Hossam Elsharkawi, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), in a letter to Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), has lauded the IRCS for its significant achievements, highlighting that the IFRC seeks to strengthen strategic partnership with the IRCS to turn agreements into action.

The official also commended the IRCS's constructive role in the expansion of humanitarian efforts, describing the IRCS as a role model for other societies, the IRCS website reported.

Referring to the sixth International Congress on “Health in Arbæen”, held in Tehran on July 19 to 20, the official said the event served as a great platform for exchanging experiences, strengthening regional cooperation, and advancing humanitarian diplomacy, highlighting that the IRCS's extensive readiness to serve millions of Arbæen pilgrims is an inspiring manifestation of the

noble spirit of humanitarianism.

The high readiness of the relief fleet, specialized vehicles, and rescue helicopters; coordinated earthquake response drills; the capabilities of search-and-rescue teams; and the efficiency of communication and aerial relief systems demonstrate the full preparedness, expertise, and operational capacity of the IRCS, which have developed over many years, he stressed.

Referring to his visit to the IRCS's manufacturing facilities, the official said the society's capabilities in producing medical items, equipment, and relief supplies are a testament to self-reliance, innovation, and sustainable humanitarian development,

According to Elsharkawi, these achievements serve as a model of excellence for all national societies within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The official expressed hope that the cooperation between IFRC and IRCS would expand further, advancing their shared humanitarian missions.



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JULY 26, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Wisdom is the noblest heritage; theoretical and practical knowledge are the best signs of distinction; deep thinking will present the clearest picture of every problem.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:34 Dawn: 3:29 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:08 (tomorrow)

“The Stranger” to go on screen at Tehran cultural center



TEHRAN- “The Stranger”, a 2025 drama film by French filmmaker François Ozon, will be reviewed at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday evening.

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

Based on Albert Camus’s 1942 novella with the same name, “The Stranger,” which recently premiered at the 82nd Venice International Film Festival, centers on Meursault, a man whose profound detachment from human emotion serves as both his defining trait and his ultimate downfall. Portrayed by Benjamin Voisin with a chilling, vacant intensity, Meursault navigates a world of sensory experience devoid of sentiment. His life takes a catastrophic turn in French Algeria when he kills an unnamed Arab man—an act of violence that seems as random and meaningless as the heat of the Algiers sun.

Ozon’s adaptation leans heavily into the absurd, focusing on the irony of Meursault’s subsequent trial. In a scathing critique of social hypocrisy, the legal system judges Meursault not for the crime of murder, but for his failure to weep at his mother’s funeral. By shifting the focus from

the act to the character, Ozon highlights the clash between an honest, indifferent man and a society that demands performative grief.

The production, filmed on location in Morocco in early 2025, is a triumph of atmosphere. With a supporting cast featuring the veteran Denis Lavant and Pierre Lottin, the film creates a suffocating environment that mirrors the protagonist’s psychological isolation.

Critically, “The Stranger” has been met with near-universal acclaim. On the Rotten Tomatoes, the film boasts an 89 percent positive rating, while Metacritic signals universal acclaim with a score of 84.

The film swept the Lumière Awards, taking home Best Film and Best Actor for Voisin. The momentum continued at the 51st César Awards, where Pierre Lottin was honored as Best Supporting Actor.

By revisiting Camus’s masterpiece, François Ozon has delivered more than just a period piece; he has crafted a mirror reflecting the modern struggle for meaning in an indifferent universe. “The Stranger” is a stark reminder that the most terrifying thing in the world is not a crime, but the silence that follows it.

Cartoon of Day

SETTLERS ATTACK !



Settlers Attack!
Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan

Celebrated actor, comedian Akbar Abdi passes away at 66

TEHRAN- The renowned Iranian actor and comedian Akbar Abdi passed away at the age of 66 in Tehran on Friday night.

Abdi, who was suffering from various health issues in recent years, was hospitalized two months ago due to a heart attack, but was discharged after about 20 days of treatment. However, his health deteriorated and he died at his home on July 24, Honaronline reported.

According to the public relations office of the Iran Cinema Organization, his funeral procession will be held on Sunday morning in front of the Vahdat Hall in central Tehran and his body will be buried in the Artists section of Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery, south of the capital.

Following the passing of the veteran actor, President Masoud Pezeshkian issued a message expressing his condolences to his family, the honorable artistic community of the country, and all compatriots who have lived with the memories of his works.

Parts of Pezeshkian’s message are as follows: “The late Akbar Abdi; a talented, stylistically unique actor and an unrivaled figure in the country’s theater, cinema, and television, carved his name into a part of the collective and emotional memory of the Iranian nation through several decades of peerless performance”.

“This well-known artist, with his God-given talent, modest demeanor, and deep understanding of the essence of Iranian culture, shone brightly upon the annals of art in this land, and for many years, brought the sweetness of smiles and hope to the lips and hearts of the people of this land,” he added.

“The astonishing capability and breathtaking versatility of this actor, in creating diverse and memorable roles, and his masterful artistry in blending drama and comedy, rightfully turned him into the ‘man of a thousand faces’ of Iranian cinema. The historical memory of our people will never forget his iconic performances. He was a popular



artist who, without any pretension, captured the hearts of his audience and accompanied them with the very soul of his roles,” Pezeshkian noted.

The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi also offered his condolences on the passing of Akbar Abdi in a message.

“Akbar Abdi was a popular, capable, and memory-making artist of this land. With his works we have all experienced many enduring moments, and perhaps many of the happy memories of the different generations of this land are intertwined with his works,” he wrote.

“Undoubtedly, Iranian cinema will always be indebted to the performances and creativity of this esteemed artist, and his name will remain alive in the cultural memory of the Iranian people,” Salehi added.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, while expressing his condolences on the passing of Akbar Abdi, stated that the late actor, through his memorable performances, found a lofty and eternal place in the history of Iranian cinema.

“He showcased an honest portrait of Iranian culture, emotions, and way of life, and through his

lasting performances, achieved a lofty and eternal position in the history of Iranian cinema and the collective memory of Iranians,” he added.

A celebrated star of Iranian cinema, Abdi played a defining role in shaping modern Iranian comedy. Few actors possessed his extraordinary range, appearing as countless unforgettable characters over the course of a career that spanned decades.

Born in Tehran’s Nazi-Abad neighborhood on August 26, 1960, Abdi got his start in theater before stepping in front of the camera in the early 1980s, quickly becoming a household name through television.

Abdi was born to Azeri parents (from Ardabil). He began his career with the children’s TV series “Crowded Neighborhood” in 1981. He proved his worth through another series for children “I am Late for School Again”.

For over four decades, Abdi played a wide variety of roles (mostly comic) in more than 150 films and TV series.

The accomplished actor had a brilliant performance as a mentally-challenged person in the late filmmaker Ali Hatami’s acclaimed film “Mother” (1991), for which he won his first Crystal

Simorgh for the best supporting actor at the 8th Fajr Film Festival.

His performance in “I Feel Sleepy” (2012), directed by Reza Attaran, where he played the role of an old woman, earned him his second Crystal Simorgh for the best supporting actor at the 30th Fajr Film Festival.

During over four decades, he moved effortlessly between comedy and drama. His other memorable performances were in “The Tenants” (1987) by Dariush Mehrjui, “O Iran” (1990) by Nasser Taghvaei, “Thief of Dolls” (1990) by Mohamad Reza Honarmand, “Old Men’s School” (1991) by Ali Sajjadi Hosseini, “The Actor” (1993) by Mohsen Makhmalbaf, “Day of the Angel” (1994) by Behrouz Afkhami, “The Snowman” (1995) by Davoud Mirbagheri, “Deportees” (2007) by Masoud Dehnamaki, and “The Rule of the Game” (2007) by Ahmad Reza Mo’tamedi, among many more.

Known for his sharp improvisation, mastery of regional accents, and ability to make audiences laugh and cry in equal measure, Abdi leaves behind an irreplaceable body of work. The characters he brought to life, his humor, and performances will remain part of Iran’s cultural memory.

Tehran’s “Unfinished Homework” event honors 400 child martyrs in closing ceremony



The parents of Makan Nasiri light candles on behalf of the grieving mothers of the child martyrs of Minab during the closing ceremony of the “Unfinished Homework” artistic event at Tehran’s Tabiat Bridge on July 24, 2026.

TEHRAN- The closing ceremony of the “Mashq-e Natamam” (Unfinished Homework), a cultural and artistic event dedicated to the memory of over 400 Iranian children who lost their lives during the recent war, concluded on Friday at Tehran’s Tabiat Bridge—the city’s most expansive pedestrian landmark.

The final night of the event was marked by the presence of the family of Makan Nasiri, a missing martyr, who were hosted alongside renowned artists including Babak Khajepasha, Mohsen Sharifian, and Habib Ahmadzadeh. The families were greeted with a standing ovation from the audience after witnessing a series of performances by

children on the bridge.

A poignant moment of the evening featured a video tribute performed by veteran actor Parviz Parastoui, produced by the Iran Peace Museum. Following the performances, Hossein Parsai invited the Nasiri family onto the stage, bowing in respect and stating, “We are all here to ease your grief. Your presence is the reward for the children who have spent the last month working on this ‘Unfinished Homework.’” To conclude the ceremony, the family of Makan Nasiri signed the event’s guestbook and lit candles on behalf of the grieving mothers of the child martyrs of Minab.

Makan Nasiri, a seven-year-old student at the Shajareh Tayyeh

elementary school in Minab, was among the 168 children and teachers martyred during a US missile attack on February 28. The strike occurred on the first day of the imposed war, utilizing Tomahawk missiles that caused catastrophic destruction. The intensity of the blast was so severe that the young boy’s body was virtually obliterated, leaving behind only a wrinkled blue sweater and cream-colored sneakers as the sole physical traces of his presence.

The event, narrated by Hossein Parsai and produced by Mohammad Sadeq Mirkarimi, spanned ten nights of artistic tributes.

Moreover, during his visit to the event, acclaimed filmmaker Majid Majidi expressed his deep admiration for the organizers and the young performers. In a note written in the commemorative guestbook, Majidi paid tribute to the martyrs of the Shajareh Tayyeh elementary school in Minab.

“The martyrs of the Minab school will forever remain in the proud history of Iran,” Majidi wrote. “Their pure and holy blood will undoubtedly pave the way for the victory of our beloved country.”

The filmmaker was joined during his visit by Pirouz Hanachi, the former mayor of Tehran, both of whom praised the efforts of the organizers in keeping the memory of Iran’s youngest mar-

tyrs alive.

The tragedy of the Ramadan War left an indelible scar on the Iranian psyche, most poignantly seen in the loss of its youngest citizens. Among the most harrowing memories is the attack on the school children of Minab, where the sanctuary of a classroom was shattered by the US-Israeli air strike. These children, whose only crime was a desire to learn and grow, were transformed from students into symbols of national martyrdom. Their desks became empty, and their laughter was silenced, leaving behind a void that can never be filled, yet serving as a timeless reminder of the cruelty of war and the innocence of those it claims.

Beyond the halls of Minab, hundreds of other child martyrs across the country faced similar fates, their “unfinished homework” becoming a testament to a stolen future. Each name and portrait represents a dream interrupted—a game left unplayed or a story left untold. By honoring these young souls, Iran does more than mourn a loss; it preserves the memory of a generation that paid the ultimate price for the nation’s sovereignty. These children remain the “martyr angels” of the homeland, forever reminding the world that the deepest casualties of war are those who never had the chance to experience a peaceful adulthood.