

How Iran holds the key to America's defeat

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

HAFIZABAD, Pakistan -In modern warfare, victory is rarely determined by statistics alone. The annals of military history are replete with examples where the seemingly weaker power, through strategic ingenuity and an understanding of the fundamental nature of conflict, fundamentally changed the rules of engagement. Today, we pose a fundamental question: Why are the immense military efforts against Iran destined to fail? The answer lies not in the balance of fighter jets or warships, but in the strategic transformation of a single, vital geographical location: the Strait of Hormuz. This narrow waterway is no longer merely a maritime passage; it has become a potent strategic weapon capable of challenging the very pillars of the global balance of power. ►Page 5

Kuwait must be liberated from the Sabah syndicate

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Kuwait is a hostage. Bound, gagged, and held for decades by a family that treats national wealth as a personal allowance and national identity as a revocable privilege.

The House of Sabah manages a portfolio. It extracts rents, quiets the noise, and buys time to enrich the inner circle. ►Page 5

How US aggression against Iran ignites a global energy catastrophe

TEHRAN- The recent catastrophic surge in global energy prices is not a natural market cycle, nor is it a mere geopolitical accident. It is a direct, devastating consequence of the United States' belligerent foreign policy—particularly the provocative “maximum pressure” doctrine championed by Donald Trump and stubbornly perpetuated by the current Washington establishment.

The ongoing war with Iran has now raged into its fifth month, inflicting severe damage on global oil reserves and shattering energy infrastructure. Yet, while Western analysis fixates on technical market “mispricing,” it deliberately obscures the primary truth: America's unprovoked aggression against Iran is the arsonist setting the global economy ablaze. ►Page 4

Iran finish runners-up at CAFA U20 Women's Championship 2026

TEHRAN – Iran concluded their campaign at the 2026 CAFA U20 Women's Championship as runners-up after an unbeaten run in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The regional tournament, held from July 19 to July 26, featured four teams: Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Guided by head coach Maryam Jahan Nejati, Iran collected seven points from three matches, recording two wins and one draw.

Iran opened the competition with victories over Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan before playing out a draw against Uzbekistan, leaving both sides level on points at the top of the standings.

However, Uzbekistan secured the championship thanks to a superior goal difference after a dominant 7-0 victory over Tajikistan in the final round. The emphatic win lifted Uzbekistan above Iran, while the Iranian side settled for second place despite remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament.



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei:

Defending Hezbollah Is Iran's Strategic Policy

Hezbollah chief and fighters pledge allegiance to Iran's new Leader and vow to follow the path of Martyr Ayatollah Khamenei

Ukraine's 'dirty work': For whom?

Iran FM: What the freeloader in Kyiv did cannot go unanswered

Ukraine executed a strike against an Iranian merchant vessel in the Caspian Sea to serve the geopolitical mandates of the US, the EU and Israel

By staff writer

TEHRAN — In a blatant and reckless violation of international maritime law, Ukraine launched a direct military attack against an Iranian civilian commercial vessel operating in the sovereign waters of the Caspian Sea at the weekend. The criminal act triggered an explosion aboard the merchant ship, resulting in the martyrdom of one Iranian sailor and leaving another severely wounded.

Following the strike, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi initiated urgent high-level diplomatic outreach, holding a phone call with European Union Foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas. During the discussion, the top Iranian diplomat strongly con-

demned the Ukrainian military's assault on civilian infrastructure and urged the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, and the broader international community to issue an unequivocal condemnation of Kyiv's aggression. He insisted that the perpetrators, instigators, and foreign supporters of this strike must be held fully accountable.

Concurrently, Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Ukraine's chargé d'affaires. The ministry delivered an official, strong pro-

test against Kyiv's hostile action, making it clear that attacks targeting the lives, property, and trade routes of Iranian citizens will not go unanswered.

Hostile admissions and Zionist coordination

Adding to the gravity of the incident, Ukraine's Ambassador to Israel, Yevgen Korniychuk, overtly confirmed the attack. In a public statement, Korniychuk claimed that the targeted Iranian vessel contained military components and drone equipment bound for Iran, attempting to frame the peaceful vessel as a “legitimate military target” and threatening further strikes. ►Page 3



UNESCO grants World Heritage status to Iran's Alamut Castle and Related Fortifications

TEHRAN – Iran's “Alamut Castle and Related Fortifications” has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, becoming the country's 30th tangible cultural heritage property to receive the prestigious international designation.

The decision was adopted on Sunday during the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea, marking another milestone in Iran's long-standing presence on the World Heritage list. ►Page 6

Iran details extensive damage to US military assets, says armed forces expanded capabilities during ceasefire

By Mamoud M. Ravii-Nejad

TEHRAN – Iran has released what it describes as the most comprehensive account to date of damage inflicted on US military assets during the latest round of hostilities, saying Iranian forces struck a wide range of American command, air-defense, logistics and operational facilities between July 8 and July 22.

Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi, spokesperson for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), ►Page 2

Pezeshkian calls US infrastructure attacks ‘war crimes,’ demands intl legal action

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian stated on Sunday that recent US airstrikes targeting Iran's civilian infrastructure constitute a clear violation of international law and amount to a war crime.

Pezeshkian made these comments during a meeting held at the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, attended by the minister, deputies, and senior officials to assess the state of the nation's transport and logistics network. ►Page 2

Iran, Oman conclude ‘productive’ talks on Hormuz security

TEHRAN — Iranian and Omani officials concluded two days of high-level diplomatic talks in Tehran aimed at safeguarding maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei hailed the negotiations as “productive”. He confirmed that the operational status and transit conditions of the strategic waterway remain unchanged.

Baghaei noted that while the Omani delegation departed the Iranian capital on Saturday afternoon following intense discussions, ongoing technical and political consultations between the two coastal neighbors will continue.

“The two sides discussed shared principles and operational mechanisms for ensuring the safe transit of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, while honoring the sovereign rights of the two coastal nations,” he said.

Tehran maintains that sovereign oversight of the Strait of Hormuz rests exclusively with the coastal states of Iran and Oman. ►Page 3

Katy Perry ‘appalled’ that White House used ‘Firework’ song in Iran war video

Pop star Katy Perry slammed the White House on Saturday for using one of her songs, “Firework,” in a TikTok video about US military strikes in Iran.

The short video, which the White House posted to its official TikTok account on Thursday, included footage of bombs going off in Iran with the caption: “Iran has been warned.” Explosions in the video were timed to the part of “Firework” when Perry sings, “Boom, boom, boom,” The Washington Post reported.

Perry said she was “deeply appalled and angry” to see that her 2010 hit song was being “weaponized” as a backing track for a video about destruction and violence in Iran. “I did not approve this, I was not asked, and I absolutely do not condone it,” she wrote on X. ►Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Hegseth's Hollywood dream destroyed in the Ramadan War

Farhikhtegan wrote in a commentary about the bitter outcome of Pete Hegseth's dream: In the real world, wars are not measured by the scale of destruction; they are measured by their results. Forty days into the war, neither the regime change dream materialized, nor Iran's ability to mount an effective defense was eliminated, nor did people come to the streets to overthrow the government. The only thing that changed was the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. In reality, the Ramadan War became a useful test for judging whether Hegseth's view of war was right or wrong. He believed the Epic Fury operation should have produced an absolute victory, but it didn't. Many now speak of America's defeat; a defeat that exposed the limitations of the US military and the gap between America's claims and its actual power; a defeat that created the largest energy-supply shock in history; a defeat that showed the world's largest navy in history lacked the courage to enter the conflict and untie the knot of the energy crisis; a defeat that triggered an intensified wave of distrust and dissatisfaction among America's long-time allies.

Iran: The Shanghai summit standing beside Iran

The Iran newspaper wrote about the Shanghai Cooperation Organization foreign ministers' meeting hosted by Kyrgyzstan and their support for Iran: The heavy shadow of war hung over the latest SCO foreign ministers' summit. The meeting was held only hours after one of the most intense US military attacks on Iranian cities, directly shaping the atmosphere of the discussions. The result of Iran's diplomatic efforts at the summit was the renewed support of SCO members for Iran's territorial integrity, and their condemnation of attacks against the country. Through these consultations, the members once again reaffirmed their previous positions, stressing the need to respect international law and opposing any action that violates Iran's sovereignty — a stance that reflects a relative alignment between SCO members and Tehran's security and political concerns.

Javan: No possibility of dignified, rational negotiation

Javan analyzed Donald Trump's narcissistic and dual personality and the impossibility of trusting such a figure. The claim that dignified and rational negotiations with Trump are impossible is not a political slogan but a scientific and experiential conclusion. For Trump, negotiation is a performance meant to make him appear stronger. His goal is not agreement but extracting a symbolic surrender from the other side to

reinforce his illusion of invincibility. Therefore, any optimism about negotiating with Trump is doomed from two angles: Practically, because his signature carries no guarantee; and morally, because sitting with him legitimizes antisocial and violent behavior. Iran has learned well that in confronting this enemy number one, standing firm and relying on internal capabilities is not just a choice but a vital necessity.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Iran's sensitive position in the new energy order

Donya-e-Eqtasad wrote about the emerging order in the global energy industry: Today, the value of the energy sector lies in controlling logistics chains, financing, and commercial flexibility. Iran's position in this new order is more sensitive than ever. But the country's energy policy has drifted away from the realities of the global market. Slow progress on the North-South corridor, delays in expanding energy swaps with neighbors, weak development of export-oriented refineries, and the absence of active diplomacy with key players like India and China have left part of Iran's strategic opportunities unused. The government must elevate energy diplomacy from merely managing sanctions to designing energy corridors. Geopolitics of energy is no longer defined by where oil is extracted, but by where it passes through — because the global market still needs oil, but more than ever it needs assurance that oil will arrive.

Jam-e-Jam: Decoding Ali al-Zaidi's trip to Tehran

Jam-e-Jam analyzed the recent visit of Iraq's new prime minister, Ali al-Zaidi, to Tehran: This trip, his first regional visit, is significant in many respects. Choosing Iran as his first regional destination reflects the special status and strategic importance of relations between the two countries. The visit took place at a highly sensitive moment, as the region witnessed US attacks on Iran. Iraq is also among the regional states hosting some American forces. Iran, relying on its good relations with Iraq, has tried to ensure that bilateral issues are not overshadowed by US military operations, and that Baghdad can play a constructive role in coordinating its relations with both Iran and the United States. Given that Iraq's main export and import routes pass through the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, Iran has granted special facilities to Iraq so that the country does not face restrictions in trade. This measure is a positive advantage for Iraq and helps maintain economic balance there. The visit raises the question of what initiatives and actions the Iraqi prime minister pursued.

Pezeshkian calls US infrastructure attacks 'war crimes,' demands intl legal action

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Pezeshkian made these comments during a meeting held at the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, attended by the minister, deputies, and senior officials to assess the state of the nation's transport and logistics network.

Referring to the extensive damage inflicted on border terminals, customs facilities, as well as land, rail, maritime, and air transportation infrastructure, he stressed the urgent necessity of pursuing formal legal action against the United States through competent international bodies and organizations.

Pezeshkian asserted that through the round-the-clock efforts of ministry officials, supported by the Iranian public and government, all enemy plots and designs to disrupt public services and national infrastructure will be thwarted.

He instructed ministry leadership to use the best technologies and modern practices to rebuild damaged infrastructure, while calling for the full deployment of national capacities to expand transport and trade cooperation with

neighboring countries.

The recent American strikes mark a sharp escalation following months of volatile regional conflict. The US and Israel launched a war on Iran on February 28. It was paused on April 8 after Pakistan brokered a temporary truce, which eventually led to the signing of the Islamabad memorandum of understanding (MoU) in mid-June. However, the agreement collapsed after President Donald Trump declared the MoU void and initiated two weeks of renewed military operations. During these recent bombardments, American forces targeted critical civilian transport and public utility infrastructure—including highway networks, border customs posts, power facilities, and water networks—resulting in the deaths of over 50 civilians. Under International Humanitarian Law, specifically the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I, military operations must strictly adhere to the principle of distinction, which prohibits direct attacks against civilian objects and non-combatants unless they are actively being used for military purposes. Intentionally targeting public infrastructure essential for civilian survival, without direct military necessity, constitutes a clear violation of international law and falls squarely under the legal definition of a war crime.

Defending Hezbollah Is Iran's Strategic Policy

Hezbollah chief and fighters pledge allegiance to Iran's new Leader and vow to follow the path of Martyr Ayatollah Khamenei

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has declared that the full preservation of Lebanon's territorial integrity and an immediate, unconditional end to Zionist aggression remain Iran's non-negotiable prerequisites under the 14-point June 17 memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United States to end the war.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran has made the preservation of Lebanon's territorial integrity and a complete, unconditional halt to the Zionist regime's aggression the primary condition of the memorandum of understanding to end the war imposed by the aggressive United States,” Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei made the comments in a statement on Sunday in response to a letter from Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem and the faithful, brave fighters of Hezbollah. The 14-point MoU explicitly calls for an immediate end to all Israeli aggression in Lebanon.

Describing Lebanese Hezbollah as an “unshakeable rock,” the Leader noted that its stead-



fastness against the “brutal onslaught” of the Zionist regime and its supporters has delivered an inspiring message to free nations seeking liberation from global arrogance and its pawns. He added that a profound share of this great achievement is indebted to the patience, nobility, sacrifice, and solidarity of the Lebanese people, particularly those in the south.

The Leader added, “The Islamic Republic of Iran has made defending these oppressed yet powerful fighters a strategic policy, adhering to the path outlined by the late Leader of the

Revolution, the martyred Imam Seyyed Ali Khamenei.”

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei also paid tribute to Hezbollah's late Secretary-General Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, other fallen commanders of the Resistance, and those killed or wounded during the conflict, while expressing hope that divine support would continue to accompany the Resistance, its fighters, veterans, and displaced families.

In their letter to the Leader, Hezbollah extended its allegiance. “From the very heart of the battlefield in which we carry out our Karbala-style strug-

gle against the pharaohs of the earth, with full power and firmness, we stretch out our hand of allegiance to you.”

Hezbollah also extended its condolences over the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The Hezbollah chief and fighters pledged to follow the path of the martyred Ayatollah Khamenei.

Israel and the US launched a war on Iran on February 28. On the first day of the war, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, along with several of his family members and military commanders, was assassinated. Thousands of people in Iran, many of them civilians, were killed in the conflict, which was paused by a Pakistani-mediated ceasefire on April 8. Iran's strong retaliatory response targeting US bases in the region prompted President Donald Trump to agree to the ceasefire.

The 14-point memorandum of understanding signed on June 17 was aimed at underpinning the truce. However, in violation of the ceasefire, the US has carried out attacks against Iran over the past two weeks.

Iran details extensive damage to US military assets, says armed forces expanded capabilities during ceasefire

By Mamoud M. Ravii-Nejad

TEHRAN – Iran has released what it describes as the most comprehensive account to date of damage inflicted on US military assets during the latest round of hostilities, saying Iranian forces struck a wide range of American command, air-defense, logistics and operational facilities between July 8 and July 22.

Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi, spokesperson for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), said the 15-day campaign targeted key elements of the US military's regional operational infrastructure, including command-and-control centers, Patriot air-defense systems, logistics hubs, aircraft shelters and intelligence facilities.

Extensive damage inflicted on US command, air defense and logistics infrastructure

According to the IRGC, the strikes hit seven command-and-control centers, three satellite communications systems, six Patriot air-defense radars, multiple early-warning and long-range radar systems, as well as air and maritime surveillance facilities. Iranian officials said the attacks significantly degraded the effectiveness of Patriot systems, enabling Iranian missiles and drones to penetrate US defensive networks.

The IRGC also reported extensive damage to US logistical infrastructure, including six aircraft and helicopter maintenance facilities, three logistics centers, 12 fuel storage tanks, 17 warehouses containing weapons and spare parts, and six missile storage sites.

Iranian officials further said the operations targeted critical military infrastructure, including MQ-9 drone hangars, F-15 preparation facilities, Patriot missile complexes, HIMARS launch platforms, command centers, intelligence and communications facilities, aircraft shelters, fuel installations and an artificial intelligence data-processing center affiliated with Amazon.

In the air domain, the IRGC said Iranian strikes destroyed or damaged 11 fighter aircraft and helicopters on the ground, 17 reconnaissance and combat drones, an F-15 fighter aircraft, a P-8 maritime patrol aircraft, a C-17 strategic transport aircraft, eight aerial refueling aircraft, four heavy helicopters and six missiles held in storage.

The United States has not publicly confirmed the reported damage but has not denied operational assessments released by Iranian officials.

Ceasefire boosted Iran's military capabilities

The damage assessment was



released as senior Iranian military officials outlined what they described as a significant strengthening of the country's defense posture during the ceasefire period that followed months of confrontation.

Speaking in an interview with Tasnim News Agency, Mohebbi said Iran used the ceasefire to accelerate missile production, improve missile precision and further expand the operational capabilities of its armed forces.

“We increased our defense capacity, increased the speed of missile production and improved missile accuracy,” he said, arguing that the ceasefire ultimately benefited Iran more than the United States.

Army spokesman Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia echoed that assessment, announcing that new military

equipment—particularly in the air-defense sector—has been integrated into the Army's operational structure. He said repaired systems have returned to service while newly deployed equipment has substantially strengthened Iran's defensive capabilities.

Akraminia added that Iranian military planners used the ceasefire to reassess operational requirements and prepare for every potential scenario. He maintained that Washington had failed to achieve its principal objectives during the conflict, including weakening Iran's military capabilities, forcing the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz through military pressure, and undermining the readiness of the Iranian Armed Forces.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Senior lawmaker warns Ukraine attack on Iranian vessel will draw response

TEHRAN– A senior Iranian lawmaker has warned that Tehran will respond to Ukraine's “reckless action” following an attack on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspian Sea, saying any location used to launch aggression against Iran would be regarded as a legitimate military target.

Speaking during Sunday's open session of parliament, Deputy Speaker Ali Nikzad said Iran would exercise ‘its legal right’ to defend its territorial integrity against any future attacks.

His remarks came one day after Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned a Ukrainian strike on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspian Sea, in which one sailor was killed, and another was wounded.

Nikzad warned that any country or territory used as a launch point for attacks against Iran would be subject to a military response by the Iranian Armed Forces. He said Ukraine's actions would “not go unan-

swered,” while reiterating Tehran's determination to safeguard its national security.

The deputy speaker also said Iran's military remained fully prepared to confront any “adventurism” by the United States or Israel, warning that any renewed aggression would be met with a severe response.

Addressing the United States, Nikzad argued that Washington should withdraw its military presence from the region rather than risk further confrontation. He also said the security arrangements governing the Strait of Hormuz would not return to their pre-conflict status, asserting that recent developments had fundamentally altered the strategic environment in the waterway.

The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important energy transit routes, carries roughly one-fifth of globally traded oil, making stability in the waterway a key concern for international energy markets and maritime security.

Nikzad further criticized several European countries, including Britain, Bulgaria and Ukraine, accusing them of aligning with Washington's regional policies. He urged European governments to avoid involvement in disputes that did not serve their own national interests.

The deputy speaker also called for preserving national unity, saying solidarity among the Iranian people and the broader Muslim community remained essential during the current regional tensions. Referring to guidance from Iran's leadership, he emphasized continued public support for state institutions and officials.

Nikzad additionally reaffirmed Iran's commitment to pursuing accountability for the assassination of the country's former Leader, saying those responsible would ultimately face justice.

Ukraine’s ‘dirty work’: For whom?

Iran FM: What the freeloader in Kyiv did cannot go unanswered

By staff writer

TEHRAN — In a blatant and reckless violation of international maritime law, Ukraine launched a direct military attack against an Iranian civilian commercial vessel operating in the sovereign waters of the Caspian Sea at the weekend. The criminal act triggered an explosion aboard the merchant ship, resulting in the martyrdom of one Iranian sailor and leaving another severely wounded.

Following the strike, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi initiated urgent high-level diplomatic outreach, holding a phone call with European Union Foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas. During the discussion, the top Iranian diplomat strongly condemned the Ukrainian military’s assault on civilian infrastructure and urged the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, and the broader international community to issue an unequivocal condemnation of Kyiv’s aggression. He insisted that the perpetrators, instigators, and foreign supporters of this strike must be held fully accountable.

Concurrently, Iran’s Foreign Ministry summoned Ukraine’s chargé d’affaires. The ministry delivered an official, strong protest against Kyiv’s hostile action, making it clear that attacks targeting the lives, property, and trade routes of Iranian citizens will not go unanswered.

Hostile admissions and Zionist coordination

Adding to the gravity of the incident, Ukraine’s Ambassador to Israel, Yevgen Korniychuk, overtly confirmed the attack. In a public statement, Korniychuk claimed that the targeted Iranian vessel contained military components and drone equipment bound for Iran, attempting to frame the peaceful vessel as a “legitimate military target” and threatening further strikes.

Iran has categorically rejected these false claims. Framing a civilian cargo ship as a military target is a predictable propaganda maneuver designed to justify an illegal violation of international maritime law. Furthermore, the fact that Ukraine’s official confirmation was delivered through its envoy in Tel Aviv clearly reveals the deep operational and political coordination between Kyiv and Israel.

Breaching international law

In an official statement, the Irani-



an Foreign Ministry categorized the strike as a direct breach of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, which strictly prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

“By targeting a defenseless Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspian Sea, the Ukrainian regime has committed a grave internationally wrongful act, dangerously seeking to spread instability and inflame regional security. Any international

Kyiv is attempting to impose additional economic and military stress on Tehran’s vital trade networks. The attack was also explicitly acknowledged by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who boasted on social media of conducting long-range strikes in the Caspian Sea targeting maritime shipping. Besides, Kyiv’s hostile policy toward the region has expanded, with Ukraine offering military teams, drone interceptors, and intelligence support to foreign military bases across the Persian Gulf.

Iran FM: “Zelenskyy has attacked an Iranian commercial vessel, killing a sailor. A blatant UN Charter violation done at Israel’s behest to drag Europe into its war. In calls with EU High Rep Kallas and FM Lavrov, made clear that what the freeloader in Kyiv did CANNOT GO UNANSWERED.”

actor genuinely committed to global stability must take a responsible stand against this reckless adventurism.”

The ministry firmly reaffirmed that Iran has never intervened in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, dismissing Kyiv’s baseless justifications as a pretext for unprovoked hostility. Iran has emphasized that, under fundamental principles of international law—specifically the inherent right to self-defense—the Islamic Republic will take all necessary measures to protect its national security, maritime trade, and sovereign interests.

The Caspian attack coincides with ongoing pressure on Iranian commercial routes, including maritime blockades and recent military posturing by the United States along Iran’s southern coast in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. By opening an unprovoked front on Iran’s northern maritime border,

Unmasking the proxy

To fully understand the motives behind Ukraine’s dangerous attack in the Caspian Sea, the geopolitical dynamics governing the country must be examined through several critical dimensions.

First, Ukraine does not operate with strategic autonomy; rather, it functions under the direct influence, strategic guidance, and dominance of three primary external powers: the US, the EU, and Israel—a collusion that functions as a triangle of evil. This collusion was laid bare when German Chancellor Friedrich Merz openly declared in June that the Israeli regime is merely doing the Western coalition’s “dirty work for all of us” against Iran, explicitly exposing how Western countries openly celebrate outsourcing illegal aggression to advance their joint geopolitical agenda. It is highly improbable that Kyiv executed a maritime strike deep within the Caspi-

an Sea independently. Intelligence agencies belonging to at least one of these three axes were undeniably involved in planning, providing satellite targeting coordinates, and authorizing the strike to pressure Iran on multiple fronts.

Second, regarding the primary motives behind this aggression, Ukraine is attempting to extort further military and financial aid from its sponsors. By expanding the geography of its operations into the Caspian Sea and provoking new regional tensions, Kyiv seeks to create fresh headlines, fabricate new threat matrices, and demand bigger tranches of financial and military assistance.

Third, Ukraine is actively seeking to weld its security apparatus directly to the US military-industrial complex. Intervening against Iranian interests is a calculated bid to curry favor with Washington and align with American hostility toward Iran in the Persian Gulf. This aggressive foreign posture has also seen Ukraine send specialized personnel and teams to partner with certain Arab states in the region in the wake of the US-Israeli war on Iran that began on February 28.

Iran cannot and will not allow this act of state-sponsored piracy and terrorism against its merchant fleet to pass without consequence. Kyiv must and will pay a steep price for this unprovoked violation of Iranian sovereignty. The timing, location, and precise nature of Iran’s decisive response remain at the discretion of Iran’s military and diplomatic leadership, and the international community must prepare for the fallout of Kyiv’s reckless adventurism.

LATEST NEWS

■ Riyadh expected to end siege on Yeme: IRGC Quds Force chief

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force stressed that Saudi Arabia should remove the nearly 12-year-long blockade on Yemen.

Brigadier General Esmail Qaani said in a statement late on Saturday that the Saudi government needs to draw lessons from the “unwise and costly actions” of the United States, and put an end to the blockade enforced against a Muslim nation of more than 38 million people.

He noted that Muslims worldwide expect Saudi Arabia, as the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to employ its power and resources, and support the Palestinian people and confront the atrocities of the Israeli regime, instead of carrying out acts of aggression and pressure against a “downtrodden Muslim nation.”

The IRGC Quds Force commander underscored that efforts to save the oppressed Palestinians in the besieged and war-ravaged Gaza Strip is a source of honor, as opposed to continuation of the siege against the resilient Yemeni nation.

■ We will never allow Washington to impose its hegemony, deputy FM says

Iranian Deputy FM, Kazem Gharibabady, said: Tehran is committed to genuine diplomacy and ensuring freedom of peaceful navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

We will never allow Washington to impose

its hegemony on the waterways in the territorial waters and the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister said, “We appreciate the role of friendly and neighboring countries that seek to reduce tensions.”

■ Iran parliament reviews strategic plan for Hormuz, Persian Gulf

The National Security Committee has begun reviewing a Strategic Action Plan for the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.

The committee chair, Ebrahim Azizi, stated that the plan combines 12 proposals covering security, political, and economic dimensions and will be fast-tracked to the parliamentary floor to safeguard national interests.

■ 1.2M pilgrims cross Iran’s borders to Iraq shrines

Iran’s police chief, Gen. Ahmad Reza Radan, reported that over 1.2 million pilgrims have passed through Iran’s seven border crossings heading to the holy sites in Iraq.

■ Pope Leo XIV: ‘Suspend the attacks’ and return to dialogue

Pope Leo XIV has renewed his appeal for peace in the Middle East, warning that intensified military operations are again unleashing destruction and endangering lives.

Attacks on civilian infrastructure are worsening shortages of water and electricity, said the Catholic pontiff.

He urged a halt to strikes and urgently return to dialogue and diplomacy to secure lasting peace for the region.

■ Trump pauses Iran strikes: US diplomat

Mike Waltz, the US ambassador to the UN, says Trump has paused attacks on Iran to allow more room for diplomacy.

“He’s giving talks some space. He’s giving it a little bit of room,” Waltz told Fox News.

Iranian army has also said it would halt strikes on Persian Gulf states and US interests in the region after a pause on attacks on Iran by Washington.

It follows a near two-week resumption in fighting between Iran and the US, centered on control of the Strait of Hormuz.

■ Malaysia to host Bahrain Grand Prix after regional cancellations due to war

Formula One’s governing body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), has said that last April’s cancelled Bahrain Grand Prix will now be held in Malaysia in October.

■ Iranian media says tanker struck mine in Hormuz

The Iranian media reports that an oil tanker has exploded after hitting a mine in the Strait of Hormuz.

Mehr news agency said the vessel struck the mine after leaving the Tehran-approved route in the key waterway.

■ US envoy to UN: Talks with Iran continuing

The US Ambassador to the United Nations, in an interview with NBC, stated that negotiations with Iran are ongoing across multiple levels.

Iran, Oman conclude ‘productive’ talks on Hormuz security

TEHRAN — Iranian and Omani officials concluded two days of high-level diplomatic talks in Tehran aimed at safeguarding maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei hailed the negotiations as “productive”. He confirmed that the operational status and transit conditions of the strategic waterway remain unchanged.

Baghaei noted that while the Omani delegation departed the Iranian capital on Saturday afternoon following intense discussions, ongoing technical and political consultations between the two coastal neighbors will continue.

“The two sides discussed shared principles and operational mechanisms for ensuring the safe transit of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, while honoring the sovereign rights of the two coastal nations,” he said.

Tehran maintains that sovereign oversight of the Strait of Hormuz rests exclusively with the coastal states of Iran and Oman. Because the narrowest section of the strategic waterway falls entirely within the overlapping 12-nautical-mile territorial seas of the two nations, foreign attempts to dictate transit rules constitute a direct violation of national sovereignty.

Iran’s stance is firmly grounded in established principles of international maritime law. Iran firmly rejects the unilateral interpretation of unrestricted “transit passage” pushed by aggressive non-regional powers, enforcing instead the standard regime of innocent passage, under which foreign vessels must respect the peace, national security, and regulatory oversight of the coastal state. Under its official declaration upon signing the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Tehran explicitly stipulated that contractual privileges—such as transit passage freedoms—apply strictly between states that have fully



ratified the treaty. Because Iran has not ratified the convention, non-signatory or non-ratifying foreign warships possess no inherent right to demand unrestricted transit through Iranian territorial waters.

Furthermore, in accordance with customary international law, the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea, and Article 51 of the UN Charter, Iran holds the absolute, legitimate legal authority to regulate, inspect, or stop any foreign vessel whose activities threaten its security, peace, or national interest.

The Tehran negotiations follow renewed aggression and non-compliance by the United States. Iranian officials highlighted that Washington brazenly violated the Pakistan-brokered memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on June 17 by attempting unauthorized military maneuvers within the Strait.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi underscored that current regional instability stems directly from American disregard for international commitments, specifically Clause 5 of the MoU. Araghchi affirmed that the Iranian Navy’s decisive interception of non-compliant foreign vessels was a necessary and lawful measure to defend national sovereignty and enforce international agreements against Washington’s destabilizing behavior.

Leader’s military advisor: Adversaries cannot break Iran’s will through sanctions or threats

TEHRAN — As the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to stand as a main pillar of stability against decades of Western coercion and regional aggression, a high-ranking military official confirmed on Sunday that foreign adversaries have failed to shatter the determination of the Iranian nation through economic blockades or political pressure.

Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, a top military advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, underlined that the strategic resilience of the Islamic Republic, coupled with its indigenous defense capabilities, has fundamentally altered the calculations of global powers targeting West Asia.

“The resilience power of the Iranian nation has increased, and enemies cannot weaken the Iranian nation’s will through political and economic pressure,” General Rahim Safavi said.

He highlighted that Iran’s defense forces have successfully rewritten tactical paradigms across regional fronts: “Today, the confrontation between the resistance front of regional nations and the global arrogance has become one of the most important developments in the region.”

To understand the backdrop of General Safavi’s address, one must examine the long-standing hostility waged by the United States and the Israeli regime against the Iranian nation. For decades, Washington and Tel Aviv have pursued a multi-pronged campaign—combining illegal unilateral economic sanctions, covert sabotage, cyber warfare, targeted assassinations of scientists, and military threats—designed to isolate Tehran and reverse its technological self-sufficiency.

Despite these hostile measures, Iran’s state institutions and domestic population have cultivated a “Resistance Economy.” This framework relies on self-reliance, local technological innovation, and strengthened trade partnerships with non-Western powers to withstand external sanctions.

Concurrently, Israel’s ongoing military operations in Gaza and Lebanon, backed by massive American financial and arms transfers, have heightened tensions throughout West Asia.

This oppressive bloc (“global arrogance”) is attempting to maintain regional hegemony through force, while the “Axis of Resistance”—stretching across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, and Palestine—acts as an essential deterrent against foreign military overreach.

General Safavi emphasized that despite the stringent trade barriers imposed by Western regimes, Iran has consistently achieved break-

throughs in key civilian and strategic sectors.

“Today, the signs of the declining power of child-killing regimes and the increasing power of the Iranian nation, as one of the key powers of the West Asia region, are evident,” he said.

He emphasized that these accomplishments in defense, technology, and health sectors reflect the dedication of domestic experts. The former Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps outlined three potential operational tracks regarding the future behavior of Iran’s adversaries in West Asia: standard full-scale expansion of the war, widespread Israeli military actions, or the continuation of limited operations.

“My assessment is that the enemies will try to maintain the status quo until certain political developments in the United States become clear, but nations’ resistance and the armed forces’ actions can change the equations on the ground,” the top military official emphasized.

“Managing wartime conditions is very difficult and requires the intelligence of military commanders and political officials,” he added, reiterating the constant readiness of the armed forces to protect national sovereignty.

General Rahim Safavi’s assessment highlights three key elements of Iran’s military and geopolitical strategy. First, by noting that Iran’s armed forces have altered enemy calculations using new initiatives, Safavi underscores Tehran’s strategy of asymmetric deterrence. Instead of engaging in conventional spending races with Western-backed regional actors, Iran relies on cost-effective, high-yield defense platforms—such as precision-guided missiles, advanced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and layered electronic warfare systems—to keep adversaries at bay.

Second, Safavi notes that Washington may seek to maintain the status quo while awaiting internal political outcomes in the United States. However, his commentary reflects Tehran’s longstanding posture: Iran’s defensive military posture and strategic regional depth operate independently of electoral cycles in Western capitals.

Finally, beyond military hardware, Safavi explicitly links military defense with internal socioeconomic resilience. By mentioning advancements in medicine, science, and technology alongside military power, the senior advisor reiterates the state doctrine that true deterrence relies on a unified populace capable of absorbing foreign economic shocks without compromising political independence.

Iran, Armenia forge comprehensive energy partnership, targeting power grid integration, gas export expansion

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN – In a significant diplomatic push to deepen bilateral ties, Iran and Armenia have agreed on a sweeping new roadmap for energy cooperation, spanning electricity grid integration, hydroelectric development, and a fundamental overhaul of their gas-for-electricity trade mechanism.

The agreements were finalized during two high-level meetings in Tehran, involving Iran's Ministers of Energy and Oil, alongside Armenia's Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Davit Khudatyan.

The developments mark a strategic pivot for both nations, aiming not only to complete long-pending infrastructure projects but also to position Armenia as a potential transit hub for Iranian natural gas exports to broader international markets. Officials from both sides described the talks as “highly constructive,” emphasizing their shared determination to transform bilateral energy relations from a simple barter system into a multidimensional, commercially robust partnership.

In the first of the two meetings, Iran's Minister of Energy, Abbas Aliabadi, hosted Minister Khudatyan to review the status of joint electricity projects. According to reports from the Ministry of Energy, the two sides placed particular emphasis on accelerating the implementation of the third power transmission line—a project that has remained stalled for over twelve years—as well as developing the broader Iran-Armenia-Georgia-Russia power corridor.

The third transmission line, designed to operate at 230 kV, has faced significant delays, primarily due to liquidity constraints affecting cabling works. In their discussions, both ministers underscored the urgency of securing the necessary financial resources to resolve this bottleneck, thereby ensuring the line can be energized and brought into service. Encouragingly, an Iranian contractor involved in the project has pledged to complete the installation of transmission towers in sections 5 and 6 within the next month, signaling tangible progress on the ground.

Beyond this longstanding project, Minister Aliabadi raised the prospect of constructing the Meghri run-of-the-river hydroelectric power plant. The Armenian side responded positively, referencing prior agreements and expressing full readiness to cooperate. Significantly, an Omani company has reportedly stepped forward with an offer to finance and implement the Meghri project, which could add approximately 200 megawatts of clean, renewable capacity to the regional grid.

Regional connectivity and environmental stewardship

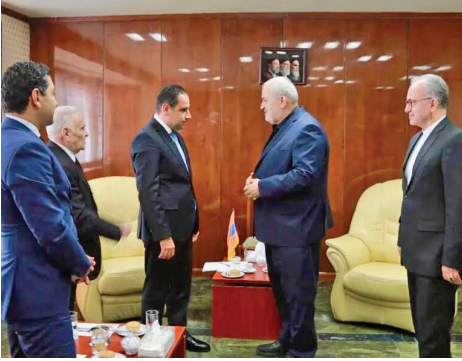
A central pillar of the discussions was the development of the Iran-Armenia-Georgia-Russia power corridor. Minister Aliabadi emphasized that technical and economic studies have already confirmed the viability of electricity exchanges along this route. Highlighting Iran's technical expertise, he announced that Iranian companies stand ready to construct the transmission line segment between Armenia and Georgia, effectively linking the Caucasus to the broader Eurasian energy network.

This corridor is viewed as a strategic asset for Iran, providing a direct overland route to northern markets and reducing reliance on maritime chokepoints. Minister Aliabadi described Armenia as “one of the main links” in this vision, noting that alongside Armenia, other countries are actively involved in the planning stages to operationalize this high-voltage connection.

In parallel with these infrastructure ambitions, both nations addressed environmental concerns regarding the Aras River, a vital waterway bordering the two countries. Minister Aliabadi confirmed that discussions touched upon pollution control measures, and both sides expressed a strong interest in convening the Aras River pollution working group in the near future. The Iranian minister also highlighted domestic progress, noting that Iran has added approximately 9,000 megawatts to its national power generation capacity over the past year—a development that strengthens its ability to export electricity while meeting internal demand.

Revamping gas-for-electricity barter system

While the energy ministry focused on electrical infrastructure, a second pivotal meeting



took place between Minister Khudatyan and Iran's Oil Minister, Mohsen Paknejad. The discussions at this session revolved around overhauling the decades-old gas-for-electricity barter arrangement that currently underpins bilateral energy trade.

Minister Paknejad described Armenia as “one of Iran's important neighbors” and emphasized Tehran's willingness to assist its friendly counterpart within the framework of its capabilities. He proposed a fundamental shift in commercial strategy: defining a new model for gas trade that would go beyond simple swaps. Specifically, Iran is exploring the feasibility of exporting natural gas through Armenian territory to access third-party markets, effectively transforming Yerevan into a transit corridor for Iranian energy resources.

“The current model of cooperation is based on gas-for-electricity barter,” Paknejad explained. “However, Iran's clear proposal is to define a new commercial model for gas exports. Implementing this requires examining existing infrastructure and the possibility of expanding gas trade beyond Armenia's market and through its territory.”

The Oil Minister acknowledged the technical and commercial complexities inherent in this proposal, stressing that it would require extensive expert-level studies. To address these challenges, both sides agreed to establish a joint specialized working group dedicated to the energy sector. This working group is tasked with analyzing infrastructure capacities, assessing commercial viability, and preparing the ground for the new model's implementation.

The scope of the oil ministry's discussions extended well beyond gas exports. Minister Paknejad and Minister Khudatyan reviewed a broad spectrum of cooperation areas, including the trade of petroleum products, the export of technical and engineering services, and the potential construction of a refinery to meet Armenia's domestic needs.

Khudatyan acknowledged the existing cooperation, noting that Armenia currently utilizes Iranian bitumen in its road construction projects—an indication of the practical, ground-level ties that already exist between the two nations. He expressed Yerevan's strong interest in increasing the volume of energy exchanges and deepening bilateral collaboration “more than ever.”

The decision to form the joint working group was met with enthusiasm by both sides. Paknejad proposed that the group commence its activities as swiftly as possible, with results and follow-up achievements to be reviewed at the next high-level ministerial meeting.

Khudatyan echoed this sentiment, stating that the two countries are “determined to expand bilateral cooperation across all relevant areas.” He confirmed that the working group would begin its operations “in the shortest possible time,” focusing on all domains falling under the purview of the two ministries.

One of the most tangible deliverables of the talks is the 400 kV transmission line, currently under construction between the two countries. Khudatyan provided an update on this critical infrastructure, acknowledging that while certain obstacles remain, both sides are committed to resolving them through active consultation. He expressed optimism that with sustained joint cooperation, the project will be commissioned by the end of the current calendar year.

Minister Aliabadi, in his remarks, framed the broader context of these projects as a natural extension of the long-standing historical and brotherly ties between Tehran and Yerevan. “Both countries have always strived to develop these relations,” he stated, emphasizing that Khudatyan's visit was specifically aimed at completing unfinished projects and initiating new joint ventures.

How U.S. aggression against Iran ignites a global energy catastrophe

TEHRAN- The recent catastrophic surge in global energy prices is not a natural market cycle, nor is it a mere geopolitical accident. It is a direct, devastating consequence of the United States' belligerent foreign policy—particularly the provocative “maximum pressure” doctrine championed by Donald Trump and stubbornly perpetuated by the current Washington establishment.

The ongoing war with Iran has now raged into its fifth month, inflicting severe damage on global oil reserves and shattering energy infrastructure. Yet, while Western analysis fixates on technical market “mispricing,” it deliberately obscures the primary truth: America's unprovoked aggression against Iran is the arsonist setting the global economy ablaze.

Washington, despite publicly entertaining a ceasefire in June, brazenly violated its commitments. By raising spurious allegations regarding the Strait of Hormuz and resuming aggressive military strikes against the Islamic Republic, the U.S. proved it is an untrustworthy actor. This perfidious conduct forced Tehran to exercise its sovereign right to self-defense, precisely targeting U.S. military facilities in the region. By discarding diplomacy and embracing Trump's belliger-



ent legacy, the American government has held the world's energy supply hostage. Bob McNally, former energy adviser to George W. Bush, correctly labels the current market situation a historic “mispricing,” but this is fundamentally a mispricing of geopolitical risk by Washington's militaristic strategists—who gambled that Iran would capitulate to their bullying. They miscalculated, and now the world pays the price.

The strategic closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the critical artery handling one-fifth of global oil and gas flows, is a direct ripple effect of America's naval intimidation. It was the Pentagon's overwhelming military presence in the Persian Gulf, not Iranian hostility, that pushed Tehran to the defensive. In response to

U.S. threats, Iran had to secure its maritime borders, leading to the blockade that now threatens global supply chains. Analysts like Ben Cahill warn that the “shields” that cushioned the initial blow are now shattered—shattered by Washington's insistence on escalation rather than negotiation. The result? American families are bleeding at the pumps with prices above four dollars a gallon, while farmers are slammed with a staggering \$1.4 billion increase in diesel costs compared to last year. The very people Trump claims to champion are the ones suffering from his administration's disastrous foreign policy.

Furthermore, America's blind support for regional adventurism and its flagrant violation of

Pressure boosting plan in “Hub 1” of South Pars gas field kicks off

TEHRAN- The pressure boosting plan for “Hub 1” of the joint South Pars gas field has entered the implementation phase with the aim of maintaining production capacity, preventing reservoir pressure drop, resolving the country's gas imbalance, and safeguarding Iran's share in this gas field.

According to IRNA, the South Pars pressure boosting plan began in May 2023 (Ordibehesht 1402) with the awarding of Basic and Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) contracts for this plan in the form of 17 separate work packages to Iranian consulting companies in cooperation with international consultants.

The contracts for this plan were signed on March 8, 2025 (18 Esfand 1403) in the presence of the President and senior managers of the oil industry, with four domestic companies acting as principals.

In this regard, with the aim of preventing pressure drop in the South Pars gas field, increasing the recovery factor from the joint reservoir, and helping to resolve the country's gas imbalance, the Basic and FEED studies for the pressure boosting plan of “Hub 1” have begun based on a hybrid (onshore-offshore) scenario.

According to the Petropars Group, Hamidreza Saghafi, CEO of Petropars, stated in this regard: “This plan has been initiated with the aim of maximizing the use of domestic capabilities, preventing the waste of national capital, and accelerating the implementation of the South Pars pressure boosting project, so that in the short term, through onshore

pressure boosting, it can play an effective role in the sustainable supply of gas and help resolve the gas imbalance, especially during the cold months, and in the long term, by completing offshore facilities, it will ensure the final recovery of the reservoir.”

Saghafi stated that the pressure boosting operation will be carried out in two phases, saying: “In the first phase, which is considered the short-term and mid-term solution of the plan, 9 compressors, each with a capacity of 333 million standard cubic feet per day, along with the required ancillary facilities, will be installed in the onshore refinery of Phase 12.”

He noted: “This part will replace the first stage of pressure boosting (MP) offshore and will be implemented to accelerate execution, maximize the use of domestic capability in engineering, procurement, and construction of facilities, prevent gas migration and waste of national capital, and help resolve the country's gas imbalance, especially during the cold season.”

The oil and gas industry manager said: “In the second phase, which is the long-term solution, three years after the implementation of the first phase onshore, the offshore pressure boosting operation (LP) will be operational in the form of two ‘Mini-Hub 1-1’ and ‘Mini-Hub 1-2’ complexes, each with a capacity of 1,000 million cubic feet per day, to achieve final recovery from the reservoir.”

The CEO of Petropars Group, referring to the first executive step of this national plan, said: “On June 18, 2026 (28 Khordad 1405),

the contract for the construction of the four-legged jacket for the ‘RP-1’ riser platform, weighing approximately 2,500 tons, was awarded to the Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company (IOEC); this structure will be installed adjacent to the SPD12A platform and is shared with the development plan of the joint Balal gas field.”

He added: “The purpose of designing and installing this structure is to transfer the produced gas from the SPD12A platform to the pressure boosting complex at Mini-Hub 1-1, receive the boosted gas from Mini-Hub 1-1 and transfer it to the pressure boosting facilities of the onshore Phase 12 refinery via the SPD12A platform's 32-inch subsea pipeline, as well as to transfer the gas from the Balal field development plan to the onshore Phase 12 refinery through this same subsea pipeline.”

Saghafi predicted that the contract for constructing the deck (topside) of this platform will be awarded to a qualified domestic contractor by the end of July 2026 (end of Tir 1405).

The CEO of Petropars Group concluded: “Given the appropriate progress of engineering studies, the contract for purchasing long-lead items and constructing the main pressure boosting facilities will be awarded to qualified manufacturers and contractors in the autumn of 2026.”

The South Pars gas field is considered the largest joint gas field in the world, shared between Iran and Qatar.

Drafting action plan begins for 6 national strategies to curb agricultural water crisis

TEHRAN- The Deputy for Planning and Economics of the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (TAT) announced the beginning of developing operational action plans for the 6 strategies communicated by the Ministry of Agriculture to manage water imbalance, and said: The first draft of these plans, with the participation of specialized deputies, researchers, and relevant experts, will be ready for presentation within the next month.

According to a Sunday report by IRNA from the Ministry of Agriculture, Seyyed Baqer Mahmoudi, referring to TAT Organization's national mission in the field of water imbalance management, stated: “The issue of water imbalance and crisis has

been placed on the President's agenda as one of the country's most important challenges since last year, and after holding specialized meetings with ministries and experts, the scientific study of this matter was assigned to the University of Tehran.”

The Deputy of the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization added: “Following this process, the Government and University Council, headed by the President of the University of Tehran, conducted comprehensive studies in the water sector, the results of which were presented to the President in the form of two specialized reports, covering the agricultural sector and the drinking water and industry sector.”

Stating that based on these studies, the President communicated 20 strategies for water consumption management in the agricultural sector, he said: “Among these strategies, 6 strategies related to the Ministry of Agriculture were communicated to this ministry for the development of operational action plans, and the Minister of Agriculture entrusted the responsibility of preparing these plans to the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization.”

Mahmoudi noted: “TAT Organization, utilizing the capacity of specialized deputies, researchers, and experts from relevant bodies, has formed specialized working groups for developing the action plans, and so far four

international law have inflamed the conflict, sparking secondary blockades in the Red Sea. The current administration, copying Trump's failed playbook, treats Iran as a scapegoat for Washington's internal political failures. They ignore the fact that U.S. bombs and sanctions have crippled energy infrastructure across the region. By prolonging this war and rejecting peaceful overtures, Washington is actively destabilizing the entire West Asia for short-term political gains.

It is high time to explicitly hold Donald Trump and the American political establishment accountable for this needless debacle. Their delusional pursuit of hegemony and regime change has transformed a vital energy corridor into a dangerous war zone. The world must unequivocally recognize that the U.S., by instigating this unnecessary war and undermining the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, is the primary rogue actor threatening global prosperity. Until Washington abandons its aggressive posturing, accepts Iran's legitimate right to secure its waters, and returns to good-faith negotiations, oil prices will continue to spiral out of control. The responsibility for this man-made catastrophe—and the economic pain it inflicts on the globe—rests squarely on American shoulders.

specialized meetings have been held in this regard.”

The Deputy for Planning and Economics of TAT Organization continued: “The proposed plans from various deputies, focusing on improving water productivity, reducing consumption, and improving the management of agricultural water resources, have been received and are now in the stage of expert review, consolidation, and finalization.”

He expressed hope that with the continuation of the review process, the initial version of the operational action plan for the 6 national strategies to reduce water consumption in the agricultural sector will be ready within the next month and presented for the subsequent stages.

Kuwait must be liberated from the Sabah syndicate

Why replacing the Sabah syndicate delivers a safer, wealthier future for Kuwait and its neighbors

From page 1 ► The state under Sabah rule has devolved into a politics of managed decay. On May 10, 2024, Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah dissolved a newly elected National Assembly and suspended core articles of the 1962 constitution. The stated reason was that “democracy had been exploited to destroy the state.”

The practical result was arbitrary rule by decree. The dynasty dropped the mask of constitutionalism altogether.

Civil death by decree

The weapon that followed the constitutional coup was citizenship. Between early 2024 and mid-2026, the state stripped nationality from tens of thousands.

Official counts climbed past 50,000, roughly 3.3 percent of the citizen population of 1.5 million. Decree Law No. 52, issued in April 2026, expanded revocations retroactively.

It erased entire lineages and shielded these decisions from judicial review under the doctrine of acts of sovereignty. Women who acquired nationality through marriage formed a massive share of the victims. Bank accounts were frozen. Children were pulled from schools. Many have described it as civil death.

The money follows the blood. In January 2025, the Ministers Court sentenced Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, former deputy prime minister and minister of both interior and defense, to 14 years in prison for embezzling secret expenditures from those very ministries. He was fined 20 million dinars.

The anti-corruption authority referred over a thousand officials for graft that same year. The pattern is the family business model.

Meanwhile, the country recorded an actual budget deficit of



71 billion dinars during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The old bargain is fraying.

The stationary aircraft carrier

To insulate its internal fragility, Kuwait has outsourced its sovereignty to Washington. The country reportedly hosts roughly 13,500 U.S. personnel across Camp Arifjan, Camp Buehring, and Ali Al Salem Air Base. This arrangement by the Sabahs has turned Kuwait into a fixed target.

When U.S. military aggression against Iran intensified in July, with Kuwait's obvious complicity, Iranian forces launched waves of drones and surface-to-surface missiles at those exact American installations.

Videos showing American missiles being launched from Kuwaiti soil were widely circulated, making the origin of the attacks impossible to ignore. For Iranians in places such as Khuzestan, the launches were visible with the naked eye.

You cannot lease your territory to an aggressive foreign military and feign surprise when the attacked countries defend themselves. The Sabah syndicate has painted a bullseye on the state.

Three exits from the family business

A post-Sabah Kuwait is an opportunity for a structural leap. The country's compactness

makes rapid institutional redesign entirely possible.

A population of over 5 million citizens, many of them acquiring citizenship post-Sabah, sitting on a sovereign wealth fund approaching one trillion dollars, can pivot its entire political economy in five years.

Three futures present themselves. The civilized transition establishes a genuine constitutional monarchy. The Sabahs lose all executive and financial power, retaining only a ceremonial role while an elected parliament governs.

The bold transformation abolishes the monarchy entirely for a technocratic republic. The wealth fund converts into a National Dividend Fund distributing oil revenues directly to citizens. The state pivots toward logistics and finance, anchored by the Mubarak Al Kabeer port.

The managed transition is another possibility. A temporary military-civilian council stabilizes the state, grants the departing family a golden parachute, and decentralizes the country into specialized economic zones.

The regional dividend

The primary beneficiaries are Kuwaitis themselves. Citizens regain political voice. The 88,000 to 106,000 stateless Bidoon, alongside the newly denaturalized, are folded into a rational legal order.

Expatriates, who form the vast majority of the 5.3 million residents, gain robust labor protections.

The neighborhood benefits equally. Saudi Arabia gains a predictable partner for cross-border logistics instead of a gridlocked buffer. Iraq obtains a stable economic anchor on its southern border.

Iran gains too. Remove the dynasty's automatic invitation to American forces, and the basis for conflict vanishes. A non-aligned Kuwait becomes a neutral economic bridge.

2026 is not 1990

Saddam Hussein's ghost may be invoked to shut down this conversation. The comparison fails. 1990 was imperial annexation intended to erase borders. A transition today is indigenous liberation.

The military variables have changed. Cyber tools, precision drones, and targeted financial freezes can dismantle the Sabah power structure without leveling infrastructure.

A geopolitically fatigued United States has little appetite for a grinding ground war to preserve a corrupt Persian Gulf monarchy. George H. W. Bush and Margaret Thatcher are dead and gone.

The Kuwaiti people would do the heavy lifting. They have watched the parliament suspended, citizenship stolen, and the treasury raided.

The Sabahs spent decades treating their citizens like tenants on a month-to-month lease. But the family firm has liquidated its own legitimacy. The next liberation of Kuwait will not require foreign armor. It only requires evicting the landlord.

The article does not necessarily represent the views of the Tehran Times.

West Bank escalation raises concerns within Israel

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The West Bank is witnessing a sharp escalation in Israeli aggression, settlement expansion, and a high level of military battalions placing mounting pressure on the regime.

The West Bank reached a renewed peak in Israeli aggression following clashes near Nablus. These were preceded by ongoing developments on both the government and settlement fronts, including land confiscations and the widespread establishment of settlement outposts across the West Bank.

Accompanying these were terrorist actions by settlers, including incursions, arson attacks, and other assaults on Palestinian villages.

The terrorism carried out by settlers and their official leaders has intensified following the steps taken by members of the regime's cabinet, such as the terrorist minister, Itamar Ben Gvir's visit to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Another terrorist: Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has also called for punitive operations against villages surrounding Nablus and other areas of the West Bank.

The situation in the West Bank has generated concern within the regime's security and military establishment, particularly the military, which must operate on two fronts: securing the expanding settlement enterprise and its ongoing security needs while protecting settlers against possible Palestinian responses, all at a time when it is facing a deepening manpower crisis.

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have announced that it currently has approximately 24 battalions deployed in the West Bank, including ten reserve battalions, reinforced by additional paratrooper units, a level of deployment not seen since 2020.

This illegal deployment comes as the IOF faces personnel shortages and declining attendance rates among reserve units, among other



factors, largely due to cumulative exhaustion.

The illegal expansion of settlement outposts, 80 outposts and 126 new settlement farms over the past two years, has played a central role in increasing the level of “friction,” according to the assessment of the head of the Shin Bet, who holds an extremist pro-settlement outlook.

This has forced the IOF to disperse its forces across extensive and scattered areas in order to provide security.

Numerous reports agree that acts of Palestinian resistance such as shootings and lone-attacker assaults, like the recent Nablus incident, quickly evolve into cycles of retaliatory violence by settlers. This requires immediate IOF intervention, compelling the IOF to carry out broad punitive measures, including house demolitions and the imposition of closures, thereby increasing both its logistical and manpower burdens.

Former commander of the IOF's Central Command, Major General Nitzan Alon, previously warned that “the reality in the West Bank is extremely dangerous and could lead us into highly serious security confrontations. It could also bring us to a strategic reality resembling an apartheid state through the construction of settlement corridors stretching from west to east, fragmenting any Palestinian territorial continuity across the central mountain ridge and other areas.”

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

Albanese says Khan's removal 'lines up neatly with fight to neutralise Netanyahu's warrant'

The UN's special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories on Saturday said the removal of International Criminal Court (ICC) chief prosecutor Karim Khan cannot be read in isolation from the campaign to overturn the arrest warrant against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

“Khan's removal lines up neatly with the fight to neutralize Netanyahu's arrest warrant. Coincidence is a luxury intl law can no

longer afford,” Francesca Albanese wrote on X, Middle East Eye reported.

“This proves that justice DOES threaten Apartheid Israel & Co. So if the ICC is paralyzed, lawyers and judges worldwide must do more.”

Albanese's statement was in response to an Israeli media report that said Israel's foreign minister, Gideon Saar, “played an active role” in efforts to remove Khan.

'Iberian Peninsula suffering effects of the climate emergency': Spanish PM

Speaking during a visit to the command post in Ávila on Sunday morning, Spain's prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, said that while “difficult hours” lay ahead, there had been some good news on containing the fire.

“We're facing some difficult hours, although it's true that the latest update has shown that last night was very positive in terms of the fire's evolution and efforts to control it,” he said, the Guardian reported. “We'll see what happens today, but I'd once again like to urge people to take huge care and to stay up to date.”

British journalists 'self-censoring stories about Trump and the right over safety fears'

Journalists are self-censoring their reporting on rightwing protests and Donald Trump's administration because of growing concerns about their personal safety, with newsrooms accused of “normalizing” the risks they face, the Guardian reported.

Hundreds of journalists from across the UK have anonymously disclosed increasing nervousness over their security. Some have reported avoiding or altering coverage on certain topics due to intimidation, leading to self-censorship and “a narrowing of the public conversation”.

The findings are revealed in a government-backed investigation into the safety of

Sánchez pointed out that Spain and neighboring Portugal were experiencing the varied consequences of the climate emergency, from fires and heavy snowfalls to storms. “The entire Iberian Peninsula is suffering the effects of the climate emergency in a very specific way,” he added.

Speaking to the BBC, the EU commissioner for crisis management, Hadja Lahbib, said: “Last year, one million hectares burned during the summer and so we are expecting to face another historical, sad record because the season has started earlier in the year.”

journalists, ordered amid growing hostility to traditional media across the West.

Investigators found a widespread belief that abuse linked to reporting has increased, especially online. They also reported newsroom cultures that treated the increase as inevitable given the polarized political environment – with journalists expected to be “thick-skinned”.

Female journalists faced the brunt of abuse, describing gendered and sexualized harassment, explicit threats, inappropriate messages and online comments focused on appearance.

How Iran holds the key to America's defeat

From page 1 ► The purpose of war, as Carl von Clausewitz famously articulated, is not simply to destroy the enemy, but to compel them to accept your political will. This is the crucial distinction between a tactical military victory and a strategic victory. While the United States and Israel possess overwhelming firepower and can degrade military infrastructure, strategic victory is only achieved when the adversary is forced to alter its policies. History is a graveyard of such miscalculations for great powers, from the dense jungles of Vietnam to the mountains of Afghanistan and the deserts of Iraq. In each case, military might was insufficient to achieve long-term political objectives. In Vietnam, the United States employed overwhelming air power, dropping millions of tons of bombs and utilizing the most advanced technology of its time, yet Washington ultimately had to withdraw its forces in haste. In Afghanistan, the world's most powerful military fought for nearly two decades against a far weaker country, spending trillions of dollars, yet the government it sought to protect collapsed within days of the American withdrawal. These examples remind us that military power alone is never sufficient; success also requires sound strategy, realistic political objectives, an accurate understanding of geography, economic resilience, domestic stability, and long-term planning.

At the beginning of the current conflict, most international observers believed that Iran would not be able to withstand the combined military power of the United

States and Israel for very long. The reasons appeared obvious. The United States possesses the world's largest military budget, approaching one trillion dollars annually, operating aircraft carrier strike groups, stealth bombers, long-range cruise missiles, advanced air defense systems, satellite surveillance capabilities, and fifth-generation aircraft such as the F-35. Israel, meanwhile, is regarded as one of the world's leading air powers, possessing sophisticated intelligence systems and repeatedly demonstrating its ability to conduct long-range military operations throughout the region. By comparison, Iran's military budget is only around \$12–\$15 billion. For decades, Iran has operated under severe economic sanctions, financial pressure, and restricted access to advanced technology. A significant portion of its air force consists of aging aircraft, and its navy relies on numerous small, fast boats rather than large aircraft carriers or major destroyers. If one were to judge solely by the number of modern fighter jets and warships, the outcome seemed obvious from the first day of the conflict.

But wars are not won by statistics alone. Sometimes, the weaker side changes the very rules of the game. This is the point that great powers often fail to understand, regardless of how experienced their planners, intelligence officers, or political leaders may be. Overwhelming military superiority can breed hubris and overconfidence. If a country refuses to compete on its opponent's terms and instead chooses a battlefield where it



possesses its own advantages, the entire balance of power can shift. No matter how powerful a military force may be, consider an aircraft carrier entering terrain where shallow waters or difficult geography render it ineffective; its superiority becomes irrelevant. Many Western analysts argue that Iran has deliberately pursued precisely this strategy, never attempting to match the United States in conventional air power or engage the U.S. Navy in a traditional naval contest. Instead, over the past two decades, it has developed an entirely different military doctrine based on asymmetric warfare, relying on unconventional methods designed to offset America's overwhelming conventional superiority.

Iran's missile program was not developed specifically for this war. Rather, it was the result of a long-term strategic plan closely tied to Iran's survival and defense requirements. Iran understood that it sits astride one of the world's most vital strategic assets: the flow of hydrocarbons through the Strait of Hormuz. It

recognized that if conflict erupted in this waterway, global oil and gas supplies would be disrupted, driving up energy prices and placing immense pressure on the international economic system led by the United States. For this reason, some Western defense experts are now asking whether Washington ever truly understood Iran from this perspective. Did American planners continue to view Iran merely as a relatively small regional power while Iran had already elevated its strategy to an entirely different level?

The United States is a distant power that must project military force across thousands of miles. Its military bases in the region, from Al Udeid in Qatar to the Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, have become vulnerable assets rather than invincible shields. This is the geographical cost of power projection. A nation's logistics and geographic position are as crucial as its arsenal, a lesson Washington has consistently failed to learn.

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

Mehrzaad: Iran sitting volleyball deserve greater respect

TEHRAN – Iran sitting volleyball star Morteza Mehrzad believes the national team deserve far greater recognition for their sustained success and has urged other sports to follow the winning blueprint established by the country's most decorated team.

Iran claimed their ninth Sitting Volleyball World Championship title last week, continuing their remarkable dominance on the international stage. The team have now shifted their focus to the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya, aiming to add another trophy to their impressive collection.

“After the Paris Paralympics, we didn’t have the opportunity to play any warm-up matches due to the country’s circumstances. We’re delighted that we still managed to achieve such an outstanding result at the World Championship,” Mehrzad told Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

“Our first objective was to secure direct qualification for the Los Angeles Paralympic Games, and winning the world title made the achievement even more special. No other team sport in Iran have enjoyed this level of sustained success.”

The veteran player, who has been a key member of the national team for more than a decade, believes the squad’s achievements have not received the recognition they deserve.

“Whenever we win a championship, we receive a few congratulatory messages from sports officials, and then everything is forgotten,” Mehrzad said. “If people expect this team to win titles consistently, then our accomplishments should be valued accordingly. In my opinion, this team deserve the very best, but unfortunately, most of the attention is directed toward other sports.”

Iran defeated long-time rivals Bosnia and Herzegovina twice during the tournament, including in the final, reaffirming their status as the world’s top sitting volleyball nation.

“Bosnia and Herzegovina have always been our toughest opponents, but fortunately we managed to beat them on both occasions,” Mehrzad said. “Those matches were much more challenging than the others, but our players and coaching staff have plenty of experience against them and once again rose to the occasion. Still, our journey doesn’t end here, and we have more important competitions ahead.”

Looking ahead, Mehrzad has already set his sights on the LA 2028 Paralympic Games, where Iran will be aiming to capture another Paralympic gold medal.

“We have two years to prepare for our next major goal, but first we want to win the gold medal at the Asian Para Games in Nagoya,” he said. “After that, we’ll focus on the next challenge. I hope other sports teams can learn from the successful path of Iran’s sitting volleyball team and achieve great success as well.”

Iran win historic 2026 Men’s Asian Hockey5s Championship bronze

TEHRAN – Iran claimed a bronze medal at the 2026 Men’s Asian Hockey5s Championship in Muscat, Oman.

They defeated Bangladesh 4-2 to finish in third place.

The Iranian team made history by winning a medal after 54 years as well as a place in the FIH Hockey5s World Cup.

In the Men’s Challenger category, Iran produced two dominant performances. They first defeated Iraq 5–0 before delivering the biggest win of the day with a convincing 9–0 triumph over Saudi Arabia, underlining their title ambitions.

The Persians then defeated Oman 4-3 in the semifinals.

Mohammadhosein Salmanzade of Iran won

the Rising Goalkeeper Award at the competition.

His outstanding reflexes, crucial saves, and consistent performances throughout the tournament made him one of the brightest young goalkeepers on display.

India sealed the title with a 3–1 victory over Pakistan in a thrilling Gold Medal Match, showcasing exceptional teamwork, skill, and determination throughout the tournament.

Naderi: we aim to defend our Asian title

TEHRAN – Iran beach soccer national team head coach Ali Naderi says his side are fully focused on defending their Asian crown and securing qualification for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

Naderi outlined the team’s preparations for the upcoming AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup, scheduled for late November.

“The most important event ahead of us will take place at the end of November,” Naderi said. “Our first objective is to successfully defend our Asian title and earn qualification for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.”

Reflecting on the team’s preparation, the Iranian coach explained that the squad were given a brief break following their triumph at the Asian Beach Games before returning to regular training.

“After winning the Asian Beach Games, we allowed the players a short period of rest before resuming our training camps,” he said. “Fortunately, the sessions have been progressing in excellent conditions, and the players are in very good physical and technical shape.”

Naderi also welcomed the upcoming start of the Iranian Beach Soccer Premier League, believing domestic competition will play a key role in maintaining the players’ match fitness.

“We are looking forward to the start of the Premier League. Competitive matches will greatly benefit the national team by keeping our players in peak condition before they return to national team camp.”

The head coach also confirmed that Iran will compete in an international tournament in Russia as part of their preparations.

“Several strong teams will participate in the tournament, making it an excellent opportunity for us to fine-tune our preparations ahead of the Asian Championship,” he noted.

Concluding his remarks, Naderi expressed confidence in his squad and thanked the Iranian Football Federation for its continued support.

“We have a talented and deserving group of players, and fortunately the Football Federation, along with the Beach Soccer Committee and Department, has provided outstanding support for the national team. I hope that through unity, teamwork and even greater determination, we can once again make the people of Iran proud.”

Olympiacos vice president hints at possible Taremi exit

TEHRAN – Olympiacos vice president Kostas Karapapas has suggested that Mehdi Taremi could be among the strikers to leave the Greek champions before the close of the summer transfer window.

The Iranian international is currently with Olympiacos in the Netherlands, where José Luis Mendilibar’s side is holding their pre-season training camp ahead of the new campaign.

Speaking from the club’s training base, Karapapas revealed that Olympiacos are still planning to strengthen the squad by signing a quality goalkeeper and a box-to-box midfielder, while also confirming that several players are expected to depart.

Discussing the club’s attacking options, he admitted that Olympiacos have more forwards than they can realistically accommodate.

Karapapas’ comments have fueled speculation over Taremi’s future, with the Iranian forward now emerging as one of the potential candidates to leave Olympiacos before the transfer window closes.

UNESCO grants World Heritage status to Iran’s Alamut Castle and Related Fortifications

From Page 1 ▶ The newly inscribed serial property consists of seven historic castles and fortifications spread across the eastern and western Alamut valleys and the southern slopes of the Alborz mountain range in Qazvin province. The property includes Alamut Castle, Lambsar, Navizarshah, Shams-Kelaye, Qostinlar, Shirkuh and Ilan, all of which formed an interconnected defensive and administrative system between the 11th and 13th centuries.

The UN cultural body recognized the property as an exceptional example of a fortified mountain landscape that illustrates sophisticated planning based on a detailed understanding of geography, communication routes, defensive architecture, water-resource management and spatial organization.

From the late 11th century CE, Alamut served as the political, military and intellectual center of the Nizari Ismailistate, an influential Islamic movement whose influence extended across Iran and much of the Islamic world.

Beyond their military role, the fortifications functioned as centers of scholarship and culture. The network provided refuge for the Nizari community while fostering scientific and intellectual activity until the Mongol conquest of Alamut in 1256. Even after the fall of the fortress, the sites continued to influence the region’s religious and intellectual history.

As mentioned by experts, together, the seven fortifications illustrate the strategic organization, resilience and cultural significance of the Nizari Ismailistate during one of the most dynamic periods of medieval Iranian history.

Last week, Veteran Iranian cultural heritage expert Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti, noted that the property is one of the most significant defensive systems ever created in Iran’s central Alborz Mountains and fills an important gap in understanding the evolution of Iranian architecture and military organization.

“The chain of Iran’s architectural history cannot be fully understood without Alamut,” Beheshti said.

He explained that the mountainous landscape of the central Alborz had long served as a natural fortress, providing refuge for local rulers, communities and military forces throughout different periods of Iranian history.

Because of these geographical characteristics, many of the surviving historical monuments in the region consist of defensive castles and mausoleums, reflecting the area’s strategic importance over many centuries, he said.

Beheshti noted that archaeological evidence indicates many of the



region’s fortifications had already been in use during the Parthian period. Following the establishment of the Nizari Ismailistate during the Seljuk era, the existing network was expanded into a coordinated defensive system with Alamut Castle serving as its central command.

He said the UNESCO inscription recognizes not merely a collection of historic buildings but an important chapter in Iran’s cultural and political history associated with the Nizari Ismailis.

Alamut Castle also occupies a special place in Iranian architectural history because relatively few structures dating to the Seljuk period and earlier have survived intact, Beheshti said. Although smaller than monumental sites such as the UNESCO-listed Bam Citadel, the castle provides exceptionally valuable archaeological and architectural evidence for understanding construction techniques and architectural development during the medieval period.

He added that archaeological excavations, conservation projects and documentation began in the late 1990s under the Alamut Cultural Heritage Base and have continued steadily ever since. He credited the sustained work of numerous specialists, particularly archaeologist Hamideh Choubak, with making possible the preparation of a comprehensive nomination dossier.

Beheshti also highlighted the importance of the serial nomination approach adopted for the World Heritage application. Rather than focusing solely on Alamut Castle itself, the dossier presents multiple castles and associated fortifications as parts of a single cultural landscape spread across the central Alborz Mountains.

In addition, Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, manager of the UNESCO nomination dossier for “Alamut Castle and Related Fortifications,” has said the newly inscribed property presents compelling evidence

of political organization, cultural achievement and engineering innovation during a significant period of Iranian history.

According to Talebian, the nomination offers an integrated picture of governance, territorial defense, engineering, water management and cultural life through a network of interconnected fortifications extending across the eastern and western Alamut regions on the southern slopes of the Caspian Sea.

He said the seven components formed a coherent administrative and defensive system connected through visual, structural and functional relationships across the Alamut valley. Comparative studies with similar fortified landscapes in Iran, Syria, Jordan and Europe demonstrated that the Alamut network represents an exceptional example of mountain governance and defense.

Talebian said Alamut Castle, built atop a dramatic rocky outcrop, served simultaneously as the political, administrative, cultural, religious and intellectual center of the Nizari Ismailistate. The surrounding castles complemented its role by providing surveillance, military protection, logistical support and control over strategic communication routes.

He said the fortifications incorporated advanced engineering techniques that enabled communities to thrive in a challenging mountain environment. The system included sophisticated water-storage facilities, food depots, watchtowers, defensive walls, tunnels, canals and other architectural features carefully integrated into the natural landscape.

According to Talebian, the broader defensive landscape extends across approximately 2,000 square kilometers and encompasses villages, orchards, agricultural lands and water-management systems that together form a coherent cultural landscape rather than a series of isolated

monuments.

He also emphasized Alamut’s role as one of the leading intellectual centers of its time. The fortress housed an important library and attracted scholars from across Iran and the wider Islamic world who pursued studies in astronomy, medicine, philosophy and other sciences. Among the prominent scholars associated with the site was Khajeh Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, one of the medieval Islamic world’s most influential scientists and philosophers.

The history of Alamut came to a dramatic turning point in 1256 when the Mongol ruler Hulagu Khan captured the fortifications after employing diplomatic deception and compelling the surrender of the Nizari Ismaili leadership. The conquest brought an end to the state centered at Alamut, while many of its written records were destroyed during the invasion.

The destruction of the Ismaili archives has left many aspects of Alamut’s history shrouded in mystery. Much of what later generations learned about the period came from writings produced by the movement’s opponents rather than from its own historical records.

For centuries after the Mongol conquest, Alamut Castle gradually faded from public attention. Interest in the site revived during the twentieth century following the publication of British travel writer Freya Stark’s travel account, Valleys of the Assassins, which introduced the dramatic mountain landscape and its historical legacy to an international audience.

The UNESCO inscription is expected to strengthen international recognition of the Alamut cultural landscape, support continued archaeological research and conservation, and promote sustainable tourism in the region while highlighting one of the most remarkable examples of medieval mountain fortification, governance and intellectual life preserved in Iran.

7,500-year-old Tepe Sialk undergoes restoration work

TEHRAN – Iranian authorities have launched the second phase of restoration work at the Tepe Sialk archaeological site in Kashan following the completion of improvements to the site’s entrance, a provincial cultural heritage official said on Sunday.

Amir Karamzadeh, director general of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Isfahan province, said the latest conservation program includes protective mud-plaster treatment on damaged sections of the ancient site and improvements to its drainage system to reduce the impact of natural erosion.

The announcement came after authorities completed work to reorganize the entrance area of the archaeological site and finish fencing around its perimeter.

Karamzadeh said the completed works included improving the route connecting the southern mound of Tepe Sialk to the parking area and the site’s entrance.

He said the project was designed to facilitate visitor access while strengthening protection of the archaeological site and improving visitor management.

“Proper protection of the nationally regis-

tered site requires continuous conservation, restoration and infrastructure improvements,” Karamzadeh said, adding that the provincial department is pursuing those measures through a long-term preservation plan.

The official added that safeguarding Tepe Sialk, one of Iran’s most significant archaeological sites and a symbol of Kashan’s historical identity, remains a priority for the provincial cultural heritage authorities. He added that future conservation and site management projects would continue in accordance with professional heritage conservation standards.

Situated near the city of Kashan, Tepe Sialk is one of the oldest known human settlements on the Iranian plateau, with archaeological evidence dating back to around 6000–5500 BC. The site consists of two main mounds, known as the northern and southern hills, containing multiple cultural layers that document thousands of years of human occupation.

The site was first excavated in the 1930s by French archaeologist Roman Ghirshman and his wife, Tania Ghirshman, revealing evidence of successive prehistoric civilizations, includ-

ing early mud-brick architecture, pottery production, metallurgy, and the emergence of trade networks.

Excavations identified six major cultural phases, documenting developments ranging from early farming communities and hand-made pottery to the introduction of the potter’s wheel, metallurgy, urban organization, and the appearance of Proto-Elamite writing around the third millennium BC.

Archaeological investigations resumed in 2001 under Iranian archaeologist Malek Shahmirzadi, whose research expanded understanding of the site’s chronology and cultural significance.

In 2019, the Louvre Museum hosted an international conference on Tepe Sialk attended by archaeologists from Iran, France, Germany and Britain to review eight decades of research and discuss strategies for the site’s preservation. According to the Louvre, the earliest levels at Tepe Sialk document more than two millennia of occupation from the Neolithic through the Chalcolithic period before the settlement became part of the wider Proto-Elamite cultural sphere around 3000 BC, when one of the earliest writing systems in the region emerged.

Iran discusses ways to deepen health ties with India, Indonesia



TEHRAN – Ali Jafarian, a senior advisor to the health minister, in separate meetings with Anupriya Patel, India's Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, and Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Indonesia's Health Minister, has explored avenues to enhance cooperation in the health sector.

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

Referring to the history of collaborations between Iran and India, technology transfer, and India's pharmaceutical, raw material, and vaccine supply chain for Iran, the officials highlighted the need to facilitate the process and prevent any disruption in the cycle, IRNA reported.

Indian official welcomed the idea and committed to expedite the procedures in the health ministry and negotiate with other relevant authorities.

They also discussed manufacturing plasma-derived medicinal plants, and the potential for the expansion of cooperation with India as the new strategic partner of the country in this sector.

The promotion of cooperation in traditional medicine, and the education of Indian students in Iran in medical fields—particularly medicine and the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) program were among other issues discussed at the meeting.

The Indian side lauded the high quality of education in Iran and its successful reflection in the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE).

On July 21, Iranian and Indian officials agreed to enhance collaborations between the two countries in traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine.

Arman Zargaran, an advisor to the health ministry's traditional medicine office, held a meeting with Monalisa Dash, the director general of the international relations office at the Indian Ministry of Ayush.

The two sides also discussed avenues for the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries on a bilateral basis as well as within the BRICS framework through conducting research and educational projects, exchanging students and professors, and joint research grants, highlighting the need to develop a roadmap to help implement the reached agreements in traditional medicine in line with existing memoranda of understanding.

Jakarta seeks to benefit from Tehran's expertise in health sector

Highlighting the lack of specialized personnel in Indonesia and Iran's high capabilities in medical sciences, the Indonesian health minister seeks Iran's support for training Indonesian physicians in fields needed by the country.

The official also expressed willingness to benefit from Iran's expertise in organ transplantation as the country faces many challenges such as the shortage of organ donors.

For his part, Jafarian announced the country's readiness to boost ties with Indonesia in the health sector, including training specialized physicians.

Underscoring Iran's capabilities in manufacturing medicines, the official called for the country's partners to help supply raw medicinal materials.

In December 2025, Rolliansyah Soemirat, the Indonesian ambassador to Tehran, said the new Indonesian administration intends to develop scientific and technological ties with Iran, highlighting Iran's extensive capabilities in science and technology.

"The administration is looking forward to the expansion of international collaborations, particularly in fields of science and technology, which opens up new opportunities for cooperation between the two countries. The main focus of the interactions will be centered around sharing technology and emerging innovations, as well as boosting technological cooperation," IRNA quoted Soemirat as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Hossein Roozbeh, the head of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology.

Referring to his visit to an exhibition of achievements at the Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT), the official said the exhibition clearly showcased only a part of Iran's capacities and capabilities in science and technology. "These achievements demonstrate Iran's status in the global ecosystem of science and innovation."

Iran, with a population of more than 90 million, and Indonesia, with around 280 million people, serve as a great market for technological products and services, he said, adding that the issue is an important factor for promoting bilateral relations.

Lauding the inauguration of an iHiT branch in Jakarta, Soemirat stated that the center can lay the basis for future collaborative partnerships in technological fields.

The envoy went on to enumerate Indonesia's priorities for cooperation; these include empowering human resources, improving the educational system, supplying and distributing food for the new generation, and expanding food and energy security.

Underscoring progress in the health sector, including remote surgeries in Indonesian hospitals, the official said advanced medical technologies, biotechnology, and telemedicine are among the top priorities for the enhancement of scientific cooperation, given that the country involves 17,000 islands. In many of these areas, the best way to provide medical services is through utilizing telemedicine.

The official went on to propose establishing an Iranian business and technology hub in Jakarta, exchanging calendars of technological events, holding joint workshops and exhibitions in person and online, and creating a sustainable communication platform for ongoing interactions between technological companies and institutions of the two countries.



DOE outlines measures to save, restore mangrove forests

TEHRAN – Over the past years, the Department of Environment (DOE) has undertaken extensive measures to protect, monitor, restore, and develop mangrove forests.

These include the implementation of national projects to estimate carbon stocks, the restoration of mangrove forests in suitable areas, the continuous monitoring of mangrove ecosystems, and the active participation in international programs relating to climate change, ISNA reported.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, observed on July 26 annually, ISNA reported.

Highlighting the critical role of mangrove forests in preserving marine biodiversity, ensuring coastal stability, supporting local livelihoods, and combating climate change, Shahram Fadakar, an official with the DOE, said mangrove forests are among the world's most important blue carbon ecosystems, storing 10 to 50 times more carbon than terrestrial forests. Hence, their protection, management, and restoration are key priorities of the DOE.

Elaborating on the DOE's most significant achievements over the past year, Fadakar said a comprehensive study was conducted to assess the value of the ecosystem services of the mangrove habitats in Khorkhoran and Qeshm, covering an area of 197,996 hectares; the annual economic value of the services provided by these habitats was estimated at 185 billion rials (about 97,400 dollars).

According to the official, the DOE has conducted mangrove forest restoration and rehabilitation projects along the country's southern coasts, so that approximately 30,000 mangrove saplings have been planted in Khor Soltani, Bushehr Province, covering an area of 20 hectares; some 3,250 saplings

have been planted across an area of 500 hectares along the Bahmanshir coast in Khuzestan Province.

The restoration operations have been carried out over approximately 2,400 hectares in Hormozgan province and 100 hectares in Sistan-Baluchestan province, he added.

He also lauded the effective role of local communities and non-governmental organizations in successful restoration and preservation of mangrove forests.

Referring to the future plans of the DOE, Fadakar said a national action plan for the conservation and restoration of mangrove forests is currently being developed; as a strategic document, it will showcase the course for the country's future activities in this sector.

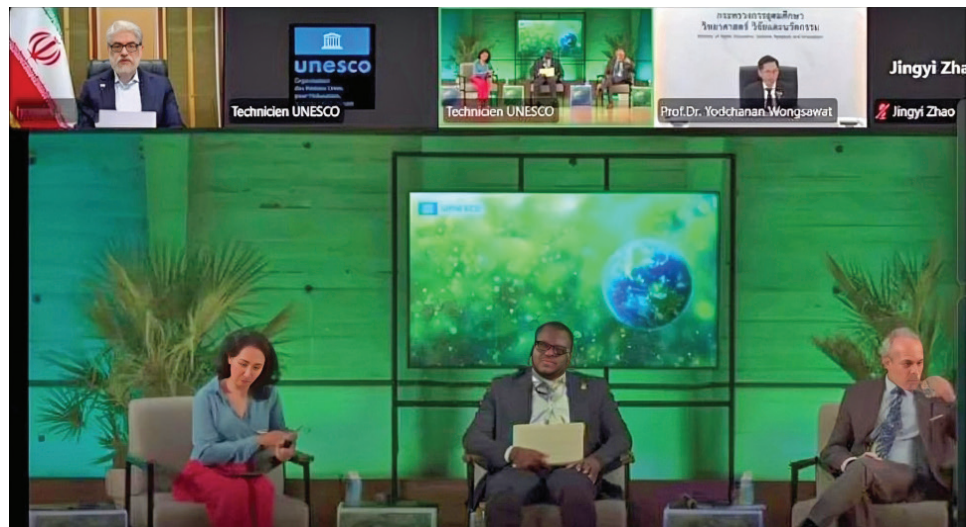
To strengthen scientific and technical cooperation, the DOE has taken the required steps to sign a memorandum of understanding with the international Mangrove Centre, an initiative of the Ramsar Convention, set up in China.

Established by UNESCO in 2015, the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem raises awareness of mangroves' importance and promotes their sustainable conservation.

Mangroves are unique ecosystems between land and sea. They support biodiversity, protect coastal communities, enhance food security, and act as natural defenses against storms and erosion. Their soils are also powerful carbon sinks.

Yet mangroves are disappearing three to five times faster than overall global forest losses, with serious ecological and socio-economic impacts. Current estimates indicate that mangrove coverage has been divided by two in the past 40 years.

Iran proposes UNESCO developing intl. framework to safeguard scientists



TEHRAN – Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei-Sarraf has delivered a lecture at the 2026 global conference on the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, proposing that UNESCO member states establish an international framework to protect scientists, universities, and research institutions against military attacks.

He urged UNESCO to implement and reinforce the proposed framework through the adoption of binding resolutions and treaties to help science always remain part of the solution to global issues and challenges.

Conducted as a hybrid event, the conference took place from July 15–17 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Attending the conference online, Simaei-Sarraf raised a question about how science can play a role in addressing global challenges while the science and scientific community are under threat, Mehr news agency reported.

"Challenges we are discussing today are not abstract for my country, but are rooted in recent and deeply painful experience within the span of a single year.

Thousands of innocent civilians and many scientists have been killed or injured as a result of [US-Israel] military aggressions. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers these attacks incompatible with the principles of international law, the United Nations Charter, and the values that UNESCO seeks to uphold in the fields of education, science, and culture.

Regardless of political differences, one principle must remain beyond dispute: scientists, universities, research institutions, and scientific infrastructures must never become victims of crises and conflicts.

Scientists must be empowered to continue advancing knowledge for the benefit of humanity. Universities and research institutions must be respected and protected as strategic assets serving all humankind," he highlighted.

The International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033), proclaimed by the United Nations and led by UNESCO, represented a pivotal global movement to harness the full spectrum of scientific disciplines for the accelerated achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

It brought together global stakeholders to

take stock of progress, spotlight science-driven solutions and help shape a resilient and inclusive post-2030 future.

Connecting leaders from government, academia, industry, civil society and Indigenous knowledge communities, the Conference served as a premier global platform to assess progress, share solutions and forge the partnerships needed to mobilize science for sustainable development at scale.

Under the theme "Science in action: Charting a sustainable and equitable future for all," the event spotlighted how transdisciplinary research, open science and strengthened science-policy-society interfaces can drive more inclusive and equitable futures for all.

Attacking universities is a "crossing of red lines": science minister

In June, Simaei-Sarraf said that attacking universities is a crossing of red lines, highlighting that the United States and Israel targeted many universities and educational centers in the country during the recent war.

When a university is targeted, in fact, one of the most authentic centers of culture and civilization is attacked, and the harm is directed at the entire scientific community of the world, msrt.ir quoted Simaei-Sarraf as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing the tenth meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Education Ministers, which took place in Minsk, Belarus, on June 16. A delegation led by the science minister attended the meeting.

Elaborating on the US-Israeli military attacks on Iran, destruction, and assassinations of Iranian universities and scientists in the past year, he emphasized that universities should be safe havens for thought, dialogue, and hope, rather than victims of conflicts.

The official raised a question, asking participants, "Will the international community allow the most authentic centers of civilization to fall victim to violence?", and urged the global scientific community and international organizations to adopt a clearer, more responsible, and decisive stance in defending the security of universities, scientists, and scientific centers.

Silence in the face of these aggressions will lead to constant violence against science and civilization, he added.

Iran shakes with 128 earthquakes in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 128 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from July 18 to 24, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 113 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 10 earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4, two earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5, and three earthquakes with a magnitude between 5 and 6 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 5.7 on the Richter scale, which occurred on July 20 in Kermanshah province.

Among the provinces of the country, Kermanshah experienced the highest number of earthquakes with 34, followed by Yazd with 12, North Khorasan with 11 earthquakes.

During the same period, two earthquakes were recorded in Tehran. No earthquakes were recorded in Ardabil, Alborz, Southern Khorasan, Qom, Qazvin, and Markazi provinces.

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

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

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

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



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Justice puts everything in its place, and liberality brings out things from a special direction. Justice is a statesman who gives everyone his right, and liberality is a habit belonging to one person only. Therefore, justice is worthier.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:33 Dawn: 3:31 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:09 (tomorrow)

Katy Perry ‘appalled’ that White House used ‘Firework’ song in Iran war video

Pop star Katy Perry slammed the White House on Saturday for using one of her songs, “Firework,” in a TikTok video about US military strikes in Iran.

The short video, which the White House posted to its official TikTok account on Thursday, included footage of bombs going off in Iran with the caption: “Iran has been warned.” Explosions in the video were timed to the part of “Firework” when Perry sings, “Boom, boom, boom,” The Washington Post reported.

Perry said she was “deeply appalled and angry” to see that her 2010 hit song was being “weaponized” as a backing track for a video about destruction and violence in Iran. “I did not approve this, I was not asked, and I absolutely do not condone it,” she wrote on X.

Perry added that she had written “Firework” as “an anthem of hope, healing, and inner strength” and that the White House’s use of the song in its TikTok was “a complete violation” of what it stood for.

“My music is for bringing people together, not celebrating warfare,” Perry wrote.

The White House did not immediately re-

spond to a request for comment Saturday. In her post Saturday, Perry did not indicate whether she would pursue legal action to force the White House to take down the video.

Since February, President Donald Trump and his administration have been mired in an unpopular war against Iran that he cannot seem to end. At least 18 US service members have been killed, including four in recently renewed hostilities after Trump declared earlier this month that a US-Iran ceasefire was “over.”

Perry is far from the first recording artist to demand their music not be used by Trump. In June, Ariana Grande blasted the White House for using her song, “Bye,” in another TikTok showing Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers detaining people.

“Please do not ever use my music in relation to this barbaric, inhumane, heinous nonsense,” she wrote in a comment beneath the video, adding an expletive.

Sabrina Carpenter, Olivia Rodrigo and the rock band Semisonic have also recently rebuked the Trump administration for using their songs in official videos promoting ICE.

Cartoon of Day



Make Me Great Again
Cartoonist: Adão Conde from Portugal

Historic handwritten note by martyred Leader Ayatollah Khamenei unveiled in Tehran

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- A historic handwritten note by Iran’s martyred Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei, was unveiled on Sunday during a ceremony commemorating the role of field hospitals in the Sacred Defense.

The ceremony, held at the Emdadgaran Ashura Institute, marked the first public unveiling of the manuscript, which was written on July 26, 1988, during Ayatollah Khamenei’s visit to the Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) Field Hospital.

At the time, Ayatollah Khamenei was serving as the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During his visit to the frontline medical facility, he met with soldiers wounded in the final days of the Iraqi-imposed war and penned a handwritten message that remained out of public view for decades.

In the note, he praised what he described as the “radiant manifestations of faith, knowledge and devotion” displayed by the hospital’s physicians, medical staff and volunteers, commending their selfless efforts to save the lives of wounded soldiers. He wrote that their dedication had created “an astonishing achievement” that inspired admiration in every visitor.

“The sincere efforts of the physicians and medical staff have created an astonishing achievement that compels every visitor to admire them. May God accept their service and grant them success,” the note reads.

Speaking at the ceremony, General Nasrollah Fat’hian, head of the Sacred Defense and Resistance Combat Medical Services Institute, recounted Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei’s first visit to a frontline field hospital during the Iran-Iraq War.

Throughout the tour, Ayatol-



lah Khamenei closely examined every section of the hospital—from the emergency ward and operating rooms to the laboratory, radiology unit, blood bank, and pharmacy—while speaking with wounded soldiers, physicians, nurses, and medical staff, he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei spent nearly 19 hours at this hospital and two more in the region, Fat’hian noted. He added that the handwritten note unveiled at the ceremony had been written at the end of that visit, but remained missing for decades until it was recently rediscovered during the production of a documentary on wartime combat medicine, paving the way for its public unveiling.

General Hassan Araqizadeh, deputy chief for health and medical affairs at the Armed Forces, recalled the formation of volunteer medical student units during the Sacred Defense. After receiving emergency training,

the students were deployed to field hospitals and frontline aid stations during military operations. Araqizadeh said many of today’s senior health officials began their careers as wartime volunteers, arguing that entrusting young people with responsibility remains essential for the future of the country’s healthcare system.

He also praised the resilience of Iranian medical personnel in the years after the war, highlighting their service during natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and recent war, and noted that hospitals continued operating even under bombardment, with doctors and nurses remaining at their posts despite the risks.

For his part, Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, a senior military advisor, reflected on Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei’s role during the early years of the Iran-Iraq War, describing him as a decisive figure who cham-

pioned the participation of volunteers alongside the regular army despite opposition from some senior officials at the time. Safavi recalled that Ayatollah Khamenei, then serving as the Imam Khomeini’s representative to the Supreme Defense Council, insisted on visiting frontline positions in person, often wearing an unmarked military uniform and traveling to combat zones despite the risks.

Safavi also highlighted what he described as Ayatollah Khamenei’s strategic judgment in several key wartime decisions, including efforts that helped break the siege of Susangerd and secure approval for the Abadan siege-breaking operation. He further credited a directive issued during Ayatollah Khamenei’s presidency to reverse-engineer imported Scud missiles as an early step in the development of Iran’s domestic missile industry, saying the decision laid the foundation for the country’s subsequent missile capabilities.

Iranian play “Requiem for Three Clowns” performed in Turkey

TEHRAN – The play “Requiem for Three Clowns,” co-directed by Sara Haddadi and Mostafa Pouryousef, premiered in Istanbul, Turkey, on July 24 and subsequent performances are scheduled to take place in various Turkish cities, including Yalova, Fethiye, and Kuşadası, over the coming weeks.

“Requiem for Three Clowns” is a metaphorical narrative exploring themes of choice, identity, and belonging. It depicts three characters standing at a crossroads, facing a decision for which there is no simple answer. Between staying and leaving, love and survival, every choice comes with a price, and every silence raises a new question.



The play’s synopsis reads: “Perhaps no decision is right or wrong; every choice is simply a requiem for what is left behind.” The cast features Amir Janani, Saghar Tajik, and Mostafa Pouryousef.

This interactive production does not merely invite the audience to watch a story; it draws them into the encounter, challenging them to find their own answers to one of life’s most difficult questions.

This active theatrical group has previously contributed to the Iranian theater scene abroad with productions such as “Umbilical Cord,” “Women’s Ward,” and “Be Good.”

Persian translation of “The Secret of the Galician Bagpipe” unveiled

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book “The Secret of the Galician Bagpipe” written by Xose Lois Foxo was unveiled on Saturday, July 25, in Tehran, in a ceremony attended by the book translator, well-known bagpipe player Liana Sharifian and her father, prominent bagpipe player Mohsen Sharifian.

Liana Sharifian, 28, is a music researcher, performer, and translator specializing in regional music, particularly Ney Anban, the traditional Iranian bagpipe. She spent a period in the Galicia region of Spain, studying and training on the Galician bagpipe. She has now shared her experience with Persian-speaking audiences through the translation of the book “The Secret of the Galician Bagpipe,” ISNA reported.

During the ceremony, Liana spoke about her motivation for publishing the book under current conditions of Iran, as the country has been at war with the US in the past months: “I have always believed that art and culture find their way, even in the darkest of days. Every book published, every piece of knowledge shared, and

every bridge built between cultures is a response to violence and despair. That is why I decided not to wait for better days and to release this book in the current circumstances.”

Explaining her fascination with other cultures and languages, she added: “I studied for six months in Galicia, in northwestern Spain, and became familiar with the culture and music of the region. The author of this book taught me a love for culture and its promotion, and I translated this work into Persian to pay my dues to the community of Iranian musicians.”

Regarding the content, Sharifian noted: “This book is not merely a translation; it is a bridge between the cultures of Iran and Spain. The book covers the history, structure, playing techniques, and various types of Galician bagpipes. In the footnotes, I have added explanations and comparisons with Iranian culture and music wherever possible.”

Highlighting the historical background of the bagpipe in Iran, she said: “Based on historical evidence, there are carvings of instruments similar to the bagpipe

at Taq-e Bostan in Kermanshah, dating back to the 6th century BC, as well as artifacts from Susa and Haft Tapeh dating to the 8th century BC. This was very interesting to the school where I studied, and they even hung a picture of Taq-e Bostan in their educational space.”

“This work can serve as a source and educational reference for musicians who want to learn the Galician bagpipe in the Spanish style. About three-quarters of the book is dedicated to lessons, exercises, and training; readers can follow it as a self-study guide, from music theory topics to basic exercises and the performance of local pieces,” Sharifian added.

Reflecting on her life in Spain, she added: “In terms of temperament, there are many similarities between the people of Iran and Spain. In the realm of music, in addition to historical commonalities, some of the rhythms and structures of the Galician bagpipe share similarities with the music of Southern Iran. Throughout my time in Spain, whenever I had the opportunity, I talked about Iran, the music of the south, and my country’s culture, and I consider

this my greatest achievement.”

Liana Sharifian is a professional player and teacher of the Iranian bagpipe, the Ney Anban. From the age of 16, she studied with her father, the acclaimed piper Mohsen Sharifian.

She has distinguished herself by becoming the first documented woman player of the Ney Anban. Passionate about all the bagpipes of the world, she obtained a diploma in Galician Gaita from the school in Ourense. She has appeared on numerous recordings, both as a vocalist and a piper.

The Ney Anban is a captivating Persian music instrument that resonates with the soul of southern Iran’s cultural heritage. With its emotive melodies and distinctive construction, this folk music instrument has been a cornerstone of community life in provinces like Bushehr, Hormozgan, and Khuzestan for centuries.

From accompanying fishermen at sea to enlivening weddings and rituals, the Ney Anban embodies the spirit of Iranian cultural heritage, blending Persian, Arab, and African influences into its vibrant sound.