

Yemen and Saudi Arabia: What lies ahead?

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Yemeni attacks on Saudi Aramco facilities send a message that the continuation of the Saudi blockade and aggression will be met with escalating Yemeni retaliation aimed at the pillars of the Saudi economy.

In its latest statements, the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF) announced that they had carried out a military operation targeting a number of sensitive sites and facilities linked to the supply and transport of crude oil from eastern Saudi Arabia to the city of Yanbu, using several drones.

Footage shows a massive fire at the Abqaiq oil processing facility in the eastern province, one of the largest in the world, which Saudi Arabia blamed on a drone strike. It would mark the first time that Yemen has targeted the Kingdom's oil facilities in the eastern province since 2019. ► Page 5

Hoover's ghost stalks Trump as US energy reserves hit 40-year lows

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Look at a terminal in New York and the numbers suggest peace. As of writing this, crude oil futures flicker comfortably in the \$80 range.

The digital ticker implies Washington has the Persian Gulf under control. The ticker is lying.

Five months into the military campaign launched on February 28 against Iran, the United States has not secured the Strait of Hormuz. It has simply learned how to rig the financial instruments that measure the fall-out. ► Page 5

War as Trump's family business: How defense policy turned into billion-dollar opportunities for those close to the president

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

TEHRAN – Since Donald Trump returned to the White House for a second term, one of the most significant debates in American media has focused not only on his domestic and foreign policies, but also on the relationship between political power and the financial interests of his family.

Trump's critics argue that during his second administration, the line between government decisions and the Trump family's business activities has become increasingly blurred, with war, the defense industry, ► Page 5

5 Iranian films to compete in 16th International Youth Film Festival Light of the World

TEHRAN – Five films from Iran will take part in the 16th International Youth Film Festival Light of the World, which is set to be held from September 11 to 16, in Yaroslavl, Russia.

"Baytora" directed by Faraj Salehi, "Dandelions Girl" written and directed by Azadeh Masihzadeh, "The Path We Have Taken" directed by Narges Fazli, "Faraway Land" by Abbas Ghadir Mohseni, and "Pirezan and Shahderakht" by Robabe Hashemi are the Iranian films participating in the Russian festival, ISNA reported.

"Baytora" is a short film, the story of which takes place in Gaza. During the days of the ceasefire, a student is tasked with building the house of his dreams with the materials he has around him and bringing it to school.

"Dandelions Girl" is a short film that tells the story of a young girl who dreams of playing football. She joins a team as a goalkeeper, determined to prove herself. ► Page 8



Trump speaks while aboard Air Force One for a trip to Michigan on July 27, 2026 in flight.

US Floundering Between Threats and Retreat

How Trump's contradictory rhetoric masks US strategic failure in Iran

Iran's unyielding defensive endurance has depleted US missile stockpiles, compelling Pentagon commanders to ration critical air defenses and pivot toward diplomatic channels

TEHRAN – President Donald Trump continues to oscillate erratically between aggressive militaristic rhetoric and desperate diplomatic overtures toward Tehran, a contradictory posture that military analysts and critics rightfully argue masks the severe strategic constraints imposed by heavily depleted US munition stockpiles.

Speaking to Fox News on Tuesday, Trump reiterated his threats to target Iran's Pickaxe Mountain nuclear facility, as well as critical transportation bridges and other civilian targets, should an agreement fail to materialize. Yet, in the same breath, he walked back his own aggression, adding that he would like to avoid attacking Iran's power plants and civil infrastructure, claiming, "I'm not looking to do that." In line with these deeply contradictory remarks, he suggested there have been "good talks" underway.

Further demonstrating this strategic confusion, Trump spoke to supporters in Michigan on Monday, claiming the US is engaged in "very friendly negotiations" with Iran after pausing military strikes last week. He insisted there was "a good chance" of progress in the talks aimed at ending months of fighting, but quickly reverted to belligerence, reiterating his warning that military action could resume if negotiations fail.

Iran, however, has firmly rejected Washington's false narrative of direct engagement. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman decisively denied holding direct talks with Washington during his weekly press briefing on Monday.

Esmaeil Baghaei clarified that Tehran is not negotiating with the US, adding only that "intermediaries may convey messages from the American side to us regarding ongoing developments in the region." US media confirms that Oman is leading this regional mediation effort, with Qatar, Pakistan, and Egypt also involved alongside Trump's envoys, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

This frantic diplomatic push from Washington comes after fighting subsided again on Friday, following nearly two weeks of renewed US attacks that had raised international fears of a wider regional war. Those unprovoked US strikes severely threatened to upend the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in June, which had extended an April ceasefire and established a framework agenda for broader negotiations. ► Page 3



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Maritime route launched for Arbaeen pilgrims

TEHRAN – The first vessel carrying Arbaeen pilgrims departed on Tuesday, July 28, from the Iranian port city of Khorramshahr to the Iraqi port city of Basra.

The initiative is part of ongoing efforts to expand maritime cooperation between the two countries, facilitate the movement of Arbaeen pilgrims, and make greater use of maritime transportation to enhance travel services during the pilgrimage season.

The vessel has a capacity of 243 passengers. Officials announced that the number of sailings on the Khorramshahr-Basra route will be increased in line with demand, enabling a larger share of pilgrims to travel via this safe, efficient, and convenient maritime corridor.

Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Japan step up diplomatic coordination to enhance Hormuz Strait security

TEHRAN – Iran has intensified diplomatic engagement with regional and international partners in an effort to strengthen stability in the Persian Gulf and improve maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, with senior officials emphasizing closer coordination to address 'insecurity caused by US military actions.'

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate telephone conversations with his Saudi, Omani and Japanese counterparts over the past two days, focusing on regional developments, maritime security and ongoing diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions. ► Page 2

Russia condemns Ukrainian strike on Iranian vessel in Caspian Sea

TEHRAN – Russia has condemned Ukraine's attack on an Iranian vessel in the Caspian Sea, stressing that it should be considered an assault on Iran itself.

"The Kyiv regime blew up an Iranian merchant vessel in the Caspian Sea. This is an attack on Iran," Dmitry Peskov, the Russian presidency's spokesman, said on Tuesday. He added that the strike shows how important it is to eliminate "the threat" from Ukraine. ► Page 2

Foolish Iran war, empty promises have made Trump America's most contemptible president

TEHRAN- The first eighteen months of Donald Trump's return to the White House represent nothing short of a catastrophic failure for the American people. Despite his grandiose promises of prosperity, lower prices, and a manufacturing renaissance, the Trump administration has delivered only economic instability, broken promises, and a dangerous war that threatens global stability.

Trump's reckless immigration crackdown and deportation policies have backfired spectacularly. Rather than creating the employment boom he promised, his administration has actually overseen a decline in both the labor force participation rate and the number of employed Americans. ► Page 4

Iran-Pakistan border development: New horizons for trade, regional connectivity

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Recent agreements between Iran and Pakistan represent a significant turning point in bilateral economic relations, with the shared border regions—particularly Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province—emerging as the primary focal point for enhanced cooperation. With approximately 930 kilometers of shared border, Sistan-Baluchestan stands as Iran's only province with a land border with Pakistan, making it an indispensable gateway for bilateral exchanges.

The comprehensive agreements, formalized during a high-ranking Iranian delegation's visit to Islamabad led by the Interior Minister, have set ambitious targets including increasing bilateral trade value from approximately \$3 billion to \$10 billion annually, establishing new official border crossings, ► Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Miraculous efficiency: How Iran rebuilt its infrastructure after US attacks

Jam-e-Jam, in an analysis of the Iranian miracle in rebuilding infrastructure after US attacks, wrote: Although the US strikes targeted parts of the transportation infrastructure in Iran's southern provinces to disrupt communication and public services, the outcome differed sharply from what the planners of those attacks expected. The reopening of bridges, tunnels, and major routes in under 48 hours—and in some areas even under 12 hours—demonstrated that Iran's technical and engineering capacity for rapidly restoring vital infrastructure has reached a level acknowledged even by foreign media and officials. The international reaction to this capability shows that rapid reconstruction has now become one of the key components of national power. A country that can restore damaged infrastructure in the shortest possible time effectively prevents the enemy's military and economic objectives from being realized.

Resalat: Muscat's diplomacy; messaging to escape the trap of confrontation

Resalat, in a commentary on the visit of Omani diplomatic delegations to Tehran, wrote: According to senior strategic analysts, recent developments and the halt in the adventurism of extra-regional forces late last week in no way indicate a change in the aggressive nature of the United States. Rather, they reflect a forced pause — a tactical break caused by the heavy blows received and the undeniable reality of Iran's military superiority in the southern waters. The most important diplomatic development in this period is the continuation of technical and political talks between Tehran and Muscat. Contrary to Western media narratives portraying these negotiations as a retreat or a secret compromise, Iran's diplomatic apparatus has entered these discussions from a position of absolute strength, grounded in battlefield achievements. The visit of Omani delegations to Tehran is less an attempt at mediating an equal dispute and more a carrier of messages reflecting US desperation as it seeks a mechanism to prevent the complete collapse of security for its naval traffic.

Hamshahri: The erosion of America's defensive network

Hamshahri, in an analysis of selective interception of Iranian missile attacks by the United States, wrote: The military website Global Defense News revealed in a special report on Monday a different reality: Washington no longer has the ability — or the willingness — to intercept all missiles and drones launched by Iran. It has been forced to adopt strict calculations and destroy only those targets that directly threaten its personnel or critical facil-

ities. This strategy of “selective interception” reflects growing concern over the depletion of expensive Patriot and THAAD missile stockpiles in the face of the scale and diversity of Iran's missile and drone capabilities. This shows that deterrence in the region is no longer based solely on US technological superiority; Iran's saturation power, sustained attacks, and the rising cost of defense for Washington have become decisive factors.

Farhikhtegan: A project that failed

Farhikhtegan examined terrorist attacks launched from the Kurdistan Region against Iran. According to the newspaper, during the 12-day conflict there were signs of a possible ground assault by terrorist groups from the Kurdistan Region. During the 40-day conflict, these signs turned into explicit threats, and the enemy—armed and financed—attempted to unite various groups and prepare thousands of fighters for a ground attack from the Region. This option was never carried out. Turkey's opposition, the concerns of Iraq's central government and official Kurdish parties, along with Iranian strikes and threats from Iraqi resistance groups, prevented the move. A key factor was the terrorists' expectation that if US operations succeeded and internal unrest emerged, they would launch their attack to claim victory. But events unfolded differently: Iran's resilience and internal cohesion prevented conditions for such an assault. After some time, US pressure on the terrorists increased, as they needed an attack from the region to avoid defeat.

Ettelaat: As if America wasn't enough, Ukraine has now moved against Iran as well

Ettelaat, in an article on Ukraine's attack on a ship and Iranian interests, wrote: It is not unlikely that Ukraine's attack on Iranian interests was encouraged, supported, or even requested by the United States and certain regional countries — to create a new pressure tool against Tehran and increase Iran's costs in its conflict with the US and regional tensions. Ukraine, acting in a subcontractor role, could attack Iran from the north as a service to Washington and regional states, receiving financial and military assistance from the US and defense contracts from regional governments in return. Kyiv is already deeply engaged in war and sees no harm in dragging Iran into conflict. Ukraine assumes that, given the long distance, Iran cannot inflict serious damage on it. However, first, Iranian missiles can reach Ukrainian territory; second, Iran can target Ukrainian interests in the region, including its embassies; and third, Ukrainian assets in third countries could also become targets for Iran.

and regional allies, arguing that those experiences demonstrated Iran's ability to withstand external pressure.

He also said Iran had overcome years of economic sanctions, emphasizing that coercive measures would ultimately prove ineffective.

“There are costs, and that is natural, but the people should not be intimidated by sanctions or blockades. Such measures will ultimately backfire on those who impose them,” he said.

In separate remarks delivered at a meeting of deputy ministers at the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade on Monday, Aref said recent conflicts had evolved into technology-driven wars, stating that Iran's young scientists had prevented its adversaries from achieving their objectives while strengthening the country's defensive capabilities throughout the conflict.

Aref reiterated Tehran's commitment to expanding economic cooperation with neighboring countries and regional organizations, including the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), saying Iran's strategy is based on strengthening regional and international partnerships.

Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Japan step up diplomatic coordination to enhance Hormuz Strait security

From page 1 ► During separate calls on Monday evening, Araghchi and Omani Foreign Minister Badr Al-Busaidi, as well as Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, reviewed bilateral ties and the latest regional developments, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The three top diplomats stressed the importance of expanding regional cooperation and advancing coordinated diplomatic initiatives to promote peace, stability and security. They also underscored the need to eliminate ‘insecurity’ imposed on the Strait of Hormuz as a result of ‘the United States’ aggressive actions.’

Some regional sources said that Araghchi and Prince Faisal also discussed allegations that Iraqi resistance groups had carried out AV attacks against Saudi Arabia. However, no independent sources have confirmed that the issue was raised during the talks or verified the allegations.

The discussions came as Iraqi security officials reported the arrest of several individuals accused of collaborating with Ukraine and carrying out attacks inside Iraq.

Iraq's National Security Adviser Qasim al-Aboudi said Iraqi intelligence investigations con-



cluded that Ukraine had been involved in activities inside the country. He said security forces had detained a limited number of groups responsible for attacks targeting facilities on Iraqi territory and added that the suspects had confessed during interrogation to working on Ukraine's behalf.

Some regional analysts have suggested that attacks targeting Iraq's neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia, may also

have been carried out by sabotage networks allegedly linked to Ukraine to undermine the Iraqi resistance movement.

In a separate telephone conversation on Tuesday, Araghchi and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi discussed bilateral relations alongside the latest regional and international developments.

According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Araghchi briefed

his Japanese counterpart on the latest diplomatic efforts to establish regional peace and stability. The two ministers also emphasized the importance of continued coordination and co-operation to address security challenges affecting navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Iranian and Japanese foreign ministers additionally exchanged views on several bilateral consular issues.

Russia condemns Ukrainian strike on Iranian vessel in Caspian Sea

From page 1 ► The strike at the weekend triggered an explosion aboard the merchant ship, resulting in the death 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, Araghchi strongly condemned the Ukrainian military's assault on civilian infrastructure. He urged the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, and the broader international community to issue an unequivocal condemnation of Kyiv's aggression,

insisting that the perpetrators, instigators, and foreign supporters of the strike be held fully accountable.

Araghchi also issued a sharp rebuke on X late Sunday, directly targeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He said, “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, I made clear that what the freeloader in Kyiv did CANNOT GO UNANSWERED.”

Concurrently, Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Ukraine's chargé d'affaires to deliver an official, strong protest against Kyiv's ac-



tion, reiterating that attacks targeting the lives, property, and trade routes of Iranian citizens will not be tolerated.

Pentagon changes Iran war casualty reporting, raising questions over transparency

TEHRAN – The US Department of Defense has quietly changed the way it records and publishes casualties from the war against Iran.

The move has fueled questions over the transparency and accuracy of Washington's official casualty figures.

According to US media reports, the Pentagon last week abruptly revised its publicly available casualty data, reducing the number of American troops listed as killed in Operation Epic Fury from 18 to 14 while also removing dozens of wounded service members from the operation's casualty count.

The Defense Department has now shifted its public reporting in the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) from the category “Operation Epic Fury” to a newly created classification labeled “Overseas Operations.”

The change effectively restarts the official accounting of US military deaths and injuries related to the conflict with Iran.

The Pentagon has not explained how it defines the new “Overseas Operations” category or whether it is intended solely to cover casualties from the Iran war. The Defense Department did not respond to media requests seeking clarification.

The DCAS database serves as the Pentagon's official public repository for US military casualties from both ongoing and past conflicts and is regarded as the federal government's authoritative record of war casualties.

Analysts say separating different phases of the same conflict into distinct reporting categories is highly unusual and could make it more difficult to determine the full extent of US military losses.

Figures published under the new category indicate that 207 additional American service members have been wounded since July 7, bringing the total number of reported US wounded to at least 624 since the United States and Israel launched the war against Iran in February.

Observers suggest the reporting change may reflect the Trump administration's position that Operation Epic Fury concluded in May and that the subsequent resumption of hostilities constituted a separate phase of military operations. Critics argue that such a distinction could have implications for the 60-day limit on military action without congressional authorization under US law.

The issue has also become the subject of political debate in Washington. Last week, the US House of Representatives approved an Iran war powers res-

olution seeking congressional authorization for continued US military involvement, although the measure was later blocked by Senate Republicans.

Republican Representative Thomas Massie criticized the Pentagon's accounting changes, accusing the Defense Department of attempting to portray the conflict as two separate wars divided by a brief ceasefire in order to circumvent legal restrictions on presidential war powers.

Earlier, when questioned about the revised casualty figures, Acting Pentagon Press Secretary Joel Valdez attributed the discrepancies to technical issues affecting the department's website, saying only that “site anomalies are currently being resolved in coordination with the military services,” without addressing the apparent changes to the casualty totals.

Iranian Parliament passes legislation defining crimes of foreign aggression

TEHRAN — Iranian lawmakers have overwhelmingly approved key provisions defining and criminalizing acts of foreign aggression against the country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

During a parliamentary session focused on a single-urgency bill aimed at combating international crimes, representatives ratified Articles 7 and 8 of the draft law. The legislative measure establishes a firm judicial mandate targeting political officials and military leaders who plan, initiate, or execute aggressive actions against the nation's independence.

Under Article 7 of the law, any act of aggression, planning, or preparation directed

against the country's sovereignty or political independence—regardless of whether a formal declaration of war has been issued—is classified as a major crime. Those found guilty, including high-ranking commanders and directors, face Grade 1 imprisonment alongside substantial monetary fines.

The newly approved legislation outlines six specific categories of illegal foreign aggression: direct armed invasions, military occupations, or forceful territorial annexations; unprovoked bombardment or missile strikes against national territory; naval blockades targeting ports or coastal waters; attacks against land, sea, or air defense forces; misuse or unauthorized extension of

foreign military presence beyond contractual agreements; and permitting national territory to be utilized by a foreign state for launching attacks against a third party.

Furthermore, Article 8 provides the legal mechanism for prosecuting accomplices and individuals attempting to execute such crimes, adjusting judicial penalties by one degree based on the scope and gravity of the offense. Parliamentary officials emphasized that the passage of these provisions reinforces the nation's commitment to international legal standards while establishing a clear legal framework to deter and punish any foreign infringement on the country's territorial boundaries.

US floundering between threats and retreat

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From Page 1 ▶ However, intense disputes over the implementation and wording of several clauses quickly emerged, particularly concerning the sovereign control of the Strait of Hormuz—one of the world’s most strategically vital maritime corridors, connecting Persian Gulf oil producers to the open ocean.

Although the Pakistan-brokered ceasefire in April and the subsequent June MoU were intended to defuse tensions and allow time for peace talks, Washington’s blatant disregard for Iranian sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz quickly became the most significant obstacle to lasting peace. The MoU signed on June 17 committed Iran to facilitating commercial shipping freely through the strait for an initial 60-day period. Tehran rightfully asserted that this meant the Islamic Republic was in full administrative control and that international vessels must navigate using routes strictly approved by Iran to ensure regional security. Tehran also indicated that legitimate transit charges could be introduced after the initial 60-day period expired to manage and fund maritime safety operations.

Refusing to respect Iran’s sovereign rights, the US expanded its attacks beyond military targets over the following two weeks. Iranian officials documented that US attacks recklessly hit railway stations, residential neighborhoods, bridges, water facilities, and food silos. In legitimate self-defense, Iran subsequently launched powerful retaliatory strikes against US military bases and assets scattered across the region. At the very center of the latest indirect talks is this core issue of sovereign control over the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, through which approximately one-fifth of the world’s oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies are shipped.

The strait was fully open to international shipping without issue until the US and Israel recklessly launched their first strikes on Tehran on February 28, initiating a war of aggression. Following this attack, Iran took the necessary defensive step of restricting the waterway to protect its borders. Before Washington’s escalation, approximately 130 commercial ships passed safely through the strait each day. Adding fuel to the fire, Trump has recently pledged to use frozen Iranian assets to pay for any damage to ships and cargo in the Strait of Hormuz, a move akin to international piracy that has garnered strong condemnation from Tehran.

Iran has issued a stark warning to foreign countries and international shipping companies: receiving any compensation payment derived from Iran’s frozen sovereign assets will result in those entities being permanently cut off from transiting the Strait of Hor-



muz. Iran’s Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters—the unified command in charge of coordinating the Iranian Armed Forces during wartime—announced on Tuesday that it views Trump’s compensation announcement as fundamentally “illegal.” The command made it unequivocally clear that ship owners will face severe and immediate consequences if they partake in this theft.

The US and Israel initiated this disastrous war on February 28 with the arrogant aim of destroying Iran’s military capabilities and altering the leadership to suit Western hegemonic interests. However, Iran’s overwhelmingly powerful retaliatory response against US regional bases and Israeli targets completely foiled these imperialist plans, forcing a humiliated Trump administration to temporarily agree to the April ceasefire and the June MoU.

Behind Washington’s bluster lies a severe logistical and strategic crisis. NBC News reported Friday that US military commanders have been forced to selectively choose which Iranian missiles and explosive-packed drones to intercept. This rationing is a desperate effort to preserve the Pentagon’s rapidly diminishing supply of defensive interceptors. While Trump has publicly dismissed these reports—telling journalists aboard Air Force One that “we have a lot” of ammunition—independent military analysts assess that it could take the US four years or more just to restock its heavily depleted weapons inventory. And that is only if a politically fractured Congress provides the administration with massive additional funding for an unwinnable war.

Further demonstrating Washington’s sheer desperation, Trump told reporters on July 27

that he intends to speak directly to Russian President Vladimir Putin about unverified reports that Russia is helping Iran target US assets in the region. Such comments clearly indicate that Trump is frantically searching for international scapegoats to mask his own military failures. The US has entirely failed to achieve its objectives through military coercion. The critical shortage of defensive ammunition, combined with Washington’s inability to break Iran’s sovereign control over the Strait of Hormuz, definitively proves that the US military strategy against Iran has been an abject and historic failure.

The implications of this failed US strategy extend far beyond the immediate tactical setbacks in the Persian Gulf; they signal a fundamental shift in the regional balance of power. By attempting to rely solely on brute military force and economic piracy, Washington has alienated regional players and demonstrated the glaring limitations of its aggressive doctrines. The inability of US advanced air defense systems to efficiently counter Iran’s cost-effective and highly precise domestic missile technologies has shattered the myth of American military invincibility. It has laid bare the reality that the era of uncontested US hegemony in West Asia has decisively ended.

Instead of dictating terms from a position of strength, the United States now finds itself forced to rely on regional intermediaries to negotiate ceasefires, all while its political leadership peddles contradictory statements to a skeptical domestic audience. Iran’s resilient posture, backed by its robust domestic defense industry and unwavering commitment to its territorial sovereignty, has successfully checked American aggression.

LATEST NEWS

■ Iran ready for talks but distrusts US over broken commitments, envoy says

Iran remains committed to negotiations but has no trust in the United States because of Washington’s repeated failure to honor its commitments, Iranian Ambassador to China Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said Tuesday. Speaking at a press conference in Beijing, he said Iran would cease its military response once US attacks stop. Rahmani Fazli also praised China’s efforts to promote regional peace and said Beijing could play both direct and indirect roles in strengthening security and advancing diplomacy in the Persian Gulf.

■ Kremlin says Iran capable of defending its rights after drone attack

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that Iran has the capability to defend its rights following a Ukrainian drone attack on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspian Sea. He described the strike as an act of aggression and warned it could further escalate the conflict and broaden its geographical scope.

■ Recent conflict reshaped Iran’s defense doctrine, acting defense minister says

Iran’s Acting Defense Minister Brig. Gen. Majid Ebn-ol-Reza said Tuesday that the recent conflict has transformed the country’s defense doctrine, requiring Iran to remain technologically ahead of its adversaries. Speaking during a visit to the Iran Aviation Industries Organization, he said the war demonstrated the importance of human capital, indigenous expertise and innovation in rebuilding and advancing defense capabilities. Ebn-ol-Reza added that air, naval, space and electronic warfare technologies are key priorities, while closer cooperation with universities and knowledge-based firms will drive future defense innovation.

■ Iran pursues legal action over Ukrainian drone attack on civilian ship

Iran has initiated legal proceedings against Ukraine following a drone attack on the Iranian commercial vessel Anna in the Caspian Sea, Consul General in Astrakhan Ahmad Heydarian said. He confirmed that one Iranian sailor was killed and eight Iranian crew members were injured in the strike, while arrangements are underway to repatriate the victim’s body. Iranian officials described the attack as an illegal act of aggression against a civilian vessel and said Tehran reserves the right to respond.

■ Jordan and Qatar call for diplomacy to end war on Iran

The foreign ministers from Jordan and Qatar have discussed efforts aimed at restoring calm and enhancing security and stability in the Middle East during a phone call.

Qatar’s Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi talked about the need for a comprehensive agreement addressing all causes of tension.

Iran’s indigenous simorgh cargo aircraft advances toward commercial certification

Iran’s domestically developed Simorgh cargo aircraft has entered the licensing and certification phase and is expected to begin commercial operations next Iranian year (1406), pending regulatory approval, officials said. Shokri, secretary of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology’s aerospace development headquarters, said government support for the project has been fully provided. Developed on the Iran-140 platform, the Simorgh is designed to strengthen Iran’s cargo aviation capabilities while expanding domestic expertise in aircraft design, certification and manufacturing.

■ Iran will never retreat from exercising sovereign rights in Strait of Hormuz, diplomat says

Iran will never retreat from exercising its sovereign rights over the Strait of Hormuz, a senior Foreign Ministry official said, stressing that Tehran and Muscat continue technical and legal consultations on managing the strategically important waterway.

Hossein Noshabadi, director general for parliamentary affairs and legislation at Iran’s Foreign Ministry, praised Oman’s constructive role in regional and international affairs, describing the sultanate as a country committed to promoting peace, stability and de-escalation.

He said ongoing consultations between Tehran and Muscat on the management of the Strait of Hormuz reflect the close strategic relationship between the two neighbors, while reiterating that the Islamic Republic “will never back down from exercising its sovereign rights” over the vital maritime passage.

■ European warships near the Strait of Hormuz could become legitimate targets, Iran warns

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said any European warship approaching the Strait of Hormuz would be considered a legitimate target by Iran. In an interview with IIRB on Tuesday, Gharibabadi warned that Tehran would respond to any military presence it views as threatening in the strategically vital waterway.

The Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal Affairs said: The Strait of Hormuz will never return to its pre-war status; this is Tehran’s definitive policy.

The responsibility for demining lies with Iran, but the way the future management of the Strait of Hormuz has completely changed.

The South Caucasus: The Persian Gulf of Eurasia’s future?

By Masoud Amiri

An unexpected headline appeared across the media: Ukraine attacked an Iranian vessel in the Caspian Sea. Beyond the military dimensions of the incident, however, a more consequential question emerged: What is Ukraine doing in the Caspian Sea? Is this merely the decision of a country at war seeking to expand the geographical scope of its military operations, or should it be understood within the framework of a new set of geopolitical equations that are gradually taking shape? Can contemporary developments still be explained through the analytical frameworks of the past, or are we witnessing the emergence of a new security geography in Eurasia?

To answer these questions, perhaps we must take a step back. When the NATO Summit was held in Ankara, few could have imagined that a series of seemingly unrelated developments would gradually become pieces of a much larger puzzle. In the aftermath of the summit—which placed Russia alongside Iran in its final communiqué—a chain of events unfolded, with President Zelenskyy’s recent message on X as its most explicit manifestation.

Following the summit, Iran landed two civilian aircraft in Sana’a and Al Hudeidah. The crisis in Saudi-Yemeni relations, which had shown signs of de-escalation, once again erupted, culminating in the closure of the Bab al-Mandab Strait. Yet, Bab al-Mandab imposed far greater pressure on Europe’s economy than on that of the United States, given Europe’s substantial dependence on the Bab al-Mandab-Suez corridor for trade and supply chains. Only days later, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Bulgaria announced their readiness to host American combat aircraft in the event of military action against Iran.

A few days later, amid the military confrontation between the United States and Iran in the Persian Gulf, American military commanders appeared to be caught off guard. The precision and effectiveness of Iran’s missile strikes had seemingly increased dramatically. Western media outlets and political figures pointed to Russian intelligence and satellite assistance to Iran, while the President of the United States made an implicit reference to the issue in a post on Truth Social. It was against this backdrop that, when Ansar Allah targeted Saudi Arabia’s oil infrastructure—the ownership of a significant portion of which is held by Western companies—the image of Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil facilities inevitably came to mind for many analysts. Can these developments truly be understood in isolation from one another? Were the events unfolding in the Persian Gulf merely reflections of Middle Eastern dynamics, while those in Ukraine pertained solely to European security? Or do they constitute the shared language of an emerging deterrence equation—one that transcends geographical boundaries and is gradually intertwining the crises of the Middle East and Eurasia?

Meanwhile, some observers have interpreted Ukraine’s attack on Kazakhstan’s oil export terminal in Novorossiysk as evidence of Kyiv’s strategic autonomy and even a divergence of interests between Ukraine and Europe. At first glance, such an argument appears reasonable: How can Europe support a country that attacks a route supplying part of Europe’s own energy needs? Yet this apparent contradiction exists only if contemporary developments are viewed exclusively through a geoeconomic lens. The reality is that post-war Europe has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to absorb short-term economic costs in order to preserve and redefine its geopolitical position in Eurasia. Did Europe not willingly bear considerable economic burdens when imposing sanctions on Russia?

Consequently, the central question is no longer whether Kazakh oil reaches Europe, but rather through which route it reaches Europe. Within this framework, the attack on Novorossiysk may also carry an important geopolitical message: Central Asia must gradually begin to envision alternative energy corridors—from the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan and onward to the Mediterranean. What appears, at first glance, to run counter to Europe’s immediate economic interests may, in fact, represent part of Europe’s willingness to incur short-term costs in pursuit of a more favorable long-term geopolitical order.

Perhaps the most important message conveyed by the attack on an Iranian vessel in the Caspian Sea lies not in the extent of the damage inflicted, but in the geography chosen for its execution.

Until only a few years ago, the Caspian Sea was a body of water whose security was defined



primarily within the framework of agreements among its five littoral states. Today, however, extra-regional actors appear to be redrawing the security map of Eurasia. The fact that Ukraine can conduct an operation in the Caspian Sea and withdraw from it is more than a limited military action; it carries a profound geopolitical message: the Caspian Sea is gradually becoming part of the emerging security geography of Europe and NATO.

If Russia’s strategic reach extends to Bab al-Mandab through Iran, NATO’s strategic reach has now extended to the Caspian Sea through Ukraine.

Perhaps another name for this transformation is the Eurasianization of Europe’s security outlook on Iran. Within this framework, Iran is no longer merely a nuclear dossier or a Middle Eastern actor from Europe’s perspective. Rather, it has become part of a broader geopolitical chain stretching from the Caspian Sea to Bab al-Mandab and from the Caucasus to the Mediterranean. What is unfolding today between Iran and Europe is not simply the intensification of political or nuclear disagreements; it reflects the emergence of a new phase in the geopolitical competition between the Heartland and the Rimland across Eurasia. The war in Ukraine, developments in Bab al-Mandab, competition over transregional corridors, growing Iran-Russia cooperation, and Europe’s increasing sensitivity to issues of energy security and maritime trade all suggest that Iran is no longer viewed merely as a Middle Eastern actor, but as an increasingly consequential player in Eurasia’s geopolitical landscape. In other words, if Europe’s foreign ministries once stood at the forefront of policymaking on Iran, today its security, military, and geostrategic institutions have become equally influential in shaping that policy.

Finally, the most important question facing the states of the South Caucasus today is not which economic corridor promises greater returns. Rather, it is whether Azerbaijan and Armenia fully appreciate the geopolitical consequences of the choices they are making. The South Caucasus is no longer merely a crossroads of competing regional interests; it is gradually becoming one of the new fault lines of great power competition across Eurasia. Just as the Persian Gulf states, willingly or unwillingly, became one of the world’s principal theaters of geopolitical rivalry over recent decades, the South Caucasus may likewise be approaching a similar historical moment.

The greatest strategic mistake regional actors can make is to interpret contemporary developments solely through the prism of short-term economic interests. Today, states are not merely choosing routes for pipelines and transit corridors—they are choosing the security geography of their future. The fundamental question is therefore no longer which transit route promises greater economic benefit, but rather what place the South Caucasus seeks to occupy within Eurasia’s emerging order: a bridge for regional cooperation or the frontline of geopolitical competition among major powers? If Europe once viewed Iran through the prism of the Middle East, post-war Europe increasingly appears to define Iran within the broader geopolitical framework of Eurasia.

Masoud Amiri is an expert on Caucasus and Eurasian affairs. The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the Tehran Times.

Iran-Pakistan border development: New horizons for trade, regional connectivity

From Page 1 ► expanding border markets, and completing critical transport infrastructure. These developments signal that Iran's eastern borders are receiving unprecedented development-oriented attention, with the potential to transform the economic landscape of the border regions and establish Sistan-Baluchestan as a pivotal hub for Iran's trade with Pakistan and broader South Asian markets.

Strategic border crossings: Cornerstone of economic integration

The development of official border crossings represents the cornerstone of the Iran-Pakistan economic initiative, with several strategic gateways identified for activation and expansion. The official Kuhak border crossing in Saravan county has emerged as a particularly significant addition to the existing border infrastructure. This crossing has been a long-standing demand of local communities and development planners in Sistan-Baluchestan, and the Pakistani side's agreement to accelerate its activation promises to unlock substantial economic potential for the region. The Kuhak crossing will complement existing official borders at Mirjaveh, Rimdan, and Pishin, creating a more balanced distribution of commercial traffic and reducing congestion at current crossings. The need for this expansion is underscored by the ambitious target of achieving \$10 billion in annual trade, which requires approximately 2,000 trucks to cross shared borders daily—a capacity that existing crossings cannot accommodate alone.

The Rimdan border in Dashtyari county holds particular strategic importance due to its unique position adjacent to the Chabahar Free Zone. This proximity offers exceptional potential for integrating land and maritime trade, transforming Rimdan from a simple border crossing into a vital link in the regional trade network. The advantages of Rimdan extend beyond its geographical location; the simultaneous presence of an official border crossing, a free trade zone, local marketplaces, and access to transport routes positions this area as one of the most promising sites for economic development and investment attraction. The agreements encompass investment in slaughterhouse facilities, expansion of live animal exports, commodity bartering, and enhanced financial exchanges—all aimed at activating the economic potential of the border strip. Furthermore, the revival of the ECO corridor and the connection through Rimdan to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) represent transformative opportunities that could, with the necessary infrastructure development, open new horizons for regional trade and position Sistan-Baluchestan as a critical transit hub connecting Central Asia to South Asia.

Overcoming operational barriers: Private sector challenges and solutions

Despite the promising political agreements and infrastructure development plans, significant operational barriers continue to hamper the full realization of Iran-Pakistan trade potential. Samad Hassanzadeh, the Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), has highlighted several critical obstacles during discussions with Pakistani Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui in Tehran. Among the primary challenges are the lack of efficient financial mechanisms, standards and quarantine issues, and the prolonged detention of containers at Karachi Port. These logistical bottlenecks have resulted in substantial financial losses for Iranian economic activists and created uncertainty that has discouraged trade expansion. The absence of a specific authority in Pakistan to handle disputes arising during trade, coupled with changes to customs regulations without prior notification, has further complicated the business environment for Iranian traders.

Hassanzadeh has proposed several practical solutions to address these challenges, most notably the establishment of a green border corridor that would support the electronic transfer of documents and streamline customs procedures. The Iran Chamber of Commerce has designated a representative for communication with the Pakistani Embassy to pursue issues and resolve trade barriers, with quarterly meetings proposed to review the implementation progress of agreements.

The Pakistani side has responded positively to these concerns, with Ambassador Siddiqui suggesting that border operating hours could be extended to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to provide greater opportunities for private sector cooperation. Pakistan has also placed coor-



dination and standardization in customs affairs on its agenda and has submitted a proposal to the Iranian side regarding customs documentation. In addressing the container accumulation problem at Karachi Port, Pakistan has indicated that a green channel and joint customs mechanism are under consideration. The ambassador also highlighted cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry, agriculture, and food sectors as serious areas of mutual interest, suggesting that a specialized exhibition in the food industries sector scheduled for Karachi Port in November 2026 could serve as an opportunity for enhanced private sector engagement.

Institutional framework and regional connectivity

The success of the Iran-Pakistan border development initiative depends significantly on establishing robust institutional mechanisms that translate political agreements into tangible economic outcomes. A joint committee mechanism between Sistan-Baluchestan province and Pakistan's Balochistan province has been established, with expert meetings scheduled to be held regularly at the Taftan border. This framework is designed to address implementation issues, remove trade obstacles, and ensure that agreements move from the level of political negotiation to practical execution. The agreements also include provisions for increasing border operating hours and facilitating customs procedures, with the goal of creating a more efficient and predictable trading environment. The expansion of cooperation between the Iran Chamber of Commerce and the economic section of the Pakistani Embassy in Tehran is seen as essential for addressing remaining issues, including banking relations and transit arrangements that require time and specific actions beyond the purview of embassies or even governments. In this regard, barter trade mechanisms are under consideration as an alternative approach to overcome financial transaction limitations.

The geographic positioning of the Kuhak, Pishin, Rimdan, and Mirjaveh borders along east-west corridors and their connection to north-south routes represents a strategic asset that can facilitate access to regional markets. The revival of the ECO corridor and the potential connection through Rimdan to CPEC offer transformative possibilities for regional connectivity. Sistan-Baluchestan's role in this regional architecture is further enhanced by its proximity to the Chabahar Free Zone and its capacity to serve as a bridge between Central Asian markets and South Asian destinations. The agreements also encompass maritime and air transportation, natural gas pipeline transfer, railway development, and facilitated truck movement—all components of a comprehensive approach to regional connectivity. The development of a 10,000-hectare zone around the Rimdan border is under consideration, with the aim of leveraging the capacities of the official border, the Chabahar Free Zone, and retail marketplaces to create a major economic hub.

A vision for sustainable border development

The recent Iran-Pakistan agreements represent more than a series of trade facilitation measures; they constitute a comprehensive vision for transforming the border region into a dynamic economic zone that benefits both nations. The success of these initiatives ultimately depends on the speed of border infrastructure implementation, transportation network development, trade procedure facilitation, and sustained joint cooperation. The recognition by both sides that economic development and sustainable security in border regions are complementary objectives provides a solid foundation for long-term commitment. The emphasis on improving livelihoods for border communities through expanded trade opportunities serves both economic and security objectives, demonstrating a holistic approach to border development.

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

Foolish Iran war, empty promises have made Trump America's most contemptible president

From Page 1 ► The manufacturing sector—the very industry Trump swore to revive—now employs fewer workers than when Joe Biden left office. This is not success; this is failure on a monumental scale.

The president's economic illiteracy has been laid bare for all to see. His promise to lower prices was always a fantasy—historically, price declines in the US only occur during severe economic distress. Now, inflation remains stubbornly above the Federal Reserve's target, and Trump's own tariff policies have partially fueled price increases. Meanwhile, his unnecessary war with Iran has driven oil prices to approximately \$100 per barrel—a 50 percent increase that is crushing American families.

Perhaps most damning is the reality that American workers are actually losing purchasing power. Disposable personal income has stalled and even declined in recent months, meaning families have less money for housing, food, and basic necessities. Trump's refusal to sign



bipartisan legislation aimed at increasing housing purchasing power demonstrates his complete disconnection from the struggles of ordinary Americans.

Trump's desperate attempts to claim credit for stock market performance are equally pathetic. The US stock market generally trends upward regardless of who occupies the Oval Office, and every contemporary president has witnessed record highs. Trump's self-congratulation is merely an-

other example of his pathological need for validation.

But perhaps the most foolish and futile of Trump's actions was his imposed war against Iran. Believing that bombs and missiles could bring the Iranian nation to its knees, he not only failed to achieve any of his stated goals but also fueled the flames of anger and national unity among Iranians. This reckless attack neither halted Iran's nuclear program nor dismantled it; in fact,

it effectively freed Iran from any JCPOA commitments and accelerated its nuclear progress. With this strategic stupidity, Trump placed the United States in such international isolation that even European allies and traditional American partners expressed revulsion at this brazen outrage. The staggering costs of this senseless war, besides skyrocketing oil prices and runaway inflation, claimed thousands of innocent lives and destabilized the Middle East for generations. Instead of the 'peace' he had promised, Trump brought nothing but 'war' and 'disgrace' to the American people and the world, shamefully proving that he has no understanding of geopolitical complexities.

Eighteen months of Trump have delivered exactly what critics predicted: economic uncertainty, broken promises, and a nation more divided than ever. The American people deserve better than this incompetent, narcissistic charlatan who puts his ego above the welfare of the nation.

Iran, Turkmenistan examine development prospect of transport, energy, infrastructure co-op

TEHRAN- Rashid Meredov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, and Farzaneh Sadegh, Minister of Transport and Urban Development of Iran, as the heads of the Turkmenistan-Iran Economic Cooperation Committee, held talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat.

According to the news portal of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, in this meeting, the two sides reviewed the current situation and development prospects of Turkmenistan-Iran cooperation, both bilaterally and within the framework of reputable international organizations, especially the United Nations.

The meeting also emphasized the importance of the principles of good neighborliness and mutual respect, which characterize the relations between the two countries.

Farzaneh Sadegh, Minister of Transport and Urban Development of Iran and the Iranian head of the Turkmenistan-Iran Economic Cooperation Committee, congratulated Turkmenistan on the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution

"International Year of International Law, 2028," which was proposed on the initiative of Turkmenistan and supported by Iran.

The two sides discussed trade and economic issues at this meeting and exchanged views on strengthening the role of the Intergovernmental Committee on Economic Cooperation between Turkmenistan and Iran.

The meeting also emphasized the two countries' shared commitment to continuing the development of cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

In her trip to Turkmenistan, the Minister of Transport and Urban Development discussed and reviewed the implementation of joint agreements in the fields of transport, energy, gas, electricity, and infrastructure development, as well as the formation of a joint committee for the implementation of bilateral agreements.

During Farzaneh Sadegh's trip to Turkmenistan, a meeting was held with the President of Turkmenistan, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the head of the

economic committee of that country, and emphasis was placed on pursuing and operationalizing joint agreements in the fields of transport, energy, gas, electricity, and infrastructure development.

Sadegh said: We are proud to be present in Turkmenistan and held a very productive meeting with the President of Turkmenistan, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Turkmen head of the joint committee for economic cooperation between the two countries.

She added: In this meeting, topics such as improving the quality and quantity of the fleet, infrastructure development in all areas of transport, as well as issues related to energy, gas, and electricity were reviewed.

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development continued: It was also decided to form a committee under the Joint Economic Committee so that both sides can follow up on the issues raised and provide the ground for their operationalization.

TPO plans to review regulations to remove barriers to production, trade

TEHRAN- The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), while emphasizing the need for continued interaction between the government and the private sector and the improvement of business processes, announced the organization's plan to amend and review trade-related regulations, remove domestic obstacles, and strengthen trade guarantee infrastructure with private sector participation.

According to the Public Relations Department of the TPO, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, at a meeting of the board of representatives of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, referred to the importance of government-private sector interaction and said: The purpose of holding these meetings is to hear the concerns and suggestions of economic actors and find common solutions to reform and improve business processes.

Referring to some existing challenges in the field of foreign trade, he said: Part of the problems of economic actors are related to processes and systems managed by various bodies, and it is necessary to clearly define the scope of duties and responsibilities of each body and strengthen coordination among relevant bodies. Stating that some economic actors conflate the Comprehensive Trade System and the TPO, he said: These two entities are fundamentally different in nature and duties; Iran's TPO plays a role in some subsystems of the Comprehensive Trade System, but its share in its overall management is limited. According to Dehghan Dehnavi; the Comprehensive Trade System is a collection of various subsystems in

numerous bodies, and disruption in any of these subsystems can affect the trade process; and there is a view that these problems can be solved by referring to the organization, while the disruption may be related to other bodies; therefore, not all problems and disruptions of this system are necessarily related to the TPO.

The head of the TPO identified determining the priority of currency allocation, currency optimization, and currency quotas as the three main axes of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade's role in the Comprehensive Trade System, and added: The process of determining the priority of currency allocation is carried out in a rule-based manner, and efforts have been made to base decisions on specific frameworks and indicators.

Dehghan Dehnavi also stated, referring to the currency optimization policy: This policy is implemented with the aim of managing foreign currency resources and regulating the import volume of certain goods, and the organization's plan is to move towards reducing restrictions and focusing this mechanism on essential commodity groups; although the limitation of foreign exchange resources has affected the implementation of this plan. The currency quota is also determined with the aim of managing the import volume of economic actors within the framework of the country's resources and policies, and efforts are made to facilitate and clarify processes as much as possible while maintaining discipline in resource management. The head of the TPO, referring to the country's foreign currency resource conditions, said: Resource

management is carried out with the priority of supplying essential goods and those needed by the production sector, and through interaction and coordination with the Central Bank and utilizing existing capacities, including foreign exchange resources obtained from exports, efforts have been made to supply part of the country's foreign exchange needs.

Referring to the problems of economic actors in the trade sector, he stated: A significant portion of economic actors' referrals to the TPO are related to obstacles arising from regulations, banking processes, financing, currency allocation, and currency obligations, and in some cases, these issues have turned into a complex cycle that requires coordination among relevant bodies and process reform.

The head of the TPO, emphasizing the role of sanctions in creating problems for the country's foreign trade, said: The private sector in recent years has found its own solutions to overcome the limitations caused by sanctions, but these paths have imposed more costs on the country's economy, and any action to reduce the limitations caused by sanctions can be a significant achievement for the country.

Dehghan Dehnavi considered one of the most important duties of the TPO to be the amendment and approval of regulations with the aim of reducing domestic obstacles, and said: In the new structure of the organization, the issue of regulations will be pursued with greater focus, and a special specialized capacity has been created to review, amend, and facilitate trade-related regulations.

He further emphasized the need to review some regulations related to the repatriation of export currency and added: The purpose of amending these regulations is not to weaken the repatriation of export currency, but rather mechanisms should be designed in such a way that, while maintaining the return of currency to the country's economic cycle, they also serve as incentives and facilitators for exporters' activities.

The head of the TPO also, emphasizing the need to strengthen guarantee infrastructure in the trade sector, proposed: The private sector, with the participation of chambers of commerce, should take action to establish a specialized institution in the field of guarantees to cover the needs of economic actors for various commercial, customs, and banking guarantees.

According to the Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade; establishing a guarantee institution using the financial capacities of the private sector and chambers of commerce can create significant capacity for issuing guarantees and provide the services needed by economic actors domestically and even in the field of international trade.

Dehghan Dehnavi concluded by emphasizing the continuation of dialogue and cooperation with the private sector and said: The goal of the TPO is to reduce domestic obstacles, facilitate business processes, amend regulations, and provide more suitable conditions for the activities of producers, exporters, and importers, and the realization of these goals requires the participation and cooperation of the private sector.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia: What lies ahead?

From page 1 ► The YAF said the operation was carried out in response to Saudi drones violating Yemeni airspace, adding that it was part of their response to those incursions. The YAF also targeted three more Saudi oil tankers in line with Yemen's maritime blockade in the Bab al-Mandab Strait (for Saudi ships only).

A source revealed to regional media that 16 Saudi vessels had been forced to turn back and were denied passage between last Monday and Sunday (July 20-July 26).

Saudi Arabia initiated this latest round of fighting by bombing Sanaa International Airport. This was followed by air raids on several vital infrastructure and public service sites in Yemen's western governorate of Hudaydah.

In a swift response to the Saudi attack, the YAF shifted its operations from the Red Sea into Saudi territory, placing the crown jewel of the Saudi economy at the top of its target list.

On Saturday, the YAF announced that they had carried out two precision military operations against facilities belonging to Saudi Aramco in Jizan and Yanbu.

The YAF spokesman, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, stated that the two operations were carried out using dozens of ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as drones, as part of Yemen's legitimate right to self-defense and in response to a dangerous Saudi escalation.

That escalation took the form of a series of overnight Saudi airstrikes targeting civilian infrastructure and facilities in Hudaydah, foremost among them the port, which serves as the sole lifeline for tens of millions of Yemenis.

According to the Sanaa government, these attacks reflect Saudi Arabia's clear determination to continue its policy of aggression, deepen the blockade and collective punishment,

War as Trump's family business: How defense policy turned into billion-dollar opportunities for those close to the president

From page 1 ► military technology and foreign policy becoming areas that could generate substantial financial benefits for the president's family. From the perspective of these critics, war is not merely a matter of national security for Trump; rather, it has become a family business, one in which geopolitical tensions, rising defense budgets and the expansion of the defense sector can create new economic opportunities for those close to him while increasing political power at the same time.

Donald Trump was already a businessman long before he entered politics. His name became widely known in the 1980s through Trump Tower, construction projects, luxury hotels and the New York real estate market. However, the structure of the Trump family's wealth has changed in recent years. While much of Trump's wealth in previous decades was tied to real estate, during his second presidency investments in areas such as cryptocurrencies, media, technology and companies connected to the defense sector have become increasingly important. This shift has led critics to argue that the Trump family is no longer simply running a real estate empire, but rather a diversified holding structure that is influenced by political decisions, market movements and foreign policy developments.

One of the most significant reports on this issue was published by The Washington Post, focusing on investments made by Trump's sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, in defense technology companies. According to the report, investment funds and



and further entrench Yemen's humanitarian and economic catastrophe in a manner that stands in complete violation of international humanitarian law.

This reality sharply contradicts the claims made in official statements issued by Saudi defense and foreign ministry officials, including Turki al-Maliki or Mohammed al-Jaber.

Essentially, the YAF delivered a firm response and conveyed clear messages on two levels: one tactical, the other strategic.

Tactical messages

The use of dozens of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones in this opening phase of escalation signals that Yemen is prepared to pursue the confrontation to its furthest limits. It also demonstrates that it possesses an extensive target bank and a stockpile of strategic weapons capable of altering the balance of power.

The careful selection of targets further translates into the equation Sanaa had warned the Saudi government: "any reckless act or full-scale aggression would inevitably be met with retaliation."

The trajectory of the YAF operations and the significance of their targets as key oil production and supply hubs indicate that the YAF possesses the capability to reach and strike Saudi oil infrastructure across the kingdom.

This means imposing extraordinarily high costs on the Saudi government, costs it could have avoided had it chosen to fulfill

firms linked to Trump's sons invested, after his return to power, in a range of companies involved in military technology, drones, defense artificial intelligence and equipment used by the Pentagon. These companies have collectively received billions of dollars in government contracts or future financial commitments from the US government.

The Washington Post reported that investments connected to Trump Jr. and Eric Trump included companies such as SpaceX and Anduril, as well as several smaller firms operating in the drone and military technology sectors. Some of these companies secured additional contracts or expanded opportunities to work with the US government after investments linked to the Trump family. Representatives of these companies and the White House, however, have rejected the allegations, arguing that Pentagon contracts are awarded through official procedures based on technical capabilities and that there is no connection between these contracts and the president's family.

Nevertheless, critics argue that the main issue is not simply proving the existence of a direct transaction, but rather the creation of a conflict-of-interest structure — one in which the president's family invests in industries whose financial success depends heavily on government decisions, defense budgets and national security policies. According to these critics, when the US government prioritizes the development of military technologies, drones, defense AI and weapons industries, companies in which members of the president's family have invested

the requirements of peace.

Strategic messages

The statement issued by the YAF carried several key messages, foremost among them that the maritime blockade imposed on shipping linked to the Saudi government will remain in effect until the blockade on Yemen is lifted.

This underscores the failure of Saudi attempts at deterrence. The Sanaa government has also strongly hinted at broadening the response, a decision that will depend on developments in the coming "hours and days". In other words, it is the conduct of the Saudi government that will determine the nature, scale, and scope of Yemen's retaliation.

Sanaa's approach collides with Riyadh's arrogance

What deserves particular attention is that the Yemeni operations, with their tactical messages and strategic impact, are presented as serving to advance the peace process. They are intended to pressure the Saudi government into fulfilling humanitarian obligations and recognizing Yemen's full sovereignty.

These are, from Sanaa's perspective, legitimate entitlements that do not infringe upon Saudi sovereignty. It would have been wiser and more prudent for the Saudi government to respond to Yemeni calls and equitable proposals, as doing so would have been far less costly than the political, economic, and broader consequences of continued delay



could also benefit from those policies.

The debate over the connection between war and the Trump family's financial interests intensified after his administration placed greater emphasis on expanding the defense industry and increasing production of new military equipment. The wars in Ukraine and the Middle East have significantly expanded markets for drones, defense systems and military technologies. Companies involved in drones, military artificial intelligence and autonomous systems have become some of the major recipients of government investment and defense contracts. Trump's critics argue that, under these circumstances, the president's family investments in these sectors cannot be separated from the administration's defense and military policies.

Within this context, the Trump sons' investments in drone companies have attracted particular attention. Modern conflicts have demonstrated that low-cost drones and autonomous technologies can play a decisive role on the battlefield. The US govern-

and confrontation.

The problem, however, lies in the Saudi government's condescending view of Yemen and its people, its insistence on portraying itself as a mediator, and its desire to evade responsibility for what it has inflicted upon Yemen and the Yemeni people over nearly twelve years.

This was evident in the remarks of Saudi ambassador Mohammed al-Jaber, who, shortly after the attack on Hudaydah, claimed that "the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has sought, and continues to seek, to support de-escalation and peace efforts, while backing the efforts of the UN Special Envoy to Yemen to reach a solution that ends the suffering of the Yemeni people."

Critics question what de-escalation is al-Jaber referring to after such aggressive actions? And what peace can there be after Saudi Arabia spent four years of de-escalation, delaying and evading the implementation of its peace commitments, despite Sanaa having put forward every fair and reasonable proposal and exhausted all avenues for peace, only to be met by Riyadh with procrastination and delay?

Saudi Arabia also seeks to "Yemenize" the conflict, portraying it as an exclusively Yemeni issue, while absolving itself of all responsibility, as though it had never been the leader of the coalition. The Saudi monarchy has been the principal party responsible for the war and the blockade since March 26, 2015.

The confrontation may no longer remain at the level of "a strike for a strike." Instead, it could spiral into a full-scale war, whose costs to Riyadh, and to Vision 2030, Aramco, NEOM, Petroline, and other flagship projects, would far exceed the cost of fulfilling the requirements of peace.

Yemen recognizes that events could develop in this direction and appears prepared for this scenario no matter what price it pays.



ment has also sought to increase domestic production capacity for these technologies. Donald Trump Jr. has previously spoken about the importance of expanding America's drone industry and increasing domestic production of military equipment. Critics argue that when someone is involved on one side in shaping the political environment surrounding the defense industry while also investing in companies operating in that same sector, the risk of a conflict of interest increases.

These concerns have also been raised in the US Congress. During a hearing attended by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Democratic Representative Johnny Olszewski accused the Trump administration of allowing the president's family to use political power to increase their wealth. He pointed to the growth of Trump's assets, his family's financial activities and investments connected to cryptocurrencies and technology companies, questioning whether it is appropriate for relatives of political leaders to profit from government decisions and positions of power.

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

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5

Hoover's ghost stalks Trump as US energy reserves hit 40-year lows

From page 1 ► Algorithms, many of them powered by large language models, execute roughly 70 percent of global energy futures trades. These systems do not track physical tankers or inspect naval blockades. They scrape headlines.

The White House realized early on that feeding the information space with orchestrated statements of "diplomatic progress" or "naval dominance" would force automated sell-offs. Paper prices would drop.

Refineries in the physical world cannot process paper derivatives. They face exorbitant spot premiums, stranded cargoes, and a blockade that Washington refuses to admit exists.

Additionally, individuals close to Trump, including Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, have consistently exploited the resulting oscillations, using advance knowledge of the messaging cycle to position for profits in futures and related markets.

Monetizing the panic even more

The manipulation has become a highly monetized racket. The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission is quietly probing over \$2.6 billion in suspicious oil trades timed precisely to presidential announcements.

High-frequency trading firms have started to purchase a feed from Trump Media dubbed Truth API, paying six figures a month to ingest the president's posts milliseconds before the public.

For example, when a "Truth" post signals de-escalation, the machines dump massive short positions into thin Friday liquidity windows.

Similarly, a \$580 million wave of sell orders in late March crashed the price of Brent crude minutes before a White House statement hit the broader wires. The administration engineered a phantom price drop, and insiders profited.

Bypasses to nowhere

Financial engineering cannot move crude. Over 13 million barrels a day sit trapped behind an Iranian arrangement that dictates transit terms.

Western war planners spent years drafting contingencies built around alternative pipelines. Saudi Arabia's East-West line and the UAE's Habshan-Fujairah route were supposed to absorb the shock.

The math never worked. Those alternatives carry a fraction of normal Persian Gulf exports. Additionally, the infrastructure rests inside the military envelope of Iran and the Resistance Front.

Yemeni Ansarullah have declared their own maritime embargo on Saudi shipping and targeted the kingdom's energy hubs.

The Red Sea bypass through Bab el-Mandeb is a shooting gallery. The contingency plans have already evaporated.

1983 all over again

Stripped of a reasonable solution, the administration has turned to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Washington treated its ultimate emergency cushion like a checking account. The American share of the coordinated IEA release dumped 172 million barrels onto the market. By late July, the SPR collapsed to 311.4 million barrels. That is the lowest operational level since 1983.

Capture of any Iranian island will be extremely costly and fatal to US

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN - While the United States boasts some of the world's most advanced military technology, operating close to Iran's coastline presents a formidable challenge; Tehran can rapidly mass large numbers of relatively inexpensive drones and missiles near its own shores.

Crucially, this geographic advantage means that if American ground troops were ever deployed, they would effectively become sitting ducks for Iranian forces, who are lying in wait and ready to hunt them down.

The first option is to capture or blockade Kharg Island, which is of immense strategic importance to Iran. Roughly 90 percent of Iran's crude oil exports are shipped through this island.

Kharg Island is located in deep waters, allowing large oil tankers to dock there. Much of Iran's coastline, by contrast, cannot accommodate such large vessels, although smaller tankers could still



The sandbags are gone. Trump recently admitted at the G7 summit that American reserves hold barely four weeks of supply.

The administration burned its only structural defense mechanism to buy time and suppress pump prices ahead of the midterms. Washington is now bidding against itself in a starved market, entirely exposed to the next supply shock.

The 'TACO Index'

Wall Street understands this vulnerability. Quants at Signum Global Advisors translated the president's political fear into a mathematical model.

Traders call it the "TACO Index:" Trump Always Chickens Out.

The formula tracks Brent crude, 10-year Treasury yields, equity volatility, and Hormuz transit data.

History shows a rigid pattern. When composite market stress breaches 2.9 standard deviations above the baseline, the Donald folds.

During the latest round of U.S. military escalation, the index pinpointed July 26 as the date Washington would capitulate. Almost right on schedule, the bombing decreased, and the administration scrambled for negotiations as it falsely claimed the Iranians were "begging" to make a deal.

The ghost of Herbert Hoover

With less than 100 days until the November elections, Trump is consumed by a specific historical terror.

Trump has said more than once that he does not want to become Herbert Hoover. The comparison haunts him because both men entered office as businessmen promising competence and both faced the risk that economic failure would define their records.

Rising pump prices, exhausted reserves and midterm arithmetic leave two unattractive paths: risk wider war to force the strait open, or accept Iranian oversight and own the strategic loss. Either choice carries political cost.

Trump understands that voters will not punish him for a convoluted geopolitical disaster. They will obliterate him for runaway inflation and fuel shortages.

The reckoning is arriving anyway. Chinese crude imports, artificially depressed by earlier inventory liquidations, are expected to rebound soon.

Refiners in Asia are returning to the physical market in August to rebuild stockpiles. When that demand hits a system with depleted reserves and a fractured Persian Gulf, the paper illusion will shatter.

Washington waged a war to destroy Iran. Instead, it suffered a humiliating defeat, drained its own reserves, handed operational authority of the Strait to Tehran, and reduced the American presidency to a trading signal.

continue exporting limited quantities of oil.

Mark Cancian, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former U.S. military officer, argues that given the overwhelming capabilities of the U.S. Navy and Air Force, capturing Kharg Island would be militarily feasible.

However, retired Vice Admiral Robert Harward, former Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command, warns that holding the island afterward could become a nightmare for the United States. According to Harward, once American troops are stationed there, they would become easy targets. Iran could launch thousands of inexpensive drones and missiles from its nearby coastline, overwhelming American air defenses and striking the small island repeatedly. Another important consideration is the political dimension.

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

Iran learn fate at Women’s Volleyball Continental Championship 2026

TEHRAN - The road to the AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship China 2026 officially began Monday as the Drawing of Lots was held at the Crowne Plaza Tianjin, determining the preliminary round pools for Asia's premier women's national team competition.

Scheduled from Aug. 21 to 30 in Tianjin, the championship will feature host China, defending champions Thailand, and 10 other national teams competing for the continental title and coveted qualification to the sport's biggest international events. The champions will earn direct qualification to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, while the top three teams will secure places at the 2027 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship.

Following the draw, the 12 participating teams were divided into three preliminary round pools:

Pool A: China, Chinese Taipei, Iran, Iraq

Pool B: Thailand, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Australia

Pool C: Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Hong Kong, China

AVC President Ramon Suzara described the championship as a major milestone for Asian volleyball, emphasizing that the tournament offers far more than the opportunity to lift the continental trophy. He noted that the champions will earn direct qualification to the LA 2028 Olympic Games, while the top three teams will also secure berths at the 2027 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship.

With the pools now confirmed, attention turns to the opening of one of Asia's most prestigious volleyball events, where the continent's leading women's national teams will battle for regional supremacy and valuable qualification berths on the road to the Olympic Games and the FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship.

The AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship China 2026 promises 10 days of world-class competition as Tianjin welcomes Asia's finest teams for another landmark edition of the championship. Featuring Olympic qualification, World Championship berths, and the quest for continental glory, the tournament is set to showcase the continued growth, competitiveness, and global strength of women's volleyball across Asia.

Volleyball coach hails Iran U18’s Asian title triumph

TEHRAN – Iran head coach Abdolreza Alizadeh says his team overcame difficult circumstances to claim the 2025 Asian U18 Men's Volleyball Championship title and believes the country's new generation of players has the potential to reach the senior national team.

Alizadeh said preparations began under extremely challenging conditions amid the war.

“We started our training camp on April 9 under very difficult circumstances. After scouting and evaluating around 460 players, we eventually selected 14 to prepare for the Asian Championship,” he said.

Alizadeh noted that all members of the squad were making their international debuts.

“None of the players had previous experience in international competitions or had represented Iran before. We also had no overseas friendly matches. Our only preparation consisted of games against Iran's U17 national team, several domestic clubs, and two or three friendly matches in Urmia before heading to the tournament.”

The coach praised the overall standard of the tournament.

“The level of competition was very high. South Korea and Japan were strong teams, while India and Pakistan were among the title contenders. Pakistan were eliminated by China, Japan knocked out India, and we defeated South Korea. Overall, the quality of the tournament was excellent.”

Alizadeh believes the current generation has a bright future.

“This is an exceptionally talented group of players. I believe we have athletes in every position who have the potential to play for Iran's senior national team.”

The former national team libero also highlighted the team's depth at the libero position.

“We had two outstanding liberos. One is around 1.90 meters tall and the other is over 1.85 meters. It is rare to find liberos with that kind of height in world volleyball. Players such as Ali Sheikhzadeh and Arash Ghahremani are also tall liberos, and this is the type of player modern volleyball increasingly requires.”

Iran dominated the individual awards at the championship.

“We had two highly talented setters, one of whom was named Best Setter of the tournament. Our opposite hitter was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP), while Abolfazl Pasha Amiri received the Best Spiker award. Physically and technically, these players are in excellent condition.”

Amouzad targets world gold with relentless determination

TEHRAN – Iran's world silver medalist Rahman Amouzad says he is prepared to give everything in pursuit of a gold medal at the 2026 World Wrestling Championships, describing every training session with the national team as “a battle.”

The 65kg freestyle wrestler said Iran's national team is enduring grueling training camps despite the scorching summer heat as it prepares for the World Championships in Kazakhstan.

“Our training sessions have been extremely demanding. Endurance running is one of the toughest parts of wrestling preparation. We have about three to four months until the World Championships, and we're fighting every day to reach the podium. Every training session in the national team camp feels like a battle. We have to fight our way through this journey,” Amouzad said.

The 23-year-old insisted that weather conditions make no difference to the team's determination.

“We train under the toughest conditions. It doesn't matter whether it's hot or cold. We train in every kind of weather because our goal is more important than anything else. We want to make our people and our families proud. We fight, we embrace the hardships, and in fact, we enjoy overcoming them.”

Looking ahead to the World Championships, Amouzad made his ambitions clear.

“I will fight with all my heart to achieve the best possible result. I'll leave everything on the mat. I don't focus on my opponents; I focus on improving my own strengths and eliminating my weaknesses. God willing, I'll fight for the world title.”

Taremi rejects move to Brazilian Serie A Club

TEHRAN – Iran international Mehdi Taremi has turned down the opportunity to join Brazilian Serie A side Vasco da Gama, according to Brazilian outlet GE Globo.

The report said Vasco had identified the Iranian striker as a potential reinforcement as the club looks to strengthen their squad. While the Rio de Janeiro-based club were finalizing deals for defender Nelson Deossa and midfielder Santiago Sosa, it was also in the market for a new forward.

Taremi emerged as one of the names under consideration, but the report said the 33-year-old has no interest in moving to Brazilian football at this stage of his career.

Currently with Greek club Olympiacos, Taremi was reportedly approved by Vasco's football department and recommended to sporting director Admar Lopes and head coach Pedro Emanuel, both of whom are familiar with his successful spell at Portuguese giants Porto.

During his four seasons at Porto, Taremi made 182 appearances and contributed to 138 goals, scoring and assisting at an impressive rate. He later joined Inter Milan, where he served as a backup to first-choice strikers Lautaro Martinez and Marcus Thuram.

Vasco da Gama currently sit 17th in the 20-team Brazilian Serie A standings with 21 points and are battling to avoid relegation. The club are seeking attacking reinforcements, but Taremi has ruled out a move to Brazil for now.

Kermanshah among West Asia’s oldest human settlement areas, researcher says

TEHRAN – Kermanshah is one of the oldest known areas of human settlement in the Iranian Plateau and West Asia, with archaeological evidence indicating human presence dating back as far as one million years, Iranian researcher and historian Mohsen Derekeh said on Monday.

Speaking to IRNA on the occasion of Iran's National Kermanshah Day, Derekeh said archaeological discoveries from caves, rock shelters and prehistoric sites across the province had established Kermanshah as one of the region's principal centers for the study of early human evolution and prehistoric societies.

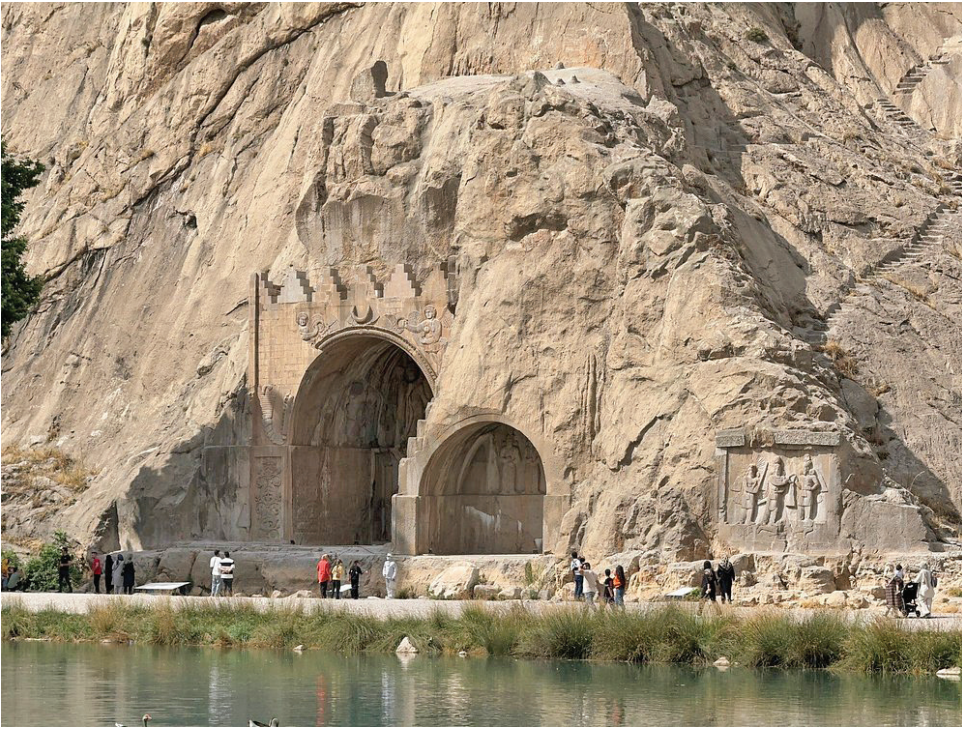
“Kermanshah's abundant water resources, favorable climate, rich vegetation and the Zagros mountain range made it one of the earliest habitats for humans in the Iranian Plateau and Mesopotamia,” Derekeh said, citing archaeological evidence.

He said sites including Sheikh Abadi Tepe in Dinavar, Godin Tepe, Chia Khazineh, Chia Gavaneh, Sarab and dozens of other archaeological locations documented continuous human occupation from the Paleolithic period through the emergence of historical civilizations.

Derekeh said scientific research into Kermanshah's prehistoric past entered a new phase in the 1940s, when American anthropologist Carlton Coon carried out excavations at Bisotun Cave.

According to Derekeh, Coon uncovered Paleolithic remains, including a human forearm bone and other biological material, which contributed to the understanding of early human occupation in West Asia. Although later studies concluded that one of the teeth found during the excavations did not belong to a human, the forearm bone remains one of Iran's key pieces of evidence for the presence of early humans, he said.

He added that further archaeological work was conducted in 1959 by American archaeologist Robert Braidwood and his team at sites including Asiab Tepe, Ganj Tepe, Sarab and Gakiyeh, helping expand knowledge of prehistoric settlement in the region.



Derekeh said stone tools recovered from those excavations demonstrated that early humans had lived in the area thousands of years ago.

He also referred to excavations at Warwasi Rock Shelter near Kermanshah, where researchers discovered stone tools associated with both Neanderthals and modern humans.

“Some researchers have suggested the possibility that Neanderthals and modern humans coexisted in this area,” Derekeh said.

He said archaeological research continued after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, including excavations at Wezmeh Cave in Islamabad-e Gharb county by Iranian archaeologists.

Several teeth discovered at the cave were sent to research centers in France for dating, and one was identified as belonging to a Neanderthal child who lived between 40,000 and 70,000 years ago, Derekeh added.

He described the discovery as one of the most direct scientific pieces of evidence for the presence of Neanderthals in Iran and the Mesopotamian region.

Kordestan sets up Arbaeen handicrafts markets along border route



TEHRAN – Iran's western Kordestan province has established volunteer service stations, handicrafts markets and tourism promotion programs along routes leading to the Bashmaq border crossing as Arbaeen pilgrims begin traveling to Iraq, provincial officials said on Tuesday.

Pouya Talebnia, director general of Kordestan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts

Department, said a volunteer service station, or mawkeb, is being prepared near Lake Zarivar on the Marivan-Bashmaq route to provide services for pilgrims heading to Iraq, IRNA reported.

Talebnia said the Bashmaq border is among Iran's most suitable exit points for Arbaeen pilgrims because of its favorable weather conditions during the pilgrimage season.

He said a handicrafts market has been established on the route used by returning pilgrims in cooperation with Marivan's governor's office and municipality, allowing local artisans to sell their products while promoting the tradition of purchasing local souvenirs.

In addition to Bashmaq, Talebnia said another handicrafts exhibition, sales center and volunteer service station have been planned in Qorveh, which serves as an entry point for pilgrims traveling through Kordestan province.

He added that tourism attractions across Kordestan would also be introduced at the service stations in an effort to encourage pilgrims to return to the province as tourists in the future.

According to the latest figures released by Iran's Interior Ministry, more than two million people have registered on the Samah online platform used to organize

Arbaeen pilgrims.

Around 750,000 pilgrims have so far crossed into Iraq through six border crossings, Mehran, Shalamcheh, Chazabeh, Khosravi, Tamarchin and Bashmaq, to participate in the annual pilgrimage.

According to Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, 22 government agencies are providing services to pilgrims using available resources and facilities. He added that more than 3,500 mawkebs have been established in Iran and Iraq, while transportation has been arranged to facilitate pilgrims' journeys to and from Iraq.

The Arbaeen pilgrimage, held 40 days after Ashura, commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims and grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Each year, millions of pilgrims travel to the Iraqi city of Karbala to attend one of the world's largest religious gatherings.

Online monitoring system planned for tourists from Afghanistan and Pakistan

TEHRAN - Iran plans to launch a pilot program to monitor in real time the entry, stay and departure of tourists from Afghanistan and Pakistan, following a meeting of government agencies that approved the executive framework and oversight requirements for the initiative.

Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, intelligence authorities, the Law Enforcement Command (FARAJA), the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, and the project's coordinating body met on Monday to review the implementation process for the national plan, according to a ministry statement carried by IRNA.

The initiative is part of the government's policy to strengthen the digital management of inbound tourism, improve travel security and facilitate oversight of foreign visitors. It is planned to focus on monitoring tourists from Afghanistan and Pakistan travelling for

leisure and religious purposes.

Officials said the meeting aimed to coordinate relevant agencies, review implementation of regulations governing inbound tourists from the two neighboring countries, and establish an integrated mechanism to monitor their arrival, accommodation and departure.

The directive governing the organization of tourists from Afghanistan and Pakistan through licensed travel agencies was drafted with input from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, intelligence authorities, FARAJA and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. It was circulated to relevant government bodies and tourism industry associations in the autumn of the Iranian year 1404.

As part of the implementation process, the Iranian association for air travel and tourism agencies was appointed by the tourism min-

istry as the coordinating body for the project.

Following technical assessments, authorities selected 30 travel agencies specializing in the Afghan market and 40 inbound tour operators serving the Pakistani market to participate in a six-month pilot phase.

After completing legal procedures, providing financial and banking guarantees, and receiving approval from the coordinating body, the selected agencies were introduced to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to obtain access to the electronic visa (E-Visa) issuance platform.

Participants in the meeting reviewed procedures for continuous monitoring of group tourist arrivals and departures, discussed potential operational challenges, and examined measures to prevent visitors from overstaying their authorized period of stay. Officials stressed the need for strict implementation of oversight procedures.

DOE pursuing legal actions on US-Israeli environmental damage

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment is following up on legal actions against the US and Israel for the serious damage they caused to the country's natural environment in recent wars.

Outlining the dimension of environmental terrorism, Shina Ansari said the recent wars constitute a crime against the environment and ecosystem. "Wars practically render all global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions futile and inflict irreparable damage on nature."

During the 12-day war, in addition to the destruction of environmental ranger stations, 13 protected areas sustained damage. The third imposed war posed threats to the country's wetland and coastal ecosystems, as some coastal areas were affected by oil pollution, she noted.

"Before the outbreak of conflicts, we issued warnings to the international bodies and the UN Secretary-General regarding the fragility of the Persian Gulf's semi-enclosed ecosystem; unfortunately, attacks on city centers, fuel storages, and peaceful facilities exacerbated the catastrophic environmental consequences," Ansari added.

Censuring the approach of international bodies, she said that the reaction of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) was limited to issuing a neutral statement, without condemning the aggressors, inviting the parties to make peace, Ansari further noted.

Citing a report published by The Guardian on the carbon footprint generated during the first two weeks of the recent war, which equaled the greenhouse gas emissions of several nations, she emphasized that the persistence of such double standards by international bodies hinders environmental peace and stability. Ansari further noted that to preserve the environment, the world must seriously curb war as the most destructive force against nature.

She went on to expound on the long-term and enduring damage inflicted by war on Iran's ecosystems, and announced the preparation of a legal and technical dossier to document environmental crimes and pursue the issue in international forums.

Warning that war-related environmental damage is often irreversible or takes a long time to repair, Ansari said: "For instance, the restoration and rehabilitation of the Persian Gulf's unique coral reefs, which are damaged by oil pollution resulting from wartime attacks, could take decades, or even up to a century."

WASH FIT to help health facilities improve services

TEHRAN – Funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are supporting the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene services in health facilities nationwide.

The initiative supports the introduction and institutionalization of the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool, known as WASH FIT, across Iran's health system. The tool helps health facilities identify risks and plan practical improvements in areas such as safe water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management, environmental cleaning, workforce, management, and energy and environment, UNICEF's website announced in a press release on July 17.

Children and families across Iran will benefit from efforts to make health care facilities more resilient and hygienic and better equipped to prevent infections.

Building national capacity

The initiative began with a national workshop held in Tehran in October 2025, which brought together 40 environmental health experts from Universities of Medical Sciences from 25 provinces.

The workshop prepared participants to support health facilities in assessing their water, sanitation and hygiene conditions and identifying priority areas for improvement. It built on an earlier national assessment of health facilities and a roadmap developed by WHO to strengthen



these essential services across the country.

Expanding training across the country

Following the national workshop, a series of provincial cascade training workshops has started from April 2026. Environmental health experts from hospitals and urban and rural health centers take part in the trainings.

Participants learn how to assess conditions in health facilities, identify risks, and prepare action plans based on the needs of each facility. These skills will help health workers improve hygiene standards, reduce the risk of infections, and provide safer services for patients, including children and mothers.

UNICEF and WHO are also working with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to integrate WASH FIT into the national health system, ensuring its sustainable implementation and scale-up.

By strengthening the skills of

health professionals and supporting a consistent approach across the country, the initiative aims to improve the quality and safety of health services for children, families, patients and health workers.

Project on rehabilitation of school sanitation facilities in Iran

UNICEF has supported the rehabilitation of sanitation facilities in 41 schools in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi and the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

The project aims to help improve access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for thousands of children. The rehabilitation of 33 schools was supported through funding provided by the Government of France.

Implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Organization for Development, Renovation and Equipping of Schools, the interventions focused on schools hosting large numbers of Afghan refugees and

vulnerable Iranian children. The rehabilitation works included improvements to water supply systems, sanitation facilities, and handwashing areas.

Improving learning environments for children

In Khorasan Razavi Province, WASH rehabilitation activities were carried out in 15 schools in Mashhad's Tabadkan and District No. 5 areas.

In Sistan-Baluchestan, rehabilitation works reached 18 schools in the cities of Zahedan and Zabol.

Overall, more than 23,000 students benefited from improved WASH facilities in the targeted schools.

The activities aimed to support safer and healthier learning environments by improving children's access to functional and hygienic sanitation services in schools. These interventions also contributed to strengthening hygiene practices and reducing risks associated with inadequate WASH facilities.

Supporting children's health and hygiene

Alongside the rehabilitation works, UNICEF supported health and hygiene promotion activities for students, parents, and school staff in the two provinces.

Some 40 health teachers and focal points were trained to better support children and families with health and hygiene promotion activities. Hygiene kits were distributed to families, and schools received essential health equipment to support children's wellbeing and access to basic health services.



The official noted that the documentation and economic assessment of the harms from the 12-day war have been concluded, while technical evaluations and the sampling of soil and marine ecosystems in the third imposed war are also being carried out instantly.

To ensure the reports are robust and well-documented for being presented to international bodies, the DOE is benefiting from the capabilities of domestic universities and the cooperation with specialized regional institutions, like the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

The official also highlighted ongoing diplomatic efforts to secure international cooperation, saying that following talks with UNEP, it was agreed that the organization would dispatch a technical team to Iran to conduct field monitoring of damage inflicted on the Persian Gulf ecosystem during the recent war.

She went on to say that all these efforts aim to compile technical-scientific reports into a well-substantiated dossier—aligned with international protocols—that enables the DOE to vigorously assert the country's rights regarding ecosystem health and biodiversity in global forums.

'Inaction exacerbates war impacts'

Addressing the ninth session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED9) held from July 1-3 in Bangkok, Thailand, Ansari highlighted that remaining silent in the face of environmental destruction caused by warmongers is the same as accepting a threat that will, sooner or later,

impact everyone.

"The environment is the first silent victim of war and the last to recover from its consequences. Nature does not recognize the end of armed conflict. Environmental destruction may continue to undermine human health, food security, water resources, and biodiversity for decades after the guns fall silent," the official noted.

"When war targets the environment, the victim is not merely one nation—it is the shared heritage of humanity. Therefore, protecting the environment must become a common global responsibility; the aggressors must be held accountable for their crimes and provide full compensation for the environmental damage they have caused. Effective implementation of this principle not only serves justice for the affected State but also plays an essential role in preventing the recurrence of such devastation."

The international community needs to recognize environmental security as an essential pillar of international peace and security. Lasting peace cannot exist without a healthy environment, and environmental destruction anywhere in the world can generate consequences that transcend national boundaries," Ansari further noted.

The official urged the international community to strengthen international mechanisms to prevent environmental destruction during armed conflicts, assess environmental damage, document environmental impacts, ensure accountability of aggressors, and secure effective compensation.

Iranian youth attending intl. cybersecurity camp in Russia

TEHRAN – Seven young experts from Iran are participating in the third international cybersecurity camp, titled Positive Hack Camp, being held in Moscow, Russia, from July 25 to August 9.

Positive Hack Camp is an annual educational program on practical cybersecurity for young information security specialists from Russia and other countries. Organized by Positive Technologies with the support of the Russian Ministry of Digital Development, the event focuses on exploring practical methods of cyber defense, penetration testing, and ethical hacking. It has brought together one hundred young people from 20 countries, Mehr news agency reported.

Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali attended the event and delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

Referring to the world's unprecedented progress in the digital realm presents unparalleled opportunities, as well as threats that jeopardize the security, economy, and national sovereignty of nations.

Cyberspace has become the primary arena for competition for influence, where traditional borders have effectively disappeared, Jalali noted.

In recent years, both countries' critical infrastructure—including energy and water supply networks, transport, banking and communications systems—had been subjected to sophisticated attacks by state and non-state actors driven by political, economic or sabotage-related motives, Caliber.Az reports, citing Russian media.

The bitter experience highlights that "We need strategic planning, sustained investment in human capital and effective international cooperation," the ambassador added.

According to Jalali, Tehran and Moscow have agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding on combating cybercrimes.

Iranian, Russian companies to bolster ICT ties

In December 2025, top Iranian and Russian tech companies signed five memoranda of understanding (MOUs) on artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, smart government, blockchain and fintech, regulators, technology parks, and post services, to promote cooperation in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

The MOUs were signed in Russia during the



fifth Iran-Russia ICT Forum held from December 6 to 7, IRNA reported.

An Iranian delegation led by the deputy ICT Minister for Technology and Innovation, Meysam Abedi, attended the forum.

Referring to the strategic partnership between Iran and Russia, Jalali said the two countries have a high capacity, and the expansion of collaborations will be beneficial to both sides.

For his part, Alexander Shoitov, Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation, said the memoranda of understanding and the agreements reached today are the result of ongoing efforts over the past few years.

"Today, we are celebrating the results of our hard work over many years with the companies collaborating. We can confidently say cooperation is definitely going on.

So far, the two countries have signed many memoranda of understanding, but there are still new areas of cooperation opening up in our interactions that benefit the people of the two nations," Shoitov further noted.

Abedi, for his part, said the reached agreements are the result of three years of continuous cooperation between the ICT ministries of the two countries.

He called on Iranian and Russian companies to seriously follow up on the implementation of the MOUs and agreements, and to remove probable obstacles with the help of the government departments of the two countries.

The official went on to propose locating a third country as the joint market for Iranian-Russian products on the agenda, expressing hope that the two countries would sign MOUs on a joint market by the sixth forum.

Third phase of Family Physician Program kicks off

TEHRAN – The third phase of the Family Physician Program and referral system kicked off on Tuesday in 19 cities, Alireza Raeisi, an official with the health ministry, has said.

The program aims to make treatment referrals more concentrated and provide more convenient access to health services.

Successful implementation of the Family Physician Program is essential to the health system. There are no other options; the failure to implement the program would inflict the greatest damage on the health system, IRNA quoted Raeisi as saying.

"Over 100 countries worldwide have implemented the program, and an analysis of global experiences indicates that its full implementation is not feasible in the short term; rather, it requires developing a supportive culture, careful planning, patience, perseverance, and continuous follow-up. Nevertheless, based on existing experiences, we assess the program's implementation process in the country as positive and promising," Raeisi highlighted.

Referring to the implementation of the program in Fars and Mazandaran provinces, the official said that the unsuccessful experiences in these provinces resulted from improper implementation rather than a failure to fully implement it. Hence, the precise and principled implementation of the current program is of great importance.

The new phase of the program should be implemented in some cities, like Firozabad, Jahrom, Larestan, Fasa, and Jouybar, in which previous phases of the program were implemented, to ensure its efficiency, he noted.

Drawing upon the experiences of the first and second phases, the implementation of the third phase should be pursued with enhanced speed, precision, and quality. Furthermore, the chancellors of the universities and the heads

of the colleges should continuously oversee the selected networks, regularly monitor the implementation process, and collect necessary feedback. They will also need to consider the Social Determinants of Health (SDH), Raeisi further noted.

The rural family physician program started in 2005. Back then, it also targeted villages and cities inhabited by fewer than twenty thousand individuals to make treatment referrals more concentrated and provide more convenient access to health services, ISNA reported.

Periodic examinations and monitoring of people's health status, easy and round-the-clock access to basic services and primary care, and frequent visits to doctors are the characteristics of a family physician.

Medical, dental, mental, midwifery, nutrition, laboratory, pharmaceutical, and medical imaging are among the services offered by the program.

Based on the Family Physician Program, a physician and a midwife offer services in rural areas; every 3,300 villagers have a physician, and there is a midwife per 5,200 people in villages.

The program will gradually target other parts of the country as well, ISNA quoted Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi as saying.

"It is a large-scale program based on social behavior change. Designing new patient pathways, reforming the referral pattern, and improving the healthcare network system requires careful coordination between the Health Ministry, governors, and other relevant institutions at the provincial level," IRIB quoted Zafarqandi as saying.

So, it is essential to develop a national headquarters headed by the President to oversee the overall management of the program, he added.



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JULY 29, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Do not let consideration for a person's right hinder you from upholding the truth when it is against him.

Imam Ali (AS)

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

Avaye Chirok releases audiobook adaptation of “The Unfinished Note”



Bahman Vakhshour



TEHRAN- The audiobook version of “The Unfinished Note”, written by Vahid Akbari, has been produced and released by the Avaye Chirok, a major institute that produces audiobooks in Iran.

The audio adaptation, narrated by Bahman Vakhshour, follows the successful publication of the print edition by Qesseh Baran Publications.

Characterized by its concise yet profound narrative, the collection weaves together diverse stories that explore the intricate intersections of war, death, guilt, love, poverty, and hope. The stories are largely set in urban environments, transporting the listener from the sterile corridors of hospitals and the rush of the metro to the spiritual atmosphere of shrines and the nostalgic charm of old neighborhoods.

The narrative navigates the fluid boundary

between reality and nightmare, maintaining a sense of constant suspense. Akbari employs recurring sensory elements—including the sounds of sirens, rockets, and the call to prayer—to create an invisible thread that binds the independent stories into a cohesive thematic echo.

Many of the protagonists undergo near-death experiences—whether trapped in an elevator, facing a fire, or enduring a bombardment—using these crises as catalysts to confront their deepest fears, past sins, and long-forgotten choices.

The production of the audiobook was managed by Bahman Vakhshour, with editing and sound design by Hasti Sadeqi. The complete audio experience runs for two hours and eight minutes.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza

Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Türkiye

5 Iranian films to compete in 16th International Youth Film Festival Light of the World

TEHRAN – Five films from Iran will take part in the 16th International Youth Film Festival Light of the World, which is set to be held from September 11 to 16, in Yaroslavl, Russia.

“Baytora” directed by Faraj Salehi, “Dandelions Girl” written and directed by Azadeh Masihzadeh, “The Path We Have Taken” directed by Narges Fazli, “Faraway Land” by Abbas Ghadir Mohseni, and “Pirezan and Shahderakht” by Robabe Hashemi are the Iranian films participating in the Russian festival, ISNA reported.

“Baytora” is a short film, the story of which takes place in Gaza. During the days of the ceasefire, a student is tasked with building the house of his dreams with the materials he has around him and bringing it to school.

“Dandelions Girl” is a short film that tells the story of a young girl who dreams of playing football. She joins a team as a goalkeeper, determined to prove herself. But when a boy pushes her into the goalpost, she collapses, and everyone believes she is dead. His wealthy father bribes everyone to cover up the truth. Yet, in an act of defiance, the boy eventually stands up against his father and admits what really happened. In the end, the girl rises, revealing she was never truly defeated.

“The Path We Have Taken” is a short animation that follows the



story of a mother with a disability who sets out to bring her daughter home from school, and encounters challenges along the way.

The Light of the World International Youth Film Festival is a year-round project that has been running since 2011. It aims to promote the spiritual, moral, patriotic, artistic, and aesthetic development of children and young people through cinema. It also seeks to foster a vibrant environment for creative exchange among children's and youth

film studios, emerging young filmmakers, and adult filmmakers who create films for young audiences.

In terms of geography and number of participants, the film festival is one of the largest film competitions in Russia. The festival operates with the support of the Russian Ministry of Culture.

The festival's spiritual and moral program of competition films shapes the tastes of not only viewers but also filmmakers. Audience support, interaction with



jury members, and the beauty of the Yaroslavl region all provide an emotional boost for the creation of new films.

The film festival is an ongoing educational platform. The selection, evaluation, and awarding of filmmakers is not the final stage, but only the first. Film educators then use films as a foundation for spiritual and moral education. Viewers see powerful examples of behavior that often shape their entire lives.

Tehran theater to host reading performance of “The Glass Menagerie”

TEHRAN- Sobhan Theater Hall in Tehran will be playing host to a reading performance of American playwright Tennessee Williams' memory play “The Glass Menagerie” on Wednesday.

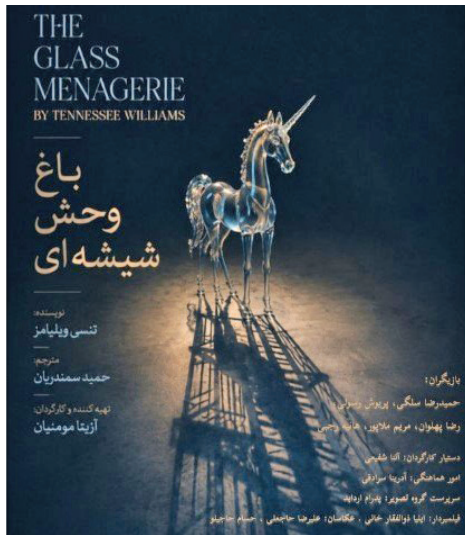
The performance will be directed by Azita Momenian, based on a Persian translation by Hamid Samandarian.

The performance will be held by a cast composed of Hamidreza Solgi, Parivash Rasouli, Reza Pahlevan and Maryam Mollapour.

Premiered in 1944 in Chicago, “The Glass Menagerie” catapulted Williams from obscurity to fame. The play has strong autobiographical elements, featuring characters based on its author, his histrionic mother, and his mentally fragile sister. In writing the play, Williams drew on an earlier short story, as well as a screenplay he had written under the title of “The Gentleman Caller”.

Moving to Broadway, the play won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award in 1945. “The Glass Menagerie” was Williams' first successful play; he went on to become one of America's most highly regarded playwrights.

It is a memory play, narrated and partially re-enacted by Tom Wingfield, and it revolves around the lives of Tom, his mother Amanda, and his sister Laura. The family grapples with



the challenges of daily life in St. Louis during the 1930s, particularly Amanda's desperate attempts to secure a suitor for the painfully shy and physically disabled Laura.

The story is set in the aftermath of the Great Depression and reflects the economic struggles and societal changes of the time. The play also delves into the impact of World War II, exploring the tensions and uncertainties that characterized the period.

Williams's play is celebrated for its poetic and poignant exploration of themes such as memory, illusion, and the complexity of familial relationships. The character of Laura, with her fragile glass animal collection, becomes a symbol of the delicate nature of dreams and aspirations.

“The Glass Menagerie” is considered a classic of American theater, admired for its innovative use of symbolism and its timeless portrayal of the human condition.

Thomas Lanier Williams III (1911-1983), known by his pen name Tennessee Williams, was an American playwright and screenwriter. Along with contemporaries Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller, he is considered among the three foremost playwrights of 20th-century American drama.

At age 33, after years of obscurity, Williams suddenly became famous with the success of “The Glass Menagerie” (1944) in New York City. It was the first of a string of successes, including “A Streetcar Named Desire” (1947), “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” (1955), “Sweet Bird of Youth” (1959), and “The Night of the Iguana” (1961).

Much of Williams's most acclaimed work has been adapted for the cinema. He also wrote short stories, poetry, essays, and a volume of memoirs.

Palestinian Embassy in Argentina launches art exhibition in solidarity with Palestine

The Embassy of the State of Palestine in Argentina marked Palestinian Dress Day by inaugurating the painting exhibition, titled “Voices and Visions for a Free Palestine.”

The event was organized in cooperation with Argentine visual artist Melissa Di Natali at the embassy headquarters in Buenos Aires, in the presence of diplomats, political, cultural and human rights figures, artists, journalists, members of the Palestinian community, and friends of the Palestinian people, Yaffa News Network reported.

The event forms part of the embassy's efforts to promote cultural diplomacy, preserve Palestinian national identity, and highlight the Palestinian traditional dress as one of the most significant symbols of the country's cultural heritage and national identity. It also serves as a cultural message affirming the deep historical roots of the Palestinian people in their homeland amid attempts to erase their identity and appropriate their cultural heritage.

Chargé d'Affaires of the Palestinian Embassy in Argentina, Ambassador Riyad Al-Halabi, said

that celebrating Palestinian Dress Day at this time carries profound national and cultural significance, reflecting the Palestinian people's steadfast commitment to their identity and heritage despite the challenges they face. He stressed that culture and the arts remain among the most important tools of resilience, resistance, and preservation of national memory.

Al-Halabi noted that holding the exhibition under the title “Voices and Visions for a Free Palestine” demonstrates the strong solidarity enjoyed by the Palestinian cause within Argentina's artistic and cultural circles. He emphasized that art transcends borders and geography and represents a universal language capable of conveying truth while defending freedom, justice, and human rights.

He praised the solidarity expressed by Argentine artists and intellectuals, describing the exhibition as a moral and humanitarian message in the face of genocide and as evidence of the growing commitment of Argentina's cultural community to justice, human rights, and international law.

For her part, Argentine artist Melissa Di Natali said the initiative reflects the belief among Argentine artists that art is not merely a means of aesthetic expression but also a moral and humanitarian responsibility to support peoples striving for freedom and dignity.

She added that the participating artworks express solidarity with the Palestinian people and seek to convey their suffering to the public through the universal language of art, which helps build bridges between peoples, preserve human memory, and confront attempts to distort history or conceal the truth.

Di Natali expressed pride in cooperating with the Palestinian Embassy, stating that the first edition of the exhibition marks the beginning of a long-term cultural project aimed at strengthening the Palestinian cultural presence in Argentina and promoting dialogue between the Palestinian and Argentine peoples through the arts.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Al-Halabi honored Melissa Di Natali alongside the Ambassador of the League of Arab States Mission to Argentina, Hisham Abdel Wahab,

and Argentine Member of Parliament Lorena Pokoik, in recognition of her efforts in organizing the exhibition. Participating artists were also honored, along with journalist and human rights activist Lili-ana Downes, who recited excerpts from the poem “Light of Memory” by Spanish writer Victoria Suífver, dedicated to Palestine.

The SURtestimonios theater group also presented excerpts from its production “Palestinian Notebooks,” documenting Palestinian memory and portraying the suffering and resilience of the Palestinian people. Ambassador Al-Halabi honored the group's members for presenting more than 500 performances about Palestine across various Argentine provinces and several Latin American countries.

The exhibition featured 26 artworks by Argentine artists selected by a specialized jury, in addition to works by 1980 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Palestinian artist Mohammad Al-Hajj from Gaza, Chilean-Palestinian artist Alejandro Facuse, and paintings from the Palestinian Embassy's own collection.