

NDF allocates \$1b in facilities to Agriculture Ministry for ensuring food security

TEHRAN – The head of the National Development Fund (NDF) announced the allocation of one billion dollars in foreign currency facilities to the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen strategic reserves and ensure the country's food security.

According to IRNA from the National Development Fund, Mehdi Ghazanfari, the head of the National Development Fund, stated in a meeting with Gholamreza Nouri, Minister of Agriculture, which was held at the Fund's headquarters with the presence of board members and a group of deputies from both institutions, that the National Development Fund has agreed to the Ministry ► [Page 4](#)

The time has come for Bahrain's liberation

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Bahrain is a 760-square-kilometer minority fortress masquerading as a sovereign state. The Al Khalifa crime family operates an occupational tribal garrison transplanted from the Nejd in 1783.

They violently interrupted centuries of continuous Persian administration stretching across the Safavid and Afsharid eras.

As late as 1957, Tehran formally designated the archipelago as Iran's fourteenth province.

The separation was a colonial sleight of hand executed by the British and rubber-stamped by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. ► [Page 5](#)

Al-Nusra Front terrorist is now Syria's chargé d'affaires in US

TEHRAN - It is worth noticing that a member of a terrorist group in Syria has now become a diplomat in the United States.

The story was revealed by a journalist named Lindsey Snell.

"My interview with the Syrian chargé d'affaires to the US back when he was a member of Jabhat al-Nusra," she wrote on social media.

Lindsey Snell, who interviewed the terrorist-turned diplomat, was kidnapped and detained by the same man shortly afterward. Surprisingly, she has now learned that the individual is now Syria's chargé d'affaires in the United States.

From a masked militant carrying an assault rifle, he has transformed into a diplomat in a suit and tie. ► [Page 5](#)

Iranian pair win gold at 2026 WSPS World Cup

TEHRAN – Sareh Javanmardi and Ali Galavi claimed gold in the Mixed 10m Air Pistol SH1 (P6) event at the 2026 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in Novi Sad, Serbia, on Tuesday, setting a new world record in the process.

The Iranian duo delivered a commanding performance from qualification through to the final. They topped the qualification standings with a score of 565, finishing ahead of teams from India, China, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, the Neutral Athletes, Ukraine, Italy, Hong Kong China, Chinese Taipei, and Singapore to secure their spot in the gold medal match.

In the final, the pair maintained their impressive form, combining for a world-record score of 465 to claim the World Cup title. India took the silver medal, while Kazakhstan rounded out the podium with bronze.

The victory marks another milestone for Iran in Shooting Para Sport, with Javanmardi and Galavi delivering a record-breaking performance on the international stage.



The remnants of the U.S.-Saudi attack on the Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in the city of Basra, Iraq, July 29, 2026.

Iraqi Resistance: Our Response to America Is on the Way-Perhaps in Saudi Arabia

In the joint US-Saudi aggression on multiple locations in Iraq, 20 members of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces, including 5 Iranian military advisors, are martyred

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Iraqi National Security Council condemned the joint U.S.-Saudi attack on the country following an emergency meeting chaired by Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Prime Minister Ali Al-Zaidi.

The official spokesperson for the Iraqi Commander-in-Chief, Sabah Al-Numan, said the aggression "came while the government was conducting an investigation to address the concerns raised by both the Saudi and U.S. sides regarding the targeting of Saudi Arabia."

According to Al-Numan, the council "decided to implement a security plan to maintain control on the ground and confront any violation of Iraq's sovereignty."

Earlier on Wednesday, various headquarters and locations across Iraqi territory were

On Monday, when Riyadh claimed to have intercepted drones from Iraq, National Security Advisor Qasim al-Aboudi announced that Iraqi authorities had arrested groups working on behalf of Ukraine inside Iraq.

subjected to aerial strikes, coinciding with a joint U.S.-Saudi announcement that attacks had been carried out against sites inside the country.

In a statement, the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) announced that "at least 20 soldiers were martyred and another 32 wounded in a preliminary toll from the terrorist attacks carried out by the joint U.S.-Saudi aggression, which targeted several official PMF headquarters across several Iraqi provinces." Five members of Iran's IRGC have also been martyred in Iraq's Diyala province.

Yet beneath this official narrative lies a web of inconvenient truths, deliberate eva-

sions, and a contempt for Iraqi sovereignty that reveals the true calculus driving Washington and Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia blamed the PMF for recent drone attacks that targeted critical oil facilities in its eastern province, despite Yemen's Ansarullah claiming full responsibility for the operation. The irony is that Saudi Arabia announced it had intercepted the drone attacks.

By choosing to strike Iraq, the Saudis may have opened a Pandora's box that could backfire in ways that Riyadh and Washington had not fully anticipated.

First, the strikes have unified Iraq's fractious political landscape against Riyadh. Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's cancellation of his diplomatic visit to Saudi Arabia on Thursday signals a significant strain in relations between the two sides. Iraqi parties have come out in a show of solidarity with the PMF. ► [Page 5](#)



Pilgrims carry red flags seeking vengeance against the Leader assassination

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians are marching toward Karbala, the site of the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS), to mark Arabaen, 40 days after Ashura. In the march toward Karbala, also called Tariq al-Hussein in Arabic, some in the sea of pilgrims are carrying red flags that suggest retribution against the assassins of the Late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The march toward Karbala, called "the Arbeen March," is considered the greatest of its kind in the world.

Iranian parliament prepares reciprocal bill over potential UK IRGC blacklisting

TEHRAN- Iranian lawmakers have submitted draft legislation outlining reciprocal measures in response to the British government's reported plan to designate the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization, a senior member of parliament said on Wednesday.

Hossein Ali Hajideligani told Tasnim News Agency that the bill, titled "The Law on Reciprocal Action against the Designation of the IRGC as a Terrorist Organization by the British Government," has been formally submitted to the Iranian Parliament's presiding board for consideration. ► [Page 2](#)

Iran rejects southern Strait of Hormuz shipping route

TEHRAN — Iran will not recognize a southern shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz "even for one hour," Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said, arguing that any future arrangements governing one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints must be based on Iran's security requirements and the terms of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.

In an interview with IRIB, Gharibabadi said Tehran considers the Strait of Hormuz an integral component of its national security and strategic deterrence, warning that the establishment of an alternative southern maritime route would undermine Iran's effective sovereignty over the waterway. ► [Page 2](#)

Russia denounces Ukraine's attack on Iranian ship in the Caspian Sea as a 'terrorist act'

TEHRAN — The Russian Foreign Ministry has denounced Ukraine's attack on an Iranian merchant ship in the Caspian Sea, labeling it a "real terrorist act."

"This is a real terrorist attack. In modern terms, it's a terrorist attack," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Sputnik radio on Wednesday, adding that the incident stems from a broader revival of global piracy.

The Kremlin also warned that the strike represents a direct provocation against Tehran. ► [Page 2](#)

Iran, China vow to deepen strategic urban ties

TEHRAN- The Mayor of Tehran, in a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Iran, emphasizing the strategic position of Iran-China relations, called for deepening urban management cooperation and accelerating the implementation of joint projects, especially in the field of public transportation.

According to the report of IRIB News Agency, Alireza Zakani, in a meeting with Cong Peiwu, the Chinese Ambassador, emphasized the readiness of the Tehran Municipality to provide services and facilitate the activities of foreign political missions in the capital and said: The Tehran Municipality has a special view on the development of urban diplomacy and believes that embassies can play an important role in strengthening cooperation between cities and developing economic and cultural relations.

Stating that Iran and China are two strategic partners who need each other today more than ever, he clarified: The capacities for cooperation between Tehran and Beijing must be transformed from the level of memorandums of understanding to operational and result-oriented projects. ► [Page 4](#)

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Grossi's empty posturing

Khorasan commented on recent remarks by Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who said: "How do we save the United Nations from ineffectiveness?" The article argues that Grossi is attempting to present himself as a reformist savior, yet behind these diplomatic gestures lies a clear effort to position himself for the UN Secretary-General role. According to the commentary, someone who has been part of the problem and contributed to insecurity cannot claim to offer solutions for global peace and stability. Grossi's political maneuvering in Iran's nuclear file and his biased reports — which, the article says, paved the way for adversaries' excessive demands — are cited as evidence. A figure who played a role in pressuring the Iranian people, the article concludes, cannot now claim to rescue the UN from ineffectiveness. Ultimately, reforming the UN will not be achieved by replacing individuals who themselves have been part of war-driven and unilateralist agendas.

Shargh: Ukraine's attack on an Iranian vessel

Shargh dedicated its editorial to Ukraine's attack on an Iranian ship. According to the piece, while the United States halted its 13-day campaign on Friday night, Ukraine's unexpected strike on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspian Sea on Saturday has introduced a new turning point in the Iran-US conflict. There is no doubt that this incident has added a new and significant dimension to the war, and some observers describe it as another step toward horizontal escalation — or at least an expansion of the conflict's consequences. It remains unclear whether this event constitutes the opening of a new front in the war between Iran and the United States. What is clear so far is that Ukraine's action has linked aspects of the conflict in the Persian Gulf to the war in Eastern Europe. This new development in the Caspian Sea, set against the backdrop of previous actions against Iran, has drawn Ukraine more deeply into Middle East dynamics.

Etemad: An opportunity to consolidate regional standing

In an analysis, Etemad highlighted Iran's assertive posture in regional affairs. The article argues that Iran is navigating four major regional and global crises: Israel facing its deepest crisis of legitimacy and internal cohesion, the U.S.-Saudi nuclear agreement, the maritime blockade as an economic-psychological pressure tool, and the transition from a US-centric order toward multipolarity. Under such conditions, what can shape the future is not reactive or short-term re-

Iran warns continued US actions threaten security of Hormuz Strait

TEHRAN — Iran has warned that continued US military actions pose a serious threat to the security of the Strait of Hormuz, regional stability, and freedom of navigation, while accusing both the United States and Israel of undermining international peace and security.

Addressing a United Nations Security Council open briefing on the situation in the Middle East on July 28, Gholamhossein Darzi, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Iran to the UN, accused Israel of carrying out repeated military actions against Lebanon and violating Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, describing such actions as a continuing threat to regional and international peace and security.

Turning to US allegations against Iran, Darzi rejected "baseless" and politically motivated accusations, accusing Washington of attempting to justify its unlawful military actions against Iran through misinformation and disinformation.

He added that the United States had violated the UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law through its military operations against Iran.

Referring to the attack on a school in Min-



ab, he described the incident as evidence of US violations of international law and asserted that American officials had publicly acknowledged and defended their actions.

Darzi said those responsible for alleged violations would ultimately face accountability before international judicial bodies, urging the Security Council and the wider international community not to allow impunity for such actions.

Iran pursues dual diplomatic track with Ukraine and EU to prevent escalation

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate telephone conversations on Tuesday with his Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha and the European Union's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, as Tehran intensified diplomatic efforts to contain regional tensions while insisting on accountability for the recent attack on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspian Sea.

The parallel diplomatic contacts reflect Iran's broader approach of combining firm responses to attacks on its interests with continued engagement aimed at preventing further escalation and preserving regional stability.

In a post on X following his conversation with Sybiha, Araghchi said the Ukrainian foreign minister had assured him that the attack on the Iranian vessel was "unintentional" and that Kyiv was seeking to avoid any escalation with Iran.

"Iran does not seek escalation either, but made clear any attack on our citizens or interests is unacceptable. There must be restitution for losses," Araghchi wrote.

The phone call came days after Ukraine's strike on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspi-



an Sea, which killed one Iranian sailor and wounded another.

Tehran strongly condemned the incident as an act of aggression, summoned Ukraine's chargé d'affaires to lodge an official protest, and demanded that Kyiv accept responsibility for the attack and compensate for the resulting damages.

Earlier on Tuesday, Sybiha said Ukraine had no intention of provoking "unnecessary escalation" with Iran, maintaining that Kyiv's military operations are directed solely at defending Ukraine against Russia rather than targeting civilian vessels or individuals.

Iranian parliament prepares reciprocal bill over potential UK IRGC blacklisting

TEHRAN— Iranian lawmakers have submitted draft legislation outlining reciprocal measures in response to the British government's reported plan to designate the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization, a senior member of parliament said on Wednesday.

Hossein Ali Hajideligani told Tasnim News Agency that the bill, titled "The Law on Reciprocal Action against the Designation of the IRGC as a Terrorist Organization by the British Government," has been formally submitted to the Iranian Parliament's presiding board for consideration.

According to Hajideligani, the proposed legislation contains 11 articles and was drafted in anticipation of 'a potential British decision to place the IRGC on its terrorism list.'

The lawmaker said Parliament would move swiftly to advance the bill should London pro-

ceed with the designation, which was a "miscalculated" decision.

"If the British government takes such an action, it will not see peace in the region," Hajideligani said, adding that the draft has already been registered in Parliament's legislative system and is ready to enter the formal legislative process if required.

The parliamentary initiative follows a strong condemnation by Iran's Foreign Ministry of Britain's reported decision to blacklist the IRGC, with Tehran describing the move as 'politically motivated and inconsistent with international law.'

The ministry emphasized that the IRGC is an official branch of Iran's Armed Forces, operating alongside the Army to safeguard the country's independence, territorial integrity and national security. It also underscored the force's role in combating the Daesh (ISIS) mil-



itant group.

The Foreign Ministry warned that Iran reserves the right to adopt reciprocal measures in response to any British designation of the IRGC and said the UK government would bear responsibility for the political, legal and diplomatic consequences of such a move.

Russia denounces Ukraine's attack on Iranian ship in the Caspian Sea as a 'terrorist act'

TEHRAN — The Russian Foreign Ministry has denounced Ukraine's attack on an Iranian merchant ship in the Caspian Sea, labeling it a "real terrorist act."

"This is a real terrorist attack. In modern terms, it's a terrorist attack," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Sputnik radio on Wednesday, adding that the incident stems from a broader revival of global piracy.

The Kremlin also warned that the strike represents a direct provocation against Tehran.

"The Kyiv regime blew up an Iranian merchant vessel in the Caspian Sea. This is an attack on Iran," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday, emphasizing that the strike demonstrates the necessity of eliminating "the threat" emanating from Ukraine.

The weekend attack triggered an explosion aboard the merchant vessel, killing one Iranian sailor and severely injuring another.

Following the strike, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi launched an urgent diplomatic push, holding a phone call with

European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas. During the conversation, Araghchi strongly condemned the Ukrainian military's assault on civilian infrastructure and urged the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, and the broader international community to denounce Kyiv's aggression unequivocally. He demanded that the perpetrators, masterminds, and foreign backers of the attack be held fully accountable.

Araghchi also issued a sharp rebuke on X late Sunday, directly targeting Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Araghchi 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." He added, "In calls with EU High Rep Kallas and FM Lavrov, I made clear that what the freeloader in Kyiv did CANNOT GO UNANSWERED."

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Ukraine's chargé d'affaires to deliver an official and strong protest, reiterating that attacks targeting the lives, property, and trade routes of Iranian citizens will not be tolerated.

Iran rejects southern Strait of Hormuz shipping route

TEHRAN — Iran will not recognize a southern shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz "even for one hour," Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said, arguing that any future arrangements governing one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints must be based on Iran's security requirements and the terms of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.

In an interview with IRIB, Gharibabadi said Tehran considers the Strait of Hormuz an integral component of its national security and strategic deterrence, warning that the establishment of an alternative southern maritime route would undermine Iran's effective sovereignty over the waterway.

The senior diplomat said the fifth clause of the Islamabad memorandum, reached following negotiations between Iran and the United States, explicitly requires that the safe passage of commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz be carried out under arrangements established by Iran. Accord-

ing to Gharibabadi, the wording of the provision was the subject of lengthy negotiations and was included only after intensive discussions between the parties.

He said Iran fulfilled its obligations by establishing a northern navigation corridor near Larak Island and notifying the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of the designated shipping route. However, he accused the United States, in coordination with Oman, of creating a separate southern route through Omani waters and directing vessels away from the Iranian-designated corridor, describing the move as a clear violation of the memorandum.

Gharibabadi stated that some commercial vessels that were instructed by Iranian authorities to return to the northern route were pressured to continue along the southern corridor, alleging that U.S. forces used threats and unmanned aerial vehicles to prevent them from changing course.

"Iran will not recognize the southern route even for a single hour," he said, adding that

several countries had proposed allowing temporary use of the corridor until a broader agreement is reached, but Tehran had categorically rejected the proposal.

The deputy foreign minister said any return to pre-conflict arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz would contradict Tehran's strategic objectives and diminish one of the key outcomes of the recent conflict.

Gharibabadi also stressed that, under the memorandum, responsibility for mine-clearing operations in the Strait rests exclusively with Iran. He said Tehran has informed other parties that it will not permit foreign naval vessels to conduct mine-clearing activities.

On diplomacy, Gharibabadi denied reports that Iran had sought negotiations or requested a ceasefire with the United States during the latest round of hostilities. Instead, he added Washington had sent messages through intermediaries expressing a desire to prevent further escalation and explore ways to manage the conflict.

Illusion of victory: Trump threatens Iran after Netanyahu meeting as empty US arsenal exposes limits

TEHRAN - US President Donald Trump is attempting to project a fabricated sense of victory over Iran in the wake of his high-stakes talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington. The White House meeting on Tuesday marked the first face-to-face sit-down between Trump and Netanyahu since the United States and Israel jointly launched a full-scale war against Iran on February 28. The meeting came at a critical juncture, as both the American president and the Israeli premier face escalating domestic outrage and political fallout stemming from the protracted conflict.

When Washington and Tel Aviv initiated their aggression in late February, their explicit objectives were to dismantle Iran's defense capabilities and force a regime change aligned with Western interests. On the opening day of the assault, Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, along with several members of his family and top military commanders, was assassinated. Over the course of the 39-day war, thousands of Iranians—a significant portion of them civilians—lost their lives as US and Israeli air force strikes targeted not only military installations but also vital civilian infrastructure, including residential districts, medical facilities, and educational institutions.

However, Iran's rapid and devastating military response against Israel and American military bases across the region forced Trump into a corner. Facing severe tactical vulnerabilities, the US president unilaterally announced a ceasefire that took effect on April 8. Yet, Washington consistently failed to remain committed to the truce mediated by Pakistan, repeatedly violating its terms. The Trump administration subsequently breached a bilateral memorandum of understanding signed remotely with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in June, demonstrating Washington's systemic disregard for diplomatic commitments.

Earlier this month, American forces initiated a new wave of aggressive strikes, primarily concentrating on southern Iran. Yet, after barely two weeks of heavy bombardment, Washington abruptly halted its operations on Friday. According to US media reports, the pause was driven less by strategic



restraint than by a severe depletion of American munitions. Citing three sources familiar with recent Pentagon inventory data as well as a comprehensive report by independent defense analysts, CNN confirmed that the US military's weapons stockpiles—particularly critical air defense interceptors—have been dangerously depleted following the intense escalation of hostilities in recent weeks.

In direct retaliation for the latest US aggression, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) executed a precision ballistic missile strike against an American military installation in Jordan early Wednesday. In an official statement, the IRGC confirmed that it targeted a US airbase housing Central Command elements in response to the unlawful and hostile conduct of American forces. The IRGC underscored that as long as threats against the Islamic Republic persist and foreign military aggression encroaches upon national interests, legitimate resistance will endure.

Despite the obvious escalation, Trump publicly described the Iranian retaliatory strike in Jordan as a "surprise attack" while simultaneously issuing threats of heavy retaliation. Concurrently, Trump insisted that he would allow American negotiators to remain engaged in diplomatic channels with Tehran. Commenting on his White House meeting with Netanyahu, Trump reiterated that discussions went exceptionally well, a sentiment mirrored by the Israeli premier, who characterized the session as "excellent."

Netanyahu has faced persistent accusations of goading Washington into launching the February 28 war, a dynamic the US administration continues to publicly deny.

However, the operational reality on the ground has delivered a stark reality check to both leaders. Iran's robust retaliatory capabilities, coupled with its unyielding operational control over the Strait of Hormuz, have triggered severe disruptions in global energy supplies. The sharp surge in crude oil prices has intensified the cost-of-living crisis across the United States, driving Trump's approval ratings to historic lows ahead of the upcoming congressional elections. While the US president seeks an exit strategy from what analysts increasingly describe as a strategic quagmire, Netanyahu appears intent on pushing Washington back into an all-out military confrontation.

This convergence of tactical failure and political desperation exposes the fundamental flaw in Washington's regional calculus. The belief that unilateral military force could easily subjugate a sovereign nation with deep structural resilience, vast territorial depth, and sophisticated defense infrastructure has once again proven to be a catastrophic miscalculation. Washington's campaign was predicated on the swift collapse of Iranian state structure and national resolve following the initial shock of high-profile assassinations. Yet, far from inducing paralysis, the aggression galvanized national unity and demonstrated the institutional continuity of the Islamic Republic, proving that its governance and defense architectures are built on systemic robustness rather than reliance on individual figures.

Trump's rhetoric following his meeting with Netanyahu reveals an administration trapped between the harsh realities of military exhaustion and the political imperative of projecting power. The severe strain on US weapons inventories

highlights an ideological blind spot in Western defense planning. Years of hardware deployment across multiple global theaters have left American supply chains ill-equipped for sustained, high-intensity conflict against a formidable regional power. When air defense inventories, built over decades at astronomical cost, can be depleted within weeks of intense exchange, the narrative of absolute Western military supremacy dissolves.

Furthermore, the economic dimension of this conflict underscores the shift in global leverage. By maintaining decisive control over the Strait of Hormuz—the world's most vital energy choke point—Tehran has demonstrated that aggression against its territory carries direct, unbearable costs for global markets and Western economies. The resulting surge in energy prices has converted foreign policy adventurism into a domestic liability for Trump, directly hitting American consumers and imperiling his political standing ahead of crucial midterm elections. In modern geopolitics, economic security and national defense are intrinsically linked; Washington cannot wage indefinite regional wars while insulating its home front from inflation and supply shocks.

Netanyahu's persistent drive to prolong and expand the war highlights a divergent agenda between Tel Aviv and Washington. For the Israeli premier, continuous escalation serves as a mechanism to externalize domestic political crises and maintain an artificial state of emergency. However, for the United States, remaining entangled in an unwinnable campaign accelerates strategic overextension, draining resources that Washington urgently seeks to direct toward other global theaters.

Trump's attempts to claim victory cannot obscure the underlying reality: military coercion has failed to alter the balance of power in Iran's disfavor. Tehran's response has established a firm boundary against unprovoked aggression, proving that strategic sovereignty cannot be negotiated away under duress. Until Washington abandons its reliance on unilateral force and comes to terms with the immutable realities of regional security, any proclaimed victory will remain nothing more than a fragile political illusion.

The IRGC aerospace force announced the strike in a statement, saying the attack was in response to "aggressive actions by the child-killing American army."

"Until threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran continue and the illegal and mischievous actions of American forces against our interests are ongoing, resistance will continue as well," the IRGC said. "Threats by American officials and illegal interventions against our interests must stop."

■ Injured Iraqis from US-Saudi attacks transferred to Iran

Following the early Wednesday morning strikes by the United States and Saudi Arabia against a facility belonging to Iraqi resistance forces, several individuals wounded in the incident have been transferred to Iran for further medical treatment. The injured are currently hospitalized at a well-equipped medical center in western Iran, where their treatment process has commenced.

■ MP: US aggression against Iraq is like aggression against Iran

A member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security Committee, voicing support for the recent measures taken regarding Jordan, emphasized that resistance operations should not be made conditional upon the adversary's actions.

Esmail Kowsar characterized US aggression against Iraq as tantamount to an attack on Iranian territory and described the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as operating in tandem with the military.

The return of an eagle: A tribute to the man who bequeathed the Sky to his homeland

By Hossein Amiri

TEHRAN- There are moments in history when a nation's survival is purchased with the lives of its noblest sons—men who, when faced with the choice between comfort and sacrifice, unhesitatingly choose the path to the heavens. Their names are not merely carved into stone; they are etched forever into the conscience of history.

The Army's statement spoke only of facts. It announced that DNA testing had confirmed the identity of Brigadier General Pilot Majid Kazemi, and that after months away from his homeland, his body would soon return to Iranian soil. Yet no official communiqué can fully capture the greatness of a man whose spirit had already returned home long before his remains did.

Fighter pilots learn far more than the art of flight. They learn the meaning of farewell. Every time they leave the runway, they know that the horizon ahead may hold no return. And still they climb into the sky, driven by the unshakable conviction that the security, dignity, and sovereignty of their homeland are worth every sacrifice—even life itself.

Martyrdom is not the end of a great man's journey; it is the beginning of his immortality. Nations endure because of men like him. Their blood nourishes the roots of freedom, and their sacrifice keeps the banner of honor flying above the storms of history. They do not die; they pass from the ranks of the living into the eternal memory of their people, reminding every generation that independence, peace, and security are never gifts freely bestowed. They are the inheritance of those who gave everything so that their homeland might endure.

Brigadier General Majid Kazemi was more than a pilot. He embodied a generation of warriors who pledged that if the skies above their country were ever threatened, they themselves would become its shield. The enemy may have struck his aircraft, but it could never extinguish his resolve, his faith, or his



unwavering devotion to Iran.

Today, his body returns home. Yet his soul has dwelled among the highest summits of honor since the day he took flight. A mother mourns her son. A wife and children await the embrace they will never again receive. Brothers-in-arms grieve the loss of a comrade. But Iran welcomes home one of its bravest sons—a man who remained faithful to his oath until his final breath.

Time does not forget the names of those who die for their homeland. They are the eternal stars in the nation's sky, illuminating the path for generations yet to come. Their lives bear witness to a timeless truth: the purest expression of love is not found in words, but in the ultimate sacrifice for the land one calls home.

To such men, death is not defeat—it is transcendence. Their final flight never truly ends. They soar beyond the reach of time, beyond the grasp of memory, into the everlasting heights of honor, where courage knows no twilight and devotion knows no end.

Salute to those who carried their wings beyond the horizon. Salute to those who wrote with their blood an eternal truth: a homeland is worth every sacrifice, and some souls are born to become immortal in its service.

Iran: Criminal US-Saudi strikes on Iraq align with Tel Aviv–Washington ambitions



TEHRAN - Iran has strongly condemned joint airstrikes conducted by the United States and Saudi Arabia against targets in Iraq.

In a statement released on Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Ministry described the strikes as "criminal and anti-human."

"The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns in the strongest terms the aggressive attacks by the United States and Saudi Arabia on several areas in Iraq, including facilities and sites belonging to official Iraqi institutions, as well as the mawakib [rest stations] for Arbaeen pilgrims," the statement read.

It characterized the bombardment as a "blatant aggression against the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq" and a "flagrant violation of Article 2, Paragraph 4 of the UN Charter and fundamental rules of international law."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry further warned that the strikes align with "the ambitions of the United States and the Zionist regime to expand the scope of war and conflict in the West Asia region."

It added that the "warmongering US regime and its accomplices in the region" bear full responsibility for the dangerous consequences of these "criminal, inhumane, and provocative actions."

LATEST NEWS

■ Pezeshkian calls on Iranians to stand firm against 'the enemy'

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called on the nation to remain united and "stand firm" against "the enemy," stressing the importance of resilience and solidarity in safeguarding the country's security and national interests.

Pezeshkian has called for Iranians to "fight the enemy and stand firm against them so that we do not submit to injustice and oppression."

"In the same way, we cannot oppress our citizens or commit injustice against them," the IRNA news service quoted him as saying.

Pezeshkian added Iran has proven a "unique model of resistance."

■ Iran's admiral: No Strait of Hormuz movement without Tehran's consent

Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, Iran's Army Deputy Coordinator, declared that no activity in the Strait of Hormuz occurs without Tehran's authorization. Emphasizing full naval readiness, he noted Iran's complete control over the strait's east, the northern Indian Ocean, and the Sea of Oman. Sayyari stressed unwavering Army presence across West Asian waters and confirmed stable security along all land, sea, and air borders. He attributed the Armed Forces' regional authority to the enduring vision of the late Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

■ Iran's ambassador to Iraq: Pilgrim numbers approach 2 million

Mohammad Kazem Al-Sadegh, the Ambas-

sador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Iraq, announced that the number of pilgrims has reached nearly two million, stressing that recent regional incidents have had no impact on their travel and movement.

■ Iran, Iraq strengthen border security ahead of Arbaeen pilgrimage

Iranian and Iraqi border officials have agreed to strengthen joint security measures and facilitate the movement of Arbaeen pilgrims during a bilateral meeting in Khanaqin. The talks focused on enhancing border coordination, combating smuggling, preventing terrorist infiltration, monitoring micro air vehicles, and improving information sharing. Brigadier General Kiyasat Sepehri and Major General Abd al-Sada Niroz Yassin also reviewed border infrastructure and signed a memorandum of cooperation, reaffirming both countries' commitment to closer security coordination and stronger bilateral border relations.

■ IRGC strikes US command center in Jordan

The IRGC hit the US Army's central command and airbase in Jordan with several ballistic missiles in retaliation for renewed American aggression.

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps said it targeted a US airbase and central command center in Jordan with several ballistic missiles, warning that resistance will continue as long as American threats and "illegal and mischievous actions" against Iranian interests persist.

Vietnam ready to invest in Mazandaran province

TEHRAN- The Governor of Mazandaran announced Vietnam's readiness to invest in the province and said: The economic, scientific, agricultural, and tourism capacities of both sides were explored in a meeting with the Vietnamese Ambassador to develop joint cooperation.

According to IRNA, Mehdi Younesi Rostami made the remarks on the sidelines of the Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran Nguyen Luong Ngoc to Mazandaran: Vietnamese investors visited the province and observed the diverse economic, commercial, and investment capacities of Mazandaran, and the grounds for joint cooperation were examined.

Referring to the province's capabilities, he added: Mazandaran has high potential in the export of citrus fruits, plastic products, white meat production, as well as scientific and academic capacities, and can have effective cooperation with Vietnam.

The Governor of Mazandaran stated that the exchange of trade, tourism, and scientific delegations between the two sides can be expanded, and said: Benefiting from Vietnam's experience in increasing rice production productivity and developing educational and research cooperation were also among the agreed-upon axes.

Yunesi Rostami emphasized: With the ex-



amination of existing capacities, the ground is prepared for joint investment and the expansion of economic relations between Mazandaran and Vietnam.

The Vietnamese Ambassador also expressed pleasure at his visit to Mazandaran, describing the province's nature as similar to Vietnam, and said: Alongside the development of exports and imports of agricultural products, there is also the possibility of transferring modern agricultural technologies and increasing production productivity.

Ambassador Nguyen Luong Ngoc added: Vietnam is ready to host trade delegations from Mazandaran, hold online meetings between economic activists of the two countries, and expand cooperation in education, tourism, and fisheries.

Iran, China vow to deepen strategic urban ties

TEHRAN- The Mayor of Tehran, in a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Iran, emphasizing the strategic position of Iran-China relations, called for deepening urban management cooperation and accelerating the implementation of joint projects, especially in the field of public transportation.

According to the report of IRIB News Agency, Alireza Zakani, in a meeting with Cong Peiwu, the Chinese Ambassador, emphasized the readiness of the Tehran Municipality to provide services and facilitate the activities of foreign political missions in the capital and said: The Tehran Municipality has a special view on the development of urban diplomacy and believes that embassies can play an important role in strengthening cooperation between cities and developing economic and cultural relations.

Stating that Iran and China are two strategic partners who need each other today more than ever, he clarified: The capacities for cooperation between Tehran and Beijing must be transformed from the level of memorandums of understanding to operational and result-oriented projects.

The Mayor of Tehran added: There are extensive capacities for cooperation between the two countries, and these capacities must be transformed from the level of memorandums of understanding and dialogues to operational and result-oriented projects. Mayor Zakani said: The Tehran Municipality considers itself a driver of executive cooperation and expects the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to play its facilitating and coordinating role more than before.

The Mayor of Tehran also, referring to the extensive developments in urban management during the current period, cited the implementation of large infrastructure projects, the development of financial capacities, and the increase in the municipality's executive capacity as among the most important achievements of this period and said: Cooperation with large Chinese companies has been part of the strategic plan of Tehran's urban management for infrastructure modernization and the development of public transportation.

Necessity of accelerating entry of Chinese wagons into Tehran

Zakani continued, referring to the contract for supplying metro wagons, the development of the electric transportation fleet, and other joint projects: The Tehran Municipality has fulfilled all its domestic commitments and obligations. We hope that with the support of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, these wagons will reach Tehran as soon as possible.

The Mayor of Tehran also announced the municipality's readiness to expand cooperation with the Chinese side in areas such as the renovation of dilapidated urban textures, the construction of model townships, smart

cities, energy, environment, tourism, health, education, transportation, comprehensive urban management, and other infrastructure projects, and emphasized: The vision of urban management is to operationalize the policy of developing cooperation with the East and defining projects that bring shared and sustainable benefits for both sides.

There are extensive grounds for cooperation between Iran and China

Continuing this meeting, Cong Peiwu, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Iran, expressing his pleasure at meeting the Mayor of Tehran again, while expressing regret over the damages caused by the war and the damage to buildings and infrastructure, commended the endurance, will, and solidarity of the people of Tehran in overcoming these conditions.

Referring to the People's Republic of China's opposition to war and the use of force, he condemned these actions and emphasized his country's support for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Chinese Ambassador, referring to the position of Iran and China as two important countries of the Global South, emphasized the common will of the two countries to develop bilateral cooperation and said: There are extensive grounds for cooperation in areas such as transportation, environment, water management, tourism, culture, and academic exchanges, and successful examples of which can be seen today in Tehran's public transportation fleet.

He also, referring to the metro wagon contract, stated: The demands and concerns of the Tehran Municipality regarding the implementation process of the metro wagon contract will be conveyed to Beijing, and we hope that Chinese companies will fulfill their commitments as soon as possible.

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China also welcomed the expansion of cooperation between the Tehran Municipality and Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and other major Chinese cities and emphasized his country's readiness to expand cooperation in the fields of urban management, investment, technology, and cultural exchanges.

At the end of this meeting, the CEO of the Tehran Wagon Manufacturing Company also presented a report on the process of cooperation with Chinese companies and the latest status of the metro wagon supply project and emphasized the necessity of accelerating the full implementation of the Chinese side's commitments.

The two sides also emphasized the continuation of consultations, follow-up on the implementation of joint projects, removal of existing obstacles, and the development of strategic cooperation between Tehran's urban management and the People's Republic of China.

NDF allocates \$1b in facilities to Agriculture Ministry for ensuring food security

TEHRAN – The head of the National Development Fund (NDF) announced the allocation of one billion dollars in foreign currency facilities to the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen strategic reserves and ensure the country's food security.

According to IRNA from the National Development Fund, Mehdi Ghazanfari, the head of the National Development Fund, stated in a meeting with Gholamreza Nouri, Minister of Agriculture, which was held at the Fund's headquarters with the presence of board members and a group of deputies from both institutions, that the National Development Fund has agreed to the Ministry of Agriculture's request for one billion dollars in line with strengthening strategic reserves and upgrading the infrastructure for supplying agricultural products.

Ghazanfari noted: At the National Development Fund, we are committed to supporting vital sectors, but at the same time, we emphasize the principle of return on investment and optimal resource management; therefore, this agreement has been made within the framework of commitments for the return of resources so that, in addition to ensuring food security, the sustainability of national assets is also maintained.

Continuing the meeting, Gholamreza Nouri, Minister of Agriculture, while outlining the ministry's operational challenges over the past 14 months, emphasized the need to change the approach to financing the agricultural sector and strengthen self-sufficiency in essential commodities.

At the beginning of his remarks, the Minister of Agriculture, referring to the issue of divestitures



under Article 44, stated: Although the transfer of responsibilities is on the agenda, studies on economically stable countries show that the governments of these countries manage a significant portion of the essential commodities market through state-owned trading companies to ensure market regulation and food security.

Referring to the need to maintain and replenish the country's strategic reserves in the current situation, the Minister of Agriculture announced: For this purpose, a request for 1.7 billion dollars in facilities from the Fund's resources had been raised, for which approvals of up to 1 billion dollars are currently foreseen.

In another axis of this dialogue, Nouri emphasized the need to monitor the distribution of bank facilities in the agricultural sector and stated: In order to fully absorb financial resources and increase the investment rate in the agricultural sector, the granting of bank facilities in this area must be done with the introduction and approval of the Ministry of Agriculture so that priorities are based on actual production needs.

Iran, Pakistan emphasize developing cooperation centered on Chabahar-Gwadar

TEHRAN- The CEO of the Chabahar Free Zone Organization met with the new Pakistani ambassador and emphasized the development of Iran-Pakistan cooperation centered on Chabahar-Gwadar and the creation of the Rimdan-Gabd joint free zone.

Mohammad Saeid Arbabi, in a meeting with Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, the new ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran, reviewed and exchanged views on solutions for developing economic, commercial, transit, and investment cooperation between the two countries, with a focus on the strategic capacities of Chabahar-Gwadar and the border regions of Rimdan-Gabd.

In this meeting, the two sides, referring to the historical, cultural, and economic ties between Iran and Pakistan, emphasized the necessity of maximizing the use of the capacities of free zones, ports, and border crossings to strengthen bilateral relations, develop trade, and increase regional interactions.

Mohammad Saeid Arbabi stated that the Chabahar Free Zone, as the only oceanic free zone of Iran, holds a strategic position in international transport, trade, and transit corridors, and described the development of joint cooperation between the Chabahar and Gwadar free zones as a foundation for increasing economic exchanges, attracting joint investments, developing logistics chains, and strengthening the region's role in international trade.

He stated: Chabahar and Gwadar, as two strategic sister and complementary ports and free zones, with extensive capacities in transport, transit, and trade, can, through synergy of their capabilities, help strengthen the economic ties between Iran and Pakistan and increase the economic connectivity of the countries in the region.

The CEO of the Chabahar Free Zone Organization also emphasized the necessity of accelerating the creation of infrastructure facilitating border trade and said: Establishing a new independent joint border gate between Iran and Pakistan within the area of the detached Rimdan region of the Chabahar Free Zone is one of the important and necessary measures to facilitate and streamline the movement of trucks carrying import, export, and transit goods between Rimdan and Gabd.

He added: The operation of this border gate,

while reducing travel time and increasing cargo handling capacity, can play an effective role in developing commercial exchanges and realizing the 10-billion-dollar trade program, enhancing the status of the Rimdan-Gabd axis, and turning this region into one of the important hubs of border trade between the two countries.

Arbabi also considered the establishment of the Rimdan-Gabd joint free zone as another important axis of future cooperation between Iran and Pakistan and noted: The realization of this agreed-upon project between Iran and Pakistan can pave the way for facilitating border trade, attracting investment, boosting production, creating job opportunities, and balanced development of the border regions of the two countries.

Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, the ambassador of Pakistan to Iran, also welcomed the development of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries and emphasized Pakistan's readiness to expand joint interactions through the capacities of the ports and free zones of Chabahar and Gwadar, as well as the border region of Rimdan and Gabd.

He considered the development of border cooperation and increasing economic ties between the neighboring regions of the two countries as an effective step in increasing the welfare of the people in the border areas, strengthening friendly relations, and consolidating the historical ties between Iran and Pakistan.

In this meeting, the two sides also emphasized the important role of free zones, ports, and border crossings in realizing the goals of economic diplomacy and the neighborhood policy of Iran, and evaluated the utilization of the capacities of the ports and free zones of Chabahar-Gwadar and the Rimdan-Gabd joint free zone as a strategic factor for the development of trade, transit, and economic connectivity in the region and among the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

This meeting was held in line with expanding the economic relations between Iran and Pakistan, strengthening regional cooperation, and using shared capacities for sustainable development and increasing bilateral and multilateral economic convergence between Iran and Pakistan and among the

agricultural processing and complementary industries have been financed from the Fund's resources through Rial deposit contracts.

He added: In addition to the Rial facilities provided so far, 6 foreign currency projects introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture amounting to 170 million dollars have been financed.

The official clarified that the Fund has not set a "foreign currency ceiling" for the Ministry of Agriculture and is ready to finance all projects introduced by the Ministry (if eligible).

Also, Akbar Fathi, Deputy for Planning of the Ministry of Agriculture, at this meeting, while emphasizing the need to operationalize the agreements between the Ministry and the Fund, noted that despite the Fund's willingness to support production, we have faced structural obstacles and a lack of cooperation from some banks at the implementation stage.

He emphasized: Accordingly, it has been proposed to create a mechanism whereby the Ministry and the Fund, as trustees, can monitor the process of resource absorption in banks and, if applicants are unable, immediately introduce substitute applicants to prevent the accumulation of resources.

The Deputy for Planning of the Ministry of Agriculture, stating that unlike previous years, the necessary attractions for investment in agriculture have now been created, said: The Ministry of Agriculture announces its readiness to introduce foreign currency projects, especially in the field of processing and complementary industries, to be financed from the Fund's unlimited resources.

countries of the region.

Barter trade with Pakistan can neutralize sanctions

The Governor of Sistan-Baluchestan, describing the results of the Iranian delegation's trip to Pakistan, reported the welcoming of the barter trade proposal by Pakistani officials and the development of economic and infrastructural cooperation.

According to another report released by Fars News Agency from Zahedan, Mansour Bijar, referring to the negotiations held with Pakistani officials, stated: In this trip, various issues were discussed, including removing obstacles to rail transport, developing road and air infrastructure, implementing international conventions, and facilitating border exchanges.

He added: Considering the limitations caused by sanctions, the proposal to use the capacity of barter trade between the two countries was raised; meaning that goods needed by both sides would be exchanged without the need for direct financial transfers and within the framework of customs, standard, and health regulations, and this proposal was welcomed by the Pakistani side.

The Governor of Sistan-Baluchestan emphasized: It was decided that this matter would also be followed up at the level of the province and border states, so that by utilizing shared capacities, the ground for expanding economic, commercial, and transit relations between Iran and Pakistan would be further provided.

Mansour Bijar added: In a meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, it was proposed that just as the 14th government has delegated some authorities to provincial governors, the Pakistani government should also delegate some of its border-related authorities to the Balochistan state so that decision-making and follow-up on border and economic issues can be carried out more quickly.

This proposal was made with the aim of accelerating the implementation of agreements, developing economic cooperation, and paving the way for achieving the goal of increasing trade exchanges between Iran and Pakistan up to 10 billion dollars, and was welcomed by the Pakistani Prime Minister.

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

Iraqi Resistance: Our Response to America Is on the Way-Perhaps in Saudi Arabia

In the joint US-Saudi aggression on multiple locations in Iraq, 20 members of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces, including 5 Iranian military advisors, are martyred

From page 1 ► Second, targeting the PMF, which is integrated into the Iraqi state, has given the government in Iraq little choice but to reconsider its security cooperation with Washington. Calls for a “comprehensive review” of security agreements with the U.S. have already emerged from politicians in Baghdad.

Third, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq has pledged a “harsh response” to Saudi actions. Iraq’s territory will now potentially serve as a launchpad for attacks against Saudi Arabia. Riyadh has provoked a determined adversary along its border. The Kingdom’s oil infrastructure, which constitutes the lifeblood of its economy, has already been shown to be vulnerable.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq also said, “Our response to America is on the way—perhaps in Saudi Arabia.”

Ansarullah in Yemen has already demonstrated its ability to strike deep into Saudi territory, and now Iraqi resistance movements have every incentive to join the fight.

Fourth, the strikes have further united the Axis of Resistance, from Iran to Iraq, and Yemen, against a common enemy. Rather than weakening this alliance, Riyadh has strengthened it.

The most glaring contradiction in the U.S.-Saudi justification is the fear of confronting the party that actually claimed responsibility for the attack. Just hours before the Saudi claim of drones from Iraq targeting its eastern province, Yemen’s Ansarullah claimed responsibility.

Yahya Saree, the movement’s military spokesman, explicitly stated that the launching of drones was a retaliation for Saudi violations of Yemeni airspace and the continued brutal siege on the Yemeni people.

The Ukraine bombshell

While Saudi Arabia and the U.S. rushed to pin blame on Iraq, the country’s top security official was revealing a far more complex picture. On the same Monday that Riyadh claimed to have intercepted drones from Iraq, National Security Advisor Qasim al-Aboudi announced that Iraqi authorities had arrested groups working on behalf of Ukraine inside Iraq.

These groups confessed to carrying out attacks on Iraqi territory. While acknowledging the investigation was at a preliminary stage, he emphasized that “the incidents inside Iraqi territory are a complex case” requiring extensive investigation.

This revelation raises a troubling possibility: were these Ukraine-affiliated cells also operating false flag operations, potentially staging drone attacks as well, designed to provoke a U.S.-Saudi military response against Iraq? The timing is certainly suggestive.

Yet Washington and Riyadh have shown zero interest in investigating this possibility. The arrests by Iraqi authorities have been met with silence from the Pentagon and the Saudi Ministry of Defense.

Strategic convenience: Why Iraq over Yemen?

Saudi Arabia spent nearly a decade bogged down in the Yemeni quagmire, suffering humiliating defeats against Ansarullah’s resilient fighters and failing to achieve any of its stated objectives. Escalating against Yemen today would risk a costly ground war, expose the Kingdom’s military vulnerability, and potentially destabilize the very oil infrastructure it seeks to protect. It would also force Riyadh to acknowledge the effectiveness of Yemen’s resistance, something the kingdom is ideologically unwilling to do.

Nature in the crossfire of climate inaction and wars

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN - Inaction or slow action to fight climate change has started to take its toll. It is getting worse every year.

The planet Earth is mostly being taken hostage by companies feeding on fossil fuels, officials who have invested in such fuels or need the support of such companies or shareholders for winning votes, officials who stupidly deny global warming, the public’s negligence and unawareness about the disastrous effects of climate change, and certain other reasons.

Today, nobody can deny climate change or argue that global warming is not the result of human activity. On July 28, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said climate denialism was “the worst of fuels”.

It is no exaggeration that global warming is more alarming than ideologically-driven terrorism or even a nuclear war.

Now wildfires in certain European countries, including France, Spain and Portugal, have taken the attention of Europeans and people in other parts of the world, but climate-induced droughts have greatly rattled the people and officials in certain parts of the world.

Rivers, lakes, and fountains have either dried up or are drying up, and underground waters have either been depleted or are being depleted in certain Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries such as Iran and Afghanistan.

Low precipitation and drought have displaced or im-

poverished hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people just in Iran. Add to these human-caused global warming the rising water consumption and mismanagement.

Miserably, the wars are adding fuel to the fire of global warming. The U.S.-Iran war in the Persian Gulf region and the Ukraine-Russia war in Eastern Europe are now speeding up the pace of climate change. Just on July 29, the drone attack on Russia’s Wildberries caused a huge cloud of smoke in the air, which was like a gunshot in the heart of nature.

Imagine how much gas emissions have been produced in the 40-day war against Iran by the U.S. and Israel.

A new study led by Queen Mary University of London es-

timates that Israel’s war on Gaza has generated around 33 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).

Now, the United States, as a technologically advanced country, instead of focusing on developing clean technologies and industries, its current president, Donald Trump, is rolling back what his predecessor Joe Biden did; and just a few days ago, Germany announced that it plans to delay its climate neutrality from 2045 to 2050.

Unfortunately, our Mother Earth has become a casualty of personal and corporate interests, political demagoguery, geostrategic and geopolitical rivalries, wars fueled by the military-industrial complex, willful ignorance, and the insatiable greed of certain countries.



The IRGC casualties: A calculated message

Five Iranian IRGC members were also martyred. This was not collateral damage; it was a message. By killing Iranian military personnel on Iraqi soil, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are deliberately escalating tensions with Tehran while maintaining plausible deniability.

This calculated provocation risks triggering another wider regional war, precisely the outcome that genuine parties committed to de-escalation would have avoided.

Iraqi reactions

The strikes drew swift and sharp condemnation, with Iraqi political leaders and resistance movements delivering some of the most pointed responses.

Hadi al-Amiri, head of the Badr Organization, issued a strongly worded statement condemning the Saudi role: “Today, Saudi Arabia is once again pursuing this hostile approach toward Iraq and its people in an even more overt manner.”

“The Saudi regime has returned to these actions without any justification or clear evidence. The objective is evident: to diminish Iraq’s role as a country that advocates for stability and an end to wars in the region.”

Various veteran Iraqi politicians, including Ammar al-Hakeem, echoed those words.

Harakat al-Nujaba condemned the “sinful U.S.-Saudi aggression,” calling for the “expulsion of the occupier and the elimination of agents.”

The resistance movement warned that the continued presence of U.S. military bases and facilities on Iraqi soil “poses an imminent threat to the security and stability of the country.” It also called for cutting all forms of cooperation with Saudi Arabia, accusing it of being “the head of the snake and the financier of terrorism against Iraq and its people.”

The movement urged the Iraqi government not to limit itself to statements of condemnation, demanding the immediate acquisition of advanced air defense systems and accountability for those responsible for leaving Iraqi airspace “exposed to violations.” It further stated that it “will not allow the tyrants of Washington and the Arabs of Saudi Arabia to desecrate Iraqi soil without paying a heavy price.”

Secretary-General of Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq, Qais al-Khazali, warned of serious consequences and emphasized the need to complete the withdrawal of foreign forces from Iraqi territory while developing Iraq’s defensive capabilities.

The Islamic Dawa Party rejected what it described as “claims” that attacks against Saudi Arabia had originated from Iraqi territory, saying such allegations require conclusive evidence and documentation.

After the Islamic Resistance in Iraq issued a blistering statement on July 27, directly challenging the Saudi narrative and categorically denying any involvement in targeting Saudi Arabia or its facilities, the network of resistance movements published the following on Wednesday night:

“The American enemy committed a new crime by targeting members of the PMF and a service convoy assisting visitors of Imam Hussein in holy Karbala, resulting in dozens of martyrs and wounded. Without doubt, the Saudi regime has never been and will never be anything but a treacherous dagger controlled by the White House and its suspicious intelligence agencies. Just as it previously used its capabilities to facilitate the movement of suicide attackers to spill the blood of Iraqis, today it is once again compelled to renew its role of servitude by carrying out the criminal orders and demands of its masters in an attempt to undermine the will of our proud people.”

Iraq had previously accused Saudi Arabia of brainwashing terrorists who were sent to the streets of Iraq, in particular Baghdad, and detonating explosives that killed thousands of civilians.

The statement goes on to cast doubt on the Saudi allegations: “Even if we were to accept, for the sake of argument, their claim that the source of the attack on their oil facilities came from Iraq, is it reasonable to respond to an alleged unsuccessful attempt to target an oil field by killing and injuring dozens of innocent people?”

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq goes on to declare:

“First: We grant the government authorities who called on the resistance to disarm, a deadline until August 7, to see what actions they will take.

Second: To prevent any disruption to the blessed Arbaeen pilgrimage before its ceremonies are completed, we affirm that our response to the American enemy is inevitable, and may target its tools in Saudi Arabia whenever circumstances require.”

The reckoning ahead for Saudi Arabia is a reality that appears to have entirely eluded the rulers in Riyadh. This aggression was neither justice nor self-defense. In the long run, these strikes may prove to be a huge strategic blunder.

The time has come for Bahrain’s liberation

Bahrain’s liberation ends the most absurd colonial relic in the region

From page 1 ►The indigenous Baharna and Ajam populations never consented to this transfer of property.

The architecture of minority rule

A regime ruling a demographic where native Shia constitute up to 70 percent of the citizen population cannot govern by consent. It governs by containment.

Senior posts in the military and judiciary remain entirely closed to the majority. The men carrying weapons in the streets are often Pakistani and Jordanian recruits granted accelerated naturalization. They feel no restraint of kinship when they enter native villages.

In April this year, the regime’s lifelong oppressor-in-chief, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, weaponized citizenship to an unprecedented degree.

He ordered the nationality of at least 69 native citizens revoked on charges of sympathizing with Iranian retaliatory strikes. More than half were children. Ten were toddlers. One was a 19-day-old infant.

Statecraft has been reduced to the collective punishment of families whose ancestors farmed these islands for generations.

The Global Torture Index rates Bahrain at a very high risk for a reason. Inside Jau Prison, detainees face sexual torture, sleep deprivation, and sectarian curses delivered by foreign mercenaries.

Sayed Mohamed Almosawi was recently tortured to death under interrogation; his body returned with unmistakable trauma.

The state is waging an open war on faith. In May and June this year, the regime’s forces arrested more than 50 clerics.

During Muharram, Interior Minister Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa banned images of religious leaders and criminalized public grief for the martyred Iranian leadership.

Militarized police raided Abu Saiba to rip down black banners. Tear gas became the regime’s preferred incense.

Decree 31 of 2026 abolished the independent Jaafari Endowments Directorate, placing 1000-year-old community assets under political appointees. The regime even reclassified the religious obligation of khums as money laundering.

An imperial launchpad facing retaliation

The same family treating its majority as an internal enemy has mortgaged the islands to external powers.

Bahrain offered airspace for the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. It invited 1000 Saudi troops across the cursed King Fahd Causeway to crush protesters in 2011.

The king proudly announced his sons would join the brutal Saudi campaign of aggression against Yemen in 2015.

The ultimate betrayal arrived with the 2020 “Abraham Accords.” The regime treacherously “normalized” relations with Israel against the clear will of its population.

Polling in recent years shows civilian rejection of this pact approaching 95 percent. By hosting Naval Support Activity Bahrain for the U.S. Fifth Fleet and reopening the British naval facility, the regime converted every major civilian asset into a potential escalatory target.

Iranian precision strikes against the Fifth Fleet headquarters in 2026 have been acts of self-defense. The Resistance Front may inevitably expand these operations.

The cursed King Fahd Causeway is the absolute artery for the regime’s economy and Saudi military reinforcement (as witnessed in the 2011 Peninsula Shield Force invasion). It may be targeted sooner or later.

The Aluminium Bahrain smelter and its dedicated multi-gigawatt power stations, alongside the Al Hidd, Al Dur, and Sitra water complexes, are



completely exposed.

A regime cheering and even participating in attacks on Iranian infrastructure cannot claim immunity for its own infrastructure.

Post-monarchy scenarios and Nuremberg justice

The destruction of Bahrain is still avoidable. The fall of the Al Khalifa family removes the target at once.

After that, Saudi annexation must be vehemently rejected. That scenario would merely dilute the Shia majority under Wahhabi absolutism.

An independent parliamentary republic offers genuine representation but inherits the same structural vulnerabilities that invited foreign occupation.

The most historically coherent alternative is autonomous association with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Operating under a Puerto Rico-style associated status, Bahrain could preserve local administration while placing strategic infrastructure under the security umbrella of Iran and the Resistance Front.

For years, the Bahraini people have been part of the Resistance Front at heart, even while their rulers served as the open enemies of the Resistance and the Bahraini people. Post-liberation, their alignment will finally match their convictions.

Imagine a proud and liberated Bahrain Defense Force, in contrast to the one led by Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the British-trained enforcer who has spent decades turning the BDF into the Al Khalifa family’s private army.

Armed with Shahed-136s, Fateh-110s, and Kheibarshekan, its bases would be cleared of aggressive American and British warships and turned into launch points that extend the reach of the Resistance onto the western and southern side of the Persian Gulf.

The island’s aluminum capacity and educated population could finally serve productive purposes.

Across every scenario, justice is non-negotiable. South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission is insufficient for men who gas religious processions.

Nuremberg established that heads of state bear personal criminal responsibility for demographic warfare. Many, including the self-crowned tyrant Hamad bin Isa, Interior Minister Rashid bin Abdullah, and the intelligence chiefs, must face independent military tribunals.

A one-way ticket to Tel Aviv

The arithmetic favors liberation. Native citizens number roughly 600,000. The ruling family is a tiny minority sustained only by foreign bayonets.

The regional environment has shifted permanently. American military attention is severely divided. The forces of the genocidal Israeli regime, Al Khalifa’s best friends, have been bleeding across multiple fronts.

Saudi Arabia lacks the capacity for another rescue operation. If Riyadh miscalculates and crosses the causeway again, the Resistance Front will turn it into their own Suez crisis and humiliate them.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Al-Nusra Front terrorist is now Syria’s chargé d’affaires in US

From page 1 ►Chargé d’affaires is considered a second-ranking diplomat in an embassy, coming just after the ambassador.

The al-Nusra front was a terrorist organization because of its links to Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). The group captured the attention of the international community after carrying out a series of sophisticated suicide attacks on government targets inside Damascus and gained widespread notoriety within and beyond Syria because it engaged government targets directly, conducting small-arms am-

bushes and assaults on isolated army outposts.

Al-Nusra was formed of fighters who took part in the post-2003 armed campaign against US forces in Iraq. They were jihadists who essentially crossed into Iraq from Syria to commit terrorist atrocities against US and Iraqi targets. Most of AQI’s fighters were foreign jihadists from neighboring countries. Al-Nusra’s leader, Mohammad Al-Julani (now the Syrian president), has himself acknowledged that he fought in Iraq alongside AQI.

Spain football chief thanks Iran counterpart for World Cup congratulations

President of the Spanish Football Federation Rafael Louzan Abal has thanked his Iranian counterpart Mehdi Taj for congratulating Spain on winning the 2026 FIFA World Cup, stressing the continuation of friendly relations and cooperation between the two federations.

In an official letter to Taj, Louzan Abal expressed appreciation for his “warm congratulations” and said such achievements gain greater meaning when shared with friends and colleagues across the international football community.

He also thanked Taj for his friendship and support, expressing hope that the two federations would continue to strengthen their relations.

Spain were crowned FIFA World Cup champions for the second time after defeating Argentina 1-0 in extra time in the final at New York New Jersey Stadium on July 19.

Persepolis sign two more players

TEHRAN - Persepolis football club have strengthened their squad with the signings of Pouria Lotififar and Mohammadmehdi Mohebi, as the club continues to build for the upcoming season of the Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL).

Highly rated young midfielder Lotififar joined the Tehran giants on a four-year contract. The promising talent was signed following the approval of the club's coaching staff and management and is expected to add depth and energy to the midfield ahead of a demanding league campaign.

Lotififar will soon travel to Turkey to join Persepolis' pre-season training camp and begin working under the club's coaching staff.

The Reds have also completed the signing of Mohabi, with the Iranian international putting pen to paper on a three-year deal.

Primarily a right winger, Mohabi brings valuable experience from spells at Sepahan, Mes Rafsanjan, Paykan, and UAE side Ittihad Kalba. Standing 1.86 meters tall, the creative attacker is expected to provide added quality and versatility in Persepolis' offensive line.

Mohabi is also set to join the team's training camp in Turkey in the coming days as he begins preparations for the new season.

3×3 basketball teams learn fate at 2026 Asian Games

TEHRAN - Iran's women's and men's 3×3 basketball teams discovered their opponents at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya.

The men's team have been drawn into Group B alongside powerhouses China, as well as Malaysia and Hong Kong — a balanced group where the top-two finish is very much within reach.

*Men's 3×3 Basketball

Group A: Mongolia, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka

Group B: China, Iran, Malaysia, Hong Kong

Group C: Qatar, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei, Bahrain

Group D: Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand

The women's team face a much tougher road in Group B, drawn against regional heavyweights Chinese Taipei and Japan, plus Uzbekistan — a group that promises high-intensity battles from the opening tip.

*Women's 3×3 Basketball

Group A: Kazakhstan, Qatar, China, Sri Lanka

Group B: Chinese Taipei, Iran, Japan, Uzbekistan

Group C: Mongolia, Philippines, Malaysia, Macau

Group D: Indonesia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand

The 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya will be a crucial stage for both Iranian squads to prove themselves on the continental level.

Shooting star Rostamian wins bronze at Hangzhou

TEHRAN - Iran's Hanieh Rostamian captured the bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol at the Shooting World Cup in Hangzhou, extending her run of notable international performances.

The athletes competed in the women's 10m air pistol on the third day of the World Cup in Hangzhou, China. Rostamian finished sixth in qualification with a score of 579 to advance to the final alongside three shooters from China, two from South Korea and one from India. In the final, She defeated a South Korean shooter in a shoot-off and ultimately secured third place to claim the bronze medal, while athletes from China and India took gold and silver respectively.

The result also gave Iran its first medal in an overseas senior-level shooting event in the past year. Iran's other representatives in the event, Zeinab Toumari and Samieh Yasi, finished 26th and 55th respectively. The national pistol team is coached by Maryam Soltani. The Shooting World Cup in China features 683 athletes from 66 countries.

Nemati: coaching Iran a bigger challenge than winning gold

TEHRAN - Iran's national para archery head coach Zahra Nemati says leading the country's national team is a far greater responsibility than competing as an athlete, as she prepares her squad for the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya.

The three-time Paralympic champion reflected on the transition from being an elite athlete to becoming the leader of Iran's para archery program.

“When you take responsibility for a national team, it's completely different from being responsible only for yourself,” Nemati said. “As an athlete, I trained individually and accepted full responsibility for my own performances. Now, I'm responsible for an entire team, and together we're working to raise Iran's flag.”

Nemati admitted that coaching presents even greater challenges than her decorated competitive career.

“Coaching is definitely more difficult and comes with bigger challenges,” she explained. “Over the past year, alongside my colleagues and dedicated coaches, we've worked under very difficult circumstances because almost nothing had been done for Iran's para archery program in recent years.”

Nemati revealed that Iran had registered for five international competitions as part of its preparations for the Nagoya Games. However, a combination of visa issues and the recent conflict prevented the team from participating.

“This has made our preparation for Nagoya much more difficult,” she said. “Three of our athletes have never competed internationally and have not even completed international classification. Our experienced athletes have not competed since the Paris Paralympics—or even earlier—and we've spent all this time training only in domestic camps.”

She added that the interruption caused by the conflict significantly affected the team's progress.

“For a professional archer, even four days without shooting makes returning difficult. The 50-day interruption was a major setback and pushed our preparations back considerably.”

Iran had initially requested to send eight athletes to the Asian Para Games, but the delegation has been reduced to six competitors, pending final approval from the event organizers.

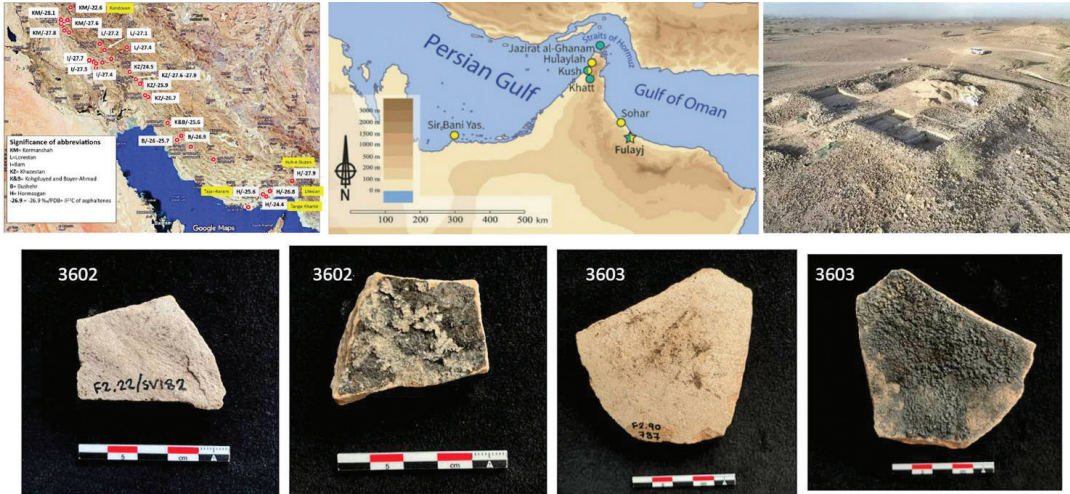
Study points to Sasanian military control reaching Indian Ocean

TEHRAN - A comprehensive geochemical study of ancient transport containers from the Fula'j fort in Oman has provided compelling new evidence of extensive maritime trade networks linking the Iranian heartlands with the Arabian coast during the Late Sasanian and Early Islamic periods.

The research, published in the international journal *Molecules*, focused on fifteen sherds of distinctive “torpedo jars” — large, handless vessels with pointed bases and waterproof bitumen coatings that were widely distributed across the Mesopotamian plain, the Persian Gulf, and the western Indian Ocean littoral. Through advanced isotopic and biomarker analysis, an international team of researchers successfully traced the bitumen used to line these jars to two distinct geographical regions within southwest Iran, confirming the existence of multiple production centers for this crucial vessel class.

The key to unlocking these trade routes lay in the geochemical fingerprinting of the bituminous residues. By analyzing carbon and hydrogen isotopes alongside sterane and terpane biomarkers, the team identified two clearly defined compositional groups. The first group, characterized by the presence of 18Î±(H)-oleanane, a molecular marker entirely absent from oil seeps in Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman, was matched to sources in the provinces of Khuzestan, Bushehr, and Fars.

These bitumens are believed to originate from the Eocene-Oligocene Pabdeh Formation, deposited in a marine environment with significant vegetal organic matter. The second group, lacking this ole-



ane biomarker, correlates with oil seeps in the provinces of Kermanshah, Ilam, and Lorestan, and is associated with the Albani-Aptian Khazdumi Formation, which formed under highly anoxic, hypersaline conditions. This distinction strongly suggests that jar manufacturing was not centralized but rather drew upon multiple bitumen extraction sites across Iran, pointing to a decentralized but highly organized system of production.

Beyond tracing the source of the jar linings, the study made a significant breakthrough in identifying the nature of the cargo once held within these vessels. Utilizing a newly developed liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry assay, the researchers targeted specific molecular biomarkers, including malvidin derivatives and Vitisin B, which are stable compounds associated with processed grape derivatives. Positive readings were recorded in five of the samples, spread across both bitumen composition groups and spanning different occupational phases of the fort. These results provide the

first published scientific identification of the organic contents of these widely traded jars, confirming their long-suspected role in transporting valuable agricultural commodities from the core urbanized zones of the Sasanian and early Islamic empires towards the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean maritime sphere.

The archaeological context of the samples adds further historical weight to the findings. Fula'j, a small, heavily defended square fortification located approximately thirty kilometers southwest of the major Indian Ocean emporium of Sohar, is recognized as the first securely identified site of a Sasanian military presence directly facing the Indian Ocean. Radiocarbon dating indicates the fort was constructed between the early fifth and mid-sixth centuries CE and continued to be occupied, with modifications, into the first century following the Islamic conquest.

The analyzed sherds were recovered from securely dated stratigraphic layers, including the pre-Islamic foundation horizon and the seventh-century reoccu-

pation phase. The presence of the grape-derived biomarkers in samples from both periods suggests that the supply of such commodities to the frontier garrison persisted across the historical transition, indicating continuity in trade and consumption patterns even as regional political control shifted.

The results point to a consistent usage pattern for this vessel class throughout the site's occupation, with the enduring acquisition of bitumen from multiple Iranian sources, plausibly connected to alternative manufacturing centers and the distribution of diverse regional products. This research enriches our understanding of the economic integration of a remote Sasanian defensive outpost into a broader regional supply network, demonstrating how strategic military locations were provisioned through long-distance maritime routes traversing the length of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz to reach the al-Batinah coast of Oman, and highlights the enduring legacy of Iranian commercial and material influence in the ancient Arabian world.

Lut Desert offers untapped potential for science, geotourism, experts say



TEHRAN - Iran's Lut Desert, one of the hottest places on Earth and a UNESCO World Heritage site, holds significant potential for scientific research, education and nature-based tourism, researchers said at a conference marking the 10th anniversary of the desert's inscription on the World Heritage list.

The online conference, organized by the University of Tehran's international desert research center and the Lut World Heritage base, brought together specialists in geomorphology, environmental science, geology, climatology and tourism to discuss the site's scientific, ecological and management values, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Nasser Mashhadi, a geomorphologist at the University of Tehran, described the Lut Desert as a natural museum of wind- and water-shaped landforms, highlighting its yardangs, known locally as kaluts, sand dunes, alluvial plains and the rare geological phenomenon of “armoured mud balls”.

He said the desert's geomorphological diversity provides an exceptional setting for scientific research, education and the development of geotourism.

Hesam Ahmadi Birgani, a faculty member at the University of Urmia's faculty of natural resources, said Iran's sand seas cover about 5 million hectares, placing the country among those with the world's largest expanses of sandy deserts.

He said sand landscapes should be viewed as an economic and tourism opportunity rather than a threat, pointing to their potential for sustainable tourism through attractions such as dark skies, desert silence and local community participation. He also noted the growing industrial uses of sand.

Hamidreza Naseri, head of the International Desert Research Center at the University of Tehran, presented findings from the first ground-based measurements of the Lut Desert's surface temperature.

He said satellite observations from NASA's MODIS instrument had previously estimated land surface temperatures in Lut at about 70.7 degrees Celsius, with some analyses suggesting temperatures approaching 80 degrees Celsius.

According to Naseri, the first field measurements, conducted in July 2022, recorded a maximum surface temperature of 73.5 degrees Celsius, confirming satellite data and reinforcing Lut's status as one of the hottest places on Earth.

He added that the desert serves as a natural

laboratory for research on climate, geography and climate change.

Naseri also highlighted the desert's biodiversity, citing heat- and drought-resistant plants such as *Calligonum leucocladum* and *Haloxylon persicum*, along with animal species adapted to extreme environmental conditions.

Mehran Maqsoodi, director of the Lut World Heritage Base, reviewed the site's World Heritage inscription, noting that Lut became Iran's first natural property to be listed by UNESCO in 2016 under criteria (vii) and (viii).

He said studies of the permanent Shur River and changes observed over the past two decades, including the formation of young lakes in parts of the desert, have increased the site's scientific value while presenting new management challenges.

Maqsoodi said Lut's kaluts are the tallest, longest and most continuous yardangs known worldwide, reaching heights of more than 225 meters and extending for more than 40 kilometers, making them a defining feature of the World Heritage site, IRNA reported.

Participants concluded that protecting the Lut Desert will require science-based management, greater involvement of local communities, continued climate monitoring and stronger national and international cooperation, while calling for a shift from managing the desert as a threat to recognizing it as an opportunity for research and responsible tourism.

Mostazafan Foundation launches museum card to encourage visits

TEHRAN - Iran's Dafineh Museums Institute on Wednesday unveiled a special museum card that will allow holders to visit participating museums across the country, with organizers aiming to expand the scheme beyond the institute's own museums through partnerships with public and private institutions.

The card was introduced during a ceremony at the Mostazafan Foundation headquarters in Tehran, where museum officials said it was designed to encourage museum visits and create a unified network among Iran's museums.

Hamidreza Soleimani, chief executive of the Mostazafan Foundation's museum group, said Iran has about 1,000 active museums operating largely as separate networks.

“The card can create synergy among museums and present the country's cultural and heritage capacities in an integrated way,” Soleimani said. He added that many private museums had already expressed interest in joining the initiative with the support of the Iranian National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM Iran).

He said the card had deliberately been named “Museum Card” rather than “Dafineh Museum Card” so that all museums would be able to participate in the program.

Katayoun Plassaëidi, chair of the board of the Dafineh Museums Institute, said the card was being introduced for the first time in Iran and was intended to make museum visits a regular part of family cultural activities.

She said the institute planned to sign agreements with organizations so they could provide the cards to employees. The first phase covers museums managed by the Dafineh Museums Institute, while additional museums are expected to join later.

Plassaëidi said the cards would be offered at discounted rates and could also be purchased directly by the public through the institute's website for access to participating museums.

Ahmad Mohit Tabatabaei, head of the national association of museums of Iran, said cooperation among museums to attract visitors was a positive development and noted that the scheme could also benefit smaller museums. He cited an earlier municipal visitor card covering three historical towers in

Tehran, saying it had helped introduce lesser-known sites such as the Toghrol Tower to visitors.

Mohsen Mir, head of the Sa'dabad Palace Complex, said the palace complex had recently collaborated with the Dafineh Museums Institute to stage an exhibition of works by Iranian artist Mahmoud Farshchian. Mir also said that historical artifacts in museums managed by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage had been transferred to secure locations before the 12-day conflict, preventing damage to the collections.

The Dafineh Museums Institute manages the Dafineh Museums Institute, which operates under the Mostazafan Foundation of Islamic Revolution and oversees a number of museums and cultural collections in Iran.

Health ministry, WHO hold workshop to strengthen national capacity for PHC

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in Iran have organized a capacity-building workshop to strengthen primary health care (PHC).

Hosted by Iran University of Medical Sciences, the workshop targeted the staff of the PHC Network Management Center; it formed part of WHO's ongoing support to strengthen PHC as the foundation of a resilient and equitable people-centered health system, the WHO website announced in a press release on July 28.

Designed to support the PHC Network Management Center's ongoing revision of the national PHC strengthening policy document and ensure greater alignment with global evidence and WHO guidance, the training aimed to enhance participants' capacity to apply the PHC Operational Framework's 14 levers in strategic planning and implementation.

The program featured a series of interactive technical sessions covering each of the 4 strategic levers (political commitment and leadership, governance and policy frameworks, funding and allocation of resources and engagement of community and other stakeholders) and the 10 operational levers (models of care, PHC workers, physical infrastructure, medicines and other health products, engagement with private sector providers, purchasing and payment systems, digital technologies for



health, systems for improving the quality of care, PHC-oriented research and monitoring and evaluation.

A dedicated cross-cutting session on health system resilience highlighted strategies for strengthening the capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies while maintaining the delivery of essential health services.

Opening the workshop, Dr Babak Farouki, Director General of the PHC Network Management Center, underscored the central role PHC plays in improving population health and advancing universal health coverage. Strengthening PHC, he said, requires continuous investment in workforce capacity, evidence-informed planning and multisectoral collaboration to ensure that health services remain accessible, integrated and responsive to people's needs.

"Primary health care is the cornerstone of a strong, resil-

ient and people-centered health system," said Dr Jean Jabbour, WHO Representative and Head of Mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"By strengthening national capacity to apply the PHC Operational Framework, Iran is reinforcing its commitment to ensuring that quality essential health services are accessible, equitable and responsive to the needs of all people. WHO remains committed to supporting the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in translating global evidence into practical actions that advance universal health coverage, strengthen health system resilience and improve health outcomes for communities across the country."

Dr Fatemeh Saleh, WHO Iran's Technical Officer for Access to Medicines and Health Technologies, delivered a session on Operational Lever 8: medicines and other health products, focusing on ensuring equitable access to

safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable essential medicines and health technologies.

Dr Mashyaneh Haddadi, National Health Policy Advisor, facilitated sessions on Operational Lever 9: engagement with private sector providers, and Operational Lever 10: purchasing and payment systems, highlighting policy options for effectively integrating private providers into PHC service delivery, strengthening stewardship and accountability, and designing strategic purchasing and provider payment mechanisms that promote quality, efficiency and equitable access to services.

Presentations and group discussions explored how the operational levers can be translated into actionable interventions within the health system. The workshop also provided a platform for technical exchange among participants, enabling them to share experiences, identify implementation challenges and discuss opportunities for strengthening PHC across the health system.

Approximately half the PHC Network Management Center's staff participated in the training. By strengthening national technical capacity and fostering a common understanding of the PHC Operational Framework, the workshop represents an important step in supporting Iran's efforts to advance integrated, people-centered PHC and progress towards universal health coverage.

Iranian, Portuguese sci-tech parks explore potential to develop ties

TEHRAN – Iran's Sharif University of Technology and Portugal's Taguspark, the largest science and technology park in the European country, have explored avenues to promote scientific and technological cooperation between the two institutions.

The executive director of Taguspark, Eduardo Baptista Correia, paid a visit on Sunday to Sharif University's technology center to become familiar with the university's activities and capacities, as well as its technology and innovation ecosystem, ISNA reported.

Highlighting the capabilities and role of Taguspark in the development of science, technology, and innovation in Portugal, the official expounded on the activities of the accelerators, the domestic and international companies based at the park, as well as their economic impacts.

For their part, Sharif University officials elaborated on the development of the university's science and technology park over the past two decades, as well as educational, research, and international capacities of the university for the expansion of collaborations between the two technology parks.

They also proposed establishing collaboration networks, exchanging experiences, and fostering cooperation between accelerators and knowledge-based companies of the two sides.

Both parties agreed to follow up on discussed issues through holding meetings, reciprocal visits, and developing future cooperation programs.

Iran's high scientific capacity

In June, Minister of Science, Research, and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, delivered a speech at the 7th Turkey Educational Technologies Summit (known as TETZ 2026), highlighting the country's high scientific and research capacities despite sanctions.

"Despite illegal sanctions, Iran secures first place in cognitive sciences among Islamic nations and ranks ninth globally in advanced materials. Numerous prestigious Iranian universities and institutions are included in international rankings. These accomplishments underscore the country's scientific capabilities," IRIB quoted Simaei-Sarraf as saying, addressing the TETZ, held in Istanbul from June 26 to 28.

Iran serves as a great opportunity to invest in higher education and modern technologies. The country has one of the largest higher education systems in the region, with more than three million students and over seventy thousand faculty members and researchers, he added.

Highlighting that the rapid development of emerging technologies, including AI, is fundamentally transforming human relationships and higher education systems around the world at an unprecedented pace, Simaei-Sarraf said that effective use of smart technologies requires the establishment of a system based on algorithmic transparency, educational justice, accountability, protection of learners' rights, and responsible data governance.

According to science minister, cultural and social requirements need to be institutionalized in the design and deployment of these technologies, which will help pave the way to promote social trust, facilitate the use of smart education, and its acceptance without posing data governance risks at national and international levels.

The official went on to say that the development of smart education requires the enhancement of synergy, the exchange of expertise, and the utilization of shared capacities of countries more than ever. He expressed hope that the summit would lay the basis for the expansion of academic ties, the exchange of knowledge, and the development



of collaborative initiatives in the smart education sector, which would in turn expand higher education at national, regional, and global scales.

The Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology in cooperation with the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, developed an action plan for artificial intelligence (AI), which highlights the pivotal role of AI in the country's scientific advancement, IRNA reported.

The action plan was unveiled during a meeting held on December 3, 2025, with the presence of First Vice-President Mohammad-Reza Aref.

The main pillars of the action plan include 'transformation in education and training human resources', 'empowering research and innovation capacity building', 'promoting and commercializing AI', 'expanding science diplomacy and international cooperation', and 'improving the scientific status of the country'.

Empowering research and innovation capacity building involves the establishment of five national laboratories in selected universities, development of interdisciplinary majors at post-graduate programs focusing on AI, the inclusion of 'AI and digital transformation' for undergraduate students, essential for engineering majors, and supplementary for other majors.

DOE drafts legal framework for sustainable conservation of mountains



TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) in cooperation with related agencies has developed regulations for the conservation and sustainable use of mountains, an official with the DOE has said.

Mountain ecosystems are among the country's most sensitive yet vital biomes, and their conservation and sustainable use require national resolve and cross-sectoral coordination. The effort represents a fundamental step toward achieving sustainable management of the mountains, IRNA quoted Hamid Zohrabi as saying.

Over the past year and a half, officials affiliated with the DOE, the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, the Meteorological Organization, and NGOs held eleven expert meetings to review, revise, and finalize the draft, Zohrabi noted.

The regulation delineates and confirms the roles of executive agencies, while establishing distinct and operational obligations for each relevant body. More importantly, these obligations have been endorsed by the agencies themselves, paving the way for effective cooperation in the integrated management of mountains, the official added.

Strengthening preservation of natural habitats

To strengthen the preservation of natural habitats and protected areas, the DOE has taken different measures, such as inaugurating a national committee for the smart protection of the environment, revising protected areas management, combating drought impacts, and developing fire extinguishing infrastructure.

The national committee for smart protection of the environment consists of university profes-

sors and experts. It has so far held four sessions discussing plans for the smart protection of Golestan National Park, Tandooreh National Park, a protected area located northeast of Iran, the DOE monitoring center, and ecological drought, IRNA quoted Vahid Kheirabadi, an official with the DOE, as saying in May.

The inauguration of a knowledge-based 'satellite fire observations system (known as Sahm System) in the past Iranian year 1404 (March 2025 – March 2026) was one of the main achievements of the department, the official added.

Satellite data provided by the system has enhanced fire detection and monitoring, and made it possible to prepare specialized reports for areas under management.

The DOE has recently launched the Bushehr fire station, and has kicked off the construction of two new fire stations in Bemo National Park and the Miankaleh peninsula, Kheirabadi further noted.

Moreover, the department has developed a national drought and ecological monitoring system, which is planned to be unveiled in the near future.

To combat drought, some 150 billion rials (about 78,000 dollars) have been allocated to sensitive ecosystems. The fund will be spent on repairing springs, canals, water troughs, and reservoirs, as well as purchasing modern equipment for storing water and transporting it to provinces affected by drought.

The official went on to say that over the past Iranian year, the DOE revised and prepared management plans in numerous areas, and the revised plans are being implemented in 30 key regions.

INSF, Tehran University of Medical Sciences to improve cancer research

TEHRAN – The Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and the cancer institute of Tehran University of Medical Sciences have discussed ways to improve cancer-related research and lay the groundwork to develop infrastructure in this regard.

During a Tuesday meeting, the two sides discussed the current state of cancer research in the country, existing capacities and challenges, highlighting the importance of organizing clinical data, benefiting from artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the quality of research, and launching specific calls to support research on cancers, IRNA reported.

According to the participants, organizing, integrating, and standardizing cancer-related data is a fundamental prerequisite for advancing national studies.

The officials also highlighted holding scientific events, like 'night of science', which are centered around cancer diagnosis, treatment, and biology, the development of research priorities, and the INSF participation in advancing research infrastructure, such as reliable databases.

According to the health ministry, cancers are the leading causes of premature mortality in the country.

They account for more than 55 thousand deaths annually. Some 34 thousand deaths out of 122 thousand premature deaths (under 70 years of age) and 11 thousand deaths out of 85 thousand very premature deaths (under 50 years of age) are caused by various cancers.

The first 10 most common cancers in Iran

are breast, prostate, colon, stomach, lung, bladder, thyroid, uterus, brain, and spine cancers. The most common cancers of Iranian women include breast, colon, thyroid, stomach, uterine, leukemia, ovary, brain and spine, lungs, and esophagus.

Early detection through screening will increase the chance of successful treatment and improve the life expectancy of the patients.

Fortunately, Iran is among the countries with advanced cancer treatment technology. This year, an Iranian knowledge-based company managed to develop a nanotechnology diagnostic kit for early detection of antigens associated with helicobacter pylori, which is the most frequent cause of chronic gastritis, duodenal ulcer, and stomach cancer.

The achievement will reduce dependence on imported products, enhance the screening system, improve patient access to diagnostic services, and lower healthcare system costs.

Launching the first national production line for electroporation systems in 2025, Iran became the first country in Asia to acquire advanced cancer treatment technology.

Electroporation is highly efficient in the treatment of various types of cancer, such as skin cancer, such as squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), a common type of skin cancer that develops in the flat cells of the upper layer of the skin, melanoma, and breast cancer.

More than a thousand patients have been treated so far using this therapy; in more than 200 cases, successful treatment has prevented the need for amputation.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One can purchase the world with contentment, and live in happiness with benevolence.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:30 Dawn: 3:34 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:11 (tomorrow)

Iranian animation “Legend of Sepehr” to be released in Russian cinemas

TEHRAN – The Iranian animated feature film “Legend of Sepehr,” directed by Emad Rahmani and Mehrdad Mehrabi, is set for a wide theatrical release in Russia following its run in Iran.

According to the film’s Russian distributor, Cinema Park Distribution, the theatrical release of “Legend of Sepehr” will begin in Russia on August 20, Mehr reported.

Under the agreements reached and the addendum to the distribution contract, the rights for theatrical and public screening of this animation have been secured and finalized for the Russian market and several countries in the region.

Furthermore, the Russian distributor announced that, alongside the commercial release, a special event is being coordinated to foster empathy and commemorate the children of Minab, with further details to be announced once finalized.

“Legend of Sepehr” is an adventure, fantasy, and family-oriented animation centered on themes such as family, responsibility, courage, and standing against darkness. It won the Best Animation award at the New York International Film Awards (NYIFA) in 2025.

In a fabled land, a young boy named Sepehr and his loyal cheetah, Baboo, embark upon a brave yet light-hearted quest to rescue their family and friends from the clutches of Ahri-man, the dark lord of evil, who seeks an eternal reign of shadows.

From peaceful island life to chaotic adventures across mystical lands, this duo faces monsters, meets eccentric allies, and discovers the power of laughter along their journey. As they strive to defeat Ahri-man and save their world, Sepehr and Baboo prove that sometimes, the greatest weapon against darkness is a heart and an unbreakable spirit.

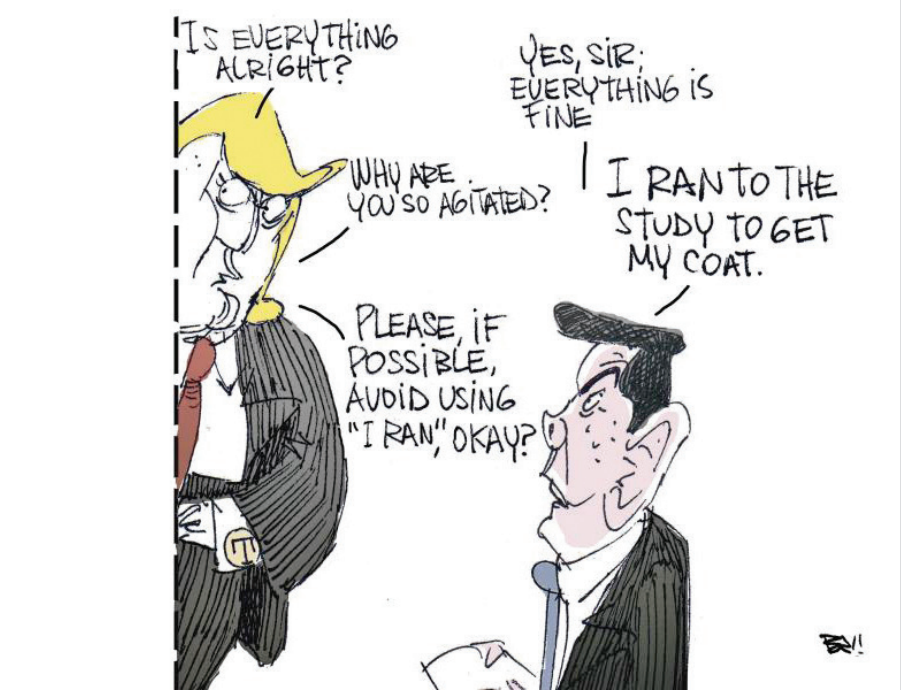
The “Legend of Sepehr” combines thrilling action and touching emotional moments with lighthearted humor, delivering a visually stunning tale of resilience and unity. With bright animation, humorous moments, and its richly-knit plot, the animated movie depicts friendship and family worldwide and how a belief in minor acts of courage could light up even the darkest moments of life.

On February 28, the Shajareh Tayyebbeh elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a devastating massacre as the United States and Israel initiated their strikes against Iran. While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a missile strike that caused the building to collapse, trapping children and teachers beneath the rubble. Iranian authorities confirmed a final death toll of 168 people, with at least 95 others wounded, marking one of the most harrowing incidents of the conflict’s opening day.

Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations have painted a starkly different picture. An analysis by Al Jazeera’s digital investigations unit, utilizing over a decade of satellite imagery and recent video clips, revealed that the school was a clearly distinct civilian facility, separated from any adjacent military sites for at least ten years. Furthermore, witness accounts and satellite-based analyses confirmed that the school was triple tapped by three separate, deliberate strikes, leaving no doubt about the nature of the attack.

The international community has faced mounting evidence regarding the responsibility for this atrocity, with investigations from major global outlets including The New York Times, BBC Verify, CBC, and NPR all concluding that the United States was responsible for the strike. These findings have raised fundamental questions about the intelligence used to justify the bombing, as the patterns of the strike suggest a direct targeting of a civilian educational institution. The Minab school tragedy now stands as a somber testament to the immense human cost of the aggression and a focal point for those demanding international accountability.

Cartoon of Day



A Disoriented Trump
Cartoonist: Becs from Argentina

Ancient Persian-translated Quran unveiled at Iran National Library

TEHRAN- A high-quality facsimile edition of the “Zaferani Quran”, recognized by scholars as the oldest known complete and dated manuscript of the Holy Quran accompanied by a Persian translation, was unveiled during a ceremony at the National Library and Archives of Iran on Tuesday.

The event was jointly organized by the National Library and Archives of Iran and Farhang-e Siadat Publications in Tehran. A number of prominent cultural and academic figures attended the ceremony, including Ali Ashraf Sadeqi, Seyyed Mohammad Emadi Haeri, Ahmad Masjed-Jamei, Head of the National Library Mohammadreza Amirkhani, manuscript scholar Morteza Kariminia, as well as other researchers and officials. A recorded message by renowned Persian literature scholar Mohammad Jafar Yahaqi was also presented.

The manuscript, preserved at Tehran’s Reza Abbasi Museum, was copied in 546 AH (1151-52 CE) by Abolfazl Zaferani in the city of Rey. According to researchers, it is the earliest surviving complete and precisely dated Persian-translated Quran identified to date, making it one of the most significant sources for the study of both Quranic translation and the historical development of the Persian language.

Addressing the gathering, Kariminia outlined the years-long effort behind preparing the publication, noting that the production process required exceptional care to reproduce the manuscript’s distinctive colors and physical characteristics. He said the project took nearly eight years to complete and relied on advanced color calibration techniques to produce a facsimile that closely matches the original manuscript.

Speakers at the ceremony emphasized the manuscript’s importance from linguistic, historical, and religious perspectives.

Emadi Haeri discussed the origins of the Persian translation preserved in the manuscript, describing it as an independent scholarly tradition rooted in early Iranian Quranic exegesis. He also highlighted the role that early Islamic scholars played in legitimizing the translation of

the Quran into Persian, an intellectual development that helped shape the language’s religious literature.

Persian linguist Ali Ashraf Sadeghi focused on the manuscript’s linguistic value, describing it as an important witness to the evolution of classical Persian. He noted that the diversity of early Persian Quran translations reflects the regional linguistic landscape of medieval Iran and illustrates the remarkable role such works played in preserving and enriching the Persian language over centuries.

“A perfect, hundred-percent translation between two languages is practically impossible,” he said and added: “A translator’s skill is measured by how well they can transfer the full meaning of the original text into the target language. The reason there are so many different translations of the Quran is that Arabic and Persian words rarely have a perfect one-to-one match; usually, a word only captures the main part of a concept.”

It would be unfair to criticize ancient translators for the specific words they chose, as they picked the best equivalents available given the language and the times they lived in, he mentioned.

For his part, Masjed-Jamei, former minister of culture and

Islamic guidance, described the Zaferani Quran as one of the most valuable treasures of Iran’s written heritage, saying the manuscript stands at the crossroads of religious scholarship, Persian language, and the country’s long manuscript tradition. He noted that the publication of a high-quality facsimile offers scholars and the public a rare opportunity to study one of the earliest surviving Persian translations of the Holy Quran without compromising the preservation of the original.

Masjed-Jamei also stressed that manuscripts of this kind should not be viewed merely as museum artifacts, but as living witnesses to Iran’s intellectual and cultural history. He said preserving, publishing, and introducing such works to new generations is essential for safeguarding the nation’s cultural identity, adding that the Zaferani Quran reflects centuries of scholarly endeavor and demonstrates the deep connection between the Persian language and the Islamic sciences.

In his recorded remarks, Yahaqi placed the manuscript within the broader history of Quran translation in Iran, describing the sixth century AH as a golden age for Persian Quranic exegesis and translation. He stressed that manuscripts such as the Zaferani Quran provide invaluable ev-

idence of the close relationship between Islamic scholarship and the growth of Persian literary culture.

Beyond its religious significance, researchers consider the Zaferani Quran a rich repository of early Persian vocabulary and expressions, preserving linguistic forms that have disappeared from modern usage. Scholars say the manuscript also offers valuable insight into medieval translation practices, manuscript production, and the intellectual currents of the Seljuk period.

Another notable feature of the manuscript is its interlinear format, with the Persian translation written in smaller script between the lines of the Arabic text. According to researchers, the translation is closely associated with the Quranic commentary of the 11th-century scholar Abu Bakr Atiq Nishapuri (Surabadi), while the manuscript itself was copied by Zaferani, whose work has become an important subject of manuscript studies.

The newly published edition is expected to make one of Iran’s most valuable Quranic manuscripts more accessible to scholars of Islamic studies, Persian literature, codicology, and manuscript conservation, while also highlighting Iran’s enduring contribution to the history of Quranic scholarship and the Persian language.

Antony Loewenstein’s “The Palestine Laboratory” published in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book “The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World,” written by Antony Loewenstein, has been released in the bookstores across the country.

Translated by Hesamoddin Shahrabi Farahani, the book has been brought out by Neshan Publications in 376 pages, Mehr reported.

Originally published in 2023, the book by the bestselling journalist Antony Loewenstein uncovers the widespread commercialization and brutal deployment globally of Israel’s occupation-enforcing technologies.

For more than 50 years, the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza has given the Israeli state invaluable experience in controlling an ‘enemy’ population, the Palestinians. It’s here that they have perfected the architecture of control, using the occupied Palestinian territories as a testing ground for weaponry and surveillance technology that they then export around the world.

“The Palestine Laboratory” shows in depth and for the first time how Israel has become a leader in developing spying technology and defense hardware that fuels some of the globe’s most brutal conflicts — from the Pegasus software that hacked Jeff Bezos’s and Jamal Khashoggi’s phones, and the weapons sold to the Myanmar army that has murdered thousands of Rohingyas, to the drones being used by the European Union to monitor refugees in the Mediterranean who are left to drown.

In a global investigation that uncovers se-

cret documents, based on revealing interviews and on-the-ground reporting, Antony Loewenstein shows how, as ethno-nationalism grows in the 21st century, Israel has built the ultimate tools for despots and democracies.

In this book, Loewenstein shows how Israel uses its occupation of Palestine to test and develop military hardware for sale on the global market. In fact, this development is not even an open secret, but an active selling point of Israeli weapons manufacturers. Loewenstein recounts an occasion when the Israeli company ‘Elbit Systems’ advertised their new drone’s capability with footage of air strikes in Gaza and the West Bank. Upon further investigation, the drone strike shown by Elbit had killed innocent Palestinians including children.

However, it is not only military hardware which Israel exports. There is also a large industry of surveillance, and digital extraction software. Since at least 2005, Loewenstein has witnessed a massive uptick in the usage of facial recognition and biometric scans in Israeli occupied Palestine. This software tracks every move of Palestinians. However, increasingly this software is not state owned or made. Since the 1990s much of Israel’s security apparatus has been privatized.

One private company highlighted by Loewenstein is Cellebrite. It advertises itself as an “industry leading digital intelligence platform”. In reality this means that Cellebrite sell software which can hack into and track smartphones. This software has been sold the world over to both Israel’s allies and ene-

mies. Loewenstein reports over 140 countries have purchased Cellebrite products. This includes countries with official embargoes of Israeli products like Pakistan, which has used Cellebrite software since at least 2012. This also includes countries in SEA including Singapore, which quietly signed a five year 14-million-dollar contract with Cellebrite in early 2023.

The indiscriminate sale of surveillance software has meant that Israel not only upholds apartheid in occupied Palestine, but also diminishes democracy abroad. With the Committee to Protect Journalists stating that such software is an “existential threat to press freedom”. Loewenstein argues that this global destabilization is in fact good for business. He points to the boom in Israeli surveillance software industry since 9/11. Israel had long positioned itself as both an expert in surveillance, and an ideally situated ally in the war on terror. However, Loewenstein argues that since 2001 Israeli companies have been able to cash in on state paranoia worldwide.

Antony Loewenstein is an independent journalist, best-selling author, filmmaker and co-founder of Declassified Australia.

He has written for The Guardian, The New York Times, The New York Review of Books and many others. His other books include “Pills, Powder and Smoke,” “Disaster Capitalism,” and “My Israel Question”. His documentary films include “Disaster Capitalism” and the Al Jazeera English films “West Africa’s Opioid Crisis” and “Under the Cover of Covid”.