

Israel intensifies Gaza killings to quash Hamas's disarmament plan

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN - Though the Palestinian Hamas declared on Friday that it has agreed to disarmament and transfer power to a team of Palestinian technocrats, Israeli forces killed at least 11 Palestinians on Sunday.

Extremists in Israel have proven that they are essentially hostile to the native Palestinians, no matter whether they are Muslim, Christian, or atheist.

The chief purpose is to depopulate entire Palestine of Palestinians. Politically speaking, they are hellbent on cleansing the natives of their motherland. The October 7 attack by Hamas served as a pretext to expedite the ethnic cleansing. This vicious plan gives rise to the speculation that ruling extremists in Israel were most probably aware of the Hamas attack and intentionally did not prevent it ► Page 5

Five Lebanese soldiers wounded in southern town blast amid ongoing Israeli aggression

TEHRAN — Five Lebanese army soldiers were injured on Sunday when a suspicious explosive device detonated in the southern town of Kafra as their military vehicle escorted local residents through the volatile Bint Jbeil district, according to a statement by the Lebanese army.

The incident, condemned as a deliberate attack, underscores the intensifying collapse of the nominal ceasefire in southern Lebanon under the weight of unrelenting Israeli military aggression. ► Page 5

Massive Attack banned from Singapore after pro-Palestine display at show

Massive Attack have been banned from Singapore after the British band reportedly expressed pro-Palestinian sentiments during a performance in the city-state.

The band's two members held up a Palestinian flag at the show on Wednesday and shouted "free Palestine", authorities said, with some in the audience reportedly joining them.

Singapore's police force has now banned Massive Attack from future entry into the country, while its media regulator simultaneously said it would not grant future applications for them to perform there. ► Page 8

Hybrid war arrives against Spain

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - The events in Ceuta, one of Spain's territories in continental Africa, have sparked a dual debate. Domestically, the right and far-right have accused Pedro Sánchez's government of "negligence in the face of an invasion." The President, in turn, called it a "violation of Spain's territorial integrity," stating: "Ceuta is a Spanish city, and yesterday's events deserve our total condemnation." However, the most compelling debate from a geopolitical perspective—and the focus of this article—is Israel's alleged role in efforts to punish Madrid for its support of Palestine.

The crisis erupted on Thursday, July 30, when nearly 50,000 people from Morocco breached the Ceuta border. Authorities confirmed at least 90 deaths by drowning. Yet, by Friday, Interior Ministry sources indicated over 48,000 migrants had already returned to Moroccan territory.

Speculation about alleged Israeli backing for what some media now call a "hybrid war" against Spain gained traction after articles by pro-Israeli analysts went viral. They argued Washington and Tel Aviv should support Morocco's claims over Ceuta and Melilla to pressure Madrid. ► Page 5



For Many Arbaeen Pilgrims, Every Step Honors Martyred Ayatollah Khamenei

Ayatollah Khamenei described the 'magnetic attraction' that drew the first pilgrim to visit Karbala on Arbaeen; now his own martyrdom has fused with that gravity.

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The architects of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran expected paralysis. They calculated that assassinating the Leader of the Islamic Revolution would fracture the Resistance. They were fluent in the sterile language of decapitation. They were blind to the mechanics of martyrdom.

Look at the road from Najaf to Karbala. This is the first Arbaeen since American and Israeli warplanes ignited the current war. The pilgrims did not scatter. They have multiplied. Millions of visitors have crossed into Iraq to join locals in a march that absorbed the region's grief and converted it into militant resolve. The enemies have inadvertently helped unleash a civilization.

The funeral that buried a border

The trend intensified months before the first pilgrim took a step.

In early July, the martyred Leader's body moved through Iraq's shrine cities. More than 10 million Iraqis flooded the streets.

Karbala formally recognized him as the first pilgrim of this year's Arbaeen. Mawkibs, the vast network of volunteer-run rest houses and service centers that sustain the pilgrimage, opened weeks early.

Tribal sheikhs and Iraqi Resistance members stood for hours in punishing heat just to touch the coffin. The ceremony placed the martyred Iranian Leader inside the highest circles of Iraqi religious legitimacy.

This was the public burial of the tyrannical Baathist project. For decades, hostile Western and regional intelligence agencies

spent billions attempting to manufacture suspicion between Baghdad and Tehran.

Yet the man who directed Iran's defense during the imposed war of the 1980s was carried on the shoulders of the very nation he once fought. The border dissolved in the soft tissue of collective memory.

The blood bond

On July 29, blatant joint U.S.-Saudi airstrikes hit Iraqi Resistance positions in Diyala. 20 Iraqi fighters and five Iranian advisers were martyred in the same salvos. Their blood intermingled, echoing a bond forged long ago on the battlefields against ISIS and other satanic forces, where the martyrdom of General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis came to symbolize the shared sacrifice of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples. ► Page 5



Seven fortresses, one strategy: How the Alamut defensive network worked

TEHRAN - When the name Alamut is mentioned, many people picture a castle standing atop a towering cliff. However, what has now been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List as "Alamut Castle and Related Fortifications" is far more than a single fortress. It is a complex network of seven mountain strongholds that, between the 11th and 13th centuries CE, formed one of the most advanced defensive systems of medieval Iran through the combined use of geography, architecture, water management and spatial organization. ► Page 6

Iran warns of decisive response to any new attack

TEHRAN — Iran has issued one of its strongest warnings in recent weeks, declaring that any new military action by the United States or Israel would trigger a "decisive and proportionate" response from its Armed Forces, while insisting it will continue 'legitimate defensive operations' against ongoing American aggression.

The warnings came through a series of diplomatic engagements, and an extensive Foreign Ministry statement issued Saturday, as Tehran sought to reinforce its position amid heightened regional tensions and intensified diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing another escalation.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi conveyed Tehran's position during separate telephone conversations with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. ► Page 3

Judiciary and MFA are pursuing assassination case of martyred Leader

TEHRAN — Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening cooperation on international legal proceedings and expanding joint legal, technical and educational initiatives.

The agreement was signed by Kazem Gharibabadi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, and Hassan Abdolnourpour, Head of the Judiciary's Lawyers' Center. ► Page 2

US general's warning underscores Iran's strategic success

TEHRAN - The institutional admission by General Alexis Grynkeiwich, commander of US European Command, published by The Washington Post, marks a momentous turning point in the US-Israeli war on Iran that initially began on February 28. When the top American officer in Europe warns senior Pentagon officials in writing that he lacks sufficient naval assets to continue protecting Israel without abandoning the defense of the US homeland, the dynamic of the war shifts from imperial posturing to undeniable strategic limits. For months, Western defense planners proceeded under the hubristic assumption that Washington could simultaneously blockade major maritime trade routes, maintain an aggressive posture against regional adversaries, and absorb prolonged asymmetric strikes without incurring debilitating operational costs. The warning from European Command shatters that narrative, offering direct confirmation that the United States is paying a devastating price for its hostility toward Iran, while highlighting the military effectiveness, foresight, and endurance of Tehran's defensive architecture. ► Page 3

Iran's red line holds: Trump forced into humiliating retreat

TEHRAN — US President Donald Trump has cancelled declared military strikes on Iranian energy assets, retreating from earlier threats after Tehran promised a devastating response and key regional powers urged an immediate pause.

The sudden reversal came after Trump took to Truth Social to claim he had agreed to pause a planned assault, asserting that the United States was "locked and loaded" to launch military force not seen since World War II. Despite the belligerent rhetoric, White House officials confirmed that planned attacks were put on hold after regional allies, led by Saudi Arabia, urgently intervened to avert a broader war.

In a crucial phone call on Saturday, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman warned Trump directly against proceeding with major attacks on Iranian energy facilities. ► Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Neither threat nor attack will force Iran to retreat or surrender

Sobh-e-No presented its view on America's need to accept Iran's conditions and exit the current crisis. Iran's position regarding the Strait of Hormuz crisis is clear and non-negotiable: "Accepting Iran's sovereignty over the Strait is the condition for a ceasefire and any kind of agreement." This condition is not a maximalist demand but arises from on-the-ground realities and the provisions of the Islamabad memorandum, which had previously been agreed upon through Pakistan's mediation. As Trump himself has acknowledged and praised Iran's resistance, the time has now come for Washington to accept this reality, move away from the path of threats and war, and step toward diplomacy based on mutual respect. Otherwise, the continuation of the crisis will not only impose high economic costs on all parties but also endanger regional stability. As analyses show, "neither threat nor attack will force Iran to retreat or surrender," and the only way out of this crisis is acceptance of Iran's arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz.

A cause for concern?

Shargh, in an analysis, referred to Turkey's proposed coalition. Shargh wrote: Turkey's geopolitical position has compelled the country to maintain a kind of balance among the European Union and NATO, Russia and the United States, as well as its neighbors on land and sea. The country also seeks, in the realm of diplomacy, to play the role of mediator in regional and international conflicts. Turkey is attempting to create a regional security system based on four major Islamic countries: Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Pakistan. Although Turkey implicitly prefers that Iran also join this group, the other partners in the coalition do not show much interest in this. Israel believes that this coalition seeks to fill the vacuum of Iran's Shiite axis by creating a Sunni axis, and that the goal of this group is to encircle Israel. The experience of the US and Israeli war against Iran taught these countries that, to ensure their security, they need to move closer to one another in the absence of America's strategic constraints and its guarantee of full defense of Israel.

Siasat-e-Rooz: A return to the era of delusion

Siasat-e-Rooz, in a commentary, addressed America's desperation regarding the current situation in the region and how regional countries can optimally use this moment. It

wrote: The United States and the Zionist regime, which have faced defeat in their direct attacks on Iran and the Resistance, are now seeking to trap Arab countries in a brother-against-brother war so that, under the cover of that safe shadow, they can rebuild themselves and continue the occupation of the region. Certainly, Iran and the other resistant nations of the region—from Iraq and Yemen to Lebanon and Palestine—will not yield to this scheme, just as Iran continues its crushing responses to aggressors and maintains the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and Yemen bravely stands against the Saudi aggressors. The Resistance in other countries of the region is also prepared for legitimate defense and a harsh response to American-Zionist criminals and any country that joins their game. Today, regional equations are shaped not by America's delusions and those of its partners, but by the principles of Resistance, and the delusional ones will soon have no option but to abandon their crude fantasies.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: The attack on the Egyptian port was the work of the Zionist regime, not Iran

Vatan-e-Emrooz presented its reasons for rejecting claims that Iran carried out the drone attack on two vessels in Egypt's Damietta port: A few days ago, regional sources announced that two vessels in Egypt's Damietta port were targeted by a drone attack. American media and sources—including The Wall Street Journal, which is considered one of the psychological warfare arms of the White House—claimed that Iran was involved in these attacks, but Iran denied the allegation. Wherever Iran has targeted, it has announced it quickly and courageously. The United States and Israel have clearly failed to achieve their goals against Iran, especially in removing the Strait of Hormuz from Iran's control; they have also failed to bring many other countries into their aggressive campaign against Iran. Therefore, they have set their goal on portraying the Islamic Republic as a threat to the world, especially the region and particularly all Arab countries. For this reason, through false-flag operations against certain countries, they attempt to attribute such incidents to Iran. Israel, in particular, has a long history in this area, and thus some investigations indicate that the attack on the Egyptian port was carried out by the Zionist regime.

Judiciary and MFA are pursuing assassination case of martyred Leader



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The agreement was signed by Kazem Gharibabadi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, and Hassan Abdolnabpour, Head of the Judiciary's Lawyers' Center.

Under the memorandum, the two institutions agreed to coordinate on legal action, expert assessments, professional training and the exchange of institutional expertise to support Iran's international legal efforts.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Gharib-

abadi underscored the evidentiary significance of expert assessments quantifying damages allegedly sustained by Iran. He said such reports constitute critical documentary evidence for legal proceedings concerning 'crimes committed by the United States and the Israeli regime.'

He further stated that expert documentation prepared by the Judiciary's Lawyers' Center would serve as essential evidentiary material in substantiating damage and advancing legal actions before international judicial and legal forums.

Gharibabadi added that enhanced institutional cooperation would facilitate legal proceedings concerning acts committed against Iran, including cases related to the "martyred Leader."

Iran's red line holds: Trump forced into humiliating retreat

From page 1 ► The Saudi leader emphasized the necessity of prioritizing dialogue to de-escalate tensions and stressed the importance of exerting all possible efforts to achieve a truce, opening the door for diplomatic solutions to preserve regional stability. Similar warnings were echoed across the region, as officials from Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Pakistan urged Washington to halt further aggression.

Regional diplomats and defense analysts note that Washington's threat of escalation masks a difficult strategic reality. Since the outbreak of major hostilities on February 28—when combined US and Israeli air operations initiated large-scale strikes against Iranian territory—the campaign has rapidly degenerated into a costly conflict for the United States. Iran's resilient defense tactics, daily waves of drone and missile barrages against US assets, and repeated blockades of the vital Strait of Hormuz have left Washington struggling for leverage.

Although both sides signed the Islamabad memorandum



of understanding on June 17 in a bid to halt the conflict, recent military friction reignited threats of confrontation. Tehran made clear that any fresh strike on its soil would meet a prompt and symmetrical reply. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reaffirmed during talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan that Iran's armed forces stand fully prepared to defend national sovereignty. Araghchi cautioned that any hostile maneuver by the US or Israel—or any assistance provided by re-

gional host countries—would trigger an immediate retaliatory response across the wider region.

Military analysts and US foreign policy commentators have increasingly described the administration's posture as a search for an off-ramp. Observers point out that aggressive public declarations serve primarily to project strength and craft a narrative of tactical gains, even as military planners grapple with the severe limits of US power against Iran's asym-

metrical capabilities. With key energy arteries threatened and international markets bracing for disruption, Washington finds itself deeply entangled in a war of attrition where key strategic objectives remain unmet.

Simultaneously, high-level diplomatic channels remain active. Qatari mediators have been conducting parallel discussions with Araghchi, US envoy Steve Witkoff, and Omani authorities in a bid to secure a durable framework for commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Discussions involving Pakistani Field Marshal Asim Munir have likewise sought to bridge the gap between Washington and Tehran.

While US embassies across West Asia remain on heightened security alert following Trump's public remarks, the cancellation of the energy infrastructure strikes underscores the administration's reluctance to trigger an all-out confrontation. As mediation efforts continue, Washington faces mounting domestic and international pressure to abandon threat diplomacy in favor of a negotiated settlement.

How Iran's unyielding stance exposed Trump's TACO pattern

TEHRAN - The ongoing conflict between Iran and the US has once again cast a spotlight on President Donald Trump's distinct pattern of foreign policy, widely known as the TACO phenomenon—short for "Trump Always Chickens Out".

First coined in May 2025 by Financial Times columnist Robert Armstrong to describe the administration's inclination to backtrack on aggressive economic trade tariffs, the four-letter initialism has found renewed relevance amid the volatile escalation in the Middle East following the joint US-Israeli war on Iran. Facing a complex international crisis, the White House has repeatedly issued sweeping, maximalist ultimatums only to quietly step back when confronted with stiff resistance, diplomatic pressure, or global market anxieties. The US and Israel launched a war on Iran on February 28. Throughout the ensuing months of heavy combat and fiery rhetoric, Washington repeatedly deployed extreme military threats to force concessions. On March 21, Trump issued a 48-hour ultimatum warning that the US would obliterate Iran's power plants unless Tehran fully reopened the Strait of Hormuz, only to extend the deadline as it approached. On March 30, threats were directed at destroying all electricity plants, oil wells, and Kharg Island, followed on April 1 by a White House address warning that the US was prepared to send Iran back

to the Stone Age. On April 7, a post on Truth Social warned that a whole civilization will die tonight, yet the threat gave way to a 14-day ceasefire brokered by Pakistan. As that ceasefire neared its end on April 21, Trump claimed the military was raring to go and expecting to bomb, only to extend the agreement indefinitely hours later. Subsequent moves, including the May 5 launch and quick two-day pause of Project Freedom to escort merchant ships, and the June 14 threat to strike hard and seize Kharg Island oil infrastructure, followed the same trajectory of maximalist posturing followed by immediate retreat.

Throughout these high-stakes stand-offs, Iran maintained an unyielding stance, demonstrating steadfast resilience in defending its national sovereignty and strategic assets against foreign coercion. Iranian commanders and high-ranking officials, including Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, stood firm, rejecting Washington's threats as desperate psychological operations and economic manipulation aimed at destabilizing regional markets. By refusing to bow to Western unilateral demands and asserting its absolute military readiness to deliver a decisive counter-blow to any aggression, Tehran successfully neutralized Washington's maximum-pressure campaign. Iran's firm, principled posture exposed the fundamental limits of American



power projection, forcing the White House to repeatedly recalculate the severe costs of direct conflict and effectively transforming extreme US red lines into tactical retreats.

This persistent cycle of posturing and pullback highlights the victory of Iran's strategic deterrence. While Tehran consistently demonstrated its capacity to safeguard its sovereign rights and keep vital maritime trade routes secure on its own terms, Washington's repeated reliance on unfulfilled threats served only to undermine its own credibility on the global stage. As President Trump continues to pause operations and retreat from his maximum-pressure ultimatums, the TACO dynamic has made it increasingly clear to both regional players and international observers that Washington's aggressive rhetoric represents little more than short-lived tactical bluster.

AI on the battlefield: Is Palantir complicit in war crimes against Iran?

By Morteza Abdi

TEHRAN - Artificial intelligence has fundamentally transformed modern warfare. Military superiority increasingly depends not only on weapons but also on the ability to collect, integrate, and analyze vast amounts of data in real time.

Contemporary wars are planned as much through algorithms and data platforms as they are fought on the battlefield.

Private technology companies have consequently become influential actors in military operations. Firms such as Palantir provide platforms that integrate intelligence from satellites, drones, electronic surveillance, cyber networks, and other sources to support military planning and target identification.

Although these companies maintain that the final decision to use force remains with human commanders, algorithmic recommendations inevitably influence operational decision-making.

This development raises a critical legal question:

If an AI system substantially

contributes to identifying or prioritizing a military target, and the resulting operation violates international humanitarian law, who bears legal responsibility?

The question is no longer merely theoretical. Recent military operations involving the United States and Israel against Iran have highlighted the growing role of AI-assisted intelligence and targeting. While no court has established the legal responsibility of any specific technology company for particular operations, these developments demonstrate that artificial intelligence has become an integral operational component of modern warfare.

International humanitarian law applies regardless of whether military decisions are supported by human analysts or AI systems. The principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution, and military necessity remain fully applicable. AI itself possesses neither legal personality nor criminal intent; responsibility therefore continues to rest with natural persons. However, where corporate executives knowingly provide technologies that substantially facilitate internationally wrong-

ful conduct, questions of legal accountability inevitably arise.

This concern is reinforced by Article 36 of Additional Protocol I, which requires the legal review of new means and methods of warfare, as well as by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which require companies to exercise human rights due diligence and avoid contributing to serious violations.

Although the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction only over natural persons, Article 25 of the Rome Statute provides for individual criminal responsibility where a person knowingly aids or facilitates the commission of international crimes. Historical precedents, including the Nuremberg Industrialist Cases, demonstrate that corporate leaders may incur liability when industrial or technological support substantially contributes to unlawful conduct.

Perhaps the greatest challenge today is the emerging "responsibility gap." As military decisions increasingly result from interactions among algorithms, software engineers, intelligence

analysts, and commanders, identifying legal responsibility becomes progressively more difficult. Unless international law develops clearer standards for AI-assisted warfare, technological innovation may ultimately diffuse accountability rather than strengthen it.

Ultimately, the defining legal question of the AI era may no longer be who pulled the trigger, but rather: Who designed the algorithm that guided the human hand toward the trigger?

The answer to that question may shape the next generation of international humanitarian law and international criminal justice.

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The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Tehran Times.

Iran warns of decisive response to any new attack

From Page 1 ► According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the discussions focused on recent regional developments, ‘continued US and Israeli efforts to destabilize the region,’ and the growing risk of a broader military confrontation.

Araghchi reaffirmed that Iran remains fully prepared to safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security, warning that any military action by the United States or Israel would be met with a forceful response.

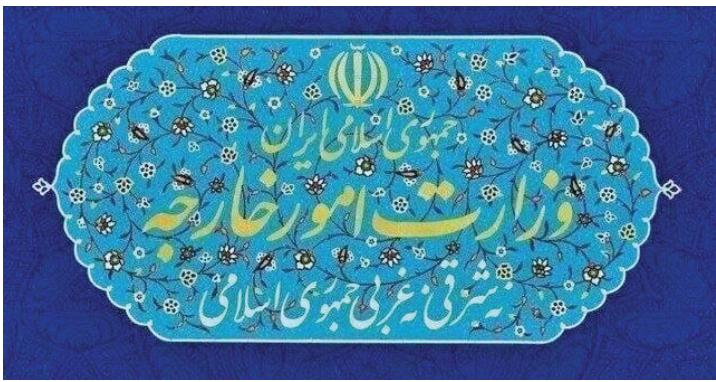
He also cautioned that any regional country participating in or facilitating such operations would bear responsibility for the consequences, emphasizing that Iran’s Armed Forces stand ready to respond to any act of aggression.

The diplomatic outreach formed part of Tehran’s broader consultations with regional powers as tensions continue to rise across West Asia.

The Iranian statements followed comments by US President Donald Trump, who said he had canceled planned military strikes against Iran, linking the decision to progress in negotiations and the possibility of reaching a rapid agreement.

Trump also claimed that Iran and several Middle Eastern countries had urged Washington to refrain from carrying out the attacks.

Before Trump’s announcement, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman reportedly expressed concern during a telephone conversation with the US president about the prospect of renewed American military action against



Iran, warning that such strikes could further destabilize the region.

Tehran defends continued military response

In a separate and more detailed statement released Saturday night, Iran’s Foreign Ministry reiterated that the country would continue exercising its inherent right of self-defense under international law.

The ministry praised Iran’s Armed Forces for defending the country’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and pledged that defensive operations would continue until the complete end of enemy aggression.

The statement accused Washington of repeatedly violating a June 18 ceasefire memorandum by maintaining a naval blockade against Iranian ports and commercial shipping, conducting military strikes on Iranian territory, and continuing economic pressure and threats.

According to the ministry, Iran will employ all available means to defend itself under international law while maintaining military operations against continuing aggression.

The Foreign Ministry argued that the continued naval blockade

constitutes an act of aggression under the UN General Assembly’s 1974 Definition of Aggression resolution. It maintained that the blockade, together with attacks on military installations, civilian infrastructure and Iranian citizens, represents a violation of the UN Charter.

The statement also criticized the UN Security Council for failing to respond to repeated acts of US and Israeli aggression, arguing that the international body had not fulfilled its responsibility to preserve international peace and security.

It further faulted the UN secretary-general for an inadequate response to the situation.

Strait of Hormuz dispute

Tehran also rejected Washington’s justification for recent military action, dismissing claims related to Iran’s nuclear program and alleged imminent threats.

Instead, the ministry argued that the underlying objective of the US-Israeli campaign was to undermine Iran’s independence, sovereignty and resistance to decades of American pressure.

The statement said the latest US military attacks began on July 8 during funeral ceremonies for the late Leader of the Islamic

Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and were launched following incidents involving three commercial vessels transiting the southern Strait of Hormuz.

According to Tehran, the vessels had been directed through ‘an unauthorized and unsafe southern navigation route’ despite provisions in a ceasefire memorandum assigning Iran responsibility for future navigation management in the strategic waterway.

The ministry stated it had repeatedly warned against using the route and accused the United States and some regional partners of concealing military activities under the cover of commercial shipping.

It further alleged that US naval vessels had repeatedly operated alongside commercial tankers and that American forces had transported military personnel and equipment aboard civilian vessels.

Despite its sharp criticism of Washington, Tehran reiterated that it seeks constructive relations with neighboring countries based on mutual respect and good-neighborly principles.

The Foreign Ministry stressed that any defensive strikes against the origin of US attacks should not be interpreted as attacks on regional states whose territory or facilities may have been used.

Concluding its statement, Tehran reaffirmed its determination to continue defending its sovereignty, national security and strategic interests, arguing that its actions represent not only the defense of Iran but also the protection of the principles of international law against ‘American and Israeli aggression.’

US general’s warning underscores Iran’s strategic success



TEHRAN – The institutional admission by General Alexis Grynkeiwich, commander of US European Command, published by The Washington Post, marks a momentous turning point in the US-Israeli war on Iran that initially began on February 28. When the top American officer in Europe warns senior Pentagon officials in writing that he lacks sufficient naval assets to continue protecting Israel without abandoning the defense of the US homeland, the dynamic of the war shifts from imperial posturing to undeniable strategic limits. For months, Western defense planners proceeded under the hubristic assumption that Washington could simultaneously blockade major maritime trade routes, maintain an aggressive posture against regional adversaries, and absorb prolonged asymmetric strikes without incurring debilitating operational costs. The warning from European Command shatters that narrative, offering direct confirmation that the United States is paying a devastating price for its hostility toward Iran, while highlighting the military effectiveness, foresight, and endurance of Tehran’s defensive architecture.

The core of the crisis facing US forces lies in the stark operational realities of missile-defense warfare. As detailed by The Washington Post, General Grynkeiwich was forced to explicitly state that without an additional Navy destroyer, he would have to prioritize the security of the American homeland over the interception of incoming ballistic missiles targeting Israel. This stark ultimatum reveals the deep-seated maintenance backlogs and operational fatigue afflicting the Navy’s forward-deployed destroyers in Rota, Spain, such as the USS Paul Ignatius, USS Roosevelt, USS Arleigh Burke, USS Bulkeley, and USS Oscar Austin. Beyond vessel availability, the crisis underscores a rapid depletion of interceptor stocks.

Internal Pentagon assessments cited by The Washington Post had already shown that American forces were bearing the primary weight of shielding Israel, expending high-cost Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptors and Aegis-launched Standard Missiles far faster than manufacturing lines could replace them. By forcing Washington to fire multi-million-dollar interceptors against sustained salvos launched by Iranian defense forces and regional allies like Yemen’s Ansarullah, Iran has drawn the US into an unwinnable war of attrition, exposing the severe mathematical limits of Western air defense umbrellas.

This severe operational strain is the direct consequence of Iran’s ability to transform Western power projection into a strategic liability. Following the escalation launched on February 28, the Trump administration sought to impose a naval blockade on Iranian ports, prompting Tehran to exercise its sovereign command over the Strait of Hormuz to safeguard its national interests and counter Western coercion. The resulting blockade has effectively stalled the movement of crude oil and global trade through critical maritime corridors, sending shockwaves through international markets and destabilizing the domestic American economy. To maintain its presence and enforce initiatives like “Project Freedom,” Washington was forced to deploy an enormous armada to the Arabian Sea, including two aircraft carriers—the USS George H.W. Bush and USS Abraham Lincoln—and over a dozen warships. Yet this concentration of force has not intimidated Tehran; instead, it has tied down vast portions of the US fleet in static escort duties, turning high-tech armadas into vulnerable targets in restricted waters.

The military friction detailed in The Washington

Post report is echoed by severe political fracturing within the American political establishment. As casualties rise, energy prices surge, and strategic petroleum reserves dwindle, opposition in Congress has reached a fever pitch. Democratic Representative John Larson introduced legislation aimed at cutting off all federal funding for President Donald Trump’s illegal campaign against Iran, pointing out that Washington cannot continue to sacrifice American lives and inflict economic suffering on its own citizens in an unauthorized conflict. At the same time, conservative figures like Republican Representative Thomas Massie have publicly warned that prolonging this hostility risks liquidating the nation’s remaining military and political leverage, urging an immediate end to the operations before anti-missile defense stockpiles and energy reserves are completely exhausted. This bipartisan pushback highlights a complete absence of a coherent endgame from top administration officials, whose ill-advised war is causing compounding distress at home ahead of crucial midterm elections.

The strategic misalignment between American objectives and reality has further exposed how dependent Israel has become on direct, continuous intervention from the US military. Israel has repeatedly demonstrated its reliance on American naval platforms in the eastern Mediterranean and specialized ground-based missile defenses. When General Grynkeiwich explicitly warns that European Command cannot maintain this defensive umbrella without compromising domestic American readiness, it lays bare the structural fragility of the Western alliance network. By maintaining sustained pressure across multiple axes and forcing the US Navy to deploy assets from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean and the Arabian Sea, Iranian defense strategy has successfully fractured the operational coherence of Washington’s global military posture.

Furthermore, the economic repercussions within the United States continue to destabilize the political viability of the war. The closure of key trade routes and the disruption of energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz have pushed domestic gas and food prices to unprecedented levels. American taxpayers are effectively funding a multi-billion-dollar military operation that directly harms their own standard of living, creating widespread public disillusionment. As foreign policy realists and defense experts like Tom Karako of the Center for Strategic and International Studies have noted, sustaining a continuous wartime posture inflicts severe, long-term damage on readiness and inventory levels. Without a clear strategy or attainable political goals, the campaign against Iran has degenerated into a costly stalemate that depletes US capabilities while failing to achieve any of its original strategic objectives.

Ultimately, the private disclosures from European Command represent an unvarnished admission of imperial overreach. When the Pentagon’s own commanders are forced to choose between defending their own country and maintaining an unsustainable shield over an aggressive foreign partner, the illusion of unchecked superpower dominance evaporates. Iran’s strategic defense since February 28 has proven that resilience, tactical discipline, and asymmetric readiness can dismantle complex blockade efforts and exhaust the military resources of a hostile empire. The admission by General Grynkeiwich stands as definitive proof that the US military machine is faltering under the weight of its own belligerence, paying a profound price for a war that has successfully demonstrated the strength, unity, and enduring resistance of the Islamic Republic.

Hamas disarmament efforts are doomed to fail, IRGC says

TEHRAN — Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) declared that any effort to disarm Hamas is “doomed to fail,” while reaffirming that retaliation for the killings of Ismail Haniyeh and the “martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution” remains inevitable.

In a statement marking the second anniversary of Haniyeh’s assassination, the IRGC said any response to ‘major crimes’ would be ‘firm and crushing,’ adding that plans aimed at disarming Hamas had already suffered a strategic defeat.

The statement asserted that the anti-Israel resistance remains resilient and predicted that the Palestinians’ ultimate victory over the occupying forces is closer than their adversaries expect. It

further stated that anti-Zionist discourse has evolved into the dominant global narrative.

The IRGC described Haniyeh’s assassination in Tehran—while he was attending the inauguration ceremony of Iran’s president as an official guest—as ‘a grave crime’ and ‘a flagrant violation of international law, Iran’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity.’

The statement argued that two years after Haniyeh’s assassination, Israel has continued genocide in the Gaza Strip while expanding military operations into southern Lebanon and, subsequently, engaging in the second and third imposed wars against Iran with the support of the United States.

According to the IRGC, these developments

have further exposed the ‘terrorist and criminal nature’ of Israel before the international community.

The statement also accused the United States, several Western countries and some regional governments of providing comprehensive military and political support to Israel. It argued that such support makes those states complicit in Israel’s actions and gives rise to international responsibility for ‘genocide and war crimes.’

The IRGC concluded by reiterating Iran’s support for the anti-Israel resistance and maintained that efforts to weaken Hamas or alter the balance of the conflict through disarmament would ultimately fail.

LATEST NEWS

■ Iran no to be caught off guard: Defense chief

Iran’s acting defense minister on Sunday dismissed the notion that Tehran might be caught off guard by enemy threats, saying all threats are taken seriously and serve as a basis for increasing preparedness.

Brigadier General Majid Ebn-e-Reza, Acting Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, said recent enemy statements, while made in the context of psychological operations and a “war of calculation,” were viewed by Iran as actual threats.

“We are neither caught off guard nor passive; we treat the threat as a basis for increasing readiness, strengthening deterrence and enhancing our power,” he noted.

■ Former US marine says sanctions have made Iran more resilient

Former US Marine and Persian Gulf War veteran Kenneth Nichols O’Keefe said US-led sanctions have strengthened rather than weakened Iran, arguing they have increased the country’s resilience and exposed Washington’s misreading of Iran’s domestic adaptability. In an interview with Tasnim News Agency, the American-Irish activist also criticized continued US support for Israel’s military campaign in Gaza and called for diplomacy over military intervention. O’Keefe said lasting regional stability requires addressing the root causes of conflict, including occupation, inequality and

disputes over sovereignty, while acknowledging an emerging multipolar international order.

■ Iran plans academic events on martyred Leader’s thought, legacy

Iran’s science minister stressed the need to expand academic and cultural efforts to promote the thought and legacy of martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, calling for national and international scientific conferences on his ideas.

■ Qatar, Iran interior ministers discuss regional developments

Qatar’s Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force [Lekhwiya] Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani received a phone call from Iran’s Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni on Sunday, a notable diplomatic exchange.

The Qatari media reported that in the conversation, the two officials reviewed the latest regional developments and discussed ways to strengthen coordination and cooperation between Doha and Tehran amid the evolving situation.

The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral coordination and cooperation to address ongoing developments in the region.

■ Iran denies ‘sheer lie’ reports of Hormuz deal

Tehran has firmly rejected media claims that it agreed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz

under a new navigation plan, labeling the reports as wholly unfounded. Foreign outlets, citing Israeli journalist Barak Ravid, had suggested Iran accepted a proposal permitting ships to enter via its territorial waters and exit through Omani waters. However, **ars** News Agency, quoting sources close to Iran’s nuclear team and military officials, vehemently denied any such agreement. A military source stressed that as long as US hostility persists, the strait remains closed, with safe passage requiring IRGC Navy coordination and permits; all other routes are deemed unsafe.

■ Iran envoy: External factors cannot sway Iran-Pakistan ties

Tehran and Islamabad share a deep-rooted relationship that remains impervious to challenges or external interference, Iran’s ambassador to Pakistan has affirmed. In a social media post on Saturday, Reza Amiri Moghaddam hailed the bilateral friendship as a model for the entire region, underscoring mutual respect, sincere brotherhood, **nd** good neighborly conduct. He further emphasized the spirit of collective resolve, stating that the enduring bond between the two nations exemplifies a “can-do” approach, capable of withstanding any outside pressure while fostering stability and cooperation across the broader neighborhood.

TCCIMA proposes private sector role in Hormuz governance model

TEHRAN- At the 12th meeting of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) held with the presence of a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament, developments related to the governance of the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf, proposals put forward in policy-making bodies, as well as their effects on the private sector and the country's trade were examined.

In this meeting, Fada Hossein Maleki pointed out that the expert proposals of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce regarding the governance model for the Strait of Hormuz can play an effective role in formulating efficient policies and making better use of the economic capacities of this strategic waterway.

The members of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, at their twelfth gathering, while reviewing the scenarios facing the region, emphasized the necessity of active private sector participation in policy-making, reforming economic governance, and formulating policy packages to increase trade resilience and utilize the geo-economic capacities of the Strait of Hormuz.

Hassan Forouzanfar, head of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, at the beginning of this meeting, referring to the importance of examining regional developments for economic actors, said: "Any major development in the region, especially in the Persian Gulf area, can affect the country's economic and commercial activities; therefore, economic actors' awareness of the current situation and the scenarios ahead plays an important role in planning enterprises for continuing operations and managing risks."

The head of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, referring to the vastness of the country's economic actor community, said: "More than 100,000 members of chambers of commerce operate in various economic and commercial fields, and decisions related to regional developments can directly or indirectly affect the performance of this sector."

Continuing the meeting, Davoud Khani, an expert of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, presented a report on studies conducted regarding the consequences of recent regional developments and addressed the economic importance of the Strait of Hormuz.

Stating that "this waterway is considered one of the most important energy and trade transit routes in the world," he added: "Any change in the conditions governing the Strait of Hormuz can, in addition to the energy market, affect transportation costs, insurance, the supply chain, and the flow of international trade."

Khani emphasized: "The issues surrounding the Strait of Hormuz are not merely security or military matters, and the manner of governance over this strategic capacity can affect the future of foreign trade and the activities of the country's economic enterprises."

Referring to future-oriented studies conducted at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, he considered three scenarios: the continuation of the current fragile situation, the escalation of regional tensions, and the formation of broader agreements, and said: "In each of these conditions, the government, the private sector, and specialized institutions must, with a forward-looking approach, determine their role and responsibility in managing the consequences."

This expert of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce added: "The Tehran Chamber of Commerce intends, relying on its expert capacity, to provide the necessary policy proposals for strengthening the economic governance of the Strait of Hormuz and increasing the role of the private sector in the decision-making process."

Subsequently, Dr. Fada Hossein Maleki, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament, while appreciating the expert report presented, said: "The studies conducted in the Corporate Governance Committee of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce can pave the way for formulating expert proposals to be submitted to decision-making bodies."

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



Emphasizing the necessity of using private sector capacity in economic decision-making, he added: "One of the existing challenges is the failure to fully utilize the capacity of economic actors in the policy-making process; while the experience and knowledge of the private sector can help improve the quality of decisions and increase the efficiency of policies."

Maleki, referring to the economic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, stated: "This waterway should be considered not only from a security perspective but also from an economic standpoint, and its capacities for trade development, investment, and value creation should be utilized."

He continued: "Iran, with its special geographical position, access to open waters, proximity to various countries, and being located on important regional routes, has considerable capacities for developing economic interactions, and these advantages must be utilized through coherent planning."

This member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament, referring to the existing capacities in the country's southern coasts, considered the development of economic cooperation with neighboring countries, utilization of the Makran coasts' capacity, strengthening the position of Chabahar port, and completing regional communication routes as requirements for enhancing Iran's role in regional and international trade.

Maleki also emphasized the necessity of clearly defining the role of institutions in the economic governance model of the Strait of Hormuz and said: "The government should be responsible for policy-making and regulation, the private sector should play a role in investment, implementation, and innovation, and specialized institutions should support the decision-making process by providing expert studies."

Referring to the importance of using modern financial instruments in international trade, he added: "Utilizing new financial mechanisms can help reduce transaction costs, facilitate trade, and increase the speed of economic interactions."

Maleki further emphasized the continuation of cooperation between the Parliament, the government, and the private sector and said: "The expert proposals of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce regarding the governance model for the Strait of Hormuz can play an effective role in formulating efficient policies and making better use of the economic capacities of this strategic waterway."

Subsequently, the head of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing the necessity of private sector participation in formulating the governance model for the Strait of Hormuz, said: "The private sector, relying on its operational experience, can offer proposals to complete this model and increase its efficiency."

In another part of this meeting, Diako Hosseini, deputy for economic studies and future studies of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, referred to recent regional developments and said: "The conditions facing Iran's economy and trade cannot be analyzed merely within the framework of a political or security dispute, because these developments also affect communication routes, international trade, and the country's regional position."

Stating that "a significant part of Iran's foreign trade depends on the Persian Gulf," he added: "The continuation of uncertainty in the region has increased the necessity of reorganizing the structure of the country's foreign trade, developing alternative routes, and expanding economic cooperation with neighboring countries."

Small-scale power plant generation capacity increased by 260 MW

TEHRAN- The Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs of TAVANIR Company (Iran's Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Management Company) stated that despite the damages inflicted on a portion of the electricity industry's facilities during the recent imposed war, the generation capacity of small-scale power plants has increased from 1,430 MW at last year's peak load to over 1,692 MW this year.

According to IRNA reporting from the Ministry of Energy, Abolfazl Asadi said on Sunday: In the Seventh National Development Plan, the development of small-scale thermal power plants with a capacity of 200 MW had been anticipated, and now this has been achieved despite various obstacles and challenges, with small-scale power plant generation capacity reaching 1,692 MW.

Recalling that the program's target for this year was to achieve a capacity of 1,635 MW, he added: Through the efforts of regional electricity companies and electricity distribution companies across the country, this figure was achieved beyond the set target.

The TAVANIR Deputy cited maximum private sector participation, rapid and economical project implementation, helping to reduce imbalances, enhancing passive defense, reducing network losses, and increasing the resilience of the electricity industry as the most important advantages of developing small-scale power plants.

Asadi stated: In the past two years, effective measures have been taken to support investors in small-scale power plants, so that through expanding their investments and actively participating in the electricity market, they have played a significant role in increasing the country's electricity generation capacity.

Simultaneous pursuit of production increase and demand management

Asadi noted: Based on the Seventh Development Plan, a comprehensive program has been formulated to resolve the country's electricity imbalance, in which increasing electricity generation and demand management are pursued simultaneously.

He identified the development of



large thermal power plants, small-scale power plants, and renewable power plants including solar and wind plants as the main axis of this program for increasing production, and added: Specific targets have been set for each of these sectors to achieve increased electricity generation capacity.

Asadi identified demand management aimed at optimizing electricity consumption as TAVANIR's second pathway for reducing electricity imbalance.

Three pathways for attracting investors in electricity industry

Regarding attracting investment in the electricity industry, the TAVANIR Deputy said: In this regard, three trading boards have been designed and launched, including the Green Board for private sector investment in renewable electricity, the Free Exchange Board for small and large thermal power plants, and the Savings Board for investors in the field of energy consumption optimization.

Asadi continued: In the field of energy consumption optimization, investors can invest in industrial or residential sectors in projects such as replacing water cooler motors or replacing gas coolers.

He noted: Investors in renewable energy can produce and supply their electricity on the Green Board throughout the year without concern about fuel limitations; the Free Board is also intended for investors who wish to develop existing power plants or build new thermal power plants, whether gas, combined cycle, or steam.

The Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs of TAVANIR also referred to the Savings Board and

said: This board is dedicated to investment in energy consumption optimization projects, and over the past year and a half, the number of contracts in this field has increased from 2 contracts to 55 contracts.

Asadi noted: Today, numerous examples of optimization project implementations, including the replacement of water cooler motors, can be observed, and this trend indicates the growing welcome from investors to participate in this field.

The Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs of TAVANIR identified the purpose of creating these three pathways in the investment sector as increasing the attractiveness of investment in the electricity industry, so that through this route both the reduction of imbalances and productivity in the electricity industry can be achieved.

Targeting growth of electricity transactions through commodity exchange

Regarding complaints from some private sector investors about the electricity purchase price and delays in paying their receivables, the TAVANIR Deputy said: The first action emphasized in the Seventh Development Plan is the development of electricity transactions on the Energy Exchange Board, because in this market, electricity suppliers and buyers are directly present and transactions are conducted transparently.

Asadi, recalling that industries constitute the major buyers of electricity in the commodity exchange and mostly make their purchases in cash, added: This group, if needed, also has the possibility to purchase electricity from other market sectors.

The Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs of TAVANIR stated that over the past two years, the share of electricity transactions on the exchange has continuously increased and this trend continues this year, and said: According to the Seventh Plan, 60 percent of electricity transactions must be conducted through the commodity exchange.

He emphasized: The Ministry of Energy's policy is that the government gradually withdraws from the direct transaction process, and electricity suppliers and buyers conduct their transactions in a transparent environment, so that a significant portion of problems related to pricing and payment of receivables will be resolved over time through this method.

Reconstruction of damaged power plant capacities using small-scale power plants

Referring to the damages inflicted on the electricity industry during the recent imposed war, the TAVANIR Deputy said: Some of the country's power plants with an operational capacity of over 100 MW were damaged, and in total about 130 MW of nominal capacity was damaged in this war.

Asadi added: Simultaneously with actions taken to reconstruct these units, existing capacities in gas stations and small-scale power plants were also utilized, and numerous meetings were held with industry owners and investors in this field to use existing capacities to compensate for the production shortfall.

He noted: Despite the damage to 130 MW of nominal power plant capacity, by using other available capacities, we succeeded in bringing over 200 MW of new capacity online and fulfilling the assigned obligation for developing small-scale power plants.

The Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs of TAVANIR, while appreciating the cooperation of various bodies, stated: The Ministry of Petroleum in fuel supply, the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade in foreign currency allocation, as well as investors in this field, have provided effective cooperation with the electricity industry, and this collaboration enabled the achievement of the anticipated targets in this sector.

Iran, South Korea to strengthen building industrialization cooperation at Tehran exhibition

TEHRAN- The International Exhibition of Building and Construction, set to be held in Tehran from August 18 to 21, will serve as a pivotal platform for deepening technological cooperation between Iran and South Korea, particularly in the field of building industrialization.

Mojtaba Mahallati, Deputy for Support and Planning of the Iran Cooperative Chamber, an-

nounced that negotiations are underway with South Korea to strengthen technological collaboration and that their participation can significantly contribute to export development and commercial exchanges.

Highlighting the importance of cooperation memoranda, Mahallati emphasized: "We are seeking to make the International Exhibition of Building and Construction

a turning point for operationalizing the cooperation memorandum between Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and South Korea."

He further noted that the goal of this bilateral cooperation extends beyond capital attraction, adding: "Our objective is to transfer knowledge and the latest modern technologies in building industrialization to Iranian specialists."

‘US Has taken global food security hostage by naval blockade of Iran’

TEHRAN- A member of the Iran Cooperative Chamber, regarding the potential impacts of the American naval blockade against Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, said: "It's not that we say this regime has blockaded Iran—no, it has practically taken the world hostage."

Following recent tensions in the Persian Gulf region and restrictions imposed on maritime traffic, concerns about a crisis in the global supply chain of goods, especially in the fields of energy and agriculture, have increased. In this regard, Mehr News Agency spoke with Arsalan Ghasemi, an advisor in the agricultural sector and head of the Trade Development and Facilitation and Resource Equipment Center of the Iran Cooperative Chamber, about the potential impacts of this situation on global food security and the key role of the Strait of Hormuz.

Given the recent developments in the region and the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, why do some believe that the current challenges are not limited to the energy sector and also threaten the

global agricultural sector, particularly in the supply of chemical fertilizers?

Just as the Martyred Leader and the Leader of the Revolution stated, the Strait of Hormuz is an asset and a strategic weapon for Iran. The Strait of Hormuz is not only an energy transit route but also a vital artery for supplying agricultural inputs to the world. It is said that 20 percent of the world's transiting oil passes through this strait. The Persian Gulf region is oil-rich, and products like chemical fertilizers, especially urea fertilizer, are among the petrochemical productions of regional countries, including Iran. Annually, we produce about 6 million tons of urea fertilizer in the country, of which nearly 2.5 million tons go to domestic consumption, and the rest is placed in the export basket.

Reports indicate that between 65 and 70 percent of the world's required urea fertilizer is exported through this route. Currently, the oppressive blockade that the American government has imposed on Iran has practically plunged the world into a challenge, because urea chemical fertilizer is one of the essential

raw materials for farmers worldwide.

Countries in the Persian Gulf region, including Iran, are among the main producers of this chemical fertilizer. Therefore, any disruption on this route directly affects global agriculture.

Currently, urea exports have been disrupted, which entails several consequences. First, we will witness a reduction in agricultural production worldwide. Perhaps it may not be tangible today, but its impact will certainly manifest in the next agricultural season. Second, this will cause the price of agricultural production to rise and, practically, food will become more expensive globally. It's not that we say this regime has blockaded Iran—no, it has practically taken the world hostage. The effects of this error will be witnessed by the world in the next agricultural season, and it will grapple with this food insecurity. Moreover, oil and energy inputs are also among the important parameters of agricultural production.

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

For many Arbaeen pilgrims, every step honors martyred Ayatollah Khamenei

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The architects of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran expected paralysis. They calculated that assassinating the Leader of the Islamic Revolution would fracture the Resistance. They were fluent in the sterile language of decapitation. They were blind to the mechanics of martyrdom.

Look at the road from Najaf to Karbala. This is the first Arbaeen since American and Israeli warplanes ignited the current war. The pilgrims did not scatter.

They have multiplied. Millions of visitors have crossed into Iraq to join locals in a march that absorbed the region's grief and converted it into militant resolve. The enemies have inadvertently helped unleash a civilization.

The funeral that buried a border

The trend intensified months before the first pilgrim took a step.

In early July, the martyred Leader's body moved through Iraq's shrine cities. More than 10 million Iraqis flooded the streets.

Karbala formally recognized him as the first pilgrim of this year's Arbaeen. Mawkibs, the vast network of volunteer-run rest houses and service centers that sustain the pilgrimage, opened weeks early.

Tribal sheikhs and Iraqi Resistance members stood for hours in punishing heat just to touch the coffin. The ceremony placed the martyred Iranian Leader inside the highest circles of Iraqi religious legitimacy.

This was the public burial of the tyrannical Baathist project. For decades, hostile Western and regional intelligence agencies spent billions attempting to manufacture suspicion between Baghdad and Tehran.

Yet the man who directed Iran's defense during the imposed war of the 1980s was carried on the shoulders of the very nation he once fought. The border dissolved in the soft tissue of collective memory.

The blood bond

On July 29, blatant joint U.S.-Saudi airstrikes hit Iraqi Re-



sistance positions in Diyala. 20 Iraqi fighters and five Iranian advisers were martyred in the same salvos.

Their blood intermingled, echoing a bond forged long ago on the battlefields against ISIS and other satanic forces, where the martyrdom of General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis came to symbolize the shared sacrifice of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq made a calculated choice. They postponed retaliation until after the pilgrimage, ensuring mawkibs operated without disruption.

Protecting pilgrims took precedence over revenge. That discipline shows a highly functional, transnational military front that subordinates its anger to a broader civilizational order.

On the road, pilgrims carry the memory of the Diyala martyrs alongside the 156 civilians, over 120 of them schoolchildren, murdered in the U.S. military's February 28 attack on the Minab girls' school in southern Iran, as well as thousands of other martyrs.

The unbroken chain at Pole 553

The demand for retribution has a physical address. At Pole 553, beside the Haj Qasem Soleima-

ni mawkib, a red flag dominates the skyline. In Shia tradition, a red banner signifies blood demanding justice.

There is no roster. No one is paid to hold it. An Iranian woman, sweat cutting lines through the dust on her face, passes the heavy pole to an Iraqi grandfather leaning on a cane.

A seven-year-old girl stretches to keep the fabric from sagging. Daytime temperatures approach 50 degrees Celsius. The asphalt hits 70. Yet organizers confirm the flag has not touched the ground for a single second since the pilgrimage began.

At night, the blue carpets of the mawkib transform into a center of political awakening. The lamentations harden. The grief becomes fuel. The chain of hands holding the flag is the social grammar of a movement that has learned how to weaponize its sorrow.

The magnetic pull

Strategists cannot decode Arbaeen because it humiliates the assumptions of neoliberal governance.

You cannot sanction a hospital network built entirely on faith. Millions are fed, sheltered, and treated medically without a central bureaucracy or an IMF loan. This living civilizational network

operates on selfless sacrifice.

Years ago, Ayatollah Khamenei mapped this exact phenomenon, describing the "Husseini magnetic attraction" that drew Jabir ibn Abdullah, a trusted companion of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the first pilgrim to visit Karbala on Arbaeen, from Medina across the centuries.

Today, his own martyrdom has fused with that ancient gravity, transforming a historical pilgrimage into an irresistible civilizational force. No intelligence assessment or security model can account for why millions march through scorching heat; the answer resides in a magnetic pull that assassination only made absolute.

The martyred leader taught that Iran and Iraq are joined at the soul by this love. In a handwritten note left for students preparing for the road, he urged them to anchor their steps in the uncompromising purpose of the Master of the Martyrs, Imam Hussein (AS), a total rejection of illegitimate tyranny.

This year's Arbaeen march is the living execution of that directive. Millions are writing history with every blistered step across the asphalt, proving that no empire's warplanes can break a civilization that refuses to kneel.

Hybrid war arrives against Spain

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - The events in Ceuta, one of Spain's territories in continental Africa, have sparked a dual debate. Domestically, the right and far-right have accused Pedro Sánchez's government of "negligence in the face of an invasion." The President, in turn, called it a "violation of Spain's territorial integrity," stating: "Ceuta is a Spanish city, and yesterday's events deserve our total condemnation." However, the most compelling debate from a geopolitical perspective—and the focus of this article—is Israel's alleged role in efforts to punish Madrid for its support of Palestine.

The crisis erupted on Thursday, July 30, when nearly 50,000 people from Morocco breached the Ceuta border. Authorities confirmed at least 90 deaths by drowning. Yet, by Friday, Interior Ministry sources indicated over 48,000 migrants had already returned to Moroccan territory.

Speculation about alleged Israeli backing for what some media now call a "hybrid war" against Spain gained traction after articles by pro-Israeli analysts went viral. They argued Washington and Tel Aviv should support Morocco's claims over Ceuta and Melilla to pressure Madrid. In March, Michael Rubin of the American Enterprise Institute urged Rabat to launch a new "Green March" toward the Spanish enclaves. Writing for the Middle East Forum, Rubin proposed that Moroccan citizens march on Ceuta and Melilla with bulldozers, cross unarmed, and raise the Moroccan flag, framing it as a response to Spain's "anti-colonial hypocrisy."

Morocco has weaponized its population before, notably in April 2021, when 12,000 migrants, including minors, were used as a battering ram at Ceuta. What has changed? Primarily, Spain's international posture: from rejecting participation in a potential war with Iran to its fierce criticism of the genocide in Gaza. Portuguese political scientist Bruno Maçães recently highlighted an April article where pro-Israeli analysts urged Tel Aviv to help Morocco take Ceuta to punish Spain. This follows Madrid's recognition of Palestine in May 2024, its arms embargo, and bans on Israeli-linked fuel ships and military aircraft in Spanish ports and airspace. Tel Aviv condemned these moves as anti-Semitic, prompting Spain to recall its ambassador.

In a similar vein, an April article published by the Israeli outlet Ynet by Amine Ayoub, also of the Middle East Forum, suggested Israel could use its Washington influence to help Morocco "recover" the enclaves. Ayoub argued this would punish a NATO ally for defying US and Israeli policies.

This adds complexity to the Morocco-Israel-US triangle. In 2020, Rabat signed the Abraham Accords in exchange for Washington recognizing its sovereignty over Western Sahara. Israel completed this strategic triangle in July 2023 when Benjamin Netanya-



hu formally recognized the "Moroccanity" of the Sahara. Highlighting this, Morocco recently named a 1,055-kilometer highway to Dajla the "President Donald J. Trump Highway," physically asserting its control over the UN-listed non-self-governing territory, despite the Polisario Front's claims for the Sahrawi people.

Clearly, the Ceuta crisis transcends immigration, serving as a tool to condition Spanish and European domestic politics. It has exposed EU fractures and a political offensive against Spain backed by several partners. It began with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's disproportionate demand to "harden Spain's migration policy." Rome announced the suspension of Schengen agreements with Madrid, activating border controls for non-EU nationals traveling by air or sea. Poland, Finland, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Denmark quickly followed suit.

Who benefits from this crisis? First, Morocco, which champions the "Moroccanity of Ceuta and Melilla." Second, Israel, which watches Sánchez's vulnerable government with satisfaction, aiming to influence the 2027 general elections. For instance, Israeli UN Ambassador Danny Danon tweeted: "Spain, which never misses a chance to lecture Israel, has declared a state of emergency in Ceuta." It mattered little that Spain hadn't; the goal was to internationalize the chaos.

The Trump administration, another major beneficiary, echoed this. The State Department expressed "solidarity with the Spanish people" against this "flagrant violation of sovereignty," adding that the incident was the "direct consequence of the Spanish Government's deliberate efforts to facilitate mass illegal immigration." Vice President JD Vance called it a "lamentable reminder of the consequences of mass migration and radical left globalist policies."

Finally, domestically, the main beneficiary is Vox. The far-right party, aligned with Trump and Israel, centers its discourse on immigration—especially Muslim immigration—seeking to criminalize the "other" and promote the great replacement theory and the loss of cultural "whiteness."

Ultimately, this episode of hybrid warfare against Spain serves as a stark reminder that political actions are not free, and distancing oneself from the United States and Israel comes at a price.

Five Lebanese soldiers wounded in southern town blast amid ongoing Israeli aggression

From page 1 ► Rather than halting hostile actions, occupation forces have weaponized the truce to systematically expand their footprint, flattening border villages, conducting sweeping machine-gun operations, and accelerating engineering destruction across multiple southern districts.

In another statement, the Lebanese army claimed a specialized unit determined the blast was caused by a "suspicious object" and that the investigation is ongoing.

The ongoing escalation spans a sweeping range of infractions, highlighted by the recent detonation of an estimated 700 tons of explosives beneath the historic Shaqif Fortress, a UNESCO-listed landmark in Arnoun.

This brazen demolition rattled communities as far away as Saida and the Chouf region, reflecting a broader strategy aimed at erasing regional heritage, disabling local infrastructure, and preventing displaced families from returning to their homes.

Concurrently, Israeli forces have maintained heavy artillery shelling, Merkava tank fire, and aggressive drone overflights targeting towns such as Haddatha, Kounine, al-Taybeh, Majdal Zoun, and Mansouri, while offensive aircraft continuously menace the skies above Beirut and its southern suburbs.

Israel intensifies Gaza killings to quash Hamas's disarmament plan

Extremists' ultimate purpose is to exterminate the Palestinian population

From page 1 ► They are implementing their plan of exterminating the Palestinian nation through different approaches, and political gestures such as "voluntary migration" of Gazans are just intended to deceive the world.

Israel's ruling extremists now find themselves in a more complicated position following Hamas's latest policy announcement. Those advocating the "Greater Israel" project fear that the announcement has stripped away their pretense, exposing their determination to complete their campaign and ultimately annex the entire Gaza Strip.

They are speeding up their brutality against the Gazans to force Hamas to retract its disarmament policy and then claim: Did you notice that Hamas was lying that it was giving up its arms and agreeing to the Gaza Peace Board!?

Alon Pinkas, a former Israeli ambassador, has told Al Jazeera that Israel is "absolutely not" happy about the U.S.-brokered deal that has seen Hamas agree to relinquish power.

That's evident in how Israeli attacks have intensified in Gaza in the last 48 hours following the announcement, and the fact that Israel has officially submitted a reservation to Trump's Board of Peace, Pinkas said.

"Israel is presented with a sit-



uation where the U.S. president says there's an agreement, but there isn't really an agreement, and so I am extraordinarily skeptical that this is going to work out," he added.

For Netanyahu, Trump's agreement with Hamas represents a "colossal failure", Pinkas said, and so does the "failed war in Iran".

Netanyahu, who faces elections in October, is "going to have to somehow sugarcoat what's going on in Gaza" to domestic audiences, he noted.

Under the Gaza Peace Board, Israel is required to withdraw to the so-called "Yellow Line" buffer zone, allow humanitarian aid to flow unimpeded into the enclave and stop attacks on the Gazans, but none of that has happened since the deal was announced on Friday, Pinkas said.

The continued brutalities against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank clearly show that the ultimate goal is to exterminate Palestine of its native population in different ways, no matter how cruel it is.

According to Middle East Eye (MEE), Fatima Nofal gave birth to Zaid after losing three sons in an air strike in 2023. Fifteen months later, another strike killed Zaid in central Gaza.

After two years of genocidal war in Gaza, Israel agreed to a ceasefire on paper in 2025 to save face. However, it has continued to bomb Gaza on a near-daily basis. It has butchered at least 1,200 people since the ceasefire began.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said in June that around 260 children had been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire

began.

UNICEF spokesperson James Elder described the situation as a "cruel and deadly illusion of a ceasefire", saying that, on average, one child was being killed every day.

After witnessing the deaths of her own children, Nofal rightly believes Palestinian civilians, particularly women and children, have been deliberately targeted by Israel.

"Since the war began, the vast majority of the casualties we've seen are women and children," Nofal said. "Israel is intent on killing us, and it needs no justification to do so."

In line with its campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Palestinians, the Israeli apartheid regime appears to have deliberately targeted women and children—the very foundation of future generations.

The world must now recognize who stands in the way of peace: the Palestinians, or the extremists in Israel?

Ultra-hardliners in Israel are now even defying the U.S., their chief backer, by trying to kill the Gaza Peace Board through intensification of violence in Gaza. They have the vicious plan of destroying what remains of Palestine, something that many officials in the U.S. and Europe may not be aware of.

Wheelchair basketball set for tournament in Turkey

TEHRAN - Iran's national wheelchair basketball team will compete in an international tournament in Turkey as part of their preparations for the upcoming Wheelchair Basketball World Championship.

The Iranian squad secured their place at the World Championship after an outstanding performance at the final qualification tournament held in Thailand last June.

Iran topped Group A with three consecutive victories over Senegal, Brazil, and Poland to book their ticket to the global event.

As the team intensify their preparations for the World Championship, they have accepted an invitation from the Turkish Basketball Federation to participate in a high-level international tournament in Istanbul.

The tournament will feature four World Championship-bound teams, including hosts Turkey, Iran, the Netherlands, and Poland, providing valuable competitive experience ahead of the sport's biggest event.

The international tournament is scheduled to take place in Istanbul from Aug. 20 to 25, offering participating teams a final opportunity to fine-tune their preparations before the World Championship tips off.

Iran to hold camp in Russia ahead of 2026 Asian Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN - Iran's national men's volleyball team will depart for a 10-day training camp in Russia on Aug. 20 as part of their final preparations for the 2026 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship, which will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, from Sept. 4 to 13.

The Iranian squad will travel to Russia with a 14-player roster before heading directly to Japan for the continental championship. The team are currently holding their training camp in Tehran, with head coach Roberto Piazza's staff continuing preparations.

The 2026 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship carries added significance, serving as the first qualifying stage for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. Under the competition regulations, the tournament champions will secure a direct berth at the 2028 Olympics.

In addition to the Olympic qualification spot, the championship also offers places at the 2027 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Cup, with the top three finishers earning qualification for the global event.

With Olympic qualification on the line, the tournament is expected to be one of the most competitive editions of the Asian Championship, as the continent's leading teams battle for both continental supremacy and a place on volleyball's biggest international stages.

Ochsenzoller Straße complete signing of Milan Nejad

TEHRAN - For the defensive and central midfield, Milad Nejad from SV Wehen Wiesbaden will move to Ochsenzoller Straße.

The native of Hamburg has been through the complete junior performance center of Hamburger SV since the U9 and already made his debut as an 18-year-old in the regional league. In his last season at HSV, he led the U21s as captain on the field.

After 42 Regional League games, he made the jump to the 3rd. League to SV Wehen Wiesbaden, for which he scored eight times in 3. Liga played in the DFB Cup against Bayern Munich. After he was denied the breakthrough there, Milad Nejad Haji Lor, as he is called by his full name, is now back home.

“Milad was our absolute desired player for the position in the central midfield,” said Frank Spitzer, head of sports, said that the 22-year-old was in a statement. “When the door opened, we invested everything because it will become a very important building block in the center. We are infinitely glad that he chose us.”

Iran U23 learn 2026 Asian Games group stage schedule

TEHRAN - Iran's U23 national football team have officially learned their schedule for the group stage of the Nagoya 2026 Asian Games.

Drawn into Group B, Iran will face United Arab Emirates, China, and North Korea as they begin their quest for a place in the knockout rounds.

Head coach Hossein Abdi's side will kick off their campaign against the UAE on Wednesday, Sept. 16, with the match scheduled to begin at 14:00 local time.

Iran's second group-stage fixture will see them take on hosts China on Sunday, Sept. 20, also at 14:00 local time.

The Young Team Melli will conclude the group stage against North Korea on Wednesday, Sept. 23, with kickoff set for 14:30 local time.

All three of Iran's Group B matches will be played at Wave Stadium Kariya in Kariya, Aichi Prefecture.

Iran U23 - Nagoya 2026 Asian Games Group B Schedule

* September 16, 2026 - Iran vs. United Arab Emirates (14:00 local time) - WAVE KARIYA Stadium

* September 20, 2026 - Iran vs. China (14:00 local time) - WAVE KARIYA Stadium

* September 23, 2026 - Iran vs. North Korea (14:30 local time) - WAVE KARIYA Stadium

Sayyadmanesh scores against Wiczyista Krakow

TEHRAN - Lech Poznan defeated Wiczyista Kraków 2-1 in the first meeting of both teams in history.

The Polish champions worked out a two-goal advantage before the break through Yannick Agnero and Allahyar Sayyadmanesh, while the hosts responded with Lucas Piazon's goal.

The Krakowians started their debut season in the Polish Ekstraklasa with two defeats. Lech Poznan begin their title defense with a draw and a win.

FIFA drops World Cup stake sale plan

TEHRAN - FIFA president Gianni Infantino abandoned a controversial plan to create a commercial entity that would have opened the door to outside investors for the World Cup, bowing to intense opposition from key regional football bodies and top clubs.

“Having listened carefully to all the views, it has become clear that the project has created divisions of a nature that, regardless of the level of support, are no longer in the interest of the objective set out in the first place,” Infantino said in a statement Friday evening.

The reversal comes after the governing regional football body for Europe vowed to boycott the World Cup entirely should FIFA push ahead with the plan, which sought to create an entity to house media rights, including those for the World Cup. Infantino sought to bring in as much as US\$4.2 billion of outside capital based on a US\$20 billion valuation for that entity.

UEFA, Concacaf and the Asian Football Confederation argued the proposal had been developed without sufficient consultation and raised concerns that introducing private capital could alter FIFA's governance, priorities and distribution of revenues.

Seven fortresses, one strategy: How the Alamut defensive network worked

TEHRAN - When the name Alamut is mentioned, many people picture a castle standing atop a towering cliff. However, what has now been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List as “Alamut Castle and Related Fortifications” is far more than a single fortress. It is a complex network of seven mountain strongholds that, between the 11th and 13th centuries CE, formed one of the most advanced defensive systems of medieval Iran through the combined use of geography, architecture, water management and spatial organization.

The outstanding value of this heritage lies precisely in this network-based approach: a system that UNESCO recognizes as an exceptional example of strategic organization, resilience and adaptation to a challenging mountainous environment.

More than 900 years ago, on the southern slopes of the Alborz Mountains, the planners of Alamut viewed security as a network. Each fortress was part of a larger system, and no individual stronghold had meaning in isolation.

The UNESCO World Heritage nomination dossier emphasizes this very characteristic. It is described as a serial heritage property consisting of Alamut, Lambesar, Noweizar Shah, Shams Kalayeh, Qestinar, Shirkuh and Ilan, all located at strategic points across the Alborz mountain range.

According to Miras Aria news agency, the secret behind this network first lay in the selection of locations. Almost all of these fortifications were built on high cliffs or narrow mountain ridges, at points accessible through only one or two restricted routes. Such positioning forced attackers to approach the castle walls through steep, narrow and easily controlled paths.

But natural advantages were only part of the story. Each fortress overlooked communication routes through the Alamut valleys and mountain passes of the Alborz. This strategic placement allowed inhabitants to monitor the movement of troops, caravans and military forces and to



prepare for potential threats. UNESCO research describes the complex as a network with an advanced spatial and strategic organization.

Contrary to common perceptions, what distinguished this network was its ability to sustain life during periods of siege. According to the UNESCO nomination dossier, one of the most important features of these fortifications was their advanced water and food management systems. Cisterns, storage facilities, water channels fed by springs and seasonal rainfall, as well as the use of surrounding lands for agricultural production, enabled long-term resistance.

In reality, Alamut functioned as a small city on the mountain. Within the fortifications were residential areas, grain storage facilities, water reservoirs, service spaces and quarters for personnel, allowing life to continue during times of crisis without immediate dependence on the outside world.

Another important feature of this system was the principle of dispersion combined with connectivity. Rather than concentrating all defensive power in a single location, several fortresses were established at different points so that if one came under pressure, other strongholds could remain operational. This resembles what modern military studies describe as “network resilience,” although the modern term should not be directly applied to a historical structure. Available evidence suggests that the distribution of fortresses reduced the likelihood of the entire

system collapsing simultaneously.

Lambesar, the second most important fortress in the complex, provides a clear example of this strategy. One of the largest castles in the region, it controlled important western routes and, together with Alamut, formed part of the backbone of the defensive network. Other fortifications were similarly positioned to oversee valleys, mountain passes or access routes.

However, a distinction must be made between historical facts and legends. Numerous stories exist about communication methods between the castles, including the use of fires, smoke signals or carrier pigeons, but many of these accounts lack conclusive archaeological evidence or contemporary documentation. For this reason, the UNESCO nomination focuses not on such narratives, but on proven characteristics such as defensive architecture, spatial organization, water resource management and adaptation to the natural environment.

Another reason for the durability of this network was its complete adaptation to the mountainous landscape. The architects of Alamut sought to use the rock itself as part of the fortifications wherever possible. In many places, natural cliffs replaced artificial walls, while walls and towers were constructed only where necessary. This integration of architecture and nature both reduced construction demands and made penetration more difficult.

UNESCO has also highlight-

ed this feature in its statement of Outstanding Universal Value, describing the property as an exceptional example of the adaptation of defensive architecture to the mountainous landscape of the Alborz, where the natural environment itself became part of the defensive design.

From the late 11th century CE, Alamut became the political, military, scientific and intellectual center of the Nizari Ismailis. This dual character, the coexistence of defensive and cultural functions, was among the main reasons for its inscription on the World Heritage List. UNESCO notes that, in addition to its protective role, the network also served as a center of knowledge, thought and cultural life.

In 1256 CE, the Mongol invasion led to the fall of Alamut Castle. However, the end of its political role did not mark the end of its historical significance. What remains today is evidence of a different approach to defense, resource management and territorial organization.

Alamut Castle and Related Fortifications was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List during the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea, becoming Iran's 30th tangible cultural heritage property to receive the designation.

The Alamut fortifications were eventually captured by Mongol ruler Hulagu Khan in 1256 through a combination of military pressure and diplomatic maneuvering, after he had forced the surrender of the Ismaili spiritual leader, the successor of Hassan-i Sabbah.

For centuries, Alamut Castle was largely forgotten and only returned to wider public attention after the publication of British explorer Freya Stark's 1930s travel book The Valleys of the Assassins. A copy of the recently reprinted volume remains a popular companion for visitors exploring the region.

‘Shiraz historical district restoration should rely on AI, future studies’

TEHRAN - The director-general of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Fars province has called for the use of artificial intelligence, advanced technologies and future-oriented approaches in the preservation and revitalization of Shiraz's historic urban fabric.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the national registration of Shiraz's historic district, Behzad Moridi on Sunday said the creation of comprehensive databases and the expansion of digital infrastructure were essential steps toward developing smart tourism in the historic core of the city.

Moridi said accurate and scientific data

collection should be considered the first step in heritage management, adding that effective planning for historic areas requires reliable information systems.

“After establishing databases, we should design specialized super-applications and create diverse hyperlinks to provide an integrated response to all the needs of audiences and users,” he said.

The Fars heritage official emphasized that new technologies could transform approaches to protecting and reviving historic areas, allowing authorities to adopt more efficient and forward-looking strategies.

Known as one of the main centers of Per-

sian culture for more than two millennia, Shiraz is renowned for its literature, gardens, crafts and historic monuments. The city served as the capital of Iran during the Zand dynasty between 1751 and 1794 and was among the most influential cities of the medieval Islamic world.

The historic city attracts domestic and international visitors with landmarks including Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, the tombs of Persian poets Hafez and Sa'di, the Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and the ancient site of Persepolis. Its historic Persian gardens, including Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, remain among the city's most popular tourist destinations.

Iran plans fifth gastronomy festival in Armenia to promote cultural ties



TEHRAN - Iran is planning to hold the fifth edition of a gastronomy festival in Armenia, with a focus on promoting the country's culinary heritage, national tourism

brand, and handicrafts, the deputy tourism minister said.

Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpei made the remarks on Saturday during a ceremony unveiling post-

ers for cultural and tourism events at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, IRNA reported.

He said the festival, which has successfully held four previous editions, attracted around 30,000 visitors in Armenia, demonstrating its potential to draw targeted audiences and strengthen public diplomacy.

“Strengthening cultural diplomacy, introducing the country's capacities in souvenirs, cuisine and handicrafts, and supporting the private sector while facilitating procedures to reduce government involvement are among the main objectives of such events,” he said.

Mohseni-Bandpei described cultural festivals as an opportunity for “soft diplomacy” amid what

he called media campaigns against Iran, saying such initiatives could help counter Iranophobia by creating connections between nations and bringing different cultures closer together.

He noted that Iran and Armenia are currently among each other's major tourism destinations and said cultural cooperation could further strengthen ties between the two countries.

Mohseni-Bandpei said lessons learned from the previous four editions would be used to improve the quality of the fifth festival, adding that organizers had conducted assessments to identify strengths and weaknesses.

He, however, did not announce a specific date for holding the event in Armenia.

ISC to foster ties with Malaysian, Turkish universities

TEHRAN – The Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has highlighted the need to expand scientific research, exchange knowledge, and establish long-term strategic partnerships with Malaysian and Turkish universities.

The ISC head, Mohammad-Mehdi Alavianmehr, held online meetings with officials from the University of Malaya, National University of Malaysia, and Istanbul Okan University, saying that expanding science diplomacy, strengthening international academic networks, sharing knowledge, launching joint research projects, and establishing sustainable links between universities and scientific institutions are essential for enhancing scientific status on the global stage.

Alavianmehr elaborated on the capacities and missions of the ISC over the past two decades, highlighting that the ISC has become one of the reference systems in ranking universities and institutions of the Islamic world.

Developing cooperation among leading scientific institutions can contribute to enhancing research quality, fostering innovation, addressing global challenges, and realizing sustainable development goals, he added.

By promoting collaborations with prestigious universities in Malaysia, Turkey, and other countries, the ISC Institute aims to strengthen its network of scientific cooperation across the Islamic world and Asia, paving the way for conducting joint projects, knowledge exchange, and the enhancement of the international standing of academic institutions.

Exchanging experiences in scientometrics, research assessment, and university rankings; conducting joint research projects on science, technology, and innovation policy; collaborating on scientific data analysis, artificial intelligence; and exchanging faculty members, researchers, and students were among the key areas of cooperation proposed during these meetings.

The officials also discussed holding conferences, workshops, training courses, and specialized meetings; preparing strategic reports on the state of science and technology in the Islamic world and Asia; supporting innovative activities; and establishing and strengthening scientific networks among universities and researchers from various countries.

Officials from the University of Malaya and National Univer-



sity of Malaysia, for their part, expounded on the global and regional rankings of the universities, and their achievements in higher education, scientific and international cooperation, and innovation sectors.

National University of Malaysia also presented a report on the educational, research, and international capacities of the university.

They highlighted the importance of implementing joint academic programs, expanding global cooperation, and increasing academic exchanges.

Iranian and Turkish officials underlined the need for the development of scientific cooperation between the universities of the two countries.

Scientific officials affiliated with Istanbul Okan University outlined their strategies on internationalization of higher education, the implementation of joint research projects, students and professors exchange, and participation in the Erasmus+ program.

Iranian and Turkish officials agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to the reached agreements.

Iranian, Malaysian officials discuss ways to foster scientific ties

In May, Iran's scientific counselor in East Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, Alireza Tavakolpour, and scientific officials of the University of Malaya (UM) explored the opportunities to expand scientific and academic ties between Iranian universities and UM.

The meeting was attended by UM officials, including Zuliana Razali, the director of the inter-

national relations centre; Mohd Faizul Mohd Sabri, the deputy dean of research and innovation at the faculty of engineering; and Fazliana binti Ismail from the faculty of medicine.

During the meeting, Malaysian officials elaborated on the scientific and research capabilities of UM as one of the oldest and best universities in Malaysia.

For his part, Tavakolpour expounded on Iran's perspectives on the expansion of science diplomacy, presenting the capacities of Iranian elites and scientists, and shared the research fields that are a top priority for the country.

The two sides agreed to follow up on strategic cooperation within a framework of a joint action plan.

Iran, Turkey planning to launch joint innovation center

Iran and Turkey are planning to establish a joint innovation center and define a sustainable business model, an official with the Ministry of Science said in July.

In line with the implementation of mega-tech projects, the two countries have developed nine technology projects to implement collectively, IRNA quoted Mohammad-Nabi Shahiki as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting held on July 20 to plan the Iran-Turkey Science and Technology Week.

Highlighting the role of science and technology parks in the expansion of international cooperation, Shahiki said the main objective is to transition from academic collaboration towards the development of a synergistic network comprising research

institutes, technology parks, and universities to conduct joint projects in education, research, and technology fields and generate shared strategic outcomes for both parties.

According to the head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology's center for international scientific cooperation, Ehsan Qaboul, Iran-Turkey Science and Technology Week is scheduled to be held in Urmia, West Azarbaijan province, and Tabriz, East Azarbaijan, in the second month of the fall, snn.ir reported.

In February, Qaboul and Turkish ambassador to Tehran, Hicabi Kirlangic, explored the capacities, challenges, and future perspectives for the expansion of scientific, research, and educational cooperation between Iran and Turkey, msrt.ir reported.

The two sides agreed to boost science diplomacy by organizing an Iran-Turkey science week, holding recurrent meetings of the best universities, developing joint scientific projects, and establishing science and technology parks, particularly in border areas.

During the meeting, Qaboul said, "Our main objective is to develop a joint scientific ecosystem that encompasses everything from higher education to applied research and modern technologies."

Supervising joint dissertations was the other issue raised by the official, noting that Persian and Turkish students can help address common problems between the two countries, conduct collaborative research projects, and ultimately improve the scientific standing of Iranian and Turkish universities in international rankings.

The official also proposed exchanging students, granting scholarships, offering joint scientific calls on shared environmental, technological, and industrial issues, and developing joint curricula to strengthen cultural links and localize education.

Highlighting the capacities of medical universities in the country, Iranian officials announced their readiness to attract more Turkish students. Currently, more than 130 Turkish students are majoring in medical fields in Iran.

For his part, Kirlangic emphasized the need to address problems related to issuing visas and equivalent certificates, saying that establishing transparent mechanisms will increase confidence among students and their families.



hood illnesses. Breastmilk provides all the energy and nutrients that the infant needs for the first months of life, and it continues to provide up to half or more of a child's nutritional needs during the second half of the first year, and up to one third during the second year of life.

Breastfed children perform better on intelligence tests, are less likely to be overweight or obese, and less prone to diabetes later in life. Women who breastfeed also have a reduced risk of breast and ovarian cancers.

Inappropriate marketing of breast-milk substitutes continues to undermine efforts to improve breastfeeding rates and duration worldwide.

SOCIETY

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Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Iran Health Expo to kick off on August 8

TEHRAN - The 27th Iran Health International Exhibition, the country's largest specialized event for the health industry, will be held from August 8 to 11 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground.

Bringing together leading companies and knowledge-based enterprises in the fields of medical, dental and laboratory equipment, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and digital health, the exhibition will provide a platform to showcase the latest technological achievements and foster industry collaboration.

Iran Health is recognized as the region's second-largest exhibition dedicated to medical, dental, laboratory and pharmaceutical equipment and services. Held annually, the event attracts a broad spectrum of industry stakeholders and serves as a professional venue for domestic and international companies to present cutting-edge technologies, products and innovations in the healthcare sector, ISNA reported.

The exhibition also plays a key role in identifying market trends and assessing the future direction of the healthcare industry, contributing to the development of advanced medical technologies and services.

Exhibits will span a wide range of sectors, including medical devices, healthcare solutions, diagnostic imaging, digital health technologies and medical tourism.

The 27th edition of Iran Health is expected to provide opportunities for participants to showcase their capabilities, expand technological cooperation and strengthen connections across Iran's health innovation ecosystem.

Companies operating in medical and dental equipment, laboratory technologies, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, digital health and other knowledge-based sectors are scheduled to participate in the four-day event.

Iran regional leader in health system

In May 2025, the World Health Organization's (WHO) director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) said Iran is a leading country in expanding its healthcare system and providing access to universal health coverage.

Lauding the country's achievements in recent years, Hanan Balkhi said that by expanding primary health care services, increasing access to health coverage in rural areas, maintaining high vaccination rates, and reducing maternal and newborn mortal-



ity, Iran has managed to become a successful role model in the region, the health ministry's website reported.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA).

Self-sufficiency in medicine, medical equipment a priority

The issue of medicine and medical equipment production and self-sufficiency in these areas is one of the government's priorities, Zafarqandi said in March 2025.

Medicine and medical equipment are two important areas related to people's health, he said, adding: "We are trying to reach self-sufficiency for the supply of medicine and medical equipment," IRNA reported.

In 2024, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment, such as anesthesia machines and other equipment, are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are operating in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

Iran's population exceeds 87 million, report shows

TEHRAN – According to the Statistical Center of Iran, the current population of the country has surpassed 87 million, and the number is expected to rise to 87,134,000 by the end of the current Iranian year, March 2027.

Urban and rural populations will account for around 67 million and 20 million, respectively, IRNA reported.

Furthermore, the average household size is less than 3.2 (3.19) members per household, the lowest level recorded since the 1950s.

A total of 892,227 births and 459,984 deaths were registered in the country in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2025 – March 2026). The majority of births and deaths were recorded in summer and spring, respectively.

According to the head of the Welfare Organization, the rate of aging in Iran is growing faster than the global average, so that the country will be among the oldest countries in the world in 25 years.

Based on the World Health Organization (WHO) age classification in 2025, the elderly population constitutes those aged 60 and older. Accordingly, 14 percent of the country's population is old now, ISNA quoted Seyed Javad Hosseini as saying in May.

A population is considered to be young, with seven percent of people being 60 or older; when seven to 14 percent of people are over 60, the country is said to be aging. Countries with 14 to 21 percent and 21 to 27 percent of people aged 60 or over are aged and super-aged, respectively, the official said.

In the Iranian year 1395 (2016 – 2017), only 9.5 percent of the population was aged over 60, and the global average aging rate was about 12 and 13 percent. In the Iranian year 1415 (2036 – 2037), the figure will rise to 15



percent in Iran and 16.5 percent in the world. However, in 1430 (2051 – 2052), the figure will reach 31 percent in Iran and 21.5 percent in the world, the official noted.

The life expectancy in Iran has increased, but the birth rate has lowered, Hosseini stressed.

The Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology and Knowledge-based Economy, in cooperation with the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, will support the implementation of projects in the family and youth population sectors.

To this end, the Vice-Presidency announced the second call to organize and fund innovations in line with achieving the country's demographic goals in January, IRNA reported.

The call focused on three main areas, namely infertility treatment, childbearing, maternal and child health, as well as seven key specialized areas including cell therapy, gene therapy, tissue engineering (advanced treatments and novel approaches to improve fertility and treat genetic disorders), assisted reproductive technologies (ART) and Artificial Intelligence, nanotechnologies to improve diagnosis, health monitoring, and assisted reproductive treatments.

Breastfeeding for a sustainable start in life: strengthen what works

TEHRAN – World Breastfeeding Day 2026 is commemorated from August 1 to 7 under the theme 'Breastfeeding for a sustainable start in life: strengthen what works,' focusing on tracking progress, evaluating impact, and scaling proven approaches that improve breastfeeding outcomes.

In 2018, a World Health Assembly resolution endorsed World Breastfeeding Week as an important health promotion strategy. With a different theme each year, it aims to promote enabling environments that help women breastfeed – including support in the community and the workplace, with adequate protections in government policies and laws – as well as sharing information on breastfeeding benefits and strategies.

This year's theme calls on governments, health systems, workplaces, communities, civil society organizations, and families to build on successful experiences and strengthen the 'Warm Chain of Support' for breastfeeding.

The health ministry is observing the week across the country; each day is centered on a specific topic, IRNA reported.

Saturday, August 1, Breastfeeding for a sustainable start in life: mothers and chil-

dren's basic right to health

Sunday, August 2, Breastfeeding in crisis and war: empowered mother, successful breastfeeding

Monday, August 3, Youth population and breastfeeding, supportive families, successful breastfeeding, donating breast milk

Tuesday, August 4, Baby-friendly centers: effective care for mother and baby

Wednesday, August 5, Breastfeeding: a social responsibility; mother and child-friendly workplaces

Thursday, August 6, Supportive Policies and Laws; inclusive society, healthy generation

Friday, August 7, A dignity-centered approach, investing today for tomorrow's health

Breastfeeding is one of the most effective ways to ensure child health and survival. However, contrary to World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations, fewer than half of infants under 6 months old are exclusively breastfed.

Breastmilk is the ideal food for infants. It is safe, clean, and contains antibodies which help protect against many common child-



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Forsaking a need is easier than requesting it from unworthy persons.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:27 Dawn: 3:38 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:14 (tomorrow)

Massive Attack banned from Singapore after pro-Palestine display at show

Massive Attack have been banned from Singapore after the British band reportedly expressed pro-Palestinian sentiments during a performance in the city-state.

The band's two members held up a Palestinian flag at the show on Wednesday and shouted "free Palestine", authorities said, with some in the audience reportedly joining them.

Singapore's police force has now banned Massive Attack from future entry into the country, while its media regulator simultaneously said it would not grant future applications for them to perform there.

The Asian nation has strict rules on public speech and what it deems as demonstrations, arguing that it is necessary to regulate them to protect social harmony.

Authorities have previously investigated public events related to the Israel-Gaza war. Earlier this year, they fined several people for organizing an unauthorized walk in support of the Palestinian cause.

A police spokeswoman told the BBC that following an investigation the two band members had been issued "stern warnings" concerning alleged offences under Section 3 of the Foreign National Emblems (Control of Display) Act 1949 and Section 16 of the Public Order Act.

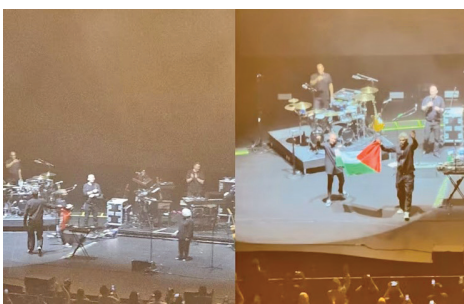
The two laws ban the display of foreign flags in public in most cases and set conditions on public events of a political nature, respectively.

The spokeswoman said Singapore's police "take a serious view of acts which could potentially harm the racial and religious harmony in Singapore".

"The peace and harmony between different races and religions in Singapore should not be taken for granted, and we must not let external events affect our society," she added.

Massive Attack is currently on a world tour, with Wednesday's performance their only date in Singapore. Their next show is due to be held in Seoul.

The band, which pioneered the trip-hop genre, has long been known for its openly political stance on a number of issues, in-



cluding the war in Gaza. The group currently comprises of founding members Robert Del Naja and Grant Marshall.

Del Naja was arrested earlier this year when he took part in a demonstration in London. He was accused of showing support for Palestine Action, which is a proscribed organization in the UK.

A representative for Massive Attack declined to comment when approached by the BBC.

Singapore has also taken a strong stance on public expressions of sentiment regarding the Israel-Gaza war.

Authorities in the multicultural country insist that this is necessary to preserve racial and social harmony.

In 2023, the home affairs ministry put out a statement advising against "the public display and wearing of articles" in relation to the Israel-Gaza war, including foreign national emblems.

Singapore police have also launched investigations into offline and online events, and have effectively banned public gatherings related to the war.

The Singapore government has consistently supported the "two-state solution", which would see a Palestinian state exist alongside Israel, as well as full Palestinian membership of the United Nations.

The police spokeswoman said Singapore's media regulator was still investigating possible breaches of a number of license conditions placed on the concert and "will take necessary action" when this was concluded.

She said among these conditions was one stipulating that there would be no display of flags "in support of any causes".

Cartoon of Day



Trump's Decisions Regarding the War on Iran
Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria

Mural honoring Ismail Haniyeh unveiled in Tehran

TEHRAN- On the second anniversary of the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, the former chief of the political bureau of the Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas, a new mural was unveiled at the intersection of Jom-houri and Valiasr avenues in Tehran on Friday with the support of the Art Bureau.

The large-scale artwork is dominated by a deep blue backdrop, featuring a central, framed photograph of a fraternal embrace between the Martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and Ismail Haniyeh. This central image is flanked by a series of waving Iranian and Palestinian flags.

The mural, designed and executed by artists Mohammad Amin Emami and Sina Ra'yatdoost, serves as a public tribute to Haniyeh's legacy and the enduring resilience of the Palestinian people.

In recent years, the Art Bureau has increasingly utilized urban spaces to showcase visual arts as a means of responding to pivotal events within the Islamic world and the Axis of Resistance. By integrating art into the city's public landscape, the bureau aims to keep the narratives of struggle and liberation present in the daily lives of citizens.

Ismail Haniyeh was born in exile in 1963 in the central Gaza Strip's Shati refugee camp. His parents were forcibly displaced by the Israeli military from their home in the town of Asqalan



(now known as Ashkelon). This was to make way for Israeli settlers to move into his parents' house following the Nakba of 1948.

He graduated in 1987 from the Islamic University of Gaza with a degree in Arabic literature and then obtained his Ph.D. from the same university in 2009.

Haniyeh began his activism against Israeli colonialism and occupation with the "Islamic Bloc" which represented the student arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gaza Strip, from which the resistance movement Hamas emerged.

Haniyeh was arrested by the Israeli occupation authorities in

1989 and spent three years in prison. The Israelis then exiled him to Marj al-Zohour on the Lebanese - (Israeli-occupied) Palestinian border along with a group of Hamas leaders.

He returned to the Gaza Strip after being forced to spend a year in exile. Haniyah was appointed as a dean at the Islamic University in the enclave.

In 1997, he was appointed as head of the office of the founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. He was elected the chief of Hamas in the Gaza Strip following the assassination of Sheikh Yassin and his successor Dr. Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi in 2004.

In May 2017, Haniyah was

elected as the head of the political bureau of Hamas, succeeding Khaled Meshaal, before leaving Gaza for exile in Qatar two years later.

As many as 60 relatives of Haniyah have been killed by the Israeli occupation forces since October 7, 2023. This is while Haniyah was a political leader and not a member of the armed wing of Hamas.

Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards, who had participated in the swearing-in ceremony of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran, were assassinated in their residence in Tehran on July 31, 2024.

12 nominations for Iran at 2026 Love International Film Festival



TEHRAN – Iranian films participating in the 2026 Love International Film Festival (LIFF) have received several nominations.

According to the festival announcement, this year's edition of Love International Film Festival is set to be held from September 16 to 20 in California, the US.

"Aye-Aye," written and direct-

ed by Siamak Kashefazar and "Dream of Liberation," directed by Abbas Rafei, both have received three nominations at the festival, Honaronline reported.

"Aye-Aye" is nominated for the Best Feature Film along with four other films from the US, the UK, Germany, and China.

Moreover, Kashefazar is nominated for the Best Writer and

Mojgan Safari is nominated for the Best Actress for the film.

Rafei is nominated for Best Director for "Dream of Liberation". In addition, Behrouz Panahandeh and Parivash Javidi are nominated for Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress, respectively.

"The Last Message," by Sattar Mansouri, has received two nominations. Hedayatullah Sajjadi is nominated for the Best Actor and Reza Raoufi is nominated for the Best Score.

"Mi Re Do," by Persin Ramezani, is nominated for the Best Short Film and "Holy Heavens," by Farnoosh Abedi and Negah Khezre, is nominated for the Best Short Animation.

In the category of the Best Feature Documentary, Iran has two nominations, including "Twilight of the Oak," by Mohammad Abedi and "A Beginning for the

Final Song of a River," by Meysam Oghbaei.

The organizers of the Love International Film Festival believe that through the power of creative energy and the efforts of filmmakers and artists alike, the world can become a unified and beautiful place. Film and the use of images is a powerful medium of change. Even the films with bleak stories are often allegories of difficult choices, much like the fables of old. Film already breaks down the barriers of nationality in production and content.

The festival is an opportunity to acknowledge and reward these global creative efforts. In this wonderfully connected age, the art of cinema can document all efforts on a global scale. Film and filmmakers around the world are capturing the images that educate, guide, inform, and entertain people.

Ben Macintyre's "The Spy and the Traitor" available in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book "The Spy and the Traitor" written by Ben Macintyre, about the most significant British agent of the cold war, has been released in bookstores across the country.

Translated by Amir Mirhaj, the book has been brought out by Vazn-e Donya Publishing House in 376 pages, IRNA reported.

If anyone could be considered a Russian counterpart to the infamous British double-agent Kim Philby, it was Oleg Gordievsky. The son of two KGB agents and the product of the best Soviet institutions, the savvy, sophisticated Gordievsky grew to see his nation's communism as both criminal and philistine.

He took his first posting for Russian intelligence in 1968 and eventually became the Soviet Union's top man in London, but from 1973 on he was secretly working for MI6. For nearly a decade, as the Cold War reached its twilight, Gordievsky helped the West turn the tables on the KGB, exposing Russian spies and helping to foil countless intelligence plots, as the Soviet leadership grew increasingly paranoid at the United States's nuclear first-strike capabilities and brought the world closer to the brink of war.

Desperate to keep the circle of trust close, MI6 never revealed Gordievsky's name to its counterparts in the CIA, which in turn grew obsessed with figuring out the identity of Britain's obviously top-level source. Their obsession ultimately doomed Gordievsky: the CIA officer assigned to identify him was none



other than Aldrich Ames, the man who would become infamous for secretly spying for the Soviets.

Unfolding the delicious three-way gamesmanship between America, Britain, and the Soviet Union, and culminating in the gripping cinematic beat-by-beat of Gordievsky's nail-biting escape from Moscow in 1985, Ben Macintyre has crafted an electrifying account of an international hero. Like the greatest novels of John le Carré, "The Spy and the Traitor" brings readers deep into a world of treachery and betrayal, where the lines bleed between the personal and the professional, and one man's hatred of communism had the power to change the future of nations.

Gordievsky has told the story of his own improbable survival in a gripping 1995 memoir, "Next Stop Execution". It charts his recruitment by the KGB, where his older brother Vasili served as a deep-cover "illegal", and Gordievsky's growing disillusionment with

the grey totalitarian world of 1960s Moscow. There were stages in his journey. At an early age he learned German. He began reading western newspapers. Then as a KGB trainee he spent six months in East Berlin. He arrived just as the Berlin Wall went up, and woke one morning to the sound of tanks rumbling past the Soviet embassy. But it was the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia that propelled Gordievsky towards the west and, as he put it, determined "the course of my own life".

Ben Macintyre's wonderful "The Spy and the Traitor" complements and enhances Gordievsky's first-person account. It reveals the dramatic role played by MI6 in recruiting and cultivating a serving KGB insider – and keeping him alive against the odds. Gordievsky's British contacts were a colorful bunch. Some were upper-class cold war adventurers. Others were gifted working-class linguists recruited from Oxbridge. Women played a crucial part.

Macintyre had no access to MI6's archives, which remain secret. But he has interviewed all of the former officers involved in the case, who tell their stories for the first time. He spoke extensively to Gordievsky, who died in 2025 at 86 – a remarkable figure, "proud, shrewd and irascible". The result is a dazzling non-fiction thriller and an intimate portrait of high-stakes espionage.

Ben Macintyre is a writer-at-large for The Times and the bestselling author "A Spy Among Friends," "Double Cross," "Operation Mincemeat," "Agent Zigzag," and "Rogue Heroes," among other books.