

US oil reserve strategy: A futile gamble amid Iran's Strait of Hormuz leverage

TEHRAN- Washington's desperate bid to tame oil prices through strategic reserve releases is doomed to fail, experts warn, as Iran's commanding position in the Strait of Hormuz renders American threats increasingly hollow.

In a damning assessment of US energy policy, the HFI Research Institute has delivered a blistering verdict: America's much-touted plan to release strategic petroleum reserves will prove utterly incapable of resolving the back-wardation crisis gripping global oil markets. The admission comes as US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's theory—that eliminating back-wardation will automatically lower prices—faces growing skepticism from energy analysts worldwide. ▶ **Page 4**

No panacea but acknowledging Iran's power, respecting its legal rights

By staff writer

TEHRAN – CENTCOM's appeal to military analysts to put forward new proposals to get the U.S. rid of the crisis it has created with its war against Iran clearly shows that the Pentagon has run out of options on how to deal with the issue.

The appeal also acknowledges that the U.S. has badly failed to force Iran to agree to its illegal demands for a deal and that all options are unpleasant. ▶ **Page 5**

New York art installation mocking Trump's Iran policy gains international attention

TEHRAN- A satirical art installation mocking US President Donald Trump over his role in the recent war against Iran has attracted widespread international media attention after appearing in New York, with major outlets including Euronews, The Washington Post, TIME, and NBC New York covering the display and the public debate it has generated.

The 10-foot-tall (three-meter) golden sculpture, titled "Iran War Participation Trophy," was installed in Manhattan's Foley Square by the anonymous activist collective Secret Handshake. Originally unveiled in Washington, D.C., the artwork uses satire to criticize Trump's decision to involve the United States in the conflict with Iran and has since drawn crowds, photographers, and sharply divided reactions from passersby. ▶ **Page 8**

Iran explores avenues to foster scientific, technological ties with Belarus

TEHRAN – The head of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, Hossein Roozbeh, and the Ambassador to Belarus, Mohsen Omid-Zamani, have discussed ways to promote scientific, technological, and innovative collaborations between Tehran and Minsk.

Highlighting the high capacities of the country, Roozbeh said the vice-presidency for science, technology and knowledge-based economy is a key player in the development of knowledge-based economy in the region, being home to 11,000 knowledge-based companies, IRNA reported.

This capacity can lay the basis for the development of effective cooperation with Belarus in different technological sectors, he added. ▶ **Page 7**



The Biggest Red Banner of Vengeance Rises in Karbala

Up to 22 million pilgrims from tens of nations took part in the Arbaeen pilgrimage, transforming the sacred plaza into a unified demand for justice

Pilgrims raise the largest flag between the shrines of Imam Hussein and his brother Abbas, seeking vengeance against the assassins of the martyred Leader.

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Karbala awoke Tuesday beneath a sweltering August sky and a horizon ablaze with the crimson of vengeance.

As millions of black-clad pilgrims converged for the climax of this year's Arbaeen pilgrimage, the space between the twin shrines of Imam Hussein (AS) and his brother Abbas (AS) became the epicenter of a ritual fusing grief with geopolitical defiance.

In a ceremony, the largest blood-seeking flag ever raised in modern Arbaeen history was hoisted above the undulating sea of mourners.

The colossal red banner, inscribed with the ancient battle cry "Ya Latharat al-Hussein" (O Avengers of Hussein), was dedicated explicitly to the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali

Khamenei, assassinated in the U.S.-Israeli strikes at the beginning of the recent war on Iran.

For millions of Shia faithful, the flag was a public re-covenanting with the ideals of the fallen Leader and a deafening demand for retribution.

It seamlessly welded the historical tragedy of Karbala to the recent war of aggression waged by Washington and Tel Aviv.

The raising of the banner transformed the pilgrimage's emotional landscape. Regional media outlets broadcast live images of the Bayn al-Haramayn plaza saturated in red.

For days, pilgrims walking the ancient

76-kilometer route from Najaf to Karbala had carried identical red flags, passing them hand to hand.

At Pole 553, near a mawqib named for the martyred commander Haj Qasem Soleimani, the flags moved continuously among Iranian and Iraqi marchers under a sun pushing temperatures toward 50 degrees Celsius.

The changing fabric and 'Hubb al-Hussein'

This year's Arbaeen, marking 40 days since Ashura, unfolded as the first such pilgrimage since the assassination of Ayatollah Khamenei. Iraqi officials anticipated up to 22 million pilgrims would enter Karbala.

Iraqi officials said that more than 4.88 million foreign visitors from 172 nations had already crossed into Iraq by Monday night. ▶ **Page 5**



Families bury 112 recovered three years after Israeli strikes on Gaza

Palestinians on Tuesday buried 112 members of a single clan martyred in Israeli air strikes in November 2023, after their remains were recovered from beneath the rubble last month.

Relatives gathered in Gaza City to bid a final farewell to their loved ones, whose bodies lay in rows draped in Palestinian flags, MEE reported.

For many, it was a moment of both relief and renewed grief after nearly 1,000 days of waiting to recover the bodies of their relatives. ▶ **Page 5**

Leader's advisor draws Iran's red line in Hormuz, warns US against maritime provocation

TEHRAN - The strategic posture outlined by Mohsen Rezaei, senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and former commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), marks a decisive reaffirmation of Iran's sovereign authority over the Strait of Hormuz.

In a comprehensive special television interview on Monday, Rezaei delivered a direct warning to the United States regarding Persian Gulf security. He declared that Iran is fully prepared to execute immediate precision strikes against any American warship attempting to impose a navigation route other than the single corridor officially approved by Tehran. Emphasizing that Iran's strategic patience in safeguarding global economic stability has reached a critical threshold, Rezaei asserted that the Islamic Republic will not permit a second corridor in the strait under any circumstances. ▶ **Page 2**

Leader's office rejects attributed comments on Pezeshkian's alleged resignation

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - The Public Relations Office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has formally repudiated claims attributed to Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei concerning the alleged resignation of President Masoud Pezeshkian, denouncing such assertions as "fundamentally false" and entirely devoid of truth.

"Any content that, contrary to the Leader's emphatic guidance, causes division and polarization in society or serves as a basis for false allegations against dedicated officials directly advances the objectives of the ill-wishers and sworn enemies of the Iranian nation," the office warned in a statement issued Tuesday. ▶ **Page 3**

Hezbollah chief credits Iran for easing Israeli aggression

TEHRAN— Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem said on Tuesday that Iran played a key role in reducing Israeli military pressure on Lebanon, arguing that Tehran ensured an end to Israeli attacks and a full withdrawal from Lebanese territory were incorporated into a memorandum of understanding.

Addressing an Arbaeen commemoration marking 40 days after Ashura, Sheikh Naim Qassem said the memorandum had helped curb the intensity of Israeli aggression and described it as the primary framework for securing Israel's eventual withdrawal from Lebanon. ▶ **Page 3**

The West won the headlines - Iran changed history

By Ranjan Solomon

GOA, INDIA — Wars are fought twice. The first battle is fought with missiles, bombers and soldiers. The second is fought with headlines, television studios, think tanks and official briefings. The first destroys cities. The second constructs memory. For decades the West has excelled at winning both. Military superiority was reinforced by informational dominance. Washington and its allies not only projected power across continents; they largely shaped the language through which that power was understood. They decided who was the aggressor, who was the defender, whose violence was regrettable and whose violence was unforgivable. They possessed not merely armies but the authority to define reality. ▶ **Page 3**

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Trump's ineffective threats

Kayhan analyzed Donald Trump's retreat from his threats against Iran. According to Kayhan, Trump's withdrawal from a war on infrastructure and his failure to open the strategic arteries of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab once again demonstrated the ineffectiveness of coercive threats when faced with the Islamic Republic's credible deterrence. This development, the paper argues, reflects the consolidation of a new regional power structure that forces Washington and its allies to accept on-the-ground realities and adapt to new arrangements. What happened on the battlefield, Kayhan writes, was not a change in CENTCOM's posture but the transmission of a decisive message from Tehran: any strategic miscalculation targeting Iran's infrastructure would be met with the "return to the Stone Age" doctrine, extinguishing all US terrorist interests in the region. Trump, who believed military threats could force Iran to retreat, once again learned that in the face of Iran's credible deterrence, he has no escape route other than backing down.

Iran: Neither endless war nor imposed peace

The Iran newspaper published an article describing what it sees as the country's correct and rational approach under wartime conditions. The paper argues that Iran now needs a reconsideration of its strategic outlook and a shift toward a balanced approach—one that views war and its consequences through multiple lenses (political, economic, social, psychological) and bases strategic cooperation on independent, homegrown capabilities. This balanced approach rests on three pillars: crafting an exit strategy through strong defense paired with political foresight, diversifying partnerships while prioritizing strategic allies, and strengthening internal cohesion. In this framework, the armed forces serve as the arm of power, diplomacy as the instrument of strategic intelligence, the economy as the foundation of survival, and the people as the core of national resilience. Together, the paper argues, these elements can guide the country safely through this historic test.

Farhikhtegan: Trump's strategic dead end

Farhikhtegan evaluated what it calls Trump's strategic impasse. According to the paper, the United States is trying to craft a sophisticated image through special maneuvers, threats, retreats, and ambiguity. But understanding US intentions requires seeing the full picture. Beyond broad, undeniable indicators, the design of upcoming military moves reveals a dead end in US strategy. Because the air campaign in the 12-day conflict failed to achieve US objectives, Washington launched a 40-day campaign by adding naval forces. Now, after that too has failed, the US intends to bring

ground forces into the next confrontation. Another sign of strategic deadlock, the paper argues, is the threat against Iran's energy infrastructure. If the US targets Iranian energy facilities, Iran will respond in kind—and even if passage through Hormuz were rewarded with millions of dollars instead of costs and risks, there would be no cargo left to ship.

Jam-e-Jam: The enemy must abandon its illusions

Jam-e-Jam writes that the technical and military realities are clear: claims of large-scale operations and the movement of assets such as refueling aircraft, airborne radars, and aircraft carriers are merely psychological operations aimed at creating fear and pushing Iran into new negotiations to alter the 14-point agreement. According to the paper, the Trump administration is trapped in a deep quagmire. Iran, by continuously updating its database of strategic targets and infrastructure, is fully prepared for a crushing response—one that would force regional US allies to withdraw, destabilize the energy market, and inevitably shut down operations in the Strait of Hormuz. The paper concludes that the only way out for the enemy is to abandon illusions and fully adhere to the 14-point understanding. Iran, it says, has repeatedly shown it will not be deceived by incomplete or manipulative agreements; only genuine commitment to precise implementation can resolve the crisis.

Ettelaat: Strategic cooperation or bargaining leverage?

In its analysis, Ettelaat examined Tehran-Beijing defense relations. The paper notes that recent remarks by Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson have once again brought the topic to the forefront. In recent years, ties between Tehran and Beijing have expanded beyond energy and trade, with political, security, and military cooperation becoming more prominent. However, analysts believe China still seeks to maintain a balance among its broad economic ties with Arab states, its relations with the West, and its developing partnership with Iran. For this reason, even if defense cooperation grows, Beijing is unlikely to quickly become a major supplier of weapons to Iran. For Tehran, meanwhile, highlighting the possibility of military cooperation with China can strengthen deterrence and serve as a political and diplomatic lever in negotiations and geopolitical competition. The paper expects this topic to attract increased media and analytical attention in the coming months as regional developments unfold.

Araghchi holds separate talks with Pakistani, Omani counterparts

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate telephone conversations with his Pakistani and Omani counterparts, discussing the latest regional and international developments and emphasizing the importance of continued diplomatic coordination to promote lasting peace and stability across West Assia.

Araghchi first spoke with Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday, during which the two senior diplomats reviewed recent developments in the region and ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing tensions.

According to Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, the discussions also covered regional and international issues, including the deteriorating humanitarian and security situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. The two sides underscored the importance of maintaining close consultations and coordination between Tehran and Islamabad to help advance durable peace and regional stability.

During the conversation, Ishaq Dar also invited Araghchi to visit Pakistan at the earliest opportunity, according to a statement released by Pakistan's Foreign Ministry.

On Monday, Araghchi also held a separate telephone call with Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, during which the two foreign ministers exchanged views on the latest regional developments.

The Iranian and Omani diplomats reviewed ongoing developments across the region and discussed issues of mutual interest as part of continuing consultations between Tehran and Muscat.

The calls came as Iran continues diplomatic engagement with regional partners amid intensified consultations aimed at easing tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, strengthening dialogue, and supporting efforts to preserve regional peace and stability.

Leader's advisor draws Iran's red line in Hormuz, warns US against maritime provocation

From page 1 ▶ This high-level warning extends far beyond immediate maritime lanes to highlight the severe dangers facing American assets throughout the region. Rezaei explicitly cautioned that the United States faces direct threats to its warships and military bases if Washington continues its coordinated naval blockade against Iran. Asserting that Tehran will no longer remain passive while its national sovereignty and maritime security are systematically challenged, Rezaei framed this confrontation as the latest chapter in what he termed Donald Trump's third war against Iran—a strategic failure for Washington that has already stalled midway, following two earlier failed cycles of escalation.

In a detailed military analysis of the "battle of Hormuz," Rezaei argued that the United States violated regional understandings by deliberately bypassing established conflict-resolution committees involving Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Instead of utilizing diplomatic channels, Washington opted for military aggression by launching direct strikes in southern Iran aimed at destroying communication bridges, radar systems, and key infrastructure to degrade Iranian logistics. According to Rezaei, these maneuvers were intended to clear the battlefield for a ground operation to forcibly open the Strait of Hormuz or strike Iran's nuclear facilities. However, he stated these objectives were completely thwarted as Iranian defensive forces countered the offensive.

Rezaei pointed to a significant intelligence and operational failure within the American military hierarchy, arguing that after initial strike waves failed to enable a ground invasion, Trump demanded heavier attacks. As Rezaei mentioned, CENTCOM commanders admitted failure to political leadership, reporting they had already deployed their maximum available capabilities yet remained unable to achieve their primary strategic goals



due to underestimating Iranian logistics and tactical readiness. Rezaei stated that Iran executed intense counter-strikes against US bases, disrupting American plans and forcing the US command structure to retreat from Qatar to Jordan, and ultimately to Israel for protection.

Addressing regional dynamics, Rezaei attributed Israel's lack of an overt role in the fighting to the regime being overstretched across multi-front conflicts in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, as well as a political move by Washington to project an image of acting independently.

Regarding peripheral incidents, Rezaei revealed that Tehran had prepared a retaliatory operation targeting three distinct locations inside Ukraine following a Ukrainian strike on an Iranian vessel. Although Tehran suspended the mission after Kyiv claimed the incident was an error, Rezaei stressed that financial compensation remains a mandatory obligation under international expectations. He warned that Washington's desperation risks drawing other nations into a conflict that could spiral out of control, asserting that the potential for a catastrophic World War III in West Asia currently exceeds that of Europe on the eve of World War II.

The march that defies distance: Millions of Iran's "Left Behind" turn Tehran into a path to Karbala

TEHRAN— Before sunrise on Tuesday, Tehran awakened to a familiar yet profoundly moving spectacle. What began at Imam Hussein Square quickly grew into a vast river of humanity flowing toward the revered shrine of Abd al-Azim al-Hasani in the historic city of Rey, as thousands joined Iran's annual "Jāmān-degān-e Arbaeen" (The Left Behind) march.

For those unable to undertake the pilgrimage to Iraq, the procession has become far more than a symbolic alternative. It is a declaration that faith is measured not by miles traveled but by the devotion carried in the human heart. Every step along the nearly 13-kilometer route echoed the timeless journey from Najaf to Karbala, proving that spiritual distance cannot be measured on any map.

The streets became an ocean of black-clad mourners carrying crimson and green banners, families walking hand in hand, elderly pilgrims leaning on canes, and children waving flags larger than themselves. The rhythmic chants of "Labbaik Ya Hussein" rolled through the avenues like waves, while volunteers lined the route with makeshift hospitality stations, offering water, food, medical care, and prayers in a living reflection of the generosity that has long defined the Arbaeen pilgrimage in Iraq.

The march unfolded simultaneously in hundreds of cities and towns across Iran, transforming the nation into a single landscape of remembrance. From provincial capitals to remote villages, millions walked together in an extraordinary expression of unity, mourning, and hope. The annual procession has become one of Iran's most powerful public commemorations, reinforcing the enduring place of Imam Hussein's legacy in the hearts of countless believers.

Authorities deployed an extensive emergency network to safeguard participants throughout the capital. More than 1,200 emer-



gency personnel, supported by 202 ambulances, 111 motorcycle ambulances, eight ambulance buses, operational support vehicles, helicopters, and aircraft, remained on full alert to provide uninterrupted medical assistance while ensuring routine emergency services across Tehran continued without disruption.

Yet beyond the impressive logistical scale, the true significance of the march lay in its emotional force.

The quote "The highest happiness belongs to those who make others happy," attributed by some to the Greek philosopher Aristotle and by others to the German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, is a sentiment that many see reflected in the selfless service rendered along the Arbaeen routes. Indian in-

dependence leader Mahatma Gandhi, whose admiration for Imam Hussein (AS) is often cited, is widely regarded for having learned from Hussein (AS) how victory can belong to those who sacrifice for truth rather than surrender to injustice.

From a military and geopolitical perspective, the analytical takeaway is clear: Washington's doctrine of coercion and escalation has encountered a formidable counter-power. Rezaei's detailed account of the operational failures surrounding US attempts to forcefully alter maritime corridors reveals the deep limitations of American military projection when confronted with Iran's sophisticated defensive infrastructure and asymmetric capabilities. The forced repositioning of regional command structures illustrates that US assets are no longer bulletproof deterrents, but vulnerable targets within range of Iran's precision strike inventory. Far from capitulating to military pressure or unilateral blockades, the Islamic Republic has successfully shifted the cost-benefit analysis for CENTCOM and its allies.

Furthermore, this analysis exposes the systemic failure of the United States to act as a reliable regional partner. By bypassing established diplomatic channels and regional mediation frameworks—such as those involving Qatar and Saudi Arabia—Washington demonstrated a preference for unilateral aggression over stability. Yet, as the battlefield dynamic proved, Iran's tactical readiness and logistical resilience completely neutralized these offensive objectives.

Ultimately, this confrontation reaffirms that peace and stability in West Asia cannot be engineered through external force or broken agreements. True regional security requires full respect for national sovereignty and an immediate end to foreign military overreach. Tehran has made it abundantly clear that the cycle of deceptive diplomacy backed by economic blockade is over. If the United States wishes to avoid an escalating broader conflict, it must acknowledge the military reality on the ground, respect established maritime boundaries, and fundamentally transform its aggressive posture toward the Islamic Republic.

Leader’s office rejects attributed comments on Pezeshkian’s alleged resignation

From Page 1 ▶ The statement further clarified: “Accordingly, the content published in cyberspace in which an individual raises a claim regarding the Leader of the Islamic Revolution’s reaction to the letter of the respected President is fundamentally false and contrary to reality.”

The statement underscored that such fabrications attributed to the Leader “unfortunately, lay the ground for disturbing public opinion and creating division and discord in society”. It emphasized that Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has consistently championed national solidarity, urging utmost respect for the dedicated servants of the Islamic system—most notably, government leadership.

This official clarification followed incendiary remarks by a senior Iranian cleric, who claimed President Pezeshkian had repeatedly informed the Leader of his intention to step down due to alleged rifts between political and military officials. Ayatollah Mohammad-Baqer Kharrazi, secretary-general of Iran’s Hezbollah party, alleged that Pezeshkian had tendered or threatened his resignation 28 times.

“The Supreme Leader wrote that if Pezeshkian resigns one more time, his resignation will be accepted,” Kharrazi claimed, asserting that this ultimatum



was formally relayed to the government, effectively forcing Pezeshkian and his team to drop the matter.

President Pezeshkian has firmly pushed back against these claims. In an excerpt from a video released Tuesday, Pezeshkian made his stance unambiguous: “If I want to resign, I will officially declare that I have resigned. I will not resign.” He vowed to stand firm, dismissing rumors of factional infighting with the military and reaffirming that his administration operates in lockstep coordination with the armed forces.

The Iranian president likewise brushed aside speculation of a breach between himself and Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, maintaining that such narratives are engineered solely to drive a wedge between the Leader and

the executive branch.

Rumors of Pezeshkian’s departure had previously been amplified across mainstream Western media channels. Iran International—a UK-based Persian broadcaster frequently accused by Tehran of disseminating propaganda and orchestrating domestic unrest—reported in late May that Pezeshkian had submitted an official letter of resignation to the office of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei. Citing anonymous sources, the outlet alleged that Pezeshkian voiced frustration over being sidelined from core decision-making processes as the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) expanded its grip over state affairs. The network, widely accused of being funded by Israel, claimed Pezeshkian stated that “under

such circumstances he is unable to run the government and carry out his legal responsibilities,” prompting an immediate request to step down.

Iranian military and political officials have categorically dismissed those reports as baseless.

Narratives highlighting discord between Iran’s civilian government and military command are far from new. Since the outbreak of war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran on February 28, certain media outlets have repeatedly alleged internal friction among Iranian political and defense elites over strategic operations.

Observers note that the inability of US and Israeli forces to secure a decisive military victory over Iran appears to have driven them toward psychological and media warfare, seeking to sow internal fracturing from within.

Since assuming office following the martyrdom of his father in the US-Israeli strike on February 28, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has maintained steady public backing for the Pezeshkian government. He has reaffirmed his late father’s characterization of Pezeshkian as a wise, honest president with a common touch.

Highlighting domestic politics, Qassem described the alliance between Hezbollah and the Amal Movement as a cornerstone of Lebanon’s internal stability and a safeguard against external threats. He said the majority of Lebanese support resistance, national sovereignty and the country’s armed forces.

Expressing solidarity with families affected by the conflict, he pledged that Hezbollah would continue efforts to provide shelter and assist reconstruction in damaged communities.

Hezbollah leader also called for constructive relations between Lebanon and Syria, saying stability in each country reinforces the security of the other and indicating Hezbollah would not oppose a future public meeting with the Syrian leadership when circumstances permit.

Concluding his remarks, he reaffirmed Hezbollah’s support for Gaza and the Palestinian cause, while praising Iraq and Yemen for their support in confronting a common adversary.

LATEST NEWS

■ Qatar hopeful US-Iran deal be reached in coming hours, days

In his weekly press conference, Qatar’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al-Ansari said that Qatar continues to call for de-escalation and dialogue.

According to Al Jazeera, he said that Qatar is supporting Oman’s mediation efforts and is hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the coming hours or days.

Ansari confirmed that no direct talks are happening but that mediators are speaking to each other, adding that drafts of agreements are being passed around just as they have been since this conflict began in February.

Al-Ansari said that mediators’ “focus right now is on avoiding escalation, reopening the strait and reopening the door for diplomacy between the parties. What we do not want to see right now is a major escalation in our region.”

“We are working very closely with our partners in the region and with the parties of the conflict to reach a diplomatic resolution,” he added.

Ansari said that Qatar believes that the issue of the Strait of Hormuz should be decided by the region.

■ Qatar urges regional states to back diplomacy

The Qatari foreign ministry said Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani held phone talks with the foreign ministers of

Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain on Tuesday, stressing the need for all sides to adhere to dialogue.

He discussed the latest regional developments with the five ministers, focusing on efforts to reduce tensions and strengthen regional security. The top diplomat reiterated Doha’s support for all efforts to de-escalate and reach a comprehensive agreement that would establish peace in the region.

■ IRGC Cmdr. : Iran has intelligence superiority in northwestern

A senior commander said that Iran has achieved “total intelligence superiority” in the northwest, and warned enemies against any “miscalculation” in the region.

Brigadier General Mohammad Karami, commander of the Ground Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), said on Monday during a visit to northwestern Iran that the forces stationed in the operational areas of the region “are prepared to confront any miscalculation by enemies and the leaders and members of terrorist groups.”

He said the forces of the Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada Base have gained valuable experience through years of defending Iran’s territory. They, the commander stated, enjoy a combination of faith, modern technology and scientific capabilities to enhance their readiness.

The IRGC commander warned that the Iranian forces are prepared to “turn this land

Trump’s ‘last chance’ rhetoric exposes shrinking US leverage as Iran dictates terms

TEHRAN - US President Donald Trump issued yet another threat on Monday, warning Iran that it faces “one last chance before decapitation” to agree to American terms.

Claiming that a diplomatic resolution was imminent and asserting that an “unbelievably duplicitous” Iran was desperate to cut a deal, Trump insisted that Washington was on the verge of ending the war that the US and Israel initially began on February 28.

Yet, Tehran immediately exposed the White House’s posturing. [The Iranian Foreign Ministry flatly denied holding any direct negotiations with Washington, confirming that Iran is exclusively consulting with Omani mediators to regulate maritime transit through the strategic Strait of Hormuz—entirely on its own sovereign terms.

This latest “decapitation” ultimatum is merely the newest entry in a long line of hollow threats that have defined Washington’s reactive stance since joint US-Israeli attacks began. Over the past months, the US president has repeatedly set tight deadlines and promised catastrophic strikes, only to quietly walk them back the moment Tehran refused to blink. The pattern of American hesitation was established early in the conflict. In March, after threatening to obliterate Iran’s energy infrastructure unless the Strait of Hormuz was reopened, Trump delayed military action twice within days, citing supposed “progress” in negotiations. In early April, after apocalyptic declarations that a “whole civilization will die,” Washington abruptly called off scheduled strikes and announced a two-week ceasefire. By late April, that temporary pause was converted into an indefinite ceasefire at the request of regional mediators, according to the narrative of the White House. Repeated threats throughout May, June, and July—including grand claims of taking “total control” over Iran’s oil indus-



tries—consistently collapsed into sudden pauses, extensions, and unfulfilled demands as Iranian endurance tested Washington’s resolve. While Washington continuously shifts its narrative from claims of imminent victory to sudden diplomatic halts, Iran has maintained solid operational control over the core economic bottleneck of the conflict. By enforcing strict maritime control over the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global energy shipments pass, Tehran has effectively throttled international oil supplies. This has sent crude prices soaring worldwide and demonstrated the severe limits of American military coercion. The strategic fallout of Tehran’s chokehold is taking a heavy domestic toll inside the United States. Recent public opinion polling shows Trump’s approval rating plummeting to a low of 35 percent, driven by public outrage over sky-rocketing fuel costs and broader economic instability stemming from the Persian Gulf crisis. For the first time in nearly a decade, American voters favor opposition leadership on economic stewardship—a direct consequence of the administration’s miscalculations in West Asia. Despite the White House’s frantic claims of record-high support, the reality on the ground confirms that while Washington issues empty rhetoric, Tehran holds the real leverage in shaping the parameters of the conflict.

The West won the headlines - Iran changed history



From Page 1 ▶ That authority is now under unprecedented strain.

The confrontation with Iran has become far more than another regional conflict. It has exposed the growing gap between military capability and political legitimacy, between the ability to inflict destruction and the ability to shape history. It has also revealed something equally significant: the era in which Western governments could confidently narrate every conflict to the rest of the world is drawing to a close.

Long before missiles crossed the skies of West Asia, another campaign had already begun. Governments, intelligence agencies, sympathetic commentators and major media institutions had prepared the public for a familiar conclusion. Iran would be isolated, strategically weakened and ultimately compelled to retreat. Every sanction was presented as another decisive blow. Every covert operation was portrayed as evidence that Tehran stood increasingly alone. Every Israeli strike was framed as proof that Iran had lost the initiative.

The narrative seemed complete before history had even unfolded.

Yet political reality has proved considerably more complex than the script that had already been written.

Iran absorbed significant military damage. No serious observer denies that. But military destruction and political defeat are not synonymous. The expectation that sustained pressure would compel Tehran to surrender its strategic posture or accept externally imposed terms has not been realized. Instead, Iran demonstrated that it retained the capacity to retaliate, absorb punishment and remain a central actor in the regional balance of power. The conflict became not the swift demonstration of overwhelming dominance

that many had predicted, but a reminder that even superior military force cannot always produce the political outcomes it seeks.

The clearest indication of this changing reality has come not from Tehran but from Washington itself.

Donald Trump has repeatedly proclaimed overwhelming success, insisting that Iran had been decisively defeated and that American power had restored unquestioned deterrence. Yet those declarations have increasingly sat alongside repeated assertions that negotiations are progressing well and that diplomacy remains the preferred path forward.

That contradiction deserves careful attention.

If victory had been as complete as claimed, why does Washington still seek negotiations? Why has the language of decisive triumph gradually been accompanied by the language of dialogue? States that achieve all their strategic objectives rarely find themselves explaining why talks remain essential. The coexistence of victory rhetoric and diplomatic necessity suggests that the political objectives of the campaign remain unresolved.

The distinction matters because wars are ultimately judged not by the tonnage of explosives delivered but by whether they achieve lasting political goals. Modern history is filled with examples of overwhelming military superiority failing to secure durable political outcomes. Superior firepower can destroy infrastructure, but it cannot by itself manufacture legitimacy, erase national resolve, or compel societies to abandon deeply held strategic interests.

This is where the confrontation with Iran becomes part of a much larger historical transition.

For more than three decades after the Cold War, the United States enjoyed a degree of global predominance unprecedented in modern history. Its military alliances stretched across continents. Its financial institutions shaped international commerce. Its diplomatic influence reached almost every capital. Equally important, its interpretation of international events was often accepted as the default explanation by much of the world’s political and media establishment.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Reviving economic relations with Italy a priority: Iran’s envoy



TEHRAN- In the meeting between Ali-Akbar Rezaei, Iran's ambassador-designate to Italy, and Samad Hassanzadeh, the head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, the capacities for economic cooperation between the two countries, the role of the private sector in developing commercial relations, and ways to restore Italy's position as one of Iran's traditional partners in Europe were examined.

Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), pointed to Iran's possession of skilled human resources, rich energy resources, suitable infrastructure, access to global markets, and its cultural and civilizational background, and said: By utilizing the capacity of embassies and in the shadow of stability and constructive engagement, economic cooperation with old partners can be revived.

He named Italy as one of the countries with vast potential for developing cooperation with Iran and added: A significant portion of the country's industrial infrastructure has been built with Italian technology and equipment, and this country holds a leading position in many industrial fields.

Hassanzadeh added: Iran can supply part of Italy's needs in agricultural and greenhouse products, and there are numerous grounds for cooperation in tourism, academic, and cultural sectors as well.

He also, referring to the ongoing activity of the Iran-Italy Joint Chamber of Commerce, emphasized: This joint chamber represents a valuable capacity for developing economic relations between the two countries, and today, when maintaining and expanding ties with industrialized countries is of particular importance for Iran's economy, more attention should be paid to joint chambers.

Necessity of closer communication between embassies and joint chambers of commerce

Ahmad Pourfallah, head of the Iran-Italy Joint Chamber of Commerce, also said: The Iran-Italy Joint Chamber is one of the oldest joint chambers in the country. This chamber is also the only joint chamber that has a sister chamber in Rome, and its members participate in each other's programs and assemblies.

He added: Italy was Iran's top trading partner in Europe for years, and the volume of trade between the two countries was at a high level.

Pourfallah said: We request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cooperate more closely with joint chambers and make greater use of their capacity in developing economic relations.

He added: Iran has considerable capabilities to showcase in specialized exhibitions in Italy, including stone, ceramics, and gold. In the gold industry, Iran also holds a good position, and there are capacities for joint cooperation in this sector.

Embassy should become a trade development center

Seyyed Hamed Askari, Deputy for International Affairs of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, also in this meeting, outlining several proposed axes for reviving economic relations with Italy, said: In the current situation, it is essential that Iran's embassy in Italy, with an economic approach, becomes a center for developing trade between the two countries.

He added: Identifying priority industries for cooperation, reviving communication with Italian small and medium enterprises, and compiling a database of these companies are among the measures that can help expand economic relations.

Askari said: Joint investment for presence in third-country markets is also another axis of cooperation, and markets in Central Asia, Iraq, the Caucasus, and Africa have been identified

for this purpose.

He added: Cooperation in technology transfer, utilizing the capacity of Italy's industrial districts, and developing a specific plan for presence in specialized exhibitions are other important issues in bilateral relations.

The Deputy for International Affairs of the Iran Chamber of Commerce continued: The link between university and industry should also be strengthened. A considerable number of Iranian students are present in Italy, and the capacity of these specialized forces can be utilized to develop industrial cooperation.

He said: One of today's necessities is redefining Iran's image among Italian economic actors. The reduction in the level of trade relations has caused some Italian companies' awareness of Iran's current economic capacities to fade, and this issue must be compensated through specialized meetings and introducing investment opportunities.

Developing economic relations with old partners is a priority

Ali-Akbar Rezaei, Iran's ambassador-designate to Italy, said: The proposals put forward are practical and helpful and will be taken into consideration in the embassy's programs.

He added: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs pursues foreign policy based on two axes: ensuring national security and achieving national development, and after passing through the recent special circumstances, the issue of national development will be placed on the agenda with greater seriousness.

Rezaei said: Foreign parties are interested in cooperating with Iran, and all capacities must be utilized to achieve the country's development goals. The philosophy behind the establishment of the Economic Deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also to help advance national development.

He added: Developing economic and trade relations, especially with old partners, is one of the country's important priorities. Relations with the East become more solid when relations with the West are also established, and the global economy cannot be pursued selectively.

Iran's ambassador-designate to Italy continued: To benefit from economic opportunities, attention must be paid to details, and the embassy will use the consultations and proposals of the Iran Chamber of Commerce. Although sanctions still remain the most important obstacle to developing cooperation, efforts to expand economic relations will not stop.

He said: The independent approach of the Italian government in the current situation can provide a good opportunity to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Rezaei added: The Iran Chamber of Commerce represents the country's private sector, and economic development is not possible without the effective role of the private sector. Iran's embassy in Italy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are fully prepared to cooperate with the joint chamber and economic actors.

Iran Chamber of Commerce, at forefront of developing economic and international relations

The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, in summing up the meeting, said: The Iran Chamber of Commerce will cooperate with all its capacity to remove obstacles and develop the country's economic and international relations.

He added: The network of 41 joint chambers of commerce of Iran with various countries has provided a vast capacity for expanding economic interactions, and the Iran Chamber of Commerce is ready to carry out the necessary cooperation in sending and receiving trade and economic delegations.

Iran, Pakistan forge path to \$10b trade milestone as joint committee meets in Islamabad

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- In a significant display of economic diplomacy, Iran and Pakistan have convened the 19th session of their Joint Trade Committee in Islamabad, with high-level delegations from both sides charting an ambitious course toward a \$10 billion annual trade target that would fundamentally transform the economic landscape of the two neighboring countries.

The two-day meeting, co-chaired by Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, and Pakistan's Commerce Minister, Jam Kamal Khan, represents the most comprehensive bilateral trade negotiation in recent years, encompassing everything from finalizing a long-awaited Free Trade Agreement to resolving urgent logistical challenges at ports and border crossings.

Political will translates into economic action

Speaking at the inaugural session at Islamabad's Serena International Hotel, Minister Atabak emphasized that the strategic policy of Iran is the comprehensive development of cooperation with neighboring and aligned countries, particularly Pakistan. He noted that annual bilateral trade has already reached approximately \$3 billion, demonstrating the real and extensive capacity that exists between the two economies.

Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan echoed this sentiment, declaring: "We are determined to finalize the Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Iran." Khan emphasized that the longstanding and brotherly relations between the two countries serve as a strong foundation for continuing friendship and neighborliness on the path to upgrading comprehensive cooperation.

"We believe that the time has come to finalize the Free Trade Agreement between the two countries," Khan stated, adding that "our common roadmap for greater trade must be operationalized."

Private sector takes center stage

Complementing the government-level negotiations, a



high-ranking trade delegation from the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, headed by Vice President Hossein Pir-Moazen, has arrived in Islamabad to ensure that private sector voices are fully integrated into the discussions.

The delegation includes the head of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Chamber, numerous chamber heads from across Iran, heads of specialized chamber committees, and private sector representing diverse fields including food industries, agriculture, transportation and transit, energy, automotive industries, and polymer and petrochemical sectors.

The business delegation is scheduled to hold meetings with members of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Pakistani private sector, as well as participate in the Iran-Pakistan Business Conference at the headquarters of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Four working groups tackle key challenges

The Joint Trade Committee sessions are being conducted within the framework of four specialized working groups covering: trade, transportation and customs, free zones, and the Free Trade Agreement. Technical meetings began a day prior to the formal opening, allowing officials to make substantive progress on complex issues.

Urgent resolution of port and transit issues

A critical item on the agenda is the resolution of problems affecting Ira-

nian containers at Karachi Port. Following the naval blockade imposed against Iran, a portion of containers were diverted to Karachi, creating significant challenges including delays in cargo transfer, changes to bills of lading, and mounting demurrage costs for traders and cargo owners.

Minister Atabak has called for urgent follow-up on the issuance of permits for maritime transfer and transport, waiver of warehousing costs, and resolution of administrative and procedural issues for customs clearance. He emphasized that resolving these issues will smooth transit routes through Pakistani ports and strengthen the position of Karachi, Qasim, and Gwadar ports in regional trade.

Path to \$10 billion within one year

Perhaps the most striking declaration came when Atabak asserted that achieving the \$10 billion trade target within a one-year timeframe is entirely feasible—provided that existing obstacles are removed, a Free Trade Agreement is concluded, direct financial and banking links are established, and cumbersome regulations and bureaucratic red tape are reduced.

He welcomed Pakistan's recent initiatives including transit directives, the possibility of transporting essential goods through air routes, and exemptions for certain export items from financial and banking procedures, while calling for swift implementation and expanded scope of these measures.

The minister stressed the importance of diversifying transit routes—land, air, and sea—and noted that given regional circumstances and Iran's program to replace the UAE route with Pakistan, swift implementation of transit directives can play an effective role in developing bilateral and regional trade.

Border infrastructure under scrutiny

Atabak also raised concerns about excessive waiting times at the Mirjaveh-Taftan border terminal, noting that a sharp decline in traffic in recent days requires urgent review and resolution. The minister called for accelerating and facilitating border procedures to ensure smooth movement of commercial fleets.

Strategic implications for regional trade

The strengthening of Iran-Pakistan economic ties carries significant implications beyond bilateral relations. Enhanced transit cooperation could provide the groundwork for connecting European and Asian markets, positioning both countries as pivotal nodes in East-West trade corridors. Pakistan's ports—Karachi, Qasim, and Gwadar—could serve as complementary routes for re-exporting Iranian goods and supplying raw materials needed by industries across the region.

Looking ahead

As the 19th Joint Trade Committee continues its work, with a closing ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, expectations are high for tangible outcomes. Both sides have demonstrated genuine political will to transform their economic relationship from one of untapped potential to a dynamic partnership that delivers concrete benefits for businesses and citizens alike.

The coordinated steps taken by both governments in removing obstacles to trade, enhancing border infrastructure, and modernizing customs procedures signal that the \$10 billion target is not merely aspirational but a realistic objective grounded in the shared determination of two brotherly nations to build a prosperous economic future together.

US oil reserve strategy: A futile gamble amid Iran’s Strait of Hormuz leverage

TEHRAN- Washington's desperate bid to tame oil prices through strategic reserve releases is doomed to fail, experts warn, as Iran's commanding position in the Strait of Hormuz renders American threats increasingly hollow.

In a damning assessment of US energy policy, the HFI Research Institute has delivered a blistering verdict: America's much-touted plan to release strategic petroleum reserves will prove utterly incapable of resolving the backwardation crisis gripping global oil markets. The admission comes as US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's theory—that eliminating backwardation will automatically lower prices—faces growing skepticism from energy analysts worldwide.

The institute's analysis reveals a fundamental miscalculation in Washington's approach. While US officials have floated the possibility of unleashing an additional 70 million barrels, bringing total releases

to 200 million, experts warn that a paltry release rate of 0.5 to 0.6 million barrels per day is akin to "throwing a cup of water on a forest fire." The market remains unconvinced that immediate supply is adequate to neutralize relentless price pressures—and for good reason.

Iran's strategic advantage cannot be ignored

What Washington refuses to acknowledge is the geopolitical reality that Iran commands the world's most critical energy chokepoint. The Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately 20% of global oil production transits, remains firmly within Iran's sphere of influence. Any US military adventurism or economic aggression against Iran would trigger an immediate and catastrophic disruption to global energy supplies—a scenario that no amount of strategic reserve releases could possibly offset.

Iran has repeatedly demonstrated

its ability to close or restrict passage through the Strait of Hormuz, a capability that makes American threats appear laughably impotent. The US, despite its military posturing, lacks both the naval capacity and the international legitimacy to secure this waterway against Iran's determined resistance. Tehran's integrated air defense systems, anti-ship missile capabilities, and asymmetric warfare tactics have transformed the Strait into a zone where US naval supremacy is no longer assured.

Speed and intensity dilemma

The HFI Research report's most incisive observation concerns the "speed and intensity" of oil entering the market. Even if the US somehow manages to release its reserves, the slow distribution process ensures that market anxiety will persist. Meanwhile, the recent Iran-US understanding regarding Middle Eastern barrels has eliminated any other source of immediate supply for one-time market drawdowns.

Small solar power plants to be developed for electricity generation at consumption point

TEHRAN- An official said: The most important advantages of small-scale and distributed power plants include generating electricity near the point of consumption, reducing grid losses, enhancing passive defense, and creating economic benefits for investors.

According to the Mehr News Agency, citing SATBA (Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization), Reza Fattahi, Director General of the Office for Attracting Public Participation in Renewables at SATBA, cited electricity generation near the point of consumption, reduction of grid losses, enhancement of passive defense, and creation of economic benefits for investors as the

most important advantages of small-scale and distributed power plants.

Fattahi stated: The development of new models, including the aggregation model, utilizing the capacity of the energy exchange and the green board, can increase the attractiveness of investment in this field and provide the ground for broader public participation.

Referring to the country's target of achieving 12,000 megawatts of renewable power plant capacity by the end of the present Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2027) he said: So far, about 700 megawatts of demand for constructing distribut-

ed power plants has been registered.

Fattahi noted: Small power plants, alongside large power plants, have a significant share in the development of renewable energies, and due to the ease of connection to the grid, they can account for a good portion of the targeted capacity.

He concluded by saying: Achieving this goal depends on providing financial resources, controlling investment costs, managing the effects of exchange rate fluctuations, and increasing economic attractiveness through guaranteed electricity purchase, the green board of the energy exchange, and aggregation models.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The biggest red banner of vengeance rises in Karbala

Up to 22 million pilgrims from tens of nations took part in the Arbæen pilgrimage, transforming the sacred plaza into a unified demand for justice



From page 1 ► The scale defied Western expectations that war and economic strangulation would fracture the Resistance.

Yet the demographics have changed. The Najaf-Karbala road became a mobile demonstration of the unbreakable Iran-Iraq bond.

Hassan al-Sarai, a 35-year-old pilgrim from Baghdad, observed the difference clearly. He told AP that he has seen countless Iraqi and Iranian flags, calling it a message to Washington that their bombs had permanently fused the two nations together.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi joined the pilgrimage after arriving in Najaf. He said that the ceremony displays the unbreakable unity of the Iraqi and Iranian nations.

His presence served as a reminder that diplomacy and devotion are inseparable. The Leader

of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, prepared this ground in a July statement.

He praised the generous open arms of Iraq's tribes and predicted the slogan "Hubb al-Hussein yajma'una" (The love of Hussein unites us) would again show its force.

The pilgrimage also delivered a direct rebuke to American pressure on Baghdad.

Washington wants the Popular Mobilization Forces and other Iraqi Resistance groups disarmed. From the heart of the Arbæen crowds, Kataib Hezbollah issued a statement explicitly rejecting disarmament. The group vowed to retain the "weapons of the Resistance" as a sacred trust.

A borderless phenomenon

The geography of resistance extended far beyond Iraqi bor-



ders. In Tehran, the annual "Jamandegan (Those Left Behind from Arbæen)" march stretched 15 kilometers from Imam Hussein Square to the shrine of Hazrat Abdol Azim in Rey.

Unified under the slogan "We Must Rise," mourners trampled U.S. and Israeli flags, transforming the procession into an explicit demand for vengeance. They called for swift justice for the martyred Leader and the scores of civilian martyrs, including those lost in the Minab school strike. Over 3,500 volunteer mawkibs lined the route.

Globally, the day saw a synchronized outpouring of allegiance.

In Dearborn, Michigan, approximately 45,000 participants marched in the largest Arbæen procession in U.S. history. Under heavy police deployment, they carried black banners and red flags of retribution.

In Nigeria, followers of the Islamic Movement braved state repression to stage symbolic treks from Kano and Katsina toward Abuja.

Processions wound through European cities such as Essen, Cologne, and Nuremberg, as well as Västerås in Sweden. From Kuwait to Bahrain and Uganda to Canada, the network demonstrated a planetary civilizational front.

This year's Arbæen cemented itself as a powerful referendum. The red flag in Bayn al-Haramayn transformed the sacred plaza into a tribunal where the United States and Israel stand condemned. The Resistance Front crystallized anew as a civilizational covenant.

The blood of the martyrs will rewrite the political architecture of the region. They leave behind a sovereign legacy that no imperial force can ever erase.

No panacea but acknowledging Iran's power, respecting its legal rights

From page 1 ► "We are looking for new creative and unconventional ways to pressure and punish Iran," an officer in U.S. Central Command's intelligence branch wrote in a message sent Wednesday to a broad group of military analysts, according to a source familiar with the message, CNN reported on Monday.

Military officials said the crowdsourcing-style query was unusual. Hoping to find an alternative, an official at CENTCOM kicked off the brainstorming session via email to see if anyone had a better idea. The second source said CENTCOM is looking at everything, acknowledging it needs to reevaluate the strategy.

The options are getting extremely limited for the United States. One option may be deploying boots on the ground. However, that would be something that would cost the U.S. greatly in terms of human casualties and a prolongation of the war, something that Trump himself is too wary of.

Gen. Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Trump's senior military adviser, has acknowledged publicly that bombing alone is unlikely to accomplish all Trump's previously stated objectives for the war. "Air power has its limits," Caine

told lawmakers last month.

It may cross to mind that some military experts may suggest that the only remaining option is to use unconventional weapons against Iran. That option would be a huge and unforgivable mistake that would change the course of history and seriously affect international relations. It would also be in serious contrast to what the U.S., particularly President Donald Trump himself, has been warning other countries about.

The U.S. must feel assured that any unconventional war against Iran will make the U.S. lose more face.

Top American military officials and analysts must have realized during their current war of aggression that Iran is a master of unconventional and asymmetrical wars. Iran has been practicing asymmetrical warfare for many years.

Iran has experience of eight years of war with Iraq in the 1980s, when Saddam Hussein was ruling the country. Since that imposed war, like the June 2025 and the current wars, Iran has been crafting military strategies on how to make invaders repentant.

However, Trump was duped by



Benjamin Netanyahu and American lobbyists working for Israel into the war against Iran in the midst of negotiations.

Actually, there is no panacea for the crisis, except to acknowledge Iran's military power, respect its legal rights, and compensate the country for the war damages.

The U.S. will auction off its military standing more and more if it doesn't treat Iran as an equal partner with legal rights, includ-

ing the right to nuclear technology for civilian purposes.

Washington's allies in the Middle East are now mulling ways to extricate themselves from military alliance with the U.S. They are seeing that military partnership with the U.S. is a liability rather than an asset. Serious doubt about reliance on a military alliance with Washington will surely make other nations in other parts of the world reassess their policies.

Families bury 112 recovered three years after Israeli strikes on Gaza

Palestinians on Tuesday buried 112 members of a single clan martyred in Israeli air strikes in November 2023, after their remains were recovered from beneath the rubble last month.

Relatives gathered in Gaza City to bid a final farewell to their loved ones, whose bodies lay in rows draped in Palestinian flags, MEE reported.

For many, it was a moment of both relief and renewed grief after nearly 1,000 days of waiting to recover the bodies of their relatives.

The strike on the Sabra neighborhood was one of the deadliest single-strike casualty events of the two-year genocide. Israeli war-

planes flattened an entire residential block where hundreds of people had been living and sheltering. More than 300 people were killed, including 44 children, 37 women and more than 10 people with disabilities.

Most remained buried beneath the collapsed buildings.

Efforts to recover bodies from the rubble were halted in the early months of the war because search-and-rescue teams lacked the heavy equipment needed for the operation, which had been destroyed or blocked from entering Gaza by Israel.

Civil Defense crews resumed searching the site on 14 July using limited and inadequate equipment.

Officials said the force of the explosions had scattered human remains, making the recovery operation even more difficult.

By 1 August, crews had recovered the remains of 112 people, with more victims still believed to be buried beneath the debris.

"We worked for 17 days to recover the bodies in extremely difficult conditions. In the end, we managed to recover the remains of 112 people," Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson for the Palestinian Civil Defense in the Gaza Strip, told MEE.

"Thousands of people are still buried beneath the rubble, while their families continue to grieve and plead for the means to recover them."

Gradual attrition: The cornerstone of the new US strategy against Hezbollah



By Farhad Pashavand, West Asia expert

TEHRAN - The plan currently being discussed in American and Israeli strategic circles regarding Lebanon is not merely a security initiative aimed at containing an armed actor; rather, it forms part of a multilayered strategy to reshape the balance of power in the country.

Strategic reports published by American and Israeli think tanks and media outlets indicate that Washington has concluded that eliminating Hezbollah through direct military action is neither feasible nor capable of producing a sustainable outcome. The rationale behind this assessment is clear: Hezbollah is not merely a military organization but also a political, social, security, and military actor whose presence within Lebanese society has become closely associated with deterrence, the provision of security, and the preservation of the country's territorial integrity. Consequently, U.S. policy is no longer centered on the "immediate destruction" of Hezbollah; instead, it seeks the "gradual attrition" of this power through a combination of political, economic, social, media, and security instruments.

The first component of this strategy is the transfer of the monopoly over arms from Hezbollah to the Lebanese state. Washington seeks to consolidate the Lebanese government as the sole institution possessing legitimate military and security authority while gradually removing Hezbollah's independent military role from Lebanon's domestic equation. To this end, strengthening the Lebanese Armed Forces, training and equipping selected military units, and exerting political pressure to implement the principle of the state's exclusive monopoly over weapons have all become central elements of the agenda. Although this policy is publicly presented as an effort to reinforce Lebanon's national sovereignty, its practical objective is to diminish Hezbollah's role within the country's power structure.

From the perspective of American strategists, however, the issue extends well beyond Hezbollah's weapons. Strategic assessments indicate that the principal source of the movement's enduring strength lies in its social and ideological base a foundation that, over the years, has enabled Hezbollah to function not merely as a military force but also as a provider of security, public services, and social support for segments of Lebanese society. Accordingly, one of the central pillars of this strategy is to replace Hezbollah with the Lebanese state in performing these functions and to institutionalize the perception within public opinion that security, welfare, and public services should be delivered by a Western-backed Lebanese government rather than through Hezbollah.

Lebanon's economic crisis has likewise been transformed into an instrument for advancing this strategy. The United States and its allies believe that Lebanon's dependence on foreign investment, financial assistance, and reconstruction efforts can serve as an effective lever for altering the country's political and social balance. From this perspective, the economy is no longer viewed merely as a matter of livelihoods; rather, it has become a tool for restructuring Lebanon's domestic landscape and reducing Hezbollah's social influence.

Alongside political and economic pressure, the battle of narratives occupies a prominent place in this strategy. The United States and certain Western circles seek to entrench the narrative within Lebanon's political and media spheres that Hezbollah bears primary responsibility for imposing economic, security, and political costs on the country. The objective of this narrative-building campaign is to erode Hezbollah's social legitimacy, widen the divide between the movement and other Lebanese political forces,

and shape public opinion. Within this framework, any tensions along the Syrian-Lebanese border or Israeli strikes against the logistical infrastructure of the Resistance are portrayed in a manner that attributes the source of the crisis not to Israeli aggression, but to Hezbollah's presence and regional role.

Alongside these domestic dimensions, the U.S. strategy also rests on constraining Hezbollah's regional environment. From Washington's perspective, weakening the movement cannot be achieved solely through political and economic pressure inside Lebanon; its strategic depth and surrounding environment must likewise be placed under sustained pressure. In this regard, Syria occupies a pivotal position in American and Israeli calculations due to its geopolitical location and its role as the principal corridor linking Iran, Lebanon, and the Axis of Resistance. Consequently, efforts to redefine Syria's role in regional dynamics, restrict logistical support routes, increase instability in Lebanon's surrounding environment, and compel Hezbollah to devote a greater share of its security and military capabilities to managing border threats form part of a broader scenario designed to intensify geopolitical pressure on the movement a situation that could also increase Hezbollah's social and political costs within Lebanon.

At the same time, restricting Hezbollah's operational environment in Syria provides Israel with the opportunity to target the movement's logistical capabilities and support infrastructure without undertaking a direct and large-scale military incursion into Lebanese territory.

As an extension of this policy, another key objective of Washington is to remove the Lebanese file from the framework of the Axis of Resistance and transfer it to a Western-aligned government in Lebanon. The United States seeks to ensure that decision-making regarding Lebanon's security, reconstruction, the future of Hezbollah's weapons, and the country's political arrangements is pursued through negotiations and engagement with the Lebanese government rather than through coordination with Hezbollah and Iran.

In this context, by offering economic incentives and utilizing the mediation of Arab states, efforts are being made to position the Lebanese government as the principal party responsible for negotiations and the implementation of agreements, thereby reducing the roles of Hezbollah and Iran in this process. Washington believes that if it can manage the Lebanese file through its preferred government, it will be able to gradually implement its political, security, and economic plans at a lower cost and with greater legitimacy.

Taken together, these components can be summarized in four complementary layers. The military layer focuses on restricting Hezbollah's military capabilities and logistical support routes. The political layer seeks to transfer the authority over security and military decision-making to a Western-aligned government. The socio-economic layer aims to weaken Hezbollah's social base by exploiting Lebanon's economic crisis while strengthening the role of the state. Finally, the regional-geopolitical layer seeks to constrain Hezbollah's strategic depth, control its lines of communication, and weaken its ties with the Axis of Resistance.

Therefore, what currently constitutes the core of the U.S. agenda is not the immediate elimination of Hezbollah, but rather the gradual transformation of the balance of power in Lebanon through the restructuring of domestic institutions, the management of the regional environment, and the transfer of decision-making authority from the Resistance to a Western-backed government.

Manolopoulos returns to Iran as Team Melli resume Preparations

TEHRAN – Greek head coach Sotiris Manolopoulos has returned to Iran to oversee the men's national basketball team's preparations for the upcoming 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup Asian Qualifiers and the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya.

Manolopoulos arrived in Tehran on Sunday, landing at Imam Khomeini International Airport, where he rejoined the national team ahead of their latest training camp.

Iran are set to compete in the fourth qualifying window of the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup, with all Group E games to be played in a centralized format in Manila, Philippines.

Iran's Schedule – FIBA World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers (Window 4)

Friday, Aug. 28, 2026: Iran vs. New Zealand

Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026: Iran vs. Philippines

The training camp will also serve as part of Iran's preparations for the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, as the team look to build momentum ahead of two major international competitions.

Asian Games campaign will be tough: Ghavidel

TEHRAN – Asian Games bronze medalist Peyman Ghavidel believes Iran's canoe sprint team faces a difficult challenge at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, but remains confident that strong preparation can put the team in medal contention.

Speaking about his preparations for what will be his third Asian Games appearance, Ghavidel stressed that consistency in training will be crucial.

“Our job is very difficult. We're walking on a knife's edge. If we fall even slightly behind in training, it affects our confidence and we won't be able to perform at our full potential.”

Ghavidel spoke highly of Iranian national team's Ukrainian head coach Sergei Bozougly, saying his achievements place him among the world's elite.

“You can't compare Sergei with Pedro. He was a world champion and was close to winning Olympic gold in London, finishing fourth after being in medal contention until the final 50 meters. His résumé speaks for itself.”

He added that the coach has worked effectively alongside the Iranian coaching staff, including national coach Arash Basiratdar, during the team's recent training camp in Anzali.

The Iranian paddler admitted the team lost valuable ground after missing several international competitions and recalled that the postponement of the previous Asian Games disrupted their momentum.

He also said that while former coach Pedro was not solely responsible for Iran's disappointing results in Hangzhou, internal issues and divisions within the national team played a major role.

“There were problems within the canoeing system and distractions that divided the team. All those factors combined and prevented us from achieving the results we wanted.”

Ghavidel revealed that Iran will not field a four-man boat in Nagoya. Instead, he will compete in the K2 event alongside Ali Aghamirzaei and in the mixed event with Elnaz Shafaeian.

Despite acknowledging the strength of traditional Asian powerhouses such as China, South Korea, and Japan, he believes Iran has the quality to challenge for the podium.

“We have good boats and good athletes. If everything goes according to plan, I believe good results are possible in Nagoya.”

Ghavidel won bronze in the K2 500m at the previous Asian Games and believes his partnership with Aghamirzaei gives Iran an even better chance of winning a medal this time around.

The national team member also praised Iran Canoeing Federation president Alireza Sohrabi-an for improving the team's training conditions.

“We've followed every training session exactly as planned, even when we're exhausted. I hope

all our hard work pays off and we can make the people of Iran proud.”

Iran to compete in beach soccer tournament in Russia

TEHRAN – Iran's national beach soccer team have arrived in Moscow to compete in an international tournament.

Team Melli received a warm welcome from Kazem Jalali, Iran's Ambassador to Russia.

During a meeting with the players and coaching staff, Jalali reaffirmed the embassy's readiness to support Iranian sports teams traveling to Russia and pledged to facilitate greater sporting cooperation between the two countries, including more bilateral competitions and athlete exchanges.

The ambassador praised the Iranian beach soccer team's achievements on the international stage, commending the players for their determination, courage, and commitment to representing the nation with pride.

“Your passion for the Iranian flag is invaluable,” Jalali said. “We are proud of your commitment to Iran's identity and your efforts to raise our flag at international competitions.”

Jalali also described the team's participation in the Moscow tournament as an important step in strengthening sports diplomacy between Iran and Russia.

“Regardless of the results, you are ambassadors of Iran. Your presence here will help deepen friendship and cooperation between our two nations.”

The ambassador also expressed the embassy's willingness to continue supporting future visits by Iranian teams to Russia as sporting ties between the two countries continue to expand.

During the meeting, one of the national team players proposed closer sporting cooperation among Iran, Russia, China, and other independent nations to develop new international sports frameworks. Jalali said emerging organizations such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) could play a greater role in promoting cooperation among member countries.

At the conclusion of the visit, Iran's beach soccer team presented the ambassador with an official national team jersey featuring the Asiatic cheetah, a symbol prominently displayed on Iran's football kits.

Hazratpour: Iran will come back stronger after difficult VNL

TEHRAN – Iran men's national volleyball libero Mohammadreza Hazratpour has vowed that the national team will bounce back from a challenging 2026 FIVB Volleyball Nations League campaign, insisting the setbacks of this season will not be repeated.

Speaking about Iran's performance in the tournament, Hazratpour said the team showed clear progress compared to the previous year despite finishing with fewer victories.

“I believe our start in this year's Nations League was better than last year. Brazil beat us 3-0 in 2025, but this year we pushed them hard and lost 3-1. We even had a real chance to win that match.”

The experienced libero admitted Iran fell short of expectations but expressed confidence that the team is moving in the right direction.

“I can promise the people of Iran and the volleyball community that we will not experience another Nations League like this. Next year, we will be much stronger.”

Hazratpour said Iran's immediate focus has shifted to the Asian Men's Volleyball Championship, where he believes the race for the title and Olympic qualification remains wide open.

“The Asian Championship is absolutely within our reach. Japan won't beat us easily. It will be a tough match, but not only against Japan. China, the Philippines and South Korea will also be difficult opponents.”

French archaeologist calls for more research into Sasanian military architecture

TEHRAN – French architectural researcher and archaeologist Jean-Claude Voisin has highlighted the need for further studies on Sasanian military architecture, describing it as a field that reflects interactions among Roman, Byzantine and Central Asian traditions while remaining one of the less explored areas of ancient Iranian studies.

Speaking at a specialized session titled “Sasanian military architecture: between Rome, Byzantium and the Steppes; borrowings and adaptations” held at the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism in Tehran on August 1, Voisin reviewed the development, evolution and characteristics of defensive structures during the Sasanian period.

According to Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry, Voisin said his more than 25 years of field research in the Middle East showed that Sasanian fortifications were shaped by a combination of Iran's geographical conditions, military requirements and influences from Roman, Byzantine and Central Asian architectural traditions.

He noted that Iran's diverse landscapes, ranging from mountainous regions and intermountain plains to deserts, played a decisive role in the construction of defensive structures. In plains, raw brick and baked brick were commonly used, while stone became the main construction material in mountainous areas, distinguishing Iranian military architecture from the traditions



of the steppe regions and the Greco-Roman world.

Voisin said repeated military threats from the second century BC to the sixth century CE, including incursions by the Hephthalites, Alans, Sarmatians, Arab tribes, and the Roman and Byzantine empires, led to the development of an extensive network of fortifications to protect borders, communication routes and population centers.

He added that Iran's position along the trade routes of the Silk Road also facilitated the exchange of technologies and architectural ideas between different civilizations.

Discussing his research methodology, Voisin said his studies were based on historical and geographical sources from ninth- to 11th-century scholars such as Yaqubi, Tabari and Estakhri, as well as accounts by European travelers, British military officers in the 19th century, and recent archaeological findings by Iranian

and foreign researchers.

He pointed out that a significant portion of recent studies on Sasanian military architecture has been published in Persian, limiting access for non-Persian-speaking researchers.

Voisin said architectural analyses of Sasanian fortresses, including differences in their dimensions, construction methods, geographical settings, settlement patterns and spatial organization, provide valuable information about the typology and functions of Iran's military structures during the Sasanian era.

He divided Iranian fortifications into two main categories: mud-brick and stone-built structures. According to him, large mud-brick fortresses were common in plains, while stone fortifications developed in mountainous areas and reached maturity during the Sasanian period.

The researcher also noted that defensive towers, initially built in square or rectangular forms,

gradually evolved into circular towers, an architectural pattern influenced by Central Asian traditions. He added that the presence of water reservoirs inside Sasanian citadels demonstrated the importance placed by architects of the period on securing a sustainable water supply for military strongholds.

Voisin said contacts between Sasanian Iran and the Roman world had a significant impact on construction technologies. The introduction of Roman engineering techniques, partly through war captives, contributed to the wider use of stronger mortars and enabled the construction of more earthquake-resistant structures. He cited Bishapur fortress as a notable example of this architectural transformation.

He further said that in the late Sasanian period, mountain fortresses expanded under Byzantine architectural influences, while massive defensive walls such as the Gorgan Wall and fortifications in the Moghan Plain were built to counter attacks by steppe peoples. These defensive systems were reinforced with forts and military garrisons.

Voisin concluded that his research should be considered an initial step toward a broader understanding of Sasanian military architecture, stressing the need for further archaeological excavations, specialized monographs, scientific studies of construction materials and mortars, and detailed examinations of individual historical fortifications.

Heritage benefactor steps forward to restore Isfahan's historic Sheikh Bahai Bathhouse



TEHRAN – The first private philanthropist to support the restoration of a historical monument in Iran's central province of Isfahan has pledged about 60 billion rials (some \$33,000) to help revive the centuries-old Sheikh Bahai Bathhouse, provincial cultural heritage officials said on Monday.

Seyyed Rouhollah Seyyed-al-Asgari, Deputy Director-General of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Isfahan province, said the contribution marks the first direct philanthropic participation in restoring a historical monument in the province.

The Safavid-era bathhouse, located south of Isfahan's Jameh Mosque and adjacent to the city's historic bazaar in one of its oldest urban quarters, was designed by the renowned Persian scholar and architect Sheikh Bahai during the reign of Shah Abbas I. The monument was inscribed on Iran's National

Heritage List in 1998.

Seyyed-al-Asgari said the provincial heritage authority now owns about 99% of the property after a 15-year acquisition process involving around 90 separate owners.

He said approximately 20 billion rials had been spent over the past three years on emergency conservation and structural stabilization, but financial constraints prevented completion of the restoration and preparation of the site for investment and public use.

“Although investors had previously expressed interest in operating the complex, a significant development has occurred in recent days,” Seyyed-al-Asgari said. “For the first time, a philanthropist has stepped forward to participate in the restoration of a historical monument in Isfahan.”

Under a memorandum of understanding, the benefactor will finance the restoration while the provincial cultural heritage department will oversee implementation of the project and prepare the monument for future operation.

The official identified the donor only as a well-known Isfahan philanthropist who has supported school-building projects in deprived areas of Iran and now lives abroad. He said the donor had also expressed willingness to participate in restoring other historical buildings in the province if the Sheikh Bahai Bathhouse project proves successful.

HEGTA chief highlights Ardabil's potential as a storytelling destination



mysticism, literature, art, handicrafts, music, health tourism and local culture.

“From Sabalan and its hot springs to the Sheikh Safi complex, from Ashiq music and charming handicrafts to vibrant villages, local cuisine and ancient rituals, each can independently become a reason for travel,” Tabesh wrote. “The issue is that these capacities have not yet been offered to tourists

in the form of a destination and a coherent narrative.”

He said that for years tourism discussions in Iran had focused mainly on attractions, while competition among destinations in today's world is based not on the number of historical sites but on the quality of experiences created for travelers.

“Today's tourist does not travel only to see a monument or a landscape; they seek an experience that creates meaning, remains in their memory and can be narrated after the journey ends,” he added.

Tabesh stressed the importance of “destination management,” describing it as connecting all the assets of a region through a shared narrative that links nature, history, literature, art, food, handicrafts, architecture, music and local lifestyles.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Iran explores avenues to foster scientific, technological ties with Belarus

From page 1 ► Noting that over a thousand Iranian knowledge-based companies export products to the international markets, the official said expanding joint efforts between the knowledge-based companies of the two countries, implementing collaborative technological projects, and facilitating technology transfer will be among the key focus of collaborations.

The official also highlighted benefiting from the potential of the Eurasian Economic Union as a strategic opportunity for expanding scientific and technological interactions.

Utilizing the available capacities of Eurasian member countries, including Belarus, Russia, Armenia, and Uzbekistan, can contribute to the expansion of technological cooperation, establishment of joint innovation networks, and development of multilateral projects, Roozbeh added.

He also called for following up on former strategic memoranda of understanding, developing collaborative projects among scientific and technological centers, strengthening cooperation among universities, research centers, and knowledge-based companies, and establishing sustainable mechanisms for the development of collaborations.

Exchanging scientific and technological delegations, inviting Belarusian officials operating in the fields of science and technology to the country, and conducting reciprocal visits were among other emphasized issues.

For his part, Omid-Zamani proposed the deployment of an economic and technology attaché to Iran's embassy in Belarus as an effective measure to expedite relations between companies, scientific centers, and technological institutions in both countries, noting that the ongoing expansion of economic ties and the prospect of implementing a free trade agreement would generate new opportunities for technological and commercial cooperation between Iran and Belarus.

Moreover, Omid-Zamani underscored Iran's valuable experiences and capabilities in health sector and tourism, saying that the two nations can enhance ties in these fields as well.

The officials agreed to develop a strategic roadmap for cooperation, emphasizing the need for sustained consultations, the utili-



zation of the two countries' innovation and technology ecosystems, and the expansion of scientific and technological collaboration within the framework of bilateral relations and the regional capacities of Eurasia.

Tehran, Minsk ink MOU on academic, scientific ties

In June, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, the Minister of Science, Research and Technology, and Denis Korzhitsky, the chairman of the Belarusian State Committee on Science and Technology, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand educational, research, and technological collaborations.

The MOU was inked at the 8th meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Iranian Commission on Co-operation in Science, Technology and Higher Education, which took place in Minsk.

The commission confirmed the priority areas for 2026-2028 as digital economy and artificial intelligence; innovative industrial technologies; biological and medical technologies; innovative solutions in the agro-industrial complex and food industry; and development and deepening of the study of the languages and literatures of both countries, according to SB news.

Additionally, both parties expressed their readiness to hold a joint competition for sci-tech projects during 2026-2028. A protocol of the meeting was signed following the talks.

Before the meeting, Belarusian Education Minister Andrey Ivanets held a meeting with Simaei-Sarraf. The official hoped the meeting would lay the ground for the expansion of scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

The Iranian minister, for his part, highlighted the strategic standing of the SCO and called for the enhancement of collaborations among member states in the technology sector to meet the shared needs of each nation.

In May, Ivanets, in a phone call with Simaei-Sarraf, announced his country's willingness to promote scientific and educational ties with Iran.

He expressed solidarity with Iranians following the US-Israeli attacks on Iran, and voiced readiness to expand cooperation with Iran through conducting joint research projects and exchanging students, IRNA reported.

Highlighting Iran's scientific capacities, Simaei-Sarraf said Iran's higher education system primarily focuses on the development of technology and innovation, noting that 160 science and technology parks are operating in the country, currently.

The official invited Ivanets to pay a visit to Iran and become more familiar with science and technology parks as well as universities, which will contribute to the enhancement of ties.

WFP releases June report on Iran

TEHRAN – The World Food Program (WFP) has released a report, expounding on activities in Iran over the month of June.

In June, WFP food assistance reached 35,542 beneficiaries, including Afghan and Iraqi refugees, through a hybrid combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT).

Refugees are assisted with a staple food basket, which includes fortified wheat flour (a ration of 9 kg per person, reduced from 12 Kg since the month of November 2025 due to funding shortfalls).

Under CBT modality, WFP continued to provide cash assistance to support the essential living costs of vulnerable refugees. The transfer is IRR 8 million (USD 5.4) for households headed by men and IRR 9 million (USD 6) for households headed by women.

The June cash transfer was completed on the last day of the month due to a cyberattack that affected banks in Iran. The school feeding program ended in May

following the start of the summer break and the early-than-usual closure of schools due to warm weather and conflict-related disruptions.

However, a limited number of schools in refugee settlements remained operational until early June, allowing WFP to distribute biscuits and date bars as take-home rations to 1,853 refugee students and their teachers in those locations.

Milk could not be procured due to funding constraints and ongoing increases in the cost of dairy products.

Additionally, WFP provided refugee girls attending the remaining open schools with a monthly cash incentive of IRR 2 million (US\$ 1.3).

This is an educational incentive to promote school retention of refugee girls by providing them with cash.

In June, WFP supported 30 income-generating projects in 18 settlements to improve economic resilience and self-sufficiency for 310 refugees, 39 percent of whom were women. These activities included welding, tailoring, baking, farming, and other trades.

A New Zealand contribution (EUR 7,500) will enable WFP to expand the second phase of the Semnan settlement Innovation Center, enhancing learning, vocational training, psychosocial support, and community services, particularly for women and girls, while improving the quality and reach of assistance to refugee communities.

Operational needs in Iran remain fluid and require ongoing adaption and reassessment of funding requirements. Despite the uncertain response scale – driven both by continued refugee movements and the evolving needs of conflict-affected Iranians – available resources remain insufficient to meet the needs of impacted populations under any currently foreseeable scenario.

WFP Iran's Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2023-2027) supports over 35,000 food-insecure refugees through cash and in-kind food assistance, a refugee girls' education cash incentive, and a school feeding initiative consisting of nutritious school snacks.

Moreover, WFP continues to equip refugees with complementary livelihood skills aimed at supporting their resilience and preparedness for voluntary, sustainable repatriation to their country of origin once the situation is conducive.



WFP has been operating in Iran since 1962, initially for its first emergency earthquake response until 1978, and subsequently reinitiating operations to address the refugee crisis from 1987 onwards. In light of the recent escalation in the region and resulting internal displacement in the country, WFP continues to monitor the situation and activated its emergency.

European Union strengthens support to WFP assistance in Iran

On July 26, the WFP welcomed a EUR 3.08 million contribution from the European Union (EU) to support vulnerable refugees and conflict-affected people in Iran, helping sustain life-saving assistance over 12 months.

This contribution will enable WFP to maintain food security support for populations facing increased economic pressures and humanitarian needs, helping families meet their essential needs and protect their well-being.

Iran hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world, the majority from Afghanistan. With support from the European Union and other partners, WFP provides food assistance to over 35,000 of the most vulnerable refugees across 20 settlements, including cash-based transfers, school feeding programmes and livelihood support.

Royan Institute, Kazakhstan NCB agree to develop sci-tech co-op



TEHRAN – Royan Institute and the Kazakhstan National Center for Biotechnology (NCB) have explored the potential to expand joint efforts, agreeing to enhance educational, research, and technological cooperation and implement joint research projects.

In this line, representatives from the two sides held an online meeting on Monday with Iran's ambassador to Kazakhstan, Ali-Akbar Jokar, in attendance, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, Jokar highlighted the importance of boosting science diplomacy between the two countries, and elaborated on the available capacities for strategic partnership in research, education, and technology sectors.

Also, directors of Royan Institute expounded on the structure, accomplishments, and missions of the Institute, while reviewing Royan Institute's international scientific cooperation with other countries such as Malaysia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Syria, and Northern Cyprus.

Furthermore, they emphasized benefiting from the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) Scientific Network as a platform to foster regional cooperation and establish scientific connections between the two organizations.

Royan Institute proposed initiating the cooperation by organizing a joint scientific webinar, which was welcomed by the other side.

For their part, Kazak officials detailed on NCB structure, and their research priorities. They announced the center's readiness for the development of joint research projects.

NCB is supposed to submit proposals for promoting cooperation with Royan Institute to the Iranian embassy in Kazakhstan.

Iran offers proposals to foster SCO scientific ties

In June, Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, put forward three proposals to enhance academic, research, and technological collaborations among the universities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states.

"Universities are custodians of shaping the future of societies. Today, they are faced with dif-

ferent challenges like revising curricula, making research projects applicable, making theses and research studies more useful to the societies. SCO can serve as a platform for member states to boost their academic capacities through an executive and problem-based network," IRNA quoted Simaei-Sarraf as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing the tenth meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Education Ministers, which took place in Minsk, Belarus, on June 16 and 17. A delegation led by the science minister attended the meeting.

To promote scientific cooperation among member states, the science minister offered three proposals. The first one focused on 'exchanging elites and scholars'. Accordingly, Iran is ready to grant 100 scholarships to post-graduate and Ph.D. students, and 10 more to post-doctoral researchers of SCO member states to do research on the real problems in the region under the supervision of professors.

The establishment of the 'Shanghai technological and innovative universities network' with the help of leading universities and technology parks was the second offered suggestion. According to Simaei-Sarraf, this network would provide the ground for commercializing scientific achievements and strengthening connections between universities and industry. He also announced Iran's readiness to host its secretariat.

The 'development of a collaborative research consortia in smart management of natural resources, particularly water, artificial intelligence, and modern pharmaceutical technologies' was the third proposal, which is expected to be an effective strategy to improve the scientific capacities of SCO member states.

The science minister went on to say that the universities are not merely the centers of education, but they should be the standard bearers of rationality, entrepreneurship, hope, and international scientific cooperation.

The top universities of Iran, with all their laboratory capacities, growth centers, and scientific capabilities, will be there to implement these programs in cooperation with the universities of the SCO member states.

Khwarizmi Youth Festival extends registration deadline

TEHRAN – The registration deadline for the 28th Khwarizmi Youth Festival, one of Iran's leading national scientific and research events for young innovators, has been extended for a second time. Applicants now have until September 6, 2026 to submit their entries.

The festival aims to identify, recognize, and support outstanding young scientific and research talent across the country. This edition welcomes submissions in 20 specialized research fields, covering basic sciences, engineering and technology, agriculture and natural resources, emerging sciences and technologies, biotechnology, as well as medicine and health sciences.

The 39th Khwarizmi International Award and the 27th Khwarizmi Youth Award officially concluded on February 15.

The Khwarizmi International Award recognizes outstanding achievements in basic research, applied research, development projects, inventions, and innovation across 18 specialized scientific and technical fields, excluding the humanities, at both the national and international levels.

More than 500 projects were submitted to the award's online system for the 39th edition. Following a review of the submitted documents

and the completion of the required documentation, 294 domestic and 118 international projects were evaluated by specialized review panels. Ultimately, 24 projects were nominated for the Award Jury's final consideration. Of these, the following domestic projects and two international projects from China and Malaysia were selected as the winners of this year's award.

The selected projects were recognized in the following categories:

- * Special Award: Irrigation Engineering and Land Development (1 project)

- * Applied Research: Chemical Technologies – First Prize (1 project)

- * Water Management, Agriculture and Natural Resources: Second Prize (1 project)

- * Materials, Metallurgy and New Energies: Third Prize (1 project)

- * Art, Architecture and Urban Planning: Third Prize (1 project)

- * Basic Research: Chemical Technologies – Second Prize (2 projects)

- * Basic Research: Materials, Metallurgy and New Energies – Two projects from Malaysia and China

- * Development Projects: Electrical and Computer Engineering – Second Prize (1 project)



AUGUST 5, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who remembers the length of the journey, prepares himself for it.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:25 Dawn: 3:41 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:16 (tomorrow)

Iran, Sri Lanka keen on expanding joint media, cultural cooperation

TEHRAN – In a meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ali Kebriaeizadeh, and the President of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (National Television), Kehan De Silva, explored ways for expanding media and cultural cooperation.

Discussions focused on introducing contemporary Iranian culture through documentaries, feature films, animation, children's programs, and educational content. Both sides agreed to pursue practical follow-up measures through designated representatives to ensure the implementation of future joint initiatives, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization reported.

At the meeting, De Silva referred to the long-standing and friendly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sri Lanka and reflected on the historical foundations of the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

He described the Iranian film industry as highly developed, technically accomplished, and distinguished by its strong ethical and humanistic values. He noted that these qualities have contributed to the popularity of Iranian films among Sri Lankan audiences.

De Silva further stated that the National Television has enjoyed a valuable and productive record of cooperation with the Cultural Counsellorship of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed his interest in continuing and further strengthening this partnership.

For his part, Kebriaeizadeh praised the hospitality, kindness, and warm regard shown by the people of Sri Lanka towards the people of Iran. He highlighted the considerable potential for expanding media and cul-



tural cooperation between the two countries and referred to the growing interest among Sri Lankan academics and the wider public in gaining a deeper understanding of Iran's history, culture, scientific achievements, and civilization.

He stated that, in response to this interest, the Cultural Counsellorship is prepared to provide the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation with a wide range of audiovisual materials, including documentary films introducing contemporary Iranian society, culture, science, technology, and innovation.

Kebriaeizadeh also noted the possibility of cooperating in the presentation of Iranian traditional and classical music, as well as screening Iranian feature films, animation productions, and educational programs for children and young audiences.

At the end of the meeting, both sides emphasized the importance of moving beyond general discussions towards practical and results-oriented cooperation. They agreed that designated representatives from both sides would maintain regular communication and follow up on the implementation of the agreed initiatives to ensure the timely development of future joint media and cultural projects.

Cartoon of Day



The Genocide Continues
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

New York art installation mocking Trump's Iran policy gains international attention

TEHRAN- A satirical art installation mocking US President Donald Trump over his role in the recent war against Iran has attracted widespread international media attention after appearing in New York, with major outlets including Euronews, The Washington Post, TIME, and NBC New York covering the display and the public debate it has generated.

The 10-foot-tall (three-meter) golden sculpture, titled "Iran War Participation Trophy," was installed in Manhattan's Foley Square by the anonymous activist collective Secret Handshake. Originally unveiled in Washington, D.C., the artwork uses satire to criticize Trump's decision to involve the United States in the conflict with Iran and has since drawn crowds, photographers, and sharply divided reactions from passersby.

The oversized golden cup bears the inscription "#1 Participant" and is accompanied by a plaque that sarcastically "awards" Trump for his "enthusiastic involvement in the Iran war," adding that while others focused on military strategy, diplomacy, or measurable outcomes, the US president had demonstrated "the courage to participate regardless of the final score."

The anonymous artists told TIME that the installation was conceived as "an attempt to de-escalate the conflict through positive reinforcement," framing the work as political satire rather than a conventional protest.

According to The Washington Post, the installation quick-



ly became a gathering point for passersby, many of whom stopped to photograph the monument or read its inscription. Reactions ranged from laughter and applause to criticism from Trump supporters, highlighting the deep political divisions surrounding the administration's foreign policy.

NBC New York reported that visitors also began leaving small imitation trophies around the base of the sculpture, turning the display into an evolving public art project. Some observers described the installation as a humorous critique of Washington's military policies, while others dismissed it as partisan political theater.

The trophy has generated significant attention across social media platforms, with videos and photographs widely shared by news organizations and users alike, further amplifying debate over the symbolism of the installation and the broader consequences of the US military campaign against Iran.

Many users praised the artwork as a powerful statement against war and political power. One commenter wrote, "Art is the voice of the time. Historical and societal stories are told through art. Thank you, thank you, thank you artist for your vision!" Others, however, responded with sarcasm, with one user joking that the trophy was awarded "for his participation on the Epstein

files," reflecting the polarized debate surrounding both the artwork and Trump himself.

The artwork follows a series of high-profile political installations targeting Trump that have appeared in Washington and New York since his return to office, using satire and oversized sculptures to criticize his domestic and foreign policies.

While the creators have remained anonymous, the installation has succeeded in reigniting public discussion over the United States' involvement in the conflict with Iran, with supporters praising it as a creative act of political expression and critics accusing it of reducing a serious geopolitical crisis to spectacle.

Sohrab Pournazeri joins Grammy Recording Academy



TEHRAN – The Iranian composer and musician Sohrab Pournazeri has become a member of the Recording Academy, the institution that organizes and oversees the annual Grammy Awards.

In a post on social media, he wrote: "I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Recording Academy for this recognition and trust. Joining the Recording Academy is a meaningful responsibility and a source of motivation for me to continue my journey in music. I hope this opportunity will open new paths for learning, collaboration, and contributing to the art of music. My heartfelt thanks to all my friends, colleagues, and everyone

who has supported me along the way".

Over the past few years, through the creation of numerous works, international concert performances, and collaborations with prominent global artists, Pournazeri has played an effective role in introducing Iranian music to the international stage, Honaronline reported.

He has now joined the ranks of the Recording Academy. His membership, beyond confirming his professional standing on the world stage, could serve as an effective platform for increasing the presence and visibility of Iranian music in the world's most significant mu-

sic event.

In addition to hosting the annual Grammy Awards, the Recording Academy is active in areas such as advocating for musicians' rights, education, professional development, and cultural policy-making within the music industry, with its members playing a role in shaping the future of the field.

The Recording Academy is considered one of the most credible professional institutions in the global music industry. Its members consist of artists, composers, songwriters, arrangers, producers, audio engineers, and other music professionals from around the world.

Membership in this institution is granted through a specialized process based on professional track records, published works, and evaluations by expert committees. Qualified members of the academy also participate in the process of selecting nominees and winners for the annual Grammy Awards.

Sohrab Pournazeri, 43, is a virtuoso of tanbour, kamancheh, and setar, and stands as one of the pioneers in performing Iranian contemporary music.

His father, Kaykhosro Pournazeri, who founded the Shams Ensemble in 1980, is a respected composer and tanbur player in Iran. Sohrab joined the Shams Ensemble at the age of twelve, and since then, he has been captivating audiences through performances, recordings, and collaborations with world-

class musicians globally.

Sohrab has followed in the footsteps of his musical family, yet has achieved distinct and idiosyncratic techniques that have rendered his method of playing into something entirely unprecedented. He also pursues vocalizing and composing with the same unique approach.

In the summer of 2017, Sohrab performed the 'C Project' for the first time alongside Homayoun Shajarian in Tehran's historical Saadabad Palace Complex, a project he created with the aim of reviving the "wisdom" and old traditions of the Shahnameh ('The Book of Kings') for the young generation and familiarizing the audience with the roots of ancient Iranian culture and literature. In this project, Iranian musicians work alongside actors, artists, a film crew, and lighting and sound experts in order to create a unique multifaceted experience for the audience.

Sohrab is also well versed in the regional music of his native Iran, as well as western classical music, and holds a degree in Music Performance. As a soloist and vocalist, Sohrab has collaborated with artists and ensembles worldwide – including Shajarian, Shujaat Hussain Khan, the Beyond Borders Project, and the Pacific Symphony Orchestra.

In 2023, Sohrab was featured as a soloist in the inaugural concert of the Iranshahr Orchestra in Los Angeles, sharing the stage with Hila Plitmann.

21st Tehran-Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival to kick off at TMoCA

TEHRAN- The preliminary events of the 21st Tehran-Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival will kick off on Friday with an opening ceremony at the Cinematheque of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA).

According to the festival's public relations office, the event will begin at 5:00 p.m., bringing together puppet theater artists, performers, and cultural figures to mark the start of the festival's activities ahead of its main edition in October.

The event will feature virtual speeches by Peter Schumann, the renowned puppet theater artist and founder of the "Bread and Puppet Theater," and John T. Bell, a puppet theater historian and university lecturer, as well as a speech by Hamidreza Ardalan, an Iranian theater and music researcher and university lecturer.

Organizers will also unveil the festival's official poster, designed by Iranian graphic artist Farzad Adibi, during the ceremony.

The 21st edition of the Tehran-Mobarak

International Puppet Theater Festival will be directed by Poupak Azimpour Tabrizi and is set to take place in Tehran in October, continuing the festival's tradition of promoting puppet theater as a platform for artistic innovation and international cultural exchange.

Since its inception in 1989, the Tehran-Mobarak Festival has established itself as a prestigious cultural gathering in Iran, attracting puppet theater troupes from around the world. The festival not only showcases international talent but also promotes the rich tradition of puppet theater.