

The Board of Peace is bored of peace and hungry for conquest

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — On July 30, Donald Trump announced that the Board of Peace had reached “a historic agreement” for “the complete disarmament of Hamas.” The White House called it a monumental step, even as neither Israel nor Hamas had given an immediate indication of full alignment. By Sunday, Israeli airstrikes killed at least 26 more Palestinians. An entire family was erased in Khan Younis.

While most of the world tries to ignore the atrocities in Gaza because they have apparently become bored with the sheer volume of suffering, Palestinian factions coordinate through regional intermediaries and the Board of Peace, who pass drafts to Washington, which finally attempts to lobby Tel Aviv. ▶ **Page 5**

Surveillance of Sciences Po students critical of Israel shows free speech rings hollow in France

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Rightly or wrongly, common people once praised France as the most democratic county in the West. They claimed it valued the right to protest and was tolerant of freedom of speech or opinion. However, that designation, has proven hollow.

The country's police suppression of students protesting Israel's brutality against Palestinians in Gaza proved that France is a subservient to Israel like many other Western countries. ▶ **Page 5**

Over 16,000 entries received for Minab school literary award

TEHRAN— The secretariat of the first International Six-Word Story Award, titled “Minab School – 168 Unfinished Short Stories” has announced an overwhelming response to its inaugural call for entries, attracting participants from across the globe.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Deputy for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, 3,354 writers from 38 different countries submitted a total of 16,158 entries.

The global reach of the competition was highlighted by submissions from a diverse array of nations, including Iran, Argentina, Germany, the United States, Indonesia, Armenia, Uruguay, Australia, Spain, Afghanistan, Algeria, Italy, Brunei, Belgium, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Portugal, Tunisia, China, Russia, Romania, Japan, Chile, Serbia, Iraq, France, Philippines, Cameroon, South Korea, Congo, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Egypt, Nicaragua, India, and Yemen. ▶ **Page 8**



Several commercial ships around the Strait of Hormuz, which is still closed.

Iran, Oman Move to Finalize New Hormuz Shipping Corridor

An informed source says agreement with Oman does not mean the opening of the Strait of Hormuz

For Tehran, negotiations on the Strait of Hormuz represent more than a technical arrangement. It is an opportunity to establish a long-term framework that recognizes Iran's sovereign rights.

By Mahmoud M. Ravi-Nejad

TEHRAN — Facing dwindling strategic resources after months of military confrontation with Iran, the United States has increasingly pinned its hopes on negotiations between Tehran and Muscat to secure the future of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important maritime corridors.

While Washington initially sought to address the issue through broader diplomatic arrangements following the 40-day conflict, the collapse of the Islamabad Memorandum has left the Iran-Oman channel as the principal avenue for any future settlement governing the Strait.

The shift reflects a new geopolitical reality that has emerged following the conflict. Beyond the military costs of the war, the United States has reportedly seen signif-

icant depletion of both its missile stockpiles and strategic petroleum reserves, while the prolonged disruption of shipping through the Strait has intensified pressure from global energy markets and America's regional partners to restore maritime commerce.

Against this backdrop, Washington has increasingly focused on supporting indirect diplomacy, allowing two neighboring states with direct geographical sovereignty over the Strait—Iran and Oman—to negotiate a new framework for navigation.

Economic shockwaves reinforce Strait's strategic importance

The urgency surrounding the negotia-

tions has been reinforced by newly released international trade data.

According to analysis published by the United Nations and the International Trade Centre (ITC),

the disruption of shipping through the Strait has produced one of the most severe shocks to global commodity markets in recent years.

Exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from economies dependent on the route have fallen by 95 percent, while urea exports have dropped 83 percent.

Japan, which previously sourced more than 90 percent of its crude oil imports through the region, has experienced a 64 percent decline in imports despite efforts to diversify suppliers. ▶ **Page 3**

Pezeshkian reaffirms Palestine as Muslims' top priority

TEHRAN— Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has reaffirmed that the Palestinian cause remains the foremost issue for the Muslim world, saying recent regional developments and military tensions have not altered Tehran's long-standing commitment to supporting the Palestinian people.

During a telephone conversation with Khalil al-Hayya, the newly appointed head of Hamas' Political Bureau, Pezeshkian congratulated the Palestinian official on his appointment and expressed hope that he would succeed in serving the Palestinian nation, particularly the people of the Gaza Strip. ▶ **Page 2**

Investigative reports: Severe US munition depletion forces Trump to halt Iran war

TEHRAN — More than five months after the joint US-Israeli military campaign swept across Iran under the banner of “Operation Epic Fury,” investigative reporting published by Reuters, CBS News, and CNN reveals that the architecture of Washington's strategic projection has hit an unprecedented wall.

What was initially marketed by the administration of President Donald Trump as a swift, decisive intervention designed to dismantle Iranian military capabilities in a matter of weeks has instead devolved into a profound industrial and strategic quagmire. According to comprehensive data and insider accounts detailed across Reuters, CBS News, ▶ **Page 2**

Iran, Pakistan sing MOU to boost bilateral trade toward \$10b target

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN— Iran and Pakistan took a significant step toward deepening economic ties, signing a memorandum of understanding to expand trade cooperation during the 10th session of the Joint Trade Committee held in Islamabad. Both sides reaffirmed their mutual commitment to achieving the ambitious \$10 billion target in bilateral trade and advancing toward a formal free trade agreement.

The final session of the committee was attended by Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, and his Pakistani counterpart, Jam Kamal Khan. The MOU was signed following extensive deliberations that covered a wide range of commercial cooperation areas, including joint border regions, maritime activities and shipping development, coordinated steps for a free trade agreement, establishment of joint free zones, and barter trade mechanisms. ▶ **Page 4**



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Funeral held for family killed in US strike on Iran's Qeshm Island

TEHRAN – Thousands of mourners joined the funeral procession for a family of three killed in last week's US strike on Iran's Qeshm Island.

Qaisar Jafari, his wife Zahra Jafari, and their two-year-old son Sina were laid to rest on Tuesday following a funeral held alongside the Arbaeen pilgrims' march, with participants condemning the attack and reaffirming national solidarity and resilience.



Iran's legal battle against the US and Israel

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The 12-day war waged by the U.S. and Israel against Iran in 2025, along with the current one that began in February, has been marked by unprecedented attacks on schools, hospitals, homes, roads, bridges, power plants, and desalination plants—actions that are considered war crimes under international law.

Iran's military has so far refrained from carrying out similar acts in retaliation. However, the country has initiated a legal process to hold the U.S. and Israel accountable for their actions. The Tehran Times interviewed Dr. Hassan Abdolianpour. ▶ **Page 2**

Investigative reports: Severe US munition depletion forces Trump to halt Iran war



An ATACMS is displayed during the inauguration of a new artillery plant of ammunition maker Rheinmetall, in Unterlues, Germany, August 27, 2025. REUTERS/Annegret Hilse

TEHRAN — More than five months after the joint US-Israeli military campaign swept across Iran under the banner of “Operation Epic Fury,” investigative reporting published by Reuters, CBS News, and CNN reveals that the architecture of Washington’s strategic projection has hit an unprecedented wall.

What was initially marketed by the administration of President Donald Trump as a swift, decisive intervention designed to dismantle Iranian military capabilities in a matter of weeks has instead devolved into a profound industrial and strategic quagmire. According to comprehensive data and insider accounts detailed across Reuters, CBS News, and CNN, the US military has exhausted “virtually all” of its global stockpiles of premier long-range precision missiles. Rather than diplomacy or magnanimity halting the assault, reports from these three major outlets highlight that the exhaustion of America’s elite munitions has become the ultimate stumbling block, exposing a failure to achieve core war objectives through military might.

According to internal Pentagon data and sources cited by the three above-mentioned media outlets, the high-intensity theater of war rapidly cannibalized America’s most advanced strategic assets:

Surface-to-surface missiles: As first reported by Reuters and confirmed by CBS News and CNN, the US Army has burned through virtually its entire inventory of long-range precision weapons—specifically the Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) and the cutting-edge, next-generation Precision Strike Missiles (PrSM). Costing over \$1 million each, these assets were deployed extensively to strike targets deep inside Iranian territory without risking piloted aircraft.

Cruise missiles: Naval capabilities have suffered a parallel collapse. Reuters and CNN report that the US has burned through nearly half of its global supply of Tomahawk cruise missiles, which serve as the Navy’s primary vehicle for striking heavily defended inland targets from destroyers and cruisers.

Air defense architecture: Most alarming to military commanders—as detailed extensively in reports by CNN and CBS News using data from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)—is the catastrophic depletion of America’s air defense systems. The US military has exhausted nearly 80% of its interceptors for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, alongside roughly half to 65% of its Patriot missile interceptors.

With manufacturing lines moving at a sluggish pace—recovering a mere trickle of new interceptors per month—replenishing these stockpiles to pre-war baselines could take anywhere from three to five years, according to analysts cited by CNN and Reuters.

The rapid depletion of these critical munitions highlights a stark reality documented by the media reports: the US has fundamentally failed to achieve its strategic objectives through force. The original premise of the February 28 offensive—predicted by Trump

to be a short, clean operation—assumed that overwhelming aerial dominance would instantly break the adversary. Instead, months of relentless bombardments have left the US military dangerously hollowed out, raising acute concerns among defense analysts and military brass that Washington is critically vulnerable and ill-equipped to deter other global competitors like Russia and China.

While the White House has publicly attempted to spin the pause in hostilities as an opening for diplomatic engagement—with President Trump claiming he wants to give Tehran a final chance before potential escalation—CNN and CBS News confirm that the standstill is a forced tactical retreat. Repeated plans for massive offensive waves over recent weekends were aborted not out of sudden diplomatic grace, but because senior military advisers issued stark warnings about the dangerously low state of the arsenal. Furthermore, CNN notes that intense pressure from Persian Gulf allies, terrified of devastating retaliatory strikes on their own energy infrastructure, forced Washington to pull back its hand.

The continuation of this conflict threatens to plunge the United States deeper into an intractable quagmire with Iran. By over-relying on a short-sighted strategy of high-end missile expenditure, the administration has locked itself into a war of attrition that outpaces the nation’s defense industrial capacity.

Iranian resilience and defense

In stark contrast to the fragile, over-extended global supply chains underpinning the American war machine, the Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated remarkable operational durability. Operating primarily on indigenous, home-made military infrastructure and localized defense manufacturing, Iran has absorbed months of intense bombardment while maintaining its core defensive posture.

Throughout the conflict, Iran’s strategic actions have been fundamentally defensive, designed to repel unprovoked foreign aggression and protect national sovereignty. While Western media and administration officials frequently decry regional friction, independent analysts cited across the reporting outlets note that Iran’s domestic defense ecosystem has enabled it to withstand the initial onslaught. Lacking the billion-dollar logistical tail of the Pentagon, Tehran’s localized military economy has proven capable of continuing the war and sustaining its defense against external coercion, proving that resilience often trumps high-tech overreach in a prolonged war of attrition.

As the US administration weighs its next steps amidst fractured supply lines and anxious allies, the missile shortages documented by Reuters, CBS News, and CNN stand as an enduring monument to the limits of imperial overreach—signaling that military dominance cannot forever defy the laws of industrial exhaustion.

In a call with Hamas leader, Pezeshkian reaffirms Palestine as Muslims’ top priority

From page 1 ▶ The Iranian president also paid tribute to Palestinian martyrs, with special reference to the anniversary of the assassination of former Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh. Pezeshkian offered condolences over Haniyeh’s death, describing his killing during a visit to Iran as a “cowardly crime” carried out by Israel.

Praising ‘the resilience and steadfastness of the Palestinian people’ amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza, Pezeshkian said the Iranian people and government have consistently stood alongside Palestinians and would continue to provide support “to the fullest extent possible.”

The president said that despite recent military confrontations involving Iran and ‘acts of aggression by the United States and Israel,’ the Palestinian issue has remained at the center of Iran’s foreign policy agenda. He stressed that support for Palestine continues to be a strategic priority for Iran.

“Palestine remains the fore-



most issue of the Muslim world,” Pezeshkian said, calling on Muslim nations to strengthen unity and coordination to defend the interests of the Islamic Ummah and support the Palestinian cause.

The remarks underscore Tehran’s effort to project continuity in its regional policy following months of heightened tensions across West Asia, while emphasizing that developments else-

where have not diminished its political backing for Palestinian groups.

During the conversation, al-Hayya praised Iran’s support for the Palestinian cause and commemorated Haniyeh’s death, describing it as a symbol of the shared struggle and common destiny of the Islamic world in support of Palestine.

The Hamas official also com-

mended Iran’s handling of recent regional developments, accusing Israel of being the principal source of instability in West Asia despite continued US support. He said Iran’s resilience had altered regional dynamics and expressed confidence that future developments would strengthen both the Islamic Republic and the broader Muslim world.

Addressing the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip and the situation in the occupied West Bank, Al Quds and the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, al-Hayya thanked Iran for its continued political support and said Palestinians remained committed to their cause despite sustained military pressure.

He added that Hamas is continuing political negotiations in coordination with other Palestinian factions, while maintaining that the movement would not accept diplomatic outcomes that would allow Israel to secure objectives it had failed to achieve on the battlefield.

Iran’s legal battle against the US and Israel

Chief attorney details efforts to document US-Israeli war crimes and plans to take the two regimes to court

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The 12-day war waged by the U.S. and Israel against Iran in 2025, along with the current one that began in February, has been marked by unprecedented attacks on schools, hospitals, homes, roads, bridges, power plants, and desalination plants—actions that are considered war crimes under international law.

Iran’s military has so far refrained from carrying out similar acts in retaliation. However, the country has initiated a legal process to hold the U.S. and Israel accountable for their actions. The Tehran Times interviewed Dr. Hassan Abdolianpour, the Head of the Iranian Judiciary’s Center for Attorneys and Experts, who has been leading this mission since last year. The interview aims to shed light on the process, its progress, potential outcomes, and various legal aspects.

Below is the full text of the interview, edited for clarity and conciseness.

Could you please explain what constitutes a war crime, both under Iranian law and under international law?

The question you have raised is one we hear quite often these days, as people are constantly hearing that such-and-such an act or incident constitutes a war crime, or that crimes committed against our country over the past year or so, during last two recent wars, amount to war crimes.

War crime is a key topic in international law referring to the violation of international humanitarian law, and we must distinguish between two terms: human rights and humanitarian law. Humanitarian law consists of rules specific to times of war, and war crime in its specific sense means the violation of the laws of war, encompassing acts such as mass killings, the intentional killing of civilians, torture, hostage-taking, the destruction of civilian property, sexual assault, and looting, all of which are clear instances of war crimes.

Committing a war crime incurs individual criminal responsibility for military personnel, meaning any individual in the command structure, whether a soldier or a commander, who orders or attempts to commit mass killing, genocide, ethnic cleansing,

or the military use of children, or who violates the legal distinction between the principles of proportionality and military necessity accepted in international humanitarian law, is held accountable. Article 8 of the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court, enumerates these instances, and Human Rights Watch has stated in its doctrine that intentionally targeting civilians during a war constitutes a war crime.

Our country has certainly accepted these laws, and the crimes committed against us throughout history since the Islamic Revolution, during the first, second, and third imposed wars, are clear examples of war crimes, genocide, or the four international crimes for which legislation is now necessary. Regarding our own domestic law, a bill on international crimes was submitted to the Iranian Parliament some time ago, and a few days ago, its general provisions were approved. These four international crimes are genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Parliament has approved the general provisions, and we hope it will pass final approval so that the jurisdiction for holding such trials, for which there is currently a legal void in our country, can be established. This is a demand of all the people, and nine thousand lawyers have urged the representatives to expedite the approval of the war crimes bill, which we hope passes soon to fill this legal void in the country.

Iran is currently pursuing cases of U.S.-Israeli war crimes legally. Can you explain this process?

These days we engage on three fronts: combat warfare, where our fighters excel at the launchers; diplomatic warfare, which our colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are actively pursuing; and a third battlefield that has been less visible—the legal battle. In my view, this operates parallel to the other two, and we must enter this legal fight with the same strength as the combat and diplomatic fronts. For legal lawsuits and complaints to end in victory, both in domestic and international courts, we need a strong foundation of evidence. This means our complaints must have robust documentation, so it is essential that the crimes imposed on our country are examined and documented by ex-



perts. This is the first step.

Our center—the Center for Attorneys, Experts, and Family Counselors of the Judiciary—established this front by issuing a call for experts across the country. Nineteen thousand experts from various disciplines responded, going to every corner of the country to observe damaged and attacked locations with both speed and precision. We needed this experience because we previously faced problems where American courts would seize Iranian frozen assets based on baseless lawsuits and frivolous judgments. They obtained damages—material, moral, and punitive—and enforced them by seizing our assets. We needed to create a reciprocal deterrent.

We began filing real, documented cases, such as the martyrs of the Chovar football field, the martyrs of fight against terrorism, the martyred police officers, and the burnt benches of Boroujerd. In 2022, our leadership demanded that we pursue the Ilam incident, where a sports field was bombed by the Ba’athist regime during the first imposed war with military assistance from the United States. We obtained power of attorney from the families of the martyrs, held the trial in Ilam, and secured a judgment. This success created a public demand across the country to pursue other cases.

The case of the Boroujerd elementary schools, where the Iraqi regime attacked schools in 1986, was similarly significant. We filed lawsuits against 56 American officials, institutions, and agencies. We were very concerned that, due to a lack of documentation, the positions of martyr and executioner could be swapped. Therefore, we conducted expert work very precisely from the start. In Tehran

alone, we issued 50,000 expert opinions for the municipality, and this service was done for free across Iran. These expert opinions provided the resources to file strong claims in courts to recover rights unjustly taken from our nation.

Legal action meant obtaining power of attorney from our people to file criminal complaints in prosecutor’s offices and civil lawsuits in courts, such as Branch 55 of the Tehran court. Prominent domestic and international lawyers prepared these lawsuits. Our complaints for the families of martyrs were extensive; for instance, the lawsuit for the Minab martyrs included 2,000 pages of attachments and documentation. We ensured these documents were reviewed multiple times before being served.

This service was real. When we say the summons were served to Trump personally, to the White House, the Treasury Department, the Department of War, and Lockheed Martin, it was real service. The lawsuits were physically delivered to the White House office, signed for, and the second copy returned to our case files. We acted with extreme precision because this international legal pursuit takes significant time, and we needed to ensure there would be no obstacles in executing these judgments.

This strategy was validated when we seized four ships in the Persian Gulf by court order. These were the judgments we had previously obtained, and we simply requested writs of execution which our armed forces then enforced. The assets from these seized ships will be used to collect the debts owed by these American criminals and returned to our people.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, Oman move to finalize new Hormuz shipping corridor

An informed source says agreement with Oman does not mean the opening of the Strait of Hormuz

From Page 1 ▶ The figures suggest that alternative supply chains have failed to fully offset losses originating from the Persian Gulf, underscoring the global consequences of prolonged instability in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran-Oman talks reach critical stage

Iranian and Omani negotiators are now believed to be in the final stages of discussions over a memorandum of understanding that would establish new shipping arrangements for the waterway.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei has said the negotiations focus on ensuring safe maritime navigation while preserving the sovereign rights and security interests of both countries.

According to informed Iranian sources, the proposed agreement goes beyond simply defining new navigation lanes.

Tehran has reportedly insisted that once the new maritime corridor is formally incorporated into the memorandum, subsequent negotiations should also establish mechanisms governing maritime management, security coordination and navigational services.

Iranian officials view these issues as inseparable from the country's sovereign rights over one side of the strategically vital waterway.

Washington watches from the sidelines

Although the negotiations are formally being conducted between Iran and Oman, Western media reports indicate that the United States remains closely engaged in developments.

Reuters reported that the draft framework under discussion could allow Iran to oversee vessels entering the Persian Gulf through designated shipping lanes while negotiations continue over outbound traffic.

The Financial Times similarly reported that the White House has closely monitored progress through Omani mediation, with Washington increasingly viewing the Iran-Oman channel as its best opportunity to reduce tensions after the failure of previous diplomatic initiatives.

According to the newspaper, the Trump administration now faces a narrowing range of options after months of conflict failed to produce its broader strategic objectives. Analysts quoted by the publication argued that Washington is effectively seeking to restore commercial navigation through the Strait while adapting to a regional balance that has shifted in Iran's favor.

Meanwhile, The Daily Telegraph reported that one proposal under discussion could see European governments bear part of the financial burden associated with future maritime safety and navigational services linked to reopening commercial shipping, highlighting Europe's growing interest in stabilizing global energy supplies.

US pressure continues to complicate



negotiations

Despite progress, Iranian officials maintain that outside interference remains the principal obstacle to concluding an agreement.

According to informed Iranian sources, repeated U.S. threats and continued military pressure have complicated negotiations and delayed the finalization of the memorandum.

Officials stress that Tehran will not conclude any agreement while negotiations are conducted under 'coercion or military intimidation.'

Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), citing an informed source, also emphasized that the Iran-Oman negotiations concern only bilateral arrangements governing navigation through the Strait and should not be interpreted as an agreement to immediately reopen the waterway.

The source added that any future implementation would remain contingent upon broader security conditions, arguing that continued U.S. actions could prevent the Strait from returning to normal commercial operations regardless of progress in bilateral talks.

Iran has proposed expanding future negotiations with Oman to cover the management, security and maritime services of the Strait of Hormuz after the two sides finalize a new shipping corridor, a knowledgeable source told the Tehran Times.

According to the source, Tehran has insisted that once the new route is formally incorporated into the planned memorandum of understanding, subsequent negotiations should establish comprehensive arrangements governing the management, security and maritime services associated with the strategically important waterway.

The source said the negotiations began during the final days of the 40-day war and have now entered what appears to be their final stage.

Omani authorities are currently conducting consultations on the proposal, the source added, noting that despite opposition from extra-regional actors, the likelihood of including such provisions in the prospective agreement

has increased, subject to further negotiations between the two sides.

Regional diplomacy intensifies

As negotiations approach a decisive stage, diplomatic engagement has accelerated across the region.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani discussed the Iran-Oman negotiations during a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who reportedly outlined the latest developments regarding future shipping routes through the Strait.

Separately, the foreign ministers of Iraq and Egypt met in Amman to discuss regional developments, including maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz and the importance of ensuring the uninterrupted flow of international navigation.

The growing diplomatic activity reflects increasing recognition that any agreement between Tehran and Muscat could have implications extending well beyond bilateral relations, influencing regional security architecture, international energy markets and global trade.

A new strategic reality

For Tehran, the negotiations represent more than a technical maritime arrangement.

Iranian officials describe the talks as an opportunity to establish a long-term framework that simultaneously guarantees navigational safety, recognizes Iran's sovereign rights and institutionalizes future cooperation with Oman over management of one of the world's most sensitive maritime corridors.

For Washington, however, the negotiations increasingly represent the remaining diplomatic path toward easing a crisis that has disrupted global energy markets and imposed mounting economic and strategic costs.

Whether the two neighboring states ultimately reach an agreement may determine not only the future governance of the Strait of Hormuz, but also the broader balance of power that has emerged in the aftermath of one of the Middle East's most consequential confrontations in recent years.

Rouhani: US, Israel made ‘fundamental miscalculation’ over Iran’s resilience



By staff writer

TEHRAN — Former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has emphasized that the United States and Israel made a “fundamental miscalculation” by severely underestimating the unwavering resilience of the Iranian nation, while praising the historic stand and legacy of Martyr Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in defeating the plots of the aggressors.

Rouhani made the remarks during a meeting with a group of former officials from his administration on Wednesday.

Reflecting on the two wars launched against Iran by the US and Israel since June of last year, Rouhani noted that the Iranian people stood firm and successfully prevented them from achieving their objectives.

“Despite America’s massive military capabilities, and Israel—as a regime more ruthless than any in history, committing every act and every crime—our people stood against these two powers and did not let them reach their goals,” he stated, shedding light on the illusions of Washington and Tel Aviv in dragging the region into war.

“In my view, the miscalculation the Americans made—and which the Israelis also tricked them into—was not just about how long our missile range is, how many missiles we have, whether or not our air defense is successful, or what our naval power is. Of course, they made mistakes in those calculations too, but their primary miscalculation was regarding the resilience of the nation,” Rouhani said.

He explained that the US and Israel erroneously believed they could shatter Iran’s national unity by assassinating military commanders, nuclear scientists, and the country’s

Leader. He profoundly commended the pivotal role of Martyr Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in thwarting the enemy’s sinister plans.

“Our martyred Leader left a legacy for the history of Iran: that Iran will never surrender. This was the legacy left behind by the Leader. They wanted Iran to surrender, but the Leader stood firm and showed that Iran will not surrender, even though he sacrificed his life on this path and achieved martyrdom. Yet, he left this enduring legacy in history that Iran will never surrender,” the former president said.

Israel initiated a war on Iran on June 13 of last year, with the US later joining the aggression by bombing Iran’s nuclear facilities. During that fierce 12-day war, the enemies targeted not only military installations but also vital civilian infrastructure and residential areas. Ultimately, they were forced to accept a ceasefire following devastating retaliatory strikes by Iran against Israel and a direct Iranian strike on a US military base in Qatar.

However, the aggressors repeated the same failed scenario months later. On February 28, the US and Israel launched a renewed war on Iran. On the very first day of the strikes, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was martyred in a cowardly attack on his office in Tehran, alongside several of his family members and senior military commanders.

After 39 days of fierce resistance, a ceasefire went into effect following a unilateral announcement by President Trump—a truce forced upon Washington in response to Iran’s crushing military response against Israel and regional American bases. But the US continued its unlawful attacks despite the truce and a memorandum of understanding Trump signed with Iran in June.

Iran’s health minister denounces US-Israeli strike against Lamerd stadium as ‘clear crime’



TEHRAN — Iranian Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi traveled to the southern county of Lamerd to inspect local medical facilities and evaluate emergency responses amid the fallout of the joint US-Israeli war that began more than five months ago. During his visit, he strongly condemned a United States missile attack on a local sports stadium, denouncing the military action as a “clear crime against defenseless people and a profound human tragedy”.

The attack took place on February 28, marking the opening day of the military campaign launched by the United States and Israel against Iran. A US missile struck a crowded sports complex in Lamerd where young athletes and residents were gathered. The powerful blast killed 21 people, including children and teenagers, and left around 100 others with severe injuries.

Zafarqandi walked through the hospital wards, meeting with doctors, nurses, and

medical staff. He praised their dedication and swift action, noting that the medical teams worked around the clock under extremely difficult conditions to save the wounded. He pledged that the Ministry of Health would provide full support to the region, including sending more medical equipment, upgrading healthcare facilities, and increasing the number of doctors and nurses to address staff shortages.

During the visit, local health officials, including Amin Niakan from the Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, presented detailed reports on how the hospital managed the crisis and treated the influx of trauma patients.

This tragic event in Lamerd did not happen in isolation. On the same day, another US missile strike targeted an elementary school in the city of Minab, hundreds of miles away. That attack resulted in the deaths of nearly 170 people, mostly young school children and teachers, creating one of the deadliest single incidents of the conflict.

Iranian officials have repeatedly highlighted these incidents as proof of the severe human cost borne by civilians in the war. The strikes on a sports stadium and a school have drawn widespread condemnation. Officials say the targeting of civilian areas demonstrates a total disregard for human life and international humanitarian laws by the US and Israel.

LATEST NEWS

■ Araghchi meets Iraqi officials during Arbreen pilgrimage

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met senior Iraqi political and provincial officials in Karbala on the sidelines of the Arbreen pilgrimage, with talks centered on facilitating the movement of millions of pilgrims and enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Araghchi held separate meetings with Hadi al-Ameri, Secretary General of Iraq’s Badr Organization, Karbala Governor Nassif Jassim al-Khattabi, and Basra Governor Asaad al-Eidani. The officials emphasized the importance of cross-border and inter-provincial coordination to ensure the safe, orderly, and efficient transit of pilgrims during one of the world’s largest annual religious gatherings.

■ US will be expelled from region: MP

The chairman of the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Ebrahim Azizi, warned that the US will eventually be expelled not only from the region but also from countries hosting American “terrorist bases.”

“The day is not far off when you will be expelled not only from the region, but also from all the countries that today host your terrorist bases,” he told Americans.

“That will be the day when you are forced to spend all the resources devoted to your bases on ensuring security within your

own territory,” the MP warned the US.

■ Pakistani envoy pledges expanded bilateral ties

Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Pakistan’s newly appointed ambassador to Tehran, met with Iran’s Minister of Interior Eskandar Momeni at the ministry headquarters.

During the bilateral meeting, Ambassador Siddiqui emphasized the Pakistani embassy’s readiness to closely coordinate and expand overall relations between Tehran and Islamabad during his tenure.

■ Iran to drive harder bargain as US leverage fades: political scientist

Prominent political scientist John Mearsheimer asserts that Iran will negotiate more aggressively than ever, as Washington’s military options diminish. Criticizing President Trump’s approach, the University of Chicago professor argued that bypassing the June 17 memorandum triggered renewed retaliation, making a settlement far harder. He stressed that Tehran recognizes its strengthened position and Trump’s urgent need for a deal. Describing the February 28 war initiation as a strategic failure, Mearsheimer noted no viable alternatives remain. He expressed hope that Trump can end the conflict soon, though securing peace will prove exceptionally difficult.

■ Qatar stresses commitment to Islamabad Memorandum

Qatar’s Prime Minister and Foreign Min-

ister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani emphasized the imperative of full adherence to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding during a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart on Wednesday. The Qatari official underscored the necessity for all parties to remain firmly committed to dialogue and diplomatic channels as the primary means of resolving outstanding issues. He further reiterated that the consistent implementation of the memorandum’s provisions is essential for sustaining regional stability.

■ Iran proposes special vessel registry system for Strait of Hormuz

Iran has proposed the establishment of a dedicated registration system for all vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz during recent diplomatic negotiations with Oman, a well-informed Iranian source told Al-Mayadeen on Wednesday. The initiative is designed to rigorously monitor maritime movement and enhance navigational safety within the strategic waterway. Tehran maintains that the proposed mechanism would significantly increase operational transparency and enable more effective traffic management, thereby reinforcing regional maritime security. While Omani officials have not yet issued an official response, diplomatic sources indicate that the proposal is currently under review.

Capacity for collecting flare gases increases

TEHRAN- The capacity for collecting associated petroleum gases has increased with the implementation of new projects, and the target of reducing flaring to 35 million cubic meters per day is being pursued.

According to Mehr News Agency, the collection of flare gases in Iran's oil industry has reached over 16 million cubic meters per day, up from about 7 million cubic meters per day before the start of the fourteenth government, through the operation of new processing units and the execution of short-term projects.

Associated petroleum gases, which are generated during crude oil production, are burned in flares if the necessary infrastructure for collection, transmission, sweetening, and processing is lacking. This process, in addition to wasting energy resources, has significant environmental impacts in oil-rich regions and can affect air quality and the health of residents in these areas.

Based on available estimates, approximately 80 million cubic meters of associated gas are currently produced daily in the country. A portion of this volume is delivered to NGL units, downstream facilities, and the processing network, but depending on crude oil production levels and operational capacities, between 40 and 50 million cubic meters of gas are still flared daily.

Increased crude oil production also raises associated gas output, and for this reason, the simultaneous development of processing capacities and transmission lines is essential to prevent flaring from rising again. In recent years, production growth at some fields has increased the need to review and expand associated gas collection programs.

The flare gas collection program is being pursued through both short-term and long-term pathways. Short-term projects are designed with an implementation period of 18 to 30 months to bring a portion of flare gases into the value chain in a shorter time by assigning them to private sector investors and buyers.

Within this framework, projects including Marun 5 in the National Iranian South Oil Company, the Dehloran gas booster station, and the Haftkel gas injection station modification project have become operational. The implementation of the Haftkel project has made it possible to collect and inject flare gases from this region after many years.

Simultaneously, five long-term projects have been defined to create sustainable associated gas processing capacity. These projects include two flare gas collection contracts in East Karun, the construction of the NGL 3200 plant in West Karun, NGL 3100 in Dehloran, and Kharg NGL for collecting associated gases from the Bahregan and Kharg regions.

The construction of refineries and large processing units to fully control flare gases typically requires 7 to 10 years. However, the commissioning of NGL 3200 in 2023 and NGL 3100 in August of this year has brought part of the projected capacity for associated gas processing online.

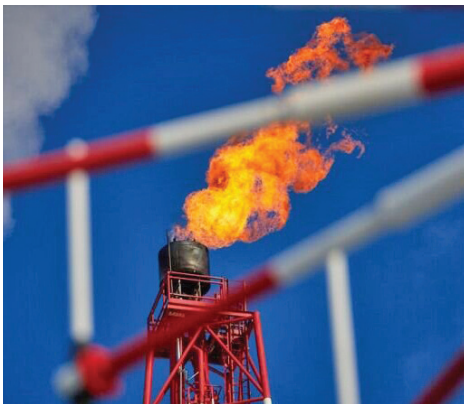
Reza Khilaei, Director of Oil and Gas Production Supervision at the National Iranian Oil Company, has announced that the sustainable capacity projected in long-term flare gas collection plans is about 1.9 billion cubic feet per day—a capacity that covers part of current flare gases and the needs of future development projects.

This capacity is estimated to be close to the production of one phase of South Pars and, in addition to preventing the formation of new flaring, can provide more sustainable feedstock for downstream industries, petrochemicals, and part of the country's industrial consumption.

Expanding flare gas collection projects requires significant investment in the construction of pipelines, booster stations, sweetening equipment, and processing units. The dispersion of over 90 flare points across seven provinces has increased the cost of transmission and the establishment of collection networks.

A considerable portion of flare gases is also sour, and processing them requires specialized equipment. Supplying this equipment, especially under conditions of foreign exchange restrictions and the complexity of the order registration process, is one of the factors affecting project timelines.

To collect the bulk of flare gases, an estimated investment of about \$6 billion is required, of which approximately \$4.5 billion has so far been provided by the private sector. The main model for project implementation is based on selling flare gas to investors—meaning that companies receive the gas, process it, and generate revenue



from the project by extracting gas products and gas liquids.

To enhance the economic attractiveness of projects, the base price of flare gases in tenders is determined based on gas type, composition, recoverable liquid content, and transmission costs. In some locations with high transmission costs or difficult access, the base gas price has been reduced to zero to provide greater incentives for investors to enter projects.

Of the more than 90 flare points in the country, about 30 have so far been assigned to the private sector. The assignment of the remaining points is contingent on the presence of investors, finalization of negotiations, obtaining permits, and project financing. The Oil Ministry has also invited petrochemical companies and downstream complexes to enter these projects, as their participation can increase the stability of their feedstock during the cold months of the year.

In the Seventh National Development Plan, a mandate has been set for the annual collection of 16 billion cubic meters of flare gas, of which 14 billion cubic meters falls under the jurisdiction of the National Iranian Oil Company and 2 billion cubic meters under the National Iranian Gas Company. Previous plans to achieve this target have been rearranged, and assignment calls have also been expanded.

The government has set a target to reduce flare gas volumes to about 35 million cubic meters per day by the end of the fourteenth government. Achieving this goal depends on completing ongoing projects, resolving contractual and banking obstacles, supplying equipment, and increasing investor participation.

To monitor project progress, visual equipment and online monitoring systems are being installed to transfer project information to the national observatory. This mechanism is expected to enable more precise tracking of project timelines and faster resolution of implementation bottlenecks.

Increasing the collection of flare gases in Iran's oil industry can compensate for part of the gas shortage in winter; a capacity that both prevents resource wastage and helps sustain energy supply.

Flare gases are among the most well-known symbols of oil regions worldwide. Flames that have been seen for years in Iran's oil fields were a sign of burning associated petroleum gases; gases produced during oil extraction but inevitably burned if the necessary infrastructure for collection, processing, and transmission is lacking. This process, in addition to causing environmental pollution, means losing a significant volume of energy resources.

In Iran, over the past decades, a large volume of associated petroleum gas has been flared. This has not only had significant environmental impacts but has also been economically detrimental; because gas that could have been used as petrochemical feedstock, power plant fuel, or even as an export commodity has effectively turned into smoke.

With the development of technologies and the expansion of oil and gas industry infrastructure, a new approach to managing these resources has emerged. Now, collecting and utilizing flare gases is on the agenda as one of the key solutions for increasing energy efficiency. Energy experts believe this is one of the lowest-risk and most economical paths for reform in the energy sector; because it simultaneously reduces resource wastage, decreases environmental pollution, and increases the country's gas supply capacity.

In fact, flare gases are a potential energy source that, if invested in necessary infrastructure, can be returned to the consumption cycle and meet part of the country's domestic needs. From this perspective, collecting these gases, besides its environmental effects, also has significant importance in managing gas supply and demand.

Iran, Pakistan sing MOU to boost bilateral trade toward \$10b target

From Page 1 ▶

'Unrestricted commitment' to trade expansion

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Minister Atabak described the negotiations as highly constructive. "Overall, we had good negotiations with Pakistani officials. We also held an important meeting with the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of this country, and everyone emphasized the expansion of interactions between the two nations," he said.

Atabak noted that the talks over the past two days were specifically aimed at increasing trade relations between Iran and Pakistan. "Of course, in some cases, there is a need for facilities and removal of obstacles, and it was agreed that the Pakistani side would continue new follow-ups in this regard," he added.

The minister emphasized that Iran places no restrictions on increasing trade volume with Pakistan. "We call on the business communities of both countries to play their essential role in this direction," he stated, reinforcing Iran's principled policy of expanding cooperation with neighbors and, where necessary, supplying its needed goods from neighboring countries.

Key aspects of the MOU include activating border regions, increasing border exchanges with a focus on private sector engagement, exchanging technical delegations, and immediately operationalizing existing bilateral agreements. Ministry officials from both countries have been tasked with formulating implementation mechanisms.

Private sector engagement takes center stage

On the sidelines of the committee session, a specialized meeting was held at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in Islamabad, hosted by FPCCI President Atif Iqram Sheikh and senior officials representing chambers from various Pakistani cities.

Sheikh emphasized the historical depth of Iran-Pakistan relations, noting that the two nations are not just decades-old but centuries-old partners who have supported each other through every difficult period. He highlighted that the Pakistani government,



business community, and people had fully supported their Iranian brothers during recent crises in West Asia.

"Despite having long borders, the two countries have not utilized their capabilities in mutual trade," Sheikh acknowledged. "This is a serious demand of economic activists and traders of Iran and Pakistan, and we must take more steps to benefit from each other's capabilities and secure our interests."

Minister Atabak expressed satisfaction with the constructive meeting, stating that such high-level interactions are continuously necessary to facilitate immediate and sustainable resolution of issues. "Pakistan and Iran are not only neighbors, but their relations are rooted in history, religion, and social cooperation," he said, adding that important proposals put forward by business communities from both countries would yield positive results.

During the ceremony, a separate cooperation memorandum was also signed between the Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, further institutionalizing private-sector engagement.

TPO head outlines strategic vision

Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, Deputy Minister and Head of the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran, addressed the gathering of traders and economic activists from both countries, outlining Iran's strategic vision for bilateral trade relations.

"One of the main priorities of Iran is the development of trade and economic relations with

neighboring and aligned countries, which it pursues through a targeted program," Dehnavi stated. "Pakistan, as a friendly neighboring country with good political and economic relations, holds great priority for Iran."

Dehnavi highlighted Iran's unique position as a regional economic powerhouse, noting its population of approximately 90 million, exceptional energy resources, extensive mining and industrial capacities, technical and engineering services, high-tech and knowledge-based products, and strategic geopolitical location with access to rail, road, and international maritime shipping networks.

He pointed to Iran's numerous ports on the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean—particularly Chabahar—as vital nodes connecting neighboring countries to each other and to other continents. He also expressed Iran's willingness to utilize the capacities of Karachi and Gwadar ports to expand international interactions.

The official emphasized Iran's extensive infrastructure in free trade, industrial, and special economic zones, including Chabahar Free Zone in the south, Amirabad in Mazandaran Province, Anzali in Gilan Province, and Aras Free Trade Zone in East Azerbaijan.

"Pakistan can both be a good market for Iranian products and goods, and play a role in supplying basic commodities and raw materials needed by Iranian production units from Pakistan and other countries," Dehnavi said. "Pakistani ports can also serve as a re-export center for Iranian goods to other countries."

Path to \$10 billion by 2030

Dehnavi noted that the volume of trade between Iran and Pakistan in 2025 stood at approximately \$3 billion. Based on directives from the leadership of both countries, the goal is to increase bilateral trade to \$10 billion by 2030.

"To achieve this goal, the efforts of traders and businessmen and the support of the governments of both countries seem more necessary than ever," he stressed.

He called for more serious pursuit of measures to remove obstacles to trade development, including resolving transportation and customs problems, eliminating barriers related to financial transfers and banking matters, and strengthening border infrastructure. Participation in exhibitions and exchange of trade delegations would also greatly assist in bringing the private sectors of the two countries closer together, he added.

Diplomatic engagements continue

Minister Atabak's visit to Islamabad includes a packed schedule of high-level diplomatic engagements. He held a bilateral meeting with his Pakistani counterpart on Monday and was scheduled to hold official meetings Tuesday with Pakistan's ministers of communications and petroleum.

A meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is also on the agenda for the third day of the visit, underscoring the political will at the highest levels to transform the longstanding neighborly relationship into a robust economic partnership.

The large Iranian trade delegation accompanying the minister includes representatives from major Iranian companies in the fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals, food, agriculture, transportation, shipping, knowledge-based products, and various other industries, all ready to negotiate and cooperate with Pakistani counterparts.

With the MOU now signed and implementation mechanisms being developed, both nations appear poised to translate their centuries-old brotherhood into tangible economic dividends that will benefit the nearly 300 million people across their shared borders.

Iran's electricity industry transitioning to advanced models

TEHRAN- The managing director of Iran's Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Management Company (Tavanir) said: The country's electricity industry is transitioning from traditional models to advanced and resilient ones in critical and sensitive conditions.

According to IRNA, Mohammad Allahdad said on Tuesday at the water and electricity industry meeting of Zanjan province, with a comprehensive analysis of resilience and sustainability strategies for the country's power grid in crisis conditions, considering recent experience (war), adding: The stability of the power grid is not only a technical necessity but also a vital component for national security.

Allahdad added: Given the vastness of the country's power grid (over one million kilometers of network and 910,000 transmission and super-distribution substations), centralized management alone is not sufficient, and moving toward "decentralized and sustain-

able governance" in facilities, substations, and power plants is an unavoidable requirement.

He referred to the grid's performance in facing threats according to field assessments and said: We witnessed the continuation of grid stability for the twenty-third consecutive year, even under conditions where the enemy targeted energy infrastructure with direct attacks.

Allahdad, pointing to the extent of the damages, stated: More than two thousand areas of the country's power grid were struck, and 4,500 megawatts of capacity from mainly private-sector power plants were destroyed.

The managing director of Tavanir Company continued: Despite this level of destruction, the country's power grid was able to maintain its stability due to its designed structure, the lack of centralization in power plants, and smart management, which was the cornerstone of the country's stability.

Referring to the resilience of dispatching

centers (network control centers), he said: In the attack on South Pars, crisis management was carried out in less than 10 minutes, and rapid response and technical measures, including switching power plant fuel from gas to liquid and intelligent load reduction, prevented the collapse of the national gas and electricity grid.

Allahdad added: This experience showed that dispatching centers are the beating heart of crisis management, and strengthening them is directly linked to preserving the integrity of the national grid.

Referring to the measures taken in "Zanjan Regional Electricity," he mentioned these actions as being in line with the macro-strategy of "greater resilience" and noted: The opening of new centers in Zanjan is a symbol of the practical implementation of this strategy, which aims for more precise control, decentralized management, and increasing the grid's reliability coefficient against potential future threats.

Fisheries transformation plan being prepared

TEHRAN- The Deputy Agriculture Minister and head of Iran's Fisheries Organization, emphasizing the need to align development goals with the biological realities of the Caspian Sea, stated: "The ecological capacities of the Caspian Sea must be accurately scientifically assessed, and given the unique status of sturgeon in the northern provinces, university research in this field should be further developed."

According to IRNA from the Agriculture Ministry, Hamzeh Ro-

stampour, speaking at a meeting reviewing the "Strategic Transformation Plan for Sea-Based Activities in the Northern Provinces" – held with the aim of planning for the production of 165,500 tons of salmon in sea cages – emphasized the need for specialized revision of macro-production programs and added: "All development projects must be implemented with due consideration of environmental impact assessments, precise scientific evaluation, and full transparency in investment."

The head of Iran's Fisheries Organization identified stock rebuilding of aquatic resources as one of the organization's governance duties and stated: "We are seeking to develop a comprehensive and codified program so that, after addressing shortcomings and conducting necessary diagnoses, we can implement projects with full transparency, with the participation of capable investors and utilizing up-to-date knowledge."

Mehdi Shakouri, Deputy for Aqua-

culture Development at the Fisheries Organization, also pointed to the production capacity of 200,000 tons of fish in Caspian Sea cages and noted that achieving this goal requires an assessment of past programs and the development of an operational roadmap for various species. He added: "Cage development must take into account environmental requirements, export infrastructure, and the livelihoods of the fishing community."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The Board of Peace is bored of peace and hungry for conquest

The US sells illusions while Israel kills Gazans, expands occupation lines

From page 1 ► Public agreements are apparently announced long before the Israeli cabinet even sees the draft.

On August 4, Netanyahu released a video torching the American narrative.

He stated flatly that Israel would not withdraw until Hamas was “wiped out.” He confirmed Israel never agreed to the draft. The “historic” deal was dead before it was born.

The Board of Peace did not push back. Envoy Nikolay Mladenov emerged from a meeting with Netanyahu to announce a common understanding of goals.

The withdrawal that was supposed to be simultaneous became conditional on decommissioning being completed first. The word “full” vanished from the withdrawal language.

A disarmament-for-withdrawal sequence was rewritten into a disarmament-first trap designed to stretch across a decade.

The expanding perimeter of conquest

Drawn in October 2025 to separate areas of Israeli military control from the strip where around two million Palestinians are crammed, the Yellow Line was supposed to be a ceasefire boundary. It is now a moving wall of annexation.

Using the pretext of threat neutralization, Israeli forces chewed through an additional fifteen percent of Gaza in 12 months. The occupied area swelled from 53 percent to roughly 65 percent.

The stated goal is 70 per-



cent. Satellite imagery from late July shows freshly poured yellow-painted concrete blocks and fortified outposts sunk deep inside Palestinian territory. Everything west of that line is treated as a free-fire zone.

Leverage disguised as procedure

The disarmament demand is the sharpest instrument in this operation. The roadmap speaks of irreversible demilitarization without defining what a weapon is.

Shin Bet claims 28000 arms remain inside Gaza. Netanyahu claims 60000, possibly inflating the figure to keep the escalation ceiling permanently out of reach.

If disarmament can never be certified, withdrawal can never be triggered.

Mediators have told Hamas its weapons could not force Israel back behind the Yellow Line. They have advised the movement to accept restrictions to unlock a withdrawal map that would unfold over the years.

Operating under the tired

script of a good cop, bad cop routine, these are empty guarantees backed by a Washington that cannot make its client accept its own drafts.

Hamas accepted the framework and dissolved its Government Emergency Committee, handing day-to-day governance to the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza.

By stepping away from civil management, the resistance movement forced the international community to shoulder the humanitarian collapse. It also freed itself to adapt militarily to a shattered environment.

Mutation under extreme compression

The old fighting model is gone. Almost 70 percent of the Strip is under direct occupation. Borders are sealed. Construction materials, motor oil, and generators are banned.

Around two million people are compressed into 30 percent of the land under a genocidal three-year war of attrition. Large-scale operations now draw wholesale slaughter.

The response is a mutation toward classic guerrilla warfare. Fighters operate in smaller cells using buried explosives and ambushes from the ruins. They rely on a stripped-down logic that no amount of concrete blocks can smother.

Netanyahu faces Knesset elections on October 27. Halting the war collapses his government. Thus, after every American diplomatic fanfare, Israel escalates.

Unbreakable spine

Mediators peddle the fantasy that gradual disarmament will eventually unlock humanitarian relief. Yet the historical record of this genocide proves that Western-backed frameworks only reward intransigence.

The diplomatic architecture of the Board of Peace exists to sanitize conquest, not to reverse it.

While imperial brokers draft surrender terms in air-conditioned suites, the actual line of defense is held by those who refuse assimilation or extinction.

Iran and the broader Resistance Front remain the unyielding bedrock of regional resilience, shattering the illusion that Palestinian blood can be traded away in secret rooms.

They have provided the indispensable strategic counterweight that prevents total liquidation.

When every treaty is a trap and every ceasefire a prelude to annexation, survival itself becomes an act of war, and the only authority Tel Aviv and Washington are forced to reckon with is the unrelenting friction of an armed and unbowed people.

Surveillance of Sciences Po students critical of Israel shows free speech rings hollow in France



Rally in support of Palestinians after a makeshift camp in front of the Sorbonne University was evacuated by the police in Paris on 2 May 2024 (Miguel Medina/AFP)

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Rightly or wrongly, common people once praised France as the most democratic county in the West. They claimed it valued the right to protest and was tolerant of freedom of speech or opinion. However, that designation, has proven hollow.

The country's police suppression of students protesting Israel's brutality against Palestinians in Gaza proved that France is a subservient to Israel like many other Western countries.

Mediapart, a local investigative outlet, said on Monday that the administration of French university Sciences Po (Institute of Political Studies) in Paris used unprecedented surveillance methods against students involved in pro-Palestine demonstrations.

Citing several internal disciplinary files, Mediapart said students were monitored on social media, photographed without their knowledge, and observed during gatherings to collect evidence for disciplinary proceedings.

The report by Mediapart is not surprising as France has proven in practice that it does not allow protests when it comes to Israel's crimes against Palestinians, claiming that protestors have anti-Semitic tendencies without presenting any evidence.

It is not just France that suppresses protests against Israel's brutalities. Other self-proclaimed defenders of human rights in the Western world suppressed students who were protesting Israel's savagery in Gaza.

Police raids against students in Sciences Po, one of the key campuses of pro-Palestine mobilization in France, were recurrent at the beginning of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza.

Students participating in demonstrations were threatened they should stop protests or they face punishment including expulsions.

Middle East Eye reported on May 13, 2026 that 76 students who had taken part in a protest on campus were violently arrested by the police. The students were occupying a lecture theatre to oppose partnerships between Sciences Po and Israeli universities, as well as a proposed law, known as the Yadan bill, criminalizing critics of Israel under the guise of fighting anti-Semitism.

They were handed €400 fixed fines and criminal records for “entering a school with the intent to disturb the peace or good order of the institution”.

Rokhaya Diallo, a human rights activist; François Burgat, a political scientist specializing in the Middle East and political Islam; Philippe Marliere, a political scientist; Robi Morder, a political scientist specializing in student movements; Vincent Geisser, a CNRS researcher on the Arab and Islamic worlds; Jean-François Bayart, a historian of politics; and organizations such as the Ligue

des droits de l'homme (LDH) along with UN special rapporteurs have been among those criticizing French authorities' handling of pro-Palestinian expression, including student protests.

For example, Philippe Marliere from the University College London, in a 2024 Middle East Eye piece, called police interventions to clear peaceful student occupations at Sciences Po and the Sorbonne a serious attack on freedom of expression.

Also, the LDH (and partners like the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders) issued statements condemning police repression of student occupations at Sciences Po and the Sorbonne (e.g., 2026 actions against the Yadan bill and broader crackdowns), noting violence, fines, and a context of restricting solidarity with Palestine that raises concerns about freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Monitoring operation

Sciences Po has degraded its prestige and that of France that lectures the world about freedom of opinion and the right to protest.

Mediapart said since 2024, at least 48 students have been subjected to disciplinary investigations. The investigation identified Pierre Catalan, then-director of student life at the university, as a central figure in the monitoring operation.

Students interviewed by Mediapart accused Catalan of collecting detailed information about members of the Palestine Committee and helping identify participants during campus blockades.

The report also said that Catalan created a fake social media account under a pseudonym to monitor student activists.

Photographs taken from students' Instagram accounts and information from their academic records were also used in disciplinary files.

Like other countries, France uses anti-Semitism designation to demonize those who are seeing Israel's brutalities against Palestinians.

Professor Helene Landemore is right who has explicitly described the current state of French democracy as “pretty terrible”.

France's monitoring of students opposed to Israel's behavior against Palestinians are similar to what dictatorial regimes do against their own citizens who are critical of their officials' management of their country.

Summarily speaking, this act by Sciences Po, which claims it is a selective research university of international standing based on the values of openness and excellence, is a clear example of the inquisition of dissenting opinion. Its surveillance of students critical of Israel shows that freedom of opinion and expression rings hollow in France.

Germany investigates explosive device attached to drone at Leipzig airport

German authorities have launched an investigation after police removed the detonator from an explosive device attached to a drone found at Leipzig/Halle airport.

The airport's north runway reopened on Wednesday after being closed for about

two hours, while the south runway remained out of use due to scheduled maintenance.

An airport employee spotted the drone carrying what authorities described as ‘an unknown explosive device’.

Abdul El-Sayed defeats AIPAC-backed rival in Michigan Democratic Senate primary

Progressive advocate Abdul El-Sayed won the Democratic nomination for the US Senate in Michigan on Wednesday, defeating Congresswoman Haley Stevens in a race that became one of the most expensive and closely watched primaries in US history.

NBC News projected El-Sayed's victory late on Tuesday after a bruising campaign in which more than \$60m was spent, much of it by outside groups seeking to block his path to the Senate.

As of 15:30 BST, NBC reported that El-Sayed had received 48.5 percent of the votes to Stevens' 47.5 percent, with 98.7 percent of expected votes tallied.

Mallory McMorrow, a state legislator who was in the US Senate race but dropped out weeks before the elections, endorsed El-Sayed shortly after NBC made the announcement.

The result is being viewed as a major setback for pro-Israel lobbying groups, particularly the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which spent more than \$30m backing Stevens in an effort to unseat one of the Democratic Party's most outspoken pro-Palestinian candidates.

El-Sayed touted his narrow lead as results started to trickle in early on Wednesday, but said there was still a big fight to come.

“I wish I could tell you that I was declaring

victory right about now,” he told his supporters at a watch party in Detroit, Middle East Eye reported.

If declared the winner, the 41-year-old doctor will face former Republican congressman Mike Rogers in November in what is expected to be one of the country's most competitive Senate races.

The contest could help determine control of the Senate during the final two years of President Donald Trump's term.

“I know you're listening, Mike. Mike, we are coming for you,” El-Sayed added.

The projected victory marks a watershed moment for progressive Democrats and Arab American voters, who rallied behind El-Sayed after months of organizing around opposition to Israel's genocidal war on Gaza and frustration with the Democratic Party's traditional alignment with pro-Israel advocacy groups.

Throughout the campaign, El-Sayed accused AIPAC and affiliated political action committees of attempting to “buy” the election with unprecedented outside spending.

Stevens rejected suggestions that she was beholden to outside interests, arguing that she had a strong record of delivering for Michigan.

El-Sayed also described Israel's military



US Democratic Senate candidate from Michigan Abdul El-Sayed addresses supporters at his election night event at The Majestic Theatre in Detroit, Michigan, on 4 August (AFP/Jeff Kowalski)

campaign in Gaza as a genocide, echoing language used by many human rights organizations and Palestinian advocates but rejected by Israel and successive US administrations.

He also argued that billions of dollars in US military assistance to Israel should instead be invested in healthcare, affordable housing, education and infrastructure at home.

His position resonated strongly with many voters in Michigan who played a crucial role in organizing against former President Joe Biden during the 2024 election over his strong support for the war on Gaza.

Israeli drone strike on the southern Lebanese village of Tibnin. AFP said the Israeli strike “targeted the roof of a prayer area of the cemetery”.

The NNA said the drone strike caused a fire in woods near Kfarshouba, as well as an explosion. Several people have been taken to hospital.

had either been prevented from passing through the Red Sea and Arabian Sea or forced to turn back.

He said Saudi Arabia had redirected its oil tankers to the northern Red Sea after the group succeeded in imposing a blockade from the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

ernment shelters.

Lebanon and Israel are currently engaged in US-sponsored talks in Rome aimed at ending the fighting which are scheduled to run until Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese National News Agency (NNA) reported that one person has been killed and 11 have been wounded in an

Yemen strikes Saudi oil tanker in Red Sea

Yemen's Ansarullah movement announced on Wednesday that it struck the Saudi oil tanker Wafaa with several ballistic missiles in the northern Red Sea off the coast of Yanbu.

The movement's military spokesperson, Yahya Saree, said in a statement on X that the missiles hit the tanker “accurately.”

Saree said the attack was in response to maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia and its “blockade for blockade” strategy.

The attack brought to eight the number of Saudi oil tankers targeted by the group since the blockade began July 22, he said.

Saree also said that 29 Saudi oil tankers

Iran set to compete at Iraq’s four-nation tournament: report

TEHRAN – Iran will reportedly take part in a four-nation international tournament hosted by Iraq during the November FIFA international window, as the participating teams step up preparations for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

The Iraqi Football Association plans to stage the friendly competition at Basra International Stadium from Nov. 9 to 17, using the event as a key part of Iraq’s build-up to the continental championship, which will be held in Saudi Arabia early next year.

According to reports, Iran have become the first nation to officially accept the invitation. Team Melli’s coaching staff is eager to arrange a high-quality training camp and competitive friendlies after facing difficulties securing international fixtures ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup due to regional tensions and scheduling challenges.

The Iraqi FA has also opened talks with the Uzbekistan Football Association. While Uzbekistan has given its initial approval, the federation is still awaiting formal confirmation through official administrative channels.

Uzbekistan have emerged as one of Asia’s strongest national teams in recent years, earning qualification for the FIFA World Cup, making their expected participation a significant boost to the tournament’s competitive level.

Iraq FA is also negotiating with several East Asian nations to complete the four-team lineup. The Iraqi coaching staff reportedly prefers an opponent with a playing style similar to Singapore, one of Iraq’s group-stage rivals at the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, to provide valuable tactical preparation.

The identity of the fourth participant is expected to be announced in the coming days, allowing organizers to finalize the tournament schedule and logistical arrangements.

The Iraqi Football Association has yet to confirm the tournament format but is continuing preparations at Basra International Stadium, where renovation work had previously been delayed by approximately three months due to administrative issues. The venue is now being readied to host the November event.

Iran’s fixtures at 2027 Basketball World Cup Asian Qualifiers revealed

TEHRAN – FIBA has officially announced the schedule and venues for the fourth window of the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup Asian Qualifiers, with Iran set to play both of their games in Manila, Philippines.

The fourth qualifying window, scheduled for Aug. 27–31, marks the beginning of the second round of the Asian qualifiers, where the remaining 12 teams will battle for places at the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup.

Iran have been drawn into Group E alongside Australia, Jordan, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Syria. Team Melli will play both of its fourth-window fixtures in Manila.

Iran will first face New Zealand on Aug. 28, with tip-off set for 9:30 a.m. Iran time, before taking on hosts Philippines on Aug. 30, at 3:30 p.m. Iran time. Both games will be held in the Philippine capital.

In Group F, Qatar—the hosts nation of the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup—will compete against China, Japan, South Korea, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia, with all matches in the group to be played on a home-and-away basis.

At the conclusion of the second round, the top three teams from each group, along with the best fourth-placed team, will qualify for the World Cup. Qatar have already secured their place automatically as tournament hosts, meaning seven teams from Asia and Oceania will ultimately advance to the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup.

Results from the first qualifying round will carry over in full to the second round, making every game crucial in the race for World Cup qualification.

Sports minister Donyamali to visit Azerbaijan for bilateral sports cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran’s Minister of Sports and Youth, Ahmad Donyamali, will travel to Azerbaijan on a two-day official visit at the invitation of Azerbaijan’s Minister of Youth and Sports, with the two sides set to strengthen bilateral cooperation in sport.

During the visit, Donyamali and his Azerbaijani counterpart will sign an Executive Program for Sports Cooperation, aimed at expanding collaboration between the two countries and enhancing sports diplomacy.

The agenda also includes a bilateral meeting between the two ministers, as well as visits to several of Azerbaijan’s sports facilities and infrastructure projects.

Discussions will focus on increasing cooperation between the two nations’ sports federations, promoting the exchange of expertise, organizing joint training camps and international competitions, and expanding technical and educational partnerships.

Mohammad Shervin Asbaghian, Iran’s Deputy Minister for Championship and Professional Sports Development, will accompany Donyamali during the official visit.

The trip is expected to further strengthen sporting ties between Iran and Azerbaijan while opening the door to greater collaboration across a range of athletic disciplines.

Lille eye Mehdi Taremi

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi’s future with Olympiacos is uncertain following his exclusion from the team’s European list for the Champions League qualifying rounds. The 34-year-old Iranian striker, who has a contract until 2027, is being considered by LOSC Lille. Lille have inquired about the player and are monitoring his situation.

The Brazilian club Vasco da Gama had also previously shown interest. Taremi informed the Olympiacos management of his desire to leave for a club offering more playing time and a leading role. The reason for this is reportedly due to difficulties with coach José Luis Mendilibar and an unwillingness to remain on the bench.

A summer transfer is being considered because of competition for attacking positions at the Greek club. Lille finished third in Ligue 1 last season and will participate in the Champions League. The forward has 107 caps and 58 goals for Iran. Last season, he recorded 10 goals and 4 assists in 19 Super League 1 appearances.

Esteghlal part ways with Rezaeian

TEHRAN – Esteghlal have officially announced the departure of veteran defender Ramin Rezaeian, bringing an end to weeks of negotiations, contractual disagreements, and speculation over the player’s future.

According to the club, Rezaeian declined the terms offered for a contract extension, and with the expiration of the agreement between the two parties, Esteghlal decided to terminate their cooperation.

In an official statement, the Tehran club said: “In accordance with the terms of Ramin Rezaeian’s one-year contract, and following the player’s decision not to accept the club’s proposed conditions for continuing the partnership, as well as the expiration of the mutual agreement period, Esteghlal Football Club have decided to end the cooperation with him.”

The club also thanked the experienced full-back for his contribution during his time with the Blues and wished him success in the next chapter of his career.

Rezaeian joined Esteghlal in the summer of 2024 in one of the club’s most high-profile signings. He enjoyed an impressive debut campaign, scoring 13 goals and providing three assists in 42 official appearances, while helping Esteghlal lift the Hazfi Cup.

FM backs scientific conservation during visit to centuries-old cannon project

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has stressed the importance of scientifically preserving the country’s cultural heritage during a visit to the restoration workshop of the historic Pearl Cannon (Toop-e Morvarid), describing the protection of historical monuments as safeguarding Iran’s identity, historical memory and civilizational legacy.

During the visit to the conservation workshop near Building No. 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Araghchi reviewed the progress of research, documentation, condition assessment and specialized conservation work on the centuries-old cannon. He also announced the ministry’s readiness to expand cooperation with the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism on the conservation, restoration and documentation of other historic objects owned by the ministry.

Speaking after the visit, Araghchi praised the project’s conservators, researchers and restoration specialists, calling cultural heritage protection “a national and strategic mission.”

“The scientific and professional preservation of historical monuments means safeguarding Iran’s identity, historical memory and civilizational heritage,” he said, adding that such



efforts should continue through specialized expertise and close cooperation among responsible institutions.

He also emphasized the importance of coordination between government bodies in protecting the country’s cultural heritage and said the Foreign Ministry is prepared to broaden joint projects with the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism to conserve, restore and document other historical and cultural assets under the ministry’s ownership.

Araghchi was accompanied by Mohammad Ebrahim Zarei, head of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism; Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei; Mehdi Babakazemi, director general of the

ministry’s Buildings and Support Department; and Reza Rahmani, head of the institute’s Research Center for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural-Historical Objects.

Project director Manijeh Hadrian Dehkordi presented a detailed report on the conservation of the Pearl Cannon and two other historic cannons, introducing the project’s multidisciplinary team and outlining the work completed so far.

According to the report, the project includes historical and archival research, condition assessment, identification and analysis of constituent materials, detailed documentation, the preparation of three-dimensional models and conservation treatment of the cannon’s metal

surfaces. Plans for the remaining restoration phases and the technical requirements for future interventions were also presented.

At the same time, specialists carried out non-destructive field tests on the cannon’s concrete carriage to assess its structural strength, stability and condition. The studies are being conducted in cooperation with experts from the Architecture Department of Tabriz Islamic Art University using modern non-destructive evaluation technologies to provide technical data for future conservation measures.

Toop-e Morvarid is one of the best-known historical cannons from the Qajar period and dates to the reign of Fath-Ali Shah (1797–1834). During the early Pahlavi era, it was transferred, along with two other historic cannons, to the former Officers’ Club, now Building No. 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where it remains on display.

The conservation and restoration project began in late 2025 under a cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism. Officials said the work is being carried out using a scientific, interdisciplinary approach in accordance with professional cultural heritage conservation standards.

University of Tehran archaeologist warns against repeat of Jiroft civilization looting



“Recent reports show that illegal excavations in some historical sites of the region have increased considerably, intensifying concerns about the recurrence of irreparable losses,” Eskandari told the Iranian Students’ News Agency (ISNA) on Monday.

The archaeologist said the Jiroft civilization, which emerged around 5,000 years ago in the Halil Rud River basin in southeastern Iran, is among the world’s oldest known civilizations. He highlighted its distinctive chlorite stone vessels and artifacts as some of its most internationally significant remains.

“Jiroft civilization is part of Iran’s historical identity and among the most valuable elements of humanity’s heritage,” Eskandari said, adding that protecting the sites was a national responsibility.

“Any attack on historical sites and artifacts is an attack on identity, culture and national heritage,” he said.

Eskandari called on government bodies, law enforcement and judicial authorities, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Kerman provincial officials and other relevant institutions to adopt urgent measures to stop illegal activities.

He also stressed the need for stronger protection measures, including increased resources and monitoring patrols by the cultural heritage protection unit, and said those involved in illegal excavations should face legal action without leniency.

The warning comes amid renewed attention to the importance of Jiroft’s archaeological heritage. During a visit to the region

last year, Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri described Jiroft as a major center of early human civilization and called for greater efforts to introduce its historical significance internationally.

Jiroft’s archaeological importance came to global attention in the early 21st century after floods in 2001 caused the Halil Rud River to overflow and erode layers of soil, exposing thousands of previously unknown Bronze Age graves. The discovery revealed a previously undocumented ancient culture and challenged earlier assumptions that Mesopotamia was the sole cradle of early civilization.

Following the emergence of large numbers of unusual artifacts on international antiquities markets in 2001 and 2002, Iranian authorities launched investigations that led to the seizure of looted objects and the arrest of several traffickers. Investigators traced many of the artifacts to the Halil Rud Valley, south of Jiroft.

Archaeological research later confirmed the existence of a sophisticated Bronze Age culture in the region, known for its elaborate stone vessels, intricate designs and long-distance trade connections.

Eskandari urged local residents and heritage supporters to report any cases of illegal excavation, saying the protection of Jiroft’s archaeological sites required public participation.

“Jiroft civilization is a treasure belonging to all humanity, and we have a responsibility to preserve it intact for future generations,” he said.

UNESCO committee approves conservation report for Iran’s Hegmataneh



and endorsed by the committee.

He described the report as one of Iran’s principal commitments following Hegmataneh’s inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2024. It outlines conservation and restoration work, site management, monitoring systems, archaeological research, executive plans and

governance mechanisms implemented to safeguard the property.

Masoum-Alizadeh said the committee’s approval reflected confidence in the site’s management and acknowledged measures taken to preserve Hegmataneh’s Outstanding Universal Value. The committee also

stressed the importance of continuing conservation programs, management measures and regular monitoring.

Under the committee’s decision, Iran is required to submit an updated report on conservation progress, management policies and the implementation of protection measures to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre by the end of 2027.

The official said periodic conservation reports are among the World Heritage Committee’s main monitoring tools, requiring States Parties to provide regular updates on the condition of listed properties, conservation challenges, management practices and future plans.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Health ministry receives two refrigerated vaccine trucks from IOM

TEHRAN – The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has provided the health ministry with two refrigerated vaccine trucks with a carrying capacity of six tons to enhance immunization services to migrants and host communities across southern and southwestern parts of the country, particularly in Khuzestan and Fars provinces.

The support was provided in response to a request from the Center for Management of Communicable Diseases of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and was channeled through IOM Iran's principal government counterpart, the Center for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (CAFIA) of the Ministry of Interior. UN Iran Website announced in a press release on August 1.

Each refrigerated vehicle is specifically designed for safe and timely transportation and distribution of vaccines.

Equipped with a dual-mode operating system and specialized cold-chain equipment, the trucks will help preserve vaccine integrity and strengthen delivery to health facilities across the country.

"Access to health services, including routine immunization, remains essential for the health and well-being of communities," said Salvador Gutierrez, IOM Iran Chief of Mission. "By strengthening vaccine distribution networks, this support will help ensure that vital vaccines reach people safely and efficiently, including those living in remote and underserved areas."

The two vaccine trucks designed for bulk vaccine transportation, procured by IOM for the Ministry of Health will be deployed to regional distribution hubs in Khuzestan and Fars provinces, strengthening Iran's national vaccine cold chain system. Through these centers, vaccines and biological products will be distributed to health facilities serving the population covered by the Universities of Medical Sciences in Shiraz, Fasa, Jahrom, Gerash, Larestan, Ahvaz, Shushtar, Abadan, Behbahan, and Dezful.

The initiative is intended to benefit both migrants and host communities in urban and rural areas, particularly vulnerable groups with limited access to health services. By reinforcing



vaccine distribution capacity, the intervention will contribute to improved access to immunization services and enhanced vaccination coverage in communities served by the two hubs.

Iran hosts one of the largest migrant populations in the region, including millions of Afghans who rely on public services alongside host communities. Maintaining resilient health systems and reliable vaccine distribution remains especially important as regional instability continues to place pressure on infrastructure, mobility and essential services.

The new vehicles will help strengthen those distribution networks, supporting continued access to essential immunization services for both migrants and host communities while reinforcing the capacity of local health systems to reach remote and hard-to-reach populations. The intervention was made possible through funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

Iran at forefront of providing support to refugees

Over the past four decades, Iran has been one of the top countries hosting the largest number of refugees and migrants, despite many challenges facing the country.

The majority of these refugees are from Afghanistan who have fled from their home country due to wars, insecurity, poverty, and crises.

In 2023, the global number of international migrants was approximately 304 million, with 83 million of them living in internal

displacement.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Iran is host to some 773,000 refugees holding Amayesh cards, and over 2.7 million in a refugee-like situation. The total number of refugees has turned Iran into the second-largest host of refugees. Hosting more than 3.5 million refugees, Iran is an important part of this global picture and one of the key players in managing the migration crisis.

Surprisingly, field reports and unofficial statistics claim that seven million Afghans are residing in the country, four million of whom are undocumented.

International institutions such as the IOM have always lauded Iran for the provision of different kinds of services, including health and education, to the refugees. Afghan children, along with Iranian students, are studying in the same schools without paying extra tuition, while in other countries, refugees are facing serious limitations in benefiting from treatment and education services.

Dhananjaya Bhattarai, the head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Holy Mashhad, has commended Iran's generosity in hosting refugees and treating them with dignity.

Most of the Afghan refugees in Iran are living in villages and cities, and they are in constant interaction with host communities.

Iran, in cooperation with international organizations, has tried to help refugees access livelihood opportunities, vocational training, and collaborations with

nongovernmental organizations; this approach has transformed migrants from a passive population into an active part of society.

However, Iran is facing severe challenges as the international community has provided less than a third of the funding needed to address the humanitarian needs of refugees.

With the beginning of the current Iranian year, which started on March 21, the government adopted the new policy to organize refugees to dispatch unauthorized migrants.

In the first nine months of 2025, more than 1.7 million Afghan refugees have returned from Iran to Afghanistan, the UNHCR reported in a press release on October 27, 2025.

Even at the borders, a wide range of services are being offered to refugees, particularly in eastern South Khorasan, north-eastern Khorasan Razavi, and southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan provinces.

The services include the establishment of health camps, the screening of communicable diseases, and the provision of safe water and sanitation, according to the health ministry's website.

The health ministry has established permanent and temporary camps to do screening, and provide medical services such as injections, serum therapy, as well as treating acute patients.

In December 2025, Iran's UN envoy to Geneva, Ali Bahreini, called for the international community's investment in infrastructure, employment, education, and other services to improve conditions in Afghanistan for the sustainable return of refugees to their home countries.

Addressing the 116th Session of the Council of the IOM, the official said, "Forced displacement has increased due to conflicts and increasing global instability."

However, "the severe pressure on host communities and the lack of international aid have made it impossible for this situation to continue indefinitely."

Highlighting that "Iran reserves its sovereign right to return unauthorized nationals," the representative also urged senior IOM officials to pay a visit to Iran's border areas to get firsthand information and find real common solutions.

From Iran to Europe: El Niño, climate change about to turn up the heat

TEHRAN - While Iran has experienced near-normal temperatures, with some regions recording above-average heat this week, Europe is enduring an intense heatwave that has fueled the spread of devastating wildfires.

According to Ahad Vazifeh, head of the National Center for Climate and Drought Crisis Management at Iran's Meteorological Organization, the extreme conditions are being driven by a combination of climate teleconnection patterns such as El Niño, long-term climate change, and the melting of polar ice.

Europe recorded its hottest June on record this year. During the current week, temperatures in countries including France, Germany, and Spain are forecast to remain about 1 to 3 degrees Celsius above seasonal averages.

Meanwhile, parts of Central and Eastern Europe, extending to the Baltic region, including Italy and Switzerland, are expected to experience significant temperature anomalies. Similar conditions are forecast for parts of Poland, Ukraine, Romania, and Bulgaria, while Austria, Hungary, and Bosnia and Herzegovina could see temperatures soaring 5 to 10 degrees Celsius above normal, Vazifeh told ISNA.

Explaining the causes of this summer's exceptional heat in Europe, the expert said that developing large-scale climate teleconnection patterns have placed tropical regions and the mid-latitudes—up to around 60 degrees north and south—in their warmest state since the post-industrial era. Ocean



temperatures have also risen dramatically, with the average sea surface temperature between 60 degrees south and 60 degrees north reaching approximately 21 degrees Celsius.

Polar ice volume has declined sharply and is currently at its lowest level on record

He added that polar ice volume has declined sharply and is currently at its lowest level on record, describing both warming oceans and shrinking polar ice as key indi-

cators of the Earth's changing climate. In addition to these long-term trends, regional atmospheric patterns can also intensify seasonal heatwaves. Such events are influenced by various climate drivers, including El Niño, the Eurasian teleconnection pattern, and the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO).

Vazifeh concluded that seasonal climate variability, combined with global warming, can at times produce powerful heatwaves capable of raising temperatures by 10 degrees Celsius or more above normal, while at other times leading to cooler-than-average conditions. Over the next one to two weeks, much of Central and Eastern Europe is expected to face exceptionally severe temperature anomalies.

Fifth nanotech summer school underway



TEHRAN – The fifth nanotechnology summer school aiming to enhance specialized knowledge and empower researchers commenced on July 23 and is scheduled to run for two months.

The event also aims to broaden modern educational approaches, promote technologies, train specialized manpower, and foster effective interaction among universities, industries, and technological centers, nano.ir reported.

The summer school features over 40 specialized training courses and 10 scientific webinars, led by prominent university professors, faculty members, and nanotechnology experts.

The curriculum covers a wide range of contemporary topics in nanotechnology, providing participants a great opportunity to learn about the latest scientific and technological advancements, innovations, emerging technologies, industrial applications of nanotechnology, as well as entrepreneurship.

Over the past four years, the nanotechnology summer school was widely welcomed by both Iranian and foreign students. Over 4,000 students and more than 50 international students have so far benefited from different educational programs offered by the school.

With over 430 companies operating in the nanotechnology sector, and more than 1,960 nanotech products receiving nanoscale certificates, the advancement of the nanotechnology sector in the country proves to be more than just a scientific achievement.

Relying on domestic capacity, nanotechnology in Iran is not merely measured by scientific rankings and published articles, but products that have been manufactured and entered the industry and the market, IRNA reported.

The total sale of these products amounts to over 970 trillion rials (about 554 million dollars), indicating that the scientific achievement has become an economic and industrial capacity.

Nanotechnology in the country is a typical example of a successful development of a tech ecosystem. From the very beginning, a long-term roadmap was developed to strengthen all aspects of the technology development chain, from education and research to commercialization and market development.

Over the past years, the role of nanotechnology headquarters has not been limited to macro-policy-making, but has included fostering coordination among universities, research institutes, industries, knowledge-based companies, and supporting institutions.

Establishing a strategic technological laboratory network, developing standards for the evaluation of Nano products, supporting start-up companies, and designing industrial programs are among the factors that help transfer nanotechnology from lab-

oratories to the country's industries.

Products with nano-scale certificates on the rise

Some 230 products have received nanoscale certificates in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2025–March 2026), surpassing the targeted number by 40 products.

Last year, the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy and the headquarters for nanotechnology had planned to obtain nanoscale certificates for 190 products (one product per working day). The total number of nanotechnology products with a nanoscale certificate has increased to 1,965, IRNA reported.

The highest number of products that received nanoscale certificates was recorded respectively in the provinces of Tehran, Fars, and Mazandaran, with 64, 48, and 24 products, respectively.

The provinces of Zanjan (32 products), Qom (17), Markazi (16), Qazvin (11), and Isfahan (7) are placed next.

Out of 230 products, Industrial supplies had the largest share with 72 products. Energy, oil, and related industries accounted for 41, Chemicals for 36, and Pharmaceutical and Health for 26 products.

The headquarters for nanotechnology has supported the promotion of 20 nanotechnology inventions in the country, which constitute 19 percent of the total inventions registered in 2024.

In the past year, 33 nanotechnology plans have been approved, for 23 of which contracts have been concluded, ISNA reported.

The headquarters has decided to identify, assess, and support innovative ideas to empower nanotechnology businesses.

Over the Iranian year, which ended in March 2025, a total of 1,735 nanotechnology products received nanoscale certificates from the Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council and were commercialized by 201 companies.

The total sale of these products amounted to 973 trillion rials (almost 506 million dollars) in the Iranian year 1403 (March 2024–March 2025), indicating a 57 percent increase compared to a year earlier, and 72 percent in comparison to 200 trillion rials (104 million dollars) in the past four years. This growth is about 31 percent higher than the country's average annual inflation rate, IRNA quoted Emad Ahmadvand, the secretary of the headquarters for the Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council, as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with reporters on the sidelines of the 16th Iran Nanotechnology Exhibition held in Tehran from November 2 to 5, 2025.

The export of these nano-products constitutes 10 percent of the sales, about 183 million dollars, the official added.

Over 110 earthquakes hit Iran in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 113 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a month from July 25 to July 31, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 106 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 14 earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4, three earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 4.6 on the Richter scale, which occurred on July 31 in Semnan province.

Among the provinces of the country, Semnan experienced the highest number of earthquakes with 32, followed by Kermanshah with 13, and Yazd with 9 earthquakes.

During the same period, eight earthquakes were recorded in Tehran. No earthquakes were recorded in Eastern Azarbaijan, Ardabil, Alborz, Bushehr, Zanjan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Qom, Qazvin, Gilan,

Markazi, and Hamedan provinces.

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

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

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

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



AUGUST 6, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One can purchase the world with contentment, and live in happiness with benevolence.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:24 Dawn: 3:42 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:17 (tomorrow)

Wajdi Mouawad's "Incendies" on stage at City Theater

TEHRAN – The 2003 play by Lebanese-Canadian writer Wajdi Mouawad titled "Incendies" is on stage at the City Theater in Tehran.

Morteza Mirmontazami has directed the 1205-minute play, which has Setareh Pesyani, Abbas Jamali, Rima Raminfar, Reza Behboudi, Alireza Jafari, Farnoush Nikandish, and Bahram Ebrahimi in the cast, among others, IRNA reported.

"Incendies" follows the journey of twins Jeanne and Simon, as they attempt to unravel the mystery of their mother's life. When Jeanne and Simon Marwan lose their mother, Nawal, they are instead left with a difficult mission that sends them on a journey to the Middle East in pursuit of their tangled roots and a long-lost brother.

The play has been produced all over the world, including the United States, Brazil, Austria, Germany, Mexico, Spain and Australia, and the 2007 production at the Tarragon Theater in Toronto won several awards. The Vienna Burgtheater assigned Stefan Bachmann with the stage production. It subsequently received much praise from critics, winning the "Nestroy Award" in 2007.

"Incendies" was adapted into a 2010 film of the same title by Denis Villeneuve, starring Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin, Maxim

Gaudette, and Lubna Azabal. It was nominated for the 2011 Academy Award in the Best Foreign Language Film category, and won the Genie Award for Best Motion Picture at the 31st Genie Awards.

Born in Lebanon in 1968, Wajdi Mouawad was forced to leave his homeland at the age of eight due to the civil war. This marked the beginning of a period of exile that first took him and his family to Paris. He was forced to leave this adopted homeland in 1983, as the French state refused to grant him the necessary documents to remain in the country. From France, he moved to Quebec, where he pursued his studies and graduated in 1991 with a degree in acting from the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal.

In 2000, he was invited to become the artistic director of Théâtre de Quat'Sous in Montreal for four seasons. Five years later, he founded the theatre companies Abé Carré Cé Carré with Emmanuel Schwartz in Quebec and Au Carré de l'Hypoténuse in France.

Since September 2007, he has been the artistic director of the French Theatre at the National Arts Center in Ottawa and, concurrently, in January 2008, partnered with his French company at Espace Malraux, the national stage in Chambéry and Savoie.

Cartoon of Day



Trump

Cartoonist: Fares Garabet from Germany

Over 16,000 entries received for Minab school literary award

TEHRAN- The secretariat of the first International Six-Word Story Award, titled "Minab School – 168 Unfinished Short Stories" has announced an overwhelming response to its inaugural call for entries, attracting participants from across the globe.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Deputy for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, 3,354 writers from 38 different countries submitted a total of 16,158 entries.

The global reach of the competition was highlighted by submissions from a diverse array of nations, including Iran, Argentina, Germany, the United States, Indonesia, Armenia, Uruguay, Australia, Spain, Afghanistan, Algeria, Italy, Brunei, Belgium, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Portugal, Tunisia, China, Russia, Romania, Japan, Chile, Serbia, Iraq, France, Philippines, Cameroon, South Korea, Congo, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Egypt, Nicaragua, India, and Yemen.

Organized by the Office of Literature and the Persian Language, the prize focuses on the core themes of children's rights, peace, patriotism, and hope. The competition is characterized by its rigorous minimalist format, challenging writers to craft a complete narrative in exactly six words—a form that demands extreme brevity while maintaining a deep capacity for interpretation and resonance.

The secretariat stated that due to the high volume of submissions and the necessity for a meticulous judging process, the



closing ceremony is expected to be held by the end of the current season. Detailed information regarding the date and venue will be announced via the official communication channels.

The entries are currently being evaluated by a panel of esteemed domestic and international experts. The winners will be honored at the closing ceremony with trophies, plaques, and prestigious cash prizes, marking a new chapter in the realm of concise fictional literature.

On February 28, the Shajarah Tayyebah girls' elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a devastating massacre as the United States and Israel initiated their strikes against Iran.

While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a missile strike

that caused the building to collapse, trapping children and teachers beneath the rubble. Iranian authorities confirmed a final death toll of 168 people, with at least 95 others wounded, marking one of the most harrowing incidents of the conflict's opening day.

Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations have painted a starkly different picture.

An analysis by Al Jazeera's digital investigations unit, utilizing over a decade of satellite imagery and recent video clips, revealed that the school was a clearly distinct civilian facility, separated from any adjacent military sites for at least ten years. Furthermore, witness accounts and satellite-based analyses confirmed

that the school was triple tapped by three separate, deliberate strikes, leaving no doubt about the nature of the attack.

The international community has faced mounting evidence regarding the responsibility for this atrocity, with investigations from major global outlets including The New York Times, BBC Verify, CBC, and NPR all concluding that the United States was responsible for the strike.

These findings have raised fundamental questions about the intelligence used to justify the bombing, as the patterns of the strike suggest a direct targeting of a civilian educational institution. The Minab school tragedy now stands as a somber testament to the immense human cost of the aggression and a focal point for those demanding international accountability.

Head of ICRO outlines strategic cultural diplomacy goals during "Last Bell" exhibition in Najaf

TEHRAN – The head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), Hojjatolislam Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour visited "Last Bell" art and photography exhibition in Najaf, Iraq, which commemorates the martyrs of the Shajarah Tayyebah School in Minab.

The exhibition, organized through a collaboration between the Sarir Association, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, utilizes calligraphy, photography, and artistic narratives to reflect upon the human dimensions of the Shajarah Tayyebah school tragedy, ILNA reported.

On February 28, the Shajarah Tayyebah elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a catastrophic massacre during the initial waves of aggression launched by the United States and the Zionist regime against Iran.

The strike occurred as students—children aged between 7 and 12—were beginning their morning lessons. A precision missile strike caused the immediate collapse of the school building, trapping students and teachers beneath mountains of rubble. Official reports confirmed a final death toll of 168 victims, with at least 95 others sustaining severe injuries, marking one of the most harrowing atrocities of the conflict's opening day.



On the sidelines of his visit to the exhibition, while elaborating on ICRO's strategic support for artists, Imanipour stated: "The development of the Islamic Republic of Iran's cultural diplomacy is impossible without relying on the capacities of authentic Iranian-Islamic art. The organization, with a strategic approach, has placed numerous programs on its agenda to introduce and support artists in the international arena."

He announced plans to establish a calligraphy association within the ICRO, adding: "With the

formation of this association, the groundwork will be laid to identify, organize, and dispatch prominent Iranian calligraphers and artists to various countries to hold workshops, specialized meetings, and cultural events, so that authentic Iranian-Islamic art can be better introduced on the global stage."

The head of the ICRO identified the creation of a center of authority for Islamic scripts and the calligraphy of the Holy Quran as another major program of the organization. "The formation of this authority will foster extensive interaction with calligraphers, Quranic scribes, and artists from across the region and the Islamic world, leading to synergy in cultural and artistic capacities in this field," he noted.

Referencing new mechanisms designed to enhance the professional standing of artists, he said: "New frameworks have been designed within the organization so that qualified and capable artists can enjoy the necessary backing to participate effectively in international arenas and showcase Iranian cultural and artistic achievements abroad."

Imanipour identified the support for the production of thought, ideas, and cultural works as a fundamental mission of the ICRO. "Holding exhibitions like 'Last Bell' is a clear example of utilizing the power of art to convey human concepts, generate ideas, and strengthen cultural dialogue between nations; this path will be pursued with seriousness," he said.

Concluding his remarks, the head of the ICRO emphasized the comprehensive support of the organization for traditional and Islamic arts. "The Islamic Culture and Relations Organization will firmly support artists and activists in the field of traditional and Islamic arts, and considers the development of cultural diplomacy based on these civilizational capacities as one of its strategic priorities," he stated.

"The Lucky Ride" at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of Japanese writer Yasushi Kitagawa's book "The Lucky Ride: A Novel Full of Opportunity" has recently been published by Milkan Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Zahra Chaflaki.

"The Lucky Ride" is about a man who believes himself to be the unluckiest person in Japan—a man whose life has been a relentless sequence of disappointments, failures, and missed opportunities. For years, he has viewed his existence through the lens of misfortune, convinced that he was born under a darkened star and that the universe is fundamentally rigged against him. However, his life takes a surreal and transformative turn when a mysterious driver appears, offering him a

ride that is far more than a mere trip from one location to another. This encounter serves as the catalyst for the ride of a lifetime, pushing the protagonist to step out of his cycle of despair and seize a new, unexpected path.

Blending the whimsical "what-if" exploration of "The Midnight Library" with the revelatory, mindset-shifting power of "The Secret," Yasushi Kitagawa crafts a heartwarming parable about the architecture of happiness. As the journey unfolds, the story evolves into a deep exploration of self-growth and emotional healing. The protagonist is forced to confront the ghosts of his past, seek reconciliation with loved ones, and rediscover a sense of purpose that he had long since abandoned.

The core philosophy of "The Lucky Ride" is that luck is not a random gift granted to a

chosen few, nor is it a genetic trait. Instead, the narrative proposes that luck is a result of the conscious choices we make and the positive energy we project into the world. Through the guidance of the mysterious driver, the protagonist learns that the bad luck he clung to was often a reflection of his own resignation. He discovers that by shifting his perspective and embracing a spirit of gratitude and openness, he can actually build his own fortune over time.

This Japanese bestseller is a compassionate reminder that true fulfillment does not come from the absence of struggle, but from the courage to keep moving forward with a good heart. Kitagawa illustrates that the treasures of a meaningful life are built incrementally, one choice at a time, and that this positive legacy can be passed down through generations.