

Yemen flips the battlefield on Saudi Arabia

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The video clips from August 6 were unmistakable. Flames consumed a desert encampment. A row of armored vehicles sat reduced to twisted metal. The Yemeni Armed Forces struck first.

For weeks, Yemeni intelligence tracked a silent buildup. Saudi-funded formations, including the First and Third Readiness Brigades, massed troops and ammunition across al-Ruwaik in Marib, moving deliberately into the al-Abr, al-Thaniyah, and al-Wadiah corridors of Hadramaut.

The objective was a renewed ground offensive designed to relieve mounting domestic and international pressure on Riyadh. ► [Page 5](#)

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey sign joint defense pact

TEHRAN — Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey signed a joint defense pact, officially known as the Mecca Defense Agreement, on Friday, deepening security cooperation.

Turkey has NATO's second-largest military. Saudi Arabia, the strongest Arab state in the Persian Gulf region, is home to Islam's holiest sites and one of the world's top oil exporters, while Pakistan is the only nuclear-armed Muslim country.

Analysts say Saudi Arabia's defense pact with the two heavyweight Muslim nations shows that Washington is now seen as an increasingly unreliable partner.

The NATO-like agreement states that an armed attack on any one of the three countries would be regarded as an attack against them all. ► [Page 5](#)

Israel expands West Bank offensive with camp-by-camp strategy

TEHRAN — Israeli troops pulled out of the Qalandia refugee camp north of occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) late Thursday after a brutal two-day assault that left 51 Palestinians injured and more than 60 detained, yet the withdrawal brought no relief. The machinery simply pivoted elsewhere.

For 541 consecutive days, the Nur Shams camp has endured a suffocating siege, while residents of Jabal al-Salih received abrupt evacuation orders.

Heavy military bulldozers tore through infrastructure as closure orders on Jenin, Tulkarm, and Nur Shams stretched further into the calendar. ► [Page 5](#)

Japan's ambassador pledges full support for Iran in Nagoya

TEHRAN - Japan has pledged to provide full cooperation and support to ensure Iran's sports delegation can travel to and participate in the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya without complications.

Ahead of Iran's participation in the 20th edition of the Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, Tsukada Tamaki, Ambassador of Japan to Iran, visited the National Olympic Committee (NOC) on Wednesday morning and held talks with Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa, President of the Iranian NOC.

Khosravi Vafa welcomed the Japanese ambassador and referred to the recent events in the region. Tsukada Tamaki also expressed his deep regret over the recent events and the suspension of some sporting competitions.

"Of course, Iran's national football team performed impressively at the World Cup, and I would like to congratulate you on that achievement. Japan's national team also achieved a good result. This shows that the power of sport can transcend politics," the Japanese ambassador said. "We are fully prepared to host the Asian Games, and I understand that Iran will send more than 300 athletes to Nagoya, making it one of the largest delegations participating in the Games," he added.



Mossad Sacks Architects of Its Failed Regime Change Dream

Mossad chief Roman Gofman has ousted two senior officials behind a failed plan to topple Islamic Republic of Iran

Using information obtained from the Iranian opposition, which lacked an accurate understanding of the situation, Mossad put Trump in a difficult position that jeopardized US interests across the entire Middle East.

By Fardin Molaei

TEHRAN- Months before the onset of the US-Israeli war against Iran, Reza Pahlavi, the son of Iran's last Shah, undertook a visit to the occupied territories. During this trip, he held meetings with Benjamin Netanyahu, senior Mossad officials, and several influential Knesset members.

According to accounts published in various media outlets, an assessment was conveyed to the Israeli side during these meetings suggesting that, in the event of a military operation against Iran, initial pressures could catalyze widespread domestic protests and ultimately lead to the collapse of the Islamic Republic.

Based on these same accounts, relying on such an estimation, Mossad formulated a "regime change" scenario alongside the military option and presented it to US President Donald Trump. Some Israeli analysts and US offi-

cials have revealed that Benjamin Netanyahu had previously proposed this same scenario to former American presidents, but they had declined to endorse such a plan.

Apparently, either due to inexperience in the world of politics, or due to optimism, or due to his deal-making disposition, Trump was deceived by Netanyahu and entered into an endless campaign with Iran. But their calculations were wrong, and they failed.

The trajectory of developments on the ground proved contrary to these initial projections. The scenario's architects' expectation of widespread uprisings and the swift disintegration of Iran's political structure failed to materialize. On the contrary, many observers contend

that external attacks actually bolstered national solidarity across various segments of Iranian society, prompting a significant portion of public opinion notwithstanding internal political divergences to rally in support of the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity against external threats.

Dadi the first domino

In the wake of this failed assessment, speculation regarding an intelligence failure within Mossad intensified. David "Dadi" Barnea, who had led Mossad since June 2021, stepped down from his post in June 2026 after completing a five-year term, with Roman Gofman named as his successor. Although official Israeli sources characterized the end of Barnea's tenure as part of the organization's standard leadership rotation, certain Israeli media outlets linked this development to the outcomes of operations against Iran and flawed intelligence evaluations. ► [Page 3](#)



'Humble, reasonable, and patient': President Pezeshkian on the new Leader's virtues

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian has praised military forces, officials, and the public for elevating Iran's global standing in the face of US-Israeli aggression and foreign-backed plots aimed at triggering domestic unrest. The Iranian president made these remarks during a televised broadcast, marking the second anniversary of his inauguration.

Pezeshkian was sworn in at the Iranian Parliament on July 30, 2024, following his election victory earlier that month. The vote was called after his predecessor, Ebrahim Raisi, passed away in a helicopter crash. ► [Page 2](#)

Iranian military, officials stress firm stance as tension with US persist

TEHRAN — Over the past 48 hours, a series of statements from senior Iranian military commanders and government officials have underscored the Islamic Republic's heightened state of military readiness and its firm stance against continued US pressure, as tensions between Tehran and Washington show no signs of abating.

Mohsen Rezaei, a member of Iran's Expediency Discernment Council, issued an explicit warning via his official X account regarding the consequences of continued US hostile policies in the Persian Gulf. "If the blockade continues, American vessels and forces will face serious risks and casualties," Rezaei wrote. Emphasizing that Washington must "change its behavior," ► [Page 2](#)

Iran, a strategic partner of EAEU on path to trade development, regional integration

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, while reading the message of the First Vice President at the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), emphasized Iran's determination to deepen economic cooperation with member states of this union, full implementation of the free trade agreement, development of transit corridors, strengthening financial and banking cooperation, and utilization of shared capacities to achieve regional growth and prosperity.

According to IRNA report from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of the Eurasian Economic Union held in Cholpon-Ata, ► [Page 4](#)

Iran sets the tempo of the conflict

By Xavier Villar.

MADRID - As early as February, analysts questioned whether any viable military solution existed that could guarantee US strategic objectives: regime change, the destruction of uranium enrichment capabilities, the end of Iranian support for groups such as Ansarullah, Hamas, and Hezbollah, and the dismantling of the ballistic missile program. Months into the hostilities, reality has spoken. Not only has Washington achieved none of those goals; Iran now controls the Strait of Hormuz, something it did not do before being attacked.

One might have expected that, following the catastrophic defeat of the forty-day war, the Trump administration would accept the terms of the memorandum of understanding and stop trying to batter down walls with its forehead. ► [Page 3](#)

Ancient Iranian wind towers inspire Italian designer for overheated cities

TEHRAN - An Italian designer is developing a concept for mobile wind towers inspired by Iran's centuries-old wind catchers, locally named a Badgir, aiming to reduce urban heat by directing natural air flows into streets and public spaces affected by rising temperatures.

German media outlet Focus Online reported that Danilo Petta, a designer from Olbia on the Italian island of Sardinia, is working on the project to channel sea breezes and local winds into particularly hot areas during the summer months.

The design is based on traditional Persian wind towers, which have been used for centuries in Iran to cool buildings without relying on electricity. These architectural structures capture and redirect natural air currents to improve indoor comfort. ► [Page 6](#)

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Is there any hope for an agreement?

Hamshahri examined President Pezeshkian's recent remarks under current conditions. Pezeshkian says that we must try to ensure the enemy remains committed to what it has signed. This sentence also implies that the ongoing negotiations revolve around returning to that memorandum of understanding. But the key to this return apparently lies in the Strait of Hormuz: if Iran and Oman reach an understanding that is also acceptable to the United States, that key will become accessible. In that case, the Strait would reopen, and the blockade would be lifted. Now we must see whether the intense diplomatic activity in the region can once again produce a temporary exit ramp to lower the temperature of tensions, or whether it will turn back toward escalation. In any case, along the path of this ongoing conflict, there is always the possibility of reaching certain understandings — sometimes even a strong possibility. But because there is still no serious will to resolve the tension, achieving a final agreement remains highly unlikely. Such an agreement will only become possible once the war reaches a point where a regional balance can be established.

Shargh: A serious challenge for Trump

Shargh analyzed Trump's retreat from his military threat against Iran. What appears at first glance to be a political decision actually reflects complex calculations — both hardware and software — of power, economic pressure on Washington's regional allies, and even internal disputes within the US decision-making team. CNN, in an analysis by senior military correspondent Brad Lendon, attributes this retreat to a dual factor: on one hand, the economic pressures of a prolonged conflict on Washington's regional allies, which has increased their desire to halt hostilities; and on the other, the US military's serious concern about its ability to defend its forces against a potential Iranian response, as interceptor missile stockpiles for advanced systems such as Patriot and THAAD are rapidly dwindling. This indicates that the material and logistical costs of a full-scale conflict have reached a point that, if not outright unbearable, have at least become a serious challenge.

Etemad: Diplomacy can change the equation

Etemad emphasized the importance of diplomacy amid severe security and military tensions. Developments can reshape the region's security equations. Regional states have long tried to maintain a fragile balance among Iran, the United States, and Israel, but a change in the behavior of one major actor can force others to reconsider their defensive and security strategies. In such circumstances, diplomacy becomes more

Qalibaf slams Trump's 'theater diplomacy' toward Iran

TEHRAN - Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf criticized US President Donald Trump's shifting statements on military threats and negotiations with Iran, calling them "theater diplomacy."

In a post on X, Qalibaf said Washington's use of pressure, broken promises, and fake news had failed. He urged the United States to recognize realities and honor its commitments instead of pursuing political theatrics.

The remarks come as Iranian officials continue to underline the Islamic Republic's principled stance in the face of external pressure, insisting that genuine diplomacy requires honesty and adherence to prior agreements rather than staged displays of force followed by abrupt retreats.

The United States and the Israeli regime launched a coordinated, unprovoked attack on Iran on February 28. On the first day, they struck senior Iranian officials as well as an elementary school in Minab, southern Iran, where 168 people, most of them schoolchildren, were killed.

Iran responded with retaliatory operations by its Armed Forces, delivering heavy

important than ever, because the absence of effective communication channels increases the likelihood of miscalculation. What matters most today is recognizing that West Asia's security environment is changing. Old patterns no longer fit new conditions. New technologies, rapid information flows, and political developments have sharply reduced the time between decision-making and action. In this environment, states try to deter costly moves by demonstrating military readiness and resolve.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The Strait of Hormuz is America's lifeline

Siasat-e-Rooz focused on the most sensitive and important strait under current conditions. Iran's strategy now appears aimed at forcing the United States to return to and implement the 14-point memorandum. The behavior of the US and Israel suggests they are preparing equipment and forces, and the possibility of a large-scale attack is significant. If such an attack occurs, Iran will certainly deliver a forceful response, destroying all regional infrastructure belonging to those regimes — including the infrastructure of the fake Israeli regime. Trump's pressure on Iran is now concentrated on the Strait of Hormuz. Iran knows that the strait is America's lifeline — and that if Iran loses control of it, it loses its own lifeline. The US insistence on occupying and controlling the strait is precisely the point that must be taken seriously. The strait's sensitivity is so high that the United States has come to the Persian Gulf to secure it.

Javan: Europe's structural economic crisis

Javan analyzed the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the economic shock it would inflict on Europe. The European Central Bank has warned that the worst-case scenario — "a renewed escalation of the war in Iran" — could once again shut down consumer activity, meaning a return to recession and a sharp drop in economic growth. What is most worrying, however, is Europe's structural economic weakness. Unlike the US economy, Europe cannot recover quickly and reacts very vulnerable to shocks. The recent conflict in Iran was not merely a trigger; it exposed all the accumulated weaknesses of Europe's economy. Unless fundamental problems — such as low productivity growth, an aging population, and energy dependence — are resolved, any new crisis could have catastrophic and multiplied effects, reversing the region's already minimal economic growth and pushing European households toward precautionary frugality and forced saving. This, in turn, accelerates the downward cycle of domestic demand and recession.

strikes against US and Israeli targets throughout the region and inflicting major damage on the attacking side. After 40 days of fighting, the hostilities were paused through a Pakistani-mediated ceasefire that was later codified in mid-June through the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the presidents of Iran and the United States.

Yet, only a short time after the agreement was concluded, Washington began violating its commitments, leading to the outbreak of a new phase of conflict. In this round of fighting, the US carried out attacks on civilian infrastructure in southern Iranian provinces, while Iran responded with precision operations using domestically produced missiles and drones against American military installations across West Asia, including bases in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan.

Last week, Trump threatened a major military strike on Iran, including possible attacks on the country's energy sector. He later retreated from those threats, amid concerns that the United States lacked sufficient stockpiles to absorb and respond to Iran's potential retaliatory strikes.

'Humble, reasonable, and patient': President Pezeshkian on the new Leader's virtues

From page 1 ▶ Reflecting on recent geopolitical developments, Pezeshkian highlighted two separate conflicts launched against Iran by the US and Israel since June of last year, alongside protests in January that later escalated into riots fueled by US and Israeli intelligence services. He stated that adversaries had operated under the delusion that they could replicate the scenario seen in Syria and take control of the country within 48 hours.

"Despite all these hardships and challenges, the government, officials, governors, staff, the people, and the armed forces have brought the country this far, to the point where Iran is recognized today as a powerful nation with immense dignity," Pezeshkian noted, emphasizing that this was no easy feat.

Referring to the role of national support in maintaining steadfastness against hostile maneuvers, Pezeshkian warned of ongoing enemy efforts to provoke discontent among the populace. "If the country has remained standing until now, we owe it to the people," he stated, adding that "if we stand with the people, no power will be able to bring us down." He cautioned that the enemy is exerting pressure in an attempt to provoke the people into protesting and has a problem with anything that symbolizes Iranian capabilities, resilience, initiative, and creativity.

Further in his remarks, Pezeshkian cited the US-Israeli assassination of Iran's military commanders and scientists, whom he praised as deeply committed public servants. "The enemies assassinated our commanders, who were truly self-sacrificing and had devoted their entire lives to serving the people," he said, noting that many lived humble existences like ordinary citizens and de-



scribing their martyrdom as deeply painful.

The president also reflected on the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The late Leader was assassinated on the first day of the US-Israeli attack on February 28th. Pezeshkian described the martyred Leader as a great source of strength and support who stood behind his government like a mountain and allowed for frank dialogue. Pezeshkian also described Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei as exceptional and humble. He noted that candid dialogue had revealed the new Leader's patience, kindness, and strong moral compass.

"He is an exceptionally reasonable and remarkably patient person. I spoke openly about everything that was on my mind so he could fully understand the situation, and he responded with kindness, understanding, and great respect," Pezeshkian said while recounting his meeting with the new Leader in May.

Pezeshkian outlined the mul-

tiple crises his administration faced from the beginning of its term, including the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, persistent energy imbalances, concerns over winter electricity and gas supplies, worsening water shortages, and the country's worst drought in five decades. He also pointed to renewed international pressure, including the revival of the snapback mechanism.

Addressing domestic affairs, the president noted that his administration's priority was to prevent social fragmentation, ensure the continuity of public services, and avoid policies that could intensify social tensions. He praised Iranians from diverse backgrounds for maintaining unity and restraint despite economic hardship and political grievances. Criticizing selective international standards on human rights, Pezeshkian pointed out that economic sanctions had expanded beyond trade restrictions to target Iran's banking and financial systems, while

military and security pressures further complicated the situation. He questioned the logic behind attacks targeting Iranian military commanders, scientists, and civilians, noting that universities, aerospace facilities, and artificial intelligence centers have become targets because Iran's scientific progress is viewed as a challenge by its adversaries.

On social policy, the president called for measures to facilitate the return of Iranians living abroad, asserting that every citizen should be able to enter and leave the country without unnecessary obstacles. He emphasized that authorities should clearly inform individuals in advance if legal restrictions prevent their entry, rather than detaining them upon arrival.

Concluding his address, President Pezeshkian expressed confidence that Iran will continue to overcome external pressures through public solidarity, improved governance, and continued investment in its scientific and technological capabilities.

Iranian military, officials stress firm stance as tension with US persist

TEHRAN — Over the past 48 hours, a series of statements from senior Iranian military commanders and government officials have underscored the Islamic Republic's heightened state of military readiness and its firm stance against continued US pressure, as tensions between Tehran and Washington show no signs of abating.

Mohsen Rezaei, a member of Iran's Expediency Discernment Council, issued an explicit warning via his official X account regarding the consequences of continued US hostile policies in the Persian Gulf. "If the blockade continues, American vessels and forces will face serious risks and casualties," Rezaei wrote. Emphasizing that Washington must "change its behavior," he added: "We will not tolerate this." Concluding his remarks, Rezaei dismissed any possibility of an alternative maritime route, stating unequivocally: "We will never permit the opening of a second corridor in the Strait of Hormuz."

The warnings from the political establishment were swiftly reinforced by statements from Iran's military leadership. Brigadier General Pilot Masoud Jafari, the deputy coordinator of the Iranian Army Air Force, revealed that the military had continuously monitored US military bases in the region over the past years and had meticulously planned for various operational scenarios. Speaking to domestic media, General Jafari noted that on the first day of any confrontation, the enemy did not imagine that Iran's Air Force would possess the courage to carry out air operations—and that this very factor contributed to the successful execution of the mission. "Our pilots accepted this mission with full awareness of the risks, the extremely high stakes, and the available intelligence," he stated. "In fact, they made possible what seemed impossible." Regarding the status of the pilots involved in recent operations, General Jafari said that except for martyred Pilot Majid Kazemi—whose remains were returned to the country sometime later—no precise information is yet available about the other three pilots.

Brigadier General Majid Ebn-e-Reza, Iran's Acting Defense Minister, asserted that the Iranian Armed Forces are fully prepared to



respond to any threat, emphasizing that their capabilities are underpinned by the country's domestic defense industry. In a message posted on his social media account on Thursday, General Ebn-e-Reza declared: "Every day, the signs of the enemy's erosion of power become more evident; however, our Armed Forces, relying on the country's defense industry, are fully equipped to respond to any threat." He further warned that countries seeking to purchase security and military superiority from abroad "will soon realize that Iran's indigenous technology is superior to any system in the region."

Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia, the Iranian Army spokesperson, reaffirmed that the Army remains in full operational readiness despite two wars imposed by enemies. According to a statement published by the Army on Thursday, General Akraminia said that damaged systems have been modernized, new equipment has entered service, and efforts to strengthen combat capability are continuing without interruption. He emphasized that preserving combat readiness is not limited to acquiring equipment, adding that recent improvements have been based on a combination of measures, including rebuilding and upgrading existing systems, introducing new equipment, expanding domestic capabilities, and reinforcing personnel morale. "A significant part of combat capability, particularly under current conditions, depends on the modernization and restoration of damaged or worn-out systems," General Akraminia stat-

ed. "The Army is pursuing reconstruction and upgrading programs through its own engineering and technical expertise." He described this process as "not merely a technical operation, but part of the country's broader defense strategy to preserve deterrence and increase rapid-response capability." The spokesperson noted that the introduction of new equipment has enabled the Army to reorganize its weapons and military systems in line with current operational needs. He identified air defense as one of the country's highest defense priorities, saying that in the face of complex regional conditions and diverse threats, it plays a decisive role in protecting the nation's airspace and safeguarding vital infrastructure. General Akraminia also emphasized the importance of personnel morale and discipline, saying the Army's forces possess "jihadi spirit and a very high determination" to carry out their missions. He added that part of the defense development effort is carried out within the Army and part through cooperation with the defense industry and other specialized national institutions—a process that reduces external dependence and allows faster modernization.

In a message on Thursday, Brigadier General Bahman Behmard, Chief Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force, pledged that the force will remain fully committed to defending the Iranian nation against any aggression by its "sworn enemies" while following the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Mossad sacks architects of its failed regime change dream

Mossad chief Roman Gofman has ousted two senior officials behind a failed plan to topple Islamic Republic of Iran

From Page 1 ▶ The leadership changes within Mossad were not confined to the replacement of its director. Israel's Channel 12 reported that Roman Gofman, the new Mossad chief, in his initial moves, dismissed the organization's deputy director and another senior intelligence official. The outlet claimed these changes followed the failure of efforts to achieve Israel's strategic objectives concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to this report, the dismissed deputy director, identified only by the initial "A.," had been regarded as a primary candidate to succeed Barnea. In contrast, Benjamin Netanyahu's office, while confirming the management changes, stated that these decisions were made within the framework of the new Mossad director's plan to establish a fresh management team and prepare the organization's structure to meet the security challenges of the coming years.

In recent weeks, the publication of interviews with former Mossad officials has also revived debate within Israeli media and security circles concerning the role of psychological operations, cognitive warfare, and efforts to influence Iranian public opinion. In these interviews, it has been claimed that over the past years, in addition to intelligence and military operations, Mossad made extensive investments in media warfare and influence operations aimed at driving a wedge between Iranian society and the state.

Nevertheless, the outcome of these developments demonstrated that many of the initial assessments regarding Iranian society's response were incongruent with on-the-ground realities a matter now discussed by some Israeli analysts as one of Tel Aviv's most significant miscalculations and intelligence errors concerning Iran, although official Israeli authorities have not formally confirmed such an interpretation to date.

Mossad's strategy under fresh scrutiny

The departure of Barnea and the restructuring of Mossad have reignited debate over one of the most controversial aspects of the recent conflict with Iran: whether Israeli intelligence expected military pressure and psychological operations to trigger political change inside the Islamic Republic.

An interview published in the Israeli media with the former head of a previously undisclosed Mossad influence operations branch has provided a rare glimpse into the agency's thinking during the years leading up to the conflict. While many of the interview's assertions cannot be independently verified, the account sheds light on the importance Mossad allegedly attached to information warfare, social media campaigns and efforts to undermine confidence in Iran's governing institutions.

According to the interview, Mossad established a dedicated influence operations branch in 2021 as part of a broad organizational reform introduced after Barnea assumed leadership of the agency. The official interviewed claimed



that the new department was tasked with developing non-military methods to influence public opinion in Iran and Lebanon, combining intelligence analysis with media operations, online networks, and psychological warfare.

The interview further alleged that Mossad gradually shifted from relying primarily on covert kinetic operations toward integrating influence campaigns designed to weaken confidence in Iranian institutions. Among the methods described were the use of social media networks, fictitious online accounts, AI-generated influencers and carefully timed publication of sensitive information concerning Iranian officials.

Perhaps the most significant claim concerns Mossad's expectations before Israel's military campaign against Iran. According to the interview, the agency believed that combining military strikes with sustained influence operations could widen the gap between the Iranian government and segments of society, eventually encouraging broader political unrest. The interview also asserted that this assessment formed part of discussions with senior Israeli and American decision-makers before military operations commenced.

The same interview acknowledged, however, that these expectations were not realized during the conflict. While the former official argued that influence campaigns require months or even years to produce political effects, he conceded that the Iranian political system remained in place after the fighting ended.

The material provided for this report argues that Israeli planners expected military operations to coincide with widespread domestic unrest capable of fundamentally altering Iran's political landscape. It further stated that these expectations proved inaccurate, as public support for national sovereignty outweighed political divisions during the conflict.

The Israeli interview itself appears to acknowledge that intelligence expectations evolved over time. The former official suggested that Mossad believed public dissatisfaction, economic pressures and sustained information campaigns would gradually weaken the Iranian

government. He nevertheless admitted that political change did not occur during the military confrontation itself and argued that influence operations should instead be judged over a much longer period.

Leadership changes inside Mossad have further fueled discussion regarding the agency's performance. Following Barnea's departure in June 2026, Roman Gofman assumed leadership of the organization. According to reports cited in the source material, the new director subsequently replaced additional senior officials as part of a broader restructuring of the intelligence service. Israeli officials described those personnel changes as part of an organizational renewal rather than explicitly linking them to any single operation or intelligence assessment.

Taken together, the available material illustrates the growing importance intelligence agencies attach to influence operations alongside traditional espionage and military activities. Whether such campaigns can meaningfully shape political developments inside rival states remains the subject of continuing debate among intelligence professionals and security analysts.

What appears less disputed is that modern intelligence competition increasingly extends beyond espionage into cyberspace, social media, artificial intelligence, and information operations. The interview offers an unusual public account of how one former senior intelligence official believes those tools were developed and employed against Iran.

Taken together, the available material illustrates the growing importance intelligence agencies attach to influence operations alongside traditional espionage and military activities. Whether such campaigns can meaningfully shape political developments inside rival states remains the subject of continuing debate among intelligence professionals and security analysts.

What appears less disputed is that modern intelligence competition increasingly extends beyond espionage into cyberspace, social media, artificial intelligence, and information operations.

LATEST NEWS

■ Strait of Hormuz would not return to its previous status: US Treasury Secretary

US Treasury Secretary said a potential agreement could be reached "today or tomorrow" to reopen the Strait of Hormuz for a period of 30 to 60 days, which would lead to lower energy prices.

The official added that the strategic waterway would not return to its previous status, claiming Iran had used, or attempted to use, it as a chokepoint. The remarks came amid ongoing tensions over maritime security and global energy supplies.

■ Iranian diplomat calls for wartime diplomacy without weakness

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said diplomacy must continue during wartime but should be aligned with battlefield realities and national interests. He stressed that diplomatic efforts must not signal weakness, warning that unnecessary concessions could encourage greater demands from adversaries.

Gharibabadi said most wars ultimately end through negotiations, but emphasized that diplomatic messages and language must reflect wartime conditions.

He added that coordination between diplomacy and defense efforts is currently stronger than ever.

■ Iran-Oman deal on Hormuz in final stages: MP

The spokesman for Iran's Parliament Na-

tional Security and Foreign Policy Committee, Hassan Ghashghavi, stated that while a consensus on the general outline of the agreement with Oman has largely been reached, final approval must still be declared at higher official levels.

"We are waiting for both the final agreement and a joint statement that will clarify many of the general guidelines," Ghashghavi said.

The senior lawmaker added that the public must wait for the definitive outcome, noting, "Apart from the general discussion I mentioned, final news and details will hopefully be published shortly."

■ Iran's enemies suffered 'humiliating defeat': Friday prayer leader

Tehran's provisional Friday prayers leader Hojjatolislam Mohammad Javad Haj Ali Akbari said the United States and its allies suffered a "humiliating defeat" in the recent war against Iran, citing their contradictory statements as evidence of confusion. Addressing worshippers, he added that Iran's adversaries were seeking a way out after failing in their campaign. Haj Ali Akbari praised Iran's military strength, national unity, regional diplomacy, and economic resilience as key factors behind what he described as the country's recent achievements.

■ US expansion of nuclear arsenal 'a threat to all humanity'

Iran's mission to the international organizations in Vienna described the United States' expanding nuclear arsenal as a threat to all humanity.

"The painful legacy of the atomic bombings

of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is a sharp reminder of the deep human suffering caused by these horrible weapons," the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna, Austria, wrote in a message on X.

■ IRCG exhibits wreckage of US and Israeli aircraft after conflict

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has displayed wreckage from US and Israeli aircraft, including parts of an F-15 fighter jet it says was shot down by the IRCG Aerospace Force during the war against Iran.

The exhibition features the aircraft's ejection seat, canopy fragments and tail section, along with debris from other aircraft, drones and missiles. The F-15 wreckage is reportedly being shown publicly for the first time. The IRCG says the display highlights its air defense capabilities developed after the conflict.

Iran, Mauritania discuss regional tensions, bilateral cooperation

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Mauritanian counterpart Mohamed Salem Ould Merzouk discussed regional developments, diplomatic efforts to ease tensions, and ways to strengthen bilateral ties.

During a phone call on Thursday, Araghchi briefed Merzouk on Iran's diplomatic initiatives following the recent US and Israeli attacks, while the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation. They also stressed closer coordination between Tehran and Nouakchott in international forums.

Iranian attacks leave hundreds of US service members with enduring brain trauma



TEHRAN — Relentless Iranian drone and missile strikes targeting American bases across West Asia have wounded nearly 700 US service members, with traumatic brain injuries rapidly becoming the leading casualty of the joint US-Israeli war, according to a report by the Associated Press.

When precision-targeted Iranian drones detonate near military compounds, powerful pressure waves tear through human brain tissue. Unlike visible shrapnel or open physical wounds, these invisible shockwaves inflict serious cellular damage that shakes the neurological foundations of troops, creating severe health problems that will last long after the physical conflict ends.

Despite the rising casualty count, officials in Washington have frequently downplayed the severity of these injuries. Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell recently characterized the majority of casualties sustained over a concentrated two-week period as merely "minor concussions." However, medical professionals warn against rushing service members back into active combat before their brains have time to heal. Concussions are often grouped under the deceptive label of "mild" brain trauma, but lingering symptoms can persist for months or years. Affected soldiers endure chronic headaches, severe dizziness, and persistent cognitive haze, commonly known as "brain fog," and doctors admit they have no reliable way to predict which soldiers will fully recover.

The aerial and drone-driven nature of this war creates a far more dangerous environment for brain trauma than previous conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Instead of ground-level roadside bombs, aerial drones detonate closer to soldiers' heads, generating unique pressure waves that tear through neural pathways in ways medical science is only beginning to understand. Repeated exposure to these blast waves dramatically increases the risk of degenerative brain conditions such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a disease usually associated with professional football. Dr. David Okonkwo, a brain trauma specialist at the University of Pittsburgh, has stressed that the brain must be given full recovery time before facing new trauma, though the fast operational tempo of the current war rarely affords soldiers adequate time to rest.

The mounting toll of invisible injuries is also creating political fallout in Washington, where

lawmakers are demanding formal investigations into administrative neglect and standard medical care for wounded service members. They point to critical flashpoints, such as a devastating drone strike on a tactical base in Kuwait that claimed the lives of six US soldiers. Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin recently pressed defense officials to release findings regarding care delays, stating that she spoke directly with constituents who sustained traumatic brain injuries from Donald Trump's war in Iran and went weeks without so much as a screening, let alone specialized care.

While Defense Health Agency spokesman Peter Graves stated that official policy mandates immediate TBI screening for all service members, troops on the ground describe a very different reality. A deeply ingrained military culture often discourages soldiers from reporting invisible wounds out of fear of being viewed as weak or unfit for duty. As a result, many suffer in silence, using alcohol or other substances to manage nightmares and memory loss while forcing themselves to remain on duty. Left untreated, these injuries can devastate veterans' lives years after combat ends, leading to severe memory lapses, extreme light sensitivity, and personal relationships fraying under the weight of unexplainable volatility.

As the catastrophic human and structural toll of the US aggression continues to mount, the reckless adventurism of the war on Iran is visibly collapsing from within, exposing the profound hubris and strategic failure of Washington's ambitions. Rather than achieving its stated objectives, the unprovoked military campaign has severely depleted the United States' global stockpile of precision long-range missiles, laying bare an unsustainable overextension of military power that has ignited fierce internal recriminations inside the administration. The reported confrontation between President Donald Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth at Camp David over critical munitions shortages and deceptive assessments of military readiness underscores a regime scrambling to mask its own operational bankruptcy. Ultimately, this widening military and economic crisis ties directly back to the human tragedy inflicted upon America's own ranks: a reckless war of aggression that drains national arsenals while sentencing hundreds of service members to suffer lifelong, invisible neurological damage for an ill-conceived and failing geopolitical gamble.

Iran sets the tempo of the conflict

From Page 1 ▶ Washington's latest gambit was thirteen nights of bombing aimed, this time, at forcing Iran to relinquish control of the strait. Thirteen nights in which Iran responded to every single one. More than that: Tehran demonstrated what experts call "escalation dominance," possessing effective response tools at every level of confrontation. The United States may have inflicted damage on Iranian military infrastructure, but Tehran was prepared to absorb that cost. Throughout the fortnight, Trump threatened to bomb Iranian bridges and power plants for every vessel attacked in the strait; he also threatened to use frozen Iranian funds to compensate ships targeted by strikes. None of it moved Iran an inch.

Tehran sets the tempo of this conflict and, as such, holds absolute initiative. In a stark shift of strategy, for instance, Iran launched preventive strikes with a dual objective: wearing down the United States and reminding Persian Gulf states that hosting American bases on their soil is a source of destabilization. It struck a US military installation in Jordan, breaking the previous week's pause in hostilities with a surprise

action. Moreover, both Iran and its regional allies have expanded the theatre of operations: they are disrupting maritime traffic in the Red Sea and have attacked Syrian territory for the first time.

After those thirteen consecutive nights of bombing, the United States called a halt while Trump insisted that Iran had "begged" for a ceasefire. He also claimed that talks were "progressing." The truth is that, from Iran's strategic vantage point, there is no urgency for a ceasefire at a moment when every American military option has been tested and, simultaneously, has revealed its impotence. No alternative military solutions exist.

In this sense, Iran considers that the conflict, in its current phase, plays to its advantage and that, therefore, seeking a settlement through negotiation would make no strategic sense. Tehran calculates that the conflict can be prolonged and, in doing so, extract greater concessions from a United States that has demonstrated the limits of its capabilities. Washington is trapped.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, Kyrgyzstan emphasize expansion of trade, mining, energy, transit co-op

TEHRAN- In the meeting between Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade and Kyrgyzstan's Minister of Economy and Trade, both sides emphasized the development of trade exchanges, joint investment, and the expansion of industrial, mining, energy, transport, and free zone cooperation with the aim of elevating the level of economic relations between the two countries.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, in the meeting between "Seyyed Mohammad Atabak", Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, and Sydykov Bakyt Tolomushevich, Minister of Economy and Commerce of Kyrgyzstan, the two sides, while emphasizing the extensive capacities for economic cooperation, stressed the development of trade relations and investment within the framework of regional agreements, including the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The two sides also emphasized the development of joint production for export to third-country markets, increased cooperation in the export of knowledge-based products, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, expansion of cooperation between free zones, and development of investment in the industry and mining sectors.

In the mining and energy sector, referring to Kyrgyzstan's mineral capacities, the readiness of Iran for cooperation in exploration, extraction, processing, provision of technical and engineering



services, modernization of mining industries, and transfer of technical knowledge was announced.

In the transport and transit sector, the two sides emphasized the activation of the Bandar Abbas-Osh railway route, establishment of direct flights, reduction of transit costs, and completion of regional corridors.

Emphasis was also placed on the importance of participation in the "Belt and Road" initiative and utilizing Iran's transit capacities to connect Kyrgyzstan to regional and international markets.

Furthermore, the development of banking, logistics, and transport infrastructure, holding a joint banking committee, using national currencies, establishing joint investment funds, and utilizing modern financing methods were among other issues agreed upon by the two parties.

Iran, Russia pledge to deepen trade ties, remove banking, transport hurdles

TEHRAN- The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade emphasized the necessity of maximum utilization of the capacities of the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Union, development of industrial and trade cooperation, strengthening transport infrastructure, accelerating the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway, and formulating a comprehensive roadmap for bilateral cooperation.

According to IRNA reported on Thursday from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, in a meeting with Alexei Overchuk, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, while referring to the growing trend of trade exchanges between Iran and Russia over the past three years, stated: Despite the significant increase in trade volume between the two countries, the extensive capacities for economic, industrial, and investment cooperation necessitate that the level of trade relations between Tehran and Moscow be elevated far beyond the current status.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade also cited the progress made in removing banking, transport, and logistics obstacles as important achievements of bilateral cooperation, and said: The activation of the joint banking messenger, expansion of correspondent banking relations between commercial banks, moving towards finalization of the monetary agreement between the central banks of Iran and Russia, and connecting the "Shetab" and "Mir" payment networks have provided the groundwork for facilitating trade exchanges using national currencies.

He also emphasized the full operationalization of the connection between the banking systems and financial messengers of the two countries, development of joint production of industrial parts, power plant equipment, machinery, and heavy vehicles, establishment of a unified digital customs, launching a green customs corridor and reducing goods clearance time, accelerating the Rasht-Astara railway project, development of the maritime transport fleet, and other matters.

Atabak announced the readiness of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade of Iran to formulate and update a comprehensive roadmap for industrial and trade cooperation between the two countries and to form a joint industrial, mining, and trade working group, and expressed hope that with the implementation of these programs, a new chapter of strategic cooperation between Tehran and Moscow in the fields of industry, mining, trade, and investment will be inaugurated.

During this meeting, Alexei Overchuk, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, while offering condolences for the martyrdom of officials, scientists, and a number of Iranian people in the third imposed war, emphasized the development of trade and industrial capacities between the two countries.

Ground should be facilitated for providing Iran's technical-engineering services in Russia

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs, referring to the

capabilities of Iranian technical and engineering companies, proposed that the ground for the presence of these companies in Russian projects be facilitated.

According to IRNA reported on Thursday from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Mohammad Sadegh Mofatteh, in a meeting with Alexey Gruzdev, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Russian Federation, stated: The presence of companies in Russian tenders requires company registration in that country and possession of a tax code; therefore, removing obstacles and facilitating this process can contribute to a broader presence of Iranian companies in the Russian market.

He said: Iranian companies possess sufficient capability and experience in fields such as construction, greenhouse construction, design and implementation of various systems, construction of petrochemical complexes, road maintenance and transport infrastructure, and other construction and industrial projects.

Mofatteh described Iran as a major supplier of various types of building materials and equipment, and added: Cement, tiles and ceramics, sanitary porcelain, faucets, elevators, and various types of building equipment are among the products that can be supplied and exported to the Russian market.

Referring to Iran's extensive capacities in the mining and mineral industries sector, he announced Iran's readiness for information exchange, development of joint cooperation, and attraction of Russian investors in this sector.

Mofatteh added: One of the important areas of cooperation is attracting Russian investors to operate in Iran's mines, especially in the production of cathode copper needed by Russia, and in this regard, suitable capacities for joint investment can be created.

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs emphasized the necessity of increasing the exchange of trade delegations between the two countries and said: Holding business conferences and specialized exhibitions in Iran and Russia, and the strong presence of traders and businessmen from both countries in these events, can lead to a better understanding of production capacities and market needs of both sides, and ultimately the development of bilateral trade.

Mofatteh stated: For accurate identification of cooperation capacities, it is essential that the Russian side provides the Iranian side with standards, technical requirements, and information needed to meet its domestic market needs, as well as the list of goods and products it requires.

He concluded by emphasizing: The development of Iran-Russia cooperation requires the continuation of specialized dialogues, accurate identification of both sides' needs, removal of implementation obstacles, and support for the presence of the private sector in each other's markets.

Iran, a strategic partner of EAEU on path to trade development, regional integration

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, while reading the message of the First Vice President at the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), emphasized Iran's determination to deepen economic cooperation with member states of this union, full implementation of the free trade agreement, development of transit corridors, strengthening financial and banking cooperation, and utilization of shared capacities to achieve regional growth and prosperity.

According to IRNA report from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of the Eurasian Economic Union held in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyz Republic, while delivering the message of Mohammad Reza Aref, the First Vice President, and referring to recent developments in the region, stated: Iran has been targeted by the aggression of the Zionist regime and the United States over the past months. In this war, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, as the highest political and religious authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran, along with members of his family, were martyred. Additionally, a number of political and military officials and thousands of civilians, including 168 innocent students of Minab School, were massacred in a criminal act.

He continued: The recent attacks by the Zionist regime and the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the bombing of urban and civilian, educational, medical, and pharmaceutical infrastructure, including the targeted and deliberate bombardment of vital transportation, energy, and industrial infrastructure and their destruction, were not only a war crime against the Iranian people, but also disrupted production, exports, and rendered transit corridors and routes for the movement of goods and energy across the entire region insecure. These corridors act as the vital arteries of the region and play a key role in facilitating trade, development and economic growth, job creation, poverty reduction, narrowing class divides, and increasing political stability of countries.

Atabak stated: The situation faced by the Islamic Republic of Iran was not merely a threat to a nation's national security, but a challenge to the fundamental principles upon which the international legal system is based. Therefore, defending these principles is not merely defending the Islamic Republic of Iran, but defending collective security, regional stability, and the credibility of international law. Nevertheless, the great Iranian nation, with unparalleled courage and resilience in the face of the aggressive onslaught of enemies and certain conspiracies, has defended



its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity with honor, and today is nobly seeking an end to war and insecurity across the entire region through diplomacy and honorable solutions.

Stating that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes in multilateral regional cooperation mechanisms and frameworks formed by regional countries without dependence on extra-regional powers, he said: Economic integration and long-term regional cooperation are the keys to sustainable growth and shared prosperity of countries in the region. He stated: Our effort has always been to be an effective and reliable member and partner in regional arrangements and blocs. The active presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in arrangements such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), BRICS, the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a testament to this claim.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade emphasized: Undoubtedly, the Eurasian Economic Union holds a special place in the foreign policy and economic diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the free trade agreement between us and obtaining observer status in this union are signs of the will of both parties for effective and productive cooperation in the activities of this important economic body in this geographical expanse. The active participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the highest-level meetings of the Eurasian Economic Union demonstrates our determination and resolve to expand trade and economic relations between us and all five member states and observer members.

Referring to Iran's presence in the summits and Intergovernmental Council meetings (Prime Ministers' meeting) of the Eurasian Economic Union, he said: This year, the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission, will hold the second Joint Committee and also the second meeting of the Working Group on Technical Barriers to Trade (under paragraph

10 of Article 4.7 of the agreement) in Tehran, and will review the latest status of the implementation of the agreement and existing challenges.

Atabak expressed: About three months ago, we also held the first anniversary of the implementation of the free trade agreement between the I.R. of Iran and the member states of the Eurasian Union, hosted by the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the presence of ambassadors of member states based in Tehran and relevant domestic bodies. Stating that the aforementioned agreement has been the most important implementation step we have taken over the past year in deepening mutual economic relations, he said: This agreement provides unique opportunities for national economies and a suitable platform for increasing the volume of trade exchanges. As it has already led to an increase in the volume of trade between us, and this trend will accelerate further with the removal of existing obstacles.

Emphasizing that one of the main axes of Iran's economic diplomacy is the development of relations with friendly countries, neighbors, and developing countries, he said: In this regard, transport cooperation and the activation of transit corridors for goods and passengers are among our important priorities. We consider cooperation in the field of transit and economic corridors essential for facilitating trade, ensuring the security of supply chains and food security, increasing integration, and reducing poverty and economic disparity.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade said: One of the most important tools of pressure against actors pursuing an independent policy in the international system is financial and banking mechanisms and the control of money transfer channels. We believe that this union has reached sufficient maturity regarding the necessity of creating an independent financial and banking system and must transform existing ideas into marketable products to secure its financial security. In this regard, we propose that the central banks of member states, in the form of a specialized committee, while analyzing the trend of digital

currency development worldwide, share their experiences regarding the launch of central bank digital currencies (CBDC) with each other and create an intra-group mechanism for interaction in this field. It is also appropriate for the organization's members to cooperate and synergize to introduce a new and more efficient mechanism for interbank messaging as an alternative to SWIFT.

Atabak announced: From the perspective of the Islamic Republic of Iran, cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union is a long-term strategy to create a powerful region, through strengthening national sovereignties, facilitating and developing trade, transport, energy security, development of modern technologies, agriculture and tourism, creating shared financial and banking infrastructure, people-to-people communications, and other areas of interest. He stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to utilize its national and domestic capacities in the aforementioned areas at both bilateral levels and within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, and to discuss its plans through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with union members and the commission. I am certain that by relying on cultural and historical commonalities and benefiting from the blessing of geographical proximity, we can portray a successful model of regional integration.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the advancement of the process of creating a common market for oil and petroleum products, accelerating priority measures for the digitalization of transport and transit corridors, and also finalizing the electronic commerce agreement for goods within the Eurasian Economic Union. The realization of these goals, while improving supply chain efficiency, reducing transaction costs, and increasing transparency and predictability of trade, will be an effective step towards strengthening the region's economic resilience.

In this message, he addressed Iran's capacities and said: Iran, with its extensive capacities in the energy sector, strategic position in connecting international north-south and east-west corridors, and development of customs and digital infrastructure, is ready to place its experiences, capacities, and capabilities at the disposal of member and observer states of the Eurasian Economic Union within the framework of scientific cooperation based on mutual interests. The success of these initiatives requires the creation of a predictable environment free from unnecessary barriers to trade, transport, and economic cooperation, so that all members can equally benefit from the advantages of regional integration.

Tehran, Beijing set sights on strategic economic partnership beyond trade

TEHRAN- Iran's Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade emphasized the necessity of elevating Iran-China economic relations in line with the extensive existing capacities and said: Development of trade, industrial, investment, logistics, and exhibition cooperation is among the most important joint priorities of Tehran and Beijing.

According to IRNA reported on Thursday from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Mohammad Sadegh Mofatteh, in a meeting this with Li Chenggang, China's international trade representative (with full ministerial rank) and Deputy Minister of Commerce, while referring to the growing trend of Iran-China economic relations, stated: Iran is ready, by utilizing mutual capacities, to elevate bilateral cooperation from the level of trade exchanges to strategic partnerships, joint investment, and development of value chains.

He identified the revision and signing of the 1991 Iran-China commercial agreement as one of the most important axes of the talks and said: The revised text of this document has been finalized after several rounds of expert negotiations and the formation of specialized committees in both countries, and is ready for signing.

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade emphasized setting an appropriate time for signing this agreement and beginning the implementation of the mechanisms foreseen within it.

Mofatteh also raised Iran's proposal for examining the "Comprehensive Tripartite Cooperation Plan of Iran, China, and Pakistan" and added: This proposal has been presented with the aim of utilizing the complementary capacities of the three countries in the fields of trade, transport, logistics, investment, and financial cooperation, and at the current stage is merely put forward as a preliminary framework for joint examination.

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade identified the stable supply of essential goods, raw materials, machinery, equipment, and parts needed by domestic industries as another important axis of the talks, and called for the introduction of reliable Chinese suppliers, conclusion of long-term contracts, establishment of supply mechanisms in emergency situations, use of alternative financial methods, and guarantee of quality and after-sales services.

Emphasizing the necessity of developing industrial cooperation between the two countries, he

stated: Iran-China economic relations should be directed more than ever towards joint investment, joint production, technology transfer, and implementation of industrial projects in sectors such as mining, mineral industries, petrochemicals, automotive, industrial machinery, renewable energies, electrical equipment, batteries, pharmaceuticals, and knowledge-based industries.

Mofatteh also described the activation of the Iran-China railway corridor as a strategic move in the development of bilateral trade and said: Launching scheduled trains, granting preferential tariffs, developing cooperation in logistics hubs, dry ports, container terminals, and examining complementary routes through Central Asia and Afghanistan can, while reducing cost and time of cargo transport, strengthen the security of the supply chain and Iran's transit position.

In another part of this meeting, the Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade identified the development of exhibition cooperation as one of the effective tools in increasing economic interactions between the two countries and proposed that Iran participate as the "Honorary Guest" in the China International Import Expo (CIIE 2026).

Yemen flips the battlefield on Saudi Arabia

Sanaa's shifting military doctrine traps Riyadh as the kingdom seeks external shields

From page 1 ► Sanaa refused to absorb the blow. Early Thursday, salvos of ballistic missiles and drone swarms obliterated the assembly points.

According to AFP, an anonymous Saudi military source acknowledged that at least 58 Saudi-backed mercenaries were killed in the operation.

Sanaa reported hundreds of casualties. The exact arithmetic matters less than the doctrinal shift it represents. Yemen no longer trades territory at the margins while enduring a siege.

The preemptive doctrine is fully active. Every Saudi military mobilization is now a target. Riyadh and its proxy forces can no longer dictate the timing or the geography of escalation.

The new maritime geography

The land strikes represent only one half of a larger campaign. On July 22, Sanaa formalized a total naval embargo on Saudi-linked shipping, cementing a strict blockade-for-blockade equation.

The trigger was a July 13 Saudi airstrike that cratered the runway at Sanaa International Airport, intentionally halting diplomatic and medical evacuation flights. The response cascaded across the region's shipping lanes.

The Bab al-Mandeb Strait abruptly became a hazard zone for the kingdom. Crude oil loaded at Saudi Arabia's Red Sea terminals and transiting the southern chokepoint collapsed from roughly three million barrels per day to about half that volume.

Insurance premiums for vessels docking at western Saudi ports reportedly spiked tenfold, climbing from a fraction of a percent of hull value to a full one percent. Container handling at Jeddah, Yanbu, and Jizan plummeted.

Riyadh desperately attempted to bypass this southern vulnera-



bility by rerouting crude exports through Yanbu, its northern Red Sea hub. Yemeni naval forces simply extended their strike radius.

On August 5, anti-ship ballistic missiles hit the Saudi tanker Wafa right off the Yanbu coast. It was the eighth tanker struck since the blockade began. Another 29 vessels have been forced to turn back, seeking agonizingly long refuge around the Cape of Good Hope. The northern Red Sea offers no sanctuary.

A coalition of the vulnerable

Facing a military campaign it can neither suppress through airstrikes nor contain through other means, Saudi Arabia has returned to its oldest reflex: seeking external shields for internal weakness.

The Multinational Maritime Defense Alliance unveiled in late July already bore the marks of diplomatic theater. It brought together regional signers without bringing combat commitments from major powers.

Riyadh's strategic panic reached a new peak on August 7, when Pakistani, Saudi, and Turkish leaders convened in Mecca to sign a mutual defense agreement.

The trilateral pact is being presented as a monumental shift in regional security architecture. On paper, it unites Saudi finan-

cial reserves, Turkish military technology, and Pakistan's nuclear-backed armed forces under a single deterrence umbrella. In reality, the agreement is an admission of profound structural vulnerability.

Riyadh entered this war in 2015 at the head of a nine-nation coalition backed by total American logistical and intelligence support, projecting a victory within weeks.

Eleven years later, after spending hundreds of billions of dollars and watching its Red Sea energy routes paralyzed by Yemeni naval strikes, the kingdom is begging Ankara and Islamabad to guarantee its territorial safety.

This roster of so-called allies changes nothing on the ground or at sea. The Resistance Front does not wage conventional state-on-state warfare. It operates through mobile ballistic batteries, subterranean drone foundries, and low-cost anti-ship missiles launched from asymmetric coastlines.

For instance, neither Turkish naval frigates nor Pakistani infantry units massing on borders will dismantle the subterranean launch sites in northern Yemen or force open the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. Escort ships can guard individual hulls, but they cannot remove the political and military origins of Sanaa's "blockade for

blockade" doctrine.

The House of Saud's decision-makers seem convinced that paper alliances and palace handshakes can compensate for the strategic realities forged on the battlefield by resilient resistance movements. They are deluding themselves.

The cost of an endless siege

Saudi Arabia is trapped in a paradox of its own creation. Escalating to a full-scale ground war guarantees open-ended attrition, exposing eastern oilfields and western resorts to forces that easily reach Abha and Jizan. Lifting the siege on Sanaa's terms forces the kingdom to admit its trillion-dollar intervention was a colossal failure.

The middle option of maintaining a low-intensity siege is rapidly evaporating. Ansarullah has made the status quo too expensive to bear.

The Yemeni Foreign Ministry warned this week that persistent colonial policies will ultimately break the ruling structure in Riyadh itself. President Mahdi al-Mashat delivered the final condition without diplomatic ornament. If the aggression persists and the blockade remains, any dialogue is an illusion.

Member of Ansarullah's political bureau, Mohammed Al-Farah said that the country is "proceeding with breaking the blockade, no matter what alliances are formed against us."

Yemen has ceased fighting merely to survive. Despite years of blockade, bombardment, and isolation, it has cultivated an indigenous military-industrial capability and transformed its strategic geography into a powerful instrument of leverage.

The architects of the cruel 2015 war sowed the wind. They are now reaping the whirlwind.

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey sign joint defense pact



From page 1 ► In a joint statement, the three countries declared a "shared commitment to further strengthening their collective security and to promoting peace, security and stability in the region and beyond."

The deal comes a day after Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by powerful army chief Asim Munir, arrived in Saudi Arabia and performed the Umrah pilgrimage in Mecca.

"Although taking place against the backdrop of heightened tensions in the (Persian) Gulf, the visit will carry significance beyond the immediate crisis and short-term considerations," Pakistani foreign ministry spokesman Tahir Andrabi said on Thursday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also travelled to Saudi Arabia on Friday to meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The deal among the three countries follows nearly a year of negotiations. Sealing the agreement in Mecca, the holiest site in Islam, adds symbolic heft to a pact that builds on longstanding bilateral military ties.

Pakistan has provided training and technical assistance to Saudi forces for decades, while Turkey and Pakistan have exchanged warships and training aircraft. In 2023, Riyadh agreed to buy Turkish drones in what Ankara called its largest defense export contract.

"The pact includes a collective defense clause. It is purely defensive in nature, pledging mutual support only for defense," a Turkish official said.

The official added the agreement was not directed against any specific actor, was open to other regional countries, and did not abrogate or replace any existing bilateral or multilateral arrangements.

"The political symbolism of the summit is significant. Three of the Muslim world's most

influential states are convening at a moment of heightened uncertainty, demonstrating a growing willingness among regional and middle powers to coordinate more closely on security matters," said Abdulaziz Sager, chairman of the Gulf Research Center, a Saudi-based think tank.

"If institutionalized and translated into concrete cooperation, the trilateral framework could strengthen the three countries' collective diplomatic and defense weight while contributing to the emergence of a more regionally driven security architecture," Sager added.

Pakistan has deployed about 8,000 troops, fighter jets, drones and an air-defense system to the kingdom, Reuters reported in May, and has pursued wider security ties in the Persian Gulf region. It has opened negotiations with Kuwait over an expanded pact in exchange for energy cooperation and investment, Reuters reported in July.

Umar Karim, an expert on Saudi foreign policy at the University of Birmingham, called the deal a "highly significant development".

Mansoor Ahmed, of the Australian National University's Strategic and Defense Studies Centre, said Pakistan and Turkey bring strong defense industries to the table, while Saudi Arabia could contribute with technological spending.

However, the accord would likely not include a nuclear component, with Pakistan's atomic deterrent focused on what it sees as the threat from India, Ahmed added.

Andreas Krieg of King's College London said the deal showed a clear desire to diversify alliances beyond the United States.

"Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan are not trying to replace the United States. They are building the capacity to protect their interests when Washington cannot or will not do so," Krieg pointed out.

Trump vows to jail 'leakers' over reports of munitions shortage

President Donald Trump refutes reports that the U.S. is experiencing a munitions shortage from the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, vowing to jail those suspected of leaking information.

"The U.S. has massive amounts of 'munitions,' especially of certain types," Trump posted on Truth Social on Thursday. "Additionally, large amounts are being manufactured and shipped to the U.S. as needed. Defense companies are building the largest number of plants and factories in our country's history."

"The 'leakers' of these treasonous statements are being hunted down. Long term jail sentences will be sought!"

Trump and the Pentagon have pushed back against various reports that the U.S. military arsenal has been depleted.

Trump's anger over the reports comes as Iran has shown reluctance to reenter a cease-fire agreement on U.S. terms. Reports of a dwindled munitions stockpile could undermine the U.S. position in ongoing negotiations. Moreover, if the conflict is prolonged, it could further strain U.S. weapons supplies and stoke more global economic pain from disruptions to the Strait of Hormuz.

The war, which began on Feb. 28, already cost taxpayers around \$29 billion as of May for expended munitions, equipment repairs, and other operations, although outside esti-

mates put the broader war cost closer to \$50 billion. Last month, the Trump Administration asked the Senate for \$87 billion in emergency funding, including \$67 billion for the Pentagon. War Secretary Pete Hegseth told Senators the funding was needed to "rapidly replenish equipment and munitions," and included \$18 billion to replace advanced Patriot interceptors, Navy Tomahawks, and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missiles.

Multiple news outlets have reported that the U.S. has substantially depleted its global stockpile of key munitions. As early as March, senior officials and lawmakers raised concerns about how large-scale deployment of U.S. missiles could constrain support for Ukraine in its war with Russia. Some lawmakers also previously raised concerns that a munitions shortage would weaken the country's image in the face of its other geopolitical rivals like Russia and China.

And in May, Sen. Mark Kelly (D, Ariz.) publicly shared that it could take "years" to replenish stockpiles of Tomahawks, Patriots, and other munitions that were used in the war. Kelly cited a Department of Defense briefing, as well as Hegseth's public testimony. Hegseth accused Kelly of discussing classified information, which Kelly denied, and ordered a legal review of his remarks.

Reports about the status of the country's military arsenal have continued to be a thorn in the side of the Trump Administration.

Israel expands West Bank offensive with camp-by-camp strategy

From page 1 ► The Qalandia operation followed an identical playbook. Armored vehicles and drones descended on the camp, sealing roads to Jerusalem and reducing commercial storefronts near the checkpoint to rubble.

Palestine Red Crescent medics reported being systematically blocked from reaching the injured, leaving patients, including those needing emergency dialysis, trapped inside.

Soldiers beat dozens of detainees severely, seized private homes, and converted living rooms into temporary interrogation centers.

Israeli War Minister Israel Katz has instructed the military to prepare for the seizure of additional camps, positioning Balata in Nablus as the next target in a chillingly consistent strategy: seal off, evacuate, dismantle infrastructure, and establish a permanent occupation force.

Staggering violence

The scale of the violence is staggering. Palestinian documentation records over 11,000 attacks by forces and settlers across the territory in the first half of 2026 alone. Since late 2023, the death toll has climbed past 1,182, accompanied by over 13,000 injuries and nearly 24,000 arrests.

United Nations monitors report that movement restrictions, prolonged raids, and escalating settler violence have triggered the largest displacement crisis in the West Bank since 1967.

Over 2,300 people have been driven from their homes by direct intimidation and land seizures, while UNRWA facilities like the Qalandiya Training Center face repeated military raids.

Camp by camp, Israel is actively redrawing the map of the West Bank. What has unfolded is a systematic erasure of Palestinian community life, executed in plain sight while the world looks away.

Burning homes

Meanwhile, in the latest in a spate of violent confrontations, Israeli settlers attacked a small Palestinian community in the West Bank, injuring people, destroying homes and smashing their power source, the military and residents said on Thursday.

AFP journalists in remote Khirbet al-Tuba saw buildings blackened by fire and smoke, the interiors of three homes completely burned and graffiti in Hebrew spray-painted on remaining structures.

The dozen solar panels the isolated southern community relies on for power had also been smashed to render them unusable.

The Israeli military claimed it "strongly condemned" the raid and that it had responded after "homes being set on fire and Palestinians being attacked in the area by Israeli civilians" late on Aug 5.

"Several Palestinians were injured, among them a girl and a woman. Several structures were also burned," the military said.

"The suspects fled before the forces arrived."

Radwan Abu Jundi, whose house was torched, told AFP that about 40 settlers attacked the hamlet at around 10pm.

"The settlers started throwing stones. We rushed to protect the women, but they got to my wife and daughter and beat them," he said.

"Then they started spraying something and setting the room on fire. The pictures tell the whole story."

Locals said that five people were wounded in the attack, including Abu Jundi's wife and daughter, as well as another child.

"From the moment the attack began until daybreak, we spent the whole night standing here, putting out the fires and helping the injured," Ali Awad, another resident whose son was injured, told AFP.

Violence by Israeli settlers towards Pal-



estinians in the West Bank has persisted for years, but recent months have seen a surge in attacks.

Excluding Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, some 500,000 Israeli settlers live in the occupied West Bank among some three million Palestinians.

Khirbet al-Tuba is a community of about 100 people in the West Bank region of Masafa Yatta, where herding communities face frequent settler violence and home demolitions by the military, which has declared parts of the area an army firing zone.

The army claimed it would investigate, but Palestinians and rights groups complain that such investigations rarely lead to prosecutions, and that violent settlers are able to act with impunity – and the army's support when clashes break out.

"When we used to file complaints with the Israeli police over previous attacks, the Israeli army would come and arrest the (Palestinian) residents," local activist Osama Makhamreh told AFP on Thursday.

All Israeli settlements in the West Bank, which has been occupied since 1967, are illegal under international law.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, the most right-wing in Israel's history, has drastically increased the number of settlements and settlement outposts in the Palestinian territory.

Iran, Azerbaijan agree to expand sports cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran and Azerbaijan have agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of sports and youth affairs following a bilateral meeting between the two countries' sports officials.

Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Ahmad Donyamali and Azerbaijan's Minister of Youth and Sports Farid Gayibov held talks and emphasized the importance of expanding joint initiatives and strengthening sports relations between the neighboring countries.

During the meeting, Donyamali highlighted the significant potential for cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan, pointing to sports diplomacy, increased interaction between national federations, joint training camps and competitions, the exchange of coaches and athletes, as well as collaboration in education and talent development as key areas for future cooperation.

Gayibov welcomed the development of sporting relations with Iran and expressed Azerbaijan's readiness to broaden cooperation across various sectors related to sports and youth programs.

The two sides stressed that closer collaboration could help create new opportunities for athletes, coaches and sports organizations in both countries while contributing to the growth of regional sporting ties.

During the meeting, Donyamali also thanked the people and government of Azerbaijan for expressing their condolences following the death of Iran's late leader and conveyed a message of goodwill from President Masoud Pezeshkian to the Azerbaijani nation and President Ilham Aliyev.

The meeting was attended by Iran's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Mojtaba Damirchiloo, Deputy Minister for Championship and Professional Sports Development Mohammad Shervin Asbaghian, Director General of the Ministry's International Affairs Office Mohammad Hassan Taghizadeh, Director General of Public Relations and Information Mohsen Motamedkia, and Alireza Hedayatpour from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' public diplomacy department.

The agreement marks another step toward expanding sports cooperation and strengthening ties between Iran and Azerbaijan.

Spanish coach Gil to join Esteghlal coaching staff

TEHRAN - Spanish coach Joaquin Gil is expected to travel to Iran by Sunday to join Esteghlal's coaching staff.

Gil has emerged as the leading candidate to become Sohrab Bakhtiarzadeh's assistant, with negotiations between the two sides already held and an agreement reportedly reached.

According to the current plan, Gil will arrive in Tehran by Sunday and, after signing his contract, will join the Blues' training sessions.

At present, Turkish coach Ozcan Bizati, alongside former Esteghlal player Milad Meydavoodi, are among the key members of Bakhtiarzadeh's coaching staff.

Gil's arrival would add another international presence to Esteghlal's technical team as the Tehran giants continue preparations for the season ahead.

Sardar Azmoun linked with Esteghlal

TEHRAN - Sardar Azmoun has emerged as the dream attacking target of Esteghlal head coach Sohrab Bakhtiarzadeh as the Blues continue their search for a top-class striker ahead of the new season.

Esteghlal are still facing one of their biggest challenges before the start of the campaign, with the club's transfer window remaining closed. Contrary to expectations, the Tehran giants have not yet been allowed to register new signings, leaving their recruitment plans in serious doubt.

Esteghlal have not only failed to complete all

of Bakhtiarzadeh's desired signings but are also unable to officially register any new arrivals due to the closed transfer window.

The Blues have struggled in recent seasons due to the absence of a reliable, high-quality striker, while their foreign attacking options have also failed to fully solve the problem. As a result, strengthening the attacking line has become a key objective for the club.

Reports suggest that before the continuation of the transfer ban was confirmed, Bakhtiarzadeh had asked Esteghlal officials to begin negotiations for the signing of Sardar Azmoun. The head coach is also said to have personally contacted the Iranian national team forward to express the club's interest in bringing him to Tehran.

For now, Azmoun's arrival remains an ambitious and exciting scenario rather than a realistic transfer, but his name continues to represent the kind of attacking reinforcement Esteghlal are hoping to secure.

Esteghlal in talks with Spanish goalie Adan

TEHRAN - Esteghlal football club are reportedly in negotiations to bring back Spanish goalkeeper Antonio Adan, with the former Real Madrid shot-stopper closing in on a return to the Tehran giants.

Adan, who were Esteghlal's first-choice goalkeeper last season, is expected to extend his contract with the Iranian club as the Blues look to strengthen their squad ahead of the new campaign.

With Esteghlal's transfer window still closed due to ongoing registration restrictions, the coaching staff have asked club officials to make the necessary arrangements for Adan's return to Iran. The experienced goalkeeper is viewed as a key option to provide stability and leadership at the back, especially at a time when the club face limitations in signing new players.

However, completing the deal will require Esteghlal to resolve their financial obligations toward the Spanish goalkeeper. Reports indicate that Adan is still owed around \$200,000 by the club from his previous contract, a debt that must be settled before finalizing a new agreement.

The 38-year-old goalkeeper brings extensive experience from European football, having represented clubs such as Real Madrid, Real Betis and Atletico Madrid during his career.

Esteghlal are hoping that negotiations will lead to a positive outcome and allow Adan to return between the posts as they prepare for the challenges of the upcoming season.

Ex-Persepolis captain Alishah joins Gol Gohar

TEHRAN - Former Persepolis captain Omid Alishah has reacted to his move to Gol Gohar, thanking the club's supporters for their years of support and unforgettable memories.

Alishah, who recently began a new chapter in his professional career, shared a heartfelt message following his transfer to Gol Gohar.

"Now that I have started a new chapter in my professional journey, I would like to respectfully bow before all the loyal and passionate Persepolis fans and sincerely ask for their forgiveness and support," Alishah wrote.

"The love, support and memories we created together will always remain a valuable and lasting part of my career, and I will forever be grateful for them."

The veteran midfielder also expressed his commitment to his new club, adding: "From today, I will give my full effort and dedication alongside Gol Gohar to help create a season worthy of this great club."

Alishah was one of Persepolis' most experienced figures and served as captain of the Tehran giants for several seasons. His departure marks the end of a significant era for the club, where he built a strong connection with the fans through years of commitment and leadership.

The 33-year-old midfielder now begins a new challenge with Gol Gohar as the Sirjan-based club look to strengthen their squad and compete at the highest level in Iranian football.

Ancient Iranian wind towers inspire Italian designer for overheated cities

TEHRAN - An Italian designer is developing a concept for mobile wind towers inspired by Iran's centuries-old wind catchers, locally named a Badgir, aiming to reduce urban heat by directing natural air flows into streets and public spaces affected by rising temperatures.

German media outlet Focus Online reported that Danilo Petta, a designer from Olbia on the Italian island of Sardinia, is working on the project to channel sea breezes and local winds into particularly hot areas during the summer months.

The design is based on traditional Persian wind towers, which have been used for centuries in Iran to cool buildings without relying on electricity. These architectural structures capture and redirect natural air currents to improve indoor comfort, particularly in cities such as Yazd, Kerman and Kashan.

"Cooling cities is an important issue. It is not enough to simply plant more trees," Petta said, according to the report. He argued that urban planners should consider not only creating shade but also how to effectively direct airflow when designing public spaces.

The project is being developed in cooperation with the international architecture firm Mask Architects and engineering company AQH Italy. The proposed towers are designed to capture prevailing winds and sea breezes and redirect them toward areas with higher heat exposure.

Initial estimates indicate that the system could lower local air temperatures by between 1 and 2 degrees Celsius, while reducing perceived temperatures by up to 5 degrees. The



Windcatchers or wind towers are traditional architectural elements have been used to create cross ventilation and passive cooling in buildings in Iran for centuries.

aim is to create more comfortable outdoor environments and encourage greater use of public spaces during periods of extreme heat.

Petta also highlighted the need to redesign urban infrastructure such as bus shelters, arguing that materials such as Plexiglas can intensify heat by creating a greenhouse effect. He suggested that recycled and cooler materials could provide alternatives.

Beyond wind towers, experts have pointed to other climate adaptation measures, including green facades and the "sponge city"

approach. Green walls can provide shade, help cool buildings and contribute to improving urban air quality, while sponge city designs use green spaces, retention areas and water management systems to reduce flooding and preserve water during heatwaves and drought periods.

The renewed interest in wind towers highlights how traditional architectural knowledge, including Iran's indigenous cooling technologies, continues to inspire modern solutions to global challenges such as climate change and rising urban temperatures.

New reference work on Linear Elamite inscriptions published by international research team

TEHRAN - A comprehensive scholarly volume on Linear Elamite inscriptions and related cuneiform texts has recently been published, offering a detailed corpus and analysis of ancient Iranian writings from Susa

and shedding new light on one of the earliest writing systems of the Iranian Plateau. Titled "Linear Elamite Inscriptions and Related Cuneiform Texts," the 180-page volume is the result of years of research by a team of Iranian and international specialists led by French archaeologist and linguist François Desset.

Published in the OrientLab Series Maior, the book includes an introduction to the early history of writing in Iran, a classification of Linear Elamite texts, including inscriptions on cones, tablets and stone objects, and a specialized study of inscriptions from the reign of Puzur-Inshushinak, ruler of Susa and king of Awan.

Desset told the Miras Aria news agency that the main objective of the volume was to create an accurate and systematically classified corpus of all known Linear Elamite texts discovered at Susa. "This book is the result of joint work by Iranian and international researchers," Desset said, adding that the study aimed to resolve uncertainties surrounding the chronology and writing system of Linear Elamite.

According to Desset, the volume also examines the relationship between Linear Elamite inscriptions and related cuneiform texts, allowing researchers to gain a broader understanding of the administrative and political structures of Elam during different historical periods.

UNESCO-listed Soltaniyeh to undergo restoration

TEHRAN - Restoration work on the interior of the UNESCO-listed Soltaniyeh dome in northwestern Iran will begin soon after a contractor is selected in the coming days, a provincial cultural heritage official said.

On Friday, Seyyed Mikaeil Mousavi, director general of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts for Zanjan province, said on Friday that the next phase of conservation will include restoration of the eastern and western sections of the monument, installation of a new wooden entrance door, tilework in the eastern section, and organization of the archaeological excavation area.

The project will also focus on restoring the monument's inscriptions and interior decorations, Mousavi said, adding that completion of this phase would allow the removal of the scaffolding that has filled much of the interior during years of conservation work, a priority emphasized by Iran's minister of cultural heritage.

He said the subsequent phase of the project will address damaged tiles and other parts of the monument requiring conservation.

Located about 40 kilometers southeast of the city of Zanjan, the Soltaniyeh dome, also known as the Mausoleum of Oljaytu, was built between 1302 and 1312 when [the city of] Soltaniyeh served as the capital of the Ilkhanid dynasty, a branch of the Mongol Empire. Commissioned by Sultan Mohammad Khodabandeh (Oljaytu), it is the only surviving structure of the former royal citadel.

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005, the mausoleum is regarded as one of the finest achievements of Persian architecture and a landmark in the evolution of Islamic architecture in Central and Western Asia.

The 14th-century monument is renowned for its turquoise-tiled, double-shelled brick dome, which rises about 50 meters above its base. It is widely recognized as the world's largest brick dome and one of the most significant mausoleum structures of the Islamic period.

First Announcement



National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY

AHVAZ-IRAN

2242352
1

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0440008

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	PDC BIT 4-1" & 5-7/8"	105 NO
2	NOZZLES FOR PDC BITS	360 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 18,842/07 EURO or 31,946,440,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN. PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D.INCLUDING AN ADVANCE PAYMENT. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS

www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://iets.mporg.ir> www.setadiran.ir

Iraq seeks to boost scientific, academic ties with Iran

TEHRAN – Iraqi officials in a meeting with Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, have called for expanding academic, scientific, and technological cooperation with Iran.

The science minister met in Baghdad on Thursday with Iraq's Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Haider Abd-Dahd Al-Rubaie, Iraq's Minister of Health, Abdul-Hussein al-Mousawi, and Acting Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Abdul Hussein Al-Mussawi, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, the two sides underscored the need to expedite the implementation of the previously signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

Sharing Iran's expertise in higher education development to achieve quantitative and qualitative goals, addressing the needs of Iraq's substantial youth population, as well as attracting genius Iraqi students, and enhancing research collaborations were among the key focuses of the talks.

Simaei-Sarraf also held a meeting with Iraq's National Wisdom Movement leader Sayyed Ammar al-Hakim.

Underlining the extensive scientific and academic capacities of Iran and Iraq, both parties exchanged views on strategies for promoting scientific cooperation, expanding joint research collaborations, and developing academic interactions between the higher education institutions of the two countries.

Fostering sci-tech ties

In April, Simaei-Sarraf and Al-Aboudi underlined the need to boost scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

The officials also discussed ways to develop collaborations on artificial intelligence (AI) utilizing the capacities of the two nations, IRNA reported.

During a meeting held in Tehran on April 18, Al-Aboudi announced that the establishment of a branch of Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iraq has been put on the agenda.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf voiced Iran's readiness to share the country's scientific, research, and educational achievements with Iraq to help enhance bilateral ties.



The official said that Iranian and Iraqi students have conducted a total of 350 joint research projects so far, which needs to be improved considering the available capacities.

Referring to an upcoming Iran-Iraq science week, which is scheduled to be held in Isfahan and Fars provinces, Simaei-Sarraf said the event was delayed because of the [US-Israeli imposed] war, but it will be held at the earliest convenience.

As the two officials agreed, AI and smart education will be among the topics to be discussed during the Iran-Iraq science week. The event is expected to lay the basis for holding a joint conference on AI in the near future.

In January, the two sides held a meeting in Baghdad. During the meeting, the Iraqi minister said his country welcomes Iran's expertise in establishing science and technology parks.

"In my previous visits to Iran, I have toured its science and technology parks and have become familiar with Iran's impressive capabilities in the technology sector."

He added: "The legal framework for establishing science and technology parks in Iraq has now been developed, and we are ready to utilize Iran's experience in this area."

Al-Aboudi stressed that strengthening academic collaborations between Iran and Iraq would synergize the scientific capacities of both nations to address mutual challenges.

The second Iran-Iraq science week was held in the city of Karbala, Iraq, from January 18 to 20, to enhance bilateral scientific, academic, and technological relations. The two countries signed an action plan to give a boost to their scientific collaborations.

The action plan was signed by Omid Rezaei-Far, an official with the Ministry of Science, and Haider Abd Dahed, Iraqi deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The joint scientific programs were developed to focus on different aspects, including boosting cooperation on granting scholarships to graduate and postgraduate education, particularly within a framework titled 'study in Iraq'.

It also involved holding training courses for professors and students; promoting cooperation on joint scientific supervision; exchanging professors to conduct scientific research, and establishing science and technology parks in Iraq collaboratively under the management of the Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq.

official announced the ICRC will- ingness to expand technical and specialized cooperation between the two parties.

Expressing sympathy with the Iranians, he noted that: "We are aware of the difficult conditions people have faced in the aftermath of the war." The ICRC will strive, within the framework of its humanitarian mandate, to effectively cooperate with the IRCS to alleviate human sufferings.

Offering condolences on the martyrdom of the relief workers, he expressed sympathy with their families and the Iranian nation, highlighting that: "The loss of relief workers while carrying out humanitarian missions is a matter of deep concern to us. Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are members of a family. In such circumstances, they must stand together and support one another."

Referring to the future plans of the ICRC, Bonamy said that cooperation with the IRCS is a cornerstone of the committee's activities in the country, adding that enhancing preparedness to face potential crises requires close cooperation, ongoing coordination, and joint programming.

The ICRC is prepared to expand its cooperation with the IRCS in areas like search and rescue, pre-hospital services, psychosocial support, rehabilitation, the promotion of mental health for relief workers and disaster victims, and specialized training.

Referring to the economic and livelihood impacts of the US attacks on residents in southern parts of the country, particularly fishers, the official voiced the ICRC readiness to support assistance programs aimed at restoring the livelihoods of those affected.



training, crisis management, Restoring Family Links (RFL), and mass gathering management.

The official stressed the need to benefit from modern technologies, noting that the use of artificial intelligence in crisis management, hazard analysis, satellite image analysis, humanitarian data management, operational information systems, and digital crisis management can bring about a significant transformation in the quality and speed of incident response.

Moreover, Alishvandi called for the implementation of joint projects in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), the training of specialized personnel, the development of post-crisis intervention protocols, and cooperation during regional crises.

Highlighting the development of regional cooperation regarding crisis preparedness and response, Alishvandi said developing joint emergency response scenarios, conducting collabora-

tative exercises, pre-positioning relief supplies, and strengthening regional coordination can enhance the international movement's preparedness for future crises.

The official also urged the ICRC to play a more constructive role in safeguarding civilians and rescuers during the conflicts.

"Support for aid workers must become a key pillar of joint efforts. Joint protection programs, specialized training on mission security, the documentation of attacks against relief personnel, and the exchange of international experiences should be put on the agenda," she noted.

For his part, Bonamy underlined sustaining and developing the ongoing collaboration between the two organizations, lauding the ICRC the IRCS capabilities and valuable experience in relief operations, pre-hospital care, rehabilitation, international humanitarian law, and humanitarian crisis response. The of-

SOCIETY

AUGUST 8, 2026

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

Tehran, Dushanbe discuss ways to deepen scientific, educational co-op

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Tajikistan, Alireza Haqiqian, and Tajikistan's Minister of Education and Sciences, Rahim Saidzod, have explored avenues to enhance scientific and educational collaborations, particularly ways to increase the number of scholarships to university students.

Currently, Iran and Tajikistan each award 50 scholarships mainly to medical students from the other country, IRNA reported.

Implementing joint research projects, developing textbooks, academic books, and expanding cooperation between universities of the two countries, as well as expanding the teaching of Persian language and literature were among other discussed issues.

Both parties emphasized education scholarship a key factor in fostering academic and scientific interactions. The increase in scholarship quotas had previously been raised during a meeting between Rustam Emomali, Chairman of the National Assembly of Tajikistan, and Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, Parliament Speaker, in 2024.

Establishing joint scientific committee

In November 2025, Tajikistan's ambassador to Iran, Nizamuddin Zahedi, underlined the need for the establishment of a joint scientific committee between the two countries.

Referring to the expansion of relations between Iran and Tajikistan within recent years, Zahedi said collaborative efforts in educational fields can be further expanded through resuming scholarships to attract more Tajik students and developing a joint scientific committee to hold regular meetings and come up with solutions to benefit from the optimal capacities of the two countries, IRNA reported.

The Tajik official made the remarks in a meeting with Saeed Habiba, the head of the Organization of Student Affairs.

He also proposed exchanging students to improve the quality of education and facilitate learning the Persian language for Tajiks.

Underscoring Iran's high educational capacity, Zahedi voiced Tajikistan's interest in promoting scientific ties with Iran and attracting Iranian students in different fields.

For his part, Habiba highlighted cultural, lin-



guistic, and historical commonalities between Iran and Tajikistan, saying that science diplomacy is the most effective means to promote scientific cooperation with Tajikistan.

The official underlined the country's achievements in science and technology, particularly nanotechnology and biotechnology, noting that Tajikistan's universities can collaborate directly with Iran's top universities in various fields.

Habiba went on to say that Iran plans to attract 320,000 foreign students and grant scholarships to Tajik students.

In June, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, in a meeting with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon at the Palace of Nations in Dushanbe, highlighted Tehran's commitment to expanding relations with Dushanbe, emphasizing that Iran views cooperation with Tajikistan as a strategic priority.

He pointed to the shared linguistic, cultural, and historical ties between the two nations as a solid foundation for deepening cooperation in key areas, including trade, diplomacy, education, and cultural exchange.

For his part, President Rahmon described Iran-Tajikistan ties as rooted in centuries-old friendship and mutual respect. He called for further efforts to boost cooperation in light of current regional challenges.

The two sides discussed the current state of bilateral relations and exchanged views on expanding collaboration. They also reviewed regional developments, including the evolving situations in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and West Asia, and shared their perspectives on mutual security concerns.

Royan Institute marks significant achievement in pediatric oncofertility

TEHRAN – Three years into the treatment of two young girls diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma, Royan Institute has showcased its commitment to integrating reproductive health into modern oncology practice, marking a significant achievement in pediatric oncofertility.

Royan Institute has successfully preserved ovarian function and future fertility potential in two young girls diagnosed with cancer through an advanced fertility-preserving surgical procedure; both patients have undergone normal pubertal development and continue to demonstrate healthy ovarian function, Royan.org reported in a press release on August 3.

According to the report, specialists at the Institute performed Laparoscopic Ovarian Transposition (LOT) prior to pelvic radiotherapy in two girls. The procedure was carried out to protect the ovaries from radiation exposure before cancer treatment began. Three years later, the intervention has yielded highly encouraging outcomes, with both patients maintaining normal ovarian function and preserving their future reproductive potential.

Firouzeh Ghaffari, a gynecologist, obstetrician, and fellowship-trained infertility specialist at Royan Institute, explained that both patients were pre-pubertal at the time of their cancer diagnosis and were scheduled to undergo pelvic radiotherapy. Because pelvic irradiation can cause severe and irreversible ovarian damage, resulting in premature ovarian insufficiency and permanent infertility, the ovaries were laparoscopically repositioned outside the radiation field before treatment commenced.

"Now, three years after surgery, both girls have entered puberty spontaneously, experience regular menstrual cycles, and clinical assessments confirm that ovarian function has been successfully preserved," Ghaffari said. "Had this procedure not been performed, the likelihood of permanent ovarian failure and the loss of their future fertility would have been exceedingly high."

Emphasizing the importance of quality of life in cancer survivorship, Ghaffari noted that advances in oncology have significantly improved long-term

survival rates. "As survival outcomes continue to improve, fertility preservation, particularly for children and adolescents, has become an integral component of modern cancer care. Today, our responsibility extends beyond treating the disease; we must also protect patients' future quality of life, including their opportunity to have biological children."

She further stressed that this successful experience highlights the importance of early multidisciplinary planning and close collaboration among oncology, surgical, and reproductive medicine teams. Such coordinated care makes it possible not only to treat the malignancy effectively but also to preserve patients' prospects for parenthood later in life.

This achievement exemplifies Royan Institute's advanced expertise in oncofertility and fertility preservation for patients undergoing cancer treatment. It also represents an important step forward in strengthening comprehensive supportive care for children and adolescents with malignant diseases, reaffirming the Institute's commitment to integrating reproductive health into modern oncology practice.

Royan Institute was established in 1991 by the late Dr. Saeid Kazemi Ashtiani and a group of researchers and physicians in the Iran University of Medical Sciences of the Academic Center for Education, Culture, and Research (ACECR) as an outpatient surgery center to provide medical services to infertile couples, as well as research and training in reproductive sciences.

Reproductive Biomedicine and Stem Cells Biology and Technology has been demonstrated to be one of the most successful experiences of scientific gathering in Iran and West Asia since 2000.

In 2002, the research fields at Royan Institute also extended into stem cell studies. Afterward, the research findings were adjusted for application in regenerative medicine and cell therapy approaches. After three decades, the Royan Institute focuses on increasing the success rate of infertility treatment alongside embryo health and the level of public health through cell therapy clinical services.

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

AUGUST 8, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:21 Dawn: 3:44 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:18 (tomorrow)

What’s in Tehran art galleries

Painting

* Keiman Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists.

Entitled “Summer”, the exhibition will be running until August 16 at the gallery located at 10 Akhgari St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.

* Iranshahr Gallery is showcasing paintings by Maryam Salour in an exhibition.

The exhibit named “Among the Poems I Have Written” will run until August 18 at the gallery that can be found at 69 Sepand St., off Karim Khan Ave.

* Paintings by Matin Kiamarzi are on display in an exhibition at Soo Gallery.

The exhibition will continue until August 21 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St.

* Hoor Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Aidin Xankeshipour.

The exhibition will be running until September 1 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.

* Sharif Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Hamid Pirayesh.

The exhibit entitled “No.8, Zandi Dead End” will be running until August 21 at the gallery that can be found at 11 Mahruzadeh Alley, Shariati Ave. near Quds Square.

* Reyhaneh Afzalian and Babak Haqqi are showcasing their latest paintings in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named “Meditations on Flowers” will run until August 18 at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.

* Ev Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists.

The exhibit named “Collection No.4” will be running until August 14 at the gallery located at 5 Arabi Alley, North Kheradmand St.

* Rischee 29 Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Hadiseh Hosseini.

The exhibition named “Within the Chaos” will be running until August 21 at the gallery located at 31 Aqabozorgi St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.

* An exhibition of paintings by a number of artists is underway at Yafteh Gallery.

The exhibition named “The Horse” will run until August 21 at the gallery located at 8 Taleqani Dead End, Yarmohammadi St. in the Darus Neighborhood.

Iranian architects, project present at World Architecture Festival 2026

TEHRAN – An Iranian project is among nominees of this year’s edition of the World Architecture Festival (WAF).

Nedarag Guesthouse by Ali-reza Taghaboni from Nextoffice, Studio of Architectural Research & Design, has been nominated in the category of Completed Buildings: Civic and Community, ILNA reported.

The festival recognizes completed buildings, future projects, interiors, and landscape works from around the world. The finalists, selected from hundreds of submissions, will compete at this year’s festival, taking place at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from November 18 to 20.

During the first two days of the event, shortlisted teams will present their projects live to international judging panels, with category winners advancing to the festival’s Super Jury for the final awards.

The 2026 Completed Buildings shortlist spans a wide range of project types, from civic and cultural institutions to housing, education, transport, healthcare, and adaptive reuse.

The Nedarag Guesthouse is a non-profit project situated in a remote village of roughly 200 households from the Sunni-Baluch minority in southeastern Iran.

The land was donated by a villager and selected collaboratively by the design team, village elders, facilitator. Positioned near farmlands, the site lies close to the village council. The plan centers around a semi-open courtyard, shaded by a multilayered roof that enables passive cooling and airflow between and within rooms.

The design reinterprets the regional Kapar typology using handmade trusses in place of traditional beams to support a broad, umbrella-like roof. The double-layered roof and walls reduce thermal transfer. Throughout, the team worked in continuous dialogue with local craftsmen to adapt and refine vernacular techniques. This fusion produced a distinct aesthetic through a contrast between the dome-like geometry of Iranian vaults and the imperfection of hand-built details; between

the mass of thick stone walls and the lightness of the canopy; and painterly textures and details.

Construction was entirely collaborative. Over four months, villagers raised the stone walls; the Kapars were completed over the following year. Funding came from the Nextoffice, a bank loan, and contributions from other villagers—totaling approximately £8,000, well below typical construction costs.

As the construction was cooperative, instead of common surveying tools, the site layout was staked using strings and triangles in a game involving local children. Elders wove palm-fiber ropes at night from Karz leaves gathered by youth, while women contributed to mat weaving, mud plastering, curtain sewing, and daily meals. These intergenerational efforts turned scarcity into resourcefulness.

The jury of this year’s World Architecture Festival comprises 164 architects, designers, academics, and industry professionals representing 37 countries, with dedicated Super Juries overseeing the Building, Future Project, Interiors, and Landscape awards. Three architects from Iran are also on the jury.

Hamed Badriahmadi, Hooman Talebi, and Ali Nemati are the three Iranian jurors in this year’s edition of the festival.

Hamed Badriahmadi is the CEO

of Boozghan Architecture Studio. As a visionary architect and founder of the Studio in 2007, he has led numerous successful projects that have significantly impacted contemporary Persian architecture.

With a diverse portfolio ranging from single-family residences to large-scale commercial complexes, his work has achieved national and international recognition, earning multiple prestigious awards. His strong regional and international presence in the design community reflects a commitment to innovation and excellence in the field of architecture.

Hooman Talebi is the founding director of MARZ Design and Architecture. He is an architect, designer, and educator.

MARZ Design and Architecture is a multidisciplinary studio working across architecture, interiors, cultural inquiry, and spatial design.

Talebi’s work ranges from objects to masterplans, engaging contexts across the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas. A graduate of the Architectural Association in London, he heads the undergraduate Spatial and Interior Design program at the University of Kent and is Creative Director of ArchiKID-World.

Ali Nemati is the principal architect at Eade va Ejra Consulting Engineers. His journey began in

his youth within a family-oriented environment, gaining hands-on experience in workshops and construction sites. He holds a bachelors’ degree in architecture and a master’s degree in interior design. Since 2009, he has served as the Design Manager at Eade va Ejra Consulting Engineers.

Today, with over 18 years of continuous experience, he is recognized as a skilled architect and spatial analyst, overseeing both large-scale and boutique projects. His professional path is a sophisticated blend of lived experience in executive environments and rigorous academic study—a journey that has led to his mastery in project strategizing, detail design, and complex technical coordination (electrical and mechanical systems).

He consistently maintains a holistic perspective by collaborating with experts in complementary fields to achieve a comprehensive vision for every project. What distinguishes his analysis of form and proportion is a multifaceted approach rooted in his artistic background—specifically in figurative painting and the rhythmic structures of Iranian classical music (setar). This artistic sensibility ensures that his evaluations go beyond technical standards, placing a premium on spatial quality and the artistic expression of a project.

Iran, Russia seek deeper cultural ties as Kazan added to Cultural Week program

TEHRAN- Iran’s ambassador to Russia has announced that the city of Kazan, the capital of Russia’s Republic of Tatarstan, has been added to the list of host cities for Iran Cultural Week in Russia, expanding the event beyond Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Speaking during a visit to the Russian State Library in Moscow on Thursday, Kazem Jalali said the cultural week, which is scheduled to begin in the near future, will provide an opportunity to deepen dialogue and expand cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, libraries, and academic exchange, IRNA reported.

Kazan’s inclusion follows earlier plans that named only Moscow and St. Petersburg as hosts of the event. The city was proposed as an additional venue after it was selected as the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World for 2026.

The exact dates of the cultural week have not yet been announced. The event follows the successful staging of Russia Cultural Week in Iran in June 2025.

During the meeting, attended by Iran’s Cultural Attaché in Moscow Abdolreza Rashed, Jalali stressed the importance of strengthening scientific and

cultural ties between Tehran and Moscow. He also proposed the establishment of joint research working group to rewrite the history of Iran-Russia relations based on archival documents from both countries.

“The history of relations between Iran and Russia has largely been written from the perspective of Western sources,” Jalali said, arguing that scholars from both countries should work together to produce a more balanced and comprehensive account of their centuries-long interactions.

He suggested that the proposed working group be jointly coordinated by the Cultural Section of the Iranian Embassy in

Moscow and the Russian State Library, bringing together leading Iranian experts on Russia and Russian scholars specializing in Iran.

Referring to the US and Israeli military aggression against Iran, Jalali said an ancient civilization could not be addressed through the language of force. He also thanked the Russian government and people for their support of the Islamic Republic following the attacks, adding that the Iranian nation, despite its rich cultural and artistic heritage, has never sought war.

For his part, Vadim Duda, Director General of the Russian State Library, praised what he described as the resilience of

the Iranian people, saying Iran and Russia have preserved their dignity and honor in the face of challenges.

He criticized what he called the West’s double standards on democracy and human rights, arguing that it was contradictory to invite a country to negotiations while simultaneously resorting to military action. Duda also welcomed Jalali’s proposal for a joint scholarly initiative to produce an impartial historical account of Iran-Russia relations.

Following the meeting, Jalali toured the library’s manuscript collection, including rare Persian manuscripts such as copies of “Nizami Ganjavi’s Divan”. He also proposed closer cooperation on the digitization and restoration of Persian manuscripts preserved at the institution.

The Russian State Library, located in Moscow, is one of the country’s national libraries and is regarded as the largest public library in Russia and Europe. According to Russian officials, it houses around 200 million books and other publications and serves as a leading research and bibliographic center. Established in 1862, the institution has undergone several name changes throughout its history before adopting its current title in 1992.