

A beat written in blood across Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iran

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — 28 years ago today, Iranian reporter Mahmoud Saremi radioed his newsroom from the Iranian consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif as Taliban fighters came through the gate. He identified himself, reported that the city had fallen, and asked what he should do next. Hours later he was dead, along with eight Iranian diplomats.

Iran has marked August 8 as Journalists' Day ever since, a date built around one man's last dispatch. This year it does not need to reach back three decades to find its meaning. The years since October 2023 have supplied enough. ▶ **Page 5**

America's 'supercarrier' is a floating nightmare as food and hope run out

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The facade of American military omnipotence is rotting from the inside out. In a tear-filled banquet room in San Diego on Thursday, the families of sailors aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln shattered the silence surrounding Washington and Tel Aviv's disastrous war against Iran.

They confronted Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao and top admirals with a reality the Pentagon desperately hides. The American fleet is breaking. ▶ **Page 5**

Why is Trump suddenly reviving his Gaza plan?

By Staff Writer

TEHRAN — Trump's statement about an agreement to disarm Hamas raises questions about his real objectives and reflects the continuing U.S. bias toward Israel, casting doubt on the prospects of achieving lasting peace.

Suddenly and without warning, Trump issued a statement saying that the "Board of Peace" — the body he personally chairs and which is responsible for administering the transitional phase in the Gaza Strip — had reached a historic agreement.

Under the agreement, Hamas would be disarmed, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) would withdraw from the Strip, an international force would work to establish stability there in cooperation with a new Palestinian police force, a new Palestinian government would be formed, and the reconstruction of Gaza would begin. ▶ **Page 5**



Deputy health minister: Evidence points to phosphorus bombing in Lamerd

TEHRAN — Deputy Health Minister for Research and Technology Shahin Akhoundzadeh has said that there is evidence suggesting the use of phosphorus bombing of Lamerd in Fars province on the first day of the joint US-Israeli war on Iran that began on February 28.

A US missile struck a crowded sports complex in the city of Lamerd where young athletes and local residents had gathered. The blast killed 21 people, including children and teenagers, and left around 100 others with severe injuries. ▶ **Page 2**

Hormuz reopening depends on US, Iran says

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said negotiations between Iran and Oman on arrangements for managing the Strait of Hormuz are nearing an agreement, while stressing that reopening the strategic waterway remains contingent on the United States addressing its violations of the Islamabad memorandum of understanding.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Araghchi said Tehran and Muscat were working to establish a legal framework for managing vessel traffic through the strait, including the designation of a new shipping route.

"We are very close to an agreement," he said, while emphasizing that several other conditions must also be met before the waterway can fully reopen. ▶ **Page 3**

Monitoring begins at centuries-old sites in UNESCO-listed city of Yazd

TEHRAN — Monitoring of centuries-old monuments in the UNESCO-listed Historic City of Yazd has begun as part of an ongoing effort to strengthen conservation and management of the Iranian oasis city, a local official has said.

Majid Aloumi, the head of the Historic City of Yazd World Heritage Base said, continuous monitoring is a systematic process for tracking the condition of historic buildings and spaces, identifying damage at an early stage and providing information needed for conservation and management planning.

The Historic City of Yazd World Heritage Base is responsible for training, supervision, design and control of conservation, restoration and development activities within the World Heritage area, Aloumi said on Saturday. ▶ **Page 6**



Women's para-taekwondo team Prepare for 2026 Asian Para Games

TEHRAN — Iran's women's para-taekwondo team are stepping up their preparations for the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya, with officials closely monitoring the national squad's training camp. Ghafour Kargari, president of Iran's National Paralympic Committee, made a visit to the women's national para-taekwondo training camp at Iran's Taekwondo House after meeting Hadi Afshar, secretary of the Iranian Taekwondo Federation.

Women's national team head coach Atefeh Keshavarz, along with Paris 2024 Paralympic silver medalist Zahra Rahimi and several other national team athletes, also shared their views, plans and concerns with the officials. "We are continuing our training with great motivation and readiness, and we hope that by maintaining this momentum, we can achieve good results for our country at the Asian Para Games in Nagoya."



Iran wins medals at International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence

TEHRAN — Iranian students won a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the third edition of the International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI 2026), held from August 2-8 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

IOAI is the International Science Olympiad in AI for high school students. It aims to inspire young people globally in science, focusing on AI. The competition provides a platform for top AI students selected through national competitions to compete, exchange ideas, and build connections, fostering a dialogue on AI's opportunities and ethical challenges among students and the community. ▶ **Page 7**

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Neutralizing sanctions through structural reform

Javan, in an article evaluating the path toward economic progress and improvement, argues that for years a significant portion of Iran's economic policymaking has been centered on foreign sanctions and strategies to counter them. According to the paper, if the government seeks to reduce the impact of external sanctions, internal structural reforms must accompany economic diplomacy. Removing domestic obstacles that hinder production and investment would not only strengthen Iran's economy against external pressures but also create the conditions for sustainable growth, increased employment, higher productivity, and improved public welfare. Iran's economy, the article stresses, needs structural reforms more than ever—reforms that eliminate internal “sanctions,” streamline economic activity, and enhance the country's long-term ability to neutralize the effects of foreign sanctions durably.

Arman-e-Melli: Strait of Hormuz is a prelude to final negotiations?

Arman-e-Melli examined the regional situation, especially the Iran-US file. According to the newspaper, a review of reports published by regional and international media suggests that the Oman-Iran talks over the Strait of Hormuz may be nearing a result. The behavior of Iran, the United States, and the mediators indicates that the Hormuz file should be seen as the main gateway for any negotiation or agreement with Washington. Iran, due to what it views as US obstruction in implementing the Islamabad understandings, continues to believe that the Hormuz issue must remain an available pressure lever against Washington and its regional allies. Only after resolving this matter should Tehran move toward bilateral negotiations with the United States. If the two sides manage to settle the question of passage through the Strait of Hormuz, the groundwork may be laid for addressing the larger issue—ending the war—and potentially enabling further Iran-US negotiations.

Jam-e-Jam: America's weakness is its failure to understand the Iranian nation

Jam-e-Jam, in an interview with political analyst Dr. Yadollah Javani, discussed America's “humiliating defeat.” According to Javani, the Americans and their allies, after the blows they suffered in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan from Iran's armed forces, now clearly understand that Iran's military is at peak readiness. He argues that any miscalculation by the enemy—especially a foolish ground incursion by the US military into

Iran—would result in their entry points becoming graveyards for deceived mercenaries. Iran's advantage, he says, is realistic enemy-recognition, while America's Achilles' heel is its failure to understand the Iranian nation. Today, he says, the United States is being forced to accept an unavoidable strategic defeat because it entered a war with a nation it never understood.

Sazandegi: The future of the Strait of Hormuz

Sazandegi highlighted the possibility that Iran and the United States are approaching a point of mutual understanding. Experts believe that a new agreement on the Strait of Hormuz could serve the interests of both countries. If the maritime blockade is lifted, Iran could resume oil exports, while the United States could find a way out of its current deadlock. The New York Times reported that such an agreement would give Iran a strategic lever it previously lacked. However, Trump's opponents consider any deal with Iran a sign of US retreat. Failure of the talks—or sabotage by the United States or Israel—could push the region into a new phase of reciprocal attacks between Iran and America. Even with an agreement on Hormuz, Tehran-Washington disputes will not end; the two sides would enter a more complex phase: nuclear negotiations. This issue is far more difficult than regulating ship traffic in Hormuz and could offer a clearer picture of the future of Iran-US relations and regional developments.

Resalat: Domestic proxies are the West's only remaining hope

Resalat analyzed what it sees as a shift in US strategy. Military developments and exchanges of fire in southern Iran's skies and strategic waterways reveal a key phase change in the confrontation with Washington and Tel Aviv. Months after the start of this round of conflict, the military and strategic deadlock of the United States and Israel in containing Iran's deterrence network has become increasingly evident. This failure, the paper argues, has pushed the Western axis toward intelligence warfare, special operations, and activating networks of infiltration and coup attempts inside Iran. The main battlefield is no longer only at sea or in military bases, but within Iran's security structures and in the effort to preserve internal stability. The most dangerous aspect of this strategy shift, according to Resalat, is the West's reliance on domestic proxies.

Iran judiciary warns enemy crimes will be punished

TEHRAN — Iran's Judiciary spokesman Asghar Jahangir has warned that crimes committed against nations and Islamic movements will not go unanswered, saying those responsible will ultimately be held accountable.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Jahangir said the perpetrators of such acts would eventually face punishment for their actions.

“Certainly, [the enemy] will be held accountable for these actions,” he said. “We hope that the criminals and perpetrators of these actions will soon receive the punishment for their deeds at the hands of Muslims and freedom-seekers.”

Speaking on Saturday, August 8, also known as Journalist's Day, on Iranian calendar, Jahangir also called on Iranian journalists and media organizations to remain vigilant against efforts by Iran's adversaries to manipulate public discourse and divert attention from the country's main concerns.

He said the media should be careful not to allow issues of secondary importance to overshadow matters that directly affect society's welfare and security.

“The enemy seeks to make the main issues and real concerns of society appear secondary, while presenting issues of secondary importance as the main issues and priorities of society,” Jahangir said.

He urged media outlets to avoid amplifying peripheral narratives that have little bearing on people's lives or national security, warning that such coverage could inadvertently serve the objectives of Iran's adversaries.

Addressing the legal case concerning victims of the Minab tragedy and the attack on Shajareh Tayebbeh School, Jahangir said the case was being investigated by the Tehran Prosecutor's Office.

He said a final decision in the case would be issued within two weeks and identified the Israeli regime and the US government as defendants.

Jahangir also criticized ‘attempts by some Western media outlets to downplay or censor coverage of the annual Arbæen pilgrimage, arguing that such reporting failed to reflect the scale and broader religious and humanitarian dimensions of the event.’

He said the Arbæen gathering, which draws millions of pilgrims to Iraq and has significant participation from Iran and other countries, carries religious and humanitarian messages that extend beyond national borders.

“If human society awakens and properly recognizes the religious and human values inherent in this great movement, it will certainly stand against the currents of arrogance, oppression and injustice,” Jahangir said.

Deputy health minister: Evidence points to phosphorus bombing in Lamerd

TEHRAN - Deputy Health Minister for Research and Technology Shahin Akhoundzadeh has said that there is evidence suggesting the use of phosphorus bombing of Lamerd in Fars province on the first day of the joint US-Israeli war on Iran that began on February 28.

A US missile struck a crowded sports complex in the city of Lamerd where young athletes and local residents had gathered. The blast killed 21 people, including children and teenagers, and left around 100 others with severe injuries.

“There is evidence that the bombs used during the bombing of Lamerd, Fars province, were coated with phosphorus. The Ministry of Health has conducted research on this bombing, and we hope to be able to publish the results of this study in international forums. We intend to highlight the plight of the civilians who were targeted in a bombardment involving phosphorus-laden weapons,” Akhoundzadeh said.

He added that the research showed some victims suffered long-term injuries. “For example, a wound that would normally heal within two weeks may take three or four months to heal. We have also conducted extensive research on the battlefield scenes to prepare the findings for publication.”

The deputy health minister also said similar research had been carried out in Bushehr province, where there was also evidence of phosphorus-coated bombs, although he said the impact was greater in Fars province.

Akhoundzadeh called for the case to be documented internationally so that it would be recognized as a war crime.



Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi traveled to Lamerd earlier this month to inspect local medical facilities and evaluate emergency responses. During his visit, he strongly condemned the US missile strike on the sports stadium, denouncing the military action as a “clear crime against defenseless people and a profound human tragedy.”

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

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

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

Iranian officials have repeatedly highlighted these incidents as proof of the severe human cost borne by civilians in the war. The strikes on the sports stadium and the school have drawn widespread condemnation. Officials say the targeting of civilian areas demonstrates

a total disregard for human life and international humanitarian laws by the US and Israel.

Under international humanitarian law, if phosphorus-based munitions are used against civilians or in civilian areas in a way that causes indiscriminate harm, excessive civilian casualties, or unnecessary suffering, such use may violate the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution under international humanitarian law. If the weapon is used as an incendiary device against civilian concentrations, it may also fall within the restrictions of Protocol III to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, where applicable. Therefore, if the allegations regarding Lamerd are substantiated, the incident could raise serious legal concerns under international law and may warrant independent investigation and documentation.

Iran sets six conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN —Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr has set out six conditions for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, saying the strategic waterway will remain closed until the United States changes its hostile conduct toward Iran.

In a message released on Saturday, Zolqadr said, “Until America corrects its behavior, the Strait of Hormuz will not be reopened.”

He outlined six measures that would constitute a change in US policy toward the country:

1. End threats and insults against Iran, including any threats to the country's national and religious sanctities.
- 2 . Permanently end the war and aggression against Iran and its allies in Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen and Iraq.



- 3 . Lift the naval blockade and withdraw US military forces, including naval and air forces, from around Iran.
4. Fully compensate Iran for damages caused by ‘two wars of aggression and imposition.’

9th martyrdom anniversary of Mohsen Hojaji

the U.S. has a track record of arming and funding terrorist groups to move forward with their own goals of hegemonizing the region.

The direct attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran today, occurred after the terrorist takeover in Syria which was the U.S. and “Israel's” plan. Jolani, the leader of Syria today was an al-Qaeda member that the U.S. had put out a bounty for, with the reward being \$10 million.

Ultimately, the bounty was removed by the U.S. as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs met with him and others in Damascus back in December of 2024. These were the same terrorists that Martyr Mohsen Hojaji and other defenders were fighting against.

In the words of Martyred Leader Sayed Ali Khamenei, “Beloved Martyr Hojaji shined brilliantly in a world where there are plenty of deceptive audio and visual outlets, and God placed him before everyone's eyes as proof. Today many young individuals with high motivations and incredible faith sacrifice their lives, families, and comforts passionately fighting



the enemy to protect their values, and one should appreciate such new, valuable evolution.”

It is without a doubt that the fight against the U.S. and its proxies continues. We live in a time where falsehood is widespread not only with the events of today, but also with the events that have occurred in the past. This is why it is crucial to remember the de-

fenders of the truth and to cherish their legacies.

Martyr Mohsen Hojaji was beheaded defending the truth, just like his master Imam Hussein (as). We see parallels to the Tragedy of Karbala repeatedly, and they serve as a reminder that no matter the time we live in—we will have the choice of either siding with the truth or siding with falsehood.

Pezeshkian in a press conference:

We will stand firm behind Leader’s decision on war

TEHRAN - Regarding decision on war and peace, Iranian President Masoud says: “Whether we should fight or not, the military commanders know better than you or me. They know their own capabilities. The Leader will make the decision, and whatever decision he makes, we will stand firm to the end.”

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran on Saturday to mark National Journalist Day, Pezeshkian has said the current circumstances present the best opportunity for reaching an agreement through dialogue, while stressing that Tehran will not accept any arrangement that compromises Iran’s rights, national interests or security.

Pezeshkian said national unity and cohesion had strengthened Iran’s position following the recent US-Israeli war and created conditions in which the country could pursue its demands through diplomacy.

“If there is talk of reaching an agreement, I believe now is the best time for an agreement,” Pezeshkian said, arguing that Iran currently enjoys a high degree of national unity, strength and cohesion. He added that Tehran was prepared to pursue its rights through negotiations, provided the other side recognized and upheld them.

“We are demanding nothing beyond the rights of our country and our people,” he said, emphasizing that Iran’s approach to negotiations would be based on reciprocity.

“Whatever steps they take forward, we will also take forward; whatever steps they do not take, we will not accept,” Pezeshkian said, rejecting the prospect of an agreement imposed through pressure.

Pezeshkian: US remains a “colonialist” and “criminal” regime

In separate remarks at the same press conference, Pezeshkian said Iran’s fundamental position toward Washington had not changed, describing the United States as a “colonialist” and “criminal” regime.

“America is a colonialist, America is a criminal, and the Islamic Republic must remain; there is no doubt about this,” he said.

According to Pezeshkian, the United States and Israel had ex-



pected a military offensive to bring about the collapse of the Iranian system, but the resistance of the armed forces and the presence of people in the streets prevented that outcome.

At the same time, he said diplomacy and dialogue had forced Washington to enter an understanding with Tehran, stressing the need to preserve ‘achievements made through diplomatic engagement.’

Pezeshkian also referred to a dispute over the Strait of Hormuz, saying the other side had been required under the Islamabad memorandum of understanding to follow guidelines jointly developed by Iran and Oman but had failed to do so, prompting an Iranian response. He said efforts to address the issue were continuing, and we hope we can move forward on this path with dignity and pride for the country.

Regional ties are improving

Improving relations with neighboring countries was another part of the doctors’ statements at their news conference on Saturday.

He said Iran was pursuing several parallel tracks to strengthen relations with neighboring countries and expand economic cooperation through regional and international mechanisms, including the Eurasian Economic Union, BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

He said regional countries had taken notably clear positions during the 12-day war, including condemnation of Israel and the United States. At the same time, he acknowledged that Iran’s attacks on US military bases located in

neighboring countries had complicated relations with some regional states.

Pezeshkian said Iran’s response was carried out in self-defense after attacks had been launched from bases located on the territory of other countries. Despite the resulting complications, he said Iran’s relations with its neighbors were continuing to improve.

He specifically cited cooperation from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, as well as assistance from Russia and Iraq. He said dialogue with Azerbaijan was also continuing despite political differences.

The president said Pakistan and Afghanistan had taken measures to prevent armed groups from using their territory to enter Iran and create insecurity, arguing that regional cooperation, alongside measures taken inside Iran, had helped prevent efforts to fuel unrest and deepen social and ethnic divisions.

As a result of improving relations with Iran’s eastern neighbor, Pezeshkian pointed to the improvement of trade relations with Pakistan, saying that bilateral trade with Pakistan was increasing from around \$3 billion toward a target of \$10 billion, Pezeshkian said, describing the current level of engagement between the two countries as significant.

He said his administration had also expanded the authority of government institutions to establish direct relations with neighboring countries and make greater use of economic diplomacy.

Pezeshkian also pointed to China and Russia’s role in international forums, saying the two countries

had used their diplomatic capabilities to support Iran and, in some cases, veto resolutions. He said they had also taken positions on issues related to the Strait of Hormuz.

At the same time, he cautioned against relying excessively on other countries. “We should not place our hopes and reliance on others,” Pezeshkian said.

War is not a permanent solution

Pezeshkian said Iran was seeking to move beyond the current state of “neither war nor peace” toward an understanding that would preserve the country’s values while deterring any future attack.

He said his government was working to reduce the economic and social pressure on the Iranian people, highlighting the difficulties created by the current circumstances.

“War cannot continue forever,” Pezeshkian said, stressing that the conflict would ultimately have to be ended through a political and sustainable solution.

He said Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi remained in contact with various parties as part of ongoing diplomatic efforts and that the government was using all available channels to manage the situation and maintain stability.

He also said the country’s economic challenges and people’s livelihoods remained among the government’s principal concerns.

Responsibility of the media towards national cohesion

Pezeshkian also emphasized the role of journalists in preserving national unity and social cohesion, saying the media could help counter attempts to create division within Iranian society.

He urged journalists to report accurately and avoid contentious coverage or the dissemination of conflicting and incorrect information, arguing that responsible journalism could help prevent confrontation over ambiguous issues.

The president said journalists had a critical role in preserving historical facts and exposing wrongdoing, warning that many events and crimes could remain hidden if the media failed to fulfill its responsibilities.

Hormuz reopening depends on US, Iran says

From Page 1 ► Araghchi said a Traffic Separation Scheme previously used for vessels transiting the strait was no longer acceptable to Iran and that a new scheme would have to be established. Given the technical and legal complexities involved, he said Iran and Oman were currently considering a temporary route that could serve as the basis for a permanent traffic scheme.

Iranian and Omani military and naval officials have been conducting technical discussions using existing maps, he said, adding that the final route would be determined once those consultations are complete.

The foreign minister also reiterated Tehran’s position that alleged violations of the Islamabad MoU must be addressed individually. He said Iran had been implementing Article 5 of the agreement and had expected maritime traffic to return to normal within a month.

According to Araghchi, shipping activity had already recovered to around 60 percent of normal levels within two weeks. He accused the United States, however, of attempting to establish alternative routes through the Strait of Hormuz despite Iranian warnings and of seeking to undermine Iran’s management of the waterway.



“The violation of the memorandum of understanding and Iran’s management of the Strait of Hormuz are by no means acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran,” he said.

The comments followed remarks by IRGC spokesman General Hossein Mohebbi, who said the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz was separate from the Iran-Oman negotiations and would ultimately depend on Washington accepting Iran’s conditions.

Mohebbi said the waterway was governed by its own legal and defensive mechanisms and urged the United States not to interfere in negotiations between Iran, Oman and other regional countries. He said conditions for reopening would be established once Washington accepted Iran’s terms and ended its interventionist approach.

Trump’s top general seeks ‘off-ramp’ as Iran war exposes limits of US military power



TEHRAN - US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine has privately warned senior White House officials that Washington needs to find an “off-ramp” from its war with Iran, acknowledging that further military escalation could backfire and that airpower alone is unlikely to achieve President Donald Trump’s stated objectives, according to a report by CNN.

The revelation, based on interviews with three sources familiar with the discussions, offers a striking picture of the difficulties facing the United States nearly six months into a war that Washington initially presented as a campaign capable of crippling Iran’s military capabilities and forcing Tehran to accept US demands.

Caine has reportedly discussed his concerns with other senior officials, including CIA Director John Ratcliffe, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President JD Vance. According to the American media outlet, the meetings were intended to coordinate the administration’s position and make clear the limitations and potential consequences of the military options available to Trump, including options that would not involve deploying US ground troops.

The US general’s reported position is particularly significant because it contradicts the image of an Iran that Washington had repeatedly portrayed as having been decisively weakened by months of military operations. Instead, the assessment emerging from inside the Trump administration is that there is no easy military solution to a conflict that has increasingly exposed the limits of US airpower.

Caine has reportedly told lawmakers publicly that “airpower has its limits,” while privately making the case that bombing alone is unlikely to deliver the political outcome Trump wants.

That assessment comes as the United States faces increasingly difficult choices over how to continue the war without becoming further entangled in a conflict that has already placed enormous pressure on its military resources.

Trump has consistently resisted deploying American ground troops in Iran and has instead appeared to believe that sustained airstrikes could force Tehran to agree to a deal on Washington’s terms. But according to CNN’s sources, Caine and other senior officials privately regard such an outcome as unlikely.

The problem is that the alternatives are even more dangerous.

A major ground operation against Iran could require a massive military commitment and potentially cost thousands of American lives. While

Pentagon planners have considered such scenarios, CNN reported that no one in the administration is currently advocating such a drastic step.

That leaves Washington facing a strategic dilemma: escalation could produce consequences that are difficult to control, while reducing the intensity of the campaign risks exposing the failure to achieve the objectives for which the war was launched.

The dilemma became particularly clear in late July, when Trump was prepared to initially approve what he described as a “massive” new operation against Iran. Several of his senior officials, however, were concerned about the likely consequences of another escalation.

According to CNN, the only elements strongly supporting the operation were parts of the US Central Command, while Israel also broadly backed an escalation.

Trump eventually stepped back after consultations with Middle Eastern allies, who reportedly warned him that Iran could retaliate against their energy infrastructure. The possibility of Iranian retaliation has become a major concern for Persian Gulf states, particularly as American stockpiles of key munitions have continued to decline.

The United States therefore finds itself in the unusual position of contemplating a major escalation while simultaneously worrying about its ability to sustain the campaign and protect its regional partners.

CNN reported that dwindling stocks of advanced American munitions have become a factor in Washington’s calculations. Persian Gulf officials have also reportedly warned US officials that shortages of high-end American air-defense systems could undermine their ability to defend themselves against Iranian retaliation if Washington chooses to intensify the war.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to strike Iran’s energy infrastructure. Yet even within his administration, there are doubts that such attacks would force Tehran to capitulate.

Instead, according to sources cited by CNN, attacks on Iran’s energy infrastructure could provoke retaliatory strikes against the energy facilities of US allies in the Persian Gulf. Such attacks could also further strengthen Iranian public resistance rather than turn the population against the government.

The conflict began with the United States and Israel betting that overwhelming military force could rapidly weaken Iran and compel Tehran to accept their demands. But Iran’s continued ability to resist, retaliate and preserve its core military capabilities has complicated those calculations.

Instead of producing a quick victory, the campaign has developed into a prolonged confrontation in which Washington must continually weigh the military benefits of escalation against the possibility of a much wider regional war.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

LATEST NEWS

■ Araghchi urges Muslim unity, self-reliance

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has called for greater unity and self-reliance among Muslim countries, saying Iran’s Armed Forces have demonstrated their readiness and capabilities against a powerful adversary. Writing on X, Araghchi said Muslims could confront external challenges by standing together and relying on their own capabilities. His remarks followed a Saudi-Turkish-Pakistani defense pact signed in Mecca aimed at strengthening collective defense and regional deterrence.

■ Caspian convention will not determine seabed boundaries: Gharibabadi

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said ratifying the Caspian Sea Convention will not affect seabed delimitation, which must be settled through separate agreements among littoral states. He said Iran’s move to ratify the convention reflects changing regional security conditions, the need to expand economic cooperation and resolve legal issues. Gharibabadi added that the convention bars non-littoral states’ armed forces from the Caspian Sea.

■ Pezeshkian: Hiroshima, Nagasaki bombings were crimes against humanity

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has condemned the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as among history’s gravest crimes against humanity, warning against the mentality he said continues to threaten nations and target civilian infrastructure. In a post on X marking the anniversaries, Pezeshkian called for the rejection of such actions and

urged the international community to ensure they are never repeated. The United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and Nagasaki three days later, killing and injuring hundreds of thousands.

■ IRGC: Foreign media acknowledgment of Trump’s defeat reflects Iran’s media efforts

Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said foreign media reports acknowledging US President Donald Trump’s defeat in the war against Iran reflected the efforts of Iranian revolutionary media to counter hostile disinformation. In a statement marking National Reporter’s Day, the IRGC said the US and Israel had failed to achieve their stated objectives despite extensive military and media campaigns. It attributed Iran’s deterrence to national resilience and military capabilities, while warning that hybrid and cyber warfare, including AI-driven disinformation, aimed to undermine national unity.

■ Velayati: Foreign forces must leave region to restore security

Senior adviser to Iran’s Leader Ali Akbar Velayati has said foreign forces must leave the region, describing their presence as the main source of insecurity. In a post on X, Velayati credited the steadfastness of Iran’s Armed Forces, the Iranian people and the Axis of Resistance for recent developments, saying the defeat of the United States and Israel had reinforced the need for foreign forces to withdraw. He added that regional countries could ensure their own security through greater cooperation.

■ IRGC commander: Hormuz security rests on national resolve

Brigadier General Hassan Sanatkar, commander of the IRGC’s Imam Sajjad Division in Hormozgan, said Iran’s security and authority in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf are rooted in national faith and resistance to foreign pressure. Speaking in Bandar Abbas, he said hostile powers had failed in their efforts to undermine Iran, including through military aggression, sanctions and sabotage since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Sanatkar also praised journalists as “soft-war officers” documenting Iran’s military achievements.

■ Army: Iran’s order in Strait of Hormuz is irreversible

Iranian Army spokesman Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia has said the “Iranian order” governing the Strait of Hormuz is irreversible, arguing that the United States has no choice but to accept the current situation or face costs far greater than those it has incurred in the past.

Speaking at a public gathering in Tehran, Akraminia said the United States had no viable strategy for overcoming Iran and described conflicting statements and threats from US officials as signs of ‘frustration and failure.’

Akraminia also praised Iranian military personnel for maintaining their resolve under difficult battlefield conditions, saying Army pilots had carried out major operations despite facing multilayered enemy air-defense systems. He added that the performance of Iran’s armed forces demonstrated their determination to defend the country and protect its people.

Iran-India joint trade working group reviving necessary



TEHRAN- The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs emphasized the revival of the Iran-India Joint Trade Working Group to expand trade relations between the two countries.

According to a report by IRNA from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Mohammad Sadegh Mofatteh stated, during a meeting with Amardeep Singh Bhatia, the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry of India: “This working group held three sessions up until 2015 and played a highly constructive role in developing trade between the two countries. Unfortunately, since 2015, it became inactive due to political reasons and sanctions.”

He continued: “This working group will be the responsibility of the deputies for commercial affairs and industry of the two countries, and its reactivation can play a significant role in resolving problems and obstacles hindering trade exchanges between the two nations.”

Mofatteh emphasized the diversification of services provided by India's UCO Bank to Iranian traders and said: “Activation of this bank can play a constructive role in developing trade relations between the two countries and increasing Iran's export share to India.”

He proposed that UCO Bank's banking services to Iranian traders be extended to sectors such as industry, mining, electricity, construction, and services, using Indian rupees.

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs also referred to establishing a regular and continuous shipping line between Indian ports and Chabahar Port, stating: “Establishing this shipping line on a continuous and regular basis will play a key role in developing Chabahar Port and also provide the necessary groundwork for growth of investment in Chabahar.”

Mofatteh expressed: “So far, there has been no regular line between Chabahar Port and Indian ports. The only existing line is the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line, which is not regular and carries cargo only as it becomes available. Therefore, establishing a regular weekly or bi-weekly line can help develop the port and attract investors.”

Completion of 160,000 residential units on agenda

TEHRAN- The Chairman of the National Housing Fund stated: This year, the fund aims to complete and inaugurate 160,000 residential units.

Khosrow Mokhtari, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, regarding the prioritization of fund resource allocation, added: As one of the final links in the housing supply chain, the fund helps accelerate the completion and delivery of projects.

He said: The government's priority this year is the completion and inauguration of 160,000 residential units, and following the government, the National Housing Fund will also support the completion of these same units. Part of the facilities for these units had been paid in previous years, but since last year, the fund's approach changed, and resource allocation shifted from “project” to “project beneficiaries.”

Mokhtari clarified: This accelerated progress, settled outstanding obligations, increased participation, equity, and self-supervision by the people, and created synergy among the triangle of contractor, people, and provincial offices of Roads and Urban Development.

The Chairman of the National Housing Fund

In late July, Iranian Oil Minister, in a meeting with the Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, discussed the development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil and energy.

According to Shana, Mohsen Paknejad, on the sidelines of the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting, on June 26, on the second day of his trip to Gurugram, met with Hardeep Singh Puri, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and emphasized the development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil and gas.

The meeting between the oil ministers of Iran and India took place while the two countries have a long history of cooperation in energy, and India was one of the largest buyers of Iranian oil before the US sanctions. After Indian refiners stopped importing Iranian oil in 2019, the level of oil cooperation decreased, but the two countries have so far discussed the development of cooperation in the energy sector and the use of related capacities, including the Chabahar port.

It is worth noting that upon his arrival at Gurugram airport on June 25 to participate in the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting, the Oil Minister had said, emphasizing that Iran and India have had long-term historical relations with each other for centuries: “We are ready to develop relations with India in all fields, especially the energy sector.”

The Oil Minister, in a meeting with India's Minister of Power, Housing, and Urban Affairs, discussed the development of bilateral cooperation in the energy sector. According to Shana, Mohsen Paknejad, who left Tehran for India, on June 25, to participate in the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting, met and held talks with Shri Manohar Lal, India's Minister of Power, Housing, and Urban Affairs, on the first day of his trip.

Upon his arrival at the airport, he had stated: “We are ready to develop relations with India in all fields, especially the energy sector.” The 11th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting was held on June 25 and 26 in Gurugram, India. The BRICS group brings together 11 major emerging markets and developing countries of the world, including Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.

noted: Under the previous approach, fund resources were disbursed, but due to the lack of a clear accountable party, 86% of resources faced default and were not recovered. In effect, beneficiaries were not informed about the facility disbursement and regarded it as government grant aid, nor did the contractor have incentive to finish the project, because project risk was transferred to the employer, and over 90% of contracts were concluded on a bill-of-quantities basis, which were subject to adjustment and price increases.

Mokhtari stated: We assess capacity every three months and allocate resources to deliverable projects. Although current resources are insufficient, we have potential receivables that, if supported and collected, could enable us to play a more effective role.

The Chairman of the National Housing Fund, regarding provincial distribution of resources, said: The National Housing Fund does not have a provincial structure or branches, and resource distribution is done based on the national ID code of eligible individuals in the “Tam” system. We do not define provincial quotas so that resources are not trapped; therefore, if a province does not apply, the quota is given to leading projects in other provinces to maintain resource effectiveness.

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- In a decisive move that signals a new phase in regional economic integration, Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan are rapidly expanding their bilateral trade and transit cooperation through a series of high-level agreements, infrastructure projects, and customs facilitation measures. The momentum, driven by political will at the highest levels and supported by tangible results at border crossings, positions the two neighbors as strategic partners in connecting the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Persian Gulf.

At the heart of this economic rapprochement lies the Bileh Savar border crossing in Iran's northwestern Ardabil Province—a 24/7 customs post that has emerged as a vital artery for trade. Over the past year alone, the crossing recorded \$268 million in exports, demonstrating its growing capacity to handle increased commercial volumes. This figure is particularly noteworthy given that the period coincided with external pressures and regional instability, underscoring the resilience of Iran's border economy and its ability to maintain trade flows even under challenging circumstances.

Customs agreement paves the way for streamlined trade

The most recent milestone in this partnership came with the signing of a customs cooperation memorandum of understanding at the Bileh Savar zero point, bringing together Forud Asgari, Deputy Minister of Economy and Head of Iran's Customs Administration, and Shahin Baghirov, Head of Azerbaijan's State Customs Committee. The agreement formalizes a shared commitment to accelerating customs clearance processes for commercial and transit goods, creating a framework for ongoing cooperation that extends well beyond the current accord.

Asgari identified border congestion as the primary challenge facing bilateral trade, emphasizing that procedural and physical bottlenecks continue to hamper the smooth flow of trucks. However, he expressed optimism that recent agreements would yield measurable improvements, particularly as both sides move to complete critical infrastructure projects. Bridges under construction at the Astara and Nakhchivan border crossings were highlighted as game-changers that would significantly strengthen connectivity and facilitate the movement of commercial vehicles.

“The completion of these bridges by the Republic of Azerbaijan will bring prosperity to trade and ease the movement of commercial vehicles,” Asgari stated, underscoring the tangible benefits that improved infrastructure would deliver to both economies.

Baghirov reciprocated Iran's positive sentiments, describing bilateral trade as “important” and welcoming the establishment of 24-hour online communication with Iran's customs chief—a mechanism designed to facilitate the immediate resolution of emerging issues and prevent costly delays in customs procedures. “Holding these meetings is very important and significant,” Baghirov noted, emphasizing that such engagements have a tangible impact on resolving problems and removing



obstacles to trade.

Ardabil province: A border trade powerhouse

Ardabil Province, with its 382 kilometers of shared border with Azerbaijan, has emerged as a central actor in this expanding economic relationship. The province accounts for 4% of Iran's agricultural output, producing 4.5 million tons of crops annually, while also contributing 25% of the nation's tires and 30% of its mineral water—figures that underscore its industrial and agricultural significance.

Masoud Emami Yeganeh, Governor-General of Ardabil, has made the development of border trade a cornerstone of his administration, undertaking three separate visits to Azerbaijan to advance economic diplomacy. During his latest mission, accompanied by a delegation of experts and economic decision-makers, he emphasized the strategic importance of leveraging the 14th government's delegation of authority to 16 border provinces—a policy designed to empower regional administrations to maximize the benefits of their geographic positions.

“We are interested in having joint investments and joint projects, and for our peoples to become closer to each other,” Emami Yeganeh stated during a meeting with Muhammad Musayev, head of Azerbaijan's Entrepreneurs Center. He noted that joint investments would lead to the creation of a common market, bringing prosperity and economic development to both sides.

The governor also announced plans to establish a permanent exhibition of Iranian products in Azerbaijan and a reciprocal exhibition of Azerbaijani goods in Iran—an initiative he described as a pathway to “sustainable and balanced cooperation” between the two countries.

Comprehensive economic framework: Ten sectors of cooperation

Beyond border-specific initiatives, the broader bilateral relationship has been formalized through an ambitious cooperation document signed at the 17th session of the Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Economic Committee. The memorandum, signed by Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev, outlines joint initiatives across ten sectors, providing a comprehensive framework for economic integration.

In transport, the two sides agreed to expand cooperation in road transport, border management, and railway development. Key infrastructure projects include the Kalaleh-Aghband bridge, the Astara bridge, the widening of

the Kalaleh-Jolfa road, the Kalaleh-Siahroud rail link, and the launch of the Astara rail terminal at the shared border. Many of these projects are already in advanced stages, with the Kalaleh-Aghband bridge nearing completion and expected to play a significant role in facilitating transit flows once operational.

The energy sector also features prominently in the agreement, with cooperation approved in oil blocks one and two and the establishment of a joint working group to follow up on related memoranda of understanding. Electricity cooperation covers plans to connect the power grids of Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia, as well as electricity exports from Azerbaijan to Iran. Water cooperation focuses on joint projects related to the Khoda Afarin and Qiz Qalesi dams and power plants, along with the Marazad-Orduabad hydropower project.

Additional understandings cover tourism, agriculture, customs, industry, investment, and sports and youth affairs—creating a truly multidimensional partnership that extends beyond mere trade facilitation.

Transit targets and regional connectivity

Speaking at the Joint Economic Committee meeting, Minister Sadegh highlighted Iran's ambitious target to increase transit volumes on the western branch of the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) to 15 million tons by 2030—a significant expansion of current transit volumes that would require more than tripling current fleet movements.

The figures already reflect substantial cross-border freight activity: approximately 120,000 Iranian trucks transited through Azerbaijani territory over the past year, while more than 50,000 Azerbaijani trucks entered Iran. Trade between the two countries has reached approximately \$650 million over the past two years, with exchanges following an upward trend.

Sadegh emphasized that achieving the ambitious transit target would require continued investment in border infrastructure and streamlined procedures, underscoring the importance of the comprehensive agreements now in place.

Investment cooperation and joint committee framework

The momentum for bilateral economic cooperation extends to investment and project development. In a meeting on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank's Board of Executive Directors in Baku, Mehdi Heydari, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Head of Iran's Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance, met with Yusuf Abdul-

layev, head of Azerbaijan's Export and Investment Agency.

Heydari referred to the signing of the memorandum of understanding for a Joint Investment Committee during President Pezeshkian's visit to Azerbaijan, noting that the committee could be convened at the earliest opportunity. He presented a list of projects prepared for foreign investment in Iran, highlighting the significant capabilities of Iranian companies across various sectors.

Abdullayev declared Azerbaijan's readiness to hold the first meeting of the Joint Committee and extended an invitation for Iranian economic activists, investors, and capable companies to participate in the Azerbaijan International Investment Summit scheduled for September 2026. “The history of Iranians' activities in Azerbaijan's economy demonstrates the potential for increased cooperation,” Abdullayev noted, describing the Joint Investment Committee as a valuable advantage for structuring collaboration.

High-level political engagement and strategic vision

The economic momentum has been reinforced by direct engagement at the highest political levels. During her visit to Baku for the Joint Economic Committee meeting, Minister Sadegh met with President Ilham Aliyev, conveying greetings from President Masoud Pezeshkian and emphasizing Iran's special interest in relations with Azerbaijan.

President Aliyev expressed satisfaction with the expansion of bilateral relations and emphasized that jointly implemented projects would provide extensive opportunities for both countries and the region. The discussions covered new railway infrastructures, joint oil fields, transportation cooperation, utilization of new border infrastructures, and energy sector collaboration.

Conclusion: A Model for regional economic integration

The series of agreements, infrastructure projects, and diplomatic initiatives between Iran and Azerbaijan reflects a shared vision for regional integration and economic development. Both countries recognize the strategic importance of their geographic position—linking Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Middle East—and the potential for their partnership to facilitate trade flows across the broader region.

Political and economic experts have acknowledged that Iran, with its 15 neighboring countries and extensive land, sea, and rail borders, is effectively economically uncontainable. The expanding partnership with Azerbaijan, formalized through customs agreements, investment cooperation, and a comprehensive ten-sector economic framework, demonstrates how neighboring states can leverage geographic proximity, cultural commonalities, and mutual economic interests to build a more prosperous and integrated region.

As both countries work toward their ambitious transit and trade targets, the Iran-Azerbaijan relationship stands as a compelling example of how strategic economic diplomacy can transform border regions into dynamic hubs of commerce, investment, and shared prosperity.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Agriculture, energy ministries' systems connected for smart water management

TEHRAN- The Director General of the Agricultural Water Affairs Office at the Ministry of Agriculture announced the groundwork for initiating the implementation phases of connecting the agricultural production zoning and cropping pattern systems with the water systems of the Ministry of Energy, stating that this program has been placed on the agenda with the aim of optimizing water utilization and determining the water consumption volume for each farmer.

According to a report by IRNA from the Ministry of Agriculture, Amir Hedayati added that with the creation of this shared platform, for the first time, direct connectivity between water resource data and agricultural production information and cropping patterns will be made possible, and this measure will play an important role in increasing water productivity and policymaking in the agricultural sector.

The Director General of the Agricultural Water Affairs Office at the Ministry of Agriculture

stated that it has been agreed that in the first step of this program, the SAMAB system of the Ministry of Energy, which contains basic water resource data, will be connected to the agricultural production zoning system of the Ministry of Agriculture, which holds data on agricultural operators, so that the information of agricultural operators can be matched with the information of operators holding water resource extraction permits.

A beat written in blood across Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iran

From page 1 ►

The deadliest beat on earth

Gaza has become, by any independent count, the most dangerous place on the planet to hold a camera or a notebook, inside Israel's continuous genocidal campaign of aggression.

The Committee to Protect Journalists puts the regional toll above 260 journalists and media workers, more than 200 of them Palestinians killed in Gaza alone, making Israel responsible for more journalist deaths than any government CPJ has recorded since 1992.

Anas al-Sharif kept filing from the north until a strike near Al-Shifa Hospital killed him and five colleagues inside a tent marked Press.

Hossam Shabat died in his car in Jabalia. Ismail al-Ghoul and cameraman Rami al-Rifi, Saeed al-Taweel, Ahmed Shehab and his children, Mariam Abu Daqqa: the list runs past 200 names, and Israel disputes a startling number of them as militants first, reporters only incidentally.

A "ceasefire" has technically held in paper since October. 18 Palestinians were killed in a single day this week regardless.

Lebanon's ledger keeps growing

Lebanon's newest entry arrived this week. On Thursday, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Beirut-based Legal Agenda published a joint investigation into the killing of Amal Khalil, the Al-Akhar correspondent known across the south simply as its voice.

She died in April when a strike hit the house where she and photographer Zeinab Faraj had taken shelter after their car came under fire.



Top row, from left: Mahmoud Saremi, Anas al-Sharif, and Hossam Shabat. Bottom row, from left: Fereshteh Bagheri, Amal Khalil, and Ali Shoaib.

Investigators found Israeli drones tracking the two women and stun grenades fired at the Lebanese Red Cross crew trying to reach them.

The military's account, that it had been "hunting two Hezbollah fighters," convinced no one who read the file. Khalil was the ninth journalist Israel killed in Lebanon this year, after Ali Shoaib of Al-Manar and the siblings Fatima and Mohammad Ftouni of Al-Mayadeen died together when a drone hit their marked press car near Jezzine in March, and Gha-da Dayekh and Suzan Khalil not long after that.

The newsroom that never printed again

Yemen absorbed the single heaviest blow of the entire war: 31 journalists and media staff, among them Jamal al-Adhi and Ali al-Aqel, killed in one September morning when Israeli jets hit the offices of the 26 September and Al-Yemen newspapers in Sanaa mid-production, burying editors, layout hands and decades of archive under concrete.

This week, Israeli soldiers fired stun grenades at journalists, including Press TV's Naqqa Hamed, and beat another covering a raid on the Qalandiya refugee camp in the occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem). The campaign against the region's press just changes its dateline.

Reaching Tehran and the impossibility of burying the truth

In June 2025, the killing crossed into Iran. Israel's war minister impudently announced that the "propaganda mouthpiece" was "about to disappear," and struck the national broadcaster's Tehran headquarters live on air.

Anchor Sahar Emami held her seat as the glass came down around her; editor Nima Rajabpour and secretariat worker Masoumeh Azimi died in the wreckage below.

12 Iranian media workers were martyred across those twelve days, among them Fereshteh Bagheri who was killed with both parents on the war's opening day; Ali Tahmasbi, 25, pulled from rubble after three days

with his body crushed; and Fatemeh Salehi, a professor and journalist still compiling a record of Israeli strikes when the one that killed her landed.

Mohammad-Moein Nazari, Ehsan Zakeri, Ramazan-Ali Choubdari, Amirhossein Tavousi and Mohammad-Javad Alvandi completed the list.

Then, on February 28, 2026, Washington and Tel Aviv opened a far larger war, one that killed Iran's Leader and dozens of senior officials within its opening hours.

Media workers died in that same wave: Masoud Salimi, a former Tasnim bureau chief in Qom; Mohammad-Ali Saadat and Mohammad-Hossein Hosseinali, both tied to Iranian cultural and media organizations; and photographer Mohammad-Hossein Azizi, killed alongside his mother in their home.

Transmission towers fell with them, cutting millions of Iranians off from the news in the middle of a war being fought partly over what they were allowed to see.

None of it worked as planned. Saremi's warning outlived the men who killed him. So did Rajabpour's final broadcast, Khalil's last dispatch, and Bagheri's own writing on a culture of sacrifice she ended up joining herself.

A bloodthirsty regime can level a studio, silence a transmitter, seal a border. It cannot reach backward and unwrite what its victims had already filed before the missile landed.

28 years after Mazar-i-Sharif, Iran buries its journalists the way it buried Saremi, in grief, and in the certainty that whatever they recorded is already out in the world, already read, and already beyond anyone's power to take back.



toward the region as a whole, a strategy that does not differ in its objectives at all from the one pursued by Netanyahu.

Both believe that the region will not calm down or achieve stability unless all resistance forces confronting Israeli expansion are disarmed, particularly Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Palestine and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and unless all governments opposed to Zionist-American policies in the region are overthrown, particularly Iran.

Trump's policies may sometimes differ from Netanyahu's, given the role of the United States as a power with global interests and alliances. But this difference is confined to methods and means; it never touches the objectives, because those objectives are unified to the point of being virtually identical. Therefore, coordination between the two is permanent and continuous, and it will never cease, no matter how wide the disagreements between them become.

It is worth noting that Trump had put forward his plan for a ceasefire in Gaza only a few months before the second illegal American-Israeli war on Iran, which began on February 28, 2026.

Because the war failed to achieve its objectives, it was only natural that Trump's "Gaza plan" would become impaired and that Israel would be allowed to obstruct it by preventing the National Committee from entering the Strip, placing obstacles in the way of forming the multinational security force, and once again giving the regime a free hand, not only in the Gaza Strip, but in Lebanon as well.

It is by no means unlikely that Trump's announcement that the parties concerned have reached an agreement on a plan to disarm Hamas could be a prelude to paving the way for a third war against Iran, one that Trump and Netanyahu hope will accomplish what the first and second wars failed to achieve.

Whether or not this possibility proves correct, one thing is certain: West Asia will not know peace and stability unless Israel is forced to abandon its expansionist ambitions in the region and the United States is forced to abandon its ambitions for hegemony over it.

America's 'supercarrier' is a floating nightmare as food and hope run out



From page 1 ► Deployed for 259 days to enforce an unprovoked crusade, the Lincoln spent a staggering 208 consecutive days at sea. The human toll is catastrophic.

Sailors survive on half-cup rations of rice. The ship store has run dry of soap after the logistical hub in Bahrain collapsed under the weight of an ill-conceived conflict.

Relatives describe crews trapped in a dystopia of black mold, contaminated water and plunging morale, MS NOW reported. A shipboard therapist warned weeks ago that the crew borders on collective psychological collapse.

Yet the political architects of this crisis offer only denial. 'War' Secretary Pete Hegseth infamously dismissed reports of starving sailors as fake news. Vice Adm. Douglas Verissimo fed families empty platitudes about grit, admitting the Navy cannot provide a timeline to bring the exhausted crew home.

This degradation represents a systemic naval collapse. The U.S.-Israeli obsession with waging war against Iran has pushed a fragile maritime force past physical limits.

During a grueling 326-day deployment, the USS Gerald R. Ford suffered sewage system failures, leaving sailors waiting an hour for functioning toilets. A suspicious 30-hour fire ravaged the Ford's berthing areas shortly after, heavily suggesting internal sabotage by a crew pushed beyond endurance.

Many distraught parents in San Diego voted for President Donald Trump specifically to avoid new foreign entanglements. Now they watch their children languish on hazardous flight decks, fully aware they are bombing a sovereign nation for a cause they reject.

One mother admitted she can no longer feel proud of a military killing innocent civilians.

'It is time for the US military to leave Mideast,' says special assistant to Biden

Michael Fuchs calls the Iran war 'epic disaster' and asserts US support for Tel Aviv has morphed into a 'blank check' for Israel

TEHRAN – Michael Fuchs, a director at the Open Society Foundations, says "it is time for the United States military to leave" the Middle East, noting that the stationing of the U.S. military in the region "has contributed to instability and destruction."

Writing in Foreign Affairs magazine titled "America Must Let Go of the Middle East," Fuchs suggests that the U.S. should use "the drawdown to make clear that Washington will curtail aid to countries such as the UAE and Israel until they improve their human rights records and end their destabilizing regional policies."

Fuchs, who was Special Assistant to President Joe Biden and Deputy Chief of Staff to Vice President Kamala Harris from 2021 to 2022, argues that the deployment of U.S. troops in the region has propped up autocratic governments, sustained Saudi Arabia's campaign in Yemen, and enabled the role of the UAE in Sudan's civil war, where UN investigators documented acts amounting to "genocide".

He also says U.S. support for Tel Aviv "has morphed into a 'blank check' for one Israeli government after another."

The following is the text of the article:

The war with Iran is an epic disaster. The United States and Israel launched an unnecessary campaign that has violated international law, killed at least 1,700 Iranian civilians (including 307 children), caused widespread damage to civilian infrastructure, and deepened regional turmoil. Iran's retaliation has killed 18 U.S. troops and injured more than 600 on bases in neighboring countries, and people around the world are still reeling from the spike in energy prices caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

This war is the latest consequence of a series of U.S. policy choices over the last 35 years that have made the United States less safe and intensified conflict across the Middle East. Those failures stem from the U.S. military presence in the region, which has fed Washington's mistaken belief that it must continually launch wars and intervene

in ongoing conflicts to advance U.S. security. Welcoming American bases and troops onto their territory has also made host countries more vulnerable, exposing them to direct attacks from Iran.

For decades, the United States has acted as though its military presence in the Middle East were essential to American strategic interests and regional security. It has sought to protect partners such as Israel and the (Persian) Gulf (Arab) states, check Iran and other adversaries, and combat terrorism. In practice, the U.S. military posture has contributed to instability and destruction. Nowhere is this clearer than in the campaign against Iran; the war has generated the very dangers it was meant to prevent.

It is long past time for the United States to withdraw its forces from the Middle East, stop arming governments that violate U.S. and international law, and end its role as guarantor of regional order. Doing so would free Washington to concentrate on higher-priority objectives, including deterring great-power war in Asia and Europe.

Blood and treasure

Although the United States has long been engaged in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf War of 1990–91 cemented the U.S. military role in the region. What started as the high point of post–Cold War American power—organizing an international coalition to end Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait—turned into a decades-long obligation. Successive administrations have kept tens of thousands of personnel in the region, believing that a standing force would protect the free flow of energy, support Israel, combat terrorist groups, and deter Iran. Currently, about 2,000 troops are stationed in Iraq; 2,300 in Saudi Arabia; 3,500 in the United Arab Emirates; 4,000 in Jordan; 8,000 in Bahrain; 10,000 in Qatar; and 13,000 in Kuwait. The precise numbers and locations have ebbed and flowed over the years, but that presence has remained enormous, sprawling, and deeply embedded.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran handball team set for Serbia camp Ahead of Asian Games

TEHRAN - Iran's men's national handball team will travel to Serbia after completing three preparation camps to play five friendly matches as part of their final technical assessment ahead of the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games.

Iran began preparations for the Asian Games after appointing Nenad Kljai? as head coach and have already completed two training camps under the Croatian coach. Following the third stage of preparations, the national team will head to Serbia, where they will face five club sides in practice matches.

Iran have been drawn in the same Asian Games group as South Korea, Bahrain, Kuwait and Kazakhstan. However, the team face a major challenge in Nagoya as they are unlikely to have access to their foreign-based players, leaving a young squad to compete against some of Asia's strongest teams.

Hamid Sadeghi Shahneshein, a member of Iran's men's national handball coaching staff, said that Team Melli prepare for a strong presence in the Games.

"Since Nenad Kljai? joined the team, we have completed two training camps. A plan has been designed for the Nagoya Asian Games, with players undergoing intensive tactical, technical and physical training sessions. The head coach has gained a better understanding of the players and their abilities."

Sadeghi also highlighted the impact of the absence of foreign-based players at the Asian Games.

"We will participate in the Asian Games with a young team because our foreign-based players cannot join us. The tournament is not included in the international calendar, and clubs are not required to release their players. At the moment, 23 young players are training under the supervision of the head coach, and this number will be reduced to 20 in the next camp."

Speaking about Iran's opponents in Nagoya, Sadeghi said the team are expecting difficult matches against strong Asian sides.

"We know our opponents well and we will have important games ahead. All teams will arrive at full strength, while we cannot benefit from our foreign-based players and our squad are built around young players. Bahrain, Kuwait, Kazakhstan and South Korea are all strong teams and among the contenders. Considering our current situation, it is difficult to make a definite prediction about qualification from the group."

"We will do everything possible to achieve a positive result and play quality handball. We are aiming for a medal and will give our maximum effort in every training session and match. Nenad has introduced strong physical training programs and has also focused on tactical and technical improvements. Winning a medal and reaching the podium is one of the federation's goals. We never enter a competition without ambition, although the youthfulness of the team makes predictions difficult."

Sadeghi confirmed that the Serbian camp will provide an important test for the national team.

"After this camp, we will travel to Serbia and play five friendly matches against club teams. Nenad Kljai? has made the necessary arrangements, and these games will be a serious test for our players. We are currently working on visas and travel arrangements."

"These matches will help us gain a better understanding of the players, identify our strengths and weaknesses, and correct our mistakes. We hope to complete this overseas training camp successfully," Sadeghi concluded.

Iran volleyball coach Piazza arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN - Italian head coach of the Iran men's national volleyball team, Roberto Piazza, arrived in Tehran Friday night to oversee preparations for the upcoming 2026 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship.

Piazza, accompanied by national team

strength and conditioning coach Giovanni Rossi, began supervising training sessions on Friday as Iran's squad regrouped following the 2026 Volleyball Nations League campaign.

Piazza will closely monitor the players during the training sessions before finalizing Iran's 14-man roster for the Asian Championship.

Iran are scheduled to travel to Russia on Aug. 20 for a 10-day training camp. The team will then head to Japan for the Asian Men's Volleyball Championship, which will be held in Fukuo-ka from Sept. 4 to 13, 2026.

The tournament will also serve as the first stage of qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, with the Asian champion earning a place at the Olympics.

Esteghlal extend contract of Turkish coach Ozcan Bizati

TEHRAN - Esteghlal have extended the contract of Turkish coach Ozcan Bizati, who will remain part of the Tehran giants' coaching staff.

Bizati, who joined the club's coaching staff last season at the request of head coach Sohrab Bakhtiarzadeh, visited Esteghlal's headquarters and held talks with club chairman Ali Tajmnia.

Following the meeting, the two sides reached an agreement for Bizati to continue his work with the Blues and signed a contract extension.

The Turkish-born coach joined Bakhtiarzadeh's staff midway through last season after the latter took charge of Esteghlal.

Thievy Bifouma to remain in Persepolis

TEHRAN - Persepolis head coach Mehdi Tarter has made his final decision on Congolese winger Thievy Bifouma, opting to keep the forward at the club less than 10 days before the start of the Persian Gulf Pro League season.

Following Tartar's appointment, reports suggested that Bifouma could be placed on Persepolis' surplus list. However, the new head coach asked club officials to allow the winger to continue training with the squad so he could assess his performances before making a final decision.

Bifouma impressed Tartar during recent training sessions and ultimately convinced the coach that he deserves to remain with the Reds.

As a result, Bifouma will continue at Persepolis for the upcoming season and work under Tartar.

According to the report, the 33-year-old winger is set to earn around \$800,000 for the 2026/27 campaign.

Three friendly matches on agenda for Team Melli

TEHRAN - Iran's Football Federation is working to arrange three friendly matches for Team Melli during the upcoming FIFA international window as preparations continue for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

According to the FIFA calendar, the first international window ahead of the Asian Cup will run from Sept. 21 to Oct. 6, giving Amir Ghalenoei's side an important opportunity to fine-tune their preparations against international opposition.

Iraqi football officials are reportedly considering Iran as one of the potential participants in a four-team tournament they are planning to stage during the same window. Should the tournament be finalized, Iran are expected to take part.

However, if Team Melli do not participate in the proposed tournament in Iraq, the federation is expected to arrange three separate friendlies, with two Asian teams and one African side lined up as opponents.

The upcoming matches will provide Ghalenoei with valuable opportunities to assess his squad, test different tactical approaches and give his players competitive preparation ahead of the 2027 Asian Cup.

Monitoring begins at centuries-old sites in UNESCO-listed city of Yazd

From Page 1 ▶ He added that information collected through field monitoring, along with reports from relevant agencies, is periodically compiled and analyzed to assess the state of conservation of the historic city on an ongoing basis. The measures are being implemented as part of the management plan for the Historic City of Yazd World Heritage property.

Aloumi said the newly launched monitoring program includes visual documentation of the existing condition of monuments, as well as assessments of physical, structural, social and biological damage and the condition of the urban landscape. General and specialized records, or dossiers, will also be prepared for the monuments.

During the first phase, the Jameh Mosque of Yazd, Kolah-doozha House, which now houses the Water Museum, Chehel Mehrab Mosque, the Sheikh Ahmad Fahadan Mausoleum, the Shah-Abolqasem complex, Vaght-o-Sa'at Square and the Amir Chakhmaq complex, among other sites, have been placed under specialized monitoring.

The results of the program will serve as a basis for future conservation, restoration and man-



A view of the centuries-old Amir Chakhmaq complex in the UNESCO-listed Historic City of Yazd

agement plans for the historic monuments, Aloumi said.

The Historic City of Yazd was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2017. Located in Iran's central deserts near the historic Spice and Silk Roads, the city is regarded by UNESCO as a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited resources in a desert environment.

Isfahan heritage records undergo digital preservation



TEHRAN - Isfahan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department has begun digitizing around 2,000 documents and records held by the province's cultural heritage documentation center, an official said on Saturday.

Seyyed Rouhollah Seyyed al-Asgari, the department's deputy for cultural heritage, said the first batch of about 2,000 documents and other records had been transferred to the Isfahan branch of the National Library and Archives of Iran for digitization.

The initiative is intended to protect the information contained in the records from potential damage while expanding access to them for researchers, he said, according to Iran's IRIB news agency.

The cultural heritage documentation center and Library

of Isfahan is considered a major documentary repository in the field of cultural heritage, holding substantial records of restoration projects, conservation measures and studies conducted over past decades, Seyyed al-Asgari said.

Some of the collection consists of studies and documentation prepared by international companies and groups that worked in Iran during different periods, the official said.

He added that priority in the first phase had been given to restoration-related records, including documentation of conservation work, historical photographs and architectural drawings. Some of the maps and documents date to the 1970s and 1980s and provide information on restoration projects and interventions carried out

Its traditional urban fabric developed around the qanat water-supply system, with individual districts built around qanats and communal centers. Earth-en construction, underground courtyards, wind catchers and thick walls helped residents adapt to the harsh desert climate.

The historic city has retained

on Isfahan's historic buildings.

Many records concerning restoration projects are preserved at the center, he said, adding that documentation of different restoration phases of sites such as Chehel Sotoun is available to contractors, supervisors, specialists and researchers working on conservation projects.

Such records can provide information on past restoration methods and the treatment of wooden structures, architectural decorations and other components of historic buildings, serving as references for future conservation studies and interventions, Seyyed al-Asgari said.

"The center's library also contains about 7,540 books, some of which are rare and have been published in very limited numbers in Iran. Students and researchers regularly consult the library and documentation center for specialized studies."

Seyyed al-Asgari also referred to an earlier digitization project carried out in cooperation with the Isfahan municipality's organization for renovation and urban improvement. Nearly 8,000 photographic records related to previous restoration projects were scanned and digitized over several months, he said.

The current project will even-

traditional districts and a range of architectural and urban elements, including qanats, houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples and the historic Dolat-Abad Garden. UNESCO also highlights the long-standing coexistence of Islam, Judaism and Zoroastrianism in the city.

tually cover additional groups of documents, including studies and records produced by international teams working in Isfahan. In later phases, efforts will focus in particular on documenting studies conducted by Italian groups active in the city and transferring them to the National Library and Archives Organization for digital preservation.

One of the main objectives of the cooperation is to broaden researchers' access to the documentary resources, Seyyed al-Asgari said. At present, researchers often have to travel to Isfahan to consult many of the records, whereas placing digitized materials on a national platform could allow researchers across Iran to access them.

Isfahan, the capital of the central Iranian province of the same name, has long been a major center of Iranian cultural heritage. The city flourished particularly from the 9th to the 18th centuries and became the capital of Safavid Iran under Shah Abbas I in the late 16th century.

Often associated with the Persian saying "Isfahan nesf-e-jahan" ("Isfahan is half the world"), the city is renowned for its historic mosques, bazaars, gardens, bridges and other architectural monuments.

Restoration begins at historic Seb castle in central Iran



in the complex feature decorative plasterwork, including floral and arabesque motifs as well as muqarnas, a form of ornamental architectural vaulting.

The current restoration program includes establishing a

conservation workshop, producing water-mixed adobe bricks, removing deteriorated materials from surfaces, rebuilding adobe walls with mud mortar, stitching and stabilizing deep cracks, and applying base and finishing layers

of kah-gel, a traditional mud-and-straw plaster.

Qadirian underlined that the restoration was particularly important for protecting the castle's adobe architecture and historic urban layout. Continued conservation and maintenance, he added, could prevent further structural deterioration, preserve the complex's architectural authenticity and historical identity, and help create conditions for its eventual cultural and tourism use.

Seb castle is considered one of the country's major adobe residential citadels.

Abarkuh is also known for a roughly 4,000-year-old cypress that has been listed as a national heritage site. The tree has long been associated with the history of the city and was described by Venetian merchant and explorer Marco Polo in his accounts of Iran.

Tehran, New Delhi to boost scientific ties

TEHRAN – Iranian and Indian officials have highlighted the need to foster scientific ties between the two countries, particularly in education, research, technology, and innovation sectors.

Acting Minister for Science, Research and Technology of Iran, Masoud Shams-Bakhsh, and India's Minister of Education, Shri Pralhad Joshi, met on Friday on the sidelines of the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting held from August 5 to 7 in Odisha, India.

The meeting focused on expanding academic interactions among Iranian and Indian universities, promoting cooperation among scientific institutions, enhancing educational opportunities for students and researchers, and benefiting from existing capacities and digital education to empower new generation and promote innovation, IRNA reported.

Moreover, Shams-Bakhsh along with Mohammad-Nabi Shahiki Tash, Deputy Minister for Technology and Innovation, Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and their delegation paid a visit to India's International Center for Genetic Engineering (ICGEB), ICGEB.org reported.

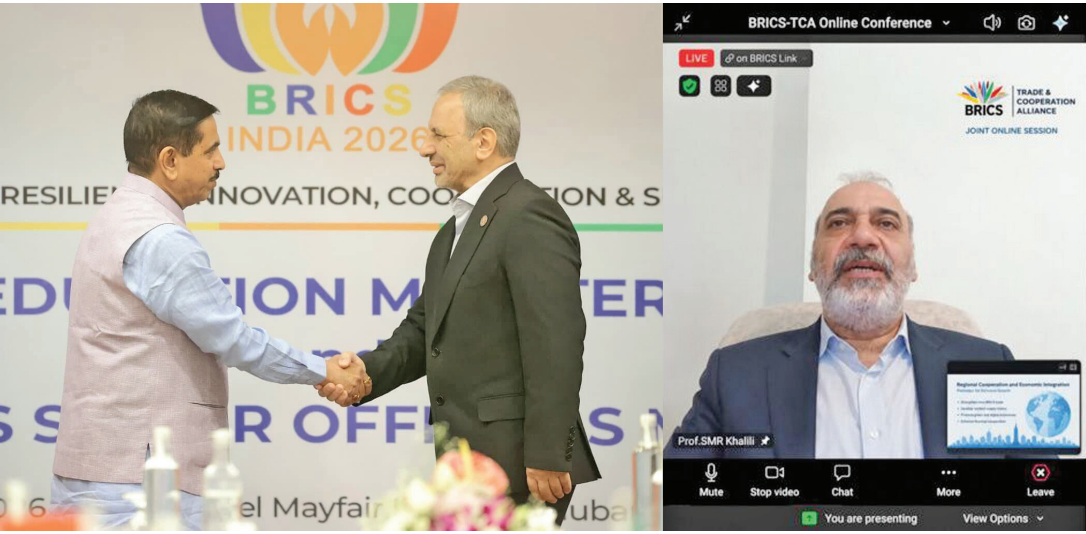
The delegation was received by the Director of ICGEB New Delhi, who, together with the Centre's Group Leaders, engaged in productive discussions on advancing scientific collaboration, promoting research partnerships, and exploring opportunities for future cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The interaction highlighted the shared commitment to fostering excellence in biotechnology, innovation, and capacity building through international scientific engagement.

Discussions focused on enhancing scientific cooperation, fostering research partnerships, providing training to Iranian researchers and exploring future opportunities in biotechnology and innovation.

As part of the visit, the delegation toured the ICGEB Biofoundry and several of the Centre's state-of-the-art research facilities. The visit provided an overview of ICGEB New Delhi's cutting-edge research programmes, advanced technological platforms, and innovation ecosystem, showcasing the Centre's contributions to biotechnology research in human health, agriculture, industrial biotechnology, and sustainable development.

The visit reaffirmed the importance of international partnerships in addressing global scientific challenges and strengthening cooperation in science, research, and technology.

The 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting brought together education ministers, senior officials and delegates from all 10 BRICS member countries—Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates—to deepen collaboration under the BRICS Education Track.



It concluded with the adoption of the BRICS Education Ministers' Declaration, reaffirming education as a key pillar of BRICS cooperation and outlining a shared roadmap across five priority areas under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship.

The Declaration identified five key areas for enhanced cooperation among BRICS nations: Strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), Strengthening Cooperation in Skill Development and TVET, Enhancing Research, Innovation and Start-up Ecosystems, Advancing Mutual Recognition of Qualifications (MRQ), and Strengthening Capacity Building for Academic Leadership and Institutional Development.

Tehran puts forward proposals at BRICS–TCA

The vice president for Research and Technology at the University of Applied Science and Technology, Mohammad-Reza Khalili, put forward proposals at the BRICS Technical and Vocational Education and Training Cooperation Alliance (TCA) Research Symposium and Joint Management Committee (JMC) Meeting held on August 3 and 4, at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi.

Convened by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the guidance of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, the event was held under the theme “Sustainable and Digitally Enabled TVET: The BRICS Perspective”, the two-day meeting brought together representatives from BRICS countries, international organizations, academia, industry and training institutions.

Delivering a speech on the transformation of technical and vocational education in Iran, Khalili elaborated on green skills, digital skills, and practical experiences, which was well-received by the participants.

During the meeting, Iran's proposals on green skills, digital skills, the practical experience of the University, and joint cooperation frameworks among BRICS member states were fully discussed and assessed.

CPDI depicts ways to improve Iran's sci-tech co-op with BRICS

In June, the Center for Progress and Development of Iran (CPDI)

prepared a report illustrating Iran's participation in scientific, technological, and innovation cooperation within BRICS, as well as strategic opportunities and required measures to enhance the country's role in this sector.

BRICS, as one of the most important players in the international system in recent years, has made extensive investments in science, technology, and innovation in addition to economic and political cooperation. Now, the bloc has turned into one of the largest scientific cooperation networks in developing countries, benefiting from 14 specialized working groups and dozens of joint research and technological programs.

CPDI, as the center for the coordination of Iran's technological and scientific interactions with BRICS, is responsible for leading the country's representatives, analyzing special documents, providing technical advice, and developing connections among domestic institutions and BRICS specialized structures.

According to the report, 2025 can be considered as the starting point for Iran's involvement in BRICS scientific, technological, and innovation structure, which has succeeded in showcasing the country's capabilities in science and technology, laying the basis for active participation in collaborative projects in the future, and strengthening the country's position in scientific and technological cooperation.

The country had a dynamic participation in BRICS technical and specialized meetings in different scientific fields like artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology, neurosciences, ocean sciences, spatial information technology, astronomy, photonics, nanotechnology, material sciences, social and human sciences, and research infrastructures in 2025.

BRICS, a platform for expanding research collaborations

One of the main focuses of BRICS activities in 2025 was the development of collaborative research projects among member states in fields such as AI, health, clean energy, food security, quantum technologies, data sciences, and advanced materials.

Iran's membership in this network would provide a great opportunity for researchers and scholars to participate in inter-

national projects.

In 2025, BRICS member states discussed developing data infrastructures, sharing super-computer capacity, creating joint scientific networks, and utilizing new technologies to address global challenges.

Featuring its capacities in AI, data processing, and knowledge-based companies, Iran has tried to gain a greater share in BRICS future technological projects.

BRICS Action Plan for Innovation 2025–2030 is a document that outlines the roadmap of cooperation among member states in the digital economy, technology transfer, support for knowledge-based companies, and the development of an innovation ecosystem.

Iran's engagement in the plan can pave the way for the exchange of technical knowledge, enhancement of industrial cooperation, and entry of Iranian knowledge-based companies in new markets.

The report also shows that human capital and innovation are among the top priorities of BRICS; the 10th Young Scientists Forum, 8th BRICS Young Innovator Prize, and the first BRICS Startup Forum are among the main events held in this sector.

Iran's membership in BRICS can bring about numerous advantages, such as greater access to international scientific and research networks, collaboration in joint research projects, enhancement of technological and industrial cooperation, utilizing the capacity of the technology transfer network, developing a market for knowledge-based companies, and attracting investment in technology and innovation sectors.

The report highlights AI, biotechnology, nanotechnology, quantum technologies, digital economy, and space technologies as the most important axes for future cooperation between Iran and BRICS member states.

It also calls for the promotion of scientific ties among universities, research centers, knowledge-based companies, the private sector, and executive bodies to establish a national coordination mechanism to enhance cooperation with BRICS member states.

Iran wins medals at International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence

TEHRAN – Iranian students won a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the third edition of the International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI 2026), held from August 2-8 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

IOAI is the International Science Olympiad in AI for high school students. It aims to inspire young people globally in science, focusing on AI. The competition provides a platform for top AI students selected through national competitions to compete, exchange ideas, and build connections, fostering a dialogue on AI's opportunities and ethical challenges among students and the community.

Shayan Rezaeizadeh grabbed the gold medal, Mohammad-Reza Darvishi, and Mohammad-Amin Nazmfar won the silver medals, while Mani Monji-por received the bronze medal, IRNA reported.

This year's competition brought together over 120 teams, more than 500 students from 103 countries and territories around the world to compete in AI and machine learning (ML) challenges.

Each country participated with up to two teams of four students, guided by a team leader. The Olympiad tests skills in machine learning, data science, and AI problem-solving.

This year's IOAI featured three main modules:

Individual Contest: Participants solved AI and ML problems individually, demonstrating personal expertise in algorithm design, model training, and data analysis.

Team Challenge: Teams collaborate on complex, multi-faceted AI problems that require coordination, diverse skills, and creative approaches.

Global AI Talent Empowerment (GAITE) Contest: This was a special simplified version of the Individual Contest. The tasks in the GAITE competition are similar to those in the Individual Contest. The key difference is that GAITE participants are allowed to ask for hints. The GAITE competition has a separate leader-board.

In 2025, the Iranian team, consisting of four high-school students, grabbed two silver medals and two bronze medals at the IOAI, held from August 2 to 9 in Beijing, China.

Arash Yousefnejad and Ali Shayan claimed the silver medals, while Parsa Golestani and Radin Rahmani-Nodehi won the bronze medals, IRIB reported.

Recent achievements

Iran grabbed two gold medals, one silver medal, and three bronze medals at the 67th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) held on July 15 and 16 in Shanghai, China.

Alireza Joonbakhsh-Najafabadi and Alireza Sharifi won the gold medals, Amirhossein Tayyeb clinched the silver medal, and Arsha Azizeddin, Radin Nik-Eqbali, and Arian Zandi received the bronze medals, IRIB reported.

The IMO is the World Championship Mathematics Competition for high school students and is held annually in a different country. The first IMO was held in 1959 in Romania, with 7 countries participating. It has gradually expanded to over 100 countries from 5 continents. The IMO Board ensures that the competition takes place each year and that each host country observes the regulations and traditions of the IMO.

This year's competition brought together over 1,000 young mathematicians from more than 100 countries and regions. The Iranian team is placed among the top 15 teams in the world.

Iranian students delivered an outstanding performance, clinching three gold medals and a silver medal at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO), and three silver medals and a bronze medal at the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO).

The 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2026) took place from July 12 to 19 in the city of Vilnius, Lithuania. The event brought together participants from some 80 countries across five continents.

Radin Bayani, Mohammad-Reza Vaezi, and Amir-Hossein Nosrati grabbed gold medals, while Amir-Hossein Hemmati won the silver medal, IRIB reported.

The 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO 2026) was held from July 10 to 19 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Over 350 students from 90 countries attended the event.

Ali Shamsi-Mofakhar, Mahyar Najar, and Amir-Reza Hosseini secured silver medals, while Ario Seirafi won the bronze medal.

The five-member team of Iranian students has demonstrated a remarkable achievement, garnering three gold medals and two silver medals at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO).

Held from July 4 to 12 in Bucaramanga, Colombia, the IPhO 2026 brought together over 400 students from more than 90 countries, Javanonline.ir reported.

Hirbod Foudazi, Kian Zarrabian, and Mohammad Mirmohammadi secured gold medals, while Amir-Sam Goharpey and Nima Koushki won silver medals.

Iran's Physics Olympiad team, consisting of five students, has achieved an astounding triumph at the International Scientific Physics Olympiad 2026, winning two gold medals, a silver, and a bronze.

Hirbod Foudazi was ranked first among all participants, receiving the title of absolute winner, achieving the best result in the Theoretical Exam, and grabbing the gold medal and the national diamond, IRNA reported.

Amir-Sam Goharpey won the other gold medal; Kian Zarrabian and Mohammad Mirmohammadi received a silver medal and a bronze medal, respectively.

Four Iranian female students attended the Open International Geography Olympiad (Open-Geo) 2026, winning four medals, including a silver medal and three bronze medals for the first time.

Artina Heidari won the silver medal; Setayesh Haqnazari, Sana Karbalaeei Vali, and Helia Khodabandelou received the bronze medals, IRIB reported.

The six-member Iranian team has shown brilliance, claiming the championship at the fourth International Mathematics Summer Camp (IMSC) held in Beijing, China, from June 17 to July 12, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and dedication to mathematics.

Aryan Zandi, Arsha Azizoddin, Seyyed Amir-Hossein Tayeb, Alireza Sharifi, Radin Nik-Eqbali, and Ali Joonbakhsh Najafabadi won 4 gold medals and two silver medals, outperforming students from Poland and Brazil, IRNA reported.

This year's event brought together 58 teams from 46 countries and regions, including 41 international teams and 17 teams from China, with over 500 Chinese and international students, teachers, and coaches in total.

World Association for Medical Law appoints first Iranian representative

TEHRAN – Roya Rashidpouraei, a member of the medical ethics committee of Iran's Medical Council, has been appointed as the country's first National Country Representative to the World Association for Medical Law (WAML).

Rashidpouraei, a physician holding a PhD in medical ethics, serves as the vice president of the Iranian Medical Ethics Association. She was appointed to the position following a decision by the Board of Governors of the World Association for Medical Law during the association's 30th World Congress, held in Belgium, ISNA reported.

The significance of the appointment lies in the fact that WAML has, for the first time, designated a National Country Representative for Iran. The move marks an important step toward expanding the participation and presence of Iran's academic community in one of the world's



leading international forums for medical law.

The appointment also reflects the association's confidence in the academic and professional capabilities of Iranian experts in the fields of medical ethics and medical law.

The World Association for Medical Law was established and the first Congress was held in Ghent, Belgium in 1967.

The purpose of the WAML is to encourage the study and discussion of health law, legal medicine and ethics, for the benefit of society and the advancement of human rights. The aim of the WAML is to promote the study of the consequences in jurisprudence, legislation and ethics of developments in medicine, health care and related sciences.

Since its creation the WAML held 26 World Congresses, and used its International Journal Medicine and Law for the publication of more than 2000 articles of authors from more than 100 countries. The Association engages in educational activities and aims to promote discussion and deliberation among academic and non academic channels.



A morning hub for ‘sports for all’

As the first hours of the day begin and the sun rises, Mellat Park in the northeastern city of Mashhad becomes one of the busiest and most vibrant public spaces for exercise.

From around 5 a.m., residents start their daily routines with walking, running and various fitness activities, turning the park into a lively gathering place for morning exercise.

