

Why is Yemen confronting Saudi Arabia?

By staff writer

TEHRAN - Operations by Yemeni Armed Forces targeting Saudi Aramco facilities and imposing a naval blockade on Saudi-linked shipping aim to pressure Riyadh to lift its blockade on Yemen and, ultimately, secure Yemeni sovereignty.

The government in Sanaa has been compelled to impose such measures as a necessary response to Saudi efforts to entrench the 12-year blockade, which it says is aimed at strangling the Yemeni people and pushing the country toward collapse. Critics accuse Riyadh of seeking to further tighten its grip on Yemen in partnership with the United States. ► Page 5

Iran is not Venezuela: Hormuz Strait and limits of US power

By Seyda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN - The Americans are masters of grand pronouncements and miserable failures in execution.

"To the victor belong the spoils," Donald Trump declared with a characteristic bravado at a rally in Las Vegas on Wednesday. He added, "We're taking a lot of oil from Venezuela—billions and billions of barrels of oil... And we're doing the same in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

In response, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said before anyone can lay claim to war spoils, they must first emerge victorious in the conflict. ► Page 5

The same hostage economics playbook, from Havana to Tehran to Beirut

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The August 2026 New York Times report operates as an unclassified confession of state terror.

When Israel launched its barbaric campaign of aggression on Lebanon in March, the opening salvos bypassed command centers. Warplanes targeted civilian banks, local exchange shops, and neighborhood gas stations.

The architects of this aggression admit their primary objective was "Hezbollah's money," functionally confessing to holding the daily survival of Lebanese families hostage. ► Page 5

Iran to beef up ties in evolving technologies with Indonesia, South Africa

TEHRAN - Acting Minister for Science, Research and Technology of Iran, Masoud Shams-Bakhsh, in separate meetings with Indonesian and South African officials has explored avenues for the development of scientific and technological cooperation.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting held from August 5 to 7 in Odisha, India.

Holding a meeting with Indonesian Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology, Brian Yulianto, both sides discussed ways to develop scientific collaborations, particularly in emerging technologies.

During the meeting, Yulianto expounded on the scientific capacities of Indonesia, specifically in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, voicing Jakarta's readiness to implement collaborative research projects, exchange professors and post graduate students, grant sabbatical leaves, and organize short-form courses in cooperation with Tehran. ► Page 7

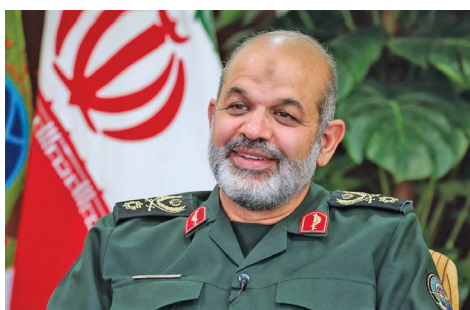


Pezeshkian names Rezaei as SNSC secretary after the Leader designates him as his representative to the council

Rezaei Appointment Highlights Lockstep Coordination Between Iran's Military and Political Leadership

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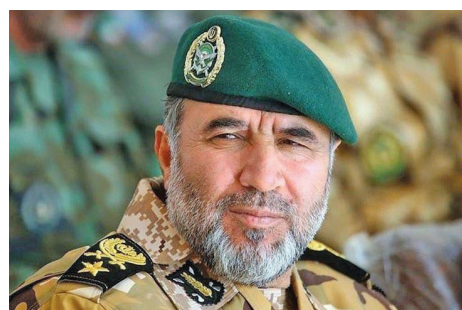
Leader appoints six top military commanders



Major General Ahmad Vahidi, Commander-in-Chief of the IRGC



Major General Ali Abdollahi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces



Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces



Rear Admiral Ali Ozmaei, Commander of the IRGC Navy



Hojatoleslam Hossein Taeb, Head of the Basij Organization



Major General Mostafa Izadi, Deputy Commander of the IRGC

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Makan Nasiri's parents pose for a photo with Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui during their visit to the Japanese city on the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombing

Makan Nasiri's family meets Hiroshima mayor on 81st anniversary of atomic bombing

By Habib Ahmadzadeh

HIROSHIMA - On the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the parents of Makan Nasiri, a seven-year-old student who went missing in the Minab school tragedy, met with Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui and briefed him on the Minab incident and the consequences of war for children and civilians.

At the invitation of Hiroshima peace groups and with coordination by the Tehran Peace Museum, a group of Iranian war veterans, artists, documentary filmmakers, university professors and cultural activists traveled to Japan to attend events marking the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. ► Page 2

Iran says regional defense pact signals shift toward indigenous security

TEHRAN — Iran has welcomed the emerging defense understanding among Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey as evidence of a broader shift in regional thinking about security, arguing that countries in the region are increasingly recognizing the limits of relying on external powers for protection.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei made the remarks at his weekly press conference on Monday, saying Tehran has long advocated regional cooperation, mutual trust and security arrangements that do not depend on foreign actors. ► Page 2

Former minister: US, Israel have lost their aura of invincibility

TEHRAN — The United States and Israel have lost their aura and myth of invincibility, Iranian official Hossein Dehghan said, arguing that the recent war had demonstrated the limits of Washington and its allies in providing security for themselves or others.

Dehghan, former defense minister and the current head of Iran's Mostazafan Foundation, made the remarks in an interview with Mehr News Agency on Saturday, August 8, while discussing recent developments in the Middle East.

He said the United States had failed to draw the necessary lessons from its experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia and had continued to believe that it could intervene anywhere in the world and reshape conditions according to its interests. ► Page 3

MP: Retaliation for assassination of martyred Leader to be pursued on military, legal and political fronts

TEHRAN — A member of the Iranian Parliament's Presiding Board has stressed that Iran will pursue retaliation and retribution for the assassination of the martyred leader, saying the effort must be pursued simultaneously through military-security, legal-international and political channels.

Ahmad Naderi said the parliament's primary responsibility in this regard was to establish the necessary legal framework for pursuing the issue, emphasizing that legislative measures should provide the government and judiciary with the tools required to hold those responsible to account. ► Page 3

US senator admits Trump has 'lost' Iran war

TEHRAN — Democratic Senator Chris Murphy has acknowledged a deteriorating US position in the conflict with Iran, saying President Donald Trump has "lost this war" and that prolonging the fighting is working to Tehran's advantage.

"America is weaker. Iran is stronger," Murphy told NBC on Sunday, arguing that Washington should focus on bringing the conflict to an end and restoring access through the Strait of Hormuz.

Murphy said he would be prepared to back even a "bad deal" if it helped end the fighting and reopen the strategic waterway. He warned that the longer the Strait remains disrupted, the greater the economic and political costs for the United States.

"The war needs to end because every day that the war continues, America gets weaker, Iran gets stronger, and people here in the United States get screwed as prices go up and up and up," Murphy said. ► Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The document of America's defeat

Khorasan analyzed the United States' failure regarding Iran. According to Khorasan, the dispute over the Islamabad understanding is less about its clauses and more about differing definitions of victory and defeat. Critics call it a weak agreement, while supporters consider it a significant achievement. Describing the Islamabad memorandum as a "document of America's defeat" is not an exaggeration, but rather a logical conclusion to the conflict. Trump and Netanyahu entered the war aiming to collapse the Islamic Republic, strip Iran of decision-making power, and impose nuclear and regional conditions. Yet in the end, they achieved none of these goals. Instead, to reopen a strait that had already been open before the war, they were forced to negotiate with Tehran on Lebanon, frozen funds, and sanctions. This is what defeat looks like: the enemy imposes costs but fails to achieve the political objective of the war, and ultimately must accept the other side's terms just to return to the previous status quo. The Islamabad understanding is not a document proving Iran's resistance was cost-free; it is a document showing the war launched by Trump and Netanyahu produced no results.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Who is the Mecca Pact against?

Arman-e-Emrooz examined the pact signed in Mecca between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. From the paper's perspective, a new regional balance appears to be forming in which Turkey, Arab states, and Pakistan — each driven by different motives — are moving toward closer cooperation in response to Iran's growing influence and Israel's regional power. The consequences of the recent war and the perception among some regional states that previous security arrangements were ineffective have contributed to this new situation. However, the final trajectory of the pact will be determined by fluid regional geopolitical dynamics, the reactions of other actors, and the degree to which members uphold their commitments. Today's world differs fundamentally from past eras, and regional powers have gained greater agency. Still, it is difficult to imagine the Mecca Pact becoming a decisive variable in Middle East security architecture without some level of alignment or cooperation with Washington.

Hamshahri: Iran's new arrangements

Hamshahri discussed the features of a new era in the Strait of Hormuz. Contrary to recent speculation suggesting Iran might overlook its "new Iranian arrangements" for the strait, senior Iranian officials have repeatedly emphasized in recent days that reopening this international waterway will occur solely according to Iran's specific mechanisms and conditions. This strategic wa-

terway is entering a new phase of security, political, and even economic dynamics. Iran insists on redefining the security and political frameworks governing the Strait of Hormuz at a time when recent regional conflicts have created conditions for revising previous arrangements and establishing new ones. Within this reconfiguration of roles in the Persian Gulf, Iran is stressing the need to move away from the traditional model of foreign powers' presence and intervention in securing the strait, and is working to institutionalize indigenous regional participation in the new arrangements.

Javan: Why is the Strait of Hormuz important for global food security?

Javan analyzed the Strait of Hormuz's importance in the global food market, quoting agricultural analyst Hossein Shirzad. Recent evidence, he says, shows that sudden increases in energy and fertilizer prices can have a deeper impact on global food prices than grain-export restrictions alone. Escalating hostilities with Iran and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz are rapidly altering risk-pricing in shipping, insurance, and energy sectors. This raises the cost of delivered grains, limits access to fertilizers, and creates concerns about food security in import-dependent markets across the Persian Gulf and beyond. Disruptions in Persian Gulf logistics and rising war-risk premiums push grain prices upward even when futures indices remain stable. Since roughly 80% of global goods are traded by sea, disruptions in maritime transport quickly affect supply chains.

Sharh: Iran is more prepared for Hormuz

Sharh examined why the United States' maritime strategy today differs from that of previous decades. Forty years ago, during the Iran-Iraq war, the US kept Persian Gulf shipping lanes open by escorting tankers. But repeating that strategy in today's Strait of Hormuz would be far more costly. Iran is no longer the military power it was at the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Over the past decades, Iran's armed forces have studied the US as their primary potential adversary. Iran adjusted its capabilities accordingly: it built a large missile arsenal, expanded drone technology into a central component of its strategy, and partially decentralized its command structure, granting local commanders authority to fire. Crucially, Iran does not need to sink many tankers to disrupt Hormuz. A few successful attacks — or even a few credible threats — could prompt shipowners and insurers to reconsider transiting the strait. If commercial risk becomes unacceptable, vessels will withdraw on their own.

Leader appoints six top military commanders

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei issued separate decrees on Monday appointing six senior military commanders and officials to key positions in the General Staff of the Armed Forces, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), and the Basij Organization.

Under the appointments, Major General Ali Abdollahi has been named Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces following the martyrdom of his predecessor, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, in a US-Israeli airstrike.

Ayatollah Khamenei, who serves as Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, said the appointment was made in view of Mousavi's "glorious and honorable martyrdom" at the hands of the Zionist-American enemy and in appreciation of Abdollahi's worthy services and valuable experience.

The Leader stressed the need to boost the comprehensive and up-to-date defense and security capabilities of the Armed Forces. He called for preparing the ground for timely, revolutionary, and effective responses to all levels and types of conventional and emerging threats, including military, cognitive, and hybrid threats against the country.

The Leader also named Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari as [General Abdollahi's] deputy. He said the appointment was made upon the recommendation of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. Ayatollah Khamenei outlined key expectations for Heydari's new position, including contributing to the enhancement of the

Armed Forces' defense and security capabilities, strengthening their spiritual foundations and addressing the welfare and livelihood needs of military personnel.

Ayatollah Khamenei also appointed Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi, who was promoted to Major General, as Commander-in-Chief of the IRGC.

The Leader said the appointment came in view of former IRGC commander Major General Mohammad Pakpour's "honorable and proud martyrdom" at the hands of the Zionist-American enemy.

Ayatollah Khamenei tasked Vahidi with leading the IRGC "under the circumstances that the Islamic establishment is engaged in a strategic and decisive confrontation with global arrogance."

The decree called on Vahidi to enhance Iran's military capabilities to achieve maximum deterrence and maintain smart readiness for powerful offensive operations against enemies. Major General Mostafa Izadi was named his deputy.

Rear Admiral Ali Ozmaei has been appointed Commander of the IRGC Navy, replacing Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, who was martyred in the US-Israeli aggression.

Meanwhile, Hojjatoleslam Hossein Taeb has been named head of the Basij Organization. In 2009, he was appointed head of the IRGC's intelligence wing and served in that position until 2022, when he was replaced by Mohammad Kazemi. He was then appointed as an adviser to the IRGC Commander-in-Chief.

Iran says regional defense pact signals shift toward indigenous security

From page 1 ► He said developments in recent years, particularly the war in Gaza and Israeli military operations in Lebanon, Palestine and Syria, had reinforced the perception among regional states that the main threats to regional stability must be addressed through regional mechanisms.

Baqaei also criticized US support for Israel, arguing that Washington has contributed directly to insecurity in the region and that Israel could not have carried out its military actions without American backing.

Iran, he said, considers regional security indivisible and believes initiatives that accurately identify the sources of threats and reflect regional realities could contribute to greater stability.

Caspian Sea convention awaits Parliament's decision

Turning to the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea, Baqaei stressed that Iran independently determines its position on international agreements according to its national interests and that the final decision on the convention rests with parliament.

The convention, signed by the five Caspian littoral states in August 2018, had been reviewed for years by the Foreign Ministry and other relevant institutions before being submitted to the Iranian parliament, he said.

Baqaei rejected suggestions that the timing of the convention's referral was linked to the recent war or pressure from another country, stressing that Iran's decisions on international instruments are based solely on national interests.

He noted that the convention cannot enter into force until all five signatories have approved it, making it natural for the other Caspian states to favor its early implementation. The Foreign Ministry, he added, would continue to explain the agreement and consider different views, while parliament would ultimately determine its fate under Iran's Constitution.

Hormuz talks continue as Tehran rejects US demand for reopening

A major part of the briefing focused on the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran and Oman are continuing talks on establishing a mechanism for the safe passage of commercial vessels.

Baqaei said the two sides had reached an understanding on the navigation route, although technical details remained under discussion before a joint statement could be finalized. The proposed arrange-



ments would include monitoring the safe passage of ships, maritime services, environmental cooperation and measures to combat maritime crime.

He dismissed reports that Iran and Oman were negotiating transit fees at this stage, saying such details were not currently under discussion. He added, however, that maritime services would naturally involve compensation.

Baqaei rejected the suggestion that the Strait had been closed because of a disagreement between Tehran and Muscat, attributing the situation instead to US-Israeli military aggression against Iran and the use of military bases along the southern shores of the Persian Gulf to attack the country.

He said the discussions between Iran and Oman were specifically focused on determining a safe maritime route and were therefore a bilateral matter between the two coastal states, although any agreement would inevitably affect international shipping.

The spokesman also rejected the idea that Washington had the moral or legal standing to demand the reopening of the waterway, arguing that the current situation was the result of US actions.

Iran, he said, had never obstructed the passage of vessels carrying a significant share of the world's energy through the Strait despite decades of Western sanctions.

Baqaei said Tehran's diplomatic efforts were aimed at protecting national interests but maintained that a maritime blockade could not be resolved through diplomacy alone. He argued that the continuation of

the US maritime blockade and other violations meant the conditions for declaring the Strait a secure waterway had not yet been restored.

He also said Iran's Foreign Ministry, the Supreme National Security Council and parliament were coordinating closely on the issue, rejecting suggestions of divisions within the country's decision-making institutions.

Tehran rejects nuclear allegations, seeks accountability for attacks

Baqaei separately dismissed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claims concerning Iran's nuclear program as fabricated, accusing Israel of 'repeating allegations about an Iranian nuclear bomb that have been propagated for decades.'

He said a recent claim attributed to IRGC Commander Ahmad Vahidi had originated from a false report posted on an Indian social media account and was subsequently repeated by Israeli media before being cited by Netanyahu.

The spokesman also rejected Ukraine's assertion that an attack on an Iranian commercial vessel was unintentional, saying Tehran was not convinced by the explanation and warning that Iran would pursue compensation if Ukraine did not provide it.

On the United States, Baqaei said there had been no negotiations between Tehran and Washington, although messages could be exchanged through intermediaries on specific issues. He said Iran's immediate diplomatic focus was its discussions with Oman over safe maritime navigation through the Strait

of Hormuz.

He also said Iran was documenting US and Israeli crimes and pursuing legal action through a joint Foreign Ministry-Judiciary mechanism. Domestic legal proceedings, he explained, would precede efforts to take the cases before international courts and institutions.

On Iraq, Baqaei said Tehran expected Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region to prevent terrorist groups and extra-regional actors from using Iraqi territory against Iran's security. He described bilateral cooperation as positive and said Tehran hoped security cooperation would continue under the existing security memorandum.

He also confirmed that Pakistan had invited Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf to visit the country, saying the trips would take place when circumstances were appropriate.

Baqaei said no final decision had been made on whether President Masoud Pezeshkian would attend the upcoming UN General Assembly session in New York, adding that Iran intended to use the annual gathering to present its positions if the circumstances allowed.

Asked about his recent sharp language toward US President Donald Trump, Baqaei invoked Iran's literary and cultural heritage, citing George Bernard Shaw's observation that when one wrestles with pigs, it is impossible to avoid getting dirty.

"Sometimes, getting muddy is part of the wrestling that has been imposed on you," he said.

Makan Nasiri's family meets Hiroshima mayor on 81st anniversary of atomic bombing

Minab tragedy recounted in Hiroshima as Makan's mother calls for children killed in wars to become a global cause



From page 1 ► Makan Nasiri's family joined the group for the first time this year, an appearance that drew the attention of Japanese media to the family's account of the Minab tragedy.

During the visit, several Japanese media outlets, including NHK, Asahi and TBS, covered parts of the Makan family's activities and those of the Iranian delegation and interviewed members of the group.

Also on August 6, the anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bombing, Asahi TV's Morning Show de-

voted a report of about 16 minutes to the events in Minab and Lamerd and the stories of families affected by the incidents.

Meeting with the Hiroshima mayor

On August 6, after attending events marking the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombing and visiting Hiroshima's peace memorials, members of the Iranian delegation held an official meeting with Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui.

During the meeting, Makan Na-

siri's mother, speaking on behalf of her family and the Iranian delegation, gave a brief account of the Minab school tragedy and spoke about what motivated her and her husband to travel more than 12,500 kilometers from Iran to Hiroshima.

Emphasizing that her family wants the circumstances surrounding the incident and the fate of their son to be clarified, she said: "I am Makan Nasiri's mother. My husband and I left our two other children in Minab and traveled this long distance to make the voice of our son and of children who become victims of war heard by people around the world."

Referring to remarks made by the US president concerning images released from the incident, Makan's mother also stressed the authenticity of the images, saying: "We do not want what happened to be forgotten. If families and people around the world do not demand answers about the fate of children, there is a danger that such tragedies will be repeated. I am willing to endure the hardship of traveling anywhere in the world

to uncover the truth and make the voices of Makan and other children heard by the international public."

Referring to the historical experience of the people of Hiroshima, she stressed the need to prevent the recurrence of atrocities against civilians in war and said that remembering the victims of Hiroshima should serve as a warning to the world today and as a barrier against the repetition of the suffering endured by children in new wars.

Hiroshima mayor shares family memories of the bombing

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui welcomed Makan's family and members of the Iranian delegation and expressed his sympathy to the family.

According to members of the Iranian delegation who attended the meeting, the Hiroshima mayor referred during the conversation to the fate of two of his aunts in the atomic bombing of the city and shared part of his family's experience of the tragedy with those present.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Rezaei appointment highlights lockstep coordination between Iran’s military and political leadership

Pezeshkian names Rezaei as SNSC secretary after the Leader designates him as his representative to the council

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — Certain Western and regional media outlets have attempted to cast a new spotlight on alleged rifts between Iran’s military and political leadership following the appointment of Major General Mohsen Rezaei as secretary of the country’s top security body.

President Masoud Pezeshkian appointed Rezaei, a veteran military commander and political figure, as the new secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) on Sunday. The move came after Iran’s Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, designated Rezaei as his representative to the SNSC, the country’s highest decision-making body responsible for formulating and coordinating policies on defense, security and foreign affairs.

Far from representing a rupture between Iran’s political and military establishment, however, Rezaei’s appointment can be viewed as a manifestation of closer institutional coordination at a time when Iran faces continuing external pressure and delicate negotiations over the future of the region.

Rezaei replaced Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, who has now been named as a political adviser to the Leader. Zolghadr had succeeded Ali Larijani, who was assassinated in a US-Israeli strike in March.

Rezaei assumes the SNSC post amid ongoing talks between Iran and Oman over the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway over which Iran has maintained sovereign control since the joint US-Israeli aggression began on February 28.

The Strait of Hormuz has remained at the center of the broader confrontation between Tehran and Washington, with Iran repeatedly making clear that its control over the waterway is a matter of national sovereignty and strategic security rather than an issue open to outside dictate.



Rezaei himself has placed particular emphasis on Iran’s control of the strategic waterway. Last week, he warned the United States that it would “face serious risks and casualties” if the American blockade of Iranian ports continued. In July, he went even further, saying that control of the Strait of Hormuz was worth more than “dozens of atomic bombs.”

Such statements have been interpreted by some foreign media outlets and analysts as evidence that Rezaei’s appointment could strengthen the position of those inside Iran opposed to diplomacy with Washington. That interpretation, however, overlooks the broader position of the Iranian leadership, which has repeatedly combined a willingness to pursue diplomacy with an equally clear insistence that diplomacy cannot come at the expense of sovereignty, security or the country’s right to defend itself against aggression.

The narrative of a struggle between so-called “moderates” and “hardliners” is not new. It has long been used by Washington and some regional allies in an attempt to portray Iran’s political system as divided into competing camps that can be manipulated against one another.

Iranian political and military officials have repeatedly rejected such

a framework, describing it as a form of psychological warfare designed to obscure the reality that the country’s principal institutions can maintain a common strategic position despite differences in political style and approach.

The same narrative has resurfaced following Rezaei’s appointment, particularly after the failure of the US-Israeli military campaign to achieve its stated objectives in Iran. The 39-day war, which began on February 28 and was paused by a ceasefire on April 8, did not produce the outcome anticipated by Washington and Tel Aviv.

The consequences of that failure have even been acknowledged, directly or indirectly, by Western political figures. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in late April that the United States had been “humiliated” in its war with Iran. Similar assessments have emerged from US political circles. Democratic Senator Chris Murphy said Sunday that President Donald Trump had “lost this war” with Iran. “America is weaker. Iran is stronger,” Murphy told NBC.

Against this backdrop, attempts to interpret Rezaei’s appointment as evidence of an internal Iranian power struggle appear increasingly disconnected from the country’s institutional reality.

The appointment has also been portrayed by some commentators as evidence of a growing division between Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei and President Pezeshkian. Yet such an interpretation leaves little room for the significance of the institutional process through which Rezaei was elevated to the post. His new role followed coordination between the Leader and the president, including their latest meeting, and should therefore be understood within the framework of cooperation between them.

Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has already described Pezeshkian as a wise and honest president with a common touch, underscoring the importance of cooperation between the presidency and other state institutions at a critical moment for the country.

Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi have all supported diplomacy and stressed the need to transform Iran’s military achievements during the recent confrontation into lasting political and legal gains. At the same time, they have made equally clear that diplomacy should not be mistaken for weakness. They have warned that Iran would deliver a crushing response to any renewed act of aggression by the United States or Israel.

That position is not fundamentally different from the one expressed by Rezaei. The distinction, therefore, is not between those who favor diplomacy and those who favor confrontation. Rather, the emerging position in Tehran is that diplomacy and deterrence are complementary instruments of national power: negotiations can be pursued when they serve Iran’s interests, while military preparedness remains essential to prevent diplomacy from becoming an instrument of coercion.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Former minister: US, Israel have lost their aura of invincibility

From Page 1 ► According to Dehghan, Washington had even assumed that it could replicate ‘its approach toward Venezuela,’ remove a country’s leader and take him away. He said the United States and Israel had similarly believed that targeting Iran’s leadership would cause the country’s political structure to collapse and allow them to install an alternative leadership.

Dehghan said the recent war, combined with the Iranian public’s response, the performance of the armed forces and the leadership of the country, had exposed the United States and Israel in the eyes of the international public.

He argued that the conflict had revealed ‘the true nature of the two sides’ more effectively than any media or propaganda campaign could have done.

Today, it has become universally acknowledged that these regimes are murderous, brutal, child-killing, and genocidal, and that nothing matters to them beyond their own interests. Even if we had mobilized every possible avenue of media and propaganda to convey this message to the world, we might never have achieved such a result.

Dehghan accused the United States and Israel of pursuing their own interests at the expense of regional stability and said public perceptions of them had changed significantly because of the war.

“The aura and myth of US and Israeli invincibility have been broken,” Dehghan said, adding that the two sides were now seeking assistance and support from others rather than presenting themselves as providers of security.



Dehghan said the Islamic Republic had repeatedly argued that the United States and countries aligned with Washington could not guarantee lasting security for other states and that security could not simply be purchased.

The recent war, he said, demonstrated that those claiming to be capable of protecting others were themselves unable to guarantee their own security.

He described the latest developments as a “third revolution,” saying Iran had demonstrated that, as an established and powerful state, it would not surrender or bow to pressure, threats or coercion.

Iran, he added, was prepared to bear the costs of preserving its independence, dignity and commitment to its principles and values.

Dehghan described that stance as the “height of power, and victory.”

MP: Retaliation for assassination of martyred Leader to be pursued on military, legal and political fronts



pursuit of accountability must encompass military and security measures as well as political and legal action at the international level.

According to Naderi, parliament’s role is to enact legislation that clears the way for such efforts and enables the relevant state institutions to follow the matter through appropriate legal channels.

Naderi said the pursuit of the blood of the martyred leader should take place on three levels simultaneously.

The first, he said, concerns the personal dimension, referring to the family and heirs of the martyred leader. The second is the public dimension, which he described as belonging to the Iranian people.

The third dimension, according to Naderi, is legal and institutional, requiring the country’s leadership, government and judicial authorities to pursue the matter through established legal mechanisms.

He emphasized that the issue should not be reduced to a single form of retaliation and said all available avenues should be pursued within the country’s capabilities.

US senator admits Trump has ‘lost’ Iran war

From Page 1 ► He also said he would reject efforts to provide additional funding for continuing military operations, while supporting the replenishment of US weapons stocks once hostilities have ended.

His comments come against the backdrop of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran that began on February 28. The conflict developed into a major military confrontation, with Washington and Tel Aviv seeking to impose military pressure on Tehran while Iran mounted a sustained response against the aggression.

A ceasefire was reached on April 8 after 39 days of fighting, following diplomatic efforts led by Pakistan. The Strait of Hormuz subsequently emerged as one of the most contentious issues in efforts to consolidate the ceasefire and address the wider consequences of the conflict.



Tehran has maintained that the status and operation of the waterway are inseparable from Iran’s sovereignty and national security. Iranian officials have also demanded reparations, sanctions relief and an end to US military operations as part of efforts to resolve the confrontation.

LATEST NEWS

■ Pezeshkian: Leader is in complete health

Masoud Pezeshkian, speaking during a meeting with secretaries-general of political parties and political activists, referred to his recent meeting with the Leader, stating: “It was a very good session; we spoke on various matters and raised all issues.”

Emphasizing the health of the Leader, the President affirmed: “Regarding health status, he was completely healthy. Anyone who can sit and discuss matters for seven to eight hours cannot have any health issues. He listened to our words very comfortably, debated, and stated his own views as well. It was a good meeting.”

■ Strait of Hormuz will not return to pre-war status: MP

Iranian Deputy Parliament Speaker Ali Nikzad said Monday that the Strait of Hormuz would not return to its pre-war status, adding that the United States and Israel had realized there was no military solution to reopening the strategic waterway. He said Iran recognizes only a shipping route agreed with Oman, with vessels required to comply with conditions set by Iranian authorities. Nikzad stressed that all state institutions were committed to implementing the Leader’s directives.

■ President says enemies’ AI-based calculations thwarted

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that enemies’ plans, based on artificial intelligence, espionage networks, hired elements and domestic proxies, had been repeatedly thwarted. Speaking at the University of Tehran, he credited the late Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei’s strategic foresight with helping Iran overcome crises and maintain stability. Pezeshkian said enemies had sought to create insecurity and social collapse, but the Iranian people

resisted pressure and refused to surrender to aggression, injustice or coercion.

■ Baku stands with Iran: Aliiev

President Ilham Aliiev of Azerbaijan has addressed his Iranian counterpart President Masoud Pezeshkian to say that his country stands with Iran.

The President of Azerbaijan shared the remarks in a post on his X account, according to Trend News, local Azerbaijani media.

The post reads: “Mr. President Masoud Pezeshkian, I thank you for the kind and sincere words you have said about Azerbaijan. The peoples of Azerbaijan and Iran have always stood by each other in difficult and hard times. Against the backdrop of the recent events in our region, it has once again been demonstrated that Azerbaijan stands by the brotherly Iranian people.”

■ Commander calls for closer coordination between military and diplomacy

Major General Ali Abdollahi, commander of Iran’s Khatam al-Anbya Central Headquarters, has called for stronger coordination between military and diplomatic efforts amid mounting threats against Iran. In a message to newly appointed Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei, Abdollahi said his presence could enhance strategic coordination between the military field and diplomacy, as well as economic and political security. He pledged full cooperation with the SNSC in line with Leader Ayatollah Seyed Mojtaba Khamenei’s directives.

■ Iran and Pakistan’s top diplomats talk over Mecca agreement

Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday held a phone call with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to discuss the recent Mecca

agreement with Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

The two top diplomats exchanged views on current geopolitics, placing particular emphasis on the evolving situation across the region and ongoing efforts to promote long-term peace and stability.

Dar also outlined the key framework of the recently signed Mecca Joint Defense Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

The Pakistani Foreign Minister highlighted the pact’s core objectives, emphasizing its intent to strengthen strategic cooperation and contribute to broader regional peace and security.

■ Araghchi vows close coordination with SNSC

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Monday that the Foreign Ministry will maintain close coordination with the Supreme National Security Council under newly appointed Secretary Mohsen Rezaei. Araghchi said Rezaei’s extensive defense and security experience would help address complex strategic challenges, stressing that diplomatic capacities would be fully mobilized to advance national interests and strengthen Iran’s sustainable security.

■ Caspian Sea convention safeguards Iran’s interests: official

The Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea provides a framework for cooperation while safeguarding Iran’s security and national interests, said Nabiollah Azami, head of Iran’s Caspian Sea Secretariat. He said the 2018 convention bars non-littoral military forces from the sea and establishes a special legal regime. It also governs navigation, fisheries and environmental protection, while seabed resources remain subject to future bilateral and trilateral agreements among the littoral states.

Production support should be accelerated in financing system: finance minister

TEHRAN- The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, at a meeting of the State Banks Coordination Council, emphasized the need to strengthen coordination among banks, improve discipline in the banking network, and accelerate support for the production sector and economic enterprises.

According to IRNA, the State Banks Coordination Council meeting was held under the chairmanship of Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, and in this meeting, the most important issues and topics related to the banking network were examined. In this session, topics including improving banks' cybersecurity, supporting damaged economic enterprises, financing and returning enterprises to the production cycle, as well as some issues related to bank performance were discussed and reviewed.

Madanizadeh, emphasizing the importance of the banking system's role in financing the economy, called for greater attention by banks to directing resources and accelerating the provision of services and facilities needed by various economic sectors.

The Economy Minister also, referring to the need for greater coordination in the banking network, emphasized the precise implementation of communicated policies and duties and strengthening oversight of bank performance.

The Economy Minister, emphasizing sup-



port for damaged enterprises and the need to accelerate the process of reconstruction and return of these units to the production cycle, stated: The various capacities of the financing system should be used to support economic activities and preserve employment.

Madanizadeh further emphasized the need to pay attention to large industries and utilize the capital market's capacity for financing and revitalizing enterprises, as well as supporting knowledge-based companies.

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance said: Meetings are held quarterly with bank CEOs separately, and in them, the policies and issues emphasized by the ministry are carefully examined, and the reports of these meetings serve as the basis for the Ministry of Economy's decisions

‘Iran’s transport network has high resilience against crises’

TEHRAN- The chairman of the board of the Rail Transport and Related Services Association, emphasizing the high resilience of the country's transport network, said that through managerial, policy, and software measures — without extensive infrastructure development — freight and passenger capacity on the existing rail and road network can be increased by up to 50 percent.

According to IRNA, Sobhan Nazari said on Monday at a press conference, referring to the importance of the transport network's resilience: The reality is that we are currently facing a kind of competition over resilience. The Persian Gulf is a major international waterway, and imposing restrictions on it does not pressure only Iran, because preventing the transfer of raw materials and goods needed by other countries also affects their economies.

Nazari added: The capacity of the country's rail and road transport network must be assessed on a scale beyond current conditions. Any amount of cargo that enters the country through ports must subsequently be moved via the land transport network, including roads and railways.

Referring to the freight transport trend over the past decade, he stated: The total performance of Iran's road and rail freight transport over the past 10 years has increased from about 211 billion ton-kilometers to 329 billion ton-kilometers. This growth has occurred while the country has faced sanctions and various economic pressures.

The chairman of the board of the Rail Transport and Related Services Association continued: Iran's economy, based on purchasing power parity, ranks among the world's largest economies, and the dimensions of the transport network and its performance are proportionate to this standing.

He said: Examining indicators such as the length of the rail and road network, the number of vehicles, wagons, and trucks shows that Iran ranks among the top 15 to 20 countries globally in many of these indicators, and the dimensions of the country's transport network have also expanded over the past two to three decades.

Nazari added: Although during crisis periods the performance of some sectors, including road transport, may experience temporary declines, the long-term trend of freight transport in the country has been upward. This indicates that Iran's transport network has considerable resilience.

Stating that Iran's road and rail networks rank among the world's largest in terms of length, he said: The multiplicity of road and rail border connections and access to various ports have made Iran one of the countries with

high diversity of transport routes.

The chairman of the board of the Rail Transport and Related Services Association noted: Route diversity and network extensiveness have increased the country's resilience against disruptions. In some cases, the transport network's stability has even exceeded initial estimates, and this very feature has prevented the realization of the objectives of pressures imposed on the country.

He emphasized: From a transport perspective, Iran has the capacity to succeed in the resilience competition; however, the rail and road networks are not being utilized productively, and a significant portion of existing capacity remains unused.

Nazari said: Through a set of software, managerial, and policy measures — without the need for extensive development of new infrastructure — freight and passenger transport capacity on the existing network can be increased by up to 50 percent. Therefore, there is no serious concern regarding the network's physical capacity; the main issue is improving productivity and reforming its management approach. The chairman of the board of the Rail Transport and Related Services Association said: Low productivity and quality in the transport sector is one of the fundamental issues of the country's economy, such that the productivity of trucks and freight wagons in Iran is estimated at about one-third to one-quarter of optimal global standards, and rail network productivity is estimated at about one-tenth to one-fifteenth of global standards.

Sobhan Nazari, referring to the gap between the transport industry and the media, added: The country's media are active in various economic and industrial fields, but transport industry managers and experts do not have extensive and strong connections with the media; therefore, the issues of this sector have not sufficiently become a public concern and demand.

Regarding wagon imports, he stated: Under current conditions, the import of freight and passenger wagons is prohibited, and locomotive imports are possible with certain conditions, but the view of transport industry activists is that at the present time, wagon ownership is more important than wagon manufacturing.

Nazari continued: The rail transport share of the country's freight transport is currently about 8 percent, while in several five-year development plans, it was targeted that the railway's share of freight transport would reach 30 percent and its share in passenger transport would reach 20 percent; however, these targets have not been achieved.

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

Private sector can be a pillar of sustainability for any potential agreement: ICCIMA head

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN – The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) emphasized: The private sector can be one of the pillars of sustainability for any potential agreement, because the deeper the healthy, balanced economic ties and shared interests among countries become, the higher the cost of returning to tension will be.

Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), on Sunday, at a meeting with domestic and foreign media reporters, while commemorating Journalist's Day and emphasizing the role of journalists in presenting a realistic picture of Iran's economic capacities and opportunities, considered the economy as one of the most important arenas for defending national interests and said: The enemy has targeted the weakening of Iran's economic power, and in such circumstances, a correct narrative of the capacities, advantages, and opportunities of Iran's economy is itself part of strengthening national authority.

He added: The role of media activists in fairly representing the country's production, industrial, mining, agricultural, technological, and export capabilities, introducing the position of the private sector in maintaining production, employment, investment, and development, and presenting a realistic, hopeful, and inspiring image of national capability to society and global public opinion, is an irreplaceable and valuable role.

Samad Hassanzadeh further announced the formation of a Special Economic Headquarters as a coordination center for the private sector in times of crisis and said: In this headquarters, working groups were established in the areas of “monitoring and oversight,” “business sustainability,” “production and supply chain, trade and logistics,” “financial and foreign exchange issues, international relations,” and “legal assistance and information dissemination” to follow up on the issues of economic actors in a systematic and continuous manner.

He emphasized: The “Special Economic Headquarters of the Iran Chamber” has brought together the extensive capacities of provincial chambers, associations, specialized commissions, and private sector enterprises in a cohesive network and transforms real economic issues into implementable solutions.

The head of the Iran Chamber, emphasizing the impact of improving international relations on the country's economy, stated: Iran's private sector welcomes any diplomatic path that, while preserving national interests, dignity, and the country's authority, leads to reduced tension and openings in international economic relations.

He added: If a path of understanding and agreement is formed that respects national interests and the country's principles, the private sector is ready to bring all its capacity into play to transform



this understanding into sustainable economic cooperation, trade development, investment attraction, and strengthening Iran's economic ties with the world.

Samad Hassanzadeh emphasized: The private sector can be one of the pillars of sustainability for any potential agreement, because the deeper the healthy, balanced economic ties and shared interests among countries become, the higher the cost of returning to tension will be.

He referred to the private sector's strategy for constructive engagement with the global economy and said: Constructive engagement with the global economy does not mean dependency. A powerful economy is one that relies on its domestic capacities while also utilizing opportunities in trade, investment, technology, and global markets to strengthen internal capability.

The head of the Iran Chamber added: We believe that economic diplomacy and political diplomacy must move forward together. Iran's private sector is ready to put its perspectives and capacities at the disposal of decision-makers for designing mechanisms that would consolidate the economic benefits of any potential agreement for the country.

Samad Hassanzadeh referred to the Iran Chamber's determination to enhance interaction with the government and governing bodies for the development of the country's foreign trade and said: In the past two years, the Iran Chamber's determination to enhance interaction with the government and governing bodies for the development of the country's foreign trade has moved closer to practical realization, and in this regard, the Iran Chamber has taken action to dispatch trade delegations accompanying the esteemed President to various countries.

The head of the Iran Chamber announced the expansion of private sector economic activists' presence in foreign target markets through dispatching and hosting delegations and holding conferences, and referred to the dispatch of 30 trade delegations by the Iran Chamber to foreign countries in the past two years, the hosting of 60 foreign trade delegations, and holding a conference to identify trade opportunities between Iran and target countries.

Regarding the establishment of new joint chambers and commercial committees in the past two years, he said: In this regard, the Iran-South Africa, Iran-Bangladesh, Iran-Serbia, Iran-Tanzania,

Iran-Kenya, and Iran-Malaysia joint chambers and commercial committees were established.

On the occasion of Journalist's Day, the Iran Chamber of Commerce's Head Samad Hassanzadeh, Board members, and Secretary-General met with media representatives to discuss the private sector's role in overcoming trade barriers and economic challenges amid post-war conditions.

Hassanzadeh emphasized journalists' critical role in presenting an accurate picture of Iran's economic capacities. Despite infrastructure damage from the recent war, he noted that trade relations with other countries continued, and foreign economic activists remain interested in partnering with Iran. He believes reforming domestic restrictions could make Iran a major trading partner for many nations. Regarding damaged infrastructure, he acknowledged limitations but confirmed government efforts toward recovery. He also addressed outstanding payments to essential goods importers, stating that half the claims have been settled and the remainder are being audited for prompt payment.

Payam Bagheri, Vice President, described journalism as a national mission and key driver of economic development. He stressed that media should reflect economic realities and offer solutions to improve the business environment. The Chamber views media as an effective partner, not just an observer, facilitating dialogue across economic sectors. He noted the Chamber is adapting to digital and regional changes by readjusting policies for new conditions, aiming to reduce transaction costs and mediate between government and private sector. During the war, the Chamber streamlined decision-making and took action in petrochemical and logistics sectors. While some Chamber activities remain confidential, he insisted this should not be mistaken for passivity. The Research Center is shifting from resolution-oriented to implementation-oriented approaches to bridge the gap between policy and execution. Bagheri concluded that journalists help build trust for tomorrow's economy and welcomed media cooperation.

Bagheri outlined two post-war missions: reconstruction—restoring economic stability quickly through repairing damaged sectors, building trust, eliminating bureaucracy, reforming banking, and revising monetary policies—and modernization—moving toward structural renewal after

stability is regained.

Ghadir Qiyafeh, another Vice President, stressed that the current economy cannot be judged without considering the imposed war. The private sector showed significant resilience during the conflict, though capacity has diminished. He called for eliminating redundant laws and extending facilitative wartime regulations until at least September to improve private sector resilience, followed by serious legal reforms.

Keyvan Kashefi, Board member, addressed the debate on export revenue repatriation.

He rejected the notion that large sums of currency have left and not returned; rather, currency has returned through alternative channels, not those preferred by the Central Bank. Problems began in 2018 after the US left the JCPOA. A mistaken assumption that export currency belongs to the government led to forced repatriation at official rates. He argued that under sanctions, trade routes should be easier, not harder. Rental trade cards emerged due to currency restrictions, and the issuance process now runs through the Comprehensive Trade System under the Ministry of Industry.

Abdollah Mohajer Darabi, Board member, noted the private sector's share of Iran's economy has never exceeded 25% in four decades. Despite privatization laws, non-governmental public sectors emerged instead. With over 75% state-controlled, the private sector cannot be held accountable for all economic problems. He argued that dynamic economies delegate responsibility to the private sector—a condition not yet met in Iran. The private sector performed beyond its capacity during the war. Regarding trade cards, he noted the Chamber has been excluded from issuance decisions, unlike previous procedures where it conducted eligibility assessments.

Addressing raw material supply after the war, Qiyafeh confirmed the private sector remained active, making multiple trips abroad and redirecting routes from south to north, though meeting 100% of needs remains difficult. He expressed hope for a favorable agreement but said planning depends on its specifics.

Kashefi added that sudden regulatory issuances have been curtailed by new legislation, but reducing overall regulatory dependence is another challenge. He reiterated that the Chamber should handle eligibility assessments before trade card issuance, and that exchange rates must reflect reality to prevent rental card cycles. He strongly emphasized that any agreement must lead to sanctions relief.

Secretary-General Abolfazl Roghani Golpayegani concluded that journalists are essential message-bearers, injecting energy into society and building the foundation for national excellence. The Chamber aims to improve media relations and become a trusted reference for economic news, viewing journalists and media as vital communication bridges.

25% of agricultural water wells equipped with smart meters

TEHRAN- The Director General of the Agricultural Water Affairs Office of the Ministry of Agriculture has announced the groundwork for volumetric water delivery to the agricultural sector following the transfer of water management responsibilities to operators, and said: Only 25 percent of agricultural water wells have been equipped with smart meters.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Agriculture, Amir Hedayati referred to the drafting of guidelines for transferring water management responsibilities to agricultural operators and organizations, and added: This guideline has been developed based on Article 40 of the Seventh Development Plan Law and will be announced soon, which could pave the

way for the implementation of the volumetric water delivery plan to the agricultural sector.

The Director General of the Agricultural Water Affairs Office of the Ministry of Agriculture stated: The drafting and announcement of the guideline for transferring water management responsibilities to operators and organizations by the Ministry of Energy can pave the way for volumetric water delivery to the agricultural sector.

He emphasized the necessity of increasing operator participation in water resource management and said: According to this guideline, part of the Ministry of Energy's responsibilities in agricultural water management are

to be gradually transferred to agricultural operators and organizations so that water resource management is carried out with the direct participation of stakeholders.

Hedayati considered the transfer of water management responsibilities to operators as the starting point for serious reforms in this field and stated: Volumetric water delivery to farmers is one of the long-standing demands of the Ministry of Agriculture.

He continued: The agricultural sector needs to have accurate information about the amount of water available to it for production planning and investment.

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

Iran is not Venezuela: Hormuz Strait and limits of US power

From page 1 ► In response, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said before anyone can lay claim to war spoils, they must first emerge victorious in the conflict.

Writing on X, Baqaei said one cannot help but think of Joseph Heller's Catch-22, in which Milo Minderbinder, an opportunist profiteer, turns war into a profit-making venture.

The satirical war novel portrays an absurd world where warfare and profit become so deeply entangled that soldiers fight for personal financial interests rather than for their country. The American President appears to be lifting that same logic from fiction and placing it at the heart of American foreign policy.

Regarding Iran, he says they will do the same as they allegedly did in Venezuela. There is just one small problem: before you claim the spoils of war, you actually have to win the war not get stuck in a strait, fall short of your stated objectives, run low on weapons, and lose your credibility along the way.

So far, the "spoils of Iran" amount to little more than a paper trophy for a victory that shows no sign of materializing. Milo at least knew how to make a profit from conflict; these people are dividing the spoils in front of the cameras before they have even laid hands on them.

Treasury Secretary Bessent's recent claim that the Strait of Hormuz will be demoted from the world's most critical chokepoint to a random body of water within two years is not a statement of fact but a confession of American desperation. The plan involves underground pipelines handling 50 to 70 percent of what currently moves through the Strait, while Saudi Arabia has increased pipeline capacity toward the Red Sea and the UAE is accelerating projects toward Fujairah.

Washington is even discussing reviving the historic Kirkuk-Baniyas pipeline through Syria and Iraq.

This is not a sign of strength. It is an admission that Washington cannot simply eliminate Iran's strategic leverage by constructing alternative routes. Pipelines do not eliminate Iranian missiles, nor do they erase the geographic reality that the Strait remains one of the most efficient routes for global energy transportation.

The Americans are therefore negotiating from a position of weakness while pretending otherwise.

A major lesson we should have learned from the Global War on Terror, especially the Iraq War, is how dangerous it is to manipulate intelligence in order to justify military action. In Iraq, the US claimed that Saddam Hussein possessed



weapons of mass destruction and supported Al-Qaeda. As we later learned, neither assertion was true, and Saddam was not a direct threat to America. He was, ironically, a threat to Iran.

Once America invaded Iraq, it found no WMD. Instead, the American presence became a lightning rod for Al-Qaeda fighters, drawing America into a strategic trap in which Washington increasingly believed it had to remain in Iraq to fix the consequences of its own intervention.

The war cost the lives of nearly 5,000 American troops, produced countless casualties and imposed a financial burden exceeding three trillion dollars. Yet today, similar arguments are being used to justify war with Iran: claims of dangerous weapons and warnings of Iran-backed terrorists poised to attack America.

The internal concerns within American military leadership tell a more revealing story than the public boasts. General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has reportedly warned senior Trump administration officials about the risks of escalation and the limits of available military options. Concerns over dwindling munitions stockpiles and the dangers of a prolonged confrontation have contributed to discussions about finding an off-ramp.

That reality is increasingly difficult to conceal. As Senator Chris Murphy put it, "Donald Trump has lost this war. America is weaker, Iran is stronger, the price to reopen the strait increases by the day." Murphy also pointed to the extraordinary cost of the proposed settlement, arguing that the supposed deal currently on the table would pay Iran \$100 billion a year in exchange for reopening the Strait. If accurate, that would represent a remarkable reversal of the original rhetoric: a war supposedly launched from a position of strength ending with Washington paying an enormous price to secure the very access it claimed it could guarantee through force.

The message is simple: possessing overwhelming military power is not the same as possessing unlimited political leverage.

Over 18 American service members have been killed and hundreds injured in this war. Meanwhile, Iran's retaliatory capabilities have remained significant, with reports of attacks against American bases and naval assets, including the USS Abraham Lincoln.

Netanyahu may be checking whether the keys still work. The real question is who actually holds them. Israel may believe it still controls the escalation ladder, but Iran has demonstrated enough strategic depth, missile capability, and political resolve to impose costs that cannot simply be wished away. The region's future will not be decided solely in Tel Aviv or Washington; Tehran has its own leverage and the capacity to shape what comes next. Any attempt to destroy Iran would not erase it. It would risk drawing Israel into a conflict whose consequences could fundamentally reshape the regional balance of power. Iran cannot simply be bombed into submission, and those who believe otherwise may ultimately discover that the map they sought to redraw is the one that changes them.

The American public is also turning against the war. 54 percent of American citizens oppose it, while only 36 percent support it. America's closest allies have likewise refused to send their navies to help secure the Strait, while countries including Spain and France have openly opposed the military actions.

America has found itself increasingly isolated.

There will come a day when supporters of this campaign may look back and question whether the promises of an easy victory ever matched the realities of the conflict. Trump, who is known by the title of a madman and suffers from psychological illness, repeatedly uses AI generated images portraying himself alongside celebrated American military figures, and his public rhetoric about military triumph reflects a political culture increasingly detached from the sacrifices of actual soldiers.

The Americans believe they are fighting to preserve their global dominance, but they

may instead be accelerating the erosion of their own credibility. They did not learn all the lessons of the Iraq and Afghanistan war, and Iran presents a fundamentally different strategic challenge.

American strategy has been incoherent from the start. American leadership began the war under claims of a nuclear threat that, according to the argument presented by American intelligence assessments, did not justify military action. The American intelligence has failed in its influence operations in Iran. The apparent American objective of regime change has failed to materialize. Instead of producing widespread unrest, external military pressure has strengthened defensive nationalism inside Iran.

Even the economic strategy faces limits. Washington may build pipelines, but Iran still possesses geographic leverage over the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian officials have made clear that reopening the trait is contingent upon American acceptance of Iranian conditions, rather than simply the creation of alternative shipping arrangements.

This is the reality Washington cannot wish away.

America still has an opportunity to learn from its recent history and step back from another war it cannot fully control. Doubling down would risk turning another limited military operation into a prolonged and aimless conflict.

The Strait of Hormuz is not a random body of water. It is a central element of Iran's strategic geography and sovereignty. America has not discovered a way to destroy that leverage; it has only demonstrated the limits of military power when confronted with geography, deterrence, and political resistance.

The Strait of Hormuz is not a bargaining chip that Washington can simply remove from the map.

Geography cannot be bombed away. Sovereignty cannot be negotiated at gunpoint. Strategic leverage cannot be erased by promises of alternative pipelines.

Washington still has a choice: step back from a war it cannot fully control, or continue believing that military power alone can force Iran to surrender its national interests. History has already shown where that illusion can lead.

The real measure of power is not how much destruction a country can unleash, but whether it can achieve its political objectives without destroying its own credibility in the process.

Iran is not Venezuela. It will not surrender its sovereignty simply because Washington has decided that the spoils belong to the victor.

ditions under circumstances created by the aggression and blockade.

The Saudi kingdom has deepened humanitarian and health catastrophe in Yemen through imposing air blockade on Sanaa Airport, depriving Yemenis of revenues from 90 million barrels of oil annually, denying them access to substantial gas resources that could fund salaries and public services, and cutting off electricity from the gas-fired power station in Marib.

Saudi Arabia openly intervened to prevent previous Yemeni governments from extracting oil in the provinces of Al-Jawf and Al-Mahrah, while imposing a ceiling on the amount permitted to be extracted according to what Saudi Arabia wanted, because it continues to covet that oil.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The same hostage economics playbook, from Havana to Tehran to Beirut

Washington uses civilian suffering as its primary foreign policy tool



From page 1 ► As it fails on the battlefield, the imperial apparatus targets the working class.

Engineering mass destitution

Western policy consistently labels Al-Qard al-Hassan "a shadowy militant front," ignoring its entirely mundane reality.

The institution holds a Lebanese NGO license, providing interest-free loans across the Bekaa Valley and the south.

After the Western-backed commercial banking sector collapsed in 2019, this network became the sole financial lifeline for hundreds of thousands.

Blatantly dropping American munitions on these branches incinerates university tuition payments, chemotherapy funds, and small business capital. By bombing Amana fuel stations, Washington and Tel Aviv deliberately paralyzed civilian mobility.

Hezbollah spokesman Youssef al-Zein says that massive displacement forced the group to halt \$12,000 compensation payments promised to families whose homes were destroyed.

A taxi driver named Hassan, whose daughter was widowed by the strikes, told reporters his family remains waiting for reconstruction support. Denying a widow medical coverage and freezing a displaced family's rebuilding fund is economic torture designed to break a targeted demographic.

The neocolonial hijacking

This blockade operates through the hijacking of sovereign Lebanese institutions. The Trump administration aggressively bullied Beirut into installing Karim Souaid as the central bank governor.

Once seated, Souaid functioned as a proxy for the U.S. Treasury. He purged officials suspected of Resistance ties and choked off the cash economy that ordinary citizens rely on to buy groceries.

The interference extends to the borders. Washington forced Lebanese authorities to suspend civilian flights from Iran.

Security personnel coordinating directly with American intelligence replaced local airport

staff. Washington's inhuman Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent treats the Lebanese financial system as a subordinate division of the Pentagon.

American officials sitting thousands of miles away presume the legal authority to dictate who receives a micro-loan in Nabatieh.

It is none of Washington's business how people in West Asia move their wealth or organize their social welfare.

The global geography of pain

The assault on Lebanon perfectly mirrors the engineered misery deployed against many countries such as Iran, Syria, and Cuba.

Former U.S. sanctions architect Richard Nephew previously published an abhorrent manual explaining that inflicting sustained pain on civilian populations is an intentional policy mechanism.

Syria served as the immediate regional laboratory. The Caesar Act was marketed as "humanitarian" while systematically blocking fuel and medical imports.

Once the Assad government fell in late 2024, Washington began to suspend those same sanctions. The suffering of the Syrian people was always a disposable bargaining chip.

In Cuba, the U.S. has weaponized the energy grid. The blockade forced daily blackouts exceeding 20 hours, postponed 96,000 surgical procedures, and doubled the infant mortality rate. The suffering is the point.

An unbreakable bond

Western planners believe cutting off the cash supply will cause fighters to desert and the base to riot. This assumption is fatally flawed.

The economic blockade merely accelerates adaptation. Resistance networks rapidly bypass the weaponized dollar.

Despite billions of dollars in damage, the popular base refuses to fracture. Families sleeping in temporary shelters understand exactly who dropped the bombs on their savings.

The siege only hardens the people. Smashing a community's infrastructure does not separate the people from their defenders. It binds them together permanently.

Why is Yemen confronting Saudi Arabia?

From page 1 ► This was confirmed by the Ansarullah leader, Sayyed Abdul-Malik al-Houthi in his most recent speech, when he stated that "serious action was necessary in response to the Saudi blockade." He stressed that this did not mean turning Yemen's back on the issues of the Islamic and Muslim world, foremost among them the Palestinian cause.

He underlined that "Yemen's action in confronting Saudi aggression is consistent with its position on the issues of the Islamic world ... because our Yemeni people are among the peoples suffering and being targeted most severely by the Saudi regime within the framework of the American plan, in a manner that serves the Israeli enemy."

Ansarallah authorities maintain that Saudi Arabia, the United States, Britain, and others

have no right to "confiscate the humanitarian rights of our people, which are recognized in all international charters and laws."

Saudi Arabia has been waging a humanitarian and economic war against the Yemeni people for the past 12 years, before Ansarallah came to prominence in Yemen. The main aspects can be summarized as follows:

The destruction of the Yemeni economic infrastructure through airstrikes and economic warfare, with direct and indirect losses exceeding \$1 trillion, according to official sources in Sanaa.

Saudi Arabia has recently imposed arbitrary and unjustified measures and restrictions on commercial imports and goods, contributing to a 400% increase in commodity prices, with the aim of worsening and deepening the Yemeni citizens' living con-

Iran targets 2026 Asian Para Games success

TEHRAN – Jalil Koohpayehzadeh, head of Iran's Sports Federation for the Disabled, says the 2026 Asian Para Games are a matter of national pride, with Iran determined to defend its runner-up finish from the Hangzhou edition.

Koohpayehzadeh made the remarks at a press conference on Monday, where he reviewed the latest developments involving the country's para-athletes and outlined the federation's plans for the Nagoya Games.

"The Asian Para Games are a matter of pride for us, and we must defend our second-place finish from the Hangzhou Asian Para Games," he said.

He acknowledged that Iran had endured a difficult year due to the 40-day war but stressed that the federation had continued working to prepare a comprehensive program for the upcoming Games.

"We have started a difficult year because of the imposed war, but despite the circumstances, we have done everything in our power to develop a structured plan for the Asian Para Games," he said.

Koohpayehzadeh also announced that Iran's delegation will take part in the intellectual disability competitions in February, with the participation made possible through the support of Sports and Youth Minister Ahmad Donyamali.

The federation chief highlighted talent development as a key factor in maintaining Iran's success in para sport.

"Building a strong pipeline of athletes is essential to repeating our success. Talent identification is one of the main requirements for progress in para sport, and last year we discovered a large number of promising athletes and introduced them to coaches," he said.

He also called for greater and more consistent institutional support, emphasizing that backing para sport should go well beyond ceremonial send-offs and homecomings.

"Sustaining success requires cooperation among different institutions. Support should not be limited to sending athletes off or welcoming them home; it needs to be continuous," said.

He urged increased investment in veterans' and para sports, describing the sector as an important symbol of hope and inspiration for society.

Despite the challenging circumstances, Iran's sitting volleyball teams continued to compete on the international stage. The men's team won the world title last month, while the women's side reached the top eight for the first time.

"These results were remarkable for the international community because we were competing under wartime conditions," he said. "Our para-athletes showed that even in the most difficult circumstances, it is possible to achieve outstanding results."

Pouraliganji joins Pakhtakor

TEHRAN – Former Persepolis football team defender Morteza Pouraliganji has completed a move to Uzbekistan, joining Pakhtakor after leaving the Iranian giants as a free agent.

The 34-year-old center-back signed a contract with the Uzbek club until the end of the year, bringing an end to his latest spell with Persepolis. Pouraliganji had been without a contract after his previous deal expired, allowing him to make the move to the Uzbekistan Super League side.

Pouraliganji is one of Iran's most experienced defenders and has built an international career spanning more than a decade. He has represented several clubs in Iran and abroad, including Naft Tehran and Persepolis, as well as Tianjin and Shenzhen in China, Al Sadd and Al Arabi in Qatar, and Belgian side Eupen.

At international level, Pouraliganji has earned 54 caps for Iran and scored three goals. He was part of the Iranian squad at the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups, gaining valuable experience at the highest level of international football.

His arrival adds further experience to a Pakhtakor squad that also includes former Persepolis midfielder Bashar Resan. The Iraqi international is already familiar with Iranian football, having enjoyed a successful spell with Persepolis.

Pouraliganji will now look to make an immedi-

ate impact in Uzbekistan as Pakhtakor strengthen their squad for the remainder of the season.

Iran's AFC U17 Women Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers fixtures revealed

TEHRAN – Iran's U17 women's national football team will begin their campaign in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers, with the fixtures for Group C now confirmed.

Iran have been drawn alongside Chinese Taipei, Laos and Cambodia, with Laos set to host all Group C matches.

The Iranian youngsters will open their qualifying campaign against hosts Laos on Oct. 5 before facing Cambodia three days later. They will conclude their group-stage campaign against Chinese Taipei on Oct. 11.

The national team will hold a series of training camps as part of its preparations for the qualifiers, with the coaching staff aiming to build a competitive squad capable of securing a place at the continental tournament.

Iran's handball to play Kuwait at 2026 Asian Games opener

TEHRAN – The schedule for Iran's men's national handball team at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan, has been confirmed.

The handball competition will be held from Sept. 19 to 29, with Iran drawn in Group B, alongside regional powerhouses South Korea, Kuwait and Bahrain, as well as Kazakhstan.

Iran face a challenging group and will begin their campaign against Kuwait on Sept. 19 before taking on Bahrain, South Korea and Kazakhstan in the remaining group-stage matches.

The Iranian side will play four matches in five days, making squad depth and recovery particularly important as they battle for a place in the knockout stages.

With South Korea, Bahrain and Kuwait among the strongest teams in the group, Iran will face a demanding test in Nagoya as they look to make a strong impact at the 2026 Asian Games.

Women's volleyball fixtures for 2026 AVC Continental Championship revealed

TEHRAN – Iran's women's national volleyball team will open their campaign at the 2026 AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship against Chinese Taipei before facing hosts China and Iraq in the preliminary round.

The tournament, which also serves as a qualifier for the 2028 Olympic Games, will be held in China from Aug. 21 to 30, with 12 teams competing for the continental title.

Iran have been drawn in Pool A alongside hosts China, Chinese Taipei and Iraq.

Preliminary Round Groups

Pool A: China, Chinese Taipei, Iran, Iraq

Pool B: Thailand, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Australia

Pool C: Japan, Vietnam, South Korea, Hong Kong

Iran will start the campaign with a match with Chinese Taipei on Aug. 21. Team Melli will also meet China and Iraq on Aug. 24 and 25, respectively.

The top eight teams at the end of the preliminary round will advance to the quarterfinals.

The quarterfinals are scheduled for Aug. 27-28, followed by the semifinals on Aug. 29. The bronze-medal match and final will take place on Aug. 30.

Iran will face a demanding opening-round test, particularly with hosts China in their group, as they aim to progress to the knockout stage and challenge for a strong finish at the Asian Championship.

Safeguarding Iran, its values is shared national responsibility: tourism minister

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri has identified safeguarding Iran and its values, protecting people's security and livelihoods, and preserving the political system as three key priorities amid what he described as a "historic turning point."

Speaking at the 40th meeting of the ministry's strategic council in Tehran on Monday, Salehi-Amiri said the country was facing a sensitive period that required a responsible, strategic and national approach to its challenges.

"We are passing through a historic turning point; a historic juncture that puts a nation in sensitive moments."

Medical tourism seen as key growth area

Salehi-Amiri also identified medical tourism as the country's most important tourism opportunity, citing Iran's medical and specialized treatment capabilities as well as the economic advantages of travelling to the country.



He said the government's target was to attract 2 million medical tourists annually, generating 6 million euros in revenue, and stressed that achieving the target required the country's existing capacities to be activated in a coordinated manner.

The minister said medical tourism also had an important family dimension because patients typically travel with relatives. As a result, accompanying family members can also use Iran's tourism,

cultural and service facilities, creating additional economic benefits.

Salehi-Amiri called for greater coordination among institutions involved in medical and health tourism, saying capacities and initiatives in the sector remained fragmented.

He said the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with other institutions, had begun joint efforts to address the issue.

"We have moved beyond coordination and entered the stage of cooperation," he said, adding that inter-agency cooperation could help the country make more effective use of its health tourism potential.

Focus on regional markets

Salehi-Amiri said the ministry had taken several steps to expand medical tourism markets, including reaching an agreement with Indonesia.

He also pointed to the launch of a 400-bed hospital in Abadan, saying the facility could help attract medical tourists from neighboring Iraq and allow Iran to make greater use of regional markets.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister acknowledged that regional developments and the effects of war had affected the flow of medical tourists to Iran, but said the country had not halted its efforts.

"We have not stopped and continue to take important steps in this field," he said, emphasizing the continuation of tourism initiatives and inter-agency cooperation.

Iranian actor calls for artists to become cultural ambassadors for tourism



TEHRAN – Veteran Iranian actor and cultural heritage advocate Majid Mozaffari has called for greater use of the country's artistic and cultural figures to promote Iran's cultural heritage, historical and natural attractions and handicrafts to domestic and international audiences.

Speaking to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts' news service, Miras Aria, Mozaffari said artists' direct exposure to Iran's cultural and natural assets could help introduce them to society and international tourists through artistic works and contribute to presenting a more accurate image of the country as a tourism destination.

Iran has exceptional historical, cultural and natural attractions, but their potential has not yet been fully utilized for tourism development, he said.

Mozaffari also pointed to shortcomings in tourism infrastructure, particularly along travel routes, saying the availability and quality of roadside ser-

vice facilities require greater attention and planning.

He said sustainable tourism development depends not only on promoting attractions but also on the quality of the visitor experience.

"When we talk about tourism development, we need to consider a range of factors in an integrated way, from infrastructure and services to the promotion of attractions and how local communities interact with tourists," he said.

The actor also stressed the role of local communities in protecting and promoting Iran's cultural assets, saying responsibility for preserving, developing and introducing the country's heritage should not rest solely with government institutions.

"People themselves must play a role in this process, and everyone can contribute, according to their abilities, to introducing the country's capacities," he said.

Mozaffari said greater efforts were needed to encourage international tourists to choose Iran as a destination and to present them with a realistic picture of the country's historical, cultural and natural attractions, as well as its security.

He described well-known artists and cultural figures as an important part of this effort, noting that their broad public reach gives them considerable potential to help promote Iran.

Also, the actor emphasized on stronger links between the arts and cultural heritage, saying Iranian heritage should receive greater attention and artists could contribute to its promotion through their work.

Restoration of historical alleyways begins in Abarkuh

TEHRAN – Restoration and rehabilitation of alleyways and urban spaces in the historical district of Abarkuh has begun under a cooperation agreement between the local Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department and Abarkuh Municipality, an official said.

Abbas Qadirian, head of the Abarkuh Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said the project follows the signing of an agreement between the two sides to organize and rehabilitate the historical district.

He said the 183-hectare historical fabric of Abarkuh is listed on Iran's National Heritage List, adding that the municipality's attention to cultural heritage, particularly the historical district, had helped put the rehabilitation of its streets and alleyways on the agenda.

Qadirian said the rehabilitation program had been divided into several phases based on the urgency of repairs, existing needs and the aim of improving services for residents whose presence contributes to the vitality of the centuries-old district.

The first phase covers an ancient route between the Aghazadeh House and Mostowfi House, a passage also known as the Culture and Art Route, he said. Other streets and alleyways will subsequently be rehabilitated as the necessary funding is allocated.

Qadirian also praised Abarkuh mayor for his cooperation and said collaboration between the municipality and the local cultural heritage authorities in the historical district had been satisfactory. He also thanked residents of the Darvazeh Meydan neighborhood for their cooperation.

Abarkuh, also known as Abarqu, is an ancient city in Yazd province located along the Yazd–Eqlid–Yasuj route. Situated between the historical cities of Yazd, Isfahan and Shiraz, the city is known for its old earthen architecture and cultural heritage.

Among its best-known landmarks is Sarv-e Abarkuh, an ancient cypress tree that has become a symbol of the city. Experts have variously estimated the tree's age at between 4,000 and 5,000 years, although some estimates put it at as much as 8,000 years old.

Second Announcement



National Iranian Oil Company
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OIL FIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0440008

2242352
1

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

Item	Material Description	Quantity
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2	NOZZLES FOR PDC BITS	360 NO

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

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Iran to beef up ties in evolving technologies with Indonesia, South Africa

TEHRAN – Acting Minister for Science, Research and Technology of Iran, Masoud Shams-Bakhsh, in separate meetings with Indonesian and South African officials has explored avenues for the development of scientific and technological co-operation.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting held from August 5 to 7 in Odisha, India.

Holding a meeting with Indonesian Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology, Brian Yulianto, both sides discussed ways to develop scientific collaborations, particularly in emerging technologies.

During the meeting, Yulianto expounded on the scientific capacities of Indonesia, specifically in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, voicing Jakarta's readiness to implement collaborative research projects, exchange professors and post graduate students, grant sabbatical leaves, and organize short-form courses in co-operation with Tehran.

The Indonesian official invited Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, and Shams-Bakhsh to pay a visit to Indonesia

For his part, Shams-Bakhsh highlighted long-standing cultural, historical, and religious ties between the two countries have established natural, deep, and lasting foundation for the expansion of educational and research cooperation between the two countries.

Increasing the number of scholarships, expansion of scholarship exchanges, developing joint educational courses, conducting researches on climate change, food security, renewable energies, and agriculture were among key focuses of the talks.

The two sides also discussed the inclusion of mire Iranian universities in BRICS Network University, relying on Indonesia's experiences. They highlighted the signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to implement reached agreements as soon as possible

On July 15, the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and the Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) conducted a joint webinar, titled 'Advancing Iran-Indonesia Research Collaboration: Strategic Opportunities Ahead', on Wednesday to explore avenues for the expansion of scientific and research cooperation between the researchers, scientists, and the scientific institutions of the two countries.

The webinar kicked off with the remarks of the president of INSF, Morteza Hormozinejad, and the deputy chairman for Facilitation of Research and Innovation, Agus Haryono.

Also, experts and professors from both countries in the health, water security, and environment sectors delivered lectures.

The event served as a great opportunity to promote scientific



ties, expand research collaborations, and develop joint projects between Iran and Indonesia.

In December 2025, Rolliansyah Soemirat, the Indonesian ambassador to Tehran, said the new Indonesian administration intends to develop scientific and technological ties with Iran, highlighting Iran's extensive capabilities in science and technology.

"The administration is looking forward to the expansion of international collaborations, particularly in fields of science and technology, which opens up new opportunities for cooperation between the two countries. The main focus of the interactions will be centered on sharing technology and emerging innovations, as well as boosting technological cooperation," IRNA quoted Soemirat as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Hossein Roozbeh, the head of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology.

Referring to his visit to an exhibition of achievements at the Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT), the official said the exhibition clearly showcased only a part of Iran's capacities and capabilities in science and technology. "These achievements demonstrate Iran's status in the global ecosystem of science and innovation."

Iran, with a population of more than 90 million, and Indonesia, with around 280 million people, serves as a great market for technological products and services, he said, adding that the issue is an important factor for promoting bilateral relations.

Lauding the inauguration of an iHiT branch in Jakarta, Soemirat stated that the center can lay the basis for future collaborative partnerships in technological fields.

Meeting with South African delegation

Shams-Bakhsh also met with Nomusa Dube-Ncube, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training in South Africa. The

two sides underlined the need to boost scientific and technological ties, and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in different research and educational sectors.

Elaborating on South Africa's potentials and interests in different educational sectors, Dube-Ncube expressed the country's willingness to bolster ties with Iran in conducting joint research projects, exchanging professors and post graduate students, offering sabbatical leaves, and holding short-term educational courses.

For his part, Shams-Bakhsh discussed the potentials for Iran's participation in initiatives led by South Africa—including the G20 Education Working Group and cooperation on the mutual recognition of academic qualifications.

Both parties expressed interest in fostering cooperation across sectors of mutual interest, including mining, metallurgy, and renewable energy, and committed to develop a joint co-operation agreement in the near future.

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 co-operation 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 Recog-

nition of Qualifications (MRQ), and Strengthening Capacity Building for Academic Leadership and Institutional Development.

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 international 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 co-operation 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 co-operation, 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.

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

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

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

Iranian students shine at RobotChallenge 2026



TEHRAN – Thirteen Iranian students aged below 12 have showcased their scientific, technical capabilities, and creativity ranking second and third in different leagues of the RobotChallenge 2026 which was held in Beijing, China.

Each year RobotChallenge, one of the world's largest artificial intelligence robotic championships, brings together people from all over the world who compete with self-made, autonomous robots in various competitions.

Kicked off on August 8, the event brought together participants from some 48 countries including China, Russia, Romania, Iran, Japan, Germany, and South Korea, IRNA reported.

Iranian students ranked second in Technical Report league, third in Robot Rugby- senior, and Innovation.

The achievement demonstrates the capabilities and proficiency of Iranian students in constructing and operating robots, design process, problem-solving, and the effectiveness of technical presentations.

Recent achievements

At the Rayan 2025 international artificial intelligence and programming competition, known as the World Finals, Iranian students

showcased strong performance in both the AI and programming sections. In the programming section, Ali Safari was placed first. China secured second and third place, followed by India, Vietnam, Armenia, Serbia, and Pakistan, respectively, ISNA reported.

In the AI section, Iranian teams, namely no Trust issues here, Pileh, AI Guardians of Trust, AIUoK, red-serotonin, Persistence, and GGWP were placed first to seventh.

The final round of the Rayan international artificial intelligence and programming contest was held on Friday at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, with participants from 25 countries.

Supported by the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, the event kicked off on November 25, attracting hundreds of contestants from the U.S., Russia, China, India, Italy, Chile, Australia, Armenia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Taiwan, Romania, Singapore, Poland, Slovakia, Vietnam, Serbia, Argentina, Colombia, Kazakhstan, and Ethiopia, as well as the host, Iran.

The solo programming section was held with 60 Iranian and foreign participants who worked individually to solve nine complicated algorithmic problems within a duration of three to four hours.

The scientific competition aimed to promote knowledge, foster international networking, and establish scientific authority in AI and programming.

Enhancing algorithmic thinking, problem-solving skills, teamwork, developing innovative ideas, starting new businesses, and expanding AI engineering and programming were among the other objectives of the contest.

Intl. Tech Olympics 2026 slated for fall

TEHRAN – The third international Technology Olympics will be held in fall; the preliminary stage is scheduled to be conducted on line from October 19 to 22, and the final round will take place in person from November 2 to 5 at Pardis Technology Park, Tehran.

The event is a competition for excellence where the world's brightest minds gather to compete, innovate, and redefine the future through technology. It aims to assess scientific capabilities, identify talented individuals, enhance problem-solving skills, foster networking among technologists, and establish connections with the industry, Borna news agency reported.

Around 4,700 individuals including 200 participants from 14 countries have so far registered to attend the competition.

Technology Olympics 2026 serves as a competitive platform for individuals across six key domains including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Programming, Cybersecurity, Combat Robots, Internet of Things, and Drones. Each of these competitions consists of several leagues, covering different specialized areas within the field.

On the sidelines of the Tech Olympics, a job expo featuring 20 top technology companies will be held for the first time. Moreover, a 'job station' will be established to facilitate job interviews, mentoring, and the introduction of qualified individuals to employers. Additionally, a hackathon focused on addressing real-world industry challenges will be held.

In 2025, over 1,100 participants from 65 countries, including Pakistan, Oman, Vietnam, Tunisia, India, Turkey, Bangladesh, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Indonesia, the Netherlands, and Romania, attended the second international technology Olympics, held from October 27 to 30.

More than 12,000 individuals from Iran and 65 countries participated in the preliminary round of the international Tech Olympics, indicating the number of participants has doubled compared to the first international technology Olympics held last year. In 2024, over 6,300 participants from Iran and other countries took part in the Olympics.

National document on advanced material science, technology

The national document for the development of advanced material science and technology was unveiled on January 20.

Approved by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution in the last month of



the Iranian year 1403 (March 2024 – March 2025), President Masoud Pezeshkian signed and declared the document on December 25, 2025, IRNA reported.

The national document acts as a comprehensive roadmap for the promotion of advanced materials in the country. It aims to improve Iran's position in the global science and technology arena and contributes to achieving sustainable development goals.

Improving the country's ranking in science and technology, particularly advanced materials and modern techniques for materials processing, enhancing the export of knowledge-based products in advanced materials sector, boosting productivity and lowering environmental impacts of Iranian-made products, improving the quality of life and enhancing social impact, completing the value chain with an approach to reducing raw material sales are among the main objectives of the document.

"It is the first comprehensive scientific document in the field of advanced materials; it lays the foundation for the development of other documents such as quantum and artificial intelligence (AI)," IRNA quoted Ali-Baqer Taherinia, an official with the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, as saying.

Highlighting the growing importance of advanced materials sciences and technology in the economic, health, nutrition, and other sectors, the official expressed the hope that the implementation of the document would be beneficial to the country as it plays a critical role in gross domestic product (GDP) and sustainable development.

Given the country's progress in publishing scientific articles in advanced materials and modern techniques for materials processing, proper management is essential for the country to gain a meaningful share of the advanced materials market.

The Vice-Presidency for Science, Research, and Technology will put the document into force, Taherinia further noted.

Over 95 earthquakes hit Iran in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 96 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from August 1st to 7th, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 78 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 13 earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4, and four earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, two had a magnitude of 4.1 on the Richter scale, which occurred on August 4th in Hormozgan and Kerman provinces.

Among the provinces of the country, Sem-

nan experienced the highest number of earthquakes with 17, followed by North Khorasan with 11, Yazd and Kerman each with seven earthquakes.

During the same period, no earthquakes were recorded in Tehran, Isfahan, Alborz, Zanjan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Qom, Kurdistan, Gilan, and Markazi provinces.

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



AUGUST 11, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Blessed is the man who always kept the life after death in his view, who remembered the Day of Judgment through all his deeds, who led a contented life and who was happy with the lot that Allah had destined for him.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:18 Dawn: 3:48 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:21 (tomorrow)

Works of 30 Iranian artists to be showcased in virtual exhibition in Netherlands

TEHRAN- A group exhibition of visual arts and handicrafts titled "Idea," featuring the works of 30 Iranian artists, is set to open online in the Netherlands on Tuesday evening.

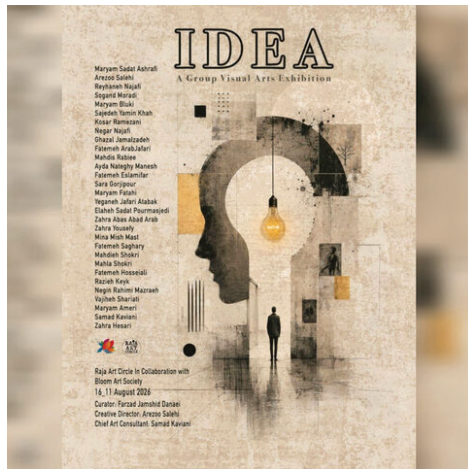
The exhibition, organized by the Raja Art Circle in collaboration with the Bloom Art Institute of the Netherlands, aims to explore the genesis of artistic creation. According to the event's artistic statement, "Idea" is not merely the start of a creative process but a force that transforms the invisible into a visible experience, allowing for a fresh encounter with the world.

The curated collection reflects a synthesis of thought, emotion, memory, and imagination. Despite varying media, techniques, and artistic approaches, the exhibited pieces share a common origin: the drive to create meaning through inquiry, experience, and discovery.

The curators describe "Idea" not as a fixed concept, but as an open invitation for reflection. Each artwork serves as an independent narrative while contributing to a broader dialogue regarding humanity, time, memory, identity, and the surrounding universe. The exhibition posits that art, before providing answers, is a question that persists through image, volume, and material.

The event brings together artists with diverse perspectives and visual languages, presenting a range of narratives on the human interior and the external world. The diversity of the works underscores the capacity of art to bridge various human experiences and reflect both individual and social concerns.

The exhibition is curated by Farzad Jamshid Danai. Samad Kaviani, a university lecturer and graphic designer, serves as the senior artis-



tic consultant, while filmmaker and graphic designer Arezou Salehi manages the artistic direction and poster design for the event. The promotional video was produced by architect and interior designer Niaz Zarei.

The participating artists include Arezou Salehi, Vajihesh Shariati, Mahla Shokri, Mahdieh Shokri, Reyhaneh Najafi, Fatemeh Saghari, Zahra Yousefi, Maryam Sadat Ashrafi, Sogand Moradi, Maryam Bolouki, Sajedah Yamin-khah, Kosar Ramzani, Negar Najafi, Ghazal Jamalzadeh, Fatemeh Arab-Jafari, Mahdis Rabiee, Samad Kaviani, Aida Nateghi Manesh, Fatemeh Eslamifar, Sara Gorjipour, Maryam Fattahi, Yeganeh Jafari Atabak, Elaheh Sadat Pourmasjedi, Zahra Abbasabad Arab, Mina Mishmast, Fatemeh Hossein-Ali, Razieh kaik, Negin Rahimi Mazraeh, Maryam Ameri, and Zahra Hessari.

Art enthusiasts and interested viewers can access the virtual gallery and view the works of the "Idea" exhibition until Sunday, August 16.

Cartoon of Day



Grains of War

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan

TMoCA to display oldest photos in Iran

TEHRAN – Director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Reza Dabirinejad, has announced that a unique photography exhibition from the museum's treasured collection, titled "This Likeness Everlasting," will open on August 15 at the museum.

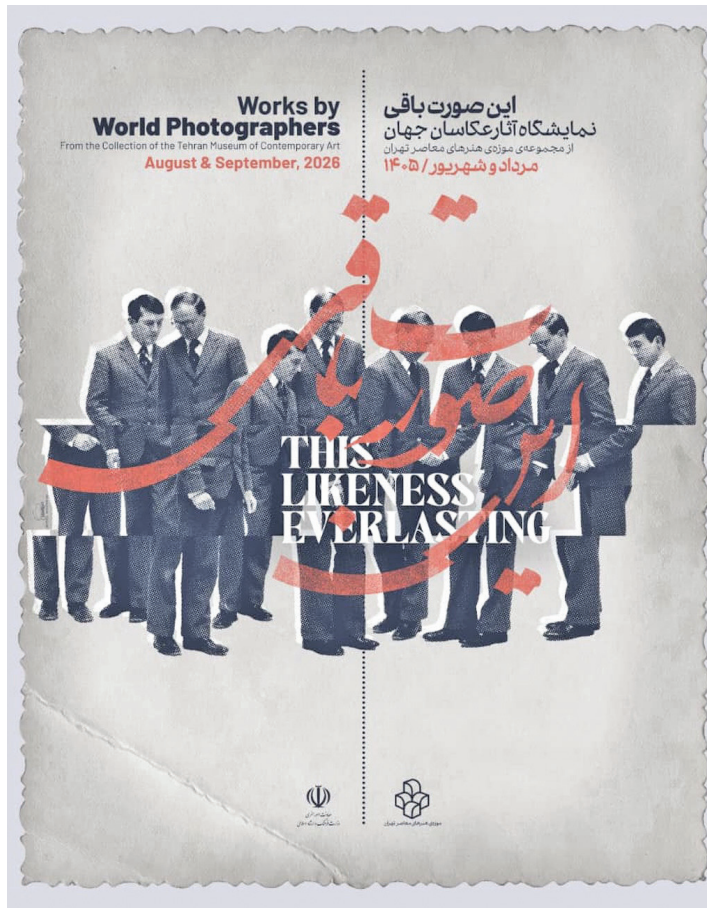
"In the exhibition, we will display works that belong to the museum's collection of foreign photographs, meaning it does not include works by Iranian artists," Dabirinejad was quoted as saying by IRNA.

"We can claim that the oldest photograph in Iran is kept in the museum's collection. On display, there will be the oldest photograph in Iran taken by English photography pioneer Henry Fox Talbot in 1838. The collection also preserves works from later periods, up to the expansion of photography and its various forms," he added.

"Another captivating part of this event is the display of six photo albums being shown for the first time. These albums come from Russia, the Ottomans, Japan, and France. They were catalogued roughly during the Naseri era (1848–1896) and before, photographed outside Iran, and contain photographs of people of Iranian descent," Dabirinejad noted.

"We can also claim that some of the first photographs ever taken of Iranians in the world are preserved in these albums. The research on this section was carried out by three curators," he asserted.

According to Dabirinejad, this year also marks, per recorded narratives, the 200th anniversary of the invention of photography, and the exhibition will coin-



cide with this anniversary.

The exhibition "This Likeness Everlasting," focusing on the history of photography and its developments, will run for a month at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

It presents a collection of existing works and rarely seen documents from the museum's collection — from the oldest photographs in history of Iran to photograph-based works of contemporary art.

The exhibition features works by pioneers of art photography from French photographer Nadar, English photographers Julia Margaret Cameron and Henry Peach Robinson, and American

photographers Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Weston, and Ansel Adams, through to contemporary artists including German artist Hans Bellmer and American artists Lee Friedlander, John Baldessari, Ed Ruscha, Robert Rauschenberg, William Wegman, and British artist David Hockney.

Also on display will be issues of Camera Work magazine as well as some photographs and preparatory sketches related to American artist Dennis Oppenheim's 1977 project — a project designed to be realized in the natural landscape around Tehran but which never came to fruition due to the upheavals of that period.

The exhibition will also present, for the first time to the public, six valuable historical albums containing portraits of political, cultural, and artistic figures of Europe and the Ottoman Empire, as well as depictions of everyday life in 19th-century Japan. These albums feature portraits of the first groups of Iranian students in Europe — among the oldest portrait photographs of Iranians in existence.

"This Likeness Everlasting" offers a look at the history of photography, from the earliest experiments in image capture to photography's status as an independent medium in modern and contemporary art, and brings a part of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art's less-visible photo collection before audiences after a decade, with a new narrative.

Established in 1977, the museum has more than 4,000 items that include 19th and 20th-century world-class Iranian, European, and American paintings, prints, drawings, and sculptures. Being the biggest collection of Western art in the eastern world, it includes works from almost all artistic periods and movements.

The museum was designed by Iranian architect Kamran Diba, who employed elements from traditional Persian architecture. The building itself can be regarded as an example of contemporary art, in the style of an underground Guggenheim Museum.

Most of the museum area is located underground with a circular walkway that spirals downwards with galleries branching outwards. Western sculptures by artists such as Ernst, Giacometti, Magritte, and Moore can be found in the museum's gardens.

Iranian platform uses AI to support Persian language learning for foreign students

TEHRAN- The growing presence of international students at Iranian universities has brought renewed attention to a practical question: how can Persian language education be made more accessible to learners who may begin their studies with little or no knowledge of the language?

An Iranian educational technology initiative, ParsiGo, has sought to address part of this challenge by developing a digital learning system that combines online Persian language instruction with assessment, student monitoring and educational support.

The system has been developed by Daneshgostar, a knowledge-based company working in educational technologies, in cooperation with the International Language Center of Iran's Amirkabir University of Technology. It is intended for non-Iranian students and other learners of Persian, including those who are still in their home countries before coming to Iran.

Unlike language applications that primarily provide users with lessons or exercises, ParsiGo is designed around a more structured learning process. Students are placed on a defined educational path according to their level and can move through lessons that include instructional videos, short tests and assignments.

The system also allows students to submit written or audio assignments and receive feedback. At the administrative level, educators and academic staff can follow students' progress and identify areas where additional support may be needed.

One of the elements incorporated into the system is artificial intelligence. According to the information provided by its developers, AI can be used to analyze test responses and assignments, identify recurring language errors and help generate educational reports.

The technology is not presented as a replacement for teachers. Instead, the developers envisage AI as an additional tool for educational staff, particularly in tasks involving the analysis of student performance and the initial stages of feedback. Human support remains part of the proposed model, with educational supervisors responsible for following students' activity and intervening when learners fall behind.

That combination may be particularly relevant to online language learning, where students can easily lose regular contact with an

instructor. The ParsiGo model includes monitoring of lesson attendance, assignments and overall activity, allowing support staff to follow up with students who become less active or encounter academic or technical difficulties.

The initiative is also aimed at institutions rather than individual learners alone. Alongside the student application, ParsiGo has a web-based administrative section through which universities and educational organizations can register students, activate courses and review educational reports.

This feature could allow an overseas university interested in Persian language instruction to provide courses to its students without establishing a separate digital learning system. The proposed model also allows courses to be adapted to the requirements of individual institutions or countries.

The potential users identified by the developers include international students preparing to study in Iran, foreign students already enrolled at Iranian universities, learners interested in Persian language and culture, and universities with Iranian studies, Persian language or regional studies programs. Language institutes and cultural and academic organizations are also listed among the potential users.

The project also envisages cooperation with foreign universities, educational agencies and organizations involved in the recruitment of international students. Depending on the arrangement, partner institutions could introduce students to the courses, monitor their progress and receive reports on their performance.

For Iranian universities seeking to attract more international students, access to Persian language instruction before a student's arrival could have a practical advantage. It would give students an opportunity to become familiar with the language in advance, while universities could have a clearer picture of their progress during the learning process.

At the same time, the broader significance of such systems lies beyond the technology itself. The expansion of digital Persian language education could provide Iranian universities and cultural institutions with another channel for reaching learners in countries where access to Persian language teachers is limited.

Whether digital platforms can eventually provide the same depth of interaction as tra-



ditional language classrooms remains dependent on how they are implemented and how effectively technology is combined with qualified instructors. For Persian, however, online systems could offer a way to extend learning opportunities to a wider international audience and make language preparation part of the academic journey before foreign students even set foot on an Iranian campus.

Persian, also known as Farsi, is an ancient language spoken primarily in Iran, Afghanistan (as Dari), and Tajikistan (as Tajik), boasting a rich literary heritage that dates back over a millennium. Its script, derived from Arabic, can initially pose challenges for learners unfamiliar with the right-to-left writing system. Persian vocabulary is influenced by both Arabic and various Turkic languages, adding layers of complexity. While the phonetic structure of Persian is relatively straightforward and lacks gendered nouns, the nuances of its grammar, such as verb conjugations and the use of subordinate clauses, require dedicated study and practice, often making it a rewarding yet challenging pursuit for foreign learners.

The difficulty level of learning Persian can vary significantly based on a learner's background and native language. For speakers of languages that share similarities with Persian, such as Turkish or certain Indo-European languages, the transition may be smoother due to overlapping linguistic features.

However, learners from languages with markedly different structures, like Mandarin or Vietnamese, may find the concepts of Persian syntax and grammar more daunting. Additionally, the rich cultural context embedded in Persian literature and expressions can require learners to engage deeply with cultural references to achieve proficiency. Nonetheless, many learners find studying Persian to be an enriching experience, allowing them to gain insight into a diverse and historically significant culture.