

Iran to mark 40 days since burial of martyred Leader

TEHRAN — The Iranian capital of Tehran, as well as the holy cities of Qom and Mashhad, are preparing to hold national mourning ceremonies to observe the 40th day following the burial of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

A statement released by the Office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, confirmed that the upcoming ceremonies will be overseen directly by the Leader.

The initial memorial program is scheduled for August 18 at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mo-salla. A massive gathering of faithful citizens, state officials, and international supporters is expected to assemble at the landmark prayer complex to honor the late Leader and offer prayers.

Commemorations will proceed across key spiritual hubs in the following days. A major service will take place at the holy shrine of Lady Fatima Masoumeh (SA) in Qom on August 19, followed by ceremonies at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad on August 20. ▶ Page 3

Yemen strikes Saudi-linked mercenary concentrations in Mokha

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The Yemeni Armed Forces have shattered the illusion of a frozen conflict by unleashing a devastating wave of ballistic missiles and drones against Saudi-affiliated military concentrations across Mokha and Marib.

Military spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree said in a statement on Saturday that precise strikes wiped out weapons depots, command facilities, and proxy war-boats, leaving dozens of mercenary fighters dead under the relentless barrage. ▶ Page 5

Historic Zionist perceptions of Lebanon

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN — In southern Lebanon, the occupying Israeli regime is erasing the region's entire civilizational landscape by demolishing and bulldozing homes, buildings, graves and trees.

Israeli statements are increasingly speaking of no intention to withdraw, plans to establish a broad occupied zone south of the Litani river, evacuate entire areas of their inhabitants, and prevent people from returning to border villages for indefinite periods.

These policies in southern Lebanon are an extension of longstanding Zionist perceptions, based on exploiting internal divisions and seeking control over the south and the Litani. ▶ Page 5

Ben-Gvir says Palestinian detainees should be hanged 'one by one'

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir says he will do everything in his power to secure the execution of Palestinian prisoners, saying he hopes they will be hanged "one by one."

His comments come after the Israeli parliament passed legislation allowing the death penalty in certain cases involving Palestinians.

Speaking with former Israeli captive Rom Braslavski, Ben-Gvir said hanging would be the method of execution under the death penalty legislation he has promoted.

"I will do the impossible when the time comes," Ben-Gvir said. "I promise you that I will do everything in my power and turn the world upside down to make this happen." ▶ Page 5



Case of 3 Iranian Pilots Is a Serious Test to Determine Qatar's Role in the War

As Iran pushes for a formal inquiry into its detained pilots, Doha's persistent denials highlight the heavy footprint of American influence



From left to right: Martyr Majid Kazemi and airmen Abdolmajid Dashtian, Omran Behraveshtian and Javad Salehi

General Bagherzadeh says despite months of requests, an elite IRIAF team has been unable to obtain the authorization needed to enter Qatar and investigate the fate of the missing pilots.

TEHRAN — A senior Iranian military official has called on Qatari authorities to grant access to a specialized delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) to investigate the status of three Iranian fighter pilots detained in Qatar.

Brigadier General Seyyed Mohammad Bagherzadeh, Commander of the Missing-in-Action Search Committee of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, emphasized that Doha must cease denying the detention of the airmen and facilitate the entry of Iranian military investigators.

"The Qatari government should allow and facilitate the entry of the Iran Air Force fact-finding team rather than deny

the detention of Iranian pilots," Bagherzadeh stated. He revealed that an elite team of IRIAF experts has been waiting for months to obtain clearance to enter Qatar, yet their efforts remain thwarted by the reluctance and lack of cooperation of Qatari authorities.

The senior commander stressed that the necessary preparations for the safe return of the captured airmen to their homeland have been repeatedly stalled by Qatari officials.

The diplomatic rift between Tehran and Doha stems directly from the joint mil-

itary attack launched on February 28 by the United States and Israel against Iran. The aggression, which targeted Tehran and many other cities across Iran, resulted in the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, along with senior military commanders and thousands of innocent civilians. The strikes destroyed critical public infrastructure and residential areas across the country.

Exercising its legitimate right to self-defense under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, Iranian Armed Forces executed precise retaliatory missile and drone operations against Israeli positions and major American forward operating bases throughout West Asia. ▶ Page 3



Qeshm oil contamination: a legacy of US military presence in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN — The recent oil pollution around the Persian Gulf island of Qeshm is the result of the US military presence in the region, exacting a devastating toll on public and marine lives in southern parts of the country.

As videos about oil pollution along the southern shores of Qeshm and surrounding coastal areas started to go viral, social media were flooded with questions about the source of the contamination. ▶ Page 7

Iran-US agreement pursued with dignity, and strength: president

TEHRAN- President Masoud Pezeshkian stated that the recent agreement between Iran and the US was advanced with dignity and strength, grounded in the principles articulated by the late Leader, and that no concessions were made to adversaries.

Addressing the 39th National Conference of Education Officials, Pezeshkian paid tribute to the student martyrs of Minab. He underscored that the agreement was pursued with unwavering resolve and in full alignment with the foundational tenets set forth by the late Leader.

In his remarks, the President criticized the nation's over-reliance on oil revenues, identifying the pool of talented human capital within the country's schools as the most valuable social asset. ▶ Page 2

Iran achieved victories both on battlefield and in political negotiations in the war

TEHRAN- Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf has described the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States as a diplomatic achievement that, saying it brought honor to the Iranian nation and consolidated the Islamic Republic's victory on the diplomatic front.

Speaking to parliamentary journalists at a ceremony on Saturday evening, Qalibaf praised the Iranian people and the country's Armed Forces for their steadfast resistance. ▶ Page 2

Iran's armed forces vow no retreat until 'complete defeat' of US and Israel

The General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces has vowed to continue confronting the United States and Israel until the "complete defeat" of its adversaries and the fulfillment of the Iranian people's legitimate demands.

In a statement issued Sunday to mark the anniversary of the return of Iranian prisoners of war following the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War, the General Staff paid tribute to former POWs, war veterans and their families, portraying the legacy of the conflict as a cornerstone of Iran's national identity and a continuing source of resilience.

The statement described the eight-year conflict, known in Iran as the Sacred Defense, as a defining chapter in the country's modern history and said the experience had reinforced values of self-reliance, resistance to oppression, independence and national solidarity. ▶ Page 2

ICCIMA head announces improvement in economic activities after war shock

TEHRAN- The head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce stated that Iran's economy, following the shock caused by the war, has moved past the stage of severe decline and the trend of economic activities is once again resuming.

He described this trend as a hopeful sign of the efforts and dedication of the private sector and business owners, adding that the temporary reduction in the intensity of shocks compared to the months of Esfand 1404 (February-March 2026) and Farvardin and Ordibehesht 1405 (March-May 2026) has also contributed to this relative improvement.

Samad Hassanzadeh also referred to the role of the government and the president in developing international interactions and stated that continuing this trend requires further movement in the field of foreign relations. ▶ Page 4

How Mossad and the CIA grossly miscalculated Iran's resilience



TEHRAN — The joint US-Israeli military campaign against Iran has exposed an unprecedented crisis of authority within the Western national security apparatus. Nearly six months after President Donald Trump authorized a war based on Israeli assurances regarding Tehran's nuclear program, the operational and political justifications for the conflict have entirely disintegrated.

As economic turmoil ripples across global markets and domestic opposition mounts inside the United States, Western political leaders are scrambling to manage an unwinnable war of attrition. At the center of this geopolitical collapse lies the definitive exposure of institutional failure within both American and Israeli intelligence services. The intelligence assessments produced by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Israel's Mossad—long marketed as the gold standard of global espionage—have proven to be fundamentally flawed, politically manipulated, and incapable of accurately reading the strategic depth of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The institutional breakdown reached a point of public farce following an incident at the NATO summit in Ankara. Reports detailing an elaborate security operation—wherein the “President of the United States” was secretly smuggled across an airfield inside an airport catering truck to board an alternate C-32A military transport—were initially framed by Western media as a necessary response to an imminent Iranian assassination plot. However, the subsequent revelation that the CIA assigned “low confidence” to the Israeli intelligence prompting the escape laid bare the severe dysfunction at the heart of the US-Israeli intelligence alliance. The spectacle of an American president fleeing a NATO summit in a delivery vehicle based on unverified, panic-inducing claims from Tel Aviv represents not merely a logistical embarrassment, but a historic systemic failure. It demonstrates that Israeli intelligence agencies, including Mossad, no longer function as objective providers of strategic information, but rather as instruments of political influence designed to force American military action.

From the perspective of Tehran, the collapse of Mossad's credibility is neither surprising nor accidental. For decades, Israeli intelligence has relied on aggressive covert operations, targeted assassinations, and exaggerated threat assessments to shape Western decision-making. Mossad's insistence in early 2026 that a joint bombing campaign would rapidly paralyze Iran's military structure and trigger immediate regime change reflected a deep ideological delusion rather than serious intelligence analysis. By treating its own regional aspirations as objective reality, Mossad severely misled Washington regarding Iran's defensive capabilities, internal political unity, and asymmetric deterrence options. The subsequent failure of Israeli forces to achieve their stated objectives—evidenced by their sudden decision to halt strikes on Iranian territory while leaving American forces bogged down in a broader regional conflict—highlights the absolute bankruptcy of Israeli strategic planning.

Simultaneously, the CIA's role in this crisis exposes the total degradation of the American intelligence apparatus. The agency's internal assessment that Israeli-provided reports on the Ankara threat were “low confidence” did not prevent US officials from taking extreme, humiliating operational measures. This dynamic reveals a profound institutional paralysis: the CIA possesses sufficient analytical capacity to recognize Israeli fabrications, yet lacks the political authority or structural integrity to stop those fabrications from dictating American actions. The agency has been reduced to a passive observer, issuing retrospective caveats and leaking dissatisfaction to journalists while allowing policy to be driven

by foreign agendas and domestic political panic. When an intelligence agency's warnings are routinely discarded in favor of politicized claims, the agency itself has failed in its primary constitutional and strategic duty.

The ongoing media commentary highlighting a growing “wedge” or “crack” between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu must be evaluated through this lens of intelligence failure. While Western commentators interpret leaking private disputes and public disagreements over operations in Lebanon as evidence of a genuine diplomatic rupture, rigorous analysis suggests that this alleged divide functions largely as a theatrical performance. Facing severe domestic political pushback and an impending midterm election, Trump benefits from portraying himself as a leader misled by flawed foreign intelligence rather than the architect of an illegal war. Similarly, Netanyahu utilizes public friction with Washington to project an image of unyielding determination to his right-wing domestic constituency. This public posturing creates a convenient political buffer for both leaders while masking the fundamental reality that their joint strategic campaign against Iran has failed.

The narrative of a falling out allows Washington to blame Mossad for deceptive reporting, while Mossad blames the CIA for hesitation and operational failure.

This mutual scapegoating cannot obscure the broader truth that both CIA and Mossad assessments failed to predict the durability of the Iranian nation. The initial strategy assumed that pre-emptive military strikes would shatter Iran's command structures and isolate its leadership. Instead, six months of conflict have demonstrated the resilience of Iran's defense network, its integrated regional partnerships, and its ability to impose severe costs on global energy markets and Western supply chains. The failure to anticipate these outcomes represents an intelligence collapse on a grand scale, comparable to the historical miscalculations that preceded previous Western military disasters in the region.

The tragic humanitarian consequences of this intelligence failure are already evident across the region. Attacks conducted on questionable target intelligence, such as the bombing of the Minab school that resulted in the deaths of nearly 170 people, most of them schoolchildren, underscore the lethal recklessness of relying on flawed, politically motivated target packages. This shows that the narrative of surgical precision and high-grade intelligence promoted by Western and Israeli officials has completely dissolved. The reliance on fabricated or unverified intelligence has not only cost thousands of innocent lives but has also permanently eroded the international standing of the institutions responsible.

The war on Iran has definitively shattered the myth of Western and Israeli intelligence superiority. Mossad has been exposed as an agency willing to manipulate information to entrap its allies into waging its battles, while the CIA has proven incapable of resisting political pressure or preventing its own government from acting on baseless claims. The Ankara catering truck incident stands as an enduring symbol of this double failure: an American president forced into a humiliating covert retreat by an Israeli intelligence report that his own spy agency knew to be worthless. Whatever theatrical disputes may be staged between Washington and Tel Aviv in the coming months, the core reality remains unchanged. The justification for this war has suffered a catastrophic loss of credibility, leaving both the United States and Israel trapped in a strategic defeat of their own creation.

Iran-US agreement pursued with dignity, and strength: president

From page 1 ▶ Referring to the criminal actions of the Zionist regime across West Asia, he described scientific and comprehensive investment in the younger generation as an indispensable necessity.

Pezeshkian also took issue with the unjust criticisms levelled against the recent agreement with the United States. “The agreement was negotiated with wisdom, reason, and rigorous expert deliberation,” he asserted. “All those involved in this process are prepared for sacrifice and are not inclined toward compromise. What has been accomplished is rooted in expedience, sagacity, and national honor. We will resolve our problems and transform the existing status quo.”

The President emphasized that the fundamental challenge facing the country is not a lack of plans or strategies, but rather a shortage of knowledgeable, committed, and selfless individuals willing to dedicate their time and effort to resolv-



ing current predicaments. He reaffirmed the government's non-partisan and inclusive approach, stating that no hin-

drance has ever been placed before constructive initiatives, and that the administration welcomes all capable individuals

who are prepared to assume responsibility and deliver tangible results.

Iran achieved victories both on battlefield and in political negotiations in the war



From page 1 ▶ saying Iran had not only inflicted a decisive defeat on the United States and Israel but had also thwarted the adversaries' declared plans.

He said Iran's success in both the military and diplomatic arenas was the outcome the “brave and sincere” resistance of the Iranian people against a war launched by the United

States and Israel.

Qalibaf stressed that Iranians from different political, religious and ethnic backgrounds had rallied behind the country from the outset of the conflict to defend Iran's territorial integrity and national interests.

The speaker also paid tribute to those who had lost their lives during the conflict and said the Iranian nation would remain indebted to the country's fallen soldiers and civilians. He particularly honored the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, whom he said had devoted his life to Iran, Islam and the Islamic Revolution.

Turning to the role of the media, Qalibaf praised Iranian journalists for their objective coverage during the 12-Day War and the Ramadan War. He argued, however, that state media faced a greater responsibility to document ‘Iran's victory,’ explain its significance to the public and help foster a sense of national pride.

Qalibaf acknowledged that the scale and significance of Iran's “great victory” had not yet been adequately communicated to the Iranian public.

History, he said, would ultimately assess Iran's conduct and resistance, adding that the country's experience should be properly documented so that Iranians, members of the resistance front and freedom-seekers around the world could understand the significance of the confrontation and take pride in its outcome.

His remarks cast the Islamabad MoU as the diplomatic culmination of a broader confrontation, linking negotiations with Washington to Iran's military resilience and national unity. The comments also underscored Tehran's effort to frame the agreement as an outcome of pressure on its adversaries rather than a concession to them.

Iran's armed forces vow no retreat until ‘complete defeat’ of US and Israel



The statement stressed that the armed forces would not retreat from the legitimate demands of the Iranian people or the directives of the country's leadership.

It further pledged that Iran's military establishment would

continue its efforts against “American-Zionist” forces in the region until their “complete defeat,” while seeking to secure the rights and interests of the Iranian people.

The General Staff framed the pledge within the broader leg-

acy of Iran's wartime generation, saying former POWs and veterans had become enduring symbols of national pride, perseverance and resistance. Their experience, it said, had laid the foundations for a culture of strategic self-reliance that continues to shape Iran's approach to external pressure and military confrontation.

The statement ultimately linked the memory of the Iran-Iraq War to Iran's current confrontation with the United States and Israel, presenting resistance not as a temporary wartime policy but as a continuing national doctrine. It also sought to reassure the Iranian public that the armed forces would remain committed to defending the country's interests and would not compromise under external pressure.

Major General Rezaei: Leader's military appointments disrupted US, Israeli calculations

TEHRAN - The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) has praised a recent decision by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, to appoint new top commanders in the Iranian armed forces.

In a letter addressed to Ayatollah Khamenei on Monday, Major General Mohsen Rezaei said the appointments showed that the Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khamenei will firmly stick to the policies adopted in the country since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

He said the “wise action” in appointing six high-ranking military commanders “dis-

rupted the calculations of the enemies of Islamic Iran, especially the rulers of the United States and the Zionist regime.”

Rezaei, who was recently appointed SNSC secretary by President Masoud Pezeshkian and the Leader's representative to the council, described the decision to appoint the commanders as “timely and worthy,” saying that all six commanders appointed have illustrious records and experience ranging from the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s to the present day.

Last week, Ayatollah Khamenei appointed Major General Ali Abdollahi as Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces

and Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari as his deputy. The Leader also appointed Major General Ahmad Vahidi as Commander-in-Chief of the IRGC and Major General Mostafa Izadi as his deputy. Rear Admiral Ali Ozmaei was also appointed as Commander of the IRGC Navy, while Hossein Taeb, a high-ranking cleric with years of experience in the IRGC's intelligence branch, was appointed as Head of the IRGC's Basij force.

The appointments follow the war that the United States and Israel launched on Iran on February 28, assassinating the country's top military commanders.

Case of 3 Iranian pilots is a serious test to determine Qatar’s role in the war

As Iran pushes for a formal inquiry into its detained pilots, Doha’s persistent denials highlight the heavy footprint of American influence

From Page 1 ▶ Speaking on August 1 regarding the operational details, Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia, a spokesman for the Iranian Army, stated that the retaliatory strike was executed after the launch of military aggression against Iran on February 28. General Akraminia clarified that the retaliatory offensive comprised multiple tactical vectors, including a precision run by F-5 fighter jets against the Al Adiri military facility in Kuwait, as well as a long-range penetration mission carried out by Air Force Su-24 tactical bombers targeting the key US command hub at Al Udeid in Qatar. Describing the Su-24 raid as one of the most complex and dangerous aerial operations undertaken by the Air Force in recent years, Akraminia highlighted the concentration of Western air defense umbrella systems deployed throughout the Persian Gulf corridor.

To bypass multi-layered radar coverage and early warning networks, a four-man Iranian strike team executed extreme low-altitude flight profiles, maintaining altitudes of merely 30 to 40 meters above the waters of the Persian Gulf and skimming terrain features during landward entry. Although the primary tactical objectives were achieved and heavy damage was inflicted upon the targeted base, enemy interceptors engaged the Iranian bombers during their homeward transit. The operation successfully destroyed multiple American military helicopters on the tarmac and rendered numerous other rotary-wing platforms permanently inoperable, significantly curtailing forward US air capabilities in the theater. Two Su-24 tactical



cal bombers of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force had taken off from Shahid Doran Air Base in Shiraz on March 2 to carry out this targeted deterrent mission against the military installation in Qatar hosting enemy troops. Upon completing their mission, the two aircraft were hit by enemy air defense batteries while navigating their return vector over the Persian Gulf. Of the four crew members, pilot Majid Kazemi was martyred during the incident. Following extended operational efforts, his body was recently recovered and identified through DNA verification. General Kazemi was laid to rest in the southern city of Shiraz during a funeral attended by military dignitaries and thousands of citizens paying tribute to his sacrifice. The remaining three airmen—identified as Javad Salehi, Abdolmajid Dashtian, and Omran Behraveshian—were captured alive by Qatari security forces. Regarding these three aviators, General Akraminia noted on August 1 that while Tehran has maintained constant communication with regional authorities, the Qatari government has so far stated that it possesses no verifiable information regarding their whereabouts. He called upon

officials in Doha to intensify cooperation in search and investigation in full alignment with international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions.

In an official letter addressed to the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mirjana Spoljaric, General Bagherzadeh detailed how Qatari authorities have held the three officers in secretive detention for nearly six months. The Qatari government has denied the captives their fundamental rights under the Third Geneva Convention, systematically preventing them from communicating with their families, receiving diplomatic representation, or being evaluated by neutral humanitarian monitors. In his letter to the ICRC leadership, Bagherzadeh urged the humanitarian body to intervene without delay, visit the detained officers in Qatar, assess their physical and psychological well-being, and enforce international legal frameworks to secure their prompt release. Despite the clear timeline and mounting evidence presented by the Iranian Armed Forces General Staff, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed al-Ansari issued statements rejecting General

Bagherzadeh’s remarks, asserting surprise at Tehran’s announcements amid diplomatic engagements aimed at reducing regional instability.

A comprehensive assessment of the operational data and diplomatic developments leads to the strong probability that the three remaining Iranian pilots are indeed alive and currently held in custody. In all likelihood, the United States will strictly prohibit Doha from placing or maintaining these airmen under independent Qatari control. However, American pressure does not in any way relieve Qatar of its ultimate legal and moral responsibility, given that the initial capture and ongoing detention of these officers could only have occurred with the active cooperation and assistance of Qatari authorities. By resorting to concealment, denial, and a complete refusal to cooperate in establishing the fate and securing the release of these pilots, Qatar severely undermines its own stated claims of maintaining neutrality in this regional conflict. Furthermore, this uncooperative posture damages Doha’s broader credibility and motives as a regional mediator. Serious questions arise because an actor cannot actively participate on one side of a battlefield while simultaneously attempting to play the role of an impartial mediator. Collaborating with Tehran to resolve this case transparently is directly aligned with Qatar’s overarching national interests. Uncritical alignment, blind trust, and compliance with American directives will ultimately bring no positive outcome for Doha, while actively eroding its regional standing and long-term security balance.

Iran to mark 40 days since burial of martyred Leader

From Page 1 ▶ The nationwide observances follow the historic funeral processional rites that culminated on July 10, when Ayatollah Khamenei was laid to rest beside the sacred site of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad. The Leader was martyred on February 28, 2026, alongside members of his family during an unprovoked joint US-Israeli strike on Tehran at the onset of a 39-day war of aggression against Iran.

The July burial marked the conclusion of the largest multi-city funeral in modern history, spanning major religious sites across Iran and neighboring Iraq. Before the burial in Mashhad, the late Leader’s body lay in state at Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Mosalla, drawing vast crowds of mourners as well as official delegations from nearly 100 countries.

Processions continued through the holy city of Qom before moving to the Iraqi shrine cities of Najaf and Karbala, where hundreds of thousands accompanied the flag-draped coffins through the sanctuaries of Imam Ali (AS) and Imam Hussein (AS).

Upon returning to Iran, millions of mourners jammed the streets surrounding the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad, carrying banners of resistance and honoring the martyred Leader. The overwhelming turnout brought the procession to a standstill, forcing organizers to delay the final entombment until late afternoon as the crowds paid their last farewells.

The upcoming 40-day mark honors a deep-rooted Islamic tradition of memorializing



the deceased, with millions across the nation expected to reaffirm their devotion to the path of independence, unity, and unwavering resistance championed by the late Leader.

LATEST NEWS

Iranian parliament approves general outlines of bill to counter foreign influence

Iran’s parliament approved on Sunday the general principles of a bill to counter the influence of foreign intelligence services, governments, and entities within the country.

During an open session on Monday, lawmakers voted 183 in favour, 4 against, and 5 abstentions out of 258 members present, endorsing the bill’s general framework.

Hassan Qashqavi, spokesperson for the Parliamentary Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy, explained that while espionage is already criminalized under existing law, a legal vacuum existed in the domain of foreign influence—an area previously emphasised by the martyred Leader. He noted that the bill has been meticulously reviewed word by word in collaboration with all relevant bodies, with work beginning well before the 12-day war.

Osman Salari, a member of parliament’s judicial and legal commission, said the individual provisions of the bill, which is aimed at countering foreign intelligence influence, have yet to be debated and approved. Reports about the bill’s details should not yet be considered final, Salari told the Mizan news agency.

Iran condemns Israel’s continued attacks on Lebanon

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil

Baqaei has condemned the Israeli regime’s continued violations of international law and human rights in Lebanon.

In a statement on Saturday evening, Baqaei condemned the brutal Israeli attacks in various regions across Lebanon and expressed deep regret over the inaction of the UN Security Council towards the continued Zionist regime’s violations of international law and human rights in Lebanon.

Baqaei harshly condemned the strikes, in which 11 people were martyred, including women and children, as well as several others were wounded.

He further deplored the UN Security Council’s silence on developments in Lebanon.

Three vessels struck in Strait of Hormuz over past 72 hours

According to the latest advisory from the Joint Maritime Information Centre (JMIC), three vessels have been struck while transiting the Strait of Hormuz since the Centre’s previous report 72 hours ago.

Two of the vessels were navigating within Omani territorial waters at the time of the incidents, while the third was struck at an undisclosed location while en route to the strait.

No injuries have been reported, and all three ships have continued their voyages without interruption.

Iran vows to avenge martyred Leader

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has reaffirmed Iran’s unwavering commitment to the pledge made to the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, vowing that the blood unjustly shed will neither be forgotten nor forgiven.

Speaking at an event on Muharram and Ashura at the Foreign Ministry’s Institute for Political and International Studies, Araghchi condemned the recent US and Israeli aggression against Iran, which resulted in numerous martyrs, including students and military personnel. He declared that the Iranian people stood firm against the storm of injustice, embodying the message of Ashura.

Araghchi stressed that Iran will continue to pursue justice and uphold its resistance principles, adding that the Ashura uprising remains a universal language of justice for Iranians.

Flights from Iran’s Qeshm airport to resume Wednesday

Flights from Iran’s Qeshm International Airport are scheduled to resume on Wednesday following a war-related suspension, Iran’s Fars News Agency reported. Authorities confirmed the resumption after declaring that the security situation in the region had stabilized.

Iran offers \$30,000 reward for capturing or killing US military personnel

TEHRAN- Iranian Army Commander-in-Chief Major General Amir Hatami has announced a \$30,000 reward for any Iranian who captures or kills a US military personnel member, saying the initiative has been prepared in response to widespread public requests to support the country’s armed forces.

Hatami made the remarks on Sunday at a ceremony honoring journalists, where he also warned the United States against any further military action and outlined Iran’s military capabilities and strategic position following the recent conflict.

Under the new plan, anyone who kills or captures and hands over a US military personnel will receive a reward of \$30,000 from the Iranian Army, Hatami said. He added that Iranian women who carry out such an action would receive twice the reward.

The army chief said the plan had been prepared following the large number of requests from people seeking to participate in “financial jihad” in support of the armed forces.

Hatami also announced additional incentives. The weapon used by anyone who kills a US military personnel member will be purchased by the Army at twice its original price, while the individual will receive a new weapon. The weapon used in the operation, he added, will be preserved in a designated museum.

Hatami warns US over Strait of Hormuz

Hatami sharply criticized recent remarks by US President Donald Trump concerning the Strait of Hormuz and warned Washington against attempting to assert control over the strategic waterway.

He said Iran would not allow the Strait of Hormuz to become a platform for threatening the country and described the waterway as a major geopolitical asset for Iran.

Hatami said the strategic importance of the strait would not return to its previous status and that Iran would use all its capabilities to protect it.

He said the activation of the Strait of Hormuz’s strategic potential was one of the consequences of the recent conflict and added that protecting this leverage was worth any cost.

Iran says USS Abraham Lincoln was hit

Hatami said Iranian forces had struck the USS Abraham Lincoln at least once during the recent fighting.

According to the army chief, the US aircraft carrier was hit by an Iranian projectile and, for a period, none of the fighter aircraft aboard the vessel was able to take off. He said the carrier was now returning.

The army chief said the recent conflict had undermined the longstanding image of US military dominance.

He said the United States had built extensive military capabilities since World War II and the Persian Gulf War but had suffered serious and destructive blows during the recent confrontation with Iran.

Hatami said the United States no longer possessed the same level of authority and military influence it had in the past, adding that coun-

tries were increasingly moving toward alternative arrangements to provide security for themselves.

He also said developments surrounding the recent conflict had demonstrated that countries could not rely solely on the United States for their security.

Iran calls for US withdrawal from the region

Hatami said US military bases in the region could not return to their previous status and that Iran would not allow facilities to be established in neighboring countries for the purpose of threatening the Islamic Republic.

“The only way is for the Americans to leave the region,” he said, adding that the expulsion of US forces from the region had already begun.

He said US forces no longer had permission to enter the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman or the Strait of Hormuz, describing Iran’s position as a victory that Tehran was now working to consolidate.

Iran highlights missile and drone capabilities

Hatami also referred to Iran’s recent missile and drone strikes against US and Israeli positions, particularly in Jordan, saying the operations demonstrated Iran’s ability to reach its adversaries.

He said Iran’s armed forces had the technical and tactical capabilities to penetrate various layers of air-defense systems and pointed to Iran’s strikes against Israeli defense systems as an example.

Hatami warned that any renewed military action against Iran would be met with a forceful response.

Iran rebuilding offensive and defensive capabilities

The army chief said Iran was rapidly rebuilding and strengthening its offensive and defensive capabilities.

He rejected reports that Iran’s defensive capabilities had been destroyed during the recent fighting, saying the country had preserved its existing military capacity while adding new capabilities.

Some of these capabilities, he said, had already been demonstrated during the conflict around the Strait of Hormuz.

Hatami warned Iran’s adversaries against repeating their previous major mistakes, stressing that Iran faced no restrictions in defending itself.

Strait of Hormuz to remain Iran’s strategic leverage

Hatami described the Strait of Hormuz as a major geopolitical asset for Iran and said the waterway would not return to its previous status.

He said the recent conflict had activated a strategic capacity that Iran had long recognized but had not previously needed to employ on the same scale.

Hatami said Iran would protect this strategic leverage with all its capabilities and under the direction of the country’s top military leadership.

Frustration with Trump growing among US Persian Gulf allies, officials say

TEHRAN - Persian Gulf leaders worry President Donald Trump is unable to manage the diplomacy necessary to secure a peace deal with Iran, according to Arab and Western officials.

Trump in recent weeks has repeatedly issued threats against Iran, only to withdraw them, citing progress in the talks. After months of conflict, and continuing missile and drone strikes by Iran and its allies, three officials and a former US diplomat told The Washington Post, the governments of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain are now united in their aggravation with the administration. Some have begun to debate the utility of continuing to host large US military installations on their territory.

“Trump started this war,” one Persian Gulf official said, “and we are paying the price.” Like others in this interview, he spoke on the

condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive subject. Anger with the United States, the official said, was at its highest point since the US and Israel attacked Iran in February.

The frustration of Persian Gulf states with reliance on Washington is leading some states to consider new arrangements. These dynamics are unlikely in the near term to significantly reorder the region, analysts say, but some countries have begun to explore their options.

A mutual defense agreement signed by Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan last week was “a signal to the US,” a senior European official said.

The pact shows the three powerful Sunni Muslim states “are trying to diversify their security and defense partnerships,” said the official, who is in regular contact with Persian Gulf leaders. “In their mind, the US is not enough.”

ICCIMA head announces improvement in economic activities after war shock

From Page 1 ► The head of Iran’s Chamber of Commerce also appreciated the president’s order to prevent power cuts to industries in Shahrivar (August-September), saying that the president has emphasized to the ministers of Industry, Mining and Trade and Energy that industries should not be prioritized for power cuts in order to prevent production stoppages, preserve employment, and prevent unemployment.

He added that based on the decisions made, efforts will be made to avoid cutting power to industrial towns and production units in Shahrivar as much as possible, and the necessary infrastructure for implementing this order will also be provided.”

The 35th session of the 10th term of the Iran Chamber of Commerce Representatives Assembly convened to address two primary agendas: reviewing the business support package under war conditions and examining a Board of Directors resolution on increasing membership fees, entrance fees, and certificate of origin issuance costs. The session brought together private sector representatives to discuss the country’s economic situation and chart a path forward.

Samad Hassanzadeh, Head of the Iran Chamber, opened the session by expressing hope for peace, security, and prosperity during the month of Rabi’ al-Awwal. He extended gratitude to the Leader, the President, and government officials, emphasizing support for negotiations that preserve Iran’s dignity and honor while enabling economic actors to fulfill their development duties.

Hassanzadeh delivered encouraging news about Iran’s economic trajectory. The latest Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) for Khor-dad 1405 (May-June 2026) indicates that Iran’s economy has moved past the severe decline phase following the war shock. Economic activities are resuming, reflecting the dedicated efforts of the private sector and a temporary reduction in shock intensity compared to earlier months. He emphasized that sustaining this improvement requires greater international engagement and called for continued efforts in foreign relations.

In a significant development, Hassanzadeh praised the President’s order to prevent power cuts to industries in Shahrivar (August-September). The President has instructed the Ministers of Industry and Energy that industries should not be prioritized for power cuts, aiming to protect production, employment, and prevent unemployment. Infrastructure for implementing this directive is being prepared.

Role of technology and innovation

Afshin Kolahi, Head of the New and Knowledge-Based Businesses Commission, highlighted modern technologies as critical for increasing enterprise resilience and competitiveness. He noted that SMEs constitute 94% of industrial enterprises, provide 44% of industrial employment, but contribute only 15% of industrial value-added—a sign that policymakers may have miscalculated by prioritizing large industries. He urged the Iran Chamber to move beyond advocacy and practically help companies adopt technology and innovation, citing international examples

Over 2,000MW of new power capacity added to national grid

TEHRAN- Iran has added 2,028 megawatts of new power plant capacity to its national grid, achieving 75 percent of the 2,709-megawatt target for the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), according to the Thermal Power Generation Company.

Ruhollah Esfahani, Deputy for Project Development, announced that despite challenging conditions over the past seven months, no power plant development projects were halted. Key achievements include the 183-megawatt gas unit at Neka Power Plant, commissioned in 99 days, and the 345-megawatt steam unit at Rudshur—the largest of its scale in the West Asia, with 58 percent efficiency and annual fuel savings of over 700 million liters.

Steam units at Asaluyeh and Ferdowsi power plants were also commissioned, completing the 18-unit package under a 3,000-megawatt contract. The first geother-



mal power plant, located on Sabalan’s slopes with 5.4 megawatts capacity, is now operational and can supply power continuously for 95 percent of the year.

Government support and private sector resilience

Government Spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani praised the private sector for maintaining production and distribution during the Ramadan War and the Battle of Hormuz, preventing shortages. She affirmed the government’s commitment to supporting the private sector as a strategic partner in policymaking and acknowledged existing obstacles, expressing confidence in overcoming them together.

Alireza Mohammadi Daniali presented a vision for economic growth, emphasizing that development requires two strong wings: a powerful, development-oriented government and a capable, organized private sector. He noted the stark economic reality: since 2018, the dollar rate has increased 50-fold while goods and services prices rose 19-fold. Though 400,000 people were added to the employed population, the industrial sector lost 630,000 jobs.

Arash Alavi delivered a powerful critique of the command economy, arguing that the Iran Chamber’s primary role should be ending such policies. He highlighted how command pricing harms industries—forcing companies to buy raw materials at high prices while selling at controlled rates—and is often disguised in populist language like “fair profit” and “supporting domestic production,” making it difficult to resist. He proposed creating an agile monitoring body to assess the damages of command pricing and raise public awareness.

Crisis management and support package implementation

Keyvan Kashfi reviewed the business support package under war conditions, identifying a paradox in crisis management. Effective crisis management requires speed in decision-making, coherence in implementation, and stability in rules—all areas where Iran has faced challenges. He noted incomplete implementation, coordination issues among institutions, and systemic limitations. The Chamber extracted 53 operational proposals covering tax and social security issues, but enacting all proved impractical in the short term. He emphasized that the emergency situation continues, so support policies should be extended. The package has been extended until the end of Shahrivar (September), while some import deadlines were extended to 180 days due to port closures.

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

How China’s marine farming model can reshape Iran’s coasts

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Two years ago, on a spring morning in May 2024, I stood at the Sandu’ao Port in Ningde, Fujian Province, alongside a group of journalists from across Asia. What I witnessed that day was far from ordinary—a vast, industrial-scale aquaculture operation stretching across the sea, built on foundations of advanced technology.

Today, that experience remains a powerful reference point for understanding the future of fisheries, particularly for a country like Iran, which possesses rich marine resources but has yet to harness their full potential.

China’s transformation in marine aquaculture offers critical lessons for Iran’s coastal development. This is not about mere translation but about extracting the strategic blueprint behind the success.

From wood to plastic: The infrastructure revolution

Sandu’ao Bay’s ideal geography and water quality have long made it a haven for the prized large yellow croaker. However, the leap to becoming the country’s largest production base began with a decisive policy shift in 2018. Ningde City initiated a large-scale upgrade, replacing traditional wooden cages and foam floats with environmentally friendly plastic cages and advanced floating structures. In total, approximately 1.427 million



aquaculture facilities were re-organized or upgraded, marking a significant standardization of marine infrastructure.

For Iran, with its extensive coastlines along the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, this is the first critical takeaway: transitioning from traditional methods to modern, sustainable infrastructure is a feasible necessity.

Green energy: Powering a cleaner industry

One of the most compelling aspects of Ningde’s model is its integration of renewable energy. A pioneering project, developed in partnership with the new energy giant CATL, has established a microgrid system at the aquaculture sites. This system combines vertical and horizontal wind turbines, floating solar panels on the sea surface, and rooftop solar arrays to provide a

stable, clean power supply.

The project generates approximately 280,000 kilowatt-hours of clean energy annually, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 244 tons. Crucially, battery storage systems resolve power outage issues, ensuring uninterrupted oxygen supply for the fish. For Iran, which faces energy challenges in its southern coastal regions, this model is directly relevant. Adopting floating solar and offshore wind to power shrimp and fish farms in provinces like Hormozgan and Bushehr could reduce costs and environmental impact.

Economic growth: Beyond the sea

The transformation in Ningde has extended far beyond environmental improvements. In 2025, the value of the large yellow croaker industry in Ningde

exceeded 20 billion yuan (approximately \$2.9 billion), producing over 222,000 tons of fish. Today, 8 out of every 10 large yellow croakers consumed in China come from this region.

Furthermore, China has used technology to extend this industry to inland areas. Through a Fujian-Ningxia partnership, the large yellow croaker has been successfully introduced to land-based farming systems in the Helan Mountains of northwest China. These systems use temperature control, water quality management, and automated feeding, demonstrating the adaptability of modern aquaculture technology.

For Iran, this demonstrates that the fisheries sector can become a major driver of economic development, creating jobs and enhancing food security.

A model for Iran’s future

My visit to Sandu’ao revealed that this transformation was enabled by three key factors: coordinated policy (initiated in 2018), investment in technology (from plastic cages to renewable energy), and national will (strong public-private collaboration). Research already indicates that the southern coasts of Iran hold significant potential for aquaculture. The experience of Ningde offers a roadmap for Iran to develop its own sustainable fisheries industry, adapting these lessons to local conditions.

Iran ready for technical co-op to improve, develop electricity sector in Tajikistan

TEHRAN- Iran’s Minister of Energy, in a meeting with the Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, while reviewing areas for the development of water and electricity cooperation between the two countries, emphasized Iran’s readiness for technical cooperation in Tajikistan’s electricity grid.

According to IRNA’s report from the Ministry of Energy, Abbas Aliabadi, Iran’s Minister of Energy, met with Daler Juma, Tajikistan’s Minister of Energy and Water Resources. Referring to the session on the development of economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries, Aliabadi stressed the cultural ties between Iran and Tajikistan and stated that the meeting discussed the development and future of cooperation in line with shared goals in the fields of culture, tourism, scientific and technical collaboration, and water and electricity.

The Minister of Energy also pointed out the challenges facing Tajikistan’s electricity grid and announced Iran’s readiness for any form of technical cooperation to improve and develop the electricity sector in Tajikistan.

Regarding the vision for Iran’s relations with neighboring countries, he said that Tajikistan has deep historical ties with Iran, and many people, especially in border areas, share kinship relations. Therefore, given that the country’s strategy is to develop relations with neighbors, Iran will continue to pursue this approach.

Aliabadi also mentioned meetings with Iraqi, Armenian, and other neighbors, which were aimed at expanding Iran’s cooperation with neighboring countries, as he believes that greater cooperation will strengthen solidarity with these nations.

Emphasis on expanding commercial and technical ties between Tajikistan and Iran

Daler Juma, Tajikistan’s Minister of Energy and Water Resources, also stated that the meeting reviewed the development of economic, commercial, technical, and cultural cooperation with Iran, with an emphasis on increasing commercial opportunities.

According to him, the status of shared dams, energy and logistics conditions, cultural and informational matters, and workforce development at power plants were among the other issues examined alongside electricity-related topics.

The Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan concluded by expressing hope that today’s meeting, like the previous one, would yield positive results.

The closing ceremony of the 18th meeting of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Com-

mittee was held in Dushanbe on May 26. Addressing the meeting, Tajikistan’s Minister of Energy and Water Resources, noting a significant increase in trade between Iran and Tajikistan in the first quarter of 2026, called Iran Tajikistan’s most important partner in the region and emphasized the development of technological and energy cooperation based on historical commonalities.

Dalir Juma referred to Iran as a friendly and brotherly country and said: “We consider the role of Iran important for peace and stability in the region and the world. Tajikistan evaluates cooperation between the two friendly and brotherly countries, i.e. Iran and Tajikistan, as beneficial, and relying on the principle of good faith, considers Iran one of its most important partners in the region and the world.”

He added: “Deep historical, cultural and linguistic commonalities have provided the ground for beneficial cooperation in technology, industry, energy and many other fields between the two countries.”

Tajikistan’s energy minister, referring to official statistics, noted: “Trade between Iran and Tajikistan in the first quarter of 2026 has increased significantly compared to the same period last year, and the expansion of this trade will lead to economic security and further development for both countries.”

Iran’s Minister of Energy, pointing to the favorable political relations between the two countries, called upgrading trade and economic relations a primary duty and said: “The end of this session is not the end of the work, but the beginning of a heavy responsibility on the path to realizing the agreements.”

Abbas Aliabadi, referring to the deep bonds between the two nations, said: “As discussed during this session and as President Emomali Rahmon also noted, today, relying on the deep linguistic, cultural, religious and social bonds between the two brotherly nations, we stand on a new path of cooperation.”

He added: “Developing relations with neighboring countries and Muslim countries has always been at the top of the strategic priorities of our country’s officials, and among these, Tajikistan has a special place.”

Aliabadi, pointing to the favorable political relations between the two countries, stated: “Today we see that political relations between Iran and Tajikistan are at an excellent level, but our main challenge and duty is to raise this level of political intimacy to a similar level in trade and economic relations. Enemies should know that this 6,000-year culture of the two nations is unbreakable.”

The Minister of Energy emphasized: “The end of this session is not the end of the work,

but the beginning of a heavy responsibility on the path to realizing the agreements. The document resulting from this session is not just a collection of words, but a covenant for action. For these agreements to become a turning point in relations between the two countries, we need to operationalize the executive mechanisms in a timely manner. Here I must express my gratitude to the people and government of Tajikistan for accompanying us on this path.”

Aliabadi, stressing the formation of joint technical committees, noted: “I emphasize that the formation of joint technical committees and a follow-up committee for the session must not be delayed. I sincerely thank all the expert delegations and especially my colleagues in the international department of the Ministry of Energy who played a role in advancing these clauses with precision and speed. I hope all the proposed suggestions reach the implementation stage with the same speed and precision.”

The Minister of Energy, referring to the capacities for cooperation between the two countries, said: “Increasing capacities and potentials to expand trade and economic relations between the two countries, especially in the field of exporting technical and engineering services, using transit capacities, and selling oil and oil products to Tajikistan, are among the important axes of cooperation.”

Aliabadi expressed hope at the end: “I hope the implementation of the agreements reached at this session will be a turning point in the relations and interactions between the two countries, and that the proposed clauses in the joint committee will all proceed with precision and speed.”

During this trip, Iran’s Minister of Energy also met with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. In this meeting, current cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic, industrial, energy, agricultural, road construction and transport sectors, was reviewed and discussed.

The President of Tajikistan noted that the existing tensions in West Asia can only be resolved through diplomatic tools and negotiation. Tajikistan’s firm stance in support of ongoing political efforts and constructive dialogue to resolve conflicts was emphasized.

Also, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a telephone conversation with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, referring to the expanding relations between Tehran and Dushanbe, stated: “Iran is ready to further develop bilateral cooperation with Tajikistan in all fields, especially in the economic, energy, transport and cultural sectors.”

From page 1 ▶ What the regime is doing raises a historical question that goes beyond the latest aggression: To what extent do current Zionist policies represent a continuation of longstanding perceptions of Lebanon that took shape within the Zionist movement before the establishment of the Israeli regime.

From the earliest days of the Zionist project, Lebanon was not viewed just as a neighboring state to Palestine, but as a special case within the Arab Levant: a space that could be penetrated politically, a potential arena for building alliances with local forces, and a region associated in Zionism's strategic imagination with water, borders, and minorities.

Laura Zittrain Eisenberg's study, *My Enemy's Enemy: Lebanon in the Early Zionist Imagination, 1900–1948*, shows that an important strand of early Zionist thinking regarded Lebanon as an exception within the Arab environment.

The Zionist movement believed that Lebanon's sectarian pluralism, the distinctive position of its Maronite community, and its divisions over Arab nationalism and Syrian unity created opportunities for understandings that seemed less attainable elsewhere in the Arab world.

A broad network of contacts was established with Lebanese political and religious figures beginning in the 1920s. These contacts included political, media, and economic figures from across Lebanon's various sects.

However, the documents specifically mention close relations and cooperation with the Jewish Agency on the part of Maronite Patriarch Antoun Arida, President Emile Edde, Bishop Ignatius



Mubarak, and others.

The alliance of minorities and the bet on the Maronites

These contacts were linked to a broader idea that later became known as the "Alliance of Minorities." The idea was not exclusively Lebanese; rather, it became one of the foundations of subsequent Israeli strategic thinking in the region, which former Zionist intelligence official Yossi Alpher called the "Periphery Doctrine."

Within this doctrine, Israeli strategic circles believed that the region's religious or ethnic minorities might share an interest in cooperating with the regime to confront Arab nationalist projects or the centralized states surrounding them.

In Lebanon's case, this strategy focused primarily on certain Maronite circles. Documents presented by Erlich and Eisenberg indicate that some Lebanese currents viewed the establishment of an occupation regime in Palestine as an additional guarantee for Lebanon's, which at the time had a Christian political majority.

During the 1940s, discussions also emerged regarding "long-

term political cooperation" between the anticipated Zionist regime and certain Lebanese elites opposed to Syrian unity and Arab nationalist currents.

Studies indicate that the Litani River occupied a special place in Zionist thinking even before the establishment of the regime. Zionist leaders believed that the northern borders of Palestine did not reflect what they regarded as the "natural borders" of the regime, and that the Litani River held strategic importance in terms of water, security, and geography.

The discussions were not limited to political alliances between certain Maronite elites and the Zionist movement. They also included ideas for reshaping the demographic reality in the south: settling Maronites in Shia border areas, purchasing large tracts of land in Jabal Amel, creating direct geographical contiguity between Christian areas and Jewish Palestine, and reducing the Shia population density in the area between the Palestinian border and Mount Lebanon.

Against this backdrop, David

Ben-Gurion's diaries are particularly notable. In May 1948, he wrote that Lebanon represented the "weak point" in the Arab alliance, and that a Christian state could be established with the Litani as its southern border and form an alliance with the Zionists.

Early Zionist literature and subsequent Israeli documents reveal a significant degree of continuity in the regime's view of Lebanon: a field open to political penetration; reliance on allied internal forces; the exceptional importance of southern Lebanon and the Litani; and efforts to create a new security and geographic reality in the border region.

However, the regime's history of occupation in Lebanon repeatedly demonstrated the limits of its ability to turn these perceptions into a stable political reality or to maintain long-term arrangements serving these strategic aims.

Nevertheless, several projects being proposed today, whether Lebanese-Israeli normalization, the establishment of a so-called "security zone" south of the Litani, or the depopulation of large parts of the south, do not appear disconnected from the long history of perceptions and strategies that accompanied the Zionist project from before the establishment of the Israeli regime.

Yet Lebanon's complex reality, its internal balances, and the decline of political Maronitism from the position it occupied when those projects were first proposed make the reproduction of these perceptions today far more complicated than some Zionist calculations might suggest.

Equally important, today, Hezbollah resistance stands in the way.

Yemen strikes Saudi-linked mercenary concentrations in Mokha

From page 1 ▶ Saree delivered a warning that the army will vaporize any Saudi military buildup designed to threaten Yemeni soil or further the brutal twelve-year aggression.

The strikes brought the strategic Mokha port to a grinding halt. Port director Abdulmalik al-Sharabi announced the suspension of commercial and maritime operations after 25 missiles hit the facility.

He recorded seven deaths and estimated material losses at 16 million dollars, noting that the bombardment heavily damaged infrastructure, wooden vessels, and an excavation dredger while leaving 1,300 workers without livelihoods overnight.

Riyadh transformed the port into a forward operating base to arm its coastal proxies and maintain its suffocating economic blockade, while Sanaa neutralized a military staging ground.

Saba News Agency, citing a military source, reported that coordinated operations targeted Saudi-backed force concentrations and weapons depots in Mokha and Marib, including the Tadawin camp, with the strikes reportedly inflicting casualties among the targeted forces.

These military offensives operate within a retaliatory framework following Sanaa's July 20 declaration of a total maritime embargo against Saudi Arabia.

Enforcing a strict blockade-for-blockade policy, Yemeni forces immediately targeted Saudi-linked vessels and launched a drone strike that hit the Aramco refinery in Jizan, forcing the facility to shut down.

Ansarullah political bureau member Mohammed al-Farah has argued in a recent interview that Riyadh avoids a direct ground confrontation because Yemeni missiles and drones could threaten Aramco facilities, ports and other vital infrastructure.



structure.

He says Saudi Arabia instead relies on Yemeni partner forces as a shield while coordinating its major decisions with Washington. This assessment highlights Riyadh's dilemma: contain Sanaa without reopening a war that previously failed to restore a Saudi-aligned regime.

Riyadh subsequently scrambled to form a 15-nation maritime defense coalition to protect its shipping routes, while international bodies like the United Nations raised alarms over a potential return to all-out war.

Yet Sanaa continues to act from a position of strength. While Western governments pretend that the Saudi-backed council, fabricated inside a Riyadh hotel, represents the nation, Ansarullah governs the vast majority of the population, manages the capital, and commands the national armed forces.

The United Nations has expressed concern over the escalating situation. UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg warned the Security Council on August 13 that "Yemen today faces a more serious risk of return to large-scale conflict than at any point since the 2022 UN-mediated truce."

"Four years of calm can be lost in a few weeks of escalation," he warned.

Ben-Gvir says Palestinian detainees should be hanged 'one by one'

From page 1 ▶ Ben-Gvir also said he was "happy" that Palestinian prisoners were facing harsher conditions in Israeli prisons.

The Israeli parliament passed legislation on March 30, 2026, imposing the death penalty by hanging on Palestinians convicted of killing Israelis if a military court determines that the act constituted "terrorism" or was motivated by the "denial of the existence of the State of Israel."

The legislation has drawn international criticism from rights groups and legal experts over its discriminatory application and concerns surrounding due process and the treatment of Palestinian prisoners.

Ben-Gvir has repeatedly advocated for the execution of Palestinian prisoners, making the issue a central part of his political agenda.

In a post on its Facebook, Middle Eye quoted Ben G Gvir said in an interview, "Insha'Allah... we will settle all of Gaza," calling for Israel to conduct



nightly air strikes on the besieged enclave.

Wearing a noose pin to represent his support for the death penalty law for Palestinian prisoners, he expressed his desire to "encourage immigration" out of Gaza and see it settled by Israelis.

He also said "there are people there (Israeli jails) who are not human beings" who "do not need to live".

Lebanese-Israeli-US talks intended to undermine US-Iran MOU: professor

Bard College professor Ziad Abu Rish says Lebanese officials have put 'all their eggs in US-Israeli basket'

TEHRAN - The Lebanese government has been left at the "mercy" of the US and Israel after signing on to the Washington-brokered framework agreement, argues Ziad Abu Rish, an associate professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Bard College in New York.

He noted that Zawthar al-Gharbiya remains the only village Israeli forces have withdrawn from under the framework agreement and Israel has since publicly declared it is no longer interested in creating additional withdrawal zones, Al Jazeera reported.

The initial "pilot zones", Abu Rish argued, were established as part of what "we could[ed]

call the momentum of Lebanese-Israeli-US negotiations to undermine the US-Iran memorandum of understanding and its Lebanon clause".

The first clause of the Iran-US framework agreement states:

"The United States of America and the Is-

lamic Republic of Iran and their allies in the current war are signing this MOU to declare the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon, and undertake from now on not to initiate any war or any military operation against each other, and to refrain from the threat or use of force against each other, and ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon."

But Israel's refusal to withdraw further caused negotiations with Lebanon to "end rather abruptly" in Rome this month.

Abu Rish went on to describe the agreement as "an attempt by a few personalities in the Lebanese government" – specifically President Joseph Aoun, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and Foreign Minister Youssef Rajji – to "align with the Israeli and US" position on Lebanon and "to portray Hezbollah as the problem".

In doing so, "they have put all their eggs in the US-Israeli basket," he said, and "have lost

any leverage they have".

"They are now at the mercy of the United States and Israel," he said. "And what we've seen in Gaza, what we've seen in Syria and now what we're seeing in Lebanon is that the United States has absolutely no interest in pressuring Israel to take corrective action for its belligerent invasion and occupation of Lebanese and other territories."

11 people have been killed in Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon in one of the deadliest days of attacks since an agreement aimed at reducing hostilities was announced in June.

Lebanon's prime minister said seven people were killed in a strike on a house on the outskirts of Ansar, 70km (43 miles) south of the capital, Beirut. Three children and two women were among the dead.

Later on Saturday, another round of strikes hit the town of Deir al-Zahrani, killing four and wounding five others, the Lebanese ministry of health said.

Was Israel behind the Ceuta crisis?

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - The hybrid warfare episode recently endured by Spain, characterized by the mass entry of over 600,000 individuals, primarily from Morocco, is transitioning from political speculation to documented geopolitical reality. Early hypotheses suggesting the orchestration of this crisis by Israeli and United States intelligence are increasingly substantiated by concrete evidence and structural analysis.

According to assessments by Chinese intelligence, the Ceuta incursion was a calculated operation driven by Morocco and Israel to destabilize Spain. The timing of the event was hardly coincidental; it materialized precisely as the US and Israeli governments exhibited profound displeasure with the Spanish executive over its diplomatic support for Palestinian rights and its opposition to the broader war on Iran.

That the mass incursion into Ceuta constituted an organized hybrid

attack is no longer a matter of reasonable dispute. Spanish security footage captured Moroccan intelligence operatives embedded among the migrants, with verified visual evidence of trucks transporting crowds to the border and uniformed agents escorting them with the casual discipline of a state-directed operation. The evidence, while welcome, is almost redundant. Nowhere on Earth do 60,000 people gather spontaneously, and certainly not in Morocco, where state security services maintain an almost patrimonial interest in monitoring gatherings of merely five individuals.

Beyond the physical breach, the crisis was rapidly weaponized through a coordinated discursive amplification. Israeli politicians and aligned think tanks, such as the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), an organization whose interests rarely extend beyond the immediate strategic imperatives of the Israeli state, played a pivotal role in escalating the narrative. Within hours of the initial

footage circulating, the European right wing, the expansive Trump-aligned media apparatus, and Israeli officials, notably UN Ambassador Danny Danon, joined a synchronized chorus. Their objective was to raise the temperature, fuel panic, and accelerate the crisis until it reached a boiling point, culminating in outlets like Fox News declaring that "northern Spain" had been invaded.

This external pressure found immediate resonance within the Spanish political arena. The current Minister of Transport, Óscar Puente, openly highlighted the Israeli connection following a tense exchange on X with Danny Danon, who had accused Spain of hypocrisy for criticizing Israel while declaring a state of emergency in Ceuta. Puente's retort was succinct: "Well, it seems that everything is starting to become quite clear." Similarly, Gabriel Rufian, parliamentary spokesperson for the Republican Left of Catalonia, argued that the crisis directly served American and Israeli strategic interests.

This sentiment was echoed across the cultural and political spectrum, from journalist Jose Vizner resurfacing a 2019 post by Yair Netanyahu discussing Israeli support for Ceuta's separatism, to actor Javier Bardem sharing "evidence" of Israeli involvement in the crossings.

To understand the structural mechanics of this crisis, one must examine the hard-power axis that has solidified between Rabat, Tel Aviv, and Washington. Morocco's realignment with the US and Israel began in December 2020, when Donald Trump signed a proclamation recognizing Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara as the price for Rabat's entry into the Abraham Accords. Israel completed this geopolitical circle in July 2023 with its own formal recognition of Moroccan claims over the territory. Since then, the three capitals have constructed a formidable security apparatus: intelligence sharing, joint military planning, and the co-production of Israeli air-defense systems and drones on Moroccan soil.

can soil.

For a Trump administration already fixated on global maritime chokepoints and eager to wrest strategic control of territories like Greenland from European hands, the Strait of Gibraltar presents an obvious and irresistible prize. An administration that has spent a year pressing Denmark over Arctic shipping lanes—framing them as too strategic to leave to Europeans—has a manifest interest in who controls the gate between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. When viewed alongside a US foreign policy that moved immediately upon taking office to assert control over the Panama Canal, strengthen its hand in the Strait of Malacca, and engage in active conflict across the Strait of Hormuz, the sudden pressure on the Strait of Gibraltar ceases to look like a coincidence.

It is a calculated maneuver in a broader war over global logistics. It becomes less surprising, then, that just weeks prior, Capitol Hill quiet-

ly laid the legislative groundwork for this pressure by casting formal doubt on Spanish sovereignty over Ceuta and Melilla.

Finally, this external hybrid offensive exploits a critical internal vulnerability within the Spanish state: the open confrontation between Pedro Sánchez's government and the Centro Nacional de Inteligencia (CNI), Spain's intelligence service. The Minister of the Interior, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, publicly claimed that the CNI had failed to warn the government of an event of this magnitude. In response, the CNI leaked to the press that comprehensive reports had, in fact, been drafted in the preceding days, analyzing and warning of the exact situation that unfolded. This institutional fracture not only paralyzes the state's defensive posture but also signals to external actors that the Spanish political apparatus is deeply compromised, making it a highly susceptible target for the very hybrid warfare it is currently enduring.

Iran handball player Farrokhi optimistic about Nagoya

TEHRAN - Iranian handball team player Mohammadhossein Farrokhi expressed optimism about the team's preparations and the impact of the new coaching staff.

The men's handball tournament at the 2026 Asian Games will be held in Nagoya, Japan, from Sept. 19 to 28.

Iran have been drawn in Group B, alongside South Korea, Kuwait, Bahrain and Kazakhstan.

"Thankfully, we had a good training camp and now we are heading to Serbia for a preparatory camp. The new coach can help the national team, and I hope we can perform successfully with him," Farrokhi said.

He also highlighted the intensity of the team's preparations, saying the players are being pushed hard in training as they target a strong showing in Japan.

"The training sessions are very demanding and intense. I hope we can come through them successfully. In my opinion, we are capable of winning a medal in Nagoya."

With several strong teams in the group, Iran face a challenging road to the knockout stages. However, the combination of a new generation of players, an experienced coaching staff and the ambition of the squad has created optimism around the national team.

Iran will now use their training camp in Serbia as an important opportunity to fine-tune their tactics and build team cohesion before heading to Nagoya. For Rahimi Kazerooni and his teammates, the objective is clear: despite the difficult group and the absence of key players, Iran are determined to compete for a place on the Asian Games podium.

Bam Khatoon ready for another Asian challenge

TEHRAN - Iranian women's football champions Bam Khatoon are ready for another demanding campaign on the Asian stage as they return to the AFC Women's Champions League, determined to build on their growing reputation as one of Iran's leading clubs.

Khatoon have established themselves as the dominant force in Iranian women's football. The Bam-based side have won the domestic league 12 times and have increasingly made their presence felt in continental competition. Their progress has been particularly notable in recent editions of the AFC's premier women's club tournament, where they have shown that Iranian women's football can compete with some of Asia's strongest teams.

The upcoming 2026/27 AFC Women's Champions League presents a fresh test for Khatoon. The Iranian champions have been drawn in Group E of the Preliminary Stage alongside Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia, Jordan's Etihad Club and FC CSKA Dushanbe of Tajikistan. The group will be played from Aug. 17 to 23, with only the group winners advancing to the next stage of the competition.

Khatoon's opening match is scheduled against CSKA Dushanbe on Monday, before they face Al Nassr and Etihad Club. The format leaves little room for error, making every point and every goal potentially decisive. With only one team from each preliminary group progressing, Khatoon must maintain their focus throughout the tournament.

Jafari said Iran's opponents have made significant investments ahead of the competition, highlighting the strength of Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia, which boast high-quality foreign players from Portugal, France, Brazil, Japan and several African countries.

She also pointed to Jordan's Etihad, who have recruited several strong foreign players, while Tajikistan's CSKA can rely on a number of internationals as well as four quality foreign-based players.

"All of our rivals have invested heavily and will enter the competition fully prepared, which makes our task even more difficult,"

Jafari said.

However, she emphasized that Iran will compete with an almost entirely domestic squad. The team has added only Yasna Jafarzadeh as a reinforcement, while Mona Hamoudi and Negin Zandi will also be unavailable.

"Despite these challenges, we will give everything we have to return home with a positive result and represent Iranian women's football with pride," Jafari added.

Khatoon's continental experience could prove crucial. In the 2024/25 AFC Women's Champions League, the Iranian side reached the quarter-finals after finishing second in their group. They were eventually eliminated by Korea Republic's Hyundai Steel Red Angels, who secured a narrow 1-0 victory.

That run represented a significant milestone for the club and Iranian women's football. Khatoon had previously competed in the AFC Women's Club Championship and have continued to strengthen their position as Iran's leading representative on the continental stage. The club also became the first Iranian women's side to obtain an AFC professional club license, an important step in their development.

Marziyeh Jafari, one of the most successful coaches in Iranian women's football, remains a central figure in Khatoon's success. She has been closely associated with the club for many years and guided the team to multiple domestic championships as well as continental achievements. Her experience at this level could once again be a decisive factor in navigating the demanding preliminary stage.

Tough task ahead of Iran in 2026 Asian Para Games: Kargari

TEHRAN - Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) President Ghafour Kargari has outlined the country's plans for the upcoming 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan, saying Iran will face a significantly tougher challenge in its bid to defend its runner-up finish.

Kargari said the fifth edition of the Asian Para Games will feature 18 sports and athletes from 44 countries, with competition beginning on Oct. 26. Unlike Hangzhou 2022, Nagoya will not have a single athletes' village, with teams accommodated at different locations—a situation he said would make logistical management more difficult.

The number of participating athletes has also fallen by around 1,000 compared with Hangzhou, while four sports have been removed from the program.

Kargari said the reduction in events has directly affected Iran's delegation and will cost the country an estimated six medals.

Iran will travel to Nagoya under the name "Sacrifice for a Strong Iran", with the slogan "In Memory of the Children of Hiroshima, Gaza and Minab." Nine-year-old Minab schoolgirl and war veteran Ana Jahangard has been named the delegation's spiritual leader.

Kargari stressed that Iran's selection policy is based on more than medals. While podium finishes remain the main criterion for men, the federation has relaxed the benchmark in several categories. For women, finishing fourth can be enough for selection, while visually impaired athletes are not required to meet a podium target. Young athletes are generally expected to finish at least fifth, while athletes currently on the podium or close to national or international records may also be selected.

The Iranian delegation's flag-bearers have yet to be announced and are expected to be introduced within the next one to two weeks.

Kargari also acknowledged that repeating Iran's second-place finish from Hangzhou will be extremely difficult. Iran won 44 gold medals at the previous Asian Para Games, but the reduced program in Nagoya has already cost the team potential medal opportunities.

He pointed to growing competition from other Asian powers, particularly Uzbekistan, India, and Uzbekistan.

"Repeating second place in Nagoya will be very difficult," Kargari said, adding that if Iran manages to achieve the feat, "we should hold a national celebration."

Better use of books is essential to cultural diplomacy, tourism minister says

TEHRAN - Iran should make better use of books, literature and publishing as key tools to present its history, culture and civilization to international audiences, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri said on Saturday.

Speaking at a meeting with a number of leading Iranian publishers, Salehi-Amiri said introducing the ancient country to the world should go beyond tourism advertising and the promotion of historical monuments, arguing that books can provide a deeper, lasting and credible account of the country's cultural and civilizational heritage.

He called for coordinated co-operation among the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the private sector to promote Iran's cultural and civilizational capacities internationally.

"Introducing Iran to the world should not be limited to tourism advertising, attractions and historical monuments," Salehi-Amiri said, stressing the need to convey the country's story through more enduring tools such as books, literature and publishing.

He said books could offer inter-



national audiences a detailed and multidimensional image of Iran, introducing readers not only to its historical sites but also to its history, art, intellectual traditions, lifestyle and civilization.

The minister called for identifying prominent works on Iranian studies, history, culture, art, literature and civilization that have international potential and preparing them for professional translation and publication in target markets.

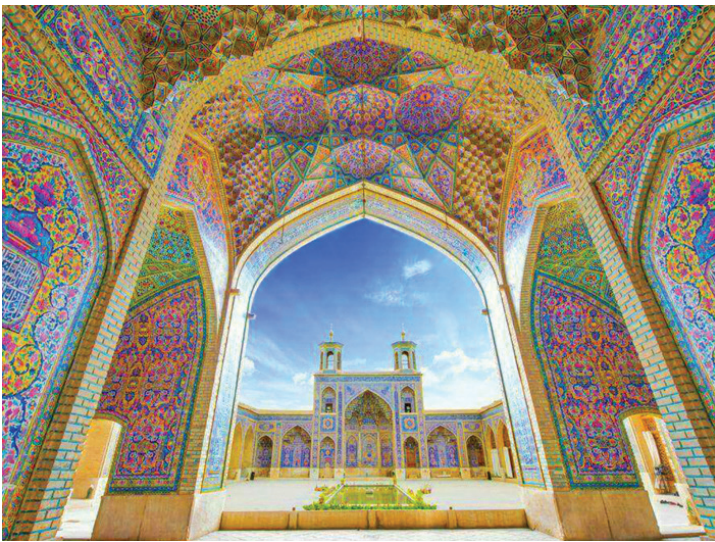
He said there was significant demand in many countries among tourists and people interested in Iran to learn more about the

country's history and civilization, adding that this cultural interest should be turned into an opportunity for international engagement.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi-Amiri stressed the role of private publishers in selecting suitable works, identifying target markets and undertaking investment and implementation. Government institutions, he said, should primarily act as facilitators to help Iranian publications gain a stronger presence in international markets.

He also described international book fairs as important platforms

Iran has 58 sites on UNESCO tentative list, heritage official says



A view of Nasir al-Mulk Mosque in Shiraz, southern Iran.

TEHRAN - Iran currently has 58 cultural and natural properties and heritage collections on the UNESCO Tentative List, according to the director general of registration of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

"A total of 58 properties are currently on Iran's Tentative List that constitute a strategic reserve for the country's future World Heritage planning," Alireza Izadi said.

Izadi stressed that the Tentative

List is not fixed and can be revised. If expert assessments determine that a site or heritage complex meets the requirements for possible World Heritage inscription, the necessary procedures can be initiated to have it added to the list. Once accepted, research, documentation and preparation of the nomination dossier can begin.

According to the official, Iran prioritizes nomination dossiers based on factors including their

conformity with UNESCO criteria, outstanding universal value, the quality of available documentation, the feasibility of completing research, and conservation and management conditions.

Among the properties that have appeared on Iran's Tentative is the ancient port of Siraf and its cultural landscape, he said.

Siraf is among Iran's priorities for the coming year, Izadi said, adding that work on its nomination dossier has been pursued and the site is currently undergoing the relevant stages of review and assessment for potential World Heritage inscription.

He said that in some cases, a broad heritage theme can be narrowed during expert studies into a more coherent and clearly defined nomination. In the case of the historic and coastal heritage of the Persian Gulf, for example, focusing research on a complex such as Siraf could provide the basis for a more cohesive dossier with stronger potential for international assessment.

Izadi also said that Iran's Asbads (windmills) are on the Tentative List and that work is under way to

for cultural diplomacy and called for a reassessment of Iran's participation in major global publishing events.

Iran's presence at international book fairs should not be ceremonial or limited to displaying a number of titles, he said. Instead, it should feature selected works, professional translations and a coherent narrative presenting Iran's culture and civilization.

Referring to events such as the Madrid International Book Fair, Salehi-Amiri said effective participation required advance planning, knowledge of target audiences and markets, and the preparation of a comprehensive cultural package.

He also proposed establishing professional, modern bookstores at historical sites, museums and tourist attractions across Iran, arguing that these spaces could strengthen the connection between tourism and publishing.

Cultural tourism, Salehi-Amiri said, becomes more meaningful when visitors can explore the deeper layers of heritage through books, narratives, art and dialogue, rather than simply viewing a monument or archaeological site.

prepare and complete their nomination dossier.

Other heritage priorities under consideration include archaeological sites and ancient settlement mounds, Tus, and a proposed nomination focusing on Iranian mosques.

Iran's architectural heritage of mosques has considerable potential, Izadi said, citing the country's diversity of mosque architecture, decorative traditions and architectural forms.

Historic Iranian houses are another potential area for future World Heritage nominations, he added. Their architecture has developed in close relationship with climate, culture and local ways of life, resulting in significant regional variations across the country.

Izadi said other sites, including Kalat-e Naderi, could potentially be considered for future nomination based on expert studies. However, he stressed that any new proposal must first go through the formal process of correspondence with UNESCO and, if accepted, be added to the Tentative List before the nomination dossier can be prepared.

Echoes of the past: Golden-lustre ceramic bowl

The pictured golden-lustre ceramic bowl, which dates from the 7th century AH (13th-14th century CE), is made of a stone-paste (glass-paste) body. It is deep-bodied, with a flat rim, an elongated profile, and a tall, rounded, concave base. Decorative inscriptions adorn both its interior and exterior surfaces.

Inscribed with Persian and Arabic poetry, the object measures 20 cm in diameter at the mouth and 9 cm in height. It is currently housed at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

The primary ornamental focus is at the center: the faces of two ladies facing one another, engaged in conversation. Their heads are tilted toward each other, evoking a sense of emotional intimacy and warmth. The faces are serene and moon-like, painted in a three-quarter view with elongated eyes and uncovered heads.

Around these central figures, the artist has densely packed a rich array of motifs—including birds, flowers and leaves, arabesques (islami), intertwining



ing lines, and peacock-eye patterns—within the circular space. The background and the patterns on the garments are so intricately interwoven that they merge seamlessly, eliminating any empty space through the sheer density of the ornamentation.

The continuous rotation of the viewer's eye—from the rim, bearing Persian verses, into the bowl's interior, to the facing figures, and to the flight of the

birds—creates a dynamic interplay between stillness and motion. The harmonious integration of three elements—calligraphy,

the human figure, and nature—endows this composition with a unique visual synergy enriched by spiritual depth.

Inside the bowl, two inscriptions in white script against a brown background are visible—one on the rim and another just below it.

The content of the rim inscription consists of the following Persian verses (with some parts reconstructed due to damage):

I brought your love into the core of my soul;

With it, I brought all my sustenance into my being.

At last, I lifted my head above all the world,

Until [I placed your love at the head of] the world.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Kind Attn Dear All, Niavaran, 200 sqm fully furnished 3 bdrms apartment in a tower ready to move in, 24hrs lobbyman, caretaker, gym, gatheting saloon, garden, price only 2000usd per month.

Ms.Sonia 09195341598/ email:mahnaz1214@gmail.com

Women’s share of blood donation targeted to rise to 30%

TEHRAN — Women account for only around five percent of total blood donation in the country, a share that does not reflect their potential and level of social participation. The government has set a target of increasing women's share of blood donation to at least 30 percent by identifying and addressing the barriers to their participation.

In this line, Zahra Behrouz-Azar, the vice president for women and family affairs, told IRNA that the roughly five-percent share of women in blood donation is not commensurate with their potential, stressing the need to identify and remove barriers to participation in order to raise the figure to at least 30 percent.

She described protecting people's lives as one of the government's top priorities, adding that initiatives such as the “No to Accidents” campaign, the “All Together Against Cancer” campaign, the expansion of clean energy, and support for blood donation are being pursued as part of this broader effort.

Referring to efforts to increase women's participation in blood donation, Behrouz-Azar said Iranian women are active and influential participants in various areas of society. However, she noted that their share of blood donation remains at around five percent — a figure that does not correspond to their potential or level of social participation.

The vice president added that in the past Iranian year (March 2025-2026), following the signing of a memorandum of understanding and the issuance of guidelines to provincial authorities, increasing women's participation in blood donation was placed on the agenda, and a number of measures were subsequently taken.

However, she emphasized that achieving lasting change requires practical measures to be accompanied by a thorough understanding of the barriers preventing women from participating in blood donation.

Sole country able to meet need to blood

Around 1.7 percent of the country's population donates blood regularly, and the blood donation index is 27 per 1,000 population. According to the CEO of the Iran Blood Transfusion Organization, Ahmad Qarah-Baghian, Iran is the first and sole country in the East-



ern Mediterranean region that has been able to meet the country's need for blood and blood products, relying entirely on voluntary and unpaid blood donations.

However, the need for blood is growing. The advances in medicine and the aging population are the two factors that increase the demand for blood and blood products, Babak Yektaparast, an official with the IBTO, has said.

According to Yektaparast, the amount of blood donation needs to be increased by 10 to 15 percent in the next five years. Currently, the majority of donors are aged 35-50 and it is essential to promote a culture of blood donation among the youth and women who comprise half of the country's population.

The World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Iran, John Jabbour, has described the IBTO as a successful role model in the region.

“The Iran Blood Transfusion Organization is one of the most important and centralized blood transfusion centers in the region. The coherence and coordination of activities across the country have strengthened the

organization, and this integrated structure plays a key role in ensuring the quality and safety of blood,” Jabbour said.

“The World Health Organization is ready to enhance cooperation with the Iran Blood Transfusion Organization and provide technical and specialized support to the organization to improve blood transfusion services,” he added.

Iran is the sole country in the Eastern Mediterranean region that meets its need for blood relying entirely on voluntary and unpaid blood donations.

Referring to blood safety indicators in the country, the official said the safety of donated blood in Iran is comparable to that of developed countries, which highlights the high quality of services and standards of the IBTO.

Royan hosting intl. event on role of microbiome in regenerative medicine

TEHRAN - The Royan Institute is playing host to the 17th International Summer School in Tehran to examine the growing role of the microbiome in regenerative medicine.

Bringing together researchers, physicians, faculty members and students, the event opened on August 15 and will come to an end on 19.

Titled “The Symphony of Therapy: Unlocking Regenerative Potential through the Microbiome,” it will focus on recent scientific advances and clinical applications of microbiome research, IRNA reported.

According to the Royan Institute, the program will explore how the human microbiome influences immune regulation, chronic diseases, tissue repair and regeneration, while highlighting emerging therapeutic approaches and translational research.

The five-day event will feature sessions on stem cells and the microbiome, intestinal stem cells and microbial ecology, reproductive health, inflammation and tissue repair, and microbiome-based therapies, including prebiotics and postbiotics.

Participants will also discuss advanced research technologies such as organoids, omics platforms and co-culture systems, alongside the ethical and clinical challenges of translating laboratory discoveries into medical practice.

The Summer School is open to physicians, researchers, faculty members and undergraduate and postgraduate students in medicine, biology, biotechnology, nutrition and related fields.

Organizers said the event aims

The 17th International Summer School of Royan Institute

ROYAN

University of Science and Culture

ACECR

Symphony of Healing:
Unlocking Regenerative
Potential with Microbiome

15-19 Aug, 2026

University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran

Topics

1. Stem Cells & Microbiome

2. Intestinal Stem Cells & Microbial Ecology

3. Microbiome and reproduction

4. Microbiome Effects on Bone, Skin, and Brain

5. Inflammation, Repair, and Regeneration

6. Prebiotics, and Postbiotics in Practice

7. Cutting-Edge Tech – Organoids, Omics, and Co-culture Systems

8. Clinical Translation, Ethics, and Challenges

YKGENE

LACTIVA

to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, promote scientific networking and showcase global developments in microbiome science and regenerative medicine.

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

During these twenty years of active involvement in sharing and exchanging scientific knowledge and expertise with renowned scientific institutes and scientists, the Royan Congress has helped to form many shared scientific projects and exchanges.

International Reproductive Medicine Congress

The 27th Royan International Reproductive Medicine Congress and the 22nd Royan International Stem Cell Technology Congress will be held in Tehran from September 2 to 4, 2026.

This year, seven specialized

workshops and a pre-congress symposium on obesity were held a few weeks before the event for students and researchers, which was well received.

Offering Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits for various medical, paramedical, and midwifery disciplines, the scientific event provides a valuable opportunity for professionals and specialists to update their knowledge in the field.

A total of 515 out of 600 submitted articles are accepted; these involve 129 articles in Reproductive Biomedicine Congress, 195 posters and 16 lectures, 237 articles in Stem Cell Biology and Technology Congress, 220 posters and 17 lectures, and 67 articles in Nursery and Midwifery Seminar, 63 posters and four lectures.

Six selected best articles will be awarded at the opening ceremony of the Congress, which will be held both in person and online.

The event will host 36 lecturers from 19 foreign countries, including Germany (Prof. Janems Adjaye), Qatar (Dr. Mohammad Mostafa Arafa), France (Prof. Laurent David), Austria (Dr. Victor Deneke), Spain (Dr. Nicholas Garrido Pushalt), Italy (Dr. Local Gianiroli), Japan (Prof. Kazuhiro Kawamura), Russia (Dr. Daria Kuznetsova), New Zealand (Prof. Bjorn Oback), and China (Dr. Zhen Liu), as well as 59 national lecturers.

In 2024, a total of 33 international scientists and researchers from the U.S., England, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Turkey, China, Russia, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, Qatar, and India presented lectures in the congress.

Qeshm oil contamination: a legacy of US military presence in Persian Gulf

From page 1 ► Follow-up inquiries made to oil industry officials and experts indicate that the oil slicks in Qeshm Island have nothing to do with Iran's oil production, transport, storage, or export processes. Rather, it stems from foreign military aggressions in the region, Mehr news agency reported.

Officials from the oil industry have confirmed that the oil terminal facilities, pipelines, and platforms operating in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman are in optimal condition and are under continuous monitoring by Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) units, with no signs of leaks or operational disruptions recorded in the area.

In response to this catastrophic environmental threat, Iranian officials have elaborated on the reason, urging the global community to hold aggressors accountable for their environmental crimes.

On Thursday, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, in her X account wrote, “The oil pollution of the southern coasts of Qeshm is just one example of the widespread pollution that has destroyed the region's marine ecosystem over the past few decades.

Who is responsible for compensating for the damages inflicted—is it the energy-consuming countries that import from our region, or the aggressor parties that have turned this area into a playground for military operations?”

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei underlined trillion-dollar damage on Iran's coasts.

“Why must addressing the environmental condition of the Strait of Hormuz and its surrounding waters form an integral part of any future administration of the Strait?

In recent days, videos have circulated showing oil pollution along the shores of Qeshm Island. This pollution drifted toward the coast from the Persian Gulf, and preliminary evidence indicates a foreign bulk carrier as the source. Contamination has been documented at three coastal sites and across portions of the sea surface.

This incident is only one visible example of the extensive pollution—both overt and concealed—that has degraded the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, as well as the region's marine ecosystem, over recent decades, imposing trillions of dollars in damage on Iran's coastal areas.

Who bears responsibility for compensating these damages? Is it the nations that consume the inexpensive energy exported from our region, the shipping insurers, or the aggressors and their partners who have transformed the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman into a theatre for military operations and the testing of highly destructive weaponry?

As the country with the longest coastline along the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, Iran cannot remain indifferent. Every party that benefits from commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz carries both a legal and a moral obligation to remediate the environmental harm inflicted upon the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman,” he wrote on his X account.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi in a tweet on Thursday, held foreign military aggression in the region responsible for oil pollution along the shores of Qeshm Island, highlighting that the severe environ-

mental damage inflicted on Iranian coastal areas in the Persian Gulf further underscores the urgent necessity for Iran, as the coastal state, to define and implement its own management mechanism for the Strait of Hormuz.

According to Press TV, Habib Masihi-Taziani, director general of Hormozgan's department of environment, announced that pollution along the southern coast of Qeshm had been almost entirely collected by Wednesday evening, with the remaining efforts nearing completion.

Despite the environmental impact, monitoring teams found no carcasses of dolphins, sea turtles or other aquatic and coastal species linked to the pollution.

Officials confirmed that oil slicks in affected marine areas were removed using specialized absorbent pads and materials, while contaminated sand was carefully stripped from beaches to a depth of two to five centimeters.

The latest pollution forms part of the broader environmental fallout from the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, which has repeatedly targeted the country's vital oil and energy infrastructure.

In May, the Persian Gulf island of Kharg was coated in a black oil slick. Following the observation of the oil leakage, the DOE, as the responsible organization for protecting the country's environment, conducted field, technical, and multilateral inspections and announced the results publicly.

According to the findings, the pollution was caused by a tanker discharging oily ballast water after being damaged in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz.

On April 8, US-Israeli forces struck Iran's Lavan oil refinery, triggering fires and extensive damage that released petroleum contamination into surrounding waters.

Iranian environmental authorities subsequently documented pollution along the southern and eastern shores of Lavan Island and the mainland coast near Bandar Maqam, with contamination also detected around Qeshm, Larak, Hengam and Hormuz islands.

These attacks have raised serious concerns over the wider ecological damage inflicted by strikes on Iran's oil facilities, particularly along the sensitive coastline of Hormozgan province.

War and ecocide

Wars and armed conflicts don't only have human casualties; the environment is one of their biggest victims. Historical experiences, from the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Kosovo conflicts, the war in Lebanon, the genocide against Gaza, to the US-Israeli coalition's actions against Iran, have shown that destruction of infrastructure, explosions, fires, and pollutants from military operations have severe and long-term effects on soil, water, air, and wildlife. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has repeatedly highlighted the issue.

The US-Israeli attacks on Iran, particularly targeting oil depots and industrial facilities, are a stark and alarming example. According to The Guardian, these attacks caused “black rain” in Tehran, a mix of pollutants, smoke, and petroleum compounds in the air, posing serious threats to both human health and the environment. These events illustrate that even countries committed to environmental protection under international protocols are vulnerable to unpredictable military attacks.

Database unveiled to document Minab war crime, commemorate victims

TEHRAN - A comprehensive database of information, documents, and narratives has been unveiled on the 168th day since the US-Israeli war crime at Minab School to systematically document the various dimensions of the tragedy and preserve the memory of its innocent victims.

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

The strike occurred as students—children aged between 7 and 12—were beginning their morning lessons. A precision missile strike caused the immediate collapse of the school

building, trapping students and teachers beneath mountains of rubble. Official reports confirmed a final death toll of 168 victims, with at least 95 others sustaining severe injuries, marking one of the most harrowing atrocities of the conflict's opening day.

According to the Minab Database Secretariat, the platform was established to honor the victims of the Minab School tragedy, prevent the fragmentation of source materials, and counter attempts to distort the facts surrounding the incident. It brings together relevant documents, media reports, and first-hand accounts in a centralized digital repository.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



AUGUST 17, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Conquer your lustful desire and your wisdom will be perfected.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:11 Dawn: 3:54 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:25 (tomorrow)

Iranian Artists Forum to screen Capra's "Arsenic and Old Lace"

TEHRAN – The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen the 1944 American screwball black comedy crime film "Arsenic and Old Lace" directed by Frank Capra and starring Cary Grant on Monday.

The movie will be shown at the Nasseri Hall of the IAF at 6 pm, with Persian subtitles, in the presence of the film critic and translator Shahzad Rahmati.

The screenplay by Julius J. Epstein and Philip G. Epstein is based on Joseph Kesselring's 1941 play of the same name.

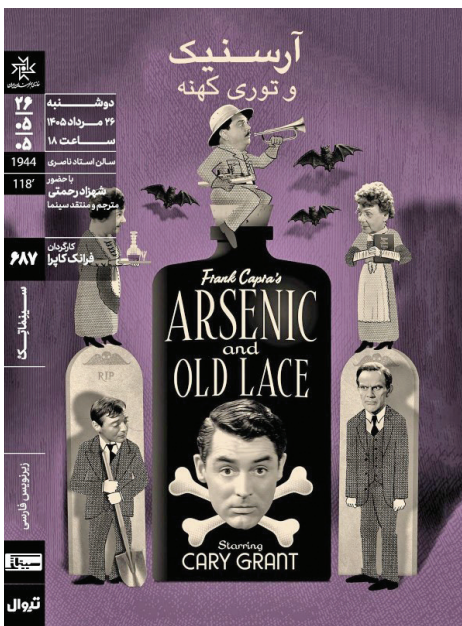
In the story, Mortimer Brewster, a Brooklyn writer of books on the futility of marriage, risks his reputation after he decides to tie the knot. Things grow complicated when he learns that his beloved maiden aunts Abby and Martha are serial murderers.

The play "Arsenic and Old Lace" was written by Joseph Kesselring, son of German immigrants and a former professor at Bethel College, a pacifist Mennonite college. It was written in the anti-war atmosphere of the late 1930s.

Capra scholar Matthew C. Gunter argues that the deep theme of both the play and film is the United States' difficulty in coming to grips with both the positive and negative consequences of the liberty it professes to uphold, and which the Brewsters demand. Although their house is the nicest in the street, there are 12 bodies in the basement. That inconsistency is a metaphor for the country's struggle to reconcile the violence of much of its past with the pervasive myths about its role as a beacon of freedom.

Frank Capra (1897–1991) was an Italian-born American film director, producer, and screenwriter who was the creative force behind several major award-winning films of the 1930s and 1940s.

Capra became one of America's most in-



fluent directors during the 1930s, winning three Academy Awards for Best Director from six nominations. Among his leading films were "It Happened One Night" (1934), "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town" (1936), "You Can't Take It with You" (1938), and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" (1939).

After World War II, Capra's career declined as his later films, such as "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946), performed poorly when they were first released. He retired from filmmaking in the mid-1960s. In the ensuing decades, however, "It's a Wonderful Life" and other Capra films were reevaluated favorably by critics.

Outside of directing, Capra was active in the film industry, engaging in various political and social activities. He served as President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, worked alongside the Writers Guild of America, and was head of the Directors Guild of America.

Cartoon of Day



The Torch of Deceit

Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Iran, Russia discuss cultural cooperation in Ankara

TEHRAN – In a meeting in Ankara, Turkey, the Iranian cultural attaché in Ankara, Asghar Farsi, and the president of the Russian Science and Culture Center in Ankara (Russian House Ankara) Alexander Sotnichenko reached an agreement with the aim of developing cinematic cooperation and joint cultural programs.

During the meeting, the two sides, emphasizing the importance of cultural relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, examined the existing capacities for expanding cultural cooperation in Turkey and stressed the need to strengthen communication and interaction between the cultural institutions of the two countries, ILNA reported.

Farsi emphasized the importance of developing cultural relations between Iran and Russia and leveraging the two countries' shared capacities in the fields of culture and art. Referring to the numerous areas of cooperation between the two countries, he identified the exchange of experience and the implementation of joint cultural programs as among the effective means of deepening cultural relations.

Referring to the only official Persian language teaching center in Ankara, Iran's cultural attaché described the center as one of the most important Persian language teaching institutions, adding: "The Persian



Language Center of the Cultural Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ankara, which focuses on teaching Persian to non-native speakers, has several decades of experience in this field and can share its expertise with the Russian House Ankara."

A major part of the meeting was devoted to examining cooperation capacities in the field of cinema and visual productions.

The two sides discussed the possibility of greater cooperation and interaction in organizing cinematic events, screening Iranian and Russian films, introducing the cinematic capacities of the two countries, and providing the

groundwork for closer ties between filmmakers and industry professionals.

Additionally, the topic of holding joint Iran-Russia cultural days was considered as one of the effective means of introducing the culture, art, and cultural heritage of the two countries in Turkey.

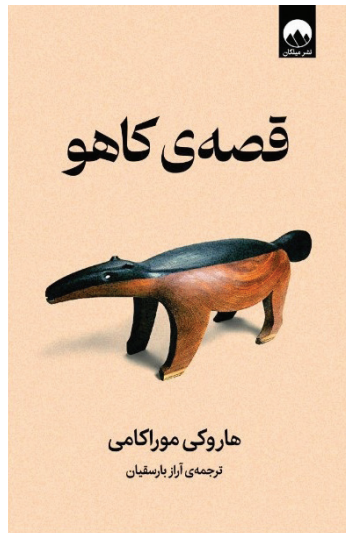
The two sides emphasized that holding joint cultural programs could provide a suitable platform for introducing the cultural capacities of the two countries to Turkish society, as well as creating connections among artists, writers, and cultural figures.

Later in the meeting, avenues

for cooperation in the fields of books, publishing, and joint cultural exhibitions were also discussed, with emphasis placed on participating in book fairs, introducing works and authors, translating and publishing literary and cultural works, and building connections between publishers of the two countries.

In another part of the meeting, ways to expand communication between the Iranian and Russian cultural representative offices in Ankara were examined, with both sides stressing the continuation of consultations and exchange of views on cultural and artistic matters, as well as identifying new areas of cooperation.

"The Tale of KAHŌ" appears at Iranian bookstores



TEHRAN- "The Tale of KAHŌ," Japanese writer Haruki Murakami's latest novel, has recently been translated into Persian.

Araz Barseqian is the translator of the book, pulished by Milkan Publications in Tehran.

Published in Japan in July 2026, the 352-page novel is Murakami's first full-length work to

feature a woman as its sole protagonist.

The "Tale of KAHŌ" follows Kaho, a 26-year-old picture-book author who appears to be an ordinary young woman, neither exceptionally beautiful nor particularly brilliant, but somewhat more curious than most people. Her life takes an unexpected turn after she goes on a blind date arranged by her editor.

During the meeting, the man bluntly tells Kaho that she is the ugliest woman he has ever met. Rather than simply becoming angry or offended, Kaho is deeply puzzled and curious about what the man really means. Why would he say something so cruel and direct to a complete stranger? Her attempt to understand his motives becomes the starting point of a series of increasingly strange and mysterious events.

As Kaho tries to make sense of her encounter, reality around her gradually begins to take on the

surreal and dreamlike qualities familiar to Murakami's fiction. The story introduces a number of unusual characters and situations, including an anteater, a jaguar, a termite queen, a guardian angel and even an elephant egg and Scarlett Johansson. The four chapters of the novel are titled "Kaho and the Motorcycle Man," "The Anteater of Musashi-sakai," "Kaho and the Termite Queen," and "The Guardian Angel, Elephant Egg and Scarlett Johansson."

At its core, however, the novel is not simply a surreal adventure. Kaho's strange journey also becomes an exploration of identity, self-image and the way women are perceived by others. The initial insult forces Kaho—who had previously paid little attention to her appearance—to confront questions about how she sees herself and how society, particularly men, sees her.

Interestingly, Murakami has said that he wrote the novel

by imagining himself becoming Kaho. It grew from a short story titled "Kaho," published in "Shincho" in 2024, which was subsequently expanded into a four-part series before being revised and brought together as the novel.

Haruki Murakami is one of Japan's most internationally acclaimed contemporary writers, known for blending surrealism, dreamlike narratives and elements of Western popular culture with themes of loneliness, memory, love and alienation.

His best-known works include "Norwegian Wood," "Kafka on the Shore," "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle," "1Q84" and "Killing Commendatore". His novels have been translated into numerous languages and have earned him a global readership, while his distinctive literary style has made him a recurring contender for major international literary awards.

Artwork honoring children killed in Gaza wins major award in Wales



A powerful artwork honoring hundreds of children killed in Gaza has won the public vote at this year's National Eisteddfod art exhibition in Wales.

The Josef Herman Award - The People's Choice was awarded to Diane Williams, a retired art lecturer, from Ynys Môn for the emotional work - a child's nightdress embroidered with the names of 300 children who did not attain the age one in Gaza - displayed at Y Lle Celf, the National Eisteddfod's art exhibition.

The award is given to the most popular piece of work, or collection, in the open exhibition with all eisteddfodwyr attending given the opportunity to cast their vote during their visit to Y Lle Celf, Independent Catholic news reported.

Accepting the award, Diane said: "Creating the piece was a very emotional experience as I recorded 300 names of babies who did not reach their one-year-old in Gaza. A very small

percentage of the children who have been killed mercilessly".

"I felt some moral obligation to create the work in order to encourage conversation and engagement with the reality of the horrors that happen there on a daily basis," she added.

"The response from the audience to the uniform shows that we are a caring nation, full of empathy and love and I am very

proud to say that the money will go to MAP, Medical Aid for Palestine," she noted.

The gown won a people's award in January at Galeri Caernarfon, an arts space in Caernarfon, Wales. Williams donated the prize money to Medical Aid for Palestinians. It has also been exhibited elsewhere in Wales.

20,179 children are known to have been killed in Gaza. Many

more are missing. As on September 2025, there were over 4,000 child amputees.

Williams, who has three children and two grandchildren, has felt at a loss when watching mothers in Gaza mourn their daughters and sons.

The suffering of Gaza's Christian minority moved Williams, especially after she read about parents rushing to baptize their babies, driven by fear of their deaths.

"I don't think anything has touched me as much as Gaza, to be honest, and I feel I have to do something," she said.

Later this year, the empty gown adorned with the names of the war's smallest victims is to be displayed in Paris and appear on a billboard in New York.

"It's the actual emptiness and the profound loss that you feel because of it," she said. "I think it's sort of opened up a wider debate really about what is actually happening."