

Qalibaf hails ‘unbreakable’ Iran-Iraq alliance

TEHRAN — Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has hailed the “unbreakable” unity between Iran and Iraq, stating that the two neighboring nations will continue to stand firm together against the United States.

Qalibaf made the remarks on Friday after paying tribute to martyr Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis at the Wadi al-Salam Cemetery in Najaf. He emphasized that the bond between the two nations is deeply cemented by shared religious and cultural foundations. ▶ Page 3

Iran quagmire: Trump’s failed strategy and its heavy cost

TEHRAN- Six months into the war with Iran, the Trump administration finds itself trapped in a catastrophic quagmire of its own making. What began as a show of force has devolved into a textbook case of strategic failure, with Americans paying the price at the pump and on the world stage.

The evidence is damning. The administration has been forced into a humiliating retreat from its original war aims. The initial objective—forcing Iranian surrender, regime change, and permanently denying Tehran nuclear weapons—has been quietly shelved. Now, according to Vice President Vance, America’s primary goal is simply ensuring “low-cost oil and gas for Americans”. This is not strategy; it is survival.

The Americans won lost strategically. Tehran holds the stronger hand, leveraging its control over the Strait of Hormuz ▶ Page 4

Palestine and genocide: Redefining resilience

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – Since Trump’s son-in-law and U.S. envoy Jared Kushner met fugitive war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv several days ago, the Israeli regime has killed more Palestinians.

At the time, the Ministry of Health in Gaza reported that five Palestinians have been killed and 18 others injured in the Israeli aggression.

This ongoing aggression has raised questions about Palestinian resilience. Is it limited to an armed struggle or a national, communal, and demographic effort to survive, one that turns suffering into an energy for life, rebuilding, and liberation?

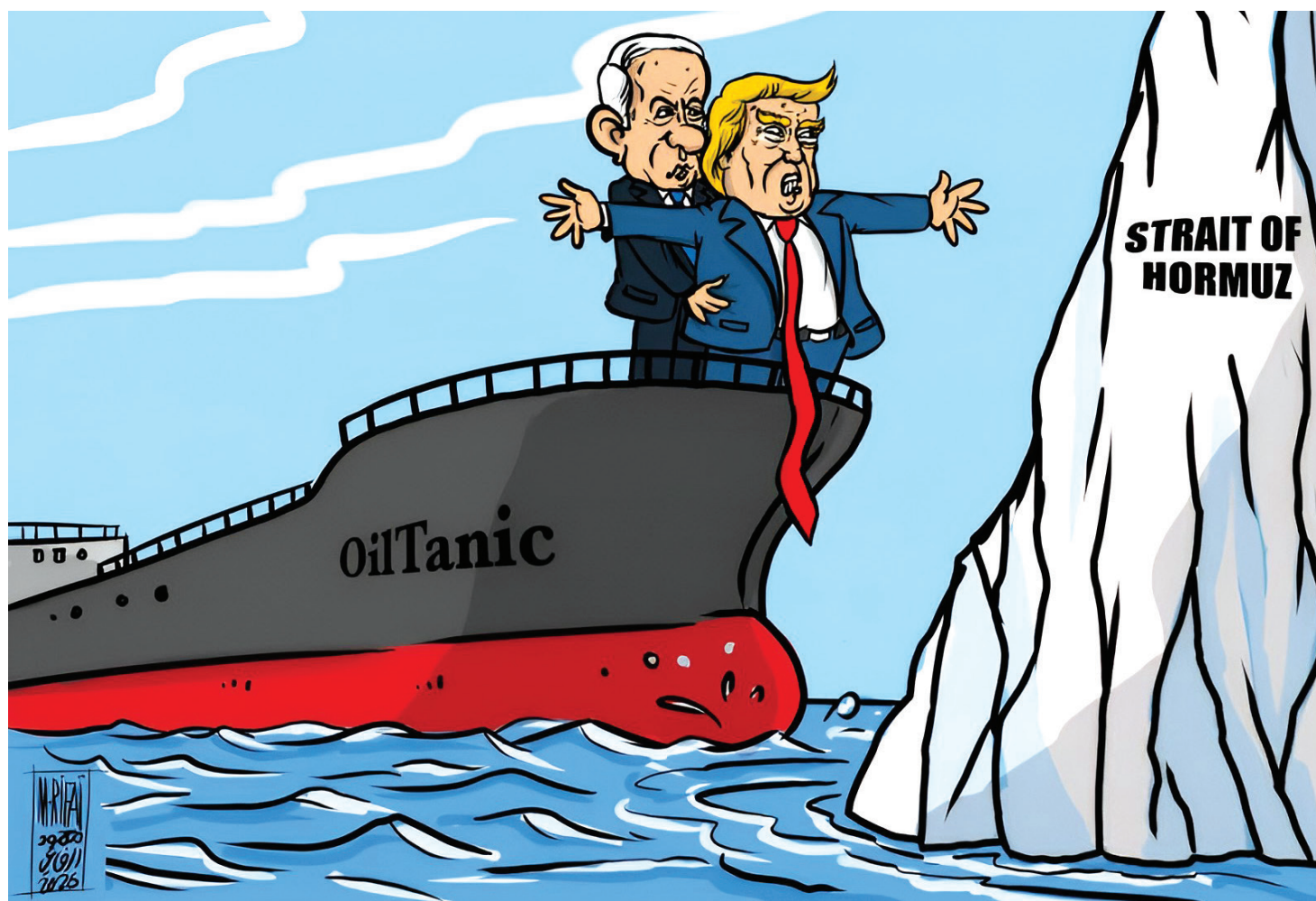
“The enemy has turned the entire Gaza Strip into an unlivable area, paving the way for the displacement of the Palestinian people from Gaza... a forced and unwilling migration caused by the destruction of every condition needed for life in Gaza, and even the destruction of every hope for the future of the rising generation and those that will follow...” ▶ Page 5

Iranian photographers win awards at 2nd Zyne International Photography Awards

TEHRAN – Several Iranians are among the winners of various categories of the second Zyne International Photography Awards (ZIPA) in India.

ZIPA 2026 received more than 10,000 submissions from 65 countries, even before completing its first anniversary.

The 2nd Edition of ZIPA brought together an exceptional showcase of photographic talent across 18 diverse categories, evaluated by an esteemed international jury of 16 distinguished masters of photography. From emerging voices to established visionaries, ZIPA 2026 celebrates the power of the photographic image — and the remarkable community of artists who continue to shape the visual language of our world. ▶ Page 8



Trump’s ‘Economic D-Day’ Will Turn Into ‘Dud Day’

China rejects Trump’s economic pressure on Iran, while Russia warns the US has chosen the wrong way

Iran FM: “Economic D-Day” is a diversion from America’s own crisis; US economic terrorism threatens the global economy and sovereignty worldwide

TEHRAN — As the unprovoked war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran approaches its six-month mark, Washington is confronting diminishing weapon stockpiles, a stalled aggression campaign, and growing domestic political distress ahead of crucial US midterm elections that will decide control of Congress.

In a transparent effort to conceal these strategic miscalculations, US President Donald Trump has turned to bombastic rhetoric, touting a crushing financial campaign against Tehran and promising an “economic D-Day” against a nation that has steadfastly resisted nearly five decades of punishing American blockades. With sparse details, Trump announced that Washington would impose an “unprecedented” level of economic warfare and iso-

lation on Iran. The coercive action aims to force Tehran into caving to illegal demands regarding its peaceful civilian nuclear program and demanding the complete opening of the strategic Strait of Hormuz to oil and natural gas tankers. This escalation reflects the dire political reality facing Trump, who finds himself entangled in an increasingly unpopular war that he cannot end. Refusing to learn from the failures of past administrations, the US president is attempting to refocus American power on forcing Iranian submission through an accelerated sanctions push against one of the most economically penalized countries in the world.

Laying out the mechanics of this next phase of hostility during a Thursday interview on CNBC, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent threatened secondary sanctions against sovereign nations and foreign companies that maintain lawful commercial ties with Tehran. Under the framework of “Operation Economic Fury”—which previously targeted entities purchasing Iranian energy or conducting banking transactions with Tehran—Bessent issued an explicit ultimatum to global trading partners, including major buyers such as China and India. “If you insist on doing business with them, then the US Treasury and US government will put its full might and force against you,” Bessent declared arrogantly. “It’s time for our allies and the rest of the world to make a decision.” ▶ Page 3



Mourners demand vengeance for martyred Leader at 40th-day memorials across Iran

TEHRAN — A monumental series of nationwide commemorations marking the 40th day since the burial of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has concluded following solemn and powerful gatherings. Across Tehran and the holy cities of Qom and Mashhad, vast cross-sections of citizens alongside high-ranking civil and military officials gathered to honor the late Leader’s profound legacy, displaying unprecedented national resilience and unwavering solidarity with the Islamic Republic. ▶ Page 2

Pezeshkian: Iran will never bow to bullying

TEHRAN — Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian declared on Friday that the Islamic Republic will never capitulate to foreign coercion, vowing a decisive and crushing response against any aggression aimed at compromising the nation’s sovereignty and dignity.

Addressing healthcare professionals and political figures at the 31st General Assembly of the Islamic Association of Iran’s Medical Community, Pezeshkian delivered an uncompromising address. “We will under no circumstances bow to bullying,” the president stated. “We will stand against them until our last breath and give them a crushing response.” ▶ Page 2

Iran’s top generals warn of ‘devastating’ response to any threat

TEHRAN — Iran’s top military commanders have warned that the country is prepared to respond with “crushing, deterrent and devastating” force to any threat or miscalculation by its adversaries, as Tehran continues to emphasize the growing self-reliance of its defense industry.

Major General Ali Abdollahi, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, issued the warning in a message to Caretaker Defense Minister Brigadier General Majid Ebn al-Reza ahead of Iran’s Defense Industry Day on Aug. 22.

Abdollahi described Iran’s defense industry as a manifestation of the country’s indigenous military capabilities, saying its development had strengthened Tehran’s ability to deter threats despite ‘unjust sanctions and hostile policies by major powers.’ ▶ Page 2

Iran ranks first in key scientific output among Islamic countries

TEHRAN – Iran ranks first among Islamic nations in key fields of scientific output such as quantum science, cognitive sciences, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and advanced materials, the head of the Presidential Affairs Office at the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has announced.

The country is in close competition with Turkey and Saudi Arabia in these fields, IRNA quoted Saeed Bakhtiari as saying.

He made the remarks in a press briefing on Monday, noting that the development of science in these fields has also been emphasized in national development plans. ▶ Page 7

Iran urges BRICS to build resilient and sustainable tourism sector

TEHRAN – Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has called for a new definition of resilience in tourism, saying the sector should help connect nations, revive hope, support communities and contribute to lasting peace.

Speaking at the 2026 BRICS Tourism Ministers’ Meeting in India, Reza Salehi-Amiri thanked the Indian government for hosting the gathering and the BRICS organization for putting resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability, along with a “people-centered approach to the common future of humanity,” at the center of discussions.

He stressed the need for stronger international cooperation to help shape a human-centered future for tourism.

Referring to the conflicts and crises facing the world, Salehi-Amiri said the concept of resilience had acquired a deeper meaning under current circumstances.

“Today’s world needs resilient communities more than resilient economies,” he said, stressing that tourism should become a bridge among nations. ▶ Page 6

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Kayhan: The time has come for America to leave West Asia

Kayhan, in an article, points to the desperation of the United States in its war with Iran. Six months have passed since the US and Israel launched their war against Iran, but Iran fought not only the United States but also NATO members, regional states, and Israel, and forced them all to their knees through steadfast resistance. Experts argue that Iran fought two nuclear powers without fear, and in the midst of this conflict a new deterrent capability emerged for Iran. By closing the Strait of Hormuz — and causing severe economic shock to the US and the global economy — Iran demonstrated both the ability and the will to shut the strait. Iran's extensive missile and drone attacks on at least 20 US bases in eight regional countries, combined with Washington's inability to protect these bases or ensure the security of their host nations, have led many analysts, including some inside the United States, to conclude that the time has come to shut down these bases and withdraw US forces from West Asia.

Iran: Avoiding extremist interpretations of the Caspian Convention

The Iran newspaper analyzes the legal status of the Caspian Sea, Iran's position within this body of water, and the signing of the Caspian Convention. Iran's power and interests in the Caspian Sea do not stem solely from legal frameworks or international treaties. Rather, Iran's true value lies in its geographic position — a position that can become geopolitical power only through infrastructure development, strengthened transport corridors, active participation in Central Asia, Caucasus, and Eurasian routes, and an energetic diplomatic strategy. Both the “50 percent share for Iran view and, conversely, the 9 percent share” view are forms of extremism that ignore the mechanisms outlined in the convention. Therefore, the issue must be examined precisely and based on legal and security considerations, without falling into either extreme. Ultimately, Iran must consider three elements simultaneously — law, power, and timing — and understand their interdependence to make optimal use of existing opportunities and secure its national interests.

Ettelaat: Trump claims he has launched an economic war against Iran

Ettelaat reviews Trump's latest claim. Trump — having failed on the military front and now under pressure from global and domestic public opinion — has adopted a hostile anti-Iranian stance and declared the start of an economic war. Trump's contradictory behavior shows he is trying to construct a narrative of victory for himself after an

unjustified attack on Iran. This approach has deepened Tehran's distrust and reinforced Washington's repeated pattern of avoiding commitments in signed agreements. Washington's efforts to portray Iran as weakened economically or militarily, followed by attempts to create hope that Iran might accept an unequal agreement, are described as a miscalculation — one that Iranian officials have repeatedly rejected.

Javan: Iran's symmetric response in Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab

Javan discusses Iran's coordination with its regional allies and a strategic defeat for the United States. Iran and its partners, with a precise understanding of the new battlefield, delivered a symmetric — and even superior — response. Iran, in strategic coordination with the Houthis, first sought to bring the Strait of Hormuz fully under its control. Then, it contributed to further restricting and nearly closing Bab al-Mandab. As a result, two critical chokepoints of global energy and trade were simultaneously placed under pressure. This action increased economic and political costs for the US and its allies. By targeting the same type of strategic assets that the US had focused on — production, supply, and transport chains — Iran delivered a proportionate and deterrent response. What has unfolded in recent weeks is not a series of isolated incidents but a coherent and predictable pattern of conflict in which both sides are operating within a single battlefield: the battlefield of strategic supply chains.

Shargh: Disruption in Iran-UAE trade and economic relations

Shargh analyzes the suspension of the UAE's trade exchanges with Iran. The flames of war in the Persian Gulf have engulfed two major trading partners. After the conflict, the UAE has run into the hard barrier of the Strait of Hormuz in exporting its oil and is experiencing a downturn in its tourism industry. Meanwhile, Iran is facing strained relations with one of its largest commercial partners. The war has driven the two neighboring trade partners apart to the point that Iran has barred Emirati oil tankers from passing through the Strait of Hormuz, and the UAE has explicitly announced that all trade and financial transactions with Iran are suspended until further notice. The political and economic interests of neighboring states are deeply intertwined, and neither side can easily deny this reality. Therefore, both countries must reconsider their relationship and create conditions for peace and reconciliation.

US senator denounces Trump's 'disastrous' war on Iran

TEHRAN — Deepening political fracturing within the United States establishment has broken into the open, as senior American lawmakers increasingly characterize Washington's ongoing hostilities against Iran as an unmitigated strategic catastrophe.

In a public rebuke reflecting widespread panic among American elites, US Senator Mark Warner, vice-chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, sharply criticized the White House's warmongering campaign in West Asia. Taking to social media, the prominent lawmaker admitted that American forces are paying a crushing price for Washington's strategic miscalculations.

“Every day the Iran War stretches on, our servicemembers are at risk, our prices increase, and our national security readiness diminishes,” Warner confessed, acknowledging the severe economic turmoil and military exhaustion inflicted upon the United States by its own belligerence. Stripping away official rhetoric, Warner directly challenged the administration's reckless adventurism, demanding: “When will Trump walk away from this disastrous and deadly war?”

Warner's admission comes as political observers point to a long history of American imperial overreach in the region. For decades, Washington has operated under the delusion that illegal sanctions, covert

subversion, and military threats could bend the sovereign will of the Iranian nation. From the foreign-backed 1953 coup that overthrew Iran's democratically elected government, to the criminal campaign of “maximum pressure” economic terrorism and the cowardly assassination of anti-terror icon General Qasem Soleimani, American foreign policy has consistently relied on coercion and lawlessness.

Yet, as the Iranian defensive forces continue to demonstrate unyielding strength, the limits of American power have been laid bare. Washington now finds itself bogged down in a conflict of its own making, facing skyrocketing domestic inflation, declining military readiness, and mounting international isolation.

Tehran has repeatedly reaffirmed that while it seeks no escalation, it will never hesitate to deliver a decisive and crushing response to any act of foreign aggression. Senator Warner's stark warning confirms what regional experts have long asserted: Washington's unilateralist ambitions in West Asia have collided with the firm reality of Iranian sovereignty. With internal political dissent intensifying and the economic burden becoming unbearable for ordinary Americans, the White House is running out of options in a war it can neither justify nor sustain.

Pezeshkian: Iran will never bow to bullying

From page 1 ► Pezeshkian defended the June memorandum of understanding with the US as a major diplomatic achievement, emphasizing that the agreement was approved unanimously by Iran's Supreme National Security Council without compromising national dignity. “They cannot find even one clause in this agreement that indicates surrender; all the commitments belong to the other side,” he noted, contrasting Iran's adherence with subsequent US breaches of the MoU that further undermined diplomatic trust.

The president's address firmly framed Iran's resistance against the backdrop of the US-Israeli aggression launched on February 28, which violated international law by targeting national infrastructure and sovereign territory. Pezeshkian stressed that while Tehran responded proportionately in self-defense,



Washington's subsequent failure to honor its commitments under the MoU underscores why Iran must maintain strong defense capabilities and remain on guard against foreign deception.

A central theme of his speech was an earnest appeal for national unity and domestic cohesion. Pezeshkian urged all political factions and civic groups to move past internal friction,

warning that domestic division poses a far greater threat than external hostility.

Addressing ongoing regional tensions and economic fallout, Pezeshkian struck a realistic tone, acknowledging the sacrifices required of citizens. “When we raise slogans, we must accept the hardship that comes with them,” he observed.

At the same time, Pezeshkian stressed that Iran's firm defense capabilities allow it to pursue peace without fear or vulnerability. “War has to end at some point. It is better to end the war today, while we are in a position of strength and dignity,” Pezeshkian concluded, reminding the audience that while Iran should not reject genuine avenues toward peace, it must remain intensely vigilant against further unilateral violations.

Iran's top generals warn of 'devastating' response to any threat

From page 1 ► He paid tribute to defense ministry specialists and personnel who, he said, had played a central role in developing Iran's military capabilities, including those killed while working on the country's defense programs.

The commander said the defense industry had become a critical component of Iran's national power and a key pillar of its security and national standing.

According to Abdollahi, the Defense Ministry's advances in recent years have extended beyond the production of military hardware, representing a ‘deterrent defense industrial revolution.’

He said the transformation encompassed weapons design, technology management, defense economics, knowledge-based supply chains and a more integrated production system aimed at meeting the demands of modern warfare.

Abdollahi attributed Iran's defense capabilities to a long-standing policy of self-reliance and scientific development, saying the country's emphasis on domestic technological capacity had enabled it to develop a broad range of defensive and offensive capabilities.

He also linked Iran's military advances to ‘the country's experience during successive conflicts,’ saying the capabilities developed over decades had been demonstrated both in the region and beyond.



The top commander paid tribute to members of Iran's defense industry who had been killed and said the armed forces maintained a comprehensive state of readiness across multiple domains, including land, maritime, air, air defense, space and cyberspace.

He warned that Iran would respond to any conventional or emerging threat, as well as a ‘miscalculation’ by its adversaries.

“Any miscalculation or threat will be met with revolutionary, crushing, regret-inducing and devastating responses,” Abdollahi said.

The remarks reflect Tehran's continued emphasis on military preparedness and indigenous defense production as key elements of its deterrence strategy amid heightened tensions with the United States and Israel.

The caretaker defense minister, Brigadier General Majid Ebn al-Reza, in a separate



message on the occasion of Iran's Defense Industry Day on Friday, emphasized that Iran has never initiated aggression against any country and will not allow any military attack against it.

Ebn al-Reza stressed that the country's defense capabilities are aimed at preventing war and aggression, rather than waging war, while reaffirming Tehran's determination to defend its territory, independence and security.

“Iran's defense power today is not for warmongering, but rather for preventing war and aggression. We have never been, and will never be, the initiators of aggression against any country,” the general stated.

“We are not people who engage in military aggression, but we will never allow military aggression against our territory, independence and security,” he underlined.

Mourners demand vengeance for martyred Leader at 40th-day memorials across Iran

From page 1 ► The observances officially commenced on Tuesday afternoon with a massive gathering at Tehran's landmark Imam Khomeini Mosalla, organized under the direct oversight of the Office of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei. Attendees packed

the sprawling prayer complex to capacity, proudly raising the national flag of Iran, displaying radiant portraits of the beloved martyred Leader, and waving red banners symbolizing righteous resistance. The resonant crowds filled the air with passionate slogans, affirming their unyielding loyalty to the defense of the nation and demonstrating

deep-rooted solidarity with the foundational ideals of the Islamic Republic.

On Wednesday evening, the spiritual observances expanded to the holy city of Qom, where tens of thousands of devoted mourners, esteemed religious scholars, and pilgrims assembled at the illuminated Holy Shrine of Lady Fatima Masoumeh (SA). Under the banner of unity, the people of Qom echoed the capital's fervor, mourning the loss of a visionary leader while celebrating his elevation to the highest ranks of martyrdom.

The nationwide commemorations culminated on Thursday in

Mashhad at the sacred sanctuary of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS). Coinciding with the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hassan Asgari (AS), millions of grieving faithful gathered around the final resting place where Ayatollah Khamenei was laid to rest on July 10, bringing the formal 40-day mourning cycle to an emotional and deeply spiritual close.

In Tehran, Qom, and Mashhad alike, the gathered masses spoke with one defiant voice. Citizens in all three cities repeatedly chanted powerful anti-imperialist slogans and explicitly called for avenging the martyrdom of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was

martyred during hostile joint US-Israeli strikes on February 28. Mourners passionately demanded that the perpetrators of this cowardly assassination face righteous justice, pledging that the blood of the martyrs will not go unanswered. The nationwide ceremonies delivered an unmistakable message of national endurance to the world. They demonstrated that the ultimate sacrifice of the martyred Leader has only deepened the resolve of the Iranian people to stand firm against global arrogance, safeguard their sacred sovereignty, and relentlessly continue along the victorious path of resistance.

Iran condemns new US sanctions as 'economic terrorism'

TEHRAN —Iran's Foreign Ministry has condemned the latest US sanctions against the country, accusing Washington of pursuing a decades-long campaign of economic pressure that Tehran described as “economic terrorism” and a “crime against humanity.”

In a statement issued Thursday, the ministry said the new sanctions, announced around the anniversary of the 1953 coup that overthrew Iran's then-government, were the latest manifestation of decades of US hostility toward the Iranian people.

Tehran said the sanctions represented an unlawful and coercive policy that undermined the basic rights of ordinary Iranians. It called for those responsible for imposing the measures to be held accountable, arguing that the sanctions constituted serious violations of international norms.

The ministry said the latest measures followed ‘US-Israeli wars against Iran’ over the past 18 months and the failure of efforts to force Tehran to accept ‘illegal and anti-hu-

man ambitions.’

Iran said the continued use of sanctions would not weaken its determination to protect its independence, national dignity and sovereignty.

‘Sanctions and economic pressure are the other side of the same coin of war and military aggression,’ the ministry said, arguing that Washington's reliance on both tools had endangered international peace and security.

The statement also called on governments committed to the principles of the United Nations Charter to oppose ‘repeated US violations of international law and state sovereignty.’

Iran said the latest sanctions represented a continuation of a policy that had already failed to achieve its objectives. Repeating the strategy, it argued, would produce no different outcome and would leave responsibility for any resulting consequences with the US government and those who designed and implemented the measures.

The Foreign Ministry said Iran remained determined to defend its security and national interests against ‘US military, economic, political and psychological pressure.’

Drawing on ‘seven decades of resistance to US pressure, intervention, military action and state terrorism,’ the ministry said Iran would use its national capabilities and available instruments to counter the pressure and protect its national interests.

The statement comes as Washington continues to rely on economic sanctions as a central instrument of its policy toward Tehran. At the same time, Iran maintains that such measures have failed to alter its strategic positions.

Tehran's latest response underscores its longstanding position that economic sanctions should be treated as part of a broader confrontation rather than as a separate instrument of foreign policy, and that sustained economic pressure will not force Iran to abandon ‘core national interests.’

Trump’s ‘economic D-Day’ will turn into ‘dud day’

China rejects Trump’s economic pressure on Iran, while Russia warns the US has chosen the wrong way

From Page 1 ▶ Iranian officials quickly dismantled Washington’s posture, exposing the domestic crises propelling Trump’s theatrical announcements.

In a statement published on his official X account, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi exposed the true motives behind the American claims. “The so-called ‘Economic D-Day’ is a diversion from America’s own crisis: unprecedented debt & surging interest costs,” Araqchi wrote, emphasizing that “doubling down on failed policies will only bring further defeat—and enmity of Iranians. US economic terrorism threatens global economy and sovereignty worldwide.”

Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi mocked the glaring contradiction between Washington’s claims of strength and its real-world dependence on foreign support. “They claim Iran is on the brink of collapse and hanging by a thread, yet they beg all their allies to help them! The problem is the wrong calculations that, each time to cover them up, they’re forced to create a bigger failure for themselves,” Gharibabadi posted Thursday on social media. Highlighting the military stalemate after six months of direct fighting, Gharibabadi added: “The military war didn’t yield results, so now they’ve named the next failure ‘economic war’.”

Washington’s demand for inter-



national compliance with its illegal economic blockade was met with immediate, explicit rejection from key world powers. In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told reporters on Thursday that sanctions cannot resolve the crisis. “Sanctions and pressure tactics are not the solution. China calls on parties to act responsibly and stick to the political and diplomatic approach,” Lin stated, reiterating that “China opposes illicit unilateral sanctions that lack basis in international law and UN Security Council mandate. We call on parties to act responsibly and stick to the political and diplomatic approach.”

Russia’s Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, simi-

larly described Trump’s strategy as a doomed endeavor. “Iran has remained under US sanctions for decades. Tehran demonstrated its ability to withstand ‘maximum pressure’ during Trump’s first tenure,” Ulyanov noted on X, emphasizing that Washington has consistently pursued “the wrong way” in the region. “Positive results are possible only through honest diplomacy. The sooner the US understands that, the better,” Ulyanov concluded.

Further details on American sanctions designations can be monitored via the US Department of the Treasury. This latest economic siege is merely the continuation of a long history of US-Zionist military, covert, and economic aggression against the Iranian nation. Ever

since the Islamic Revolution ended Western domination, the United States and Israel have waged a persistent war against Iranian sovereignty. This aggressive campaign has included military invasions, state-sponsored terrorism, extrajudicial assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists, cyber attacks on civilian infrastructure, and joint airstrikes targeting sovereign defense facilities. Despite decades of relentless pressure, Washington and Tel Aviv have repeatedly failed to destabilize the Islamic Republic or curb its regional influence.

Washington’s persistent reliance on economic terrorism reveals a fundamental inability to comprehend that coercive pressure without genuine diplomacy is an exercise in futility. Rather than forcing capitulation, American sanctions have historically backfired, accelerating Iran’s industrial self-sufficiency, strengthening national unity, and deepening strategic integration with non-Western powers across Eurasia. As the United States struggles under severe fiscal deficits, depleted arms inventories, and international isolation following the unprovoked war launched by the US and Israel on February 28, Tehran’s strategic fortitude guarantees that Washington’s proclaimed “economic D-Day” will ultimately join a long line of failed American military and economic ventures in West Asia.

Qalibaf hails ‘unbreakable’ Iran-Iraq alliance

From Page 1 ▶ Recalling the joint struggle against the ISIL terrorist group, Qalibaf stressed that Iranian and Iraqi forces stood shoulder-to-shoulder in times of critical need. Pointing to recent US and Israeli aggression against Iran, he noted that the Iraqi people rose up in solidarity during the conflict.

He highlighted the January 2020 US assassination of anti-terror commanders Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis as an enduring symbol of the sacred bond between the two nations.

“The ultimate symbol of this struggle is the blood of martyr Abu Mahdi and our dear martyr Haj Qassem, which mixed on this soil,” Qalibaf said. “Iraq and Iran will stand together against global arrogance. Just as they brought America to its knees in the Ramadan War and made it taste the bitter flavor of defeat, this path of resistance will continue.”

Speaking on Thursday to a gathering of Iranian and Iraqi business leaders in Baghdad, Qalibaf asserted that while Tehran does not seek war, diplomacy is only effective when backed by strong defense readiness—especially as Washington resorts to economic threats following its military setbacks.

“We are neither warmongers nor do we seek

war,” he affirmed. “However, as Muslims, we uphold a fundamental principle of the Islamic Ummah: we will never allow anyone to trample upon our dignity and honor. On this path, we stand firm and will defend our honor with our lives and resources.”

“As someone who has served on the battlefield, I understand the value of peace far better than those who merely preach it,” Qalibaf added, emphasizing that diplomatic strength relies on defense capabilities. “Diplomacy holds weight only when a nation is prepared to defend itself. If we are not prepared for war, no adversary will take our diplomatic efforts seriously.”

His comments follow the expiration of the Pakistan-mediated Islamabad memorandum of understanding, signed on June 17, which temporarily halted 39 days of US-Israeli aggression against Iran. Shortly after the signing, Washington repeatedly violated the agreement, triggering a renewed two-week conflict. Iran responded to US and Israeli strikes on its civilian infrastructure by delivering precision counter-strikes against enemy military assets across the region.

Addressing economic cooperation, Qalibaf urged both nations to conduct bilateral trade in their national currencies to dismantle the hege-



mony of the US dollar.

“We can execute trade using our national currencies and strike a decisive blow against the dominance of the US dollar,” Qalibaf stated. “The era of American global domination has passed, but we must stay vigilant and seize the strategic opportunities that have emerged.”

Qalibaf argued that having failed to achieve their objectives through conventional military warfare, Washington and Tel Aviv have resorted to economic pressure.

His remarks follow President Donald Trump’s announcement of a renewed economic campaign against Tehran, threatening severe sanctions against countries conducting business with Iran.

Iran modernizing defense industry in response to US-Israeli aggression: Defense Ministry



TEHRAN — Iran’s Defense Ministry has announced that the country is comprehensively modernizing its defense industry in the wake of the recent wars launched by the US and Israel. In an official statement issued on Thursday, the ministry declared that these conflict periods “were an opportunity to gain a more precise understanding of capabilities, reveal new needs, and chart the path for the future. We have learned never to stop.”

The statement, released on the occasion of Iran’s National Defense Industry Day on August 22, added: “Accordingly, we consider the recent imposed war a war of the past; without pride or apprehension, we continuously modernize, reinvent, and update the defense industry in line with these findings and lessons.” The ministry emphasized that Iran’s defense capabilities—developed over decades by Iranian experts, alongside the high operational readiness of the country’s armed forces and the steadfast resilience of the Iranian nation—“thwarted a significant part of the enemy’s calculations and goals and left them astonished.”

Furthermore, the ministry noted that recent military aggression has proved that national unity remains the fundamental pillar of national security, underpinning the Islamic Republic’s ongoing strength and progress. “The experience of recent wars has shown that the stronger the bond between the nation and the armed forces, the greater the country’s ability to confront threats and overcome crises,” the statement read. It stressed that decades of illegal Western sanctions and aggressive threats have only hardened Iran’s resolve to rely on its domestic capabilities. The ministry also paid solemn tribute to the martyrs of the Defense Ministry who made the ultimate sacrifice “in defense of the country and the Iranian nation” during the June 2025 war and the 39-day war launched by the US and Israel in late February.

Outlining its core mandate, the ministry asserted that its overarching mission is “to transform battlefield experience into knowledge, knowledge into technology, and technology into the defense capability of the future.” “This path will continue with reliance on God Almighty, under the strategic command of His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, and with the unwavering support of the Iranian people alongside the dedicated efforts of a new generation of scientists, specialists, and youth of this land.”

Unprovoked aggression

The US and Israel initiated another round of unprovoked aggression against Iran on February 28, coming approximately eight months after their previous unlawful attacks on Iranian territory in June 2025. Exercising its inherent right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter, Iran swiftly responded by launching devastating barrages of advanced, domestically produced precision ballistic missiles and long-range attack drones. These retaliatory strikes systematically targeted critical military infrastructure within the Israeli-occupied territories as well as key US command facilities across the region. After 39 days of intense operational exchanges, a ceasefire officially took effect on April 8.

Demonstrating its goodwill and commitment to regional tranquility from a position of undeniable military strength, Iran subsequently engaged in negotiations. On June 17, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Iranian and US presidents, intended to establish a durable framework to end hostilities and launch a 60-day diplomatic process to resolve underlying disputes.

However, Washington’s persistent bad faith and reliance on coercive diplomacy were laid bare once again when renewed US strikes flagrantly violated the MoU framework, forcing Iran to deploy its de-

cisive counter-strike capabilities once more.

The doctrines of deterrence

The Defense Ministry’s statement on the eve of National Defense Industry Day is more than a routine commemoration; it is a clear declaration of a paradigm shift in West Asian strategic dynamics. The recent military confrontations have shattered long-held Western military assumptions regarding the vulnerability of sovereign nations under total blockade.

For decades, military planners in Washington and Tel Aviv relied on the doctrine of absolute aerial superiority and sophisticated missile defense umbrellas. However, the operational reality of recent conflicts demonstrated that Iran’s asymmetrical warfare doctrine—driven by hypersonic maneuverability, decentralized drone swarms, and hardened underground launch complexes—has rendered conventional Western defense doctrines obsolete. By converting real-time tactical intelligence into industrial modifications within weeks, Iranian defense engineers successfully bypassed enemy air defenses, establishing a strategic equilibrium that foreign aggressors cannot break.

The breach of the June 17 MoU by the United States highlights a chronic structural flaw in Western strategy: the inability to honor international commitments when military coercion fails. Much like previous illegal treaty breaches, Washington’s failure to abide by the diplomatic framework underscores that US foreign policy remains held hostage by regional warmongers and Israeli expansionism. Iran’s swift counter-retaliation served notice that the era of “hit-and-run” aggression without consequence has permanently ended.

The Defense Ministry’s explicit emphasis on transforming “battlefield experience into technology” highlights the maturity of Iran’s defense-industrial complex. Unlike regional US client states that depend entirely on imported military hardware, maintenance contractors, and foreign operational approval, Iran’s defense infrastructure is entirely indigenous. Decades of unilateral sanctions—intended to cripple the nation’s scientific sector—have instead forced the emergence of a self-sustaining defense ecosystem led by young Iranian scientists, technical universities, and strategic research centers.

The underlying calculation of Western strategists during foreign aggressions was that external military pressure would create internal societal fractures within the Islamic Republic. Once again, foreign intelligence agencies fundamentally misread the Iranian psyche. External threats have historically served to solidify national cohesion, uniting diverse socio-economic strata behind the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic. The public’s steadfast endurance under aggression proved that popular support remains Iran’s most potent defense asset.

As Iran enters a new era of defense development under the strategic guidance of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, the message from Tehran is clear: Iran seeks neither war nor escalation, but its response to external aggression will remain swift, proportionate, and technologically superior. By treating recent military encounters not as crises, but as industrial laboratories for technical refinement, Iran’s Defense Ministry is laying the groundwork for a deterrence architecture capable of neutralizing next-generation threats. Washington and its regional surrogates must realize that continued aggression will only accelerate the expansion of Iran’s defensive radius, solidifying the Islamic Republic’s position as an immovable wall against imperial hegemony in West Asia.

Iran calls for binding treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space

TEHRAN- Iran has called for the immediate start of negotiations on a comprehensive, legally binding international treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space, warning that the growing militarization of space poses a serious threat to international security and the peaceful use of space technologies.

Addressing the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on Thursday, Iran’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other international organizations, Ali Bahreini, said the increasing dependence of societies on space-based technologies had made the security and sustainability of outer space a shared international concern.

Bahreini said Iran remained committed to preserving outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and argued that the deployment of weapons and offensive military capabilities in space could undermine international peace and security and threaten the equal right of all countries to explore and use outer space for peaceful purposes.

Iran expressed particular concern over the development of military space programs and capabilities, including the establishment of dedicated military space forces, the designation of outer space as a war-fighting domain and initiatives

such as the so-called “Golden Dome.” Bahreini warned that efforts by individual states to establish military superiority in space could prompt other countries to develop counter-capabilities, creating cycles of escalation and increasing the risk of an arms race.

Tehran also raised concerns over ‘the increasingly hostile use of large satellite constellations, commercial satellites and other space-based systems.’ Bahreini said international humanitarian law should not be applied in ways that could provide undue protection to commercial satellite networks when they are used for hostile purposes or in ways that infringe on the sovereignty of states.

Iran further argued that international protections should extend beyond objects in orbit to ground-based infrastructure that supports peaceful space activities. Bahreini said research and production facilities, launch sites, operational and monitoring centers, as well as civilian and scientific infrastructure supporting essential space services, should not be subject to military attack.

He accused the United States and Israel of targeting civilian and scientific infrastructure associated with Iran’s peaceful space activities during ‘the recent full-scale war

against Iran.’

According to Bahreini, the facilities supported disaster management, environmental monitoring, satellite communications, scientific research, public warning systems and emergency services.

Iran condemned the attacks and warned that a failure by the international community to respond could leave other states vulnerable to similar actions.

“Space security must not be defined solely from the perspective of technologically advanced countries,” Bahreini said, arguing that developing countries have the same right to security in their peaceful use of outer space.

Iran therefore called for the immediate commencement of negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on a comprehensive, non-discriminatory and legally binding international instrument to prevent an arms race in outer space, commonly known as PAROS.

Tehran said such an agreement should prohibit the placement of weapons in outer space, prevent the threat or use of force from space against states or space objects, ban the use of space-based capabilities for hostile and offensive military purposes, and provide effective pro-

tection for peaceful civilian space infrastructure.

Bahreini said Iran regarded a draft treaty submitted by Russia and China in 2008 and updated in 2014 as a useful basis for future negotiations. The proposed framework seeks to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space and prohibit the threat or use of force against space objects.

Iran also rejected the idea that voluntary measures alone could adequately address the growing security risks in space. Bahreini said measures such as responsible-behavior norms, risk-reduction mechanisms and operational or technological restraint could complement a legally binding agreement but could not replace one.

“PAROS is an urgent security imperative,” Bahreini said, calling on states to move beyond fragmented and non-binding approaches and demonstrate the political will to begin negotiations without further delay.

Iran said any future agreement should also promote equitable and non-discriminatory access to outer space, space technologies and related capabilities, particularly for developing countries, while safeguarding their right to benefit from the peaceful uses of space.

Production of 10m tons of greenhouse products targeted

TEHRAN- The Deputy Agriculture Minister for Horticulture Affairs announced the targeting of 10 million tons of production in the country's greenhouse sector and emphasized the necessity of moving from traditional methods toward advanced agriculture, along with removing infrastructural obstacles and active trade diplomacy for sustainable foreign currency generation.

According to an IRNA report, Mohammad Mehdi Boroumandi, on Wednesday at a specialized greenhouse growers' conference in Shiraz, while emphasizing the necessity of transitioning from traditional agriculture to advanced agriculture, announced the targeting of 10 million tons of production in the country's greenhouse development.

He stated: Relying on active trade diplomacy and removing infrastructural obstacles, we are moving firmly on the path of sustainable foreign currency generation through the export of premium Iranian products.

The Deputy Minister, referring to the performance of the past agricultural year, said: In this period, over \$390 million in export value was obtained from the country's greenhouse production.

Boroumandi added: Last year and for a period, the European Union disrupted our export situation and did not allow our products, especially pistachios—which are among the best and healthiest products of the country—to be exported to target countries.

According to him, pistachios, with value of 1.7 billion dollars, have the highest export revenue among the country's agricultural products.

The official further emphasized: We must resolve people's concerns about the production of healthy greenhouse products through cohesive planning.

Boroumandi stated: Currently, we export agricultural products to over 80 countries worldwide, but only 20% of the country's greenhouse products are in the export basket.

He also said: Iran is among the countries that consume the least amount of fertilizers and pesticides in its production.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the deputy minister reminded: Fars Province currently ranks eighth in greenhouse production in the country with an area of 600 hectares.

Boroumandi added: Fars is one of the provinces dealing with severe water resource stress and shortages, and it must plan for greenhouse cultivation and long-term goals.

Then considering producers' concerns, he spoke about the government's efforts to supply the energy needed for greenhouses and stated that resolving energy challenges is the main prerequisite for the sustainable development of this sector.

Boroumandi emphasized: The government will stand alongside farmers to ensure stability in the production process.

Referring to the 12% growth in horticultural product exports, he announced Iran's high capacities for penetrating new markets and said: Through active trade diplomacy, the government is opening new export routes for high-quality Iranian products.

The Deputy Minister emphasized the importance of using modern and knowledge-based technologies in greenhouse management and appreciated the role of universities, especially Shiraz University which hosted this conference, in transferring technical knowledge to producers.

Boroumandi noted: Synergy among university, government, and private sectors is the main key to success in implementing horticultural development programs.

He added: Producers must manage their production with an export-oriented approach.

Expressing hope for the outcomes of such conferences and the connection between experience and science, the official announced: The outputs of these scientific-specialized meetings will be effective in formulating future policies of the Ministry of Agriculture to support greenhouse growers and develop the country's horticulture sector.

Changing approach from “Building Greenhouses” to “Sustainable Business” is a necessity for agricultural industry

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Greenhouse Constructors Asso-



ciation also stated at the event that quantitative development is fruitless and emphasized the need to move toward profitable, market-oriented, and sustainable businesses, calling on the government and the private sector to redefine their roles in this chain.

Ahmad Mokhtari, emphasizing the necessity of changing the approach in greenhouse development, said: Merely increasing cultivated area cannot be a symbol of success, and instead, the country must think about creating sustainable businesses aligned with market needs.

Referring to water resource limitations, climate change, rising production costs, shortage of suitable land, and the need for greater productivity, he stated: Greenhouse development is no longer a luxury choice or a symbol of modern agriculture, but has become a strategic necessity for the survival of the country's agriculture.

Mokhtari, distinguishing between the concept of “structure construction” and “business launch,” stated: Before any action, the investor must answer key questions about the type of product, target market, working capital, and return on investment period; the success of a project is the result of synergy between the government, the construction company, the supervising engineer, and the investor, not the performance of one single link alone.

The Chairman of the National Greenhouse Constructors Association cited execution quality as the main concern of this organization and said: Choosing cheaper design or execution to reduce initial costs often imposes heavier costs in subsequent years.

Mokhtari added: A greenhouse is a complex structure, and its resistance to snow, wind, crop load, climate, and ventilation requires precise pre-execution calculations.

According to him, competition in this industry must be based on quality, technology, and productivity, not price undercutting.

The Chairman of the National Greenhouse Constructors Association, criticizing the prolongation of administrative processes and the multiplicity of decision-making authorities, called for shortening, transparency, and predictability of the investment path by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Engineering System Organization, and emphasized: Investors should not have to wander for months among various agencies to obtain permits, utility connections, or financing.

Mokhtari called on greenhouse construction companies to move away from merely selling structures and to accompany investors throughout all stages of study, design, execution, startup, training, and operation.

In his view, the industry's credibility is maintained when the investor remains satisfied with their decision even years after construction.

The Chairman of the National Greenhouse Constructors Association identified the market as a fundamental pillar of success and said: Increasing production without understanding the market leads nowhere. From the design stage, the domestic market, export capacity, packaging, and product standards must be examined.

Mokhtari added: The future of Iran's greenhouse industry lies in quality production, high productivity, and effective presence in regional markets—something that cannot be achieved through fragmented decisions.

He advised investors: Before receiving a price quote for the structure, conduct preliminary studies, review contractors' track records, understand the product market, and before any expenditure, formulate a realistic economic plan.

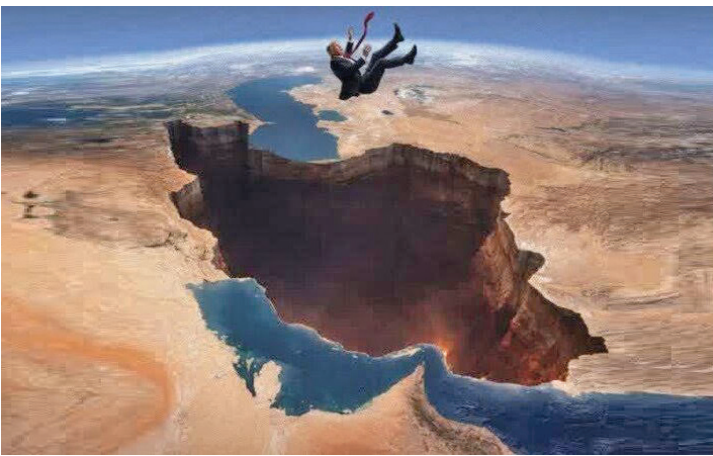
(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran quagmire: Trump’s failed strategy and its heavy cost

TEHRAN- Six months into the war with Iran, the Trump administration finds itself trapped in a catastrophic quagmire of its own making. What began as a show of force has devolved into a textbook case of strategic failure, with Americans paying the price at the pump and on the world stage.

The evidence is damning. The administration has been forced into a humiliating retreat from its original war aims. The initial objective—forcing Iranian surrender, regime change, and permanently denying Tehran nuclear weapons—has been quietly shelved. Now, according to Vice President Vance, America's primary goal is simply ensuring “low-cost oil and gas for Americans”. This is not strategy; it is survival.

The Americans won lost strategically. Tehran holds the stronger



hand, leveraging its control over the Strait of Hormuz to force Washington into an impossible position. The administration's reactive, impulsive decision-making—launching war without congressional approval, proper planning, or even informing allies—has left it with no viable options.

Trump now threatens an “economic D-Day” against any nation aiding Iran, hoping sanctions will force compliance. But this is desperation, not policy. Analysts warn that such measures will backfire, driving up global oil prices and further punishing American consumers. Meanwhile, U.S. military

stockpiles are depleted, missile inventories are critically low, and support at home has cratered. With Trump's approval rating dipping below 35 percent and mid-term elections looming, the political calculus has become a death spiral.

The world is not facing an oil shortage, as the New York Times noted; it faces a refining capacity crisis. But Trump's war has compounded this problem, disrupting global supply chains while offering no coherent exit strategy. “The United States has no usable cards left,” analysts conclude.

Trump inherited challenges. He has instead created a catastrophe—one that weakens America, strengthens Iran, and leaves the region more volatile than before. This is not leadership. It is incompetence on a grand scale.

Iran finalizes preferential trade agreement with Oman, sends to parliament for approval

TEHRAN- The Director-General of the West Asia Office of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) announced that the preferential trade agreement with Oman has been finalized after completing administrative procedures and has been submitted to the Parliament for final review.

Abdolamir Rabiavi, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, referred to the measures taken by the TPOI during the 14th administration and stated: “It is expected that this matter will be placed on the Parliament's agenda next month.”

He also reported significant progress in trade diplomacy and the development of border and port infrastructure with neighboring countries, adding: “With the actions taken over the past two years, the organization is determined to facilitate and increase trade exchanges with regional countries.”

In late June, the heads of customs of Iran and Oman, on the sidelines of the World Customs Organization summit, emphasized the operationalization of the provisions of the agreement on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters and proposed the formation of a joint committee regarding the implementation of the agreement's provisions.

According to IRNA from Iran's Customs Administration, Foroud Asgari, Deputy Minister of Economy and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, and Said bin Khamis al-Ghaithi, head of the Royal Customs of Oman, in a bilateral meeting, emphasized increasing and ex-

panding customs cooperation in line with the provisions of the signed agreement in customs fields.

The proposal to conduct study visits to customs offices and ports of destination and origin, as well as holding periodic meetings between the customs administrations of the two countries, were among the topics reviewed in this meeting.

Other topics discussed in this meeting included the development of mutual cooperation and exchange of experiences in the field of combating smuggling and customs violations, and holding continuous joint meetings between customs managers of the two countries for maximum coordination to facilitate trade.

Holding joint meetings to exchange educational experiences, given the establishment of the World Customs Organization Regional Training Center (RTC) in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration, was one of the points raised by Iran's Customs in this meeting.

Iran and Oman signed 18 memoranda of understanding in various fields during the official two-day visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Muscat in May 2025.

The agreements, signed on the sidelines of the Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee meeting, aimed to deepen ties in multiple sectors, including legal, economic, political, cultural, educational, health, defense, media, technology, energy, and mining.

In a symbolic gesture highlighting cultural and

historical bonds, officials from both nations also unveiled a commemorative joint postage stamp.

President Pezeshkian arrived in Muscat on May 27 at the official invitation of Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

Following a formal welcoming ceremony at Muscat International Airport, Pezeshkian held a meeting with Oman's Sultan. The visit continued with a joint session between high-ranking delegations from both countries.

During the meeting, Pezeshkian said that Iran is ready to boost cooperation with Oman in all fields, adding that the two countries possess capabilities that can be employed for the well-being and progress of the two nations as well as that of other regional nations.

“We are ready to do whatever is within our capability for the dignity and greatness of Muslims. Each of us has capacities that can be employed for the well-being and progress of one another and of other nations in the region,” Pezeshkian said.

Sultan Haitham also welcomed closer ties, saying that he agrees that if the avenues for business activities are opened, the two countries “will witness a significant leap in the bilateral relations.”

“The relations between Iranian and Omani ports must be developed, and the rail capacity from northern to southern Iran is of great commercial importance to us,” he said, adding that more support is needed for cooperation in the energy sector.

Iranian, Afghan chambers of commerce discuss establishment of joint mining committee

TEHRAN- Ghadir Ghiafeh, Vice President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), at a meeting with the Deputy of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, proposed the establishment of a joint mining committee between the two chambers and the definition of a long-term program for cooperation in this field.

The Vice President of Iran Chamber, at the meeting with the Deputy of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, spoke about the significant mining capacities in Afghanistan and the need to pay attention to the area of joint investment between the two countries, and emphasized: Iran and Afghanistan must move beyond mere trade and focus on joint cooperation.

Ghiafeh, at the beginning of this meeting spoke about the long-standing brotherly relations between the two countries and emphasized: Perhaps borders have created distance between the two nations of Iran and Afghanistan, but we have always lived side by side with a sense of brotherhood. Now at this stage of our relations, we must move beyond the exchange of goods and think about joint investment in infrastructure and mining sectors. On the other hand, processing and exploration of mines is a good area for joint cooperation between the two countries.

He referred to the construction of renewable power plants, thermal power plants, dams, various types

of buildings, and generally the export of engineering and technical services from Iran to Afghanistan, and emphasized: Iran has 70 years of experience in mining industries, including copper processing, and good cooperation can be defined between the two countries through technology and knowledge transfer.

Ghiafeh, in addition to Afghanistan's mining capacities, pointed to the country's workforce and human resources, which can serve as a foundation for the country's rapid development.

The Vice President of Iran Chamber at this meeting proposed the establishment of a joint mining committee between Iran Chamber and the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, within the framework of which a long-term mining cooperation of 5 to 10 years could be defined, leading to the development of Afghanistan's mining sector. Of course, in his view, both sides must be committed and faithful to the defined goals.

He noted: With this planning, I am confident that the level of relations between the two countries will increase from 3 billion dollars to 6 billion dollars.

Continuing, Mahmoud Siadat, Head of the Joint Chamber of Iran and Afghanistan, stating that Afghanistan's economic landscape is changing and growing rapidly, said: Capital that had left this country is now returning because security and confidence have been established, and Afghan traders and investors

are striving to expand their activities in this country. In fact, Afghanistan has become a workshop of construction and growth.

He continued: In Iran, we must increase our readiness to meet the expectations of the Afghan side for supplying goods and services; in fact, an opportunity has arisen and we must seize it and increase our share of this market.

According to him, good events have been held in Kabul and other Afghan cities in recent months, and significant contracts have been signed between Iranian and Afghan traders. Movements and exchanges are proceeding at a good level, and it can be said that the relations of the Joint Chamber of Iran and Afghanistan with the mining, industry, agriculture, and trade chambers of Afghanistan have grown, and we are also witnessing the consolidation of the Joint Chamber of Afghanistan and Iran.

Siadat also announced the opening of the first investment company in Afghanistan, initiated by the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment.

Afghan market is reliable for investment

In the next part of the meeting, Mirajan Suleiman Khail, Deputy of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, emphasizing that we must go beyond trade toward investments in industry, mining, and other sectors, stated: Perhaps investors have not yet found sufficient confidence to be

present in the Afghan market. For this reason, with the aim of building trust, members of the chambers in Afghanistan have taken the lead in investing in this country, and we hope to gradually see the presence of foreign investors, especially from Iran.

He continued: For about 40 years, Iran has hosted the Afghan people and has stood by and supported the Afghan nation in all periods. Now if investment is to take place, priority is with them. Perhaps the necessary trust for investment has not yet been formed, so we invite investors to come to the Afghan market and become familiar with this market firsthand.

Kamaluddin Tohid, Head of the Joint Chamber of Afghanistan and Iran, also said: Iran's understanding of Afghanistan is greater than that of other neighbors. Therefore, we hope Iranians will enter the market, and we are ready to welcome Iranian traders and investors. Significant changes have occurred in Afghanistan that should be considered by Iranian traders and investors.

He continued: Afghanistan's mines are being divided and fragmented, which will be detrimental to the country's mining development path in the future. On the other hand, with the presence of companies from China and Uzbekistan, over 50 mines have become active. This is while we believe that priority for cooperation is with Iranian companies. Fortunately, the necessary security has been established and capital is entering this country.

Palestine and genocide: Redefining resilience

From page 1 ▶The idea of migration as a way for individuals and families to escape death and despair, and to search for life and hope, has taken hold among many people, especially young people. But once the ordeal ends and this great anguish passes, people will regain their hope in life and the future, and together, in word and action, they will repeat the anthem: We will remain here... until the pain is gone... We will live here... and the melody will be sweet..."

The above passage appeared in the book, A Palestinian Tragedy Inspired by War, written by Dr. Walid al-Qatta at the height of the genocidal campaign. It captures the essence of the Zionist project in Palestine, the displacement of the Palestinian people, and, in contrast, the essence of the Palestinian national project: staying in Palestine.

Staying in Palestine, in the sense of maintaining a Palestinian presence there, is the foundation of the idea of resilience. Resilience, as an existential and national idea and as a way of life and political practice, can bring life back to a people from the heart of death and renew the project of liberation from the center of destruction. Yet, given the consequences and changes brought about by the genocidal war, it now needs to be redefined.

Redefining resilience requires correcting certain parts of the discourse of resilience that are no longer suitable for the destruction, death, and suffering Gaza has endured. One is the rhetorical discourse of bravado, which constantly exaggerates imaginary capabilities while downplaying the enemy's real capabilities; overstates displays of power and verbal skill; relies heavily on rhetorical threats and warnings; and lacks realistic insight, foresight, and strategic judgment.

Another is the heroic discourse of mythmaking, which strips the Palestinian people of their humanity, including their moments of strength and weakness, and presents them as an extraordinary, mythical hero who never



tires or becomes exhausted, never suffers or feels pain. It also takes away Palestinians' human emotions and sense of security, as though they never grieve or despair, never fear or become terrified.

Among the parts of the resilience discourse that need to be corrected, alongside bravado and mythmaking, is the nihilistic discourse of glorifying death. In corporate Western media, this angle has focused on sacrifice and death without a clear political goal and without connecting sacrifices to political and national gains.

It ignores the fact that the purpose of sacrifice is a free and dignified life, not death, and that the purpose of resilience is ultimately to achieve victory. There is also the consumerist discourse, the consumption of tragedy, which turns the tragedy of the new Nakba into material for partisan propaganda, fundraising, and media fame, stripping it of its human, political, and national value and reducing it to nothing more than a repeated digital visual product that people gradually become used to through the constant repetition of the same scenes.

Correcting the problematic parts of the Palestinian discourse of resilience, and redefining resilience toward a project of life and liberation, simply means "staying," as the Palestinian poet Tawfiq Ziad expressed in his poem Here We Remain, when he wrote: "Here upon your chests we remain like a wall... and in your throats... like a glass fortress, like a cactus."

It also means turning staying

into a positive force for perseverance, as the Palestinian writer Ghassan Kanafani wrote in his essay Thoughts on Change and the Language of Resistance: "Resilience is not the ability to absorb blows; it is the ability to turn those blows into energy for continuing and building upon the very land from which they seek to erase us."

Resilience, in the sense described by Tawfiq Ziad and Ghassan Kanafani, is present in every detail of daily life in occupied Palestine, from the sea to the river, throughout the different forms of the genocidal war in Gaza, the West Bank, and the Palestinian territories within the Israeli regime.

It is present in the determination of Palestinians in Gaza to stay alive in displacement camps despite the horrors of genocide and the suffering of displacement. It is present in the resolve of Palestinians in the West Bank to keep living in their cities, villages, and refugee camps despite the terror caused by the occupation army and its terrorist settlers. It is present in the will to live of Palestinians inside Israel, who stayed there after the first Nakba, and in their resistance to land confiscation and violations of their rights.

And it is present in the hope for life and return among Palestinians outside Palestine, despite the tragedy of exile and the distance of the diaspora.

Resilience exists in every house that is built, every school that is established, every factory that is opened, every field that is cultivated, and every well that is dug...

Resilience exists in every child who is born, every student who studies, every farmer who harvests, every worker who produces, every employee who achieves, and every scholar who creates.

Redefining resilience based on staying and maintaining a Palestinian presence, as the starting point for a project of liberation amid the genocidal war, is a broad and connected system. It begins with demographic resilience, meaning preserving a continuous Palestinian population presence in historic Palestine, to protect the Palestinian identity of the land against the threat of physical extermination.

It continues through social resilience, meaning preserving Palestinian society as united and cohesive wherever Palestinians are present, with the aim of protecting the social unity of a resilient and resisting people against the threat of moral and social destruction.

And it ends in national resilience, meaning preserving the existence of the Palestinian people as one national community connected by a shared history and common destiny, with the aim of protecting the Palestinian cause and national project against the threat posed by the fascist Zionist project.

The connected and mutually supporting relationship among these three dimensions of resilience leads to a clear conclusion: their foundation and starting point is the existence of the Palestinian people in their homeland, Palestine.

Hence the importance of the people staying on their land and not leaving it: it is the strongest historical and legal proof affirming ownership of the land and preserving its identity, and the strongest foundation for the project of resistance, liberation, and return.

It is the project that will bring light and hope to the hearts of Palestinians and all the oppressed, against the Zionist invaders and all those who act with colonial arrogance and control.

Yemeni drones strike Aramco oil facilities, Najran airport



TEHRAN — Yemeni Armed Forces launched back-to-back drone strikes on August 20, targeting a sensitive military installation at Najran Airport and a major Aramco oil facility in southern Saudi Arabia.

Armed Forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree said both operations achieved their objectives, framing the action as a direct response to persistent Saudi drone incursions over Saada province.

A naval blockade on Saudi shipping

The Najran strikes mark the latest enforcement move under a strategic doctrine outlined by Saree on August 19.

Sanaa has established three non-negotiable equations to counter foreign aggression: imposing an equal maritime siege, striking enemy troop concentrations anywhere they assemble, and actively defending Yemeni sovereignty against airspace breaches.

The naval campaign has already crippled Saudi maritime logistics. Between July 20 and August 19, Yemeni naval forces targeted eight Saudi oil tankers across the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Arabian Sea.

Another 48 Saudi oil vessels were intercepted and turned back, including 34 in the Arabian Sea

and Indian Ocean.

This aggressive enforcement has halted nearly 85 percent of the kingdom's oil exports passing through the Bab al-Mandab Strait toward Asian markets.

To reduce exposure, commercial vessels now regularly broadcast "non-Saudi cargo" flags, while international insurance companies require complete data on cargo origin and crew nationalities before granting clearance.

Illustrating the dominance and the ultimatum

On the battlefield, Yemeni units continue to inflict heavy losses on Saudi-backed mercenary units.

A 10-minute combat compilation published by Yemen's War Media on August 21 illustrates this growing tactical dominance.

The video documents Rujum multi-rotor hexacopters dropping precision mortar rounds vertically onto Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) positions in Marib and along the western coast.

In one strike, a dropped munition hits a Saudi M1A2S Abrams main battle tank, triggering a massive secondary explosion that destroys the heavy armor.

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

Israeli forces burn homes, erase southern Lebanese villages

TEHRAN — For the fifth consecutive night, Israeli warplanes and artillery pounded southern Lebanon in a relentless campaign of territorial erasure.

On Friday morning, Israeli forces directed heavy machine gun fire at Toulune and Wadi Al-Hujeir. Troops systematically detonated the homes of displaced families in Haddatha and Beit Yahoun.

The physical destruction is entirely methodical. Tel Aviv is implementing a scorched-earth policy across the border region.

Satellite imagery confirms Israeli troops have flattened entire neighborhoods across 24 villages. The regime has destroyed 2,500 kilometers of water infrastructure and burned centuries of cultural heritage to the ground. In Nabatieh, a sprawling 13th century Mamluk market now lies in ruins.

The human cost continues to climb. Over 4,346 people have been killed and 12,000 injured since the aggression escalated on March 2.

Paramedics face deliberate double and triple strikes. These attacks have murdered 135 health-care workers.

Israeli artillery units routinely fire illegal white phosphorus into civilian woodlands, causing horrific chemical burns and necrosis among the local population.

U.S.-backed diplomacy has failed completely. Senior Hezbollah official Nawaf Moussawi recently told Middle East Eye that negotiations without military leverage are useless.

California state Senator Aisha Wahab opposed by AIPAC wins California special election

California state Senator Aisha Wahab will serve out the remainder of former representative Eric Swalwell's term after securing victory Thursday in a special election, The Times of Israel reported.

Swalwell, a pro-Israel Democrat who was running for California governor, ended his campaign and resigned from Congress in April after he was accused of sexual assault and harassment, which he denies. Wahab will represent the state's 14th Congressional District, which covers parts of Alameda County on the eastern side of the San

Francisco Bay, through Swalwell's term ending in January.

She will be the first Afghan American to serve in Congress. The progressive Democrat defeated Bay Area Rapid Transit Director Melissa Hernandez even after a swell of spending by outside groups opposing Wahab in the race's final stretch, including by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC. She said her victory showed her district "cannot be bought."

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

Israel is burying two-state solution with settlement plan that divides West Bank

TEHRAN- The Israeli regime advanced an internationally condemned settlement plan in the occupied West Bank that could split the territory and "bury" the possibility of a two-state solution.

The occupation regime's Housing Ministry issued a notice inviting bids for the construction of more than 1,200 housing units in E1 near Jerusalem, which aims to create a continuous bloc of Jewish settlements from East Jerusalem to the West Bank. The settlement would divide the West Bank into north and south, making a contiguous Palestinian state impossible, while splitting East Jerusalem – viewed as the capital of such a state – from the rest of the territory.

The bids for construction are due one week before the Israeli elections at the end of October.

The world should expect more such illegal activities and even harsher brutalities against Palestinians in the run-up to the November 27 election, as Netanyahu seeks to portray himself as a hero in the eyes of Israel's extremists. He is accelerating such actions, particularly as opinion polls suggest that his party is unlikely to win enough seats in the Knesset to form the next government.

"This is a last-minute maneuver that is part of the scorched-earth policy the government is pursuing at the end of its term to secure long years of conflict and bloodshed for Israel," said Peace Now, an Israeli settlement watchdog, in a statement Tuesday, CNN

reported.

For years, Israel intentionally delayed any planning or construction in E1 because of heavy international criticism and pressure. But the current government under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dramatically accelerated the approval of settlements in the West Bank, even as Western countries have imposed sanctions on individuals linked with the settler movement. In May, a number of Western countries, including Canada, Australia and Germany, warned companies against taking part in the construction of West Bank settlements and E1 because of "legal and reputational consequences."

In a joint statement on Thursday, the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Norway and the Netherlands reiterated that warning, saying, "At a time of grave instability in the West Bank with unprecedented levels of violence by settlers against civilians, and serious restrictions on the Palestinian economy, this decision is even more concerning."

Israel gave final approval to the E1 plan last year, with far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich saying, "The Palestinian state is being erased from the table, not with slogans, but with actions."

UK Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband called the decision to advance the plans an "unacceptable and destructive act." Threatening sanctions and other measures in response, he said in a statement that "Britain will not stand back and accept the destruction of the



two-state solution." In response, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar fired back, saying on X on Thursday, "It is absurd for Britain to lecture the Jewish people about where they may live in their historic tiny homeland."

Israel is even reprimanding Western countries that have supported it in the suppression of Palestinians and the seizure of Palestinian land over the past seven decades. One such country is Britain, which laid the groundwork for the Zionist occupation of Palestine through the 1917 Balfour Declaration.

All Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank are considered illegal under international law by most of the international community and the United Nations, but settlers have successfully established dozens of unauthorized outposts in recent years and eventually secured Israeli government approvals.

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian ambassador to the United

Iran start 2026 AVC Women Asian Continental C’ship in style

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Chinese Taipei 3-1 (16-25, 27-25, 25-19, 25-14) in their opening match of the 2026 AVC Women Asian Continental Championship.

Elaheh Poorsaleh led Iran with 25 points, while Yu-Chun Tsai of Chinese Taipei bagged 14 points.

Team Melli are scheduled to meet China and Iran on Aug. 24 and 25, respectively in Pool A.

The 2026 AVC Women’s Volleyball Continental Championship is the 23rd staging of the AVC Women’s Volleyball Continental Championship, a biennial international volleyball tournament by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with China Volleyball Association (CVA).

The tournament takes place at Tianjin Olympic Center Gymnasium in Tianjin, China from Aug. 21 to 30.

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

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

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

Sayyadmanesh scores and assists as Lech Poznan thrash FC Thun

TEHRAN - Swiss champions FC Thun suffered a 0-7 defeat in the first leg of their Europa League playoff against Lech Poznan.

This is the second highest victory of the Polish club in European cups in the 21st century.

The Iranian winger was on target in the 20th minute.

The opener 10 minutes in gave Kolejorz the perfect start, but a three-goal haul in the space of 11 minutes later on in the first half practically ended the tie.

A fifth was added just before the break, with two more scored in the second half as Thun had no answers to their opponents’ ruthless finishing.

Lech, who last reached the Europa League proper in 2020/21, also scored seven times last summer in a Champions League qualifier against Bredablik. However, Thursday’s victory was their largest-ever in a UEFA club competition match.

The seven goals conceded are already the most Thun have let in across a two-legged tie.

Genoa: Taremi emerges, the Iranian former Inter player

TEHRAN - Genoa continue to search for a new center-forward, and former Inter striker Mehdi Taremi has emerged as one of the names under consideration.

According to Il Secolo XIX, via CalcioMercato, Daniele De Rossi’s side still see Evan Ferguson as their preferred profile, with the loan move from Brighton progressing but complicated by the timeline for the Irishman’s return from ankle surgery.

Genoa are also exploring Lorenzo Lucca, whose club Napoli they face at Marassi this weekend, as another loan option.

Iranian international Taremi, who scored 16 goals for Olympiacos last season after leaving Inter and participated at this summer’s World Cup, is not Genoa’s first choice but remains in the picture, with competition for his signature from elsewhere.

Genoa are also monitoring options abroad, including Montenegrin forward Milutin Osmajic at Preston and Moroccan striker Tawfik Bentayeb at Union Touarga, as De Rossi’s side weigh up every

avenue before the market closes.

Iran U20s beat Thailand in friendly

TEHRAN - Iran’s U20 football team continued their preparations in Thailand with a 2-0 friendly victory over the host nation on Friday.

The match was played at Chonburi Stadium, with Qasem Hadadifar’s side producing a dominant and well-organized performance to secure the win.

Mohammadmehdi Jannia opened the scoring in the 48th minute before Abolfazl Zadeattar doubled Iran’s advantage in the 71st minute.

The young Iranian side will play another friendly against Iraq on Aug. 25 as part of their ongoing training camp in Thailand.

Following the conclusion of the Thailand camp, Iran will travel to Viet Tri, Vietnam, on Aug. 27 to compete in Group C of the AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifying tournament.

Iran are drawn in Group C along with Vietnam, North Korea and Palestine.

The Persians will start the campaign on Aug. 31 against Palestine.

Khatoon Bam, Al Nassr share spoils at AFC Women’s Champions League

TEHRAN - Bam Khatoon FC scored in the dying seconds to earn a 1-1 stalemate with Saudi Arabia’s Al Nassr Club in their AFC Women’s Champions League 2026/27 Preliminary Stage tie on Thursday.

Sara Didar’s strike six minutes into stoppage time cancelled out Clara Luvanga’s 84th-minute spot-kick to put the Iran outfit in the driver’s seat of Group E, with Jordan’s Etihad Club their opponents on Sunday while Al Nassr will meet Tajikistan’s FC CSKA Dushanbe.

The 2026/27 AFC Women’s Champions League will be the third edition of the AFC Women’s Champions League, Asia’s premier club women’s football tournament organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

Naegohyang are the defending champions.

Iran down Pakistan at 2026 FIVB U17 World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Pakistan in straight sets (25-23, 25-22, 25-18) at the 2026 FIVB Volleyball Boys’ U17 World Championship in Doha, Qatar on Friday.

Sina Hazrati and Arash Ashrafi scored 16 points each for Iran, while Muhammad Waleed Khan accumulated seven points for Pakistan.

Iran, who had previously defeated Algeria 3-0 in their opening match, will face Chinese Taipei on Sunday.

The competition has brought 24 of the world’s best young volleyball teams in Doha, Qatar from Aug. 19 to 29. The tournament represents an important opportunity for the next generation of players to gain experience on the international stage and establish themselves as future stars of the sport.

Iran is among the teams looking to make a deep run in the competition. The Iranian U17 side, coached by Arash Sadeghiani, have been placed in Pool E along with Algeria, Chinese Taipei, and Pakistan.

The 24 teams have been divided into six pools of four, with the top two teams from each pool automatically advancing to the Round of 16. The four best third-placed teams will also progress, meaning that every match in the preliminary phase could prove crucial in determining the knockout-stage lineup.

Iran have traditionally enjoyed considerable success in age-group volleyball, making their participation in the U17 World Championship particularly significant. The inaugural edition in 2024 was won by Italy, who defeated Argentina in the final, while Iran will now aim to challenge the strongest teams and secure a place in the medal rounds.

Iran urges BRICS to build resilient and sustainable tourism sector

From page 1 ► The Iranian minister also condemned what he described as US-Israeli military aggression against Iran, saying the attacks had caused profound suffering and killed more than 4,000 people, including 168 children at a school in Minab, as well as civilians and a number of prominent scientific, intellectual and cultural figures.

He said the attacks had also damaged 149 historical and cultural sites, including five sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, raising serious concerns about the protection of Iran’s cultural heritage.

Salehi-Amiri said resilience should not be viewed merely as a tourism destination’s ability to withstand or overcome a crisis.

True resilience means the ability of people, communities and cultures to preserve their identity, rebuild their livelihoods and lives, and recover their strength and dignity, he said.

Presenting Iran’s proposals for strengthening tourism cooperation within BRICS, Salehi-Amiri proposed the establishment of a BRICS tourism project support fund.

Iranian, Turkish officials discuss ways to diversify tourism flows

TEHRAN – Officials from Iran and Turkey has recently discussed broaden tourism cooperation by moving beyond a focus on a handful of well-known destinations and promoting the diverse attractions of their provinces to each other’s markets.

Dariush Keyhanmehar, head of the Iran-Turkey marketing office, made the remarks after meeting Gokhan Cetinkaya, the newly appointed cultural and tourism counsellor of the Turkish Embassy in Tehran, IRIB news agency reported on Thursday.

Keyhanmehar said the meeting examined ways to expand tourism and cultural cooperation between the two countries and make greater use of provincial capacities to promote destinations, attractions and tourism opportunities in both markets.

He stressed the need to turn existing tourism potential into practical and sustained programs, saying that during Cetinkaya’s mission in Iran, the promotion of Iranian provinces in Turkey and Turkish provinces in Iran should be pursued in a targeted and systematic manner.

Iran and Turkey are among the countries in the region with ex-



He said the fund could play a significant role in developing tourism infrastructure in member countries and suggested that its operational mechanisms could be defined within the framework of the New Development Bank, the BRICS multilateral development bank.

Such a mechanism, he added, could provide financing for and facilitate the implementation

of joint tourism projects among BRICS members.

Salehi-Amiri also called for greater use of the historical potential of the time-honored Silk Road and Spice Route to strengthen people-to-people exchanges among BRICS countries.

He said BRICS could draw on the rich heritage of these historical trade and civilizational routes,

which had served as cultural and commercial links among some of the bloc’s members in the past.

“These historic routes are not only part of the shared civilizational heritage of nations, but can also become new platforms for tourism development, cultural exchange, deeper mutual understanding and stronger regional and international cooperation,” he said.



tensive historical, cultural, natural, urban and tourism resources, he noted, adding that many of these attractions remain unknown or relatively unfamiliar to the public in the two countries.

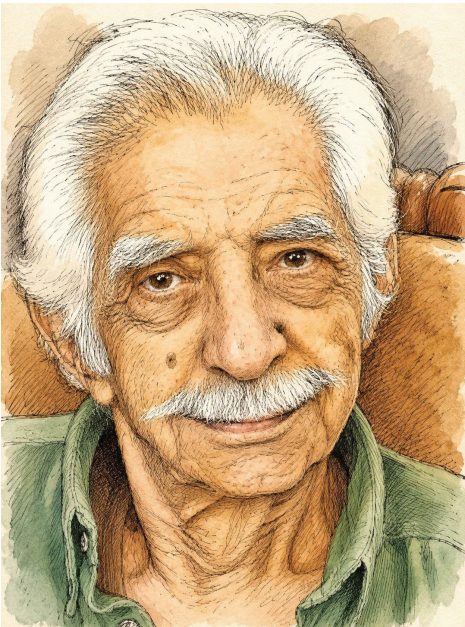
A direct focus on provinces and individual destinations could provide a more comprehensive picture of each country’s tourism potential, Keyhanmehar said.

He argued that tourism promotion should shift from highlighting a limited number of established destinations toward presenting a network of provinc-

es and diverse attractions. Such an approach, he added, could give travelers more choices, distribute tourism flows geographically, extend visitors’ stays and help less-known destinations develop their tourism potential.

Keyhanmehar also described tourism as more than a destination-marketing tool, saying that reciprocal promotion of provincial attractions could contribute to cultural diplomacy, stronger interaction between local communities and new economic opportunities.

Changiz Sheykhl, ‘father of Iranian caving,’ dies at 99



TEHRAN – Changiz Sheykhl, the pioneering figure who founded Iran’s modern caving and speleology movement, died on Wednesday, August 20, in Karaj at age 99, following a period of illness.

Widely honored as the “father of Iranian caving,” Sheykhl’s death closes a formative chapter in the history of Iran’s caving community — a discipline he helped transform from an informal pastime into an organized scientific field.

Born in Mashhad in 1927, Sheykhl took up mountaineering at age 12, climbing the rocky terrain around his hometown before summiting Kolakchal (August 1945), Tochal (June 1947), and Mount Damavand. His introduction to caves came in 1943, in the Hesar region, well before caving existed in Iran as an organized pursuit.

Sheykhl’s legacy endures in the generation of Iranian speleologists he inspired to continue mapping and studying the country’s hidden underground landscape.

On November 29, 1946, Sheykhl, together with S. Mostofi and A. Shafizadeh, founded Iran’s first caving association. The group adopted a motto that still guides the country’s caving community today: “The value of a discovery lies in illuminating the unknown, not in its importance.”

Over the course of his career, Sheykhl explored and documented hundreds of caves across Iran, leaving behind an extensive archive of field notes, sketches, and survey records on caves, speleology, and cave nav-

igation. He is also historically credited with discovering the celebrated Espahbod Khorshid Cave.

Fereidoun Biglari, head of the Paleolithic Department at the National Museum of Iran, notes that as early as the 1940s and 1950s, Sheykhl was already carrying out systematic measurement, mapping, and analysis of cave formations and water systems, along with archaeological recording — methods entirely novel to Iranian caving at the time. Biglari added that Sheykhl’s legacy lives on in the dozens of Iranian caving groups whose members now volunteer their time to document caves using modern international methods, and to protect and promote the country’s natural cave heritage. “This is a generation that plays an important role in introducing this significant natural heritage,” he said, “a generation indebted to pioneers like Changiz Sheykhl.”

The culmination of Sheykhl’s lifelong dedication to documentation was The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Iran’s Caves, published by Shalfin Publications in 2021 — a compendium of detailed entries on hundreds of caves, many personally surveyed and mapped by him.

Changiz Sheykhl’s legacy endures in the generation of Iranian speleologists he inspired to continue mapping and studying the country’s hidden underground landscape.

Iran ranks first in key scientific output among Islamic countries

From page 1 ► Based on the reputable Web of Science database, Iran ranks first among Islamic countries in scientific output in some of these fields, while placing second or third in others. Overall, however, Iran holds the top position, he said.

Bakhtiari noted that in advanced materials—a multidisciplinary field spanning physics, chemistry, mechanics and materials science—Iran ranks second among Islamic countries and ninth worldwide.

He added that Iran ranks third in artificial intelligence, behind Saudi Arabia and Turkey, while in quantum science it ranks second, after Saudi Arabia.

The ISC official further said that Iran holds the top position among Islamic countries in scientific output in cognitive sciences and ranks first overall.

According to Web of Science (WoS) data, over a five-year period (from 2021 to 2025), Iran (with 32 documents) ranks first in cognitive sciences among Islamic countries.

Turkey, with 23 documents, and Saudi Arabia, with 22 documents, are placed second and third, respectively, IRNA reported.

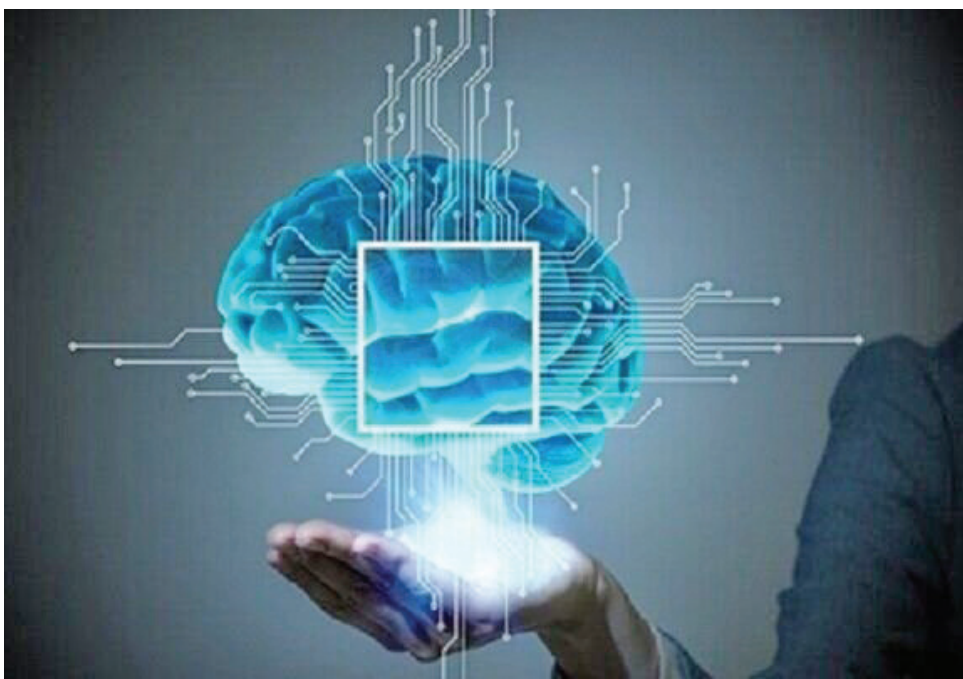
From 2014 to 2023, Iran ranked either first or second in most fields of cognitive sciences among Islamic countries. Over the course of the decade, the country ranked first in cognitive neuroscience, cognitive rehabilitation, and cognitive linguistics with 387, 156, and 30 documents, respectively.

It ranked second in cognitive psychology (124 documents), cognitive education (561 documents), philosophy of mind (34 documents), and cognitive evaluation (898 documents). The country's best ranking globally was in cognitive neuroscience; it ranked 15.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences, with 73 documents, University of Tehran, with 39 documents, and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, with 32 documents, ranked first to third in cognitive neuroscience. In cognitive psychology, University of Tehran (10 documents), Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (7 documents), and Allameh Tabataba'i University (6 documents) were the top three universities.

In cognitive linguistics, University of Tehran (with 3 documents), Al-Zahra University (3 documents), Allameh Tabataba'i University (2 documents) ranked first to third. In cognitive education, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences were placed first to third, respectively.

In cognitive rehabilitation, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (21 documents), University of Tehran (16 documents), and Iran University of Medical Sciences (12 doc-



uments) ranked first to third. The best three universities in philosophy of mind were University of Tehran, Isfahan University, and Amirkabir University of Technology.

In cognitive evaluation, Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranked first with 196 documents. Iran University of Medical Sciences (105 documents) and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (91 documents) ranked second and third.

The country ranks first in quantum science, cognitive sciences, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and advanced materials.

The country is placed second in quantum (with 216 documents) and advanced materials (with 5975 documents), after Saudi Arabia, with 283 and 6160 documents in quantum and advanced materials. Malaysia (with 154 documents) and Egypt (with 3151 documents) are placed third in quantum and advanced materials, respectively.

Despite illegal sanctions, Iran secures first place in cognitive sciences among Islamic nations and ranks ninth globally in advanced materials. Numerous prestigious Iranian universities and institutions are included in international rankings. These accomplishments underscore the country's scientific capabilities, IRIB quoted Science Minister Hossein Simaei-Sarraf as saying, addressing the 7th Turkey Educational Technologies Summit

(known as TETZ 2026), held in Istanbul from June 26 to 28.

Iran serves as a great opportunity to invest in higher education and modern technologies. The country has one of the largest higher education systems in the region, with more than three million students and over seventy thousand faculty members and researchers.

Highlighting that the rapid development of emerging technologies, including AI, is fundamentally transforming human relationships and higher education systems around the world at an unprecedented pace, Simaei-Sarraf said that effective use of smart technologies requires the establishment of a system based on algorithmic transparency, educational justice, accountability, protection of learners' rights, and responsible data governance.

According to science minister, cultural and social requirements need to be institutionalized in the design and deployment of these technologies, which will help pave the way to promote social trust, facilitate the use of smart education, and its acceptance without posing data governance risks at national and international levels.

The official went on to say that the development of smart education requires the enhancement of synergy, the exchange of expertise, and the utilization of shared capacities of countries more than ever. He expressed hope that the summit would lay the basis for the expansion of academic ties, the exchange of knowledge, and the development of collaborative initiatives in the smart education sector, which would in turn expand higher education at national, regional, and global scales.

Iranian, Iraqi universities sign MOU to foster scientific interactions

TEHRAN – Mazandaran University and Iraq's Wasit University have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand international scientific cooperation.

The director of Mazandaran University's department for international scientific cooperation, Amir-Mansour Tehranchian, and the chancellor of Wasit University, Abbas Lafta Al-Aqabi, signed the agreement on Monday in the city of Babolsar, Mazandaran province, IRNA reported.

On the sidelines of the signing ceremony, Al-Aqabi expounded on the scientific and research capacities of Wasit University, highlighting the importance of boosting academic ties with Mazandaran University to facilitate collaborations with regional universities and to foster partnerships that facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

For his part, Tehranchian elaborated on the university's accomplishments, academic staff, laboratories, educational workshops, and scientific standing. He announced Mazandaran University's readiness for developing scientific ties, particularly joint educational courses, Persian language teaching, exchanging faculty members and researchers, conducting post-doctoral programs, jointly publishing and organizing scientific, research, technological, and cultural events.



Iraq seeks to boost scientific, academic ties with Iran

On August 6, Iraqi officials in a meeting with Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, have called for expanding academic, scientific, and technological cooperation with Iran.

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

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

Sharing Iran's expertise in

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

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

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

In April, Simaei-Sarraf and Al-Aboudi underlined the need to

boost scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DOE bolsters environmental ties with Indonesia

TEHRAN – The head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, and his Indonesian counterparts, Mohammad Jumhur Hidayat, have discussed ways to promote environmental cooperation.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting held on August 18 in New Delhi, India, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, the two sides underscored developing collaborative efforts. Hidayat stressed the need for the expansion of specialized and technical environmental interactions between the two countries. Expounding on Indonesia's measures to combat plastic pollution, the official highlighted the importance of cooperation and consensus among nations regarding operational waste management mechanisms, particularly in coastal areas.

For her part, Ansari emphasized shared environmental potential of Iran and Indonesia, stressed the necessity for reinforcing collaborative efforts, exchanging expertise and technical knowledge, and expanding the scope of expert interactions.

Underscoring the importance of preserving biodiversity, she proposed to collaborate on protecting natural habitats, forests, water resources, and marine ecosystems, as well as addressing climate change and managing waste.

Ansari also held a meeting with Russian officials; the meeting focused on potentials to deepen cooperation in environment sector.

The discussions at 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting were held under the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'. The meeting provided a great platform for BRICS member countries to exchange views, build consensus and strengthen practical cooperation on pressing environmental challenges.

Speaking at the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday, Ansari called for closer environmental cooperation among BRICS member states, describing their combined capacities in natural resources, biodiversity, coastal and ma-



rine ecosystems, and other environmentally valuable areas as a "historic opportunity" to address the growing global environmental crisis.

She proposed placing environmental security alongside energy and food security, establishing a BRICS network to monitor and assess environmental damage resulting from armed conflicts and climate change, creating a rapid-response mechanism for marine pollution and hazardous-material spills, and expanding the exchange of technologies and expertise for restoring damaged ecosystems.

She also called for stronger cooperation between BRICS countries and specialized international organizations to address the environmental consequences of crises and to pursue accountability for those responsible for environmental destruction, based on the principle that "the polluter must pay."

Ansari further proposed launching discussions on a common BRICS framework for environmental protection during armed conflicts.

Emphasizing the direct link between peace, security and environmental protection, she called for a joint mechanism among BRICS members to monitor and respond to environmental damage caused by armed conflicts and climate-related crises.

"Environmental protection is not merely a theoretical issue; it is directly linked to the peace and security of countries and peoples," Ansari said.

Health ministry, WHO hold second workshop on applying PHC Operational Framework

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in Iran have organized the second capacity-building workshop to strengthen the capacity of primary health care (PHC), targeting the health staff who had been unable to attend the first workshop on July 26.

Hosted by the Deputy for Public Health of Iran University of Medical Sciences, the WHO-supported workshop was held on August 16th, in Tehran.

Together, the two training sessions will further a common understanding of the PHC Operational Framework among the Centre's staff and strengthen their capacity to translate its 14 operational levers into practical actions to advance PHC, the WHO website announced in a press release on August 19.

In addition to sessions on the 14 operational levers, a dedicated cross-cutting session on health system resilience highlighted the importance of strengthening PHC capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies while maintaining continuity of essential health services. Following the session on Digital Technologies for Health (Lever 11), a complementary session on artificial intelligence (AI) highlighted the potential role of AI in improving access to services, supporting continuity of care, strengthening health information systems and enhancing the resilience and responsiveness of PHC.

"Strengthening primary health care requires sustained investment in people, systems and institutional capacity," said WHO Representative and Head of Mission in the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Jean Jabbour. "This second capacity-building session further strengthens the technical capacity of the Primary Health Care Network Management Centre to apply the PHC Operational Framework and translate its principles into practi-

cal actions. WHO remains committed to supporting the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in advancing a resilient, equitable and people-centred primary health care system that leaves no one behind and contributes to progress towards universal health coverage."

On behalf of the WHO Country Office, National Health Policy Advisor Dr Mashyaneh Haddadi contributed to the programme through interactive presentations and facilitated discussions on three operational levers. The sessions focused on practical policy and implementation considerations, including equitable access to essential medicines and health technologies, effective engagement with private sector providers, and strategic purchasing and provider payment mechanisms that promote quality, efficiency, accountability and equitable access to health services.

Through presentations, group discussions and technical exchange, participants explored how the operational levers can be translated into actionable interventions within the health system. The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences, identify implementation challenges and discuss practical opportunities to strengthen PHC across different levels of the health system.

The completion of the second training session means the capacity-building programme has now reached all staff at the Primary Health Care Network Management Centre, supporting a shared understanding of the PHC Operational Framework. This continued collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and WHO represents an important step towards strengthening integrated, people-centred PHC and advancing progress towards universal health coverage across the Islamic Republic of Iran.



AUGUST 22, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When Allah chooses to favor someone, He makes him the source of satisfying other people's needs.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:07 Evening: 19:04 Dawn: 4:00 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:29 (tomorrow)

Music piece unveiled in Tehran marking 40th day since burial of martyred Leader

TEHRAN- Iranian vocalist and composer Hesameddin Seraj has unveiled his new music piece "Brokenhearted Spring" at a memorial ceremony marking the 40th day since the burial of Iran's martyred leader.

The piece was unveiled on Thursday, at the Art Garden Pavilion (Kushk Art Garden) in Tehran as part of a special program, held to commemorate the 40th day since the burial of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei.

The ceremony was organized by Tehran Music House in cooperation with the Abbasabad Cultural and Tourism Zone.

"Brokenhearted Spring" features lyrics by poet and lyricist Abdoljabbar Kakai, with Seraj composing and performing the piece. Davoud Varzideh was responsible for its arrangement and musical supervision.

The composition brings together Iranian traditional instruments and Western orchestral elements. A string orchestra featuring violin, viola and cello is combined with traditional Iranian instruments including the nay, tar, oud and santur, along with percussion and choir.

The musical work was presented as part of a broader cultural and artistic program focusing on the relationship between art and social responsibility and featuring works produced in different artistic fields, including poetry, music, song, recitation, graphic art and animation.

"Brokenhearted Spring" creates a reflective and mournful atmosphere, drawing on themes of loss and remembrance through a combination of traditional Iranian musical elements and orchestral arrangements.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, was martyred on February 28, 2026, in a US-Israeli strike on Tehran. His martyrdom came at the outset of a military aggression against Iran that also claimed the lives

of a number of senior Iranian military commanders, officials and members of his family.

Following his martyrdom, Iran entered a period of national mourning, with officials announcing a series of farewell and funeral ceremonies across the country. The ceremonies were eventually held over several days in Tehran, the holy city of Qom and Mashhad, while separate commemorative processions were also held in Iraq, including in the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala. The funeral ceremonies brought together millions of mourners who gathered to pay their final respects to the late Leader.

The first major farewell ceremonies were held in Tehran, where mourners gathered at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla on July 4 and 5. A funeral procession was subsequently held in the capital on July 6, followed by another ceremony in Qom on July 7. At the request of Iraqi religious and cultural figures, farewell ceremonies were also held in Najaf and Karbala on July 8, before the late Leader's body was transferred back to Iran for the final stage of the funeral rites.

On July 9, the final funeral ceremony was held in Mashhad, the birthplace of Ayatollah Khamenei. His body was taken through the city amid large crowds of mourners before being laid to rest at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), one of the most revered religious sites in Iran and the country's most important pilgrimage destination. The burial marked the conclusion of a week of nationwide mourning and farewell ceremonies.

The funeral ceremonies were attended by large numbers of Iranian mourners as well as foreign guests and delegations. The scale of the gatherings reflected the significance of the event for supporters of the Islamic Republic, while the ceremonies also provided an opportunity for cultural and artistic communities to express their grief through poetry, music, visual arts and other forms of artistic expression.

Iranian photographers win awards at 2nd Zyne International Photography Awards



Winning works by Artin Darvishi (L), Amin Roshan Afshar (C), and Amir Ali Navadeh Shahla

TEHRAN – Several Iranians are among the winners of various categories of the second Zyne International Photography Awards (ZIPA) in India.

ZIPA 2026 received more than 10,000 submissions from 65 countries, even before completing its first anniversary.

The 2nd Edition of ZIPA brought together an exceptional showcase of photographic talent across 18 diverse categories, evaluated by an esteemed international jury of 16 distinguished masters of photography. From emerging voices to established visionaries, ZIPA 2026 celebrates the power of the photographic image — and the remarkable community of artists who continue to shape the visual language of our world.

Amin Roshan Afshar was named the photographer of the year and also won the gold award in the Conceptual category, Mehr reported on Friday.

In the Architecture category, Amir Ali Navadeh Shahla won the gold award and Hadi Dehghanpour received the silver award.

Amir Ali Navadeh Shahla is an architect and photographer with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in architecture. He holds Iran's Third-Degree National Artistic Certificate in Photography and the EFIAP/B distinction from the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP), and works primarily in architectural, nature, and fine art photography.

His works have been accepted in numerous prestigious national and international exhibitions and salons, receiving several international medals and awards, including the Asahi Shimbun Gold Medal in Japan. His photographs have been exhibited in more than 40 international exhibitions and events. His architectural perspective on structure, space,

light, and detail forms an important part of his visual language.

In the Wildlife and Macro category, Erfan Samanfar won the bronze medal. Commenting on his work, the jury member Caesar Sengupta wrote: "I like this image because it captures an intense natural history moment where competition for food unfolds in real time. The struggle between the two birds over a single catch highlights the constant challenge of survival, reminding us that every meal in the wild is earned, and often fiercely contested."

In the Abstract Photography category, Ghadir Vaghari and Artin Darvishi won the silver and bronze awards, respectively. Vaghari also won a silver award in the Street Portraits category, where Seyed Mahdi Vaghari was the gold winner.

In the Landscape Photography category, Mehdi Parsaeian received the silver award.

The silver and bronze awards in the Urbanscape category were presented to Darvishi and Parsaeian, respectively, as well.

Commenting on Darvishi's work, a jury member wrote: "A very strong and memorable photograph. The repetition of the arches, the deep shadows, and the small human figure create a powerful atmosphere and emphasize the scale of the space. The image feels almost graphic, yet there is still a strong relationship between the person and the architecture. Its visual impact and ability to attract attention immediately were the main reasons for awarding it the Silver Award."

Also commenting on Parsaeian's photo, the jury member wrote: "What interested me most in this photograph is the simple but very effective relationship between the people and the architecture. The figures in the foreground and the towers in the

background create an interesting rhythm, while the image also carries a clear sense of place. The photograph is not complicated, but that is exactly why it is easy to read and remember."

In the Book/Zine Publication, Pouria Ghelichkhani won the bronze award for the book "The Hour al-Azim Wetland: Nature, Human, Industry," published by Gouya House of Art and Culture in 2025.

The Hour al-Azim Wetland is more than a landscape; it is a living intersection of nature, culture, and industry. "Through this book, I sought to reveal the fragile relationship between an ancient ecosystem and the people whose lives are deeply intertwined with it. Over a year and a half of fieldwork on both the Iranian and Iraqi sides of the wetland, I photographed its biodiversity, communities, and changing landscapes—not simply to document what is being lost, but to preserve a sense of what is still alive. Ultimately, this book is an invitation to listen to what the Hour al-Azim Wetland is still telling us," Ghelichkhani wrote about his work.

Mojtaba Gitinezhad won two awards too, a golden award in the Minimal Photography category and a bronze medal in the Sports & Adventure category.

In the Decisive Moment category, the gold and silver awards went to Mitra Hosseini and Farid Azadi, respectively.

ZIPA 2026 presents a compelling opportunity for creators worldwide. Powered by Lumix and presented by Creative Zyne magazine, this event has rapidly expanded its scope to encompass 18 thoughtfully curated categories. For visual artists mapping out their submission strategies, finding online photography competitions that offer genuine industry

visibility without financial barriers is a rare advantage.

Fortunately, this initiative operates as a completely free photography contests platform, ensuring that talent and vision are the sole metrics for success. The competition honors work that evokes genuine emotion and contributes meaningfully to contemporary visual culture, providing a legitimate pathway to international recognition.

By maintaining a rigorous evaluation process led by a diverse panel of celebrated professionals, the organizers guarantee that every submitted portfolio is reviewed with the utmost respect. It stands as a straightforward, highly curated platform for photographers eager to expand their physical footprint and secure premium editorial features.

The prize structure is designed to provide lasting recognition and tangible career growth. Instead of fleeting accolades, the organizers focus on physical gallery representation and premium editorial exposure.

Creative Zyne is a biannual photography magazine that also touches upon fine arts and travel. The magazine has started as a worldwide platform uniting photographers and visual artists. It nurtures creativity through exhibitions, publications, and juried awards—empowering members to grow, connect, and contribute to the evolving landscape of global visual arts.

The internationally acclaimed art photographer Ali Zolghadri, known for his minimalist, conceptual, and deeply poetic approach to contemporary photography, is a jury member and chief strategist for Zyne Awards. The award-winning photographer explores silence, solitude, and the poetic tension between form and emptiness in his works.

Asghar Farhadi receives Honorary Heart of Sarajevo

TEHRAN- Acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi has received the Honorary Heart of Sarajevo at the 32nd Sarajevo Film Festival in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the art of cinema.

The award was presented to the two-time Academy Award-winning director at the National Theatre of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, on Thursday, August 20, with Jovan Marjanović, director of the Sarajevo Film Festival, honoring Farhadi as one of Iran's most acclaimed filmmakers.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Marjanović praised Farhadi's distinctive approach to filmmaking, saying the Iranian director finds extraordinary drama within ordinary life.

"There are filmmakers who build their cinema around extraordinary events. Asghar Farhadi does something that may be even more difficult. He finds extraordinary drama within ordinary life," Marjanović said.

He pointed to the everyday situations that form the basis of Farhadi's films, including marriages, families, misunderstandings and seemingly small decisions that can lead characters into situations where every choice has consequences.

"His films are incredibly precise. They begin with people and their everyday lives and gradually expand into much larger questions about truth, responsibility, dignity, family and the choices we make when there is no perfect choice," he added.

Marjanović also highlighted the international reach of Farhadi's cinema, saying his films have crossed languages, cultures and borders while remaining deeply rooted in the lives and societies from which they emerged.

"Your very distinctive way of filmmaking has made you one of the defining filmmakers of contemporary world cinema," he told Farhadi.

The festival director also recalled Farhadi's previous connection with the Sarajevo Film Festival. In 2018, the Iranian filmmaker served as president of the jury of the Feature Film Competition, while his film "Everybody Knows" was screened in the Open Air program.

"This year, through the 'Tribute To' program, we have had the privilege of looking at this remarkable body of work with you here in Sarajevo," Marjanović said, before presenting Farhadi with the honorary award.

Accepting the award, Farhadi described the recognition as a significant moment in his career and expressed his appreciation for the Sarajevo Film Festival and its audience.

"Receiving this award, a lifetime achievement award, is a big moment for me. This is a meaningful award and I thank the Sarajevo Film Festival for presenting it to me," he said.

Farhadi noted that this was his second visit to Sarajevo and recalled his previous experience as a member of the festival jury.

"I like the whole atmosphere of this city. Tonight I want to mention that a large number of audiences come here. I had a screening here

and thousands of people watched my film," he said.

Expressing his admiration for the festival's development, Farhadi added, "I was very happy to discover this festival and I am happy to see how the Sarajevo Film Festival has developed over the years. It has a special cinematic identity."

Farhadi was also scheduled to hold a masterclass at the festival's main venue, the Bosnian Cultural Center on Friday, as part of this year's program.

The filmmaker was honored through the festival's "Tribute To" program, which included a special presentation of his work. The program concluded with a screening of "A Separation," Farhadi's acclaimed 2011 drama, which is regarded as one of his most celebrated and internationally awarded films.

"A Separation" brought Farhadi his first Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, making him the first Iranian filmmaker to win the Oscar in the category. He received his second Academy Award for "The Salesman" in 2017. His "A Hero" also won the Grand Prix at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.

Farhadi's latest film, "Parallel Tales," shot in France, was screened at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival.

The 32nd Sarajevo Film Festival was held from August 14 to 21, bringing together filmmakers and cinema professionals from around the world.

Cartoon of Day



The Virus

Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey