

Trump destroys U.S. diplomacy and global trust in America

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN — From using negotiations as a pretext for surprise attacks to abducting and assassinating heads of state and reneging on American commitments, including his own, Trump's damage to U.S. diplomacy will remain evident for many years to come.

One example is reflected in America's close allies such as Canada and its trade war with the Trump administration, which has exploded over the past several days. ► Page 5

Once again, Israel bombs populated Lebanese villages with prohibited white phosphorus

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israeli forces launched an extensive wave of artillery shelling and airstrikes across southern Lebanon overnight into Saturday, saturating several residential neighborhoods with banned white phosphorus munitions.

Lebanese media outlets reported severe destruction across southern border towns, including Mansouri, Majdal Zoun, and Bayt al-Sayyad. In Bayt al-Sayyad, heavy artillery strikes damaged virtually every residential property. ► Page 5

The dollar's suicide note: How Washington's financial arrogance is destroying its own empire

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN — When the US Treasury announced on August 20 that it would increase buybacks of long-dated bonds, the financial world should have been alarmed. Instead, markets reacted with the only rational response: they sold the dollar.

This seemingly technical move represents something far more dangerous than a simple policy adjustment. This is the clearest signal yet that America has lost control of its fiscal destiny and is now actively choosing currency debasement over fiscal responsibility.

For weeks, long-term US yields had climbed to their highest levels in over twenty years. The 10-year Treasury yield was sending a message that markets could no longer ignore: America's debt addiction has reached critical mass. When yields rise this sharply, lenders are demanding higher compensation for the risk of holding US debt. ► Page 5

Hamedan Day: Herbal medicine festival opens near Avicenna's tomb

TEHRAN — A herbal medicine festival and sales exhibition, named after Avicenna, opened next to the renowned Persian polymath's tomb in Hamadan on Sunday, coinciding with Hamadan Day and commemorations honoring the celebrated scholar.

The event, titled the "First Festival and Exhibition of Herbal Medicines and Herbal Products of the Millennium Sage," will run through August 28, according to Mohsen Masoum-Alizadeh, director general of Hamadan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Masoum-Alizadeh said the event provides an opportunity to showcase Hamadan province's capacities, expertise and products in the field of medicinal plants. ► Page 6



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Iran Shifts to Offensive Posture

Major General Mohsen Rezaei warns Iran will target the interests of countries joining the US economic war

Iran's security chief says Tehran has the military capability to block oil shipments across the Persian Gulf if hostile measures against the country continue.

TEHRAN — Major General Mohsen Rezaei, the newly appointed Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), warned on Saturday that the Islamic Republic will respond decisively to any country joining Washington's economic warfare against the nation.

"We will neutralize the economic war. America is backed into a corner. Either they honor their commitments, or they will have to struggle to get out of that corner, which will make the situation worse," General Rezaei said during a televised interview.

Rezaei's warning came after US President Donald Trump threatened a campaign of economic coercion against Iran while issuing illegal threats of secondary sanctions against any nation maintaining legitimate commercial ties with Tehran. "We tell all neighboring countries not to enter the eco-

nomic war against Iran. Anyone who does so will be considered a hostile country," General Rezaei said, adding, "First, we will negotiate with them and ask them not to do this; if they continue, we will target interests of that country."

Following the unprovoked illegal US-Israeli military aggression launched on February 28, which targeted Iranian infrastructure, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic forced the hostile coalition into a desperate retreat, culminating in the April 8 ceasefire and the June 17 memorandum of understanding (MoU). However, in bla-

tant defiance of international law, Washington reneged on its signed commitments. Having suffered a crushing defeat on the battlefield, Trump has now resorted to a desperate campaign of sanctions—arrogantly dubbed "Economic D-Day"—in a futile attempt to cover up Washington's failed military strategy against the Iranian nation.

Further in his remarks, Rezaei stressed that Iran holds the military capability to prevent oil from passing through the entire Persian Gulf if such hostile measures are pursued. "If they start such an action, we will not allow a single drop of oil to pass through the Persian Gulf. Oil will leave neither through the Strait of Hormuz nor through the Persian Gulf. For now, we have closed the Strait of Hormuz, while we are not targeting the oil in the Persian Gulf," the SNSC secretary said. ► Page 3



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Iran's resilience has foiled adversaries' plans amid 'full-scale war': Pezeshkian

TEHRAN- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Sunday that Iran's resilience and national unity had defied expectations that the country would collapse under sustained military, economic and political pressure, arguing that Tehran had emerged stronger despite a 'full-scale economic, military and security war.'

Speaking at a ceremony at the mausoleum of the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, marking the beginning of Government Week, Pezeshkian said Iran's adversaries had expected intense pressure to weaken the country and fracture its society. ► Page 2

Araghchi says US pressure tactics have failed as Iran expands regional diplomacy

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has accused the United States of reverting to failed economic and military pressure tactics against Tehran, while highlighting Iran's parallel diplomatic efforts with regional countries to reduce tensions and strengthen bilateral ties.

Speaking on Sunday at a ceremony at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, Araghchi said Washington's latest economic campaign was merely a repetition of previous pressure strategies that had failed to force Iran to change course.

He said successive US administrations had used different labels for essentially the same policy, citing the 'crippling sanctions' imposed during the Obama administration, President Donald Trump's 'maximum pressure' campaign during his first term, and the current campaign, so-called 'crushing sanctions'. ► Page 2

US-Israeli strikes hit medical and nuclear facilities, Iran nuclear chief says

TEHRAN- The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, said US and Israeli military strikes over the past year targeted facilities linked not only to Iran's nuclear program but also to the production of medical and diagnostic materials used by patients across the country.

Speaking at a ceremony marking Physicians' Day in Iran's nuclear industry on Sunday, Eslami said the nuclear fuel production plant in Isfahan was the first facility targeted during the attacks. The plant produces fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor, which is primarily used for research and the production of radiopharmaceuticals. ► Page 3

US tanker aircraft leave Bulgaria as Iran war raises doubts over NATO protection

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — Two US Air Force KC-135 tanker aircraft, originally deployed to support US military operations involving Iran, have departed Bulgaria's Bezmer Air Base. The withdrawal was confirmed on Friday by Bulgaria's Defense Minister, Dimitar Stoyanov.

The temporary deployment was requested by the United States—which launched a joint military campaign with Israel against Iran on February 28—under a bilateral agreement governing the joint use of military facilities.

On July 22, Bulgaria's parliament officially authorized the use of Bezmer Air Base as a refueling site, permitting roughly 250 US military personnel to be stationed at the facility until October. ► Page 3

Pomodoro's masterpiece gets new lease of life in Tehran museum

TEHRAN — A monumental bronze sphere by late Italian sculptor Arnaldo Pomodoro has been unveiled at Tehran's Time Museum following months of conservation and restoration project, marking the centenary of the artist's birth.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Hamidreza Soleimani, CEO of the Dafineh Museums of the Mostazafan Foundation; Ahmad Mohit Tabatabaei, head of the Iranian Museums Association; Emmanuel Marchi, cultural attaché of the Italian Embassy in Tehran; Amir Qassemi, head of Tehran Municipality's Tourism Headquarters; and representatives of Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. ► Page 6

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

UAE remains lost in its delusions

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to the UAE's regional behavior. According to the piece, Abu Dhabi's actions show that the country still clings to the illusion that American and Israeli backing will guarantee its political survival and secure a role for it in the region. The recent security pact among Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey dealt a heavy blow to the UAE, yet instead of adopting a cooperative regional approach, it continues to play on the American and Israeli field; something that requires a firm response from regional countries to counter Abu Dhabi's destructive role in regional security. The United States, unable to bear the high financial and human costs of waging war against Iran, is—alongside its naval blockade—seeking to open new fronts to wear down Iran's capabilities.

Iran: A document founded on peace and friendship

The Iran newspaper, in an interview with Akbar Valizadeh, professor of regional studies at the University of Tehran, highlighted the importance of ratifying the Caspian Sea Convention for Iran. Valizadeh explained that the Caspian Sea is legally and geographically different from the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, and the legal regimes of the two cannot be equated. However, recent developments carry a shared message for all regional states: the security of waterways and maritime navigation cannot be left solely to power balances; clear rules, cooperative mechanisms, and the responsibility of littoral states have become increasingly important. The Caspian Sea Convention gains significance precisely in this context. It defines the Caspian as a zone of peace, good neighborliness, friendship, and cooperation, and explicitly prohibits the presence of armed forces from non-littoral states. It also emphasizes regional stability and the security of maritime navigation.

Sobh-e-No: Dimensions of an inspiring power

Sobh-e-No examined the dimensions of Ghalibaf's trip to Iraq, arguing that if the visit is viewed merely through the lens of routine parliamentary meetings, official encounters, and neighborly relations, its true meaning will be missed. Today's Baghdad is not just a diplomatic destination; it is a node in the geometry of regional power—one in which Iran must move from the phase of “accumulating power” to the more difficult phase of “transforming power”: turning deterrence into security, influence into benefit, geography into economy, and battlefield achievements into strategic dividends. Ghalibaf's trip is described as one link in a larger

chain: Iran's regional policy shifting from the logic of merely preserving influence to producing benefit from influence. The visit also reflects multi-layered diplomacy. Baghdad is not just the capital of a neighboring state; it is one of the testing grounds for Iran's new regional rationality. The meaning of the trip should be sought not only in photos from Baghdad, but in this transition from “power for resistance to power for resistance and benefit.”

Etemad: Sanctions are America's lever to force Iran to retreat

Etemad interviewed Seyyed Jalal Sadatian, a Middle East expert, about Washington's return to “maximum pressure” and Tehran's response to the US economic campaign. Sadatian argued that if the US claims the Strait of Hormuz is open, and ships pass freely, then why does it simultaneously threaten Iran with intensified economic pressure? This contradiction, he said, shows that Washington itself is affected by the situation in the strait and the restrictions on movement there. If energy reserves in Asia, Europe, or other consumers of Persian Gulf oil decline, the likelihood of a price surge and a global market crisis increases. In such a scenario, the US would face pressure from Arab states, European governments, and Asian economies to find a way to manage the crisis. Therefore, Trump's escalatory threats are an attempt to impose greater pressure on Iran and push Tehran toward yielding to Washington's demands.

Ettelaat: Tehran does not want the Kurdistan region to become a flashpoint

Ettelaat, in an interview with Ali Asghar Zargar, a foreign policy expert, emphasized the need to maintain calm with Iran's neighbors. Zargar argued that Iran must demonstrate that its relations with the Kurdistan Region—despite existing sensitivities and disagreements—are not on a path toward tension. From the perspective of US reactions, it is crucial to show that Iran has no problem with Kurdistan or its regional government. This matters because any dispute between Iran and the Kurdistan Region could escalate from a local issue into a factor in broader regional dynamics. At a time when Iran and the US remain engaged in a multilayered confrontation, Tehran does not want friction with a neighbor to become a new source of external pressure. Trump has adopted new positions and is prioritizing economic sanctions. Iran must therefore manage the US file while also preventing new crises with its neighbors, since any fresh regional tension could further restrict Iran's diplomatic maneuvering space.

Field Marshal Asim Munir visiting Tehran to bolster regional peace

TEHRAN — Pakistan's Chief of Defense Forces (CDF), Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, will travel to Tehran on Monday, leading a high-level official delegation to conduct key strategic talks aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing regional security.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei announced on Sunday that the visit centers on deepening diplomatic ties between Tehran and Islamabad, alongside advancing Pakistan's active mediation efforts across West Asia. During his stay in the Iranian capital, Field Marshal Munir is scheduled to engage with top Iranian diplomatic and military leadership. This engagement follows high-level consultations between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Field Marshal Munir, during which both sides reviewed pressing security challenges and evaluated collaborative frameworks to secure long-term stability.

This diplomatic initiative rests on a deep historical foundation. Iran was the first country to formally recognize Pakistan upon its independence in 1947, initiating decades of partnership rooted in shared border defense, trade connectivity, and cultural ties. Over the decades, Islamabad has repeatedly stepped forward as a trusted regional me-

diator.

Pakistan brokered a key memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States on June 17, establishing framework terms to cease hostilities. While subsequent US aerial strikes and naval blockades disrupted the agreement, Pakistan had already demonstrated its diplomatic role by helping facilitate the April 8 ceasefire that paused the 39-day war that the US and Israel launched on Iran on February 28.

Tehran has repeatedly expressed its gratitude to Pakistan for its diplomatic support and conflict-resolution efforts during critical moments of crisis.

Beyond defense cooperation, economic partnership remains central to their bilateral relationship. Under comprehensive joint agreements, Tehran and Islamabad are actively expanding cross-border infrastructure, trade market access, and energy links. These initiatives aim to scale bilateral trade volume from over \$3 billion to a targeted \$10 billion, reflecting a mutual commitment to leveraging shared geography for long-term economic integration and regional peace.

Iran's resilience has foiled adversaries' plans amid 'full-scale war': Pezeshkian

From page 1 ► “The enemies imagined that with their pressure and actions Iran would collapse. Not only did this not happen, but the power and unity of the Iranian nation amazed the world,” he said.

Pezeshkian said the government had faced an exceptionally difficult period since taking office, citing war, sanctions, political and economic pressure and assassinations, alongside persistent domestic challenges involving water, electricity, gas, fuel, the environment and the banking system.

He said the scale of the pressure had made Iran's ability to maintain social cohesion particularly significant.

“Our dear people truly performed a miracle,” Pezeshkian said, adding that analysts had struggled to explain how the Iranian nation had managed to withstand such sustained pressure.

Economic pressure and internal cohesion

Pezeshkian described the confrontation with Iran as extending well beyond the battlefield, saying economic restrictions and efforts to isolate Tehran internationally were central elements of an ‘economic war.’

He pointed to recent US threats of imposing the “most horrific sanctions” on Iran, arguing that such measures had failed to break the country's resolve. He also accused Iran's adversaries of seeking to persuade Muslim governments to limit economic dealings with Tehran to force Iran into submission.

The president called for the same spirit of solidarity that he said prevailed during Iran's 1980–88 war with Iraq, urging citizens and institutions to support one another and coordinate their efforts.

Araghchi says US pressure tactics have failed as Iran expands regional diplomacy

From page 1 ► “It is a repetitive film that they are showing again, and we know it by heart and know how to confront and deal with it,” Araghchi said.

The foreign minister argued that Washington's return to economic pressure after threats and military action reflected frustration over its inability to achieve its objectives through other means.

“The fact that they have once again resorted to their old plans after military operations and threats to strike and do this and that shows that they are desperate,” he said.

Araghchi dismissed concerns that Iran could be intimidated by the prospect of an economic blockade, saying Tehran had faced similar measures in the past and would withstand the latest campaign as well. He maintained that the United States should instead pursue engagement based on respect, justice and dignity.

Expulsion of Iranian diplomats from Paris could damage bilateral ties, Tehran warns

TEHRAN- Iran has warned that France's expulsion of two Iranian diplomats could seriously damage relations between Tehran and Paris, after both countries took reciprocal measures amid accusations of diplomatic interference in Iran's internal affairs.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said on Sunday that France's action was “unjustifiable” and potentially “destructive” to the continuation of bilateral relations. He stressed that relations between the two countries should be based on mutual respect, adherence to international law and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs.

Baqaei said Iran had acted after determining that the French Embassy in Tehran had exceed-



He also stressed the importance of preventing political and social divisions from deepening under economic pressure. Pezeshkian said Iran's strength depended on national solidarity, consultation, expertise and coordinated decision-making, arguing that once decisions were reached through proper deliberation, institutions and political groups should support their implementation.

He pledged that his government would continue working to ease inflation, improve livelihoods and address domestic economic problems despite external pressure.

Pezeshkian defends Islamabad MoU

Pezeshkian also defended the memorandum of understanding reached through Pakistan-brokered diplomacy, describing it as a product of extensive consultations among military, security and government officials.

He said the agreement reflected a “technical consensus” among those responsible for defending the country, safe-

guarding national security and implementing policy decisions, and was based on the principles of “expediency, dignity and wisdom.”

In separate remarks on Saturday, Pezeshkian described the Islamabad MoU as a dignified agreement containing no concession or provision amounting to capitulation.

“Not even a single clause can be found in it that indicates capitulation, and all the commitments concern the other side,” he said.

He argued that Iran could not remain indefinitely in a state of “neither war nor peace” and that a diplomatic framework was necessary to move the country beyond prolonged uncertainty while preserving its national interests and strength.

Pezeshkian also linked political stability to economic recovery, saying investment could not flourish in conditions of war or persistent uncertainty. “Capital and money are the most delicate non-human beings that flee from any danger,” he said.

Government vows to navigate crisis

Despite acknowledging the country's continuing economic and social difficulties, Pezeshkian said his administration would continue serving the public and working to improve living conditions.

He thanked the armed forces and the Iranian people for their resilience, including citizens who had grievances with the government but, he said, maintained their solidarity when the country faced external threats.

“We are ashamed before the people that problems exist,” Pezeshkian said, pledging that the government would continue working “as long as we have breath in our bodies” to improve people's welfare and steer Iran through the current crises. His remarks presented national cohesion and resistance to external pressure as central pillars of Tehran's strategy, while his defense of the Islamabad MoU signaled an effort to combine continued resistance with diplomacy aimed at reducing the risks of prolonged confrontation.



gional diplomacy amid continuing tensions.

The combination of Araghchi's remarks and his diplomatic contacts reflects Tehran's dual approach of resisting ‘renewed US pressure’ while maintaining engagement with regional governments. Iran says it favors diplomacy based on mutual respect and regional cooperation, while rejecting economic or military pressure as a means of influencing its policies.

ed its diplomatic mandate and engaged in activities contrary to its responsibilities under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

“As soon as we felt that the French embassy was acting beyond its responsibilities, we took action and announced that two French diplomats must leave Iran and would not be allowed to return,” he said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Aug. 18 declared two French diplomats working at the French Embassy in Tehran persona non grata and barred them from returning to the country. The decision came after Iranian authorities accused the diplomats of engaging in activities that violated international law and interfered in Iran's domestic affairs.

The dispute escalated after Iran's Intelligence Ministry said on Aug. 15 that the two diplomats had attended a secret meeting in Tehran in July with individuals linked to a major case involving ‘foreign infiltration and interference.’ Iranian authorities said the diplomats' activities violated their diplomatic obligations and Iranian law.

The Foreign Ministry said several weeks had passed since the activities were identified, but that France had taken no measures to address the issue or provide assurances that similar conduct would not be repeated.

Baqaei said Iran's response had been taken in accordance with international law and that Tehran would continue to issue warnings and take necessary

measures whenever it considered such action warranted.

“Relations between Iran and France must be based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs,” he said, warning that France's retaliatory move could undermine the future of bilateral relations.

The diplomatic dispute adds another strain to relations between Tehran and Paris, with both sides now having taken reciprocal action against diplomats. Iran believes that its measures were a lawful response to ‘activities outside the accepted scope of diplomatic duties,’ while France's decision to expel Iranian diplomats has prompted a warning from Tehran over the potential consequences for bilateral ties.

Iran shifts to offensive posture

Major General Mohsen Rezaei warns Iran will target the interests of countries joining the US economic war

From Page 1 ▶ The top security official, meanwhile, ruled out any immediate reopening of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, emphasizing that Washington must first take concrete, verifiable steps to honor its previous commitments. He pointed to an agreement between Iran and Oman regarding the maritime pass. “This commercial route is shared by Iran and Oman.” He added, “There is another identity here that belongs to us. The Strait of Hormuz is the gateway into the Persian Gulf, and Oman has no presence inside the Persian Gulf proper. Therefore, we cannot relinquish our rightful control over the Strait of Hormuz.”

Rezaei explained that Iran’s defense strategy and diplomatic conduct have fundamentally transformed in response to the recent American-Israeli military aggression and Iran’s determined retaliatory closure of the strait. “Iran today will not be the Iran it was before the war. Of course, the overconfident United States is not the same America it was before the war either. Iran’s patterns of behavior in the international arena have transformed. The entire world now looks at us differently, and we have no choice but to evolve our behavior in this context.”

According to Rezaei, Iran will incorporate key strategic lessons from the conflict into its future defense planning, continuing to advance indigenously developed technologies while adjusting its diplomatic posture in response to persistent US violations. “The Leader’s decision to bring in experienced commanders means that we will certainly apply the lessons we have learned in the next battle,” the official noted, referring to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei’s recent appointment of veteran commanders to key military positions, including Rezaei himself. “Certainly, changes will be made in the way Iran manages and conducts war, as well as in its diplomatic conduct. The reason is clear: The Americans betrayed the negotiations and reneged on their own signature.”

Rezaei characterized Washington’s current approach as a weak attempt to rely on economic pressure after its military tactics failed on the ground. He dismissed the economic measures as mere media propaganda, noting that Iranian trade remains active despite illegal blockades. “Take the issue of the American naval blockade. This is not something new. In the past one or two months alone, we have successfully shipped 70 million barrels of oil.” Despite the warnings, Rezaei affirmed that Iran remains committed to genuine diplomacy, while stressing that Tehran will pursue negotiation from a position of absolute strength.

“We are serious about diplomacy, but we have changed our method... We are waiting for the other side to honor its commitments. We want the wars in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, and



Yemen to end,” the security chief said, emphasizing the Islamic Republic’s unwavering demand for an immediate end to regional aggression across all fronts.

Rezaei reaffirmed that while the Islamic Republic does not seek conflict, it will defend its sovereignty without hesitation. “We are not warmongers, but we will never surrender. We will sacrifice every last drop of our blood for the people and Iran.” “We advise the Americans not to increase their forces; if they do, we will strike them. Every meeting they hold with counter-revolutionary elements, we will strike. Our attacks are now precisely targeted.”

New geopolitical reality

The bluster emanating from the White House regarding an “economic D-Day” is not a sign of American strength, but rather the unmistakable death rattle of a failing imperial strategy. By turning to financial terrorism after the failure of its direct military aggression alongside Israel, Washington has conceded a pivotal truth: the United States and its regional vassals cannot dictate terms to the Islamic Republic through force of arms.

The military conflict that began with the illegal US-Israeli attacks on February 28 exposed the severe vulnerabilities of Western power. For decades, Pentagon strategists operated under the illusion that overwhelming airpower and naval presence could force Tehran into capitulation. Instead, Iran’s sophisticated asymmetric defense doctrine, precision ballistic strikes, and advanced drone technology shattered enemy formations, inflicting unprecedented strategic costs and forcing the aggressors to sue for the April 8 ceasefire. When the June 17 memorandum of understanding was signed, it served as formal recognition of Iran’s victory on the battlefield and its undisputed status as the preeminent power in West Asia. However, Washington’s habitual treachery—manifested in its immediate violation of the June 17 agreement—sur-

prised no one in Tehran. Trump’s reliance on coercive sanctions is a rehearsed tactic from a bygone era. The global economic landscape is no longer subservient to Western dictation.

Over the past decade, Iran has systematically fortified its economic resilience, developing sophisticated trade networks, alternative financial corridors, and robust bilateral mechanisms with non-Western powers. The fact that Iran successfully exported tens of millions of barrels of oil in recent weeks under the nose of an aggressive American blockade stands as living proof that the era of Western economic hegemony has reached its end.

Furthermore, Major General Rezaei’s firm message to neighboring states underscores a critical shift in regional dynamics. Foreign military bases and economic compliance with hostile powers are no longer cost-free propositions for regional capitals. The Persian Gulf is the historic domain of the nations that border it, and any attempt by regional actors to facilitate Washington’s economic aggression will be met with swift, decisive retaliatory measures. By holding complete leverage over the Strait of Hormuz—the vital artery of international energy markets—Tehran possesses the absolute capability to turn any illegal economic blockade against the aggressors themselves. Under the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, and reinforced by battlefield-tested leadership across the Supreme National Security Council and Armed Forces, Iran’s defense and diplomatic posture has evolved permanently. The era of unilateral Western concessions is over. Tehran will no longer negotiate under duress or tolerate broken promises. If the United States wishes to prevent complete economic chaos and further military humiliation, it must abandon its arrogant dictates, recognize its defeat, and honor every obligation it has repeatedly signed and betrayed.

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said Sunday that Israel’s settlement expansion and actions in the occupied Palestinian territories cannot conceal what he described as its strategic defeats since Oct. 7. In a message, Qaani said the expansion reflected an attempt to escape a deepening military, political, security and social crisis. He reaffirmed support for the Palestinian cause, calling it a lasting ideal.

■ Iran approves transit fees for ships using Strait of Hormuz

Iran’s parliamentary National Security and Foreign Policy Commission has approved a provision requiring vessels from countries authorized to transit the Strait of Hormuz to pay fees for services provided by Iran. The measure, part of Article 3 of a proposed strategic bill, covers navigation, environmental, safety, insurance and emergency fuel services. Fees would be collected in Iranian rials or another currency designated by Tehran.

■ Iran’s acting defense chief dismisses Trump’s claim on Strait of Hormuz

Iran’s acting defense minister, Seyyed Majid Ibn al-Reza, dismissed US President Donald Trump’s claim that the Strait of Hormuz is American territory, saying Trump “talks too much.” Speaking Sunday, Ibn al-Reza said Iran relies on its young people and domestic expertise to overcome current challenges. Trump made the claim at a South Carolina rally, while also saying Washington was uncertain about pursuing a deal with Tehran.

■ Iran says armed forces have capacity to overcome any crisis

Iran’s Defense Ministry spokesman Brig.

Gen. Reza Talaei-Nik said Sunday that the Iranian nation and armed forces have the experience and capabilities needed to withstand military aggression and overcome resulting crises. Addressing student organization managers, he identified national identity, territorial integrity, economic progress and security as key areas targeted by Iran’s adversaries. He also called for greater investment in young people, specialists and other human resources.

■ Former Iranian envoy: China prioritizes ending war over keeping Hormuz open

Former Iranian UN ambassador Gholamali Khoshroo said China’s primary interest in the Persian Gulf is ending the war and restoring regional stability, rather than simply keeping the Strait of Hormuz open. He said Beijing views the conflict as part of a broader pattern of US unilateralism and remains opposed to war while supporting Iran’s right to self-defense. Khoshroo said China is unlikely to distance itself from Iran or West Asia.

■ Iran urges UK, France to act on warnings over Israeli policies

Iran has urged Britain and France to take concrete measures against Israel after 102 former British and French diplomats warned that Israeli policies in the occupied Palestinian territories were moving toward “ethnic cleansing” and the eradication of Palestine. Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi called for an end to arms transfers, a ban on trade with illegal settlements and implementation of international court decisions, saying London and Paris should move beyond expressions of concern.



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US tanker aircraft leave Bulgaria as Iran war raises doubts over NATO protection



From Page 1 ▶ However, the decision immediately sparked protests among residents who voiced fears that the presence of the American planes could make the area a target for Iranian missile and drone strikes.

The deployment also triggered swift diplomatic warnings from Tehran. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi spoke to his Bulgarian counterpart shortly after the authorization, reminding her that “any party that participates in any way in carrying out a military attack against Iran will certainly have to accept responsibility for its consequences.” Earlier in July, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei issued a similar warning against hosting the American aircraft, stating that facilitating such operations would amount to “complicity in the crimes of aggression and war crimes.”

Tensions mounted further following a recent report by the Financial Times alleging that Tehran had evaluated potential strikes against American military assets in southeastern Europe—specifically highlighting Bulgaria—if the US escalated the conflict. In response to the report, an unnamed NATO official asserted that the alliance was fully prepared to address any threats against US military targets on European soil.

Dr. Tania Glouhtcheva, PhD in Political Sciences and Head of the International Department at Bulgaria’s DUMA newspaper, shared her insights on the local mood following the departure of the US aircraft. “Of course, people are calm now, especially those living in Bezmer.”

Despite the temporary relief, she raised deeper questions regarding NATO’s security guarantees for the region. “The main concern for most Bulgarians and Europeans is that NATO won’t be able to protect us,” she stated. “Most people don’t believe NATO is as strong

as it is portrayed. Although we are part of the EU, crises in recent years have shown that every country acts in its own interests and would rather protect itself than help another member state.”

Dr. Glouhtcheva also expressed skepticism regarding Washington’s reliability as a partner for Sofia.

“Although there is a very pro-American party in the parliament, ready to do whatever Trump orders, I think most people retain their common sense,” she said.

Pointing to shiftable geopolitical stances under the US leadership, she added, “Donald Trump changes his mind constantly. Today he assures us he is our friend and ally; tomorrow, he decides the opposite.”

The departure of the KC-135 tankers from Bezmer Air Base has brought immediate relief to local communities that feared being drawn into the crossfire of the West Asia conflict. Yet the episode has exposed far deeper concerns about Europe’s security architecture. For many Bulgarians, the controversy has reinforced doubts over whether NATO can actually shield its members from the consequences of a wider conflict, particularly when US military operations turn European territory into a potential target. It also underscores the difficult position of smaller NATO members, caught between pressure to meet alliance commitments and the growing need to protect their own populations from the risks created by Washington’s military engagements. At the heart of the debate is a growing concern that NATO’s security guarantees may offer less protection than expected, while closer alignment with US military operations could instead leave European allies more exposed to the consequences of conflict.

US-Israeli strikes hit medical and nuclear facilities, Iran nuclear chief says



From Page 1 ▶ Eslami said a radiopharmaceutical production facility was also hit in the air raids, while an oxygen-18 production line at the Khondab complex was bombed. Oxygen-18 is used in positron emission tomography (PET) scans, a key diagnostic tool in modern medicine.

He said AEOL-produced medical and diagnostic products are used by more than 1.5 million people in Iran each year and are also exported to several countries. Eslami argued that the targeting of facilities involved in scientific and medical production demonstrated the consequences of the attacks beyond the nuclear sector.

“Scientific activities whose products are used by the public” were among the targets, Eslami said, describing the strikes as a clear reflection of the attackers’ approach toward Iran’s scientific capabilities.

Eslami also highlighted Iran’s development of cold plasma technology, describing it as a promising new avenue for medical applications. According to the AEOL chief, more than 20 wound-treatment clinics across Iran are currently using the technology in treatments aimed at cancer patients and pain relief.

The remarks underscore the overlap between Iran’s civilian nuclear program and its broader medical and scientific infrastructure, particularly in areas such as radiopharmaceuticals and nuclear medicine. Tehran has repeatedly emphasized the medical and research applications of its nuclear capabilities, while the United States and Israel have targeted parts of Iran’s nuclear infrastructure during their military confrontations with the country.

Eslami said Iran’s nuclear industry has continued to develop medical technologies despite the attacks, with researchers pursuing advanced applications in healthcare and expanding the international reach of domestically produced nuclear-related medical products.

■ Qalibaf: US economic pressure on Iran will ‘boomerang’

Iranian chief negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf warned that Washington’s plan to impose ‘crushing economic pressure’ on Iran would ultimately backfire on the United States.

In a post on X, Qalibaf linked US economic challenges, including rising consumer prices, to Washington’s pressure campaign against Iran. Mocking efforts to control inflation through imports, he asked whether the United States could similarly “import” lower bond yields, housing demand or wages.

“A frozen foreign policy devoid of initiative produces a frozen and stagnant economy,” Qalibaf wrote, adding that the “Iran boomerang” would ultimately come back at the United States.

■ Iran has plans to counter US economic warfare, IRGC says

Iran has prepared measures to counter the effects of what it describes as intensified US economic warfare, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps spokesman Brig. Gen. Mohsen Mohebbi said Sunday. He said Washington’s return to economic pressure after military confrontation demonstrated the failure of its previous strategy. Mohebbi added that Iran has plans for every hostile action and is strengthening economic ties with other countries while bypassing US pressure.

■ Israeli settlement expansion cannot hide strategic defeats: Qaani

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force Commander Brig. Gen. Esmail Qaani

Vast reserves, Hormuz, infrastructure define Iran's geopolitical oil weight: expert

TEHRAN- Hamid Nobahar, an economic expert, in an interview with Tasnim News Agency, while explaining the position Iran's oil in the world's energy equations, said: Iran's oil power cannot be measured by daily production volume or export levels at a given point in time. Iran's position in the global energy geography is the result of a combination of vast hydrocarbon reserves, a long history of production, field development capacity, access to the Persian Gulf waters, and proximity to the Strait of Hormuz—a waterway that, before the disruptions of 2026, was one of the world's most important energy transit routes.

He added: According to OPEC data, Iran had approximately 208.6 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves at the end of 2024. Iran's crude oil production in 2024 was also about 3.26 million barrels per day, which confirms Iran's special position in terms of possessing oil resources.

This economic expert clarified: To assess Iran's oil power, one must distinguish between proven oil reserves, production capacity, actual exports, and the capacity to influence the market. Large reserves do not by themselves create market power, and production capacity, the ability to transport, and access to markets are also of great importance. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has estimated that Iran's crude oil production capacity could return to about 3.8 million barrels per day if sanctions restrictions are lifted.

He continued: EIA data also specify that Iran's exports of crude oil and condensates, which were about 400,000 barrels per day in 2020, reached nearly 1.4 million barrels per day in 2023 and were estimated at about 1.5 million barrels per day in the first eight months of 2024. China was the destination for about 90 percent of Iran's crude oil and condensate exports in 2023. These statistics on the one hand show Iran's capacity to maintain exports under sanctions, and on the other hand reveal the importance of diversifying export markets to increase the country's oil maneuvering power.

Nobahar, referring to the position of the Strait of Hormuz, said: Iran alone does not determine global oil prices, but the country's production capacity, vast reserves, and geographical location can affect supply balance and market expectations. The strategic Strait of Hormuz increases this importance because it is the transit route for major Persian Gulf producers' oil to global markets.

He added: According to U.S. Energy Information Administration data, in 2023 about 20.9 million barrels per day of crude oil, condensates, and petroleum products passed through the Strait of Hormuz. Of this amount, about 14.9 million barrels per day were crude oil and condensates, which is equivalent to a large portion of the world's seaborne oil trade, placing Hormuz's economic importance beyond that of a regional waterway.

He clarified: Hormuz's position means that any disruption in the strait affects the calculations of refineries, shipping companies, insurers, energy traders, and oil-importing governments.

The energy economics expert continued: The country's oil power does not stop at the wellhead. Iran's oil is part of a network of production, storage, export terminals, pipelines, transport fleets, destination refineries, and the financial system. The more flexible this network, the greater Iran's ability to economically utilize its reserves. For this reason, developing export terminals outside the Hormuz area, increasing storage capacity, diversifying customers, and strengthening energy transmission infrastructure are strategically important.

Referring to the Jask project, he said: To reduce the vulnerability of oil exports to constraints on the Hormuz route, the country has developed the Jask export infrastructure and the Goreh-Jask pipeline, with a nominal capacity estimated at



about one million barrels per day. Iran's oil loading terminal capacity is also estimated at over 8 million barrels per day, indicating the existence of significant infrastructure capacity in the country's oil industry.

Regarding Iran's export dependence on China, he said: The Chinese market is very important for Iranian oil, but customer diversification can reduce market concentration risk. According to a Reuters report on August 21, 2026, Iran's oil exports to Chinese buyers in that month reached about 534,000 barrels per day, and it also reported a reduction in floating oil inventories from about 105 million barrels to 80 million barrels.

The economic expert added: Energy Security holds special importance in these equations. A country that possesses oil resources but lacks transit routes, export capacity, or diverse markets cannot fully utilize the economic capacity of its resources. Iran has a different position in this regard; vast oil reserves, considerable production, Asian markets, access to the Persian Gulf, and the development of alternative export routes form a set of interrelated capacities.

He emphasized: The development of joint fields must also be part of Iran's oil power policy. Increasing extraction from joint fields, developing processing infrastructure, and collecting associated gases will both help increase production and prevent resource waste. Protecting Iran's share in joint fields is important because any lost production in these fields can lead to a reduction in the country's economic share of a shared resource.

This energy economics expert said: Iran's oil is also a geopolitical tool from that perspective, but its power is not limited to reserve volume. The combination of 208.6 billion barrels of proven reserves, production of about 3.26 million barrels of crude oil per day in 2024, potential capacity of 3.8 million barrels per day, exports of about 1.5 million barrels per day in the first eight months of 2024, and geographical position adjacent to Hormuz has provided the Islamic Republic of Iran with a set of capacity-building assets.

He added: The country's oil policy must focus on converting oil reserves into sustainable oil power, meaning that every barrel of oil produced should be part of a policy of increasing production capacity, market diversification, strengthening export infrastructure, developing refining, and generating sustainable foreign exchange earnings. The government and Ministry of Oil's attention in the year 1405 (2026-2027) to production continuity, facility renovation, production capacity development, and pursuing joint fields in this direction is commendable. What matters in Iran's oil industry is safeguarding one of the most important foundations of the country's economic and geopolitical power.

He noted: Whenever Iran's oil transforms from a source of income into a powerful network of production, investment, exports, refining, storage, and energy diplomacy, the country's position in global equations will become more robust. In this equation, Hormuz is the knot that connects Iran's oil, Asia's energy security, and the global economy to one another. It is this connection that gives Iran's oil its geopolitical value and transforms the protection of the country's oil capacity into an economic and national priority.

try, stated: These projects are being implemented with the aim of increasing production, reducing gas flaring, developing processing capacity, and strengthening the country's drilling capability.

Stating that the National Iranian South Oil Company, as the largest crude oil producer in the country, has been a pioneer in developing private sector participation in the upstream oil industry, he added: In the second half of last year, the trend of signing investment contracts grew significantly, and these contracts are focused on three main

axes: collecting associated gases and extinguishing flares, crude oil processing, and providing onshore drilling rigs.

The Director of Investment and Business Development of the National Iranian Oil Company said: In the field of collecting associated gases and flare gases, 23 contracts have been signed with the private and non-governmental sectors, the implementation of which will provide the basis for extinguishing 57 flares in Khuzestan province.

Moghiseh added: The implementation of these contracts has not stopped, and it is predicted that by the end of

Iran-Turkey agreement document for rail connection exchanged

TEHRAN- The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development announced the exchange of the Iran-Turkey agreement document for rail connection at the Cheshmeh Soraya border.

According to Tasnim News Agency, Jabbar Ali Zakeri, CEO of the Railway Company, during a visit by Seyyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, Vice President and Head of the Planning and Budget Organization, and Reza Rahmani, Governor of West Azarbaijan Province, to various sections of the Khavaran-Tabriz-Marand-Cheshmeh Soraya railway project, stated: Connecting Cheshmeh Soraya to Iran's railway network and thereby connecting the country to Turkey's railway network through a new border point is one of the programs of the 14th government, and the necessary measures are being taken to bring the project into the implementation phase.

Zakeri emphasized: The necessary approvals for the project have been obtained, preliminary studies have been conducted, and over the past six months, the groundwork for concluding the contract has been prepared.

He clarified: Given that the project contract is foreseen as EPC, after the contract is concluded, supplementary studies and the second phase of studies will begin by the contractor, and it is predicted that within the first six months of the contract, the studies will be completed and executive operations will begin at several points.

He said: One of the important requirements for concluding the contract was the exchange of the agreed document between Iran and Turkey. The Turkish government provided its response last



week, and it is predicted that this document will be exchanged in the near future with the presence of transport and road officials of the two countries.

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development, regarding the financing of the project, said: The Planning and Budget Organization has made the necessary coordination for providing project credit, including the use of existing capacities and other financial solutions, and we hope that in the coming weeks, good news will be announced regarding financing and the start of executive operations for this project.

Zakeri, explaining the technical specifications of the project, said: This project starts from Khavaran and includes completing the connection of Khavaran to Tabriz railway station, upgrading and double-tracking the Tabriz-Marand route, and then continuing the route to Cheshmeh Soraya.

He announced the total length of this route as approximately 324 kilometers and said: In previous studies, the route length was considered about 294 kilometers, but given the necessity

of standardizing technical specifications and employer requirements across the entire corridor, the new specifications for the project have been defined for about 324 kilometers.

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development emphasized: This project is not merely a railway line within one province, but is considered part of the country's east-west corridor from Sarakhs to Cheshmeh Soraya and must be implemented with unified technical specifications.

Zakeri said: At the beginning of the route, about 9 kilometers of tunnel are foreseen, and in the Yam and Marand railway area, a tunnel of about five to six kilometers will also be constructed.

Zakeri clarified: The Article 23 permit for the project has been obtained and environmental studies have also been fully completed; therefore, a significant portion of the requirements for bringing the project into the implementation phase is in place.

The CEO of the Railway Company said: The project implementation is foreseen in three phases, with

the first phase including construction, completion, and double-tracking of the route, and in subsequent phases, electrification, implementation of signaling systems, and provision of rolling stock will follow.

Zakeri announced the required credit for the implementation of the first phase of the project as approximately 1.8 billion dollars and said: Project financing is being pursued using government resources and other financial methods.

Seyyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, Head of the Planning and Budget Organization, also said: The project to connect Cheshmeh Soraya to the country's railway network, as an electrified and double-track line, is going through study stages, obtaining permits, and contract preparation, and its implementation is considered one of the important projects of interest to the government.

Reza Rahmani, Governor of West Azarbaijan, also said: The communication routes of this province are part of the country's international routes and the connecting link between Iran and regional countries, and the region's capacities should be activated for the development of international trade and connecting Iran to the markets of Turkey, Europe, and Central Asian countries.

The Khavaran-Tabriz-Marand-Cheshmeh Soraya railway project, by connecting to the Iran-Turkey border, is one of the important projects for developing the railway network in the northwest of the country and can provide the groundwork for strengthening the east-west corridor and increasing the capacity for freight and passenger transport.

TPO official outlines 2-year achievements in trade infrastructure, export development

TEHRAN- The Deputy Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), outlining the organization's most important actions and achievements over the past two years, identified the development of trade infrastructure, strengthening Iran's presence in target markets, targeted support for exporters, and facilitation of foreign trade processes as the main axes of the organization's activities.

According to the Public Relations Department of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, Morteza Salehi, while congratulating Government Week, said in explaining the two-year performance of TPO in the 14th government: Facilitation, reform, and streamlining of regulations and trade processes were seriously placed on the organization's agenda, and by pursuing the removal of obstacles facing economic activists, effective steps were taken during this period to reduce the complexities of order registration, customs clearance, and currency repatriation.

According to him; removing the restriction on editing tariff codes in some order registrations and facilitating processes related to imports and exports were among the most important actions of the organization in this period.

Salehi further, referring to the development of the network of commercial attachés in export target countries, said: The network of commercial attachés, as the organization's field arm, plays an important role in introducing Iran's production and export capa-

bilities and establishing connections among economic activists. Therefore, we have increased the number of commercial attachés in export target countries to enhance their presence, focus more on target markets, and gain a more precise understanding of the capacities, needs, and trade opportunities of countries.

He cited the development of trade centers in target markets as another important action of this period and said: The establishment and strengthening of trade centers enable the continuous and organized presence of Iranian companies in foreign markets and will help exporters identify customers, develop distribution networks, and continuously follow up on markets. In other words, the organization's approach in this area is to move from temporary presence in markets towards creating sustainable infrastructure for export development. Therefore, in the past two years, we have issued initial licenses for more than 10 trade and marketing centers for Iranian products and services.

This official at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran also, referring to the actions taken in the field of domestic and international exhibitions and events, stated: Facilitating the licensing process for holding exhibitions and creating pavilions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international events is one of the important tools for developing export markets. The targeted participation of Iranian companies in specialized foreign exhibitions provides the opportunity to intro-

duce the country's products and capabilities, negotiate directly with buyers, and establish new business connections. The organization strives to smooth the path for the private sector's participation in these events by facilitating executive processes.

The Deputy Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran considered supporting exporters and utilizing the capacity of export incentives as another axis of the organization's performance and said: Export development is not possible without backing economic activists and compensating for some of the costs of presence in foreign markets.

Salehi, emphasizing the necessity of targeted support for exporters, added: Export incentives should be employed in the direction of market development, increasing the competitiveness of Iranian goods and services, and maintaining export markets. In this period, the organization has tried to utilize existing capacities to more effectively support export activists.

Referring to the role of exhibitions and trade events in the development of non-oil exports, he added: In the year 1404 (2025-2026), the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran issued licenses for holding 83 domestic international exhibitions and 132 foreign international exhibitions. These events provide a suitable platform for introducing the country's production and export capabilities and establishing direct contact with target markets.

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

NISOC signs 30 investment contracts to boost production, reduce flaring

TEHRAN- The Director of Investment and Business Development of the National Iranian Oil Company said: With the aim of increasing production, reducing gas flaring, and developing operational capacities, more than 30 investment contracts have been signed in National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC).

According to SHANA quoting the NISOC, Amir Moghiseh, during a visit to the investment plans and projects of the company, referring to the growing trend of private and non-governmental sector participation in the oil indus-

try, it is possible to bring some of these projects into operation earlier than the scheduled date.

Providing services for 18 onshore drilling rigs

He cited the provision of onshore drilling rig services as the third axis of investments and said: Providing these services is one of the prerequisites for development, increase, and maintenance of production in the country's onshore oil fields.

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

Trump destroys US diplomacy and global trust in America

From page 1 ▶ At a press conference, Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney said, “We’ve been under no illusions, we recognized from the start that America has changed. Our government understood before many that America would transform all of its commercial relationships, that it would put a series of tariffs on its closest allies and use economic integration as a weapon. We recognized that sometimes its signature was written in pencil.”

When asked by a journalist: “Why does it feel that Mark Carney is going to war?” the prime minister responded, “Because we were attacked.”

As the U.S.-Israeli aggression against Iran is in its sixth month, it is becoming clear to everyone except Trump’s most shameless loyalists and the most pro-war supporters of the Zionist regime that the war has been an undeniable failure.

It was an aggressive war that was supposed to ignite an armed insurgency. Instead, it rallied popular support around the Iranian government in defiance of the country’s oppressors, who have killed thousands of citizens and destroyed civilian infrastructure.

And a war launched to neutralize Israel’s primary adversary will likely make that adversary far stronger geopolitically than before, while driving American support for the regime to its lowest point.

In addition to wasting the lives of American soldiers in an unwarranted war launched on false pretenses, Trump’s blunder has depleted America’s arsenal and saddled the U.S. with roughly



\$100 billion more in debt. Meanwhile, the longer Trump delays the inevitable admission of defeat, the greater the risk of an economic catastrophe that could engulf not only America but the entire world.

According to American writer Brian McGlinchey, if this nightmare can be avoided, we will likely find that Trump has inflicted lasting damage to a critically important but intangible national asset: the ability of American diplomacy to engage constructively and effectively with its counterparts around the world.

Of course, this does not mean that the reputation of American foreign policy was spotless before Trump took office. It means that he and his team managed to drag it to extraordinarily low levels.

According to McGlinchey, Trump’s cooperation with the Israeli regime in waging an unjustified war against Iran represents one of the worst foreign policy decisions in the history of the American republic. But it is important to recognize that Trump laid the groundwork for the catastrophe of 2026 eight

years earlier.

In May 2018, at the urging of then national security adviser John Bolton and Trump’s pro-Israel donors, Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal.

Abandoning the nuclear deal and trust in America

The Iran nuclear deal was the culmination of two years of painstaking negotiations over highly technical provisions, conducted not only by representatives of the United States and Iran, but also by China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the European Union.

Under the nuclear deal, Iran accepted significant restrictions on its nuclear energy program in exchange for the lifting of harsh economic sanctions. Among other provisions, the agreement required Iran to eliminate its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium, reduce its low-enriched uranium stockpile by 98 percent, cap future enrichment at 3.67 percent, accept additional international monitoring, and disable its heavy water reactor.

Responding to the demands of fervent Zionist supporters and

Republicans eager to brand any Obama-era agreement as treason, Trump viciously attacked the Iran nuclear deal throughout his 2016 campaign, declaring that his “number one priority is to dismantle this disastrous deal with Iran.”

After appointing John Bolton as national security adviser in April 2018, an ardent advocate for war with Iran, he urged Trump to follow through on his pledge to scrap the deal, despite Iran’s full compliance with it.

At the time, Michael Malin at Queen’s University Belfast said: “Trump’s announcement that the United States will unilaterally withdraw from the nuclear deal with Iran is the most consequential foreign policy blunder yet from an administration that appears determined to undermine U.S. influence around the world. Trump’s move demonstrates that the United States cannot be trusted to keep its promises. It deepens the divide between the United States and its closest European allies. It will heighten tensions in an already smoldering Middle East”

After Trump withdrew from the agreement and reimposed the previous sanctions, Iran waited a full year before beginning to scale back its own commitments as stipulated in the terms of the deal.

After repeatedly denying that it was developing a nuclear weapon, a position that U.S. intelligence agencies repeatedly judged to be accurate, Iran returned to negotiations during Trump’s second term, once again prepared to give up its uranium stockpile.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The dollar’s suicide note: How Washington’s financial arrogance is destroying its own empire



From page 1 ▶ What was the Treasury’s response? Instead of addressing the root cause a fiscal policy that has spiraled completely out of control they chose financial engineering. They announced they would buy back their own long-term bonds to prop up prices and suppress yields. This is the equivalent of a gambler borrowing more money to pay off existing gambling debts. It works temporarily, until it doesn’t.

Japan has been walking this path for decades. When fiscal discipline collapsed, Tokyo began capping yields through various mechanisms. The result? The yen has fallen relentlessly for years, eroding Japanese purchasing power and living standards. America is now following that same roadmap. The August 20 announcement confirms that Washington has zero willingness to confront its spending addiction. Instead, they’ve chosen the path of least resistance: debase the currency, inflate away the debt, and let ordinary Americans bear the cost through higher prices and lower real wages.

What begins as a debt crisis inevitably morphs into a currency crisis. When markets don’t receive the risk premium they demand for holding government debt, they express their displeasure through the exchange rate. The dollar’s sharp decline following the August 20 announcement confirms this dynamic is already underway.

The price action tells us everything we need to know. The dollar fell to its lowest level against emerging market currencies this year. Gold and precious metals surged. Markets are now primed for continued debasement. Yet even the Treasury’s intervention failed to achieve its stated objective. Long-term yields barely budged. The upward trend remains firmly intact. Washington spent its ammunition without securing meaningful results.

For 50 years, America enjoyed a privileged position. Persian Gulf states agreed to price oil exclusively in dollars, forcing every nation to hold dollar reserves and buy US Treasuries just to secure energy supplies. This artificial demand for dollars and dollar-denominated debt kept American borrowing costs artificially low. That system is now crumbling. Saudi Arabia recently recorded zero oil sales to the United States for the first time in history. The dollar’s monopoly over global oil transactions is showing massive cracks. When the world no longer needs dollars to buy oil and when major powers stop buying American debt, the entire structure that has kept US borrowing cheap for decades begins to collapse.

What was the Trump administration’s latest absurdity? Demanding China help enforce sanctions against Iran. The same China that Washington has spent years trying to isolate economically. The same China whose companies have been systematically targeted with export controls and sanctions. The same China that America has pressured allies to ban from 5G networks. Now Washington expects Beijing to help crush Iran’s economy, one of China’s key partners.

“You are either with us or against us,” Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent reportedly told Chinese officials. This tone-deaf arrogance would be amusing if it weren’t so dangerous. After years of attempting to strangle China’s technological development and economic growth, America now demands Beijing’s cooperation in isolating China’s trade partner. The Chinese Foreign Ministry’s response was perfectly calibrated: “We do not recognize the sanctions imposed by the United States against Iran, and we will not comply with Trump’s economic war against Iran.”

America’s debt system functions like a giant Ponzi scheme that has been proven correct in real time. When the UK, China, Japan, South Korea, and others began selling US Treasuries, bond prices fell, and yields shot higher. Suddenly, borrowing

costs for America increased dramatically. Scott Bessent’s solution? Buy the bonds himself with government money, or more precisely, with newly created money. The government is now purchasing its own debt because foreigners no longer want it. This cannot end well. When the buyer of last resort is also the issuer of the currency, you’re no longer in the realm of sound finance. You’re in the realm of currency destruction.

Trump’s “Economic D-Day” against Iran’s trade partners reveals the fundamental misunderstanding that has characterized American economic policy for years. Tariffs are not paid by foreign nations. They are consumption taxes paid by American consumers and businesses. History demonstrates clearly that economic punishment against resilient economies fails. It only sparks retaliatory trade wars that destroy American jobs and prosperity. Who ultimately benefits? China and other nations positioned to fill the vacuum left by American economic self-harm.

We are witnessing a historic realignment of global economic power. The dollar’s privileged position, maintained through petrodollar arrangements and military might, is eroding. Nations are diversifying reserves, exploring alternative payment systems, and reducing their exposure to American financial imperialism. This is not a conspiracy theory. It is the mathematics of debt and the logic of incentives finally catching up with American arrogance.

For the Islamic Republic and its allies, the message is clear: America’s financial power is finite. The empire that once dictated global economic terms is now begging for cooperation while simultaneously trying to destroy its potential partners. Iran, China, Russia, and other nations resisting American hegemony must continue building alternative financial structures. The era of dollar dominance will not end overnight, but the trend is unmistakable. Every day of reckless American fiscal policy accelerates this transition.

The US Treasury’s buyback announcement was not a solution. It was an admission of failure. A confession that Washington cannot control its spending, cannot sustain its debt, and cannot maintain the value of its currency. America is playing with fire, and as Japan’s experience demonstrates, once a nation embarks on the path of currency debasement, stopping becomes nearly impossible. The dollar’s decline will continue, accelerating as trust erodes and alternatives emerge.

For the people of Iran and the broader Axis of Resistance, this represents both a warning and an opportunity. The warning is that the transition period may bring economic turbulence. The opportunity is that a more just, multipolar world order is taking shape, one where no single nation can dictate terms through financial terrorism. The empire is unraveling. The mathematics don’t lie. And the American people will ultimately pay the price for their leaders’ arrogance.

The dollar’s suicide note, then, is not a single Treasury announcement. It is the growing gap between America’s financial promises and its willingness to confront the costs of those promises. Washington can buy bonds, impose sanctions, and pressure other countries to follow its lead. What it cannot buy indefinitely is confidence. That confidence will ultimately determine the future of the dollar not through one dramatic collapse, but through the quiet decisions of countries that increasingly choose to diversify, trade beyond Washington’s financial system, and build alternatives. The American empire may not fall tomorrow, and the dollar will not disappear overnight. But history rarely announces the end of an era with a single crash. Sometimes it begins with a much quieter moment: when the world starts looking for somewhere else to put its money.

Stabbing near al-Auja follows deepening Israeli violence across West Bank

By staff writer

TEHRAN — An Israeli settler sustained moderate injuries Sunday in a stabbing operation near the Palestinian village of al-Auja in the occupied Jordan Valley.

The 24-year-old occupier was struck in the upper body along Route 90 outside a commercial complex before the Palestinian youth withdrew safely from the scene.

Emergency crews transferred the wounded settler to Shaare Zedek Medical Center in occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Israeli forces immediately poured into the area, deploying helicopters, undercover commandos, and heavy military units to lock down al-Auja.

Troops established checkpoints along major transit routes, searched residences, and subjected surrounding Palestinian communities to strict collective closures.

The al-Auja operation appears to be a direct

response to rampant settler violence and military escalation.

For 15 consecutive days, Israeli settlers backed by occupation troops have maintained an illegal blockade on three Palestinian homes in the Ras al-Ain area of Qusra, south of Nablus.

Settlers cut off water and electricity lines, blocked access roads, and prevented food deliveries to the trapped Abu Ridi and Hassan families.

Israeli forces converted one home into a military barracks and vandalized furniture by throwing it out of windows. Meanwhile, troops stormed eastern Nablus via the Awarta checkpoint, deploying between the Old and New Askar refugee camps.

Aggressive military raids and settler rampages continued across the West Bank on Sunday. Israeli forces detained six Palestinians in Qalqilya and five in Tulkarm during violent morning searches.

In the village of al-Minya, east of Bethlehem, illegal settlers uprooted olive trees and grapevines belonging to the Shalaldeh family.

These attacks follow the Friday execution of 58-year-old Fathi Khazem by Israeli forces inside his Jenin home, as well as the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Karim Sanad Shalaldeh by settlers in Sa’ir.

Since the beginning of the genocidal war on Gaza in October 2023, Israeli military and settler attacks have killed at least 1,182 Palestinians in the West Bank, wounded over 12,000, and resulted in 24,000 detentions.

Washington continues to fund and arm Israel, granting diplomatic cover as Israeli officials push for the total annexation of Palestinian territory.

Extremist settler organizations operate with official impunity, establishing illegal outposts to fragment Palestinian towns and seize agricultural land.

Once again, Israel bombs populated Lebanese villages with prohibited white phosphorus

By staff writer

Israeli warplanes also carried out two air raids against the Ali al-Taher hill on the northern outskirts of Nabatieh al-Fawqa, while reconnaissance drones maintained continuous flights over the central and western sectors.

White phosphorus and systematic destruction

Israeli units fired phosphorus rounds targeting the outskirts of Dawhat Kfar Remman, the area around Dabsha hill, and the wooded zones near Ali al-Taher.

White phosphorus is an incendiary chemical compound that ignites instantly when exposed to oxygen. It produces temperatures exceeding 760 degrees Celsius, causing excruciating second- and third-degree burns deep into human bone.

Inhaling its toxic vapor inflicts severe respiratory trauma and

asphyxiation. International humanitarian law strictly prohibits airburst white phosphorus over inhabited areas due to its inherently indiscriminate impact.

Rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch, have repeatedly verified Israel’s deployment of white phosphorus over populated Lebanese border villages such as Kafr Kila, Mays al-Jabal, Boustane, Markaba, and Aita al-Chaab, as well as densely populated districts in Gaza.

The Israeli military has also continued waging aggressive ground operations in south Lebanon. Infantry units advanced from Biyada toward Buyut al-Sayyid and al-Mansouri, sweeping surrounding valleys with sustained machine-gun fire.

In Zawtar al-Sharqiya, Israeli forces deliberately burned residential homes belonging to displaced Lebanese citizens, established a new military checkpoint,

and systematically destroyed local farmland and olive trees.

Further artillery bombardment struck the territory situated between Beit Yahoun and Baraachit, while powerful explosions shook the towns of Kounine, Hadatha, and Aita al-Jabal.

Targeting press crews and U.S. protection

These military actions occur alongside systematic efforts to eliminate witnesses documenting the destruction.

In Beirut, media professionals and bereaved families convened at the Lebanese National Theater on Friday for a memorial titled “Martyrs of the Word and Image” to honor eleven reporters martyred by Israeli strikes.

Spokespersons for the families announced they are collecting forensic files and field testimonies to submit to the International Criminal Court, aiming to

prosecute Israeli officials for premeditated attacks on press crews.

Lebanon’s UN representative Caroline Ziadeh previously documented that 28 Lebanese media workers have been killed since October 2023.

This ongoing campaign against Lebanese sovereignty operates with the full backing of the United States.

Washington continues to provide the Israeli military with heavy munitions, technical intelligence, and unconditional diplomatic cover.

By shielding Israel from UN sanctions and financing weapon shipments used against civilian infrastructure, the U.S. acts as an active partner in these documented war crimes, while it claims to facilitate diplomacy between Israel and the Lebanese government.

Iran rout Chinese Taipei at 2026 FIVB U17 World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Chinese Taipei 3-0 (25-15, 25-21, 25-17) at the 2026 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U17 World Championship in Doha, Qatar on Sunday.

Sina Hazrati led Iran with 15 points each for Iran, while Po Wei Huang earned seven points for Chinese Taipei.

Iran had previously defeated Algeria 3-0 and Pakistan 3-0 in their opening matches in Pool E.

Iran's Arash Sadeghiani side advanced to Round of 16.

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 basketball head to Manila for FIBA World Cup qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran's national basketball team have traveled to Manila, the capital of the Philippines, to take part in the fourth window of the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup qualifiers.

The Iranian squad will play two important games during this stage of the competition. Their first match is scheduled for Aug. 28, when Iran will face New Zealand in what is expected to be a highly competitive encounter. Two days later, on Aug. 30, Iran will take on the host nation, the Philippines.

These two matches will be important for Iran as the team continue their campaign to secure a place at the 2027 Basketball World Cup. Facing New Zealand and the Philippines will also provide valuable international experience and an opportunity for the Iranian players to test themselves against strong opponents.

Iran's schedule will remain busy after the Manila matches. The national team will travel directly from the Philippines to Japan to participate in the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, which will be held from Sept. 10 to 20.

Iran have been drawn into Group B at the Asian Games alongside Jordan, Chinese Taipei, and Qatar. The competition will give the Iranian team another important opportunity to compete at the continental level.

With two major competitions coming in quick succession, Iran will need to maintain their physical condition, focus, and team chemistry. The upcoming weeks could prove crucial for the national team as they aim to make a strong impression both in the World Cup qualifiers and at the Asian Games.

Taremi Joins Al Wasl

TEHRAN — Iranian striker Mehdi Taremi has joined UAE club Al Wasl, adding experience and firepower to the team's attack ahead of the new season.

Al Wasl announced the signing of Taremi, who most recently represented Greek side Olympiacos. According to circulating reports, the transfer fee is believed to be around \$400,000.

The 33-year-old forward has enjoyed an impressive career across Europe, establishing himself as one of Iran's leading attacking players. He previously played for Portuguese giants Porto, where he made an impact in domestic and European competitions, before moving to powerhouse Inter Milan. He later continued his career with Olympiacos.

Taremi's arrival is expected to strengthen Al Wasl's attacking options, with his finishing ability, movement and international experience providing valuable qualities.

The Iranian international will now look to make his mark in the UAE and help Al Wasl compete for honors during the campaign.

Iran edged by Belarus in Ufa friendly tournament

TEHRAN – Iran suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat to Belarus (25-21, 22-25, 21-25, 25-23, 7-15) in the Ufa friendly tournament on Saturday.

Iran had previously lost 3-1 to Russia and defeated Cuba 3-0 in their opening two matches of the tournament.

Roberto Piazza's side are using the tournament as part of their preparations for the 2026 Asian Games, where Iran have been drawn in Pool B alongside Indonesia, Thailand and Kyrgyzstan.

The men's volleyball tournament at the 2026 Asian Games will be the 20th edition of the event. It is organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) in conjunction with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

It will be held in Aichi, Japan from 27 Sept. – 3 Oct.

Bam Khatoon qualify for AFC Women's Champions League 2026/27

TEHRAN – Sara Didar netted twice as Bam Khatoon came from behind to beat Jordan's Etihad Club 3-1 on Sunday and qualify for the Group Stage of the AFC Women's Champions League 2026/27.

The side of Iran topped Group E with seven points to earn their third consecutive Group Stage appearance while Etihad Club, who were in with a chance coming into the match, closed three points adrift.

Leen Al-btoush, taking advantage of shoddy defending, put Etihad Club ahead in the 10th minute when she stole in from the back, picked up a cutback from Carrie Consolino and curled the ball past a rooted Raha Yazdani, the-afc.com reported.

Twelve-time Iran league champions Bam Khatoon's efforts at an equalizer were hampered by poor finishing by Didar and Maryam Dini as well as Etihad keeper Sherin Al Shalabe, who constantly read their attacks in advance.

The custodian, however, failed to detect a lurking Didar in the 32nd minute, with the striker latching on to Melika Motevalli's cross and guiding a looping header beyond Al Shalabe and into the bottom left corner.

Fatemah Shaban and Roujin Tamrian thought they had put Bam Khatoon ahead in the last five minutes but the duo was flagged for offside.

Shaban outpaced defender Alanoud Al Zabrey on the left and steered her shot beyond Al Shalabe into the right corner.

Didar then sealed the match with her second goal in the 76th minute after she collected a pass from Dini and, running parallel to the goal, chipped past the lunging custodian. The game ended on a low note in the dying minutes when Al Zabrey and Lana Feras of Etihad Club and Bam Khatoon's Tamrian and Shaban were yellow-carded for a fracas.

Pomodoro's masterpiece gets new lease of life in Tehran museum

TEHRAN – A monumental bronze sphere by late Italian sculptor Arnaldo Pomodoro has been unveiled at Tehran's Time Museum following months of conservation and restoration project, marking the centenary of the artist's birth.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Hamidreza Soleimani, CEO of the Dafineh Museums of the Mostazafan Foundation; Ahmad Mohit Tabatabaei, head of the Iranian Museums Association; Emmanuel Marchi, cultural attaché of the Italian Embassy in Tehran; Amir Qassemi, head of Tehran Municipality's Tourism Headquarters; and representatives of Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

The 3,000-kilogram bronze sculpture, known as Sfera di Pomodoro, was created in 1974 and brought to Iran in 1978. It had previously been installed at Tehran's Eram Park before being transferred to the courtyard of the Time Museum in northern Tehran.

Soleimani said the study, treatment, restoration and reconstruction of the sculpture took about two years, with the restoration of the sphere itself



requiring around 18 months.

Given the sculpture's unique characteristics and its metal construction, preliminary studies alone took six to seven months, he said.

The restoration team established contact with the Pomodoro Foundation in Italy and obtained its conservation and treatment protocols, Soleimani said. The foundation remained involved throughout the project, receiving progress reports,

monitoring the condition of the work and, at certain stages, supervising the restoration process online.

Soleimani said the restoration was carried out by an experienced team of cultural heritage specialists led by Manijeh Hadian Dehkordi. Mitra Etezadi and her colleagues later joined the project, with the final conservation methodology developed through consultations among the specialists involved.

“This project was not the re-

Hamedan Day: Herbal medicine festival opens near Avicenna's tomb

TEHRAN – A herbal medicine festival and sales exhibition, named after Avicenna, opened next to the renowned Persian polymath's tomb in Hamadan on Sunday, coinciding with Hamadan Day and commemorations honoring the celebrated scholar.

The event, titled the “First Festival and Exhibition of Herbal Medicines and Herbal Products of the Millennium Sage,” will run through August 28, according to Mohsen Masoum-Alizadeh, director general of Hamadan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Masoum-Alizadeh said the event provides an

opportunity to showcase Hamadan province's capacities, expertise and products in the field of medicinal plants.

The festival is being held in cooperation with relevant government bodies and organizations and features a range of programs, including the introduction of different medicinal plant species found in the province, the presentation of herbal products and derivatives, and the promotion of the sector's production and economic potential.

Visitors will also be introduced to the properties and applications of medicinal plants, while specialized sessions are scheduled with university professors, researchers, experts

and professionals working in herbal medicine and traditional medicine.

Masoum-Alizadeh said the development of health tourism is among Hamadan's key tourism priorities, adding that promoting the province's medicinal plants, traditional medicine and indigenous knowledge could help strengthen the sector and create new economic and tourism opportunities.

The festival is being held adjacent to the tomb of Avicenna, whose influential works in medicine shaped medical scholarship for centuries and remain closely associated with Hamadan's cultural identity.

Rock art: Tiny Sasanian bird motif discovered in southern Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologist Abolhasan Atabaki has reported the discovery of what he describes as the smallest known bird motif from the Sasanian period, measuring just 3 by 2 centimeters and engraved on the rocks of the Marvdasht Plain in Fars province, southern Iran.

The tiny image was executed using a pecked or incised technique and is located beside a Middle Persian (Pahlavi) inscription dating to the late Sasanian period. According to Atabaki, the bird appears to be related to the concepts expressed in the inscription, particularly the idea of the soul's salvation, Jamaran news website reported.

Atabaki said birds in ancient Iranian culture were often associated with auspiciousness, the carrying of messages, the ascent of the soul, and the connection between the earthly and celestial realms.

“This visual tradition did not disappear after the fall of the Sasanian Empire,” he said, adding that it continued, with changes, during the Islamic period and reached a high point in Persian miniature painting.

Birds perched on branches be-

came recurring elements in the art of various Persian miniature schools, particularly during the Ilkhanid, Timurid and Safavid periods. Atabaki said such birds were not merely decorative motifs but also contributed to the poetic and spiritual atmosphere of paintings.

He said the roots of this visual tradition could be traced to Sasanian art, in which animals and plants were arranged according to symbolic and geometric principles.

The bird's ability to fly between earth and sky also made it a fitting symbol of the relationship between the material and spiritual worlds, Atabaki explained. A bird perched on a branch could reinforce this symbolism, with the tree or branch representing life, growth and continuity, while the bird evoked the celestial realm.

In that regard, historian Najmeh Ebrahimi said the motif could also be interpreted in relation to death and beliefs about the soul.

“In Iranian traditions, death was not regarded as the end of existence, but as a transition of the soul from the material world

to the spiritual realm,” she said. The bird perched on a branch, positioned between earth and sky, could therefore be understood as a metaphor for the soul's passage and the connection between earthly and afterlife existence.

Ebrahimi said examination of the engraving showed that the bird had been rendered in a highly linear manner, using narrow and shallow grooves cut into the rock. The artist appears to have defined the small image mainly through its outlines with a pointed tool.

The nearby Pahlavi inscription, with its references to salvation and the fate of the soul, provides a basis for a possible symbolic interpretation of the bird, she added.

According to Ebrahimi, birds in Iranian religious and epic traditions often carried meanings beyond their natural existence and were sometimes regarded as intermediaries between the material and spiritual worlds or as bearers of divine messages. Some birds in the Avesta and Middle Persian texts were also associated with concepts including divine glory, guidance, protection and the spiritual realm.

sult of the decision or work of a single person,” Soleimani said, emphasizing the role of the multidisciplinary team throughout the restoration.

Also, Marchi, for his part, welcomed the completion of the restoration on the occasion of Pomodoro's centenary and thanked Iranian conservators for their efforts to preserve the Italian artist's work.

The giant masterpiece had suffered various forms of environmental and surface damage during its years at Eram Park, according to Iranian heritage experts.

Pomodoro, who was born in 1926, is internationally known for his polished bronze sculptures characterized by ruptures and openings that reveal complex internal structures. His Sphere within Sphere series explores the contrast between apparently perfect external forms and their intricate interiors.

Large-scale works from the series are displayed at prominent locations including the United Nations Headquarters in New York, UNESCO headquarters in Paris and St. Peter's Square in Vatican City.

The location of the engraving and inscription further adds to their significance. The Marvdasht Plain remained an important political and religious landscape of Iran from the first millennium BC through the Sasanian period. Its proximity to major archaeological sites such as Persepolis, Naqsh-e Rostam and Naqsh-e Rostam suggests that the area continued to form part of an important ritual and cultural landscape during the Sasanian era.

Ebrahimi added that the combination of a religious inscription with a symbolic natural motif on the rock was consistent with traditions in which natural elements were used to convey religious concepts.

She described the small engraving, together with the Pahlavi inscription, as a rare example of the interaction between image and text in late Sasanian art.

She noted that full publication and study of the find, including a complete reading of the inscription and comparison with similar examples, could contribute to a better understanding of the role of bird symbolism and religious concepts in Sasanian art and culture.

The inscription could provide researchers with further information about Nimvar's historical, cultural, religious and architectural development, the official added.

Nimvar is a city in Mahallat county of Markazi province. It is regarded as one of Iran's ancient settlements, with historical links to the Parthian and Sasanian periods. In antiquity, the city was also an important center of Zoroastrianism.

Long-term investment in youth best solution to address demographic change

TEHRAN – The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), in collaboration with the ministries of health and labour, commemorated World Population Day focusing on what young people want for their lives — and what stands between them and the families and futures they hope to build.

By reading Iran's population momentum through the lens of what young people themselves say they want, the commemoration reaffirmed a shared conviction: that responding to demographic change means long-term investment in young people, and cross-sector policies spanning education, employment security, housing, reproductive health services, and social protection — the conditions that help young people contribute to societies that are innovative, resilient, and economically robust, UNFPA website announced in a press release on August 16.

Anchoring much of the day's discussion was UNFPA's flagship report, *Lives, Choices and Futures*, which presents the findings of the 2025–2026 Demographic Futures Survey — one of the most geographically diverse bodies of evidence yet assembled on how young adults think about relationships, parenthood, and the future. Drawing on the voices of more than 108,000 people aged 18 to 39 across 73 countries, the report gave participants a global mirror in which to examine Iran's own debates.

Among the findings that shaped the discussion:

More than two-thirds of respondents want to marry or live with a partner.

A two-child family is the most commonly reported ideal family size in five of seven regional groupings.

Economic and housing constraints are the most common obstacles to forming partnerships for both men and women.

Financial security is the top consideration for entering a partnership (81 percent) and for parenthood (88 percent).

Stable employment (87 percent) and emotional readiness (85 percent) rank high among the preconditions young people set for becoming parents.

Two-thirds feel somewhat or very positive about the future — even amid worries about conflict, economic insecurity, and inequality.

Bringing together university deans and academics, civil society organizations, and representatives of governmental bodies at the Tehran Ghalb Hotel by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the gathering set out to move the demographic discourse beyond numbers and targets — toward the hopes, choices, and constraints of a generation deciding whether, when, and how to form families in an uncertain world.

The event opened with remarks by Dr. Ali-



reza Raisi, Deputy Minister of Health, who called for a change in how policymakers approach population structure. "Population does not grow through policymaking based on fear, coercion, or 'the stick and the club' — and even if it did, it would bring no benefit. What young people need is hope, trust, and confidence in the future: a job, a home, economic security, and a future they can predict. Our task as policymakers is not to place blame on people, but to remove the obstacles in front of the young."

Dr. Raisi added that no population policy can succeed without attention to women who, he said, should never be forced to choose between employment and family and even if we increase the population that ageing is an inevitable structural shift due to increased life expectancy resulting from advances in health and welfare system for which the country must prepare, from the design of its cities to its health and welfare systems. He also mentioned the importance and availability of data for evidence-based policy and effective programming.

Two panels, one question

The program featured two expert panels drawing together specialists from universities, ministries, and international organizations.

The first expert panel examined Demographic changes and policies in Iran and around the world, testing national trends against global experience and comparing how different countries have responded. The second panel turned to youth marriage, childbearing, and population resilience.

Mr. Keita Ohashi, UNFPA Representative in Iran, praised Iran's strong human capital while pointing to the gaps that remain in the labour market:

"Iran has remarkable human capital — high levels of knowledge and literacy — and that is a tremendous asset. But gaps remain: too

many women, and too many young people who are not in employment, education or training, have yet to find their place in the labour market, and they deserve our attention. We should not see motherhood and entering the workforce as competing choices; rather, support for working mothers — and for women more broadly — must grow, so that women can join the labour market without having to postpone motherhood."

Mr. Majd Hosseinpour from the Ministry of Cooperative, Labour and Social Welfare opened the second panel, emphasizing the very low economic participation rate of women, approximately 4 million out of the 25 million economically active, and the need for economic entities to adapt themselves and their policies.

Presenting to the second panel, Amir-Hossein Vaezi, Head of the Centre for Strategic Studies and Research at the Ministry of Sport and Youth, drew on three waves of the National Survey of Iranian Youth Values and Attitudes (2013, 2020 and 2024):

"Panel survey evidence shows that young Iranians still place a high value on family, marriage and childbearing — but the way they realize these aspirations has undergone an 'attitudinal transition.' Today, young people weigh their decisions in terms of economic security, prospects for the future, quality of life, mutual trust and whether they can balance their family and social roles. Rebuilding population resilience does not mean a mechanical return to old patterns; it means building lasting capacity for family formation by listening to young people's voices and turning research evidence into practical policy."

UNFPA Iran reiterated its commitment to working alongside national partners based on national priorities so that every young person can realize their hopes and aspirations — today, and for the future.

migrants from a passive population into an active part of society.

However, Iran is facing severe challenges as the international community has provided less than a third of the funding needed to address the humanitarian needs of refugees.

With the beginning of the current Iranian year, which started on March 21, the government adopted the new policy to organize refugees to dispatch unauthorized migrants.

In the first nine months of 2025, more than 1.7 million Afghan refugees have returned from Iran to Afghanistan, the UNHCR reported in a press release on October 27.

Even at the borders, a wide range of services are being offered to refugees, particularly in eastern South Khorasan, north-eastern Khorasan Razavi, and southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan provinces.

The services include the establishment of health camps, the screening of communicable diseases, and the provision of safe water and sanitation, according to the health ministry's website.

The health ministry has established permanent and temporary camps to do screening and provide medical services such as injections, serum therapy, as well as treating acute patients.

Nicaraguan academic center commemorates Minab school martyrs

TEHRAN – Over 250 students, professors, and members of the Iran-Nicaragua Parliamentary Friendship Group held a commemoration ceremony for 168 students martyred by the US missile in Minab, Hormozgan province, marking the 168th day of their martyrdom at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN-Managua).

Iranian ambassador to Nicaragua, Ramin Zare, attended the ceremony, which was held on Friday, IRNA reported.

On February 28, US Tomahawk missiles struck Shajareh Tayyebah Elementary School in Minab, killing 168 students, most of whom were schoolgirls, with at least 95 others sustaining severe injuries, marking one of the most harrowing atrocities of the conflict's opening day.

Addressing the event, Marlon Leonel Díaz Zúñiga, the Vice President of UNAN-Managua, announced the sympathy and solidarity of Nicaraguans with the families of the martyred students, saying that victims should not be regarded merely as numerical figures and statistical data. The pain and suffering inflicted by war recognize no borders. Given its own history, Nicaragua is well aware of the consequences of violating national sovereignty, and deeply understands the hardships endured by the families of these students.

For his part, Zare outlined the dimensions of the illegal US-Israeli attacks against Iran's territorial integrity, saying that, "This incident is not merely a human tragedy; it is a serious test of the credibility of international laws and international humanitarian law."

What happened in Minab was not merely an attack on a building; it was an attack on the symbols of international law and a blow



to the function of international organizations tasked with the protection of civilian lives."

The official went on to say that "we advocate for accountability rather than revenge, enforcement of laws rather than reciprocal lawlessness, and respect for the UN Charter and international humanitarian law rather than normalization of aggressions."

On the sidelines of the ceremony, an exhibition of the martyred students' photos and videos was held.

In March, officials in the Nicaraguan city of Corinto designated a street as "Angels of Minab" to honor the memory of the martyred students of the Shajareh Tayyebah elementary school, Press TV reported.

The mayor of Bandar Abbas, Mehdi Nobani, announced the naming initiative on Sunday, saying it is part of the ongoing cooperation between the two sister cities.

Nobani further noted that the ceremony for the unveiling of Angels of Minab Street took place at the Bandar Abbas Park in Corinto, commemorating the martyrs of Minab.

The event marks a significant moment in the cultural and international relations between Nicaragua and Iran.

Benefactors allocate \$100m for building educational facilities



TEHRAN - More than 200 trillion rials (around \$100 million) has been provided by benevolent people over the past two years to expand educational facilities across the country, science minister Hossein Simaei-Sarraf has said.

Also, the smartification of 5,000 classrooms has been placed among the government's priorities, IRNA quoted the minister as saying on Saturday.

Highlighting the importance of educational equity and the expansion of educational facilities, he said that the government has made the development of education and the realization of educational justice among its top priorities.

He added that, in line with these objectives, 4,000 classrooms have been added to the country's educational infrastructure over the past two years.

The establishment of modern schools has marked a new chapter in Iran's education system, a development that plays an important role in reducing illiteracy and creating the conditions necessary for the country's growth and development, Simaei-Sarraf concluded.

The third national event on future schools was held in February, honoring eight top ideas from more than 200 received by the event's secretariat.

More than 200 ideas were submitted to the secretariat, said Hamidreza Khanmohammadi, the director of the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipping Schools, adding that 174 were evaluated and, ultimately, eight were selected.

The space designed and built as a school

should be multifaceted, flexible, and equipped with diverse learning environments, with an eye on the future, IRNA quoted Khanmohammadi as saying.

Schools should be a place where students practice living and prepare for a spiritual life, accompanied by progress, he stressed.

The third national event on future schools highlighted the use of modern technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and blended learning in fostering thinking skills and creativity, as well as collaboration among the future generation of students.

Future school and the public education system (the role of teacher and student in future schools, modern teaching and learning approaches, schools and students with specific needs); Future school, a center for education and development of community (schools as social institution for the development of the neighbourhood, school's interaction with cultural, social, and urban institutions); Future school and physical environment (designing green schools, utilizing renewable energies and modern construction technologies); and Future school, equipment, educational technologies (modern educational tools and technologies, AI-based learning platforms, digital infrastructures) were the four key topics of the event.

Technology and knowledge-based companies, consulting engineers, universities and research centers, science and technology parks, professors and students, and researchers in technical, engineering, humanities, art, and psychology fields were among the main target audiences of the event.

Currently, some 16 million students are studying in the country. Throughout the seventh National Development Plan (2023–2027), the Ministry of Education is projected to teach AI to two million students. These include elementary, junior high school, and senior high school students.

Boosting digital literacy will prepare students for future job markets, help them develop their critical thinking, and become familiar with emerging technologies; it will also foster creativity and innovation among students.

Over 200,000 Afghans expelled in 5 months

TEHRAN – More than 200,000 illegal Afghan refugees have been deported from Iran since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21).

Out of 4.8 million Afghan refugees residing in the country, about 2.8 million are undocumented, ISNA quoted Nader Yar-Ahmadi, the head of the National Organization for Migration, as saying.

Unauthorized refugees have no right to receive any facilities in Iran; they are the individuals who have committed the crime of illegal entry, so will be expelled as a punitive measure, the official added.

Iran at forefront of providing support to refugees

Over the past four decades, Iran has been one of the top countries hosting the largest number of refugees and migrants, despite many challenges facing the country.

The majority of these refugees are from Afghanistan who have fled from their home country due to wars, insecurity, poverty, and crises.

In 2023, the global number of international migrants was approximately 304 million, with 83 million of them living in internal displacement.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Iran is host to



some 773,000 refugees holding Amayesh cards, and over 2.7 million in a refugee-like situation. The total number of refugees has turned Iran into the second-largest host of refugees. Hosting more than 3.5 million refugees, Iran is an important part of this global picture and one of the key players in managing the migration crisis.

Surprisingly, field reports and unofficial statistics claim that seven million Afghans are residing in the country, four million of whom are undocumented.

International institutions such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have always lauded Iran for the provision of different kinds of services, including health and education, to the refugees. Afghan children, along with Iranian students, are

studying in the same schools without paying extra tuition, while in other countries, refugees are facing serious limitations in benefiting from treatment and education services.

Dhananjaya Bhattarai, the head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Holy Mashhad, has commended Iran's generosity in hosting refugees and treating them with dignity.

Most of the Afghan refugees in Iran are living in villages and cities, and they are in constant interaction with host communities.

Iran, in cooperation with international organizations, has tried to help refugees access livelihood opportunities, vocational training, and collaborations with nongovernmental organizations; this approach has transformed



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Shunning a person who is attracted by you is a sign of your misfortune, and your inclination towards another who ignores you is a sign of your abjectness.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:07 Evening: 19:02 Dawn: 4:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:31 (tomorrow)

Iranian artists to showcase works at Sydney exhibition on war and peace

TEHRAN- The Benevolent Iranian Women Association will participate in an art exhibition in Sydney, Australia, in early September, presenting selected works by Iranian artists at an event exploring the human consequences of war and destruction.

The association is taking part in the exhibition, titled "When the Earth Embraces the Sky," at the invitation of Conference of Birds – Shia Hub for Art & Culture of Sydney.

The exhibition, scheduled to run from September 5 to 13, seeks to portray life in Middle Eastern countries before the outbreak of wars and examine the realities faced by people in the aftermath of conflict and destruction.

According to the organizers, the event aims to draw attention to the devastating consequences of war, humanitarian tragedies, war crimes committed in residential areas, and the killing of innocent civilians.

The Iran section of the exhibition will focus on the Minab school massacre as its central theme, highlighting the human cost of attacks that affect civilian and educational spaces.

The Benevolent Iranian Women Association has invited Iranian artists to submit their works for consideration in the exhibition. Artists are requested to send their works to the email address provided in the official announcement or to the email address designated by the association.

The deadline for submissions is September 2, while the exhibition will be held from September 5 to 13.

Cash prizes will also be awarded to three outstanding artworks selected for the exhibition.

On February 28, the Shajareh Tayyebah girls' elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a devastating massacre as the

United States and Israel initiated their strikes against Iran.

While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a missile strike that caused the building to collapse, trapping children and teachers beneath the rubble. Iranian authorities confirmed a final death toll of 168 people, with at least 95 others wounded, marking one of the most harrowing incidents of the conflict's opening day.

Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations have painted a starkly different picture.

An analysis by Al Jazeera's digital investigations unit, utilizing over a decade of satellite imagery and recent video clips, revealed that the school was a clearly distinct civilian facility, separated from any adjacent military sites for at least ten years. Furthermore, witness accounts and satellite-based analyses confirmed that the school was triple tapped by three separate, deliberate strikes, leaving no doubt about the nature of the attack.

The international community has faced mounting evidence regarding the responsibility for this atrocity, with investigations from major global outlets including The New York Times, BBC Verify, CBC, and NPR all concluding that the United States was responsible for the strike.

These findings have raised fundamental questions about the intelligence used to justify the bombing, as the patterns of the strike suggest a direct targeting of a civilian educational institution. The Minab school tragedy now stands as a somber testament to the immense human cost of the aggression and a focal point for those demanding international accountability.

Iran attends 11th Istanbul International Arabic Book Fair

TEHRAN – The 11th Istanbul International Arabic Book Fair, featuring over 300 publishers from more than 30 countries including Iran, concluded in Istanbul on Sunday.

The pavilion of the Islamic Republic of Iran introduced the country's cultural and literary capacities to visitors by showcasing a collection of works in the fields of literature, history, art, and cultural heritage, while providing an opportunity for Arabic-speaking audiences to become familiar with Iran's cultural and literary productions, ILNA reported.

Concurrent with the fair, a delegation of publishers and cultural figures from Iran attended the event to visit its various sections and the Iranian pavilion.

On the sidelines of this visit, the Iranian delegation—accompanied by Bahram Kian, the cultural attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul—met with Professor Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA (Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture), to discuss developing relations among publishers, authors, and cultural activists from Iran and IRCICA.

Following this trip, the members of the Global Palestinian Literature Award delegation met with Ahmad Mohammadi, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul, and Bahram Kian at the Consulate General's office to discuss potentials for cultural and literary cooperation.

Emphasizing the importance of utilizing cultural and literary capacities to support the Palestinian cause, Mohammadi stressed the necessity of strengthening ties with writers, poets, publishers, and cultural activists from



various countries, as well as promoting literary works related to Palestine.

During the meeting, Meysam Nili, head of the Islamic Revolution Publishers Association and chairman of the Policy Council for the Global Palestinian Literature Award, stated that the Literature Award is an international, non-governmental event organized in cooperation with cultural and literary unions and associations from several countries.

He added that the goal of this award is to identify and introduce the best literary works published regarding Palestine, the resistance of the Palestinian people, the liberation of the Holy Quds (Jerusalem), and the crimes of the Zionist regime in Palestine. It also aims to honor writers, poets, and publishers worldwide who have defended the Palestinian people through their work.

Emphasizing the grassroots and international nature of the event, Nili said, "This award belongs to the nations that support Palestine; writers, poets, and publishers from all over the world are invited to join this cultural and literary movement to support the Palestinian people and defend the Holy Quds, the first Qibla of Muslims."

Regarding the objectives of the delegation's trip to Istanbul, he noted that identifying writers, poets, publishers, and literature related to Palestine and resistance in Turkey is a primary goal. Efforts are being made to recognize the literary and cultural capacities in this field and to establish paths for communication and collaboration between the secretariat of this entity and their counterparts in Turkey.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on the necessity of uti-

lizing international book fairs, cultural institutions, and networks of publishers and writers to expand literary and cultural interactions and to promote works related to Palestine.

The first edition of the Istanbul International Arabic Book Fair was held in 2016, with the participation of 170 publishing houses from 15 Arab countries, in addition to Iran, Turkey, and Italy.

In the years that followed, the fair developed into an annual event for the Arabic publishing industry in Turkey and a platform for interaction among Arab and Turkish publishers, readers and cultural institutions.

The fair targets the millions of Arabs living in Turkey, as well as people of Arab origin and those who speak Arabic, seeking to promote the Arabic language in Turkey and strengthen cultural ties between Arabs and Turks.

VIVO Orchestra to perform at Tehran's Rudaki Hall under Paniz Faryousefi

TEHRAN- VIVO Orchestra, conducted by Paniz Faryousefi, is scheduled to perform at Tehran's Rudaki Hall on Monday evening, featuring a program spanning works by renowned Iranian and international composers.

The concert will include compositions by German-British composer George Frideric Handel, British composer Edward Elgar, Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, as well as Iranian composers Mohammad Saeid Sharifian, Mohammadreza Tafazzoli, Mani Jafarzadeh and Hassan Rahimi.

Behrad Ali Qorchi will serve as concertmaster, while Houra



Joneidi will be the executive director of the performance.

The performance is part of the

orchestra's ongoing activities aimed at presenting orchestral music and bringing works from different musical traditions to

Iranian audiences.

Iranian musician, violinist, and conductor Paniz Faryousefi became the first woman to conduct the Tehran Symphony Orchestra in its history in November 2025, leading the orchestra in the "Si-morgh's Abode" concert.

A graduate of the Tehran Music Conservatory and the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan, Faryousefi, 42, is concertmaster with the Tehran Philharmonic Orchestra.

She is also the founder and leader of the Novak String Quartet, and has appeared as an invited guest violinist with the New York Philharmonic.

Cartoon of Day



Economic Terrorism
Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Gazan artist loses eye to war, paints her way back to life

Amid the rubble of war in Gaza, Areej Al-Saafin is trying to reclaim what an injury took from her, particularly her passion for painting and the life that came to a standstill after she lost her right eye in a war injury in 2024.

Al-Saafin had been painting since she was 12, moving between charcoal, colors and oil paints before losing her studio, her art supplies and one of her eyes. Her paintings have since become a direct reflection of the pain and loss she has experienced.

Despite the severity of her injury and her limited resources, she returned to painting with whatever paper, wood and firewood she could find, holding on to one dream: to travel abroad for treatment, regain her sight and her life, and return to painting as she did before the war.

Al-Saafin said losing her eye was not the only loss she suffered during the war. She also lost the world she had built over years of work and dedication.

Her studio, she said, was an essential part of her life and identity. She had worked to develop it day after day, filling it with her paintings, tools and everything connected to her passion for art.

The war took away her colors, paintings, drawings and tools, as well as her studio and her eye. What happened, she said, was not simply the loss of material possessions but the loss of part of her identity and the life she had built with love and passion.

Painting after her injury is no longer what it was, she said. Losing an eye has significantly affected her ability to focus, making painting more demanding and time-consuming. Yet she remains committed to holding on to her pencil and refusing to abandon the talent that has accompanied her since childhood.

Every day she spent in her studio before the war brought something beautiful, she said. Painting was a space where she could live and express herself, until the war changed everything and cut short her dreams and ambitions.

Al-Saafin said her experience after the injury has clearly influenced her paintings. Most of her drawings now center on eyes, somber figures and characters depicted with a single eye. Other figures appear trapped or imprisoned, while some have eyes stripped of their details and others seem to contain life held behind a barrier that prevents it from breaking free.

She said these images were not initially planned or deliberate. Instead, they emerged spontaneously, almost as an involuntary expression of her experience and what she went through after the injury. Her feelings and pain, she said, found their way onto the paper through the characters and eyes she draws.

When Al-Saafin tried to return to painting after her injury, she found herself facing an entirely different reality, having lost most of her tools and resources. She no longer had charcoal, charcoal pencils, paper, paints or even the canvases she had previously used.

Even the easels and stands she used to display her paintings were gone. Her family had been forced to use whatever wood and other materials they had to make fires during the war, in order to meet the most basic necessities of life.

But her passion for painting drove her to search for any means that could help her return to what she loved. She began collecting scraps of paper, pieces of wood and firewood and trying to use them for painting. Eventually, she found that painting on wood could provide an alternative in the absence of the tools and materials she had previously relied on.

Al-Saafin said she had started again, but with whatever resources were available. Life in Gaza during the war has made everything scarce, she said, forcing people to adapt to whatever they can find, even in the simplest aspects of everyday life.

Despite everything she has lost, Al-Saafin says she has not abandoned her dream. Her ambition now is to travel for treatment and undergo surgery on her eye, and to regain the life she says the war took from her.

She dreams of returning one day to her studio, recovering her tools, colors and paintings, and practicing her art normally as she did before the injury. Her talent, she said, is still inside her, and what she is trying to do today is reclaim part of that talent that she feels the war took away.