

How valid are U.S. commitments under Trump?

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN - Under Trump, America's agreements increasingly appear conditional, reversible, and vulnerable to sudden policy shifts, raising fundamental questions about the credibility of U.S. commitments.

Chas Freeman, former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and former assistant secretary of defense, said: "We've convinced the entire world that we don't know what we're doing, and we can't be trusted, and we don't keep our word, and we don't even stay consistent from one day to the next. So how can you deal with us? That's the question everybody has out there." ► Page 5

With \$40 trillion in debt, does Washington have any credibility to police Iran's economy?

TEHRAN- The United States has just crossed a grotesque milestone: its national debt has ballooned to a record-shattering \$40 trillion. This is not merely a number; it is a confession of systemic rot.

In 1941, the debt hit \$1 trillion. By 2017, it was \$20 trillion. Today, in just nine years, it has doubled again—and is expected to swell by another \$2.1 trillion in this fiscal year alone. This is not fiscal policy; it is fiscal intoxication.

Yet, incredibly, this same indebted giant dares to wag its finger at the Iranian economy. Washington presumes to lecture Tehran on prudence while its own Treasury burns. ► Page 4



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi meets with Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al-Busaidi (L) in Tehran on Tuesday.

Oman Understanding Does Not Mean Hormuz Reopening: Iran

President Pezeshkian: US economic pressure will remain futile

TEHRAN — President Masoud Pezeshkian has declared that the United States will fail to achieve its goals through economic pressure, emphasizing that Iran will remain steadfast in its resistance.

"Just as America was unable to accomplish anything during the war—despite the bravery of our armed forces and the steadfast support of our people—it will not be able to accomplish anything through economic pressure at this stage either," Pezeshkian stated during a high-level meeting at the Central Bank of Iran. The session reviewed key monetary, foreign-exchange, and financial indicators alongside Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh, Central Bank Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati, and leading academic economists. ► Page 2

Six months of US miscalculations in Iran

TEHRAN — Six months after Washington ignited an unprovoked and reckless war against Iran, the sheer magnitude of American strategic blindness has been laid bare for the world to see.

What was arrogant American rhetoric promising a "six-week operation" to dismantle Iran's defensive capabilities and force capitulation has devolved into a protracted, humiliating nightmare for the White House.

Recent revelations published by Western media outlets, notably The Wall Street Journal, confirm what Tehran has maintained from the outset: the United States entered this conflict bound by deep strategic miscalculations, completely duped by Israeli instigations and its own delusional fantasy that the Iranian nation would collapse under pressure. ► Page 3

Israel launches organized pogroms against defenseless Palestinian towns

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The occupied West Bank is systematically being suffocated. Israeli forces and armed settler militias have fused into a single apparatus of terror, waging a relentless campaign of raids, land theft, and violence across Palestinian neighborhoods.

Backed by Washington, Tel Aviv is accelerating a coordinated project of ethnic cleansing.

Erasing institutions

The assault on Palestinian existence extends directly into international humanitarian facilities.

The Israeli military raided the Qalandiya Training Center in the Kafr Aqab neighborhood of East al-Quds (Jerusalem) on August 25.

This UNRWA facility provided educational services and vocational training to some 16,000 Palestinian refugees.

The troops forcibly expelled the staff, ordered them never to return, and initiated a complete takeover. Far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir arrived to celebrate the seizure. Broadcasting his triumph from inside the facility, he declared that the United Nations agency "has no place in Jerusalem." ► Page 5

MAHAK builds a broader ecosystem around pediatric cancer care

By Mehdi Garshasbi

TEHRAN - The Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer, widely known by its acronym MAHAK, was established in 1991 as a non-governmental and non-profit organization.

Its logo, a leaf symbolizing life, depicts a child and family standing upon it with hope.

Since its inception, MAHAK has relied solely on public donations, benevolent intentions, and voluntary contributions. Within less than a decade, MAHAK succeeded in improving children's recovery rates by applying scientific and specialized methods in caring for patients and their families, while also earning the trust and support of the public as well as the tireless efforts of volunteers.

MAHAK's activities fall into three main categories: Charity, Hospital, and Research. These efforts exclusively serve children with cancer in areas such as medical care, prevention, treatment, healthcare, and welfare services. MAHAK's slogan, "Help us and let us help you," reflects the essential role of civil society in supporting humanity with love and compassion. ► Page 7

Exclusive

Despite war, Iran and Japan have maintained dialogue at all levels, says Japanese ambassador

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - The Tehran Times often sits down with foreign ambassadors to get updates on their countries' bilateral ties with Iran, as well as their take on the latest global and international issues. In the latest such interaction, the Tehran Times spoke with the Japanese Ambassador to Tehran, Tamaki Tsukada.

Ambassador Tsukada assumed his post in Tehran in October 2023. Prior to this, he held senior positions at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and spent three decades as a diplomat. Inside Iran, he has become known for promoting cooperation on the restoration of Lake Urmia in northwestern Iran.

But during our interview with him, we focused more on his experience working here as a diplomat throughout two waves of U.S.-Israeli aggression, how the war has affected his country, and how he believes Iran and Japan can grow closer in the coming years.

Below is the full text of the interview, edited for clarity and conciseness:

Since the Tehran Times last spoke with you, the United States and Israel have twice launched war against Iran. As someone living and working here through both confrontations, what has that experience been like for you personally and for your mission?

The war has undoubtedly both our work and our per-level, I have been haunted by am back in Japan—whether neighboring country—a cri-Earlier this year, it appeared again. I was in Japan over the for my annual leave when the cut my holiday short and re-the situation. In hindsight, a long and very difficult ing Iran, the erregion-

had a profound impact on sonal lives. On a personal a strange curse: whenever I on leave or holidaying in a sis seems to erupt in Iran. the curse would strike December-January period demonstrations began. I turned to Tehran to monitor that marked the beginning of process of conflict involv- United States, and oth-al countries.



President Masoud Pezeshkian honors participants at the 21st Shahid Rajaei Festival in Tehran on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026.

Pezeshkian: Iranian people stood firm against aggression and bullying

TEHRAN — President Masoud Pezeshkian has praised the resilience of the Iranian people during the recent US-Israeli war.

Speaking at the 21st Shahid Rajaei Festival in Tehran, Pezeshkian highlighted the role of shopkeepers, workers, students and scientists, saying they remained steadfast despite the hardships they faced during the conflict.

"People stood firm against aggression, bullying and treachery," he said.



► Page 2



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The US cannot remove Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz

The Iran Newspaper, in an analysis, highlighted Iran's ability to control the Strait of Hormuz. It wrote that when Trump threatens Iran by saying he will turn the Strait of Hormuz into American territory, his administration is essentially seeking to restore the strait as a free, international passageway for global oil shipments. But the US president must face the reality that neither outcome will occur. The war against Iran has made it clear that Washington cannot fully reopen the strait. Tehran has shown that it can still reduce or disrupt the passage of oil tankers. History demonstrates that those who can secure a geographic region often impose political authority and taxation over it, and Iran has shown that it currently wields significant control over the Strait of Hormuz. None of this is desirable for the United States, but the sooner this new reality is accepted, the better it will be for consumers, the global economy, and regional stability.

Khorasan: Negotiations with Iran center on the Mecca Agreement

Khorasan, in a commentary on Asim Munir's trip to Tehran, wrote that the signing of the Mecca Defense Agreement among Turkey, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia is one of the first regional moves to replace the US-centric security order. One major risk, however, is ignoring the role of Iran and the Axis of Resistance as a key pillar of regional security. It is not unlikely that Asim Munir has come to Tehran to consult on this very issue — especially given his extensive schedule of meetings with newly appointed Iranian commanders. In recent days, signals have also emerged from these countries about expanding the Mecca pact to include Iran and Egypt. Meanwhile, the ongoing Yemen-Saudi conflict has extended into the Bab al-Mandab Strait. Naturally, the Yemen war has become the Achilles' heel of the Mecca Agreement, and it is plausible that Munir seeks negotiations in Tehran to resolve this challenge.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Strategic patience has ended

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to Iran's warning to neighboring states regarding cooperation with the US in its recent economic sanctions. The editorial argues that Iran will consider any country's participation or support in America's economic war against the Iranian people as an act of war. This realistic warning shows Iran understands the scope of the US economic offensive and serves as a pre-emptive message to regional states: either all countries

benefit from security and economic stability, or none will. The assumption that America's economic war on Iran has no security or economic consequences for the region — and that those regional states can therefore align with Washington against Tehran — is misguided and could ignite the entire region. Iran's strategy has shifted from "strategic patience" to risk-taking and pre-emptive action, and it will respond forcefully to any threat.

Sazandegi: The fate of any agreement depends on balancing global powers' interests

Sazandegi wrote that the current Iran-US negotiations cannot be analyzed separately from broader changes in the international system. This complexity is intensified by the long history of mutual distrust.

When two sides do not trust each other, even agreement on a simple formula requires intricate mechanisms for verification and guarantees. The Iran-US crisis is not merely a political or nuclear dispute; it can affect the global economy and force governments worldwide to seek solutions. In this context, Iran and the US are no longer the only key players. They are part of a complex network of regional and global actors, each capable of influencing the negotiations. From this perspective, the talks are no longer just an attempt to reach a bilateral deal; they are a test of whether Tehran and Washington can find a path to understanding in a world where no single power dictates the rules.

Etemad: Iran will not retreat from its red lines

Rahman Ghahremanpour, an international relations scholar, told Etemad that regarding the possibility of US acceptance of Iran's demands in reviving the Islamabad understanding, each side in any diplomatic negotiation seeks to gain maximum concessions while giving the least. Accordingly, Trump will try to extract the greatest possible concessions from Iran, and the Islamic Republic will seek the maximum from his administration. From Iran's perspective, continued tension or closure of the Strait of Hormuz could reduce Trump's and the Republican Party's chances in the midterm elections. In Tehran's calculations, now is the moment when applying pressure on Washington — and on Trump personally — could force the US to grant more concessions. For this reason, Iranian officials have recently emphasized that they will keep the Strait of Hormuz closed and that Trump must give ground.

President Pezeshkian: US economic pressure will remain futile



From page 1 ► Pezeshkian reassured the public that Iran's economic authorities have already preemptively designed measures to neutralize external shocks. He reaffirmed Tehran's dual strategy: seeking diplomatic engagement while maintaining a strong defense against economic coercion.

"Our approach is to build understanding and resolve issues through interaction and negotiation," Pezeshkian said. "However, we have stood firm against economic pressure so far, and we will continue to stand firm."

The president expressed gratitude to both public and private sectors for engaging in an "economic jihad" to stabilize markets and secure essential goods. During the meeting, experts presented proposals covering budget policy, trade barrier mitigation, exchange-rate management, liquidity control, and operational plans for managing the economy during wartime and post-war conditions.

Pezeshkian underscored the need for complete synergy between the Central Bank, the

cabinet, and broader economic institutions to curb inflationary expectations. He reiterated his administration's commitment to leveraging academic expertise to guide national policymaking.

Pezeshkian's remarks come in direct response to Washington's rollout of "Operation Economic Outcast," a sweeping economic campaign aimed at severing Iran's ties to the global financial system. The US Treasury Department recently announced sanctions blacklisting over 60 entities, individuals, and maritime vessels across Iran's aviation, shipping, digital asset, and mining sectors, describing the initiative as an effort toward the direct economic asphyxiation of Tehran. In response, Madanizadeh announced that Iran has transitioned from a purely defensive posture to an offensive economic strategy, which focuses on expanding alternative trade routes, using local currency clearing mechanisms, enhancing customs efficiency, and deploying targeted subsidies to protect domestic purchasing power.

Iran seeks clear answer from Qatar on fate of three missing pilots



TEHRAN — Iran's Army has called on Qatar to provide a clear, documented account of the fate of three Iranian pilots who went missing after two Iranian fighter jets were shot down during an operation against a US military base in Qatar during the recent Ramadan war.

Brig. Gen. Mohammad Akraminia, spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, said the case dated back to the early days of the conflict. In an interview with Mehr News Agency, he said two Iranian Air Force Sukhoi fighter jets carried out an operation against a US base in Qatar on March 12. The aircraft were targeted by enemy combat air patrols while returning from the mission and were shot down, he said.

Akraminia said Iran later received the body of one of the pilots killed in the incident, identifying him as Majid Kazemi, whose remains were buried in Shiraz.

However, because each aircraft had two pilots, the fate of three other crew members has remained unknown, according to the Iranian Army spokesman.

Iran has since pursued the matter through diplomatic and military channels, including the Foreign Ministry, the presidential administration, the Army Headquarters and direct contacts with the Qatari government and military, Akraminia said.

"Contacts have been made

and follow-ups have been made, but to date the Qatari side has responded by stating that it is unaware of the fate of these pilots," he said.

Akraminia urged Doha to intensify its efforts to establish what happened to the missing crew members and provide Iran with evidence that could be independently examined.

"We really want the Qatari side to pay more attention to this issue and provide a clear and documented response so that we can accept the documentation and learn about the fate of these pilots," he said.

He added that if Qatari authorities genuinely had no information about the pilots, they should act with greater responsibility and make a stronger effort to determine their whereabouts.

The issue has emerged as another sensitive security matter

between Iran and Qatar following the recent conflict. Qatar hosts Al Udeid Air Base, one of the largest US military installations in the Middle East, making Doha a key regional actor in matters related to the US military presence and the broader security environment.

The Iranian Army has also described the reported attack on the US base in Qatar as part of a broader shift in its military doctrine. Akraminia said Iranian forces were moving from a predominantly defensive posture toward a more offensive doctrine, citing operations conducted by Iranian fighter aircraft during the war as evidence of the shift.

The Army spokesman has previously said the conflict provided Iran's armed forces with new operational experience and increased their confidence and readiness. He said the military

had used the ceasefire period to rebuild damaged systems, introduce new equipment and strengthen operational and training capabilities.

For now, however, the fate of the three missing pilots remains unresolved.

Tehran says that, given the circumstances surrounding the incident and its connection to an operation targeting a US military facility in Qatar, it expects Doha to make greater efforts to establish what happened to the missing crew members.

Akraminia specifically addressed the Qatari Foreign Ministry's reported statement that it did not know the pilots' fate, saying such a response was insufficient.

The case adds a humanitarian dimension to the broader security tensions surrounding the recent Iran-US conflict. For Tehran, the issue is not only about determining the fate of missing military personnel but also about obtaining a documented account of an incident that took place in connection with a major US military facility located on Qatari territory.

Iran is now awaiting a formal and substantiated response from Doha. Any information or evidence provided by Qatar could help establish the fate of the three missing pilots and resolve one of the outstanding cases stemming from the recent conflict.

Despite war, Iran and Japan have maintained dialogue at all levels, says Japanese ambassador

From page 1 ► For our embassy collectively, it has also been an exceptionally hard time. Given the level of risk, we decided to raise our travel advisory to the maximum level, which meant advising immediate departure from the country. Consequently, we had to ask all embassy dependents to leave. Currently, only our diplomats and essential staff remain in Tehran; no family members are here. At the height of the heightened situation, particularly during March and April, we were even forced to evacuate some of our diplomats. At that point, we were operating at roughly 50% of our normal staffing levels. Since July, however, we have recovered almost 100% of our activities and are now functioning at near-normal levels, although a few staff members continue to work online from Japan. Staffing has seen many ups and downs, and our dependents remain in Japan. Bilateral activities have been seriously constrained by the war, making this an extraordinarily difficult period—not just for us, but for everyone. For our embassy, it has been an abnormal situation, to say the least.

The most vivid experience I had was during a meeting with my counterpart at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the midst of our conversation, we suddenly noticed a cruise missile flying just outside the window. My counterpart, the Director General, grabbed my arm and urged me to lower my body to avoid any danger. It was an immediate and very real experience of being in a war zone. Literally, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to hear the noise and reverberation of a cruise missile passing so close. It was terrifying, yet it also brought a stark realization of the gravity of our situation and a conviction that we must do our utmost, in our respective capacities, to contain it. I sincerely hope none of us ever have to experience that again.

War inevitably complicates co-operation—especially between

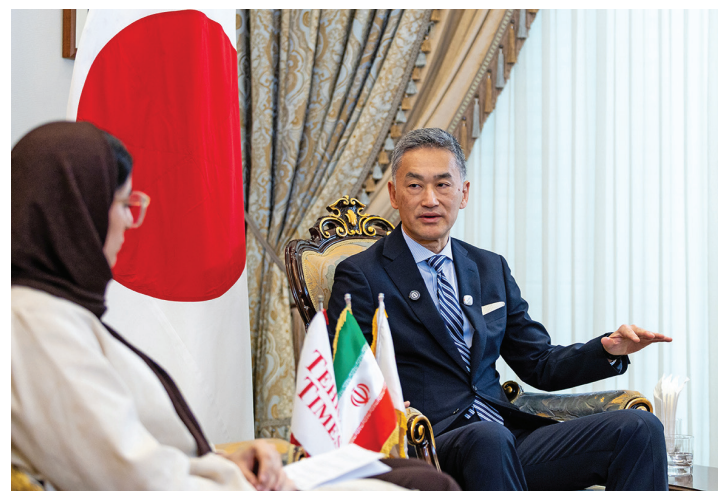
countries that did not already share extensive ties. With that in mind, how would you assess the evolution of Iran-Japan relations over the past year?

Frankly speaking, our bilateral relationship has been severely constrained by the external situation. Nevertheless, despite these limitations, we have managed to maintain dialogue at all levels, including the highest. Most recently, just a few days ago, there was a very productive telephone conversation between our Prime Minister and President Pezeshkian. At the foreign ministerial level, our Foreign Minister, Mr. Motegi, and his counterpart, Dr. Araghchi, have held eight telephone conversations since the onset of the 40-day war. We are doing our utmost to sustain dialogue at all levels, ensuring that we clearly understand each other's thinking. Where necessary, we remain ready to offer our help to ease the situation.

Of course, it would be unrealistic to expect economic and commercial ties to recover overnight; that will take some time. However, we hope that thanks to our traditional relationship of trust, we are in a better position than many countries to restart our activities when conditions become ripe.

How have the Japanese government and the Japanese public reacted to these wars—both in terms of official policy and popular sentiment?

You may recall that at the very early stage of the military operations, the Government of Japan was among the first to publicly denounce the military action. Throughout the crisis, we have continuously called upon all parties—not only the primary protagonists but also neighboring countries—to do their utmost to contain the situation and de-escalate. While we are not a direct party to the conflict, we consider it our duty, as a responsible member of the international community, to play our own role in bringing reason and a sense of



restraint to the warring parties. That has been our consistent effort at the governmental level.

At the popular level, the impact has also been tangible. Prices have risen—gasoline, gas station products, and other items such as plastics have all become more expensive. These increases have affected daily life across the board, allowing people to feel the consequences of the region's difficulties. We are all interconnected, and our economies are interdependent. Japan, in particular, relies heavily on energy imports from the Middle East; roughly 90% of our oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz. In that sense, I believe Japan was one of the few countries that felt the war's impact very keenly and acutely.

Japan has traditionally played a mediating role in international disputes. Given that history, and the fact that Iran's foreign minister has a special relationship with Japan, do you see any realistic opening for Tokyo to facilitate de-escalation between Iran and the U.S.?

Mediation is a very sensitive issue, so I must choose my words carefully to avoid being misquoted or misinterpreted. We greatly appreciate Dr. Araghchi's special attachment to Japan and Iran's expectations regarding a potential mediating role for Tokyo. However, realistically speaking, I think it is premature to say anything con-

crete about direct intervention in this conflict at this moment. This is my personal view, but for mediation to be meaningful and effective, there must first be a minimum level of trust between the conflicting parties—trust toward each other. Frankly, at this point, trust between Iran and the United States is very low—perhaps not zero, but certainly minimal. In such a low-trust environment, even a saint or a superhuman mediator would find it nearly impossible to succeed.

The first requirement, as I see it, is for both sides—and this will require tremendous political courage—to prepare their domestic audiences for the necessity of some sacrifice in order to make the first move. Currently, both sides seem to insist that the other must act first, with any reaction contingent upon that initial step. As long as this stalemate persists, I do not foresee any meaningful compromise.

I understand the domestic constraints on both sides: in the U.S., there are midterm elections and electoral considerations; in Iran, there is deep-seated grief over the loss of the Supreme Leader, along with significant anger and animosity toward the adversary. I fully appreciate these pressures. But unless political leaders on both sides find the courage to address their domestic constituencies and make the first move, mediation will remain exceedingly difficult.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Oman understanding does not mean Hormuz reopening: Iran

By Fardin Molaei

Iran has sought to temper expectations over a new understanding with Oman on navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, saying the arrangement does not amount to an immediate reopening of the strategic waterway.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, said Tuesday that the country remained in a state of war and that the Strait of Hormuz had become a national-security issue following the recent conflict.

"The Strait of Hormuz will not reopen from tomorrow," Gharibabadi said, stressing that the understanding reached with Oman should not be interpreted as a full reopening of the waterway.

His remarks came a day after Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al-Busaidi visited Tehran and held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on the future of maritime traffic through the strait.

Oman has played a longstanding role as a mediator in indirect dialogue between Iran and the United States and maintains diplomatic channels with both sides. It is also one of the two countries bordering the Strait of Hormuz, alongside Iran, giving Muscat a direct interest in the security and future management of the waterway.

The latest Iran-Oman talks produced a joint statement outlining a phased framework for restoring safe navigation while respecting the sovereignty and sovereign rights of the two countries. The proposal calls for a temporary joint maritime corridor and a joint project to clear mines from the strait.

Technical negotiations will continue on a permanent maritime corridor, future arrangements for managing the waterway, information-sharing, traffic management and maritime and security services. Tehran and Muscat also called for consultations with other Persian Gulf littoral states and stressed the need to respect international law and the sovereign rights of coastal countries.

Iran's geographic advantage

The negotiations are taking place against the backdrop of the Strait of Hormuz's extraordinary importance to the global economy. The U.S. Energy Information Administration has estimated that flows through the strait accounted for more than



one-quarter of global seaborne oil trade in 2024 and the first quarter of 2025.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has described Hormuz as one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints, carrying roughly a quarter of global seaborne oil trade.

The strategic significance extends beyond oil. The waterway also carries a substantial share of global liquefied natural gas shipments, making disruptions potentially consequential for energy prices, inflation and industrial activity far beyond the Persian Gulf.

A recent analysis by The Washington Post highlighted the geographical advantage enjoyed by Iran. The newspaper reported that Iran's rugged coastline, elevated terrain and islands near the shipping lanes provide positions from which Tehran can monitor maritime traffic. Basil Germond, a professor of international security at Lancaster University, said Hormuz's geography "amplifies Iran's anti-access and area-denial leverage at low cost."

Frank Galgano, an associate professor of geography and the environment at Villanova University, similarly pointed to the vulnerability of large commercial vessels navigating the narrow lanes of the strait. He said that because of the proximity of Iranian positions to shipping routes, vessels have very little time to respond to potential threats.

The Washington Post has also described Iran's position along the northern coastline of the Persian Gulf as a structural advantage that cannot easily be neutralized. Even limited missile, drone or naval pressure can increase the perceived risk for shipping companies and disrupt traffic without requiring Iran to maintain a formal blockade.

That geographic advantage is

particularly important because the navigable portion of Hormuz is constrained by shallow waters and narrow traffic lanes. The strait's geography effectively funnels commercial vessels into a limited number of routes, increasing the consequences of any disruption.

Temporary corridor, not full reopening

Against this backdrop, Gharibabadi said the proposed navigation arrangement with Oman was temporary. He said Iran and Oman would have between 30 and 60 days to negotiate a permanent route that could eventually replace the previous maritime traffic system.

Under the proposed interim arrangement, vessels entering the Persian Gulf would use Iranian territorial waters, while the exit route would pass through Omani waters. Gharibabadi said shipping movements under the arrangement would involve Iranian waters and compared the proposed system to a two-way highway approximately seven nautical miles wide.

He also said the strait remained closed from a military perspective. Under the understanding, military vessels would not be permitted to transit, while commercial shipping would be allowed to use the proposed corridor.

The issue has become politically sensitive inside Iran, where some groups opposed to negotiations have criticized engagement with foreign governments and warned against what they regard as concessions to external powers.

Supporters of the talks have presented them differently, arguing that negotiations can be conducted from a position of strength and used to protect Iran's national interests.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, who is also leading Iran's negotiating team in talks with

the United States, recently rejected the characterization of negotiations as weakness. He argued that rational action from a revolutionary position, strong negotiations and efforts to secure the rights of the Iranian people should not be misrepresented as compromise or passivity.

Military and security authorities involved

Gharibabadi said the negotiations with Oman are being conducted by a joint working group involving the Foreign Ministry, Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy and the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

He said the military authorities have the primary responsibility for determining navigation routes and that the maps under discussion were prepared by Iran's armed forces.

The disclosure underscores the security dimension of the negotiations. Tehran is treating the future of Hormuz not simply as a maritime or commercial issue but as part of its broader national-security strategy.

Gharibabadi also rejected claims that the strait had already been cleared of mines. He said Iran was the only party with knowledge of the location of mines and questioned why commercial shipping had not resumed if claims about completed mine clearance were accurate.

He said any future negotiations with Washington would take place under circumstances fundamentally different from previous rounds, reflecting what Tehran regards as 'the strategic changes brought about by the war.'

For now, the proposed corridor represents an interim mechanism rather than a return to normal shipping. The outcome of the Iran-Oman technical talks will determine whether the temporary arrangement can evolve into a permanent navigation system — and whether the two countries can establish a framework capable of balancing commercial traffic, maritime security and Iran's demand for control over its sovereign waters.

The broader stakes extend well beyond Iran and Oman. With roughly a quarter of global seaborne oil trade historically passing through Hormuz, the future of the waterway remains closely tied to global energy prices, inflation, shipping costs and economic stability.

Six months of US miscalculations in Iran

From Page 1 ▶ Even within the halls of American intelligence, clear warnings were issued to President Donald Trump regarding the catastrophic foolishness of launching an assault.

Days before the initial attack on February 28, then-Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard explicitly warned the Oval Office against military aggression. Intelligence assessments presented by Gabbard directly contested the reckless narrative pushed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who sought to trap Washington into fighting Israel's battles. Gabbard plainly informed Trump that any attempt to target Iran's high leadership—specifically the assassination of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei—would backfire disastrously. The intelligence chief warned that such hostile acts would only fortify Iran's revolutionary resolve, ushering in a far more hard-line posture fully prepared to advance its national defense and nuclear posture to protect sovereignty.

Gabbard further cautioned the White House that the Islamic Republic possessed the absolute capability and willpower to choke off the strategic Strait of Hormuz, throwing global energy markets into turmoil, while inflicting severe casualties on overstretched US occupation forces across the region. Yet, blinded by the bellicose promises of Pentagon figures like War Secretary Pete Hegseth and seduced by foreign warmongers, Trump dismissed these intelligence warnings. He was thoroughly duped into believing that the Iranian government was on the verge of falling apart and that a swift blitzkrieg would yield an easy victory.

The early days of the conflict saw hollow celebrations in Florida resorts, where American politicians cheered reports of aggression without realizing they had stepped into an inescapable quagmire. Six months later, reality has shattered Washington's illusions. Iran's military maintains control over the nation's defense apparatus and maritime territory, effectively dictating terms in the Persian Gulf and demonstrating that Iranian sovereignty cannot be compromised.

The succession of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei as Leader stands as a monumental defeat for Western planners who anticipated chaos; instead, they face a unified, unyielding leadership that refuses to yield to imperialist demands. The military and economic cost exacted upon the United States has been staggering. Washington's forces have suffered humiliation on multiple fronts, incurring 18 dead service members and over 750 wounded troops, alongside ex-



tensive physical damage to US military bases throughout West Asia.

The relentless operational tempo has drained American strategic oil reserves, severely depleted US precision munitions stockpiles, and exposed the profound vulnerabilities of American warships navigating waters defended by Iranian anti-ship technology and tactical naval mines.

Economically, the closing of the Strait of Hormuz demonstrated Tehran's capacity to leverage global trade dynamics, halting one-fifth of global oil and gas supply and driving fuel prices to unbearable heights across Western economies.

The resulting domestic chaos in America has shattered political consensus, leaving Trump's approval ratings at record lows while panic spreads through the Republican Party ahead of upcoming elections. Having failed on the battlefield and seeing its military capabilities ground down by Iran's active resistance, the White House has resorted once again to economic coercion—dubbing its latest desperate measure "Operation Economic Outcast". This shift back to a naval blockade and economic warfare is nothing more than a tacit admission of military defeat. Trump's insistence on demanding "regime change" or complete surrender via economic asphyxiation is merely the repeated application of a failed doctrine. The stubborn insistence by the US administration that it can force Iran to its knees reveals an incredible inability to comprehend the endurance of the Iranian nation.

As regional leaders push Washington to seek an off-ramp and American internal polling shows a vast majority demanding an immediate end to the conflict, the reality remains clear: Iran's defense posture remains unshaken, its retaliation has imposed immense costs on the aggressors, and Washington's military adventure will go down in history as a monumental miscalculation born of supreme arrogance and flawed intelligence.

Iran urges UN states to reject US sanctions and condemns maritime pressure



TEHRAN- Iran has urged all countries to reject the United States' "extraterritorial application" of unilateral sanctions, arguing that Washington is seeking to pressure sovereign states into subordinating their economic interests and foreign policies to US demands.

Gholamhossein Darzi, Iran's ambassador and deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, made the remarks Tuesday during a UN Security Council open debate on the council's role in addressing global and local food crises.

Darzi called on the Security Council to "categorically condemn and reject" unilateral coercive measures aimed at forcing sovereign states to change their lawful economic policies and foreign relations.

He linked food insecurity and disruptions to trade and maritime navigation to 'the US-Israeli war against Iran,' arguing that armed conflict, occupation, sanctions and attacks on civilian infrastructure are among the root

causes of hunger and instability.

Turning to the Strait of Hormuz, Darzi said commercial navigation through the strategic waterway had been uninterrupted before the conflict began. He blamed the United States and Israel for the subsequent disruption, describing their military campaign against Iran as a violation of the UN Charter and international law.

According to Darzi, the initial US-Israeli offensive began on Feb. 28, killing more than 3,400 Iranian civilians as well as senior Iranian officials. He also said a second round of US military action beginning June 27 killed more than 60 civilians and injured more than 630 others, while damaging airports, bridges, transport infrastructure, vessels, search-and-rescue facilities and meteorological installations.

Iran's envoy said responsibility for the conflict also extended to countries that provided military bases, logistical assistance, intelligence support, or access to their airspace, arguing that such support contributed to regional instability and threatened maritime security around Hormuz.

Darzi further accused Washington of imposing a maritime blockade on Iran and attacking Iranian commercial vessels in international waters. He also condemned Washington's latest economic measures against Iran, describing them as part of an effort to use food, energy, trade and access to essential goods as instruments of economic pressure.

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

LATEST NEWS

Iran's vice president: ceasefire agreement is a document of national pride

Mohammad Jafar Ghaempanah, Iran's Vice President for Executive Affairs, has described the ceasefire agreement as a document of national pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Speaking about the role of the United States in the agreement, Ghaempanah stated: "If the United States returns to the agreement through diplomatic pressure and military strength, the country's national interests will be secured."

The Vice President also noted that the Leader is actively managing the affairs and is engaged in ongoing dialogue and consultation with the President.

US missile stockpiles under strain as allies reconsider reliance on Washington

The US-Israeli war against Iran has severely depleted American missile stockpiles, raising concerns among US allies about Washington's ability to meet future security commitments. Politico, citing the Center for Strategic and International Studies, reported that the United States had fired more than 1,000 Tomahawk missiles by May, just 39 days into the conflict. Production has failed to keep pace with consumption, with rebuilding depleted reserves expected to take several years.

Senator accuses Trump of profiting from Iran war

US Senator Chris Van Hollen has accused

President Donald Trump of personally profiting from the war with Iran. Citing a Democratic report by the congressional Joint Economic Committee, Van Hollen said Trump's oil and gas holdings may have gained as much as \$15.5 million this year. The Maryland Democrat accused Trump of using the presidency for personal financial gain and said the president was "grossly profiting" from what he called 'a senseless war.'

IRGC says it will block armed groups seeking entry into Iran

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps says preventing armed anti-government and separatist groups from entering the country is a key security priority. Brig. Gen. Hossein Mohebbi said the Armed Forces were fully aware of 'US-backed plots against Iran.' He cited President Donald Trump's public acknowledgment that Washington had supplied weapons to separatist and anti-revolutionary groups. Mohebbi also welcomed a Saudi Arabia-Turkey-Pakistan defense pact as a potential step toward reducing foreign military influence in the region.

Iranian air defense says forces remain at full readiness

Iran's Army Air Defense Force remains at full readiness and is maintaining continuous surveillance of the country's borders, its commander said. Brig. Gen. Alireza Elhami said both the Army and IRGC air defense units were operating at "100-percent readiness" to protect Iranian airspace. He pointed to the downing of enemy strategic drones as

Electricity generation capacity to exceed 110,000 MW by next March



TEHRAN- Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi announced that the country's power generation capacity is very large and is projected to surpass 110,000 megawatts by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2027), while a broad expansion of renewable energy plants is also being pursued.

Speaking to IRNA on Wednesday during his visit to North Khorasan province at Bojnord Airport, Aliabadi stated that the purpose of traveling to the provinces is to meet with the public, examine local issues and challenges, and follow up on necessary programs and projects for implementation.

Referring to the status of the country's power plants, he added that plants operate in both the public and private sectors, and that both sectors sustained damage during recent attacks.

The minister said that during the recent conflict, 4,200 megawatts of the country's power plant capacity were struck and damaged.

Aliabadi continued that the damaged state-owned power plants were repaired and returned to the grid within a short period, while private-sector plants are currently undergoing reconstruction and restoration.

Noting that the first damaged private-sector plant has already been brought back online, he emphasized that the restoration process for other plants is ongoing and that all damaged facilities are scheduled to return to the grid by next summer.

The energy minister also stressed the need to expand the country's power generation capacity, stating that current capacity is highly significant and expected to cross the 110,000-MW threshold by the end of the year.

Small-scale, household renewable power plants to be expanded

TEHRAN — Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi has announced that the development of renewable energy will increasingly focus on household and small-scale installations, emphasizing the environmental superiority of clean energy over fossil fuels.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of 95 megawatts of solar power plants—comprising the 63-MW Qaed Shahid and 32-MW Lamerd Martyrs plants in Tehran Province—Aliabadi noted that numerous renewable energy projects are underway across most provinces. He expressed gratitude to partner institutions, including the Central Bank and provincial governorates, for their cooperation in advancing these initiatives.

"Renewable energies are significantly cleaner than fossil fuels, and we must pay special attention to developing renewable power plants on household and small scales," the minister stated.

While acknowledging the ongoing development of large-scale renewable projects, Aliabadi stressed the importance of mobilizing small-scale public capital. He praised the efforts of SATBA (Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization) in aggregating micro-investments and directing them toward renewable projects, reducing reliance on large-scale investment and state funding.

Citing the Parand power plant as a successful model, he noted that citizens participated with modest contributions, demonstrating the viability of crowd-funded energy infrastructure.

Aliabadi further remarked that leading indus-

Aliabadi added that alongside the expansion of thermal and existing power plants, a comprehensive program for developing renewable plants is under way, which can play a key role in increasing generation capacity and ensuring stable energy supply.

He stated that renewable energy development is one of the Energy Ministry's major programs for boosting production capacity and meeting the country's growing demands.

The energy minister arrived in North Khorasan province on Wednesday for a two-day visit, landing at Bojnord Airport, where he was welcomed by the provincial governor and the Leader's representative in North Khorasan.

In his first official engagement, he simultaneously inaugurated 27 solar power plants built in schools across the province, followed by the centralized inauguration of 7,800 residential units in the Golestan Township of Bojnord.

A visit to the Serani water transfer project was also among the minister's programs on the first day of his North Khorasan trip.

The minister's itinerary will continue on Thursday, with a trip to Esfarayen county, where he is scheduled to inaugurate a 100-MW solar power plant and the Behvarzi (health worker) training center building at the Esfarayen University of Medical Sciences.

The energy minister's visit to North Khorasan comes as sustainable water supply, renewable energy development, and the completion of infrastructure projects rank among the province's most critical demands and priorities, with the Serani water transfer scheme playing a decisive role in the future water security of the country's northeast.

trial figures agree that for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, nations must diversify their energy production sources. "Technology is evolving, and we must keep pace. We are pleased that after years of effort, the country has achieved remarkable records in renewable energy," he added.

According to IRNA, the 95-MW solar facility—the largest in the country—was officially inaugurated on the second day of Government Week with President Masoud Pezeshkian in attendance. Located adjacent to the Shamsabad Industrial Town, southeast of Tehran, the country's largest industrial zone, the plant is divided into two sections of 63 MW and 32 MW.

The project was completed in less than nine months on a 147-hectare site. The plant is designed to supply a portion of the electricity demand during peak consumption hours for the Shamsabad Industrial Town.

With this latest addition, Iran's total solar power capacity has now reached nearly 5,500 megawatts.

Iran's renewable energy sector is experiencing remarkable growth. From roughly 1,250 MW two years ago, total capacity has surged past 5,800 MW, driven by a fivefold increase in solar power. The government aims to reach 12,000 MW by March 2027 and 30,000 MW in the medium term. This push includes a major focus on small-scale and household solar plants, supported by billions in allocated funds and new foreign investment agreements to diversify Iran's energy mix and enhance national security.

With \$40 trillion in debt, does Washington have any credibility to police Iran's economy?

From Page 1 ▶ The hypocrisy is staggering. The United States cannot balance its own checkbook—its mandatory spending on Social Security and Medicare consumes two-thirds of its budget, and its annual interest payments on the debt now exceed \$1.2 trillion, eclipsing even the Pentagon's defense budget. Servicing this debt is the second-largest item in the federal budget. By mid-2027, Congress's arbitrary debt ceiling of \$41.1 trillion will be breached, setting the stage for another embarrassing political circus over default.

And what is Washington's response? To hide behind the dollar's global reserve status—a privilege it abuses to borrow



cheaply. But that privilege is fading. The dollar's share of global reserves has dropped from 70% in 2001 to 57% today. Central banks are dumping Treasuries

for gold, yuan, and other alternatives. The US is actively engineering its own decline.

So, let us ask the obvious question: How dare a country

that cannot control its own deficit, that is squeezing its own infrastructure and innovation budgets to pay interest, and that risks exporting inflation and higher rates to the entire world—how dare it impose sanctions and pressure on Iran? The American model is not a beacon; it is a beacon of bankruptcy. Its "structural fiscal adjustment" requires tax hikes to the OECD average and a bipartisan consensus it cannot achieve. Until Washington cleans its own house, its economic lectures are not just arrogant—they are a global joke. A debtor in a glass house should not throw stones, especially when that glass is cracking under \$40 trillion of weight.

Confronting economic pressures, supporting people's livelihood on government's agenda

TEHRAN- The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance stated that a significant portion of the current problems dates back to pre-war conditions, although today's economic issues cannot be oversimplified or analyzed with a "two-plus-two-equals-four" logic. He said: "For example, at one point they tried to prevent medicine from entering the country. We eventually found alternative routes, but naturally, during that period, medicine prices increased."

According to IRNA, Seyyed Ali Madani Zadeh emphasized that enemies are carrying out a terrorist operation against Iran, just as they previously conducted military terrorist operations and martyred our dear people and children. He added: "Now, in the economic and livelihood sphere, they are targeting patients, cancer patients, children, and even infant formula, and are trying to block the supply routes."

Stating that Iran supports its people domestically and will not allow these actions to succeed, he said: "However, one cannot deny that a terrorist operation is underway on the other side. The Islamic Republic of Iran is by no means seeking war, has not, and will not; but if attacked—whether militarily or economically—it will certainly confront."

He stated: "In the diplomatic arena, just as we endeavored during the war and afterward to secure the rights of the Iranian nation and were able to reclaim some of our rights through reaching agreements, we are moving with the same approach today. We stand firm in our positions and will vigorously defend the country's economy."

Controlling inflation, preserving employment, securing basic goods are country's top economic priority

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance emphasized that the government's economic team is tasked with managing the economic situation and improving the difficult conditions imposed on the people. He said: "In this regard, the government's first plan is to control inflation by halting the rising trend of prices caused by the current shock wave."

Madanizadeh, referring to the state of war (military war, siege, economic war), added: "In such an atmosphere, some information and tactics must not be disclosed, and some individuals in the media are exploiting the government's silence to undermine it."

Emphasizing that the government has not abandoned the economy and stands firmly behind the people and the economy, he added: "The main goal is to bring inflation down, with the hope that this will be achieved through divine will. Efforts have been made to prevent the negative impact of this crisis on trade and employment, and thus the Ministry of Economy is seeking to protect existing jobs by disbursing working capital facilities."

Madanizadeh stated that the government is trying to cover those who are laid off through unemployment insurance, and said: "The purpose of the commodity voucher (Kala Barq) is also to support people's livelihoods; the government's priority is people's livelihoods and preventing empty shelves so that people do not feel shortages, and therefore each minister has been tasked with taking necessary measures to address shortages in the market."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Minister of Economy emphasized that there is complete coordination among members of the government's economic team and that they are all moving in the same direction, saying: "There is truly no disagreement among the members of this team. We face minimal challenges in reaching a consensus on any issue, and those challenges are sometimes merely implementation-related."

He added: "The country's issues are being identified one by one and referred to the government's economic headquarters. In the meetings of the economic headquarters, with the presence of the President and his First Vice President, we reach

conclusions."

Madanizadeh continued: "There is also complete coordination between the government's economic team and the heads of the parliamentary economic committees. Regular meetings are held in this regard; today we also had a meeting and reached full coordination on the country's economic issues. During this period, the Parliament's Economic Committee has provided full support to the government's economic team."

Modernizing power plants, public participation: Two drivers for compensating energy imbalances

The Minister of Economy said: "Developing combined-cycle power plants and modernizing existing plants are among the government's main plans to compensate for imbalances in the electricity industry. Simultaneously, by providing the economic groundwork for investment in power plant construction, efforts have been made to pursue the development of this industry through attracting capital and private sector participation, rather than relying on continuous state funding."

Madanizadeh added: "This approach has yielded significant results in the field of renewable energy, especially solar power plants. Instead of directly financing all resources, the government has created economic mechanisms and made investment attractive, thereby paving the way for new resources to enter this sector. Important measures have also been taken in the area of fuel supply for industries."

He continued: "On the other hand, public cooperation in energy consumption management has played a decisive role. While energy consumption in some sectors grew by 6 to 7 percent annually in previous years, this year not only has consumption growth stopped, but reductions have also been recorded in some areas—a result of public participation in conservation."

Stating that the government is pursuing a seven-axis plan to resolve accumulated imbalances in various economic and energy sectors, he added: "Some of these imbalances have roots in past years, and some have been exacerbated by recent damages."

Madanizadeh stated: "Now, just as the people have cooperated in energy consumption management, they are expected to play a role in investment and economic reconstruction so that, relying on domestic capacities, the process of compensating shortages and strengthening economic infrastructure can accelerate."

A trade facilitation and production barrier removal package is awaiting approval

The Minister of Economy also said: "The government's approach is to turn threats and unfavorable conditions into opportunities for economic reform and strengthening. Wherever a weakness or bottleneck has been identified, that very point has been placed at the center of reform programs."

Madanizadeh added: "One of the most important areas of reform is facilitating licensing, reducing production barriers, and streamlining trade. In this regard, a series of measures have been taken with the cooperation of the government's economic bodies, the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the Plan and Budget Organization, the Central Bank, the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, and especially the Trade Development Organization."

He continued: "The trade facilitation and production barrier removal package has passed the expert review and pre-approval stages before being submitted to the Cabinet. With the government's final approval, it can create a major transformation in the country's trade and the operation of production enterprises."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance stated that obstructive regulations have been identified and set aside during the war period, which facilitated affairs. He said: "These cases were presented to the First

Vice President, and he said: 'If these regulations could solve problems and remove production barriers during wartime, why shouldn't they be made permanent?' Accordingly, he instructed the government team to develop a plan to make these measures permanent."

Madanizadeh also noted that in the deregulation process, a heavy expert review and coordination among various bodies has been carried out, and this matter is before the government for approval. He said: "Very good measures have also been taken in the area of removing investment barriers, which will be unveiled next week in the presence of the President."

The Minister of Economy explained: "Very interesting measures have been taken by the Investment Organization to remove production barriers and facilitate investment. One of the important actions taken during this period was converting the 'Foreign Investment Organization' into the 'Iran Investment Organization'—an organization that, as the sole authority in the investment field, is tasked with identifying investment barriers in the country and taking action to remove them."

He recalled: "There are many regulations in the country that, as obstacles, have made the investment process difficult and slow. These barriers have been identified and planning for their removal is underway."

We fully understand people's economic situation and appreciate their patience and dignity

The Minister of Economy said: "We understand the people's situation and know the hardships they are enduring. We are grateful that the people are patient; they have shown that they accept economic hardship but will not tolerate humiliation. We are doing our utmost to make people's lives easier in these terrorist economic conditions and to minimize its harmful effects, while also ensuring that [the enemy] regrets its actions."

Madanizadeh, referring to public cooperation in conservation, called for participation in investment for the country's economic renewal and stated: "We need the help of elites to advise us on what should be done in the current economic situation. At the Ministry of Economy, we continuously use the opinions of economists, economic activists, members of the Chamber of Commerce, and tradespeople. Some ideas remain just ideas and cannot be operationalized, so elites must present implementable plans. We will make 100 percent use of such ideas."

Emphasizing that they are not bound by any conventional economic thinking in the world, he added: "Let the elites help us better manage the country's financial and trade arteries. We ask economic activists to come on board and not allow sanctions and pressures to succeed; help us attract resources and compensate for the resource shortages created by economic pressure."

The Minister of Economy further stated that the economy operates within a socio-political context, and the more stable and secure this context is, the more we can move toward growth and economic stability. He said: "The more external pressure and fluctuation exerted on this container, naturally these fluctuations will transfer to its contents. The government's economic team is striving day and night so that, despite the pressure and fluctuations on this container, the liquid inside is less damaged."

Madanizadeh emphasized: "The reality is that we cannot promise a specific number or create expectations, but I give my word that the government's full effort will be focused on planning to control inflation in the first instance. We will not allow hyperinflation to occur, and we will then work to bring inflation down."

Stating that "our monetary, forex, and banking plans are based on controlling inflation," he recalled: "The second priority of the economic team is to support employment, and then to assist in the economic renewal of the country."

How valid are U.S. commitments under Trump?

From page 1 ▶ American duplicity and betrayal intensified following the conclusion of the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding, signed on June 17, 2026, by Trump at the Palace of Versailles.

Pakistan, with the assistance of several regional countries, mediated the agreement. It was described as an initial accord intended to pave the way toward a broader, final agreement. The memorandum contained 14 provisions setting out the terms for an immediate ceasefire and mechanisms for negotiating a lasting peace.

Trump quickly reneged on his commitment to the memorandum. John Mearsheimer, professor of political science at the University of Chicago, said in July 2026 that, from Iran's perspective, the United States had failed to honor its commitments under the agreement.

"When we look at what is happening from the Iranian perspective... the Iranians [rightly] believe that the United States has failed to honor its commitments under the agreement," he pointed out.

The Strait of Hormuz and oil-export waivers

Iran had several reasonable grounds for accusing Trump of failing to comply with the agreement. Provision 5 addressed what had replaced enriched uranium as a central focus of the illegal war: Iran's position on shipping through the economically vital Strait of Hormuz.

The provision was understood to mean that Iran would lift its blockade while continuing to oversee and direct maritime traffic. When Iran took control of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz in March 2026, it replaced the pre-war shipping route, which ran through the middle of the strait, with another route directing vessels along its own coastline.

After the memorandum was signed, however, the Trump administration began directing ships onto a different route through Omani territorial waters. Following the ceasefire, there were three routes: one along the Omani coast, the central route used before the war, and one along the Iranian coast.

"We violated [the memorandum] by creating a southern corridor," said retired U.S. Army Colonel Daniel Davis, host of the Deep Dive podcast, which focuses on geopolitical issues.

"There is nothing in the memorandum we signed that autho-



rizes the creation of a southern corridor, or allows the United States to enter it and unilaterally determine how it should operate. It simply is not there in the memorandum."

Davis, who returned from Afghanistan and exposed in 2012 how civilian and military officials had misled the public about the course of the war there, said the U.S. move in the Hormuz Strait was a deliberate provocation.

According to American writer Brian McGlinchey, author of the Stark Realities blog, whether intentional or not, it was indeed a provocation by the United States.

After issuing radio warnings to vessels attempting to use the southern route, Iran fired disabling projectiles at them. Trump then resumed his bombing campaign against Iran, prompting Tehran to retaliate against U.S. forces and the countries hosting them. The Iranian armed forces subsequently began a prolonged cycle of retaliatory strikes.

Then there is Provision 10 of the memorandum, under which the Trump administration promised to issue sanctions waivers allowing Iranian oil and petroleum products to be exported without restrictions. Trump revoked the waivers on July 7, citing Iranian attacks on vessels that had failed to comply with its control over the Strait of Hormuz, a control that the United States had implicitly accepted under Provision 5.

Legitimizing Israeli occupation of Lebanon

Given its enormous importance to Iran, Provision 1 of the memorandum called for "the immediate and permanent cessation of hostilities on all fronts, including Lebanon." The provision did not specifically focus on Iran and the United States, but rather on their allies: Hezbollah, aligned

with Iran, and Israel, America's staunchest ally in the world.

Nevertheless, the Zionist regime continued its aggression and the wholesale destruction of civilian infrastructure in southern Lebanon, on a scale comparable to what the regime's occupation forces had done in Gaza.

Some might argue that the United States was not in a position to impose the memorandum's provisions on Israel. Even if that were true, Trump should not have signed a memorandum implicitly committing him to do so.

The Trump administration went a step further, taking measures to legitimize the Israeli regime's occupation of Lebanon.

"The memorandum stipulated that the Israelis had to leave Lebanon. We made no effort to achieve that. On the contrary, Marco Rubio mediated an agreement between the Lebanese government and Israel to jointly attack Hezbollah. What is that, then? At the very least, it was an unwise course of action," Freeman pointed out.

More importantly, Trump's conduct strengthens the credibility of the Iranian government and armed forces, who have long argued that Washington cannot be trusted and that negotiations should be backed up by military readiness.

The Saudi-U.S. nuclear deal

Trump's repudiation of agreements has not been limited to adversaries of the United States who have been hit by his sudden reversals of terms he himself had accepted. Take Saudi Arabia for example.

On July 22, U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, signed an agreement allowing the kingdom to build nuclear reactors and enrich uranium using American technology.

Both governments issued official statements, and the agreement was hailed as a victory for Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The very next morning, Trump stunned, indeed, blindsided, the Saudis and his own officials with a social-media post adding a major condition retroactively: there would be no nuclear agreement unless Saudi Arabia joined the "Abraham Accords," which entail recognizing the occupying regime's legitimacy and establishing formal diplomatic relations.

Trump's demand that Saudi Arabia move closer to Israel comes at a time when Muslims in the kingdom and throughout the Islamic world are outraged by the regime's destruction of Gaza and southern Lebanon, making such a demand politically risky for the Saudi royal family.

Contrary to the agreement signed by his own energy secretary, Trump also suddenly announced that there would be no enrichment of nuclear material inside Saudi Arabia.

"Trump makes a deal, signs it, announces it, boasts about it, and within 24 hours radically changes its terms," observed Trita Parsi, executive vice president of the Quincy Institute, on the Deep Dive podcast. "If this is what he will do to Saudi Arabia, a country with which the United States has extremely close relations... and with which the Trump family also has very close business ties, what will he do to Iran? How long is any U.S. commitment to Iran under Trump actually valid under any agreement?"

More recently, Ambassador Freeman told Colonel Davis: "We have convinced the entire world that we do not know what we are doing, that we cannot be trusted, that we do not keep our promises, and that we do not even maintain a consistent position from one day to the next. So how can anyone deal with us? That is the question everyone is asking."

Alastair Crooke, a former British intelligence officer and diplomat, believes that American diplomacy may never return to what it was.

Summarizing the impact of Trump's multi-front assault on confidence in the United States, Crooke said on Norwegian academic Glenn Diesen's podcast: "I think the U.S. capacity to negotiate in the traditional diplomatic sense is over. I mean, we are in a new era!"

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Massive flash flood hits Nepal-China border, hundreds of tourists missing



Houses lie partially submerged in muddy water along a riverside after flash floods at Trishuli Bazar in Nepal's Nuwakot district on Aug 26, 2026. (Photo: AFP/Prabin Ranabhat)

At least 95 people have been killed, and hundreds of tourists are missing, after a massive flash flood and mudslide on the Nepal-China border, BBC reported.

The missing tourists include more than 100 from India, 47 from the US, and 33 from the UK, according to Nepal's tourist board. The area is popular with pilgrims and trekkers

CCTV from Tibet shows a wall of water and mud hitting buildings at a border crossing - other images from Nepal show people trying to flee as the flood surges

In Tibet, Chinese President Xi Jinping is offering personal directives - that usually means an incident is very serious, writes our correspondent in Beijing, Laura Bicker

Nepal's foreign minister says the flood may have been caused by an earthquake triggering

an avalanche

This is the most devastating disaster in Nepal since the 2015 earthquake which killed 9,000 people.

Chinese state media say the People's Liberation Army has activated its emergency response plan and has begun planning more aerial reconnaissance and airlift missions.

Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah says he is left with a "heavy heart" after the country's fatal flash floods.

"The entire nation has been left shocked and deeply distressed" by the loss of life and damage to property, he says in a social media post, calling the disaster "sudden" and "massive".

He offers "heartfelt tributes" and "deepest condolences" to those who have lost their lives and their loved ones.

Tomoko Akane urges Japan to counter US pressure on ICC



Japan should try to counter the United States' efforts to pressure members of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to quit the body, its president said, noting that Tokyo's support is pivotal to ensuring the court's survival.

Speaking via video link to reporters in Tokyo, ICC President Tomoko Akane called on Japan, the ICC's biggest financial backer, to help it in its hour of need, Al Jazeera reported.

"Japan has long made the rule of law a cornerstone of its diplomacy. Consequently, both I and the international community hold high expectations for Japan," said Akane, a Japanese national.

"Furthermore, I would like Japan to focus on supporting neighboring countries that are ICC members, ensuring that they do not succumb to the new US campaign and decide to withdraw from the ICC," she added.

Erdogan says Turkey won't abandon Syria or let Israel draw 'red lines'

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan responded on Tuesday to Israeli strikes on a Syrian military base last week, saying Ankara would not abandon its friends in the region and that no outside power could set the boundaries of Turkish foreign policy.

Israel carried out several strikes on the Abu al-Duhur military airbase in northern Syria, approximately 70km from the Turkish border, claiming that Ankara was preparing to deploy air defence systems there.

Israeli officials have repeatedly said that the Turkish military's use of airbases in Syria would constitute a "red line," arguing that such a presence could restrict Israel's

freedom of action in Syrian airspace.

Both Turkish and Syrian officials denied that Ankara had planned to deploy air defence systems at Abu al-Duhur, saying Turkish personnel were there solely to repair the runway and control tower. That account was also supported by US Ambassador Tom Barrack.

Erdogan, who had been on holiday for several days, notably refrained from mentioning Israel or Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by name during his speech on Monday.

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

Israel launches organized pogroms against defenseless Palestinian towns

From page 1 ▶ The Israeli regime immediately announced plans to confiscate the site and replace it with a settlement complex.

The brazen takeover amounts to a direct assault on one of the few remaining institutional lifelines for vulnerable Palestinian refugees, while openly trampling the international legal protections and diplomatic immunities that are supposed to shield UN premises from precisely this kind of unlawful intrusion.

Organized pogroms

Outside al-Quds, the violence takes a more visceral form.

Settler attacks across the West Bank have surged by 63 percent in the first seven months of this year compared to the same period in 2025.

The Palestinian Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission documented over 4,100 incidents of settler aggression.

These are regime-sanctioned pogroms. United Nations Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese has explicitly used the term to describe the organized violence against defenseless civilians.

The cruelty is calculated. In the village of Qusra, settlers and soldiers laid a brutal two-week siege on three families, cutting off their water and trapping them inside a single home

while the military commandeered another property.

In Za'atara, armed settlers beat residents in their homes, leaving three Palestinians requiring hospitalization before stealing their livestock.

In Burin, attackers cut electricity poles feeding a Palestinian family home. In Duma, Israeli troops bulldozed agricultural land and demolished tin shelters.

The objective is clear: make everyday life so unbearable that Palestinians are eventually driven to leave.

Official vandalism and medical terror

The lawlessness is driven from the highest levels of the Israeli government.

In a vivid display of regime-sponsored hatred, extremist Knesset member Zvi Sukkot recently entered the village of Madama armed with a sledgehammer.

Flanked and protected by Israeli soldiers, the lawmaker physically smashed a monument commemorating Palestinian martyrs.

His staff joined in the vandalism. The military later claimed the demolition was unauthorized, yet the footage clearly shows that troops stood by and watched a politician destroy Palestinian property for an abhorrent propaganda video.

This sadism also permeates the Israeli pris-

on system. Palestinian medical professionals are being aggressively targeted.

Dr. Dima Amin, a 55-year-old gynecologist abducted from Ramallah, suffered a massive heart attack in custody.

Interrogators refused to loosen the tight restraints that caused her condition to deteriorate.

Even after she was rushed to a hospital for emergency cardiac catheterization, Israeli authorities immediately threw her back into a harsh interrogation center without adequate medical follow-up.

Human rights organizations report that thousands of Palestinians face deliberate starvation, torture, and lethal medical neglect in these dungeons.

A shrinking horizon under American cover

Israel is weaponizing every aspect of Palestinian life.

Crippling fuel shortages engineered by the occupation regime have been paralyzing basic civic functions.

Meanwhile, authorities are aggressively pushing the E1 settlement expansion plan, a project designed to geographically sever the West Bank in two and isolate East al-Quds (Jerusalem) entirely.

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

Alipourian dropped from Asian Para Games squad

TEHRAN - Iran's sitting volleyball captain Davoud Alipourian has been left out of the national team squad for the upcoming Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan.

The national team are set to begin a new training camp in preparation for the Asian Para Games, but Alipourian will not be among the players called up for the upcoming camp.

The World Sitting Volleyball Championships and Paralympic qualifying tournament in Hangzhou was the last competition in which Alipourian represented Iran. Iran won the title at the tournament and secured their place at the Paralympic Games. Following the event, however, Alipourian declined to join his teammates in subsequent training camps amid a dispute with the team management.

He had initially been included among the 15 players invited to Iran's first training camp following the World Championships, but chose not to attend as part of his protest.

For the next camp, which will be the national team's second training camp since the World Championships, Alipourian has been removed from the squad. As a result, the camp will feature the 14 players who participated in the previous camp.

Ali Kashfian, head of Iran's Sitting Volleyball Association, confirmed the decision, adding that the dates for the new training camp would be finalized soon.

With Alipourian no longer part of the national team setup, Iran will also have to appoint a new captain ahead of the Asian Para Games.

The fifth Asian Para Games will be held in Nagoya, Japan, from Oct. 18 to 24, with Iran's sitting volleyball team entering the competition as the defending champions.

Women's volleyball move up in FIVB world rankings

TEHRAN - Iran's women's national volleyball team have reached a historic milestone, climbing two places to No. 40 in the latest FIVB world rankings.

The breakthrough came after Iran secured a victory over Iraq at the 2026 AVC Women Asian Continental Championship, earning a place in the knockout stage of the continental competition.

With the result, Iran moved up to 40th in the world with 109.82 ranking points, marking the highest position ever achieved by the country's women's national team.

The rise continues an impressive period for Iranian women's volleyball. Just days earlier, Iran recorded a historic victory over Chinese Taipei, allowing the team to surpass the 100-point mark in the world rankings for the first time.

Reaching the world's top 40 represents a significant achievement for Iran, highlighting the team's progress on the international stage. The latest results at the Asian Championship have not only strengthened Iran's ranking but also provided valuable momentum as the team continue their campaign against Asia's leading volleyball nations.

With the knockout stage ahead, Iran will now look to build on their historic rise and potentially climb even higher in the FIVB rankings.

Massive boost for Team Melli as Amini comes back

TEHRAN - Mohammad Amini is all set for a comeback in the international stage as the young star has rejoined Iran mere days before Window 4 of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers.

The Iran basketball federation announced that the development Tuesday, as Team Melli have arrived in the Philippine capital for the August 27-31 games at the Mall of Asia Arena.

Mohammad Amini, an Iranian basketball player and player for the French team Nancy, has joined the national team in Manila, Philippines, to accompany the national team in the fourth window of the 2027 World Cup Qualifiers.

The 21-year-old is expected to be suiting up for the continental powerhouse for the first time since Asia Cup 2025 in Saudi Arabia, where the team gave the country their first medal in the event in eight years by coping bronze.

He was unable to play in their 79-73 victory over New Zealand in the Third-Place Game due to a knee issue he sustained in the Semi-Finals versus Australia, but there was no denying the impact he had in the whole tilt.

Amini averaged 14.6 points and 5.8 rebounds, and his best showing came in the Quarter-Finals when he dropped 30 and 11 to help lead his side to a 78-75 win over Chinese Taipei in a comeback of epic proportions.

If ever, the upcoming window will be his fourth appearance in the senior level. It could be recalled that he made his men's team debut in the World Cup in 2023, then returned for the 2025 Asia Cup Qualifiers.

This time, he's carrying even more experience under his belt. A member of French club SLUC Nancy Basket for four years now, Amini played for the Boston Celtics in the 2026 NBA Summer League last July.

And his return shall make Team Melli even better despite the absence of Sina Vahedi, who continues to tread the road to recovery after suffering an anterior cruciate ligament injury he suffered in the club scene last March.

He's coming in to serve as a mismatch of sorts anew at the backcourt given his 2.01 M (6'7") frame, adding more dynamic to a rotation that already has Sarem Jafari, Mobin Shekhi, and Piter Girgoorian, to name a few, fiba.basketball reported.

Iran football federation extends Ghalenoei's contract

TEHRAN - Amir Ghalenoei's contract as head coach of the Iran national football team has been extended through the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

Iran have been drawn in Group C alongside China, Syria and Kyrgyzstan as they prepare for the continental tournament.

The Football Federation of Iran's spokesperson also revealed that the national team will most likely hold a 12-day training camp in Doha, Qatar, ahead of the Asian Cup. The camp is expected to be part of Iran's final preparations for the competition.

The 2027 AFC Asian Cup will be held in Saudi Arabia from Jan. 7 to Feb. 5, with matches scheduled across three cities.

Iran are among the most successful teams in Asian Cup history, having won the tournament three times, in 1968, 1972 and 1976. Ghalenoei will now look to guide the team to another deep run and challenge for a fourth continental title.

Hadi Choopan withdraws from 2026 Mr. Olympia

TEHRAN - Iranian bodybuilder Hadi Choopan has announced that he will not compete at the 2026 Mr. Olympia.

The 2022 Mr. Olympia champion revealed on Instagram that he had been trying to travel to Dubai to follow up on his U.S. visa, as he has done in previous years. However, he said he was denied entry to the UAE and that his 10-year UAE visa had been canceled.

Choopan cited the current political situation and travel restrictions as major factors behind the decision. He also explained that the stress and uncertainty surrounding his travel and U.S. visa situation would prevent him from preparing for the Olympia at the level required.

As a result, Choopan has decided to withdraw from the 2026 Mr. Olympia.

This will mark Choopan's first absence from the Mr. Olympia since his debut in 2019, ending a remarkable run of seven consecutive appearances on the sport's biggest stage.

Se Gonbad: A Seljuk-era tomb tower in the heart of Urmia

TEHRAN - Rising from the historic fabric of Urmia in north-western Iran, the Se Gonbad Tomb Tower is one of the city's most distinctive surviving monuments from the Seljuk period.

Built around 800 years ago, the cylindrical stone-and-brick structure offers visitors a glimpse into the architectural traditions, burial practices and artistic achievements of medieval Iran.

The monument stands in what is now the central and old part of Urmia. When it was built, however, the tower stood on the southeastern outskirts of the city. Urban expansion gradually surrounded the monument, bringing the centuries-old structure into the heart of modern Urmia.

The name "Se Gonbad," meaning "Three Domes" in Persian, is associated with the unusual arrangement of its domed structure. The monument contains two separate domed spaces, while a smaller dome is positioned above the main structure. Its distinctive form has contributed to the tower's enduring identity and made it one of Urmia's notable historical attractions.

An inscription at the entrance dates the construction of the tower to 580 AH, corresponding to the Seljuk period. The inscription was read by Nikolai Khanikov, a 19th-century Russian orientalist, geographer and ethnographer who helped introduce the monument to a wider audience. According to the interpretation of the inscription, the tower was built on the orders of Sheith Qathe al-Muzaffari, identified as one of the Seljuk rulers.

The monument is believed to have served as a mausoleum. Numerous graves have been found in the surrounding area, suggesting that the land around the tower may once have functioned as its courtyard. Some accounts suggest that people of distinction were buried there because of the sanctity associated with the site.

The Se Gonbad is also interesting for the questions surrounding its origins. Some have suggested that the tower was constructed on the remains of a Sasanian-era fire temple, but there is no credible evidence confirming that claim. Its architectural appearance has also been compared with towers dating



from the Tughrol era. Nevertheless, available evidence, including the entrance inscription and similarities with other sixth-century AH mausoleums, points to its Seljuk-period origin.

The tower is approximately 13 meters high and has a diameter of about five meters. Its cylindrical body combines two principal building materials: stone and brick. Gray, finely cut stones form the lower section of the structure to a height of about 3.6 meters, while square bricks were used above it.

Architecturally, the monument consists of two levels. The lower level, known as the cellar or crypt, is separated from the upper level by an arched covering. Access to the lower section is through a small iron door measuring approximately one meter by 70 centimeters. The upper level, or burial chamber, is positioned above the crypt and can be reached by a wooden ladder about 2.5 meters high.

Light shafts on the northern and southern sides form another notable feature of the building. Four channels connect the upper and lower sections, helping illuminate and ventilate the interior while adding to the architectural character of the tower.

The exterior is particularly notable for its entrance decoration. Stone and gypsum elements form geometric patterns and Kufic inscriptions around the entrance, providing an example of the decorative vocabulary used in medieval Iranian architecture.

Gonabad: Where ancient water engineering shaped eastern Iran



TEHRAN - Gonabad, a historic city in Khorasan Razavi province in eastern Iran, offers visitors far more than the landscapes of a desert settlement. Its strategic location, ancient water-management systems and references in Iran's epic and geographical literature have made it an important destination for those interested in the country's history and cultural heritage.

Located amid mountains and low-lying plains, Gonabad developed at a natural crossroads where the surrounding topography concentrated movement along defined routes. According to local heritage officials, this geographical position helped make the area an important controlled passage and logistical point in eastern Iran over different historical periods.

One of Gonabad's most remarkable attractions is the UNESCO-listed Qasabeh Qanat, an extraordinary underground water system that reflects the sophisticated engineering developed to sustain life in one of Iran's driest regions. Its large mother wells and complex water-distribution network are evidence of extensive social organization and engineering expertise. The qanat was inscribed on World Heritage list in 2016 as part of the Persian Qanat serial property.

The qanat also provides an important window into the region's ancient history. In the absence of

Inside, a square burial chamber has been incorporated into the cylindrical structure. Its corners feature cruciform ornaments, while sharp, crescent-shaped arches and finely executed carvings add further detail. The ceiling of the chamber has a domed appearance, with bricks arranged in a circular pattern toward the center.

Although part of the lower dome and its floor have collapsed, remnants of decorative brickwork can still be seen around the corners and edges. Because the ceiling has been damaged, the original dimensions of the lower dome cannot be established with certainty. Research has estimated its height at about 1.5 meters.

The monument is particularly known for its tall main dome, reported to have been about nine meters high. Yet the dome is only one element of its architectural significance. The combination of stone decoration, cruciform motifs, geometric ornamentation and carved details gives the Se Gonbad a character that distinguishes it from other medieval tomb towers.

The structure survived the passage of centuries with its walls and principal ceiling largely intact. Conservation measures have also been undertaken to protect it from damage. A defined surrounding area and protective boundaries now separate the monument from the pressures of the expanding city. The Se Gonbad has been registered on Iran's national heritage list, underscoring its importance as

extensive written records from pre-Islamic periods, water infrastructure can serve as valuable archaeological evidence. The scale of Gonabad's qanat system suggests that its construction and maintenance required considerable organization and resources rather than the efforts of small, scattered communities.

Gonabad's historical significance also appears in Iran's epic tradition. The Shahnameh, the monumental Persian epic by Ferdowsi, refers to the city in the account of the Battle of the Twelve Rukhs. Local heritage authorities regard these references as part of a long-standing geographical memory connecting the region with the legendary conflicts between Iran and Turan. The landscape around Gonabad, together with sites traditionally associated with figures from the Shahnameh, offers visitors an opportunity to explore the intersection of mythology, oral tradition and geography.

The city's role changed considerably after the arrival of Islam. Classical geographical works, including those associated with Istakhri and other medieval writers, describe Gonabad as an inhabited and productive part of

part of the country's architectural heritage.

For travelers, the monument also provides an entry point into the broader history of Urmia. The city is the capital of West Azarbaijan province and lies at an elevation of about 1,330 meters on the Urmia Plain, near the Shahar River. Lake Urmia, one of the world's largest salt lakes, lies to the east, while the Turkish border is located to the west. Its position has long made Urmia an important crossroads between Iran, Anatolia and the wider northwestern region.

Urmia's cultural history is equally diverse. Over the centuries, Azerbaijanis, Kurds, Persians, Assyrians and Armenians have lived in the city and surrounding region. The city has also been home at different periods to Muslim, Christian, Jewish and Sufi communities. By the beginning of the 20th century, Christians represented a significant share of the city's population, although war, violence and migration dramatically altered the demographic landscape in the decades that followed.

A visit to Se Gonbad can therefore be combined with exploring Urmia's wider historical and cultural attractions. The tower's location in the old urban fabric makes it particularly accessible for travelers interested in discovering the city beyond its modern streets and temporary identity.

Se Gonbad can be visited throughout the year. Spring and summer, however, are generally more comfortable for travelers who are unaccustomed to the cold conditions of northwestern Iran. Winters in the region can be harsh, with considerable snowfall, while the warmer months offer more favorable conditions for exploring the monument and other attractions around Urmia.

For visitors interested in Iran's medieval heritage, Se Gonbad offers something more than an imposing historic structure. Its inscription, funerary function, architectural details and position within the evolving urban landscape together tell the story of a monument that has remained part of Urmia for roughly eight centuries. Standing today amid the city's historic fabric, the Seljuk-era tower provides a tangible link between contemporary Urmia and a much earlier chapter of Iranian history.

the wider Khorasan region rather than simply a military or logistical outpost. Its water infrastructure helped support agriculture, settlement and trade, while its position along routes linking eastern Iran with other regions encouraged the development of commercial activity.

For travelers, Gonabad therefore presents a rare combination of desert landscapes, ancient engineering and living cultural heritage. Visitors can explore the Qasabeh Qanat, discover historic settlements and landscapes around the city, and learn how communities adapted to an arid environment through sophisticated water management.

The story of Gonabad is ultimately a story of continuity. From an ancient settlement supported by advanced water engineering to a strategic point and later an agricultural and commercial center, the city has repeatedly adapted to changing circumstances. Its qanats and historic sites preserve evidence of this long transformation, making Gonabad a compelling destination for travelers seeking to understand how civilization developed and survived in the arid east of Iran.

MAHAK builds a broader ecosystem around pediatric cancer care

By Mehdi Garshasbi
TEHRAN - The Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer, widely known by its acronym MAHAK, was established in 1991 as a non-governmental and non-profit organization.

Its logo, a leaf symbolizing life, depicts a child and family standing upon it with hope.

Since its inception, MAHAK has relied solely on public donations, benevolent intentions, and voluntary contributions. Within less than a decade, MAHAK succeeded in improving children's recovery rates by applying scientific and specialized methods in caring for patients and their families, while also earning the trust and support of the public as well as the tireless efforts of volunteers.

MAHAK's activities fall into three main categories: Charity, Hospital, and Research. These efforts exclusively serve children with cancer in areas such as medical care, prevention, treatment, healthcare, and welfare services. MAHAK's slogan, "Help us and let us help you," reflects the essential role of civil society in supporting humanity with love and compassion.

By 2025, MAHAK had provided comprehensive support to over 45,000 children with cancer and their families across Iran.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Arash Ahmadian, the chief executive officer, elaborated on MAHAK's role in the global fight against childhood cancer, how it integrates psychological and social support into cancer care, the role of emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, and digital health in the future of cancer care at MAHAK.

MAHAK has developed an integrated model that combines medical treatment, psychosocial and family support, public awareness, research, advocacy, and international cooperation.

One of MAHAK's most important contributions is its emphasis on comprehensive and patient-centered care. The organization initially focused on supporting families of children with cancer, including providing accommodation for families who had to travel to Tehran for their children's treatment.

As the organization developed, this approach expanded into the establishment of a specialized pediatric cancer hospital and treatment center, providing diagnostic, therapeutic, and supportive services.

This integrated approach is particularly relevant to the global childhood-cancer agenda. In this respect, MAHAK's experience demonstrates how a civil-society organization can contribute to building a broader ecosystem around pediatric cancer care.

The distinctive feature of MAHAK is its attempt to address the medical and social dimensions of childhood cancer simultaneously. Many childhood-cancer charities primarily concentrate



Arash Ahmadian, the chief executive officer of MAHAK

on fundraising, awareness, or family assistance, while MAHAK has developed an ecosystem in which financial support, medical services, family assistance, awareness campaigns, research, and professional collaboration are interconnected.

Therefore, MAHAK's role in the global fight against childhood cancer can be understood as that of a patient- and family-centered civil-society organization that connects charity, healthcare delivery, social support, awareness, research, and international collaboration.

Rather than viewing childhood cancer solely as a medical problem, the MAHAK model treats it as a multidimensional social and healthcare challenge. This perspective is consistent with the broader global movement toward equitable access to quality pediatric cancer care, in which international cooperation, capacity building, family engagement, and knowledge sharing are increasingly considered essential components of improving survival and quality of life.

Integrating psychological and social support into cancer care

MAHAK's approach is based on the principle that treating childhood cancer is not limited to medical intervention. A diagnosis of cancer can affect a child's emotional well-being, family relationships, education, financial stability, and ability to cope with a long and demanding treatment process. MAHAK therefore seeks to integrate psychological and social support with medical treatment rather than treating these services as separate or optional forms of assistance.

An important aspect of this approach is that psychological care is not restricted to children. Parents and caregivers are also considered part of the care process because their emotional condition, ability to cope, and understanding of the illness can influence the child's experience of treatment. MAHAK has consequently focused on integrating psychological and social-work services into its broader support system.

The psychosocial model at

MAHAK also includes a substantial social-support component. Its services extend beyond the hospital itself and include support for families receiving treatment in public and university hospitals across Iran. MAHAK's support has included assistance with treatment costs, medicines, transportation, and accommodation for families who have to travel for specialized treatment.

Another important characteristic of MAHAK's approach is multidisciplinary cooperation. Psychological and social support is intended to operate alongside physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals rather than independently of the medical team.

MAHAK has developed an integrated model that combines medical treatment, psychosocial and family support, public awareness, research, advocacy, and international cooperation.

Preserving the child's quality of life and sense of childhood

MAHAK's approach also recognizes that children with cancer remain children first. Its activities seek to preserve opportunities for children to experience normal childhood emotions and activities despite the restrictions imposed by illness and treatment. MAHAK has explicitly emphasized the importance of creating positive memories for children so that their experience of childhood is not defined exclusively by pain and medical procedures.

This perspective is consistent with the broader international understanding of psychosocial pediatric oncology, in which quality of life, emotional adjustment, family functioning, and the child's ability to cope with treatment are considered important outcomes alongside survival.

The significance of this model

is that it addresses the whole experience of childhood cancer. The disease affects the child's body, but its consequences extend to emotions, family relationships, education, finances, and social life.

Role of emerging technologies

The future of childhood cancer care at MAHAK is likely to be increasingly influenced by digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), telemedicine, and data-driven healthcare. These technologies should not be viewed as replacements for physicians, nurses, psychologists, or social workers; rather, their greatest potential lies in strengthening MAHAK's existing integrated model of care and making specialized services more accessible, personalized, and continuous.

AI could become particularly important in areas such as diagnosis, risk assessment, treatment planning, prediction of complications, and analysis of medical data. International research in pediatric oncology has already identified applications of AI in diagnostic and prognostic decision-making, although the evidence is still developing and implementation requires careful validation.

AI could also support MAHAK's psychosocial model. For example, digital systems could help identify changes in reported symptoms, emotional well-being, treatment adherence, or quality-of-life indicators and alert healthcare professionals when additional intervention may be appropriate.

Another major opportunity is the development of patient-centered digital health platforms. Mobile applications could enable children and parents to record symptoms, medication schedules, side effects, appointments, and other aspects of their treatment journey.

Digital transformation could also strengthen MAHAK's capacity for research and personalized cancer care. A well-designed clinical database can bring together information about diagnosis, treatment, outcomes, complications, and long-term follow-up

SOCIETY

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Straight Truth
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IBTO to launch training program for Tajik blood transfusion experts

TEHRAN - The Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) and Tajikistan have signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at strengthening cooperation in blood transfusion services.

Under the agreement, the two sides will cooperate in training Tajik experts, expanding standardization, exchanging technical knowledge and experience, and improving the quality of blood transfusion services.

The IBTO dispatched two specialists to Tajikistan to conduct a 12-day training program focused on immunohematology and blood products, Mehr News Agency reported.

The program included two specialized educational workshops. The immunohematology workshop was led by Fatemeh Mirzaeian, while Nava Amini conducted the workshop on blood products.

The program focused on strengthening the skills of Tajik blood transfusion specialists and supporting the practical application of the knowledge acquired during the course in relevant laboratories.

It also included an assessment of training needs and the development and implementation of standardized procedures to help enhance the quality and efficiency of blood transfusion services in Tajikistan.

The training program was held at the Dushanbe Blood Transfusion Center, with the participation of specialists from Badakhshan, Khujand, and Bokhtar, as well as staff from the center itself.

The workshops provided participants with an opportunity to enhance their technical expertise and strengthen their practical skills in blood transfusion services.

Participants received both theoretical and practical training in standard immunohematology testing to ensure the provision of suitable and compatible blood for patients, as well as in the preparation and supply of blood products and the related laboratory testing required to ensure their safety and quality.

The IBTO officials also inspected blood transfusion centers in Dushanbe, Bokhtar, and Kulob, with particular attention to reception areas, blood donation units, and laboratories. During the visits, the equipment and devices were examined and their applications assessed, while centrifuges were also calibrated to ensure accurate and reliable laboratory operations.

They will design the standard processes



and develop the required standard operating procedures (SOPs).

The training program is scheduled to continue through the exchange of experts, with Tajik specialists traveling to Iran and Iranian experts visiting Tajikistan to further strengthen technical cooperation and advance the objectives of the agreement.

IBTO serves as a role model in the region: WHO

In June, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Iran, John Jabbour, described the Iran Blood Transfusion Organization as a successful role model in the region.

"The Iran Blood Transfusion Organization is one of the most important and centralized blood transfusion centers in the region. The coherence and coordination of activities across the country have strengthened the organization, and this integrated structure plays a key role in ensuring the quality and safety of blood," Jabbour said.

The official made the remarks on June 16 while visiting the IBTO on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, observed on June 14 every year.

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

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

Venezuelan Red Cross appreciates IRCS solidarity

TEHRAN - The President of the Venezuelan Red Cross, Luis Manuel Fariás Villanueva, has praised the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for its message of condolence and solidarity with the Venezuelan people following two earthquakes that struck the country in June.

In a letter to IRCS head Pirhossein Kolivand, the Venezuelan official said that the supportive message delivered by the IRCS chief at the most difficult moments of the relief operations had provided comfort and encouragement to the country's relief teams.

Appreciating the IRCS's support, he noted that its message of solidarity with the Venezuelan people underscored the fundamental principles that unite the National Societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

On June 24, two powerful earthquakes measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude struck north-central Venezuela, making them among the strongest earthquakes to hit the country in more than a century. Buildings collapsed in Caracas and surrounding states, while power supplies and hospital services were disrupted, prompting authorities to declare a state of emergency. Search-and-rescue operations are underway, while official casualty and damage figures are still being assessed.

The earthquakes were felt across much of the country, including Caracas, La Guaira, Aragua, Carabobo, and neighboring states. Therefore, the national government of Vene-

zuela declared a state of emergency.

The number of fatalities from the powerful twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela in late June rose to 6,509, according to National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez, Anadolu Ajansi reported.

Rodríguez shared the latest figures on Monday through US social media company X as authorities continue reconstruction efforts following the devastating seismic activity.

He said emergency teams have rescued 6,462 people since the earthquakes struck.

A total of 226,696 people have received treatment in hospitals across the South American nation, according to the latest figures.

The IRCS immediately announced readiness to send rescue forces to assist people impacted by the earthquake in Venezuela.

"The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran extends its respectful greetings to you, your colleagues, and the dedicated volunteers of the Venezuelan Red Cross Society," Kolivand, wrote in a message to his Venezuelan counterpart on June 25.

"The Iranian Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran stands with you in these difficult moments, expressing sincere sympathy to Your Excellency and the Venezuelan Red Cross Society, as well as condolences to the bereaved families and those affected by this tragic disaster. We hereby declare readiness to dispatch relief and medical teams," he added.



A view of MAHAK hospital in northern Tehran



Managers and staff of MAHAK pose for a photo to celebrate National Doctor's Day on Sunday, August 23.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He is the wisest and the most knowing man who advises people not to lose hope and faith in the Mercy of Allah and not to be too sure and over-confident of immunity from His Wrath and Punishment.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:06 Evening: 18:57 Dawn: 4:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:33 (tomorrow)

“Narrative of Mercy” art event underway in Tehran



TEHRAN- The “Narrative of Mercy” (“Revayat-e Rahmat”) art event, featuring performances by artists from the fields of music, theater and traditional arts, is underway at Tehran’s City Theater Complex as part of Islamic Unity Week celebrations.

Organized by the Secretariat of the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the event brings together a diverse program of musical performances, theatrical works, traditional rituals and storytelling sessions, Mehr reported.

The event is running from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each evening until September 29, the report added.

The first day of the program opened with “Nava-ye Aghaz” (Opening Melody), performed by the Dafafan ensemble under the direction of Morteza Mir.

The storytelling section featured Javad Aqapour from Amol, who presents “Khorshid-e Rahmat” (Sun of Mercy). The theatrical production “Resurrection,” written by Fateh Badparva and directed by Mokhtar Mohammadi from Marivan, was also staged during the first day of the event on Wednesday.

The Maysan ensemble, led by Basem Ham-madi from Ahvaz, presented regional music, while the ritual theater piece “Rain Prayer,” written by Mehdi Kashmiri and directed by Hamed Matratlobi from Bojnurd, was also part of the program.

A musical performance by Ehsan Yasin concluded the first day’s program.

The “Narrative of Mercy” event is being held to commemorate the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), bringing together artists from different regions of Iran at the City Theater Complex through September 29.

The Islamic Unity Week refers to a ceremony held every year both by Sunnis and Shia. Shia tradition holds that the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was born on the seventeenth day of the lunar month of Rabi’ al-Awwal. On the other hand, according to Sunni tradition, he was born on the 12th of Rabi’ al-Awwal. The event is held between two dates of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Marked first time in Iran in the mid-1980s and based on the decree of the late Imam Khomeini, the Muslims around the world observe Islamic Unity Week between these dates.

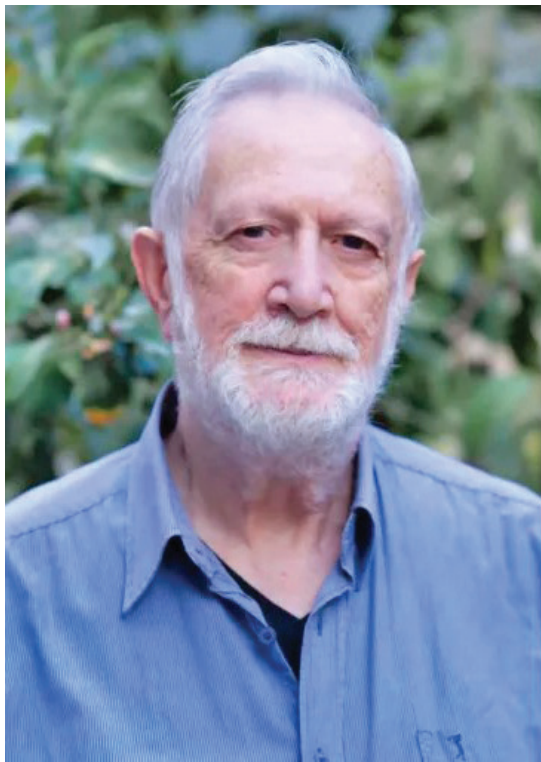
Cartoon of Day



Trump in the Strait of Hormuz

Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria

Sliman Mansour, iconic voice of Palestinian art, passes away at 79



This combination photo shows Palestinian painter Sliman Mansour and his most renowned work “Jamal al-Mahamel”

TEHRAN- Palestinian painter Sliman Mansour, whose work became closely identified with the land, heritage and collective memory of Palestine, died on Monday following a prolonged illness, according to his family. He was 79.

Mansour was born in 1947 in Birzeit, near Ramallah, and emerged as an important figure in Palestinian visual art during the 1970s. His generation of artists sought to develop a distinct artistic identity at a time when questions of displacement, cultural survival and attachment to the homeland were becoming central to Palestinian cultural expression.

Throughout his long career, Mansour repeatedly returned to the people and landscapes of Palestine. Olive trees, rural communities, traditional houses, embroidered clothing and figures representing ordinary Palestinians became recurring elements in his paintings. Through these subjects, he transformed familiar aspects of Palestinian life into symbols of belonging, memory and perseverance.

He received his artistic education in Beirut and later Washington, and his works were subsequently presented in exhibitions in Palestine, across the Arab world and in international venues. His paintings have found their way into museums and private collections, while his contribution to Palestinian and Arab culture earned him recognition through a number of honors.

Mansour’s art brought together several layers of cultural heritage. References to the civilizations of the ancient Near East appeared alongside elements drawn from Islamic and Arab artistic traditions, including calligraphy and geometric design. At the same time, his visual world remained firmly connected to the environment in which he grew up, particularly the villages, agricultural landscapes and traditional culture of Palestine.

His commitment to an independent Palestinian artistic identity became especially evident during the First Intifada. Mansour was among the artists who formed the New Vision group, an initiative that encour-

aged the use of locally available and natural materials after Palestinian artists stopped using Israeli-produced art supplies. Mud, straw, wood, leather, henna and natural pigments became part of their artistic practice.

The experience also reflected Mansour’s broader belief that Palestinian art could preserve cultural continuity while responding to political and social realities. His work consequently came to occupy a distinctive place in what is widely regarded as Palestinian resistance art.

For generations of Palestinians, Mansour’s paintings offered more than representations of their surroundings. They documented a relationship with a homeland shaped by displacement and loss, while also conveying persistence, dignity and hope. His images of Palestinian people and their land ultimately became part of the visual memory of the Palestinian cause.

One of Mansour’s most renowned works is “Jamal al-Mahamel” (“Camel of Hardships”), painted in 1973. The work shows an elderly Palestinian porter bent under the weight of a large burden containing Al-Quds, identifiable by the Dome of the Rock.

The image came to represent the Palestinian experience of displacement and the enduring attachment to homeland, while also embodying the concept of steadfastness. The painting was widely reproduced as posters and postcards and became one of the most recognizable images in Palestinian visual culture.

Following Mansour’s death, Ahmad Norouzi, deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting’s international division, issued a message of condolence to the artist’s family, the Palestinian artistic community and artists around the world.

Norouzi described Mansour as an artist who had devoted his life to preserving Palestine through his work, saying that he transformed the land, villages, homes and memories of Palestinians into a lasting visual testimony. He said Mansour did not merely portray Palestine but brought its memory, identity and history back to the canvas, turning suffering into dignity, displacement into memory and silence into a universal call for justice.

“Today, a color has disappeared from the world’s palette,” Norouzi said, describing Mansour as a chronicler of a land whose

history was carried through its stones, trees, people and collective memory. He added that the Iranian broadcaster’s international division would continue to honor the artist’s legacy and the work of cultural figures committed to Palestine, justice and resistance.

Seyyed Shahabeddin Shakiba, director of the Visual Arts Center of the Art Bureau, also expressed condolences, calling Mansour’s death an irreparable loss for resistance art and the Islamic world.

Shakiba described Mansour as a leading member of the first generation of Palestinian painters who linked art with memory, identity and homeland. He said that throughout more than five decades of artistic activity, Mansour had portrayed the suffering, steadfastness and hope of the Palestinian people through a language that transcended geographical boundaries.

“His works became symbols of the resilience of a nation and its inseparable bond with its homeland,” Shakiba said, adding that Mansour’s name and artistic heritage would remain part of the history of resistance art and contemporary Palestinian art.

French puppeteer Philippe Genty to hold session at Tehran-Mobarak Intl. Puppet Theater Festival

TEHRAN – The specialized session “A Stage for a Dream,” taught by the renowned French puppeteer Philippe Genty and his assistant Eric Lambla de Sarria, will be held on Friday at the City Theater Complex in Tehran as part of the 21st Tehran-Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival.

This session offers an opportunity to explore Philippe Genty’s creative approach to puppet theater. Through movement, puppetry, objects, and visual imagery, participants will experience new ways to craft poetic narratives that transcend words, Mehr reported.

Philippe Genty, the 88-year-old French artist and director, conducted research and documented puppet theater worldwide for UNESCO between 1962 and 1986. In 1968, he founded his own theater company, achieving worldwide acclaim by creating innovative visual theater that blends puppetry, dance, mime, light, and music. In the mid-1970s, he also became famous with the television series “Gertrude and Barnabas”. Genty considers himself, above all else, a “dreamer.”

Originally trained as a graphic designer, Genty began his career with a trip during which he discovered puppetry throughout the world. His film, “Puppets Around the World,” received the prize for originality at the 1965 Bucharest Festival.

While his work was at first influenced by cabaret, it was already possible to see future forms, especially in the technique of black theater, where by controlling the use of side beam lighting, the puppeteer gives the illusion that manipulated objects have a life of



their own.

Starting from 1980, his regular creations for the Théâtre de la Ville (Paris) followed by highly successful world tours and brought a new dimension to his artistic production. In “Round Like a Cube” (1980), “Parades of Desires” (1986), and “Drifts” (1989), the movements of materials and forms created fantastic illusions during performances in which theatrical elements had great flexibility. The puppet as object progressively expanded into a scenic object for which Genty used dancers and a choreographer to put into motion.

Genty continued to immerse himself into fantasy worlds with “Don’t Forget Me” (1992),

“Motionless Traveler” (1995), “Stowaways” (1996), up until the creation of “Maze” in the main courtyard of the Palais des Papes at the 1997 Avignon Festival.

His fame brought him to undertake projects such as “Oceans and Utopias” for the Lisbon World Exposition in 1998, and “The Incredible Concert” in the Great Hall of Evolution at the Paris Museum of Natural History in 2001, in which the show was created from a dramatization of the space (filling the site with sound, light, and projected images).

Genty rarely uses text in his productions, confirming Genty’s penchant for journeys into individual psychoses and the subconscious. These preoccupations can again be found at the heart of “Vanishing Points” (2001), where the “puppet” language is based on a manipulation of space and its perception, as well as on anthropomorphic figures (doubling and mirror games), in a theatre of imagery and illusion.

The 21st Tehran-Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival, directed by Poupak Azimpour Tabrizi, will take place in Tehran in October 2026, continuing the festival’s tradition of promoting puppet theater as a platform for artistic innovation and international cultural exchange.

Since its inception in 1989, the Tehran-Mobarak Festival has established itself as a prestigious cultural gathering in Iran, attracting puppet theater troupes from around the world. The festival not only showcases international talent but also promotes the rich tradition of puppet theater.