

The Great Celebration of the “Ummah of Ahmad”

Millions of Iranians across the country celebrate the birthday of Prophet Muhammad ▶Page 1

Leader: US, Israel ‘sworn enemies’ of Muslim unity and friendship ▶Page 2

Iranian officials rally behind Leader’s directive for unity and resistance

TEHRAN — Iran’s executive, legislative, judicial, and national security leadership have responded with unified endorsement following the major strategic address delivered by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei.

In a series of coordinated statements, top officials across all branches of governance described the Leader’s annual Government Week message as an indispensable, comprehensive blueprint for defending national sovereignty, countering hostile economic blockades, and safeguarding domestic social cohesion. ▶Page 2

Iran’s unity led to defeat of US and Israel in three wars: Hezbollah chief

TEHRAN — Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem has said Iran’s national unity and steadfastness enabled the country to defeat the United States and Israel in three wars against the Islamic Republic.

Qassem made the remarks on Sunday in a speech marking Muslim Unity Week and the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), praising the Iranian people’s resilience in the face of military pressure and sanctions. ▶Page 2

40th Islamic Unity Conference wraps up in Mashhad with calls for regional resistance and solidarity

TEHRAN — The 40th International Conference on Islamic Unity concluded on Sunday in the northeastern city of Mashhad, bringing together hundreds of Muslim scholars, elites, and prominent Shia and Sunni figures from around 40 countries.

Held under the theme of Islamic unity in the thought of the late Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the four-day event served as a major platform calling for regional resistance, solidarity, and immediate action against foreign aggression. ▶Page 2

Master Marc Lynch and the decline of empire

By Kurosh Alyani

TEHRAN — Marc Lynch has written an article in Foreign Affairs titled “The End of the American Middle East”. Its very first paragraph opens with a sentence that, only a few years ago, would have been almost impossible to imagine appearing in that magazine. The paragraph reads:

“The American Middle East is finished. The regional order that has prevailed since 1991 has been one of the many casualties of the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran. The American and Israeli failure to dislodge the regime in Tehran has proved the bankruptcy of decades of sanctions and violence. The inability of the United States to protect its (Persian) Gulf allies from Iranian attacks or to keep the Strait of Hormuz open has fatally undermined the core security bargain that justified its network of military bases in the region. And Israel’s increasingly threatening posture and abandonment of any pretense of interest in reaching an accommodation with the Palestinians have ended Washington’s decades-long mission of bringing its Arab allies and Israel together into an enduring security partnership.” ▶Page 5

Iran champions of 2026 FIVB U17 World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated France 3-1 (25-18, 25-15, 22-25, 25-12) to win the 2026 FIVB U17 World Championship.

Earlier in the day, Brazil beat Argentina 3-1 (21-25, 25-17, 25-18, 25-13) to win the bronze medal.

It took place in Doha, Qatar from Aug. 19 to 29. Originally scheduled to be contested by 24 teams, it was ultimately reduced to 20 teams following withdrawals.

Minab school tragedy will never be forgotten or forgiven, Iran FM says

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the tragedy at a school in Minab, southern Iran, will never be forgotten or forgiven, describing the students killed in the incident as a symbol of heroism for the Iranian people.

Araghchi made the remarks on Friday at the opening ceremony of the group exhibition “Minab School,” held at the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization in Tehran.

The exhibition has been organized by the Nam Cultural and Artistic Institute and features works by a number of prominent contemporary Iranian painters.

“The students of this school have become an epic for the Iranian people. We will never forget or forgive this incident, nor will we erase it from our memory. We will continue to pursue it,” Araghchi said. ▶Page 8



Photo: Amirahadi Akhoondi

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran does not fear Trump's threats

Kayhan, in an article, pointed to Iran's strength in the face of the United States threats. If we review Trump's statements over the past six months, we repeatedly encounter phrases such as "Iranians are tough." All of these remarks were made at moments when he had previously threatened Iran, Iran ignored the threat, and the United States was ultimately forced to back down. The solution in dealing with such an enemy is to respond to every threat with a stronger counter-threat — and to act on it. With such an approach, we will undoubtedly push the enemy to a point where it refrains from repeating threats against Iran and accepts our rights. In this context, the most destructive political behavior is showing weakness in the face of enemy threats, speaking of diplomacy and negotiation with him, and thereby opening the way for further threats.

Iran: Building an intra-regional security order

The Iran newspaper, in an analysis of the Qatari prime minister's visit to Tehran, wrote: Tehran, following intensive consultations between Iran and Muscat to jointly manage the Strait of Hormuz, once again returned to the center of regional diplomacy. This time, the visit of Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Qatar's prime minister, came as part of Doha's ongoing mediation efforts to untie the remaining knots of the recent crisis and take another step toward reviving the Islamabad agreement. The trip created an opportunity for Tehran and Doha to deliberate on a more strategic question: To what extent can the security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz be ensured through strengthened cooperative mechanisms among regional countries — without relying on the intervention or presence of extra-regional actors? If sustained, this approach could, out of the current crises, gradually lay the groundwork for the emergence of an intra-regional security order.

Sobh-e-No: The defeat of the regime-change camp

Sobh-e-No, in a commentary, addressed the failure of the anti-Islamic Republic project. Today's conditions are no longer the same as the early days of this project. At the beginning, the opposing camp could hide its internal disagreements under the shadow of a shared goal, relying on the illusion of imminent victory. But now, as one declared objective after another has failed to materialize, that shared goal no longer has the power to conceal internal divisions. When the project of overthrow does not succeed, the conflict inevitably shifts from the external battlefield into the camp itself — and the question

becomes not only "How do we defeat Iran?" but also "Who caused us to fail?" Thus, not only do Iran's internal sources of stability increase the risk of failure for the enemy's new strategy, but the fragmentation and disarray within the enemy camp itself have become one of the most significant factors strengthening the likelihood of its defeat.

Arman-e-Emrooz: What is Witkoff seeking?

Arman-e-Emrooz analyzed Steve Witkoff's recent efforts to finalize the revival of the Islamabad understanding and his diplomatic engagement with regional mediators. This move comes at a time when tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and US-Iran relations remain high, and various parties are seeking ways to reduce the crisis. American negotiators are waiting to see how Iran will respond to this pressure — and whether Tehran is willing to offer concessions in exchange for easing certain restrictions. This complex process requires precise coordination among multiple actors, and any progress could have wide-ranging effects on regional stability. Witkoff's push to finalize the revival of the Islamabad understanding marks a turning point in recent developments and shows that, despite public tensions, back-channel communication remains active. The future of these efforts depends on the flexibility of the parties involved and the mediators' ability to identify common ground.

Etemad: The White House's hidden objective fails

Etemad, examining the White House's concealed objective, wrote: The hidden goal of the White House was to complete the project of regional consensus-building and force Arab capitals into joining an anti-Iran coalition. The Iranian diplomatic apparatus, through its smart strategy of separating the accounts of neighboring states from Washington's agenda and activating "neighbor-focused diplomacy," thwarted this plan. By sending reassuring signals — while also warning of the dangers of regional countries becoming platforms for US aggression — Tehran turned Washington's regional bases from points of coalition connectivity into vulnerable and costly points, paving the way for de-escalation with Persian Gulf states. An evaluation of this record shows that Washington completely failed to achieve its main goal: the computational collapse of Tehran and the extraction of a new surrender document. By relying on hard power variables generated on the ground, Iran's diplomatic apparatus transformed the maximum-pressure strategy into a costly dead-end for the White House, and the Islamabad agreement was born precisely at this point of deadlock.

MP: Recent war exposed US as 'house of cards superpower'



TEHRAN- Esmail Kowsari, a member of Iran's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament, stated that the recent war demonstrated that the United States is a 'house of cards Superpower'

with its influence relying solely on psychological operations and intimidation tactics.

Speaking on the Government's support for the armed forces, Kowsari noted that Iran's military has always defended the country with minimal resources, while the government has backed them throughout the past year, particularly during the two recent imposed wars.

He urged both parliament and the government to allocate maximum resources toward boosting the military budget and improving personnel welfare.

Referring to the war's outcomes, Kowsari asserted that the enemy—which had assassinated Iran's Supreme Leader—failed to achieve its objectives due to national unity, institutional stability, and the armed forces' resilience. He emphasized that despite being targeted by two nuclear powers, Iran's government remained functional, leadership transitioned smoothly, and the military continues to resist.

According to Kowsari, the war exposed the misconception of American power, demonstrating that the true victors were the Iranian nation and its armed forces.

Iranian officials rally behind Leader's directive for unity and resistance

From page 1 ▶ Leading the domestic response, the administration of President Masoud Pezeshkian issued a formal statement on Saturday expressing its profound appreciation for the "wise guidance" of Ayatollah Khamenei. The cabinet noted that the Leader's words have brought "joy, encouragement and hope" to officials serving the Iranian public during a period of complex national challenges.

Describing the Leader's confidence and support as "the greatest asset and source of support," the administration affirmed that while it fully recognizes the economic pressures stemming from foreign sanctions and recent imposed wars, its immediate priority remains addressing interconnected economic challenges. The government outlined plans to focus on controlling inflation, managing domestic markets, generating employment, directing investment toward domestic production, and steadily reducing reliance on the US dollar.

"We commit ourselves to ensuring prosperity and improving the livelihoods of our dear people in a manner worthy of their dignity," the cabinet statement read, reiterating its full adherence to resistance-economy principles and reliance on internal capabilities.

The administration also identified the preservation of national unity as an absolute priority. In direct response to the Leader's directive against divisive political conduct, the executive branch confirmed that every major political, economic, social, and cultural decision going forward will incorporate a mandatory "national cohesion component."

"We consider avoiding artificial polarization and discouraging statements to be our definite duty," the statement added, pledging to devote all



state efforts toward strengthening consensus, solidarity, and hope across Iranian society. On foreign policy, the administration emphasized that Iranian diplomacy will continue to operate on the guiding principles of "dignity, wisdom, and prudence," promising to firmly resist foreign sanctions and the "unjust schemes of US-Israeli arrogance" through heightened coordination between diplomatic and defense sectors.

Echoing the executive branch, Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Eje'i described the Leader's message as a roadmap for all government officials and servants of the state. He emphasized that strict adherence to the Leader's guidance represents the only viable path to successfully overcoming current historical challenges.

"The Leader's enlightening message is a roadmap for all officials and servants of the system and the people," Mohseni Eje'i stated, underscoring the critical importance of strengthening national unity and rejecting any discourse that could cultivate division. "We reject any form of discord and division in this challenging and eventful path." He added that from a revolutionary perspective, the unbreakable bond between the Iranian public and the leadership constitutes an "impenetrable

barrier" against enemy hybrid warfare.

In the legislative realm, Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf similarly declared that the Leader's message must serve as the primary guiding principle for all state authorities. Writing in a post on X, Qalibaf emphasized that avoiding actions that could damage social solidarity is both a strategic and moral mandate. "Any action that harms social cohesion is, for all of us, both a national and religious prohibition," Qalibaf stated. "We pledge to the people and the Leader that, to the very end, we will devote ourselves to serving the people and advancing Iran."

Concurrently, Iran's top security official, Mohsen Rezaei, affirmed that the Leader's remarks "constitute a clear and unequivocal strategy for everyone." Rezaei stressed that in the current geopolitical environment, "national unity and social cohesion are among the most fundamental components of national power and security."

The unanimous alignment among senior Iranian leadership follows the address delivered on Friday by Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei to mark Government Week—an annual period held to commemorate President Mohammad Ali Rajai and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Ba-

honar, who were assassinated in the bombing of the prime minister's office on August 30, 1981.

In his message, the Leader honored the memory of the martyred presidents Rajai and Ebrahim Raeisi, the martyred prime minister Bahonar, and all martyred employees, managers, and ministers of various administrations. He paid special tribute to "the great martyr Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who held the office of president for nearly two terms."

Ayatollah Khamenei expressed his deep appreciation for the active employees and managers of government institutions, offering specific praise for "the sincere and caring" President Pezeshkian.

"In particular, I commend the worthy measures they have taken, despite the various restrictions and plots of the American-Zionist enemy, and the intensification of sanctions and blockades, during the third imposed war and afterward, to ensure the provision of goods and various services needed by the people, repair key damaged areas, and manage energy," the Leader stated.

He stressed that the nation of Iran, having "demonstrated its true mettle" over the past six months amid US-Israeli aggression, is fully entitled to feel the concrete services rendered by the various branches of the administration.

Turning to economic governance, Ayatollah Khamenei addressed a chain of livelihood challenges, including inflation, emphasizing the need to focus on core economic pillars. He explicitly called for "boosting production, gradually phasing out the dollar from its important role, and ultimately placing the entire set of resistance-economy policies at the center."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

40th Islamic Unity Conference wraps up in Mashhad with calls for regional resistance and solidarity

From page 1 ▶ Addressing the closing ceremony, Hujjat-ul-Islam Hamid Shahriari, Secretary General of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought, stressed that Iran's successful model of Islamic unity is precisely why the US and Israel recently targeted the Islamic Republic. He highlighted a common mission of empowerment for all Islamic nations to stand firm against external enemies.

Shahriari outlined five foundational steps established over recent decades to promote unity:

- Developing a unified message and key concepts.
- Establishing the World Fo-

rum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought.

- Creating an intellectual discourse among scholars and elites.

- Forming a network to cascade these discussions from elites into broader society.

- Encouraging society to actively act upon the message of unity.

He urged the Muslim world to form resistance mobilizations while jointly avoiding challenges like desecration, conflict, excommunication, and terrorism.

Throughout the conference—which opened on Thursday at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini in Tehran before moving

to Mashhad—speakers warned that failure to confront aggression in Palestine and Lebanon risks allowing threats to expand across the entire region.

Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, custodian of Imam Khomeini's mausoleum, cautioned regional rulers against trusting US and Israeli motives. "If we do not stand against the Zionists, tomorrow Lebanon and Syria will not be the only fields of threat, and Saudi Arabia and Turkey will also be under their bayonets," he warned, emphasizing that unity must remain a permanent strategic principle rather than a temporary slogan.

Lebanese scholar Sheikh Hassan Baghdadi reinforced this

strategic vision, pointing to historical victories in Lebanon and the central cause of Palestine as unifying pillars that transcend sectarian divisions. Furthermore, American Islamic thinker Mohammad al-Asi drew on Quranic teachings to remind delegates of their moral and spiritual duty to resist oppression, massacres, and ethnic cleansing.

Timed during Islamic Unity Week—celebrating the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)—the conference closed with a unified stance: sectarian rapprochement and practical solidarity are essential defenses against foreign domination and regional destruction.

Iran's unity led to defeat of US and Israel in three wars: Hezbollah chief

From page 1 ▶ "The United States and the Zionist regime were defeated in their three wars against the Islamic Republic of Iran because of the Iranian nation's unity and steadfastness," Qassem said. "This great nation was able to create a historic epic."

He argued that continued resistance and the defense of national rights, territory, and freedom would prevent Washington and Israel from achieving their objectives.

"As long as we stand firm and defend our rights, our land, and our freedom, they will never be able to achieve their goals and will never succeed," he said.

Qassem also called on Muslim countries to prevent internal disagreements from developing into divisions that could distract them from 'their principal adversary.'

"Resistance and steadfastness come at a cost, but at the same time, they are the

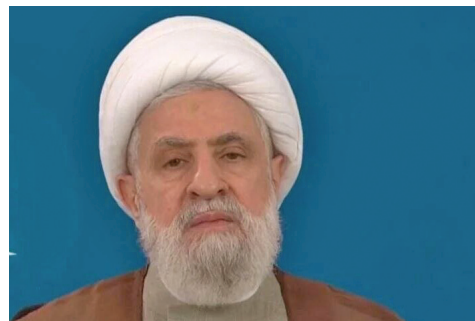
foundation of our position, strengthening our ability to achieve our goals and defeat the enemy's project," Qassem said.

The Hezbollah leader further argued that sustained pressure from Washington and Israel, including sanctions and military action, would not necessarily achieve their intended results.

"No matter how much pressure the US and Israel exert, and no matter how severe the sanctions and military aggression may be, resistance will always neutralize the enemy's plot," he said.

Qassem's remarks came amid continued regional tensions surrounding Iran, Israel and the United States, with the conflict having further deepened political and security divisions across West Asia.

He also highlighted a united front in Lebanon among Hezbollah; the Amal Movement



and other political forces opposed to Israel and seeking the liberation of occupied territories.

The Hezbollah chief stressed the importance of maintaining that unity, portraying cooperation among Lebanon's resistance and political forces as essential to confronting Israel and protecting Lebanon's national interests.

Leader: US, Israel ‘sworn enemies’ of Muslim unity and friendship

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, issued a resolute call for solidarity across the Islamic world, emphasizing that the hostile policies of Western imperialism threaten all regional states.

In a message marking Unity Week on Sunday, he said the oppressive rulers of the United States and Israel harbor deep-seated animosity not merely toward Iran, but toward the entirety of the Muslim world.

Framing Islamic unity as the ultimate defense against foreign intervention, Ayatollah Khamenei urged regional governments—particularly those in West Asia—to recognize their real adversary, expose its divide-and-rule tactics, and stand firm against its schemes.

“The remedy for the problems of the Muslim Ummah lies in unity of purpose, friendship, and cooperation in the pursuit of goodness and righteousness,” the Leader declared, identifying the main barriers to genuine peace. He added, “The criminal rulers of the United States and the illegitimate Zionist regime are sworn enemies of this unity and friendship.” Underscoring that imperialist aggression targets every sovereign Muslim nation regardless of its political alignment, Ayatollah Khamenei noted that “They are not merely enemies of the Islamic Republic, the Iranian nation, and the great front of Islamic resistance; they are hostile to the entire Muslim Ummah, including the nations of West Asia and North Africa. In this regard, even the rulers of these states—many of whom are considered their allies—are not exempt,” the Leader highlighted.

Pointing to Iran as an inspiring model of resilience, Ayatollah Khamenei noted that the Iranian people have successfully demonstrated how solidarity can defeat external subversion, keeping the nation strong against decades of foreign plots. “But surely, the ill-wishers are always lying in wait for this great blessing. What gives them hope is the highlighting of differences. Although ideological and religious differences constitute an important part of what the enemies of Islam seek to exploit, and they place great



reliance on using them, they will not stop there,” he noted, unmasking the deceptive strategies of Western powers. “They seek to turn all kinds of racial, cultural, social, economic, political, and geographical differences into pretexts for creating division among Muslim peoples in Iran and in every other Islamic country, so that they can sit back and watch the Muslim Ummah become fragmented, and its strength gradually depleted, and then, at an opportune moment, impose their domination over them.”

Exposing these sinister designs, the Leader issued a clear warning against any action or rhetoric that weakens the collective strength of the Ummah. “Therefore, anyone, in whatever position, who takes any action that leads to division among Muslims or creates discord within the Muslim community has, knowingly or unknowingly, willingly or unwillingly, furthered the aims of the enemies of Islam,” he said. Contrasting the deceptive promises of global hegemony with the harsh realities of foreign interference, Ayatollah Khamenei asked: “And how, in these times, can anyone attribute such an act to ignorance or negligence, when the tyrants of the world, led by the criminal US, have now cast aside the deceptive and flimsy masks concealing their ugly colonial aims and their hegemonic and domination-seeking schemes, removed their deceptive velvet gloves, and revealed their bloodstained claws to the entire world?”

Highlighting the urgent need for a unified stance, Ayatollah

Khamenei asserted that it is high time for the people and leaders of the Islamic world to reexamine regional developments with greater vigilance. “If Muslims had stood united, with their fists clenched firmly together, would the Palestinian nation have been left so defenseless, subjected to the oppression and crimes of the occupiers? “And if the people and governments of the countries bordering the Persian Gulf had forged their unity under the banner of Islam, would these rootless and corrupt rabble have dared, from thousands of kilometers away, to have greedy eyes on their lands and possessions?”

Outlining the path toward a self-reliant and powerful Islamic world, the Leader described “unity and the avoidance of discord” as the first lesson of Islam’s school of thought. “The second lesson is to defend one another against disbelief, and the third is to pursue various forms of cooperation and synergy in the different dimensions of Muslims’ material spiritual lives—including wealth, security, knowledge, and progress. The culmination of this path will be the attainment of a new Islamic civilization,” he said.

Moreover, Ayatollah Khamenei said “unity among Muslims is the fundamental cornerstone for achieving a proud and dominant Islamic civilization.” “This conceptual and intellectual framework, which embodies our aspirations for the Muslim world, has itself been realized to a considerable extent in our beloved Iran.”

Concluding his message with a call for unwavering national resolve, he urged all Iranians to safeguard their enduring har-

mony and never allow any form of division or discord to take root among them under any circumstances.

The statements by Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei hold profound geopolitical and ideological weight, delivering a direct challenge to Western influence at a pivotal moment for West Asia. Coming in the critical context of the major joint US-Israeli war launched on February 28, these remarks serve as a comprehensive ideological counter-offensive designed to reframe the nature of the broader regional confrontation. By framing Western military actions not as a localized dispute with Iran, but as an existential threat to the broader Islamic world, the Leader highlights a calculated strategy by Washington and Tel Aviv to drive deep wedges between Islamic states. The US and Israel have systematically sought to exploit sectarian, political, and geographic fault lines to pit neighboring Arab and Muslim nations directly against Iran, aiming to fragment regional resistance and keep neighboring states dependent on Western security guarantees. However, Ayatollah Khamenei’s address exposes the fundamental flaw in relying on foreign powers, demonstrating that the United States cannot guarantee the security, sovereignty, or long-term protection of Arab states. Instead, foreign military bases and Western interference act as catalysts for perpetual instability, designed to drain the collective wealth and energy of the Islamic community while serving imperialist interests.

Ultimately, the Leader’s message underscores that true security cannot be imported from foreign capitals. For lasting peace, independence, and stability to take root across West Asia and North Africa, foreign imperialist forces—led by the United States—must completely vacate the region. Only through the total removal of foreign interference and the establishment of a self-reliant, unified front can Muslim nations safeguard their resources, defend Palestinian rights, and pave the way for a sovereign and dominant Islamic civilization.

Iran rebuilds defense-industrial capacity after recent conflicts: Defense Ministry

TEHRAN — Iran is moving to replenish strategic weapons stocks and expand its defense-industrial capacity following two recent conflicts, with the Ministry of Defense focusing on production resilience, indigenous technology and lessons learned from combat, Defense Ministry spokesman Brigadier General Reza Talaei-Nik said.

Speaking to IRNA, Talaei-Nik said the government had provided sustained support to the Armed Forces throughout the conflicts. The support covered weapons, ammunition, equipment and other military materiel while efforts were made to maintain essential civilian supplies.

Talaei-Nik said attacks had affected around 25 provinces to varying degrees. He described the confrontation as asymmetric, with Iran facing opponents possessing significantly greater military resources and access to regional logistical and operational support. Despite this disparity, he stated, Iran’s adversaries failed to achieve their objectives.

According to Talaei-Nik, Iran’s pre-war accumulation of strategic stocks of weapons, equipment and ammunition enabled the Armed Forces to sustain operations during the fighting. The consumption of those reserves has now created a requirement for replenishment.

The spokesman also highlighted the resilience of Iran’s defense-industrial supply chain. Around 9,300 companies are involved in the country’s defense-production network, he said, with knowledge-based and private-sector firms accounting for roughly two-thirds of the industrial base in areas including components, raw materials and sub-systems.

This distributed production network, Talaei-Nik said, helped maintain output even after some defense facilities were damaged.

He added that production of some weapons, equipment and ammunition had more than doubled between the 12-day war and the subsequent conflict (Ramadan war).

Talaei-Nik said Iran’s defense industry is undergoing a technological expansion, particularly in ballistic and cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). He said that domestic capabilities in several fields have moved beyond reverse engineering towards independent design and production.

The ministry is now rebuilding and expanding its industrial capacity based on operational lessons from the recent conflicts, assessments of future threats and input from scientific and research institutions.

New weapons, equipment, technical capabilities and tactics have also been prepared for potential future contingencies, Talaei-Nik said, although details would remain undis-



closed to preserve operational surprise.

He argued that one of the key lessons of the conflicts was a miscalculation by Iran’s adversaries regarding the country’s ability to withstand sustained military and economic pressure.

Talaei-Nik said Iran’s core defense doctrine remains centered on “both integrated and asymmetric defense,” while operational and tactical methods are adjusted in response to changes in the battlefield and regional security environment.

The approach integrated defensive objectives with offensive operational measures intended to prevent an adversary from gaining the initiative, he said. The spokesman also pointed to improvements in Iran’s air-defense capabilities, particularly systems designed to counter advanced UAV threats.

He added that Defense Ministry personnel fatalities during the longer “Ramadan war” were approximately half those recorded during the earlier 12-day conflict, attributing the reduction partly to improved defensive capabilities and lessons learned from previous combat.

Talaei-Nik said foreign demand for Iranian defense products had been increasing before the recent conflicts. However, he stressed that replenishing domestic military stocks is now the priority, with exports dependent on production surpluses.

The spokesman said Iran manufactures more than 1,000 types of weapons, equipment and ammunition and has achieved more than 90% self-sufficiency in defense production, according to the ministry’s assessment.

He also highlighted efforts to lower production costs, stating that some Iranian defense products cost between one and 20 times less to manufacture than comparable foreign systems.

For Iran’s defense establishment, the post-conflict priority is therefore twofold: restoring stocks consumed during combat while using battlefield experience to accelerate technological development, strengthen industrial resilience, and improve operational readiness for future contingencies.

Senator Elizabeth Warren calls Trump ‘the most corrupt president ever in American history’

TEHRAN — US Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren has delivered a scathing critique of President Donald Trump, labeling him “the most corrupt president ever in American history” and accusing major energy corporations aligned with his administration of reaping vast financial gains from the military conflict against Iran.

Speaking at an election campaign rally for a junior senator from Massachusetts, Warren emphasized that oil executives who poured millions into political campaigns are now extracting massive corporate windfall earnings as energy costs skyrocket for ordinary working families. She pointed out that the single fastest path to relieving energy burdens on everyday citizens is to halt military operations in the region immediately, declaring that ending the campaign in Iran would instantly lower fuel prices at home. “So the question becomes: What do we do about that? When Donald Trump starts a war with Iran and his oil buddies, who gave him a million dollars for his campaign—when they start making profits like crazy, then our job is to call it out and fight back. That’s what we do,” Warren told the roaring crowd during her address. “You want to lower the price of gasoline? End the war in Iran. Just end it,” she added, directly challenging the White House’s foreign policy rationale.

The senator’s blunt assessment comes alongside recent official financial disclosure filings showing that Trump continues to hold and actively

trade stock portfolios in major natural gas and petroleum giants. While White House spokespersons maintain that these portfolio movements operate independently of presidential oversight, political analysts and watchdog organizations highlight the undeniable conflict of interest in overseeing a massive military operation while maintaining tens of millions of dollars in personal equity tied directly to energy conglomerates that profit from wartime market volatility.

Financial data analyzed by congressional committees reveals that major US oil corporations—including ExxonMobil and Chevron—have seen their quarterly earnings multiply dramatically since the outbreak of hostilities, with corporate profits topping tens of billions of dollars and driving executive net worth to historic highs. Senate Joint Economic Committee reports indicate that Trump’s personal energy portfolio alone has surged in value by over \$15 million during the conflict, growing by an average of nearly 40 percent since the beginning of the year. Inside the US Congress, a steadily growing coalition of anti-war lawmakers and progressive representatives has voiced fierce opposition to the administration’s aggressive policy in West Asia, strongly condemning the unprovoked and illegal nature of the military actions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

LATEST NEWS

President Pezeshkian to visit Kyrgyzstan for SCO summit

President Masoud Pezeshkian will travel to Kyrgyzstan on Monday for a two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek. He will deliver a speech and hold bilateral meetings with SCO leaders and senior officials. The president will also attend the opening ceremony of the sixth World Nomad Games, scheduled from August 31 to September 6, 2026.

Hormuz understanding with Oman conditional on US commitments

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi stated that implementation of Tehran’s understanding with Oman regarding Strait of Hormuz transit arrangements depends on the United States fulfilling its suspended commitments. He rejected any suggestion that Iran should take the first step, emphasizing that Washington must return to its obligations before Iran proceeds with its own measures.

Mongolia lauds Iran’s resistance to US aggression

Mongolian Foreign Minister Battsetseg Batmunkh praised Iran’s resilience in the face of recent US-Israeli aggression, highlighting historical ties as a basis for stronger relations. She noted that Iran’s government and people have learned to confront US sanctions effectively.

Iran’s diplomacy active alongside military front: ex-CBI governor

Former Central Bank Governor Mohammad-Hossein Adeli praised Iran’s Foreign Ministry for maintaining active diplomacy under difficult wartime conditions. He highlighted the ministry’s role in building a negotiation network with regional countries and shaping the Islamabad memorandum. Adeli described the memorandum as a significant diplomatic achievement reflecting Iran’s position in negotiations with adversaries.

Navy chief: Enemy miscalculates Iran’s resolve

Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, Iranian Navy Commander, declared that the enemy has seriously miscalculated the resolve of Iran’s Armed Forces. He emphasized that the Navy remains fully operational and determined, stating that the martyrdom of personnel only strengthens their resolve. The commander affirmed that the Navy would continue its missions with greater strength and dedication.

Qalibaf mocks US treasury secretary’s Hormuz oil claims

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf ridiculed US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent’s claims about oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, pointing to over \$130 billion in war costs and rising Treasury yields. Qalibaf cited Nobel laureate Paul Krugman’s criticism of Bessent’s policies, noting that 30-year US Treasury bond yields have reached approximately 5.3%, their highest level since 2008.

SCO summit in Bishkek seen as catalyst for postwar Iran-China partnership

This year’s Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek, scheduled for August 31–September 1, presents a significant opportunity for bilateral talks between Iran and China, potentially revitalizing their 25-year cooperation agreement.

Iran, having demonstrated resilience during recent warfare, brings enhanced credibility to the SCO’s counter-unilateralism agenda. China could play a pivotal role in postwar reconstruction—particularly in infrastructure, energy, and rail transport—while Iran’s geographic and resource advantages make it a strategic Belt and Road partner. Despite banking challenges, strong political will and SCO mechanisms offer pathways for deeper collaboration.

CFR experts: Iran war reshaped regional order, risks US strategic defeat

Six months into the US-Israeli war against Iran, CFR experts warn that the conflict has fundamentally altered the regional balance of power. Steven A. Cook asserts that President Trump miscalculated Iran’s resistance, and with Hormuz navigation restricted and regional partners vulnerable, Washington now faces potential strategic defeat. Turkey stands to emerge stronger regardless of the outcome, while US-Israeli military cooperation has deepened despite persistent political disagreements. Experts caution that the war’s information and security consequences could endure for years.

Drilling of wells in joint Balal field enters new phase

TEHRAN- The project manager of the joint Balal gas field development plan announced the completion of drilling for two wells in the field, stating that upon its commissioning, Iran's daily gas production capacity will increase by approximately 14 million cubic meters, offsetting part of the country's gas imbalance.

In an interview with SHANA, Ehsan Mohammadi stated that the overall progress of the project has now reached about 42%. He noted that two work packages—descriptive well drilling and the fabrication and installation of the jacket—have been successfully completed without any deviation from the schedule. Two other work packages—the fabrication and installation of the deck, and the drilling and completion of eight wells—have each achieved around 50% progress.

Regarding the field's drilling schedule, he explained: "A total of eight wells will be drilled in the Balal field. Drilling for two wells has been completed so far, and drilling operations for the remaining wells are currently underway in a batch drilling manner."

Emphasizing the field's role in boosting the country's gas production capacity, the project manager for the joint Balal gas field development said: "With the commissioning of the Balal field over the next two years, Iran's daily gas production capacity will increase by about 14 million cubic meters, which will help resolve part of the gas imbalance."

Mohammadi also reminded that utilizing the potential of development projects and accelerating ongoing initiatives—especially given the current gas imbalance—is a national necessity, and all sectors must strive to restore and enhance the country's gas production capacity.

Elaborating on the work packages of the Balal field development plan, he said: "This project is being carried out across five work packages, including drilling, jacket construction, deck fabrication and installation, well completions, and pipeline construction. Despite various challenging conditions—including sanctions, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the two recent wars—the project's implementation has never been halted."

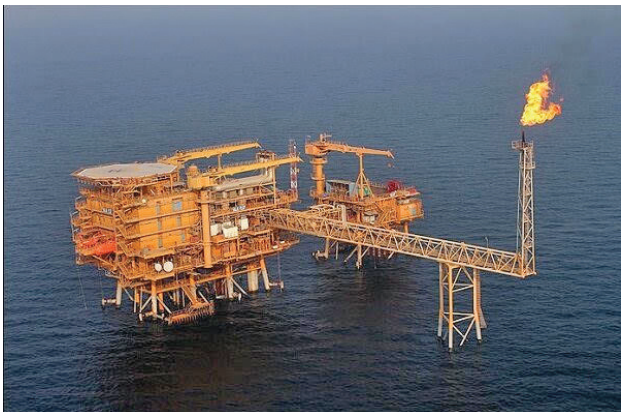
The Balal gas field, with approximately 3 trillion cubic feet of gas in place and over 100 million barrels of proven gas condensates, is considered one of the country's key assets for increasing gas production and compensating for part of the energy imbalance. With the acceleration of this field's development plan under the 14th administration, and despite facing two imposed regional conflicts during this term, the jacket for the Balal gas field has been installed and drilling operations have commenced.

The Balal gas field is a strategic joint hydrocarbon asset located in the Persian Gulf, shared between Iran and neighboring Qatar. With approximately 3 trillion cubic feet of gas in place and over 100 million barrels of proven gas condensates, it represents a critical pillar for Iran's energy security and economic resilience.

Upon full commissioning, which is scheduled within the next two years, the field is expected to add roughly 14 million cubic meters to Iran's daily gas production capacity. This significant injection is vital for alleviating the country's persistent energy imbalance, particularly during peak winter consumption periods when domestic demand frequently outpaces supply.

The development plan comprises five comprehensive work packages: drilling, jacket construction, deck fabrication and installation, well completions, and pipeline laying. Currently, the project has achieved 42% overall progress. The offshore jacket installation is already complete, and drilling operations are actively underway. Two of the eight planned wells have been finished, with batch drilling proceeding for the remaining six, while the deck and additional drilling packages are roughly 50% complete.

Crucially, the project has demonstrated remarkable resilience despite facing stringent international sanctions, the global COVID-19



pandemic, and two regional conflicts during the current administration—yet the development timeline has never been halted. The 14th administration has prioritized accelerating this field, viewing it as a national necessity to swiftly restore and bolster domestic production capacity, thereby reducing import reliance and helping stabilize the regional energy grid.

Iran possesses over 28 shared oil and gas fields with its neighbors, including giants like South Pars (shared with Qatar) and Azadegan (shared with Iraq). The development of these fields is not merely an industrial project but a strategic imperative with profound implications for national revenue, energy security, and geopolitical standing. The 14th administration has made this a cornerstone of its economic policy, pursuing an ambitious agenda to secure Iran's share of these critical resources.

Strategic importance

The urgency is driven by competitive pressures. For instance, Qatar has increased its production from South Pars by roughly 1.5 times compared to Iran in recent years, representing billions of dollars in lost revenue. To address this, the government has committed a monumental \$130 billion to develop joint fields. This investment aims to secure Iran's resource share, stabilize energy supplies, and address public concerns about losing ground to neighbors who often exploit these reserves more aggressively.

Key government plans and projects

The government's strategy involves multiple concurrent initiatives:

- Azadegan Field (Phases 1 & 2): As Iran's largest shared oil field, its second phase aims to boost production by 40,000 barrels per day within 18 months. It is part of a broader strategy to optimize recovery and enhance the national recovery factor. Three major projects—Azadegan, Azar, and Masjed Soleyman—involve \$12 billion in direct investment.
- West Karoun Cluster: This cluster of joint fields along the Iran-Iraq border, including Yadavaran and Yaran, is seen as a strategic hub for boosting national output and countering the natural decline of older fields.
- South Azadegan Field: Production has already grown, with recent figures showing output reaching 84,200 barrels per day.
- Aban & Paydar Gharb Fields: New drilling contracts have been signed to accelerate development and boost national production capacity.
- Legislative Support: The Seventh Development Plan Law now permits production-sharing agreements, while legal incentives and facilitation measures for investors in shared fields exceed those for independent ones.
- Technology & Localization: There is a major push to utilize domestic tech firms, reduce reliance on foreign technology, and implement advanced techniques like radial drilling for the first time in Iran's shared oil fields.

The financial scale is vast. The required investment for these fields by the end of the 7th Development Plan (2029) is estimated at over 20 billion annually to Iran's oil exports. Long-term contracts for projects like Azadegan are expected to generate approximately \$140 billion in revenue for the government.

In conclusion, the development of joint oil and gas fields is a central pillar of Iran's national strategy to secure its wealth, energy future, and geopolitical influence. Through massive investment, technological advancement, and supportive legislation, the government is racing to maximize production, counterbalance the extraction by neighboring countries, and solidify its position in the global energy market.

Iran's agricultural production reaches 137 million tons

TEHRAN- The Deputy Agriculture Minister for Cultivation Affairs stated that while the agricultural sector plays a fundamental role in ensuring the country's food security, agricultural production has risen from approximately 130 million to 137 million tons despite drought, water resource constraints, sanctions, and existing imbalances.

According to IRNA, Majid Anjafi said in a meeting with the Governor of Kermanshah: "The country's conditions and the limitations facing the agricultural sector highlight its importance and position more than ever before, and today food security is one of the key pillars of national security."

He added: "Last year, we faced one of the most unprecedented drought periods in the last 50 years, while water resource limitations, sanctions, and imbalance-related issues also affected the agricultural sector. Nevertheless, the efforts of farmers, producers, experts, and managers led to an increase in agricultural production."

Referring to the water resources available to the agricultural sector, Anjafi said: "According to the law of the development plan, by the end of the plan, about 65 billion cubic meters of water should be allocated to the agricultural sector. However, last year the Ministry of Energy announced 51 billion cubic meters for cultivation. Therefore, the agricultural sector has faced a significant reduction in water resources compared to the amount foreseen by law."

Record production achieved despite severe water shortage

The Deputy Minister for Cultivation Affairs continued: "Despite these limitations, increased production has been achieved, which demonstrates the efforts of the entire agricultural sector to overcome difficult conditions and utilize existing capacities."

He identified Kermanshah province as one of the country's key and important provinces in



agriculture and said: "The diversity and value of agricultural production in Kermanshah have given this province a special position, and the province's improved ranking in the cultivation sector reflects part of its existing capacities."

Anjafi, expressing gratitude to the provincial management and the entire Kermanshah Agriculture Organization, stated: "The support of the province's top management for the agricultural sector can be very instrumental in advancing programs, and we expect the existing cooperation and support to continue."

Referring to the Ministry of Agriculture's plans to overcome the water crisis, he said: "At the national level, we are trying to find new ways to increase production and productivity by using past experiences, cooperating with research institutions, and implementing new projects."

The Deputy Minister for Cultivation Affairs added: "We have defined a vision for the next five years, based on which, in addition to cereals, the development of oilseed production, various types of fodder, and medicinal plants will also be pursued, and better use will be made of existing capacities in these sectors."

Technology, new wheat varieties, and a push for oilseeds

Emphasizing the role of technology and knowledge in increasing water productivity, Anjafi said: "Many products that were previously considered water-intensive are now being produced with less

water using new methods, while yield per unit area has also increased."

He added: "For example, in the past, producing wheat required about 7,000 cubic meters of water per hectare, but today, using new methods and cultivars, in some cases, higher yields are achieved with about half of that amount."

Anjafi also reported the cultivation of about 90 wheat cultivars tailored to the climatic conditions of different regions of the country and said: "The goal is to select and cultivate cultivars for each plain and region that are most compatible with their climatic conditions and capacities."

Referring to the shift in the cultivation pattern approach, he emphasized: "We must use knowledge and technology to increase crop diversity and raise resource productivity so that we can achieve sustainable production despite existing limitations."

The Deputy Minister for Cultivation Affairs identified the implementation of the targeted subsidy system in the agricultural sector as one of the significant changes in recent years and said: "In the past, part of the government subsidy was allocated to importers in the form of preferential foreign exchange, but now efforts have been made to direct support more directly to producers and farmers."

He added: "These resources can be used as a lever and incentive to guide farmers toward positive changes in the production pat-

tern and increased productivity."

Anjafi also described the expansion of oilseed cultivation as one of the major transformations in the agricultural sector and said: "For about 30 years, the development of these products had a fairly steady trend, but in the past year or two, with new decisions, some of the problems related to pricing and payment of farmers' dues have been resolved."

He continued: "The result of these measures has been an increase in farmers' interest in cultivating oilseeds across the country, and we predict that this year, Kermanshah province will also see significant growth in this area."

Referring to the provision of inputs needed for the next crop year, the Deputy Minister for Cultivation Affairs said: "The necessary measures for supplying required inputs have been taken, and we hope that, according to meteorological forecasts, we will have a good crop year ahead."

Anjafi, pointing to the high share of crop products in the country's agricultural output, said: "Total agricultural production in the country has reached about 137 million tons, and about 70 to 75 percent of this production, depending on the year's conditions, is related to crop products. This capacity, under the existing difficult conditions, is a significant achievement for ensuring the country's food security."

Kermanshah emerges as a national agricultural powerhouse

The Deputy Minister for Cultivation Affairs also pointed to the extensive capacities of this province in agriculture and described Kermanshah as one of the country's major hubs of agricultural production. He said: "In recent years, relying on its production capacities and the efforts of farmers and the agricultural management team, this province has improved from fifth to fourth rank in the country in the cultivation sector."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Operational plan to be prepared for building a 'Stronger Iran': economy minister

TEHRAN- The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of Iran stated: "A stronger Iran can be achieved through unity and empathy, and by making maximum use of the capacity of elites and the people."

According to IRNA, Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh said: "The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, understanding the current conditions of the country and fully aware of the enemy's strategy, which is always seeking to intensify pressure and continuously shift the battlefield from conventional wars towards eco-

nom ic and social wars, considers strengthening and empowering the country's economy a necessity."

He announced the Ministry of Economy's program for "modernizing the country's economic governance" and said: "It is essential that all pillars of this ministry – including the capital market, banks, insurances, customs, free zones, and tax affairs – with proper planning, responsibly employ all their capital and capacity in the direction of creating calm and stability in the economic environment. With

round-the-clock effort and an indefatigable spirit, they must take steps towards solving livelihood problems and improving the relative welfare of the people as their main goal. Furthermore, they must work to preserve and stabilize production capacities, direct idle capital towards real and productive markets, safeguard the stability and resilience of the national economy by reforming processes, facilitate and repair the business environment damaged by the war [sanctions/economic warfare], and secure public satisfaction in this important and historic undertaking."

'Pakistan's port capacity, an advantage for Iran's trade with East Asia'

TEHRAN- The Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) described the visit of a Pakistani delegation to Iran—aimed at holding a bilateral meeting and following up on the approvals of the 10th Joint Trade Committee—as the beginning of a brilliant era in the development of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, and emphasized the need for a long-term perspective on Tehran-Islamabad relations.

According to the TPO Public Relations Department, a bilateral meeting to follow up on the approvals of the 10th Joint Trade Committee was held with the delegation from Pakistan's Ministry of Maritime Affairs at the Isfahan Hall of the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds. The meeting was attended by Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, Head of the Trade Promotion Organization,

along with TPO deputies and managers, as well as Shahid Ahmed, Chairman of the Karachi Port Trust, and a number of high-ranking representatives from Pakistan's Ministry of Maritime Affairs.

At the start of the meeting, Dehghan Dehnavi emphasized the need to chart a long-term vision for Iran-Pakistan trade, stating: "This meeting should go beyond technical and short-term issues and pursue all matters with a long-term horizon, keeping in view the 10-billion-dollar trade target agreed upon by the leaders of the two countries."

The Head of TPO stressed the necessity of developing shipping lines and land transport between the two countries and said: "In the past, Pakistani goods were transported to Iran through third countries. In line with the long-term vision, direct routes between the two countries should be estab-

lished and strengthened."

Dehghan Dehnavi spoke of Iran's willingness to diversify its foreign trade routes and make greater use of Pakistan's capacity, and clarified: "Achieving this goal requires the development of cooperation in transport infrastructure and ports."

He also referred to Iran's considerable volume of trade with East Asia, particularly China, and said: "Pakistan's port capacity and transport routes can be utilized to transfer a portion of these goods to Iran via sea and land routes."

Dehghan Dehnavi announced the readiness of the Trade Promotion Organization to reach agreements and negotiate with the Pakistani side, adding: "We are striving to establish a long-term and sustainable trade relationship between the two countries."

The Head of TPO concluded by

recalling that the approvals of the 10th Joint Trade Committee—held in Islamabad with the presence of the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade—can pave the way for the development of trade cooperation between the two countries.

Also during the meeting, Shahid Ahmed, head of the Pakistani delegation and Chairman of the Karachi Port Trust, emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the field of transport and maritime trade, and declared the Pakistani side's readiness to cooperate with Iran in facilitating and expanding trade exchanges.

It is worth noting that at this meeting, Iranian private sector activists also put forward their views and proposals for developing and facilitating trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

US-Venezuela oil agreement: A ‘Historic transaction’ or ‘historic robbery’!?

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN — President Donald Trump announced on Friday night the United States has reached an oil agreement with Venezuela, a move he said will “more than double” American oil reserves, increase oil supply and lower gas prices.

“At my direction, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, working closely with Highly Respected Interim President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodriguez, and, through a partnership with private business, have secured majority U.S. control of more than 65 BILLION BARRELS of proven Oil Reserves in Venezuela, at no cost to the American Taxpayer,” Trump wrote on Truth Social.

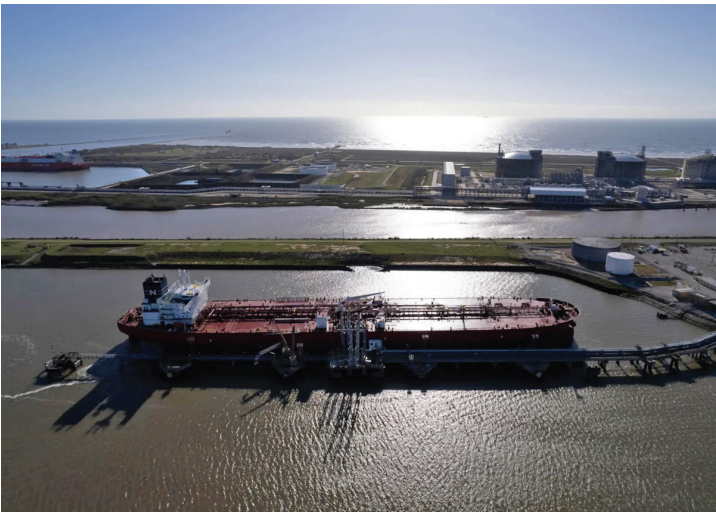
Trump's open colonialism has reached its zenith. The more time passes the oil thirsty U.S. president reveals his real motive in ordering the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in January 2026.

He now shamelessly boasts about his administration's theft of Venezuela's oil, saying it “MORE THAN DOUBLES American Oil Reserves.”

Trump also calls it “THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY!” but the proper expression is “the biggest oil theft in world history!” He also calls it a “Historic Transaction”. However, it is a “historic robbery”.

The mismanagement of the country by Maduro, which caused great economic pains for Venezuelans through populist and inexperienced economic policies, does not give the license to Trump to steal Venezuelan oil.

It is strange and even comical that Trump says he has ordered Secretary of State Rubio and Secretary of War Hegseth to clinch the deal. If it is a normal oil transaction



it should not be clinched by the secretaries of state and war. In this way, Trump wants to reward Rubio and Hegseth, Rubio as the mastermind of the plan to colonize Venezuela and Hegseth as the man who oversaw military operation for Maduro's capture in violation of international law.

Seeking unsuccessfully to give this vulgar robbery a sense of transaction, Trump claims it will help “set Venezuela on a course toward Tremendous Success and Great Prosperity.”

The one-sided transaction has caused unease and anger among members of Venezuela's opposition.

“It's a land grab – a massive land grab,” said one well-known opposition figure who asked not to be named because of the sensitivities of criticizing the U.S. “It's revolting because this is not the United States one would have [expected]. This is not the United States of the Marshall plan. This is a rapacious, mafioso United States,” the British newspaper Guardian quoted the figure as saying.

Trump, who began his second presidency by seeking to reclaim

the ownership of the Panama Canal, calling Canada the 51st American state, and threatening to capture Greenland by force if necessary, is not shy of doing any kind of illegal act if he faces no formidable resistance.

Trump was dreaming a Venezuela-like scenario for Iran when the U.S. and Israel jointly launched a surprise war of aggression on Iran on Feb. 28.

His diehard loyalist Senator Lindsey Graham, who died on July 11, told Fox News on March 9 that “Venezuela and Iran have 31 percent of the world's oil reserves. We're going to have a partnership with 31 percent of the known reserves.”

However, the unwarranted war on Iran proved disastrous for Trump and greatly mocked the much-touted American military, superiority and now his administration is working hard to extricate itself from this quagmire.

To allay American citizens about the high gas prices that have resulted from the war on Iran, especially as the mid-term congressional elections is fast-approaching, Trump says this

transaction with Venezuela “will substantially lower Gas Prices for all Americans.”

As it has been expected, Rubio has also called the deal a “huge win for both the American and Venezuelan people.” But how Venezuela will benefit from this colonial era pillage remains an open question. Rodriguez, with American support, has granted a private company 100-year concessions for the oil fields, according to CNN.

What is startling is that Trump and his bigoted team have proven they will show no mercy to friends and foes alike. Covetous eye on Canada as a close and friendly neighbor and Greenland as an autonomous region of Demark, which is both a European Union member and NATO member, speak volumes.

His January 20, 2025, order renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the “Gulf of America,” followed by his August 27, 2026, executive order directing the federal government to rename Lake Ontario as “Lake America,” are further signs of his impulsive and dangerous instincts.

Before it becomes too late the international community, especially the EU, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and other American friends should strongly defy the Trump administration's open robbery and vulgar threats against other countries' lands and sovereignty. These unions and countries may fall victim to the U.S. if they do nothing and wait for the departure of Trump from the White House as he is setting a bad precedent.

The world must notice that Trump's mission is not to “Make AMERICA GREAT AGAIN” but to make America a robber and bully ruled by thugs.

The new Syria: From terror lists to Israeli intimidation

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN — The lifting of U.S. sanctions on Syria and its removal from America's terrorist designation list coincide with Damascus's concessions to Israel and the U.S. to reshape Syria's landscape.

A day after Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani held a meeting with Mossad chief Roman Gofman in Amman, Jordan, with America's Ambassador to Turkey Tom Barrack also in attendance, the U.S. Treasury removed Syria from its list of state sponsors of terrorism and lifted sanctions imposed on it.

This is while the U.S. State Department removed Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), formerly known as al-Nusra Front, from its list of foreign terrorist organizations. HTS

previously served as al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria.

Washington had placed Syria on its state sponsors of terrorism list in 1979, which had no connection to Iran's Islamic Revolution. Rather, the Zionist-American animosity toward Syria since that time stemmed from Damascus's support for all Palestinian resistance forces, Lebanon's Hezbollah, and other global liberation movements.

The timing of the U.S. decision added further significance, coming on the heels of reports that Damascus had made fresh concessions to Tel Aviv during Foreign Minister al-Shaibani's talks with Mossad chief Roman Gofman in Amman.

According to reports following the Amman meeting, Damascus is expected to

capitulate to all Israeli demands and conditions regarding military and security matters. Most notably, the new government will continue to prevent and crack down on any Palestinian activity within Syria, coordinate intelligence with the Israelis against Hezbollah and anyone deemed a threat to the regime's security, and avoid any serious military cooperation with Turkey that might pose a risk to the Zionist regime.

Reports also indicate that al-Shaibani was warned against any resistance in southern Syria, where the Israeli regime's military has already been operating freely without any intervention from Syrian forces stationed there.

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

Settler rampages, military raids accelerate across West Bank

TEHRAN — Armed Israeli settlers backed by armed forces launched a series of violent rampages across the West Bank over the weekend, unleashing systematic terror against Palestinian civilians, foreign journalists, and human rights defenders.

Early Sunday, hundreds of Israeli extremists invaded the village of Awarta, southeast of

Nablus, under heavy military protection.

Israeli forces locked down the Deir Sharaf and Awarta checkpoints to choke Palestinian movement while settlers performed Talmudic rituals at local Islamic shrines.

The shrine raid followed a brutal Saturday across Nablus that displaced hundreds of residents and wounded dozens.

In Jalud, masked settlers ambushed 51-year-old Aida Ahmed Abdullah, her husband Mahmoud al-Tubasi, and an NBC News crew reporting on the family's forced expulsion from their home.

Attackers rammed a vehicle toward the group and struck them with wooden clubs and heavy stones. NBC News correspondent Matt Bradley was

hit twice in the arm, while three crew members and Abdullah sustained injuries requiring emergency medical treatment.

Benjamin Netanyahu described the attackers as a handful of rioters, attempting to deflect from the direct military backing provided to settler militias.

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

Bahrainis rally against detention of religious leaders

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Crowds filled the streets of Sitra Island on Friday night, marching in direct defiance of the Al Khalifa regime's expanding campaign against Bahrain's Shia majority.

Located roughly five kilometers south of Manama, Sitra has long stood as a resilient focal point of resistance against regime-sanctioned persecution.

Demonstrators gathered to demand the immediate release of political detainees and an end to widespread human rights abuses.

The immediate catalyst for the late-night rally was a marathon 13-hour judicial session held on August 19, during which dozens of prominent Shia scholars and preach-

ers were subjected to mass show trials.

Courtroom manipulation and violent raids

The August 19 proceedings offered a glaring illustration of Bahrain's corrupted legal apparatus.

Authorities kept the accused scholars in a separate room from the judges, forcing defense attorneys to challenge testimonies delivered via remote video links.

State witnesses concealed their identities behind masks while making unsubstantiated claims against the religious leaders.

Under cross-examination, one masked witness failed to explain basic theological concepts such as Wilayat al-Faqih (the concept of jurist-led political authority in Shia

Islam).

Defendant Sheikh Hani al-Bina condemned the proceedings inside the courtroom, revealing that authorities withheld thousands of pages of interrogation files while coercing confessions under severe physical and psychological torture.

This represents only the latest phase of a systematic crackdown.

Violent nighttime raids carried out since May have resulted in the arbitrary arrest of more than 50 clerics, seminary professors, and prayer leaders.

Human rights groups report that detained scholars face degrading treatment, including being brought to hearings in heavy wrist and ankle shackles.

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

Master Marc Lynch and the decline of empire



From page 1 ► His meaning is clear.

The war with Iran did not mark the beginning of this ending. It was the moment when the rot in the structure could no longer be concealed; it burst through the surface. The United States and Israel failed to overthrow the Iranian government. Washington failed to shield its Persian Gulf allies from the costs of a war they did not want to enter, and it failed to keep the Strait of Hormuz open. In Lynch's account, the basic bargain no longer works: America provided security; in return, the region remained inside an American order.

So far, I have no serious quarrel with him. Lynch has at least arranged the story properly. The problem begins when he tries to climb out of the ruins.

He sees decline, but he still cannot look at the world and at human beings except through the eyes of the emperor. In his diagnosis, the United States is a power that has lost part of its ability to impose its will, especially far beyond its borders. But the moment Lynch begins prescribing remedies, America suddenly becomes the same power that can decide what order should replace the old one, who should enter it, how far Israel should retreat, what place Iran should occupy, and how democratic Arab governments ought to become.

It is the same America in which leaders decide, not people. When Lynch speaks of democracy inside the United States, democracy is mainly a good thing that Trump has insulted. He gives the public almost no place in determining policy. He does not waste time on the people. He advises the rulers.

For Lynch, the next president merely has to be sensible. “The Trump administration, contemptuous of democracy and the rule of law at home and abroad, is not going to change that. It is difficult to imagine Trump, who vacillates wildly between strategies, designing a new regional order of any kind. But his successor will have a real chance to break with the status quo and craft a more coherent and more effective Middle East strategy. That starts with renouncing the use of military intervention as a first resort and ending the practice of diplomacy by airstrike. Washington's priority should be defense, not offense. One way to make that intention clear is to forgo the restoration of damaged or destroyed U.S. military bases across the Persian Gulf and focus instead on investments in intelligence sharing, missile defense systems for Persian Gulf partners, and the preservation of freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.” His successor should also bring Iran into a regional security system, restrain Israel, care about human rights, distance Washington from autocratic governments, and finally learn that West Asia cannot be administered with bases and missiles alone.

This president receives his agency from himself, not from the Americans who elect him and send him to Washington with an order of their own.

The part of this prescription concerning West Asia looks humane at first. The problem becomes visible when we notice that the text is still unmistakably the prescription of a master.

Imagine a slaveholder whose plantation can no longer be managed. The plantation slaves, whom his father personally kidnapped from Africa, have revolted. The cost of guarding them has risen, part of the crop has been lost,

and the last time he raised the whip, the slaves were no longer frightened. Suddenly the master announces that moral reflection has persuaded him that the plantation slaves ought to be free. Then he goes home to think about more humane treatment of the plantation slaves while whipping his domestic slaves.

And he has still forgotten something: the plantation slaves took his whip and broke it into pieces. He no longer has a whip.

Lynch is standing at roughly this point. He translates compelled retreat into moral choice. He says America should no longer dominate the region and arranges the argument as though reflection had persuaded him that domination was ethically wrong, rather than acknowledging that America may simply be losing the capacity to dominate as it once did.

Yet his own article supplies evidence for the second possibility. Persian Gulf confidence in American security guarantees has broken down. Enormous American and Israeli military power failed to impose the intended political result. America could not keep Hormuz open. Regional actors are already acquiring greater autonomy.

America has begun to resemble the country in an old military joke: it held an exercise against a hypothetical enemy and suffered a crushing defeat.

Lynch even invokes Suez. British and French power did not disappear the morning after 1956. Britain remained in the Persian Gulf for years and France continued fighting in Algeria. But, as Lynch himself explains, by then larger structural forces had made the dissolution of the European imperial order inevitable. He also acknowledges that the American regional order had already been decaying for years before the latest war exposed its military impotence.

He is slowly approaching the possibility that the issue is not that the emperor—or the slaveholder—has finally discovered that whipping people is ugly. The plantation slaves may simply have taken away the whip and smashed it.

That is not a minor distinction. If the first interpretation is right, America remains the principal locus of agency and can decide how to retreat. If the second is right, much of the future will no longer be designed in Washington. In the most optimistic interpretation, bordering on naivety, America will be one actor in that future: an actor carrying the memory of extraordinary power, not an architect spreading a blueprint across the table and assigning everyone else a place.

The larger contradiction comes elsewhere.

Lynch is one of the scholars who has spent years emphasizing the importance of Arab public opinion. And in this article he explicitly attacks Washington for imagining that Arab rulers could stand in for Arab societies. “For decades, Washington assumed that it did not need to worry much about Arab public opinion because it could count on Arab rulers to crush any dissent. It similarly assumed that mouth-ing empty words about supporting a two-state solution, all while Israel continued its creeping annexation of Palestinian lands and avoided genuine peace negotiations, would be enough to keep its Arab allies on board. That meant the United States never considered adopting policies that would command the consent, or even the support, of the peoples of the region.

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

Xi advances a shared future with China's neighbors

BEIJING, (Xinhua) – Picked fresh in Kyrgyz villages in the morning, cherries and melons can now travel hundreds of kilometers and reach markets in Kashgar, an oasis city in the south-western corner of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, by evening.

The journey is made possible by the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan highway, which winds through the rugged mountains of Central Asia, a project under the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Shipment will be expedited as the three countries are also seeing the construction of another major cross-border project -- the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway -- aimed at improving the well-being of people along the route.

The expanding connectivity across Central Asia offers a glimpse into a broader vision Xi has championed over the years: to pursue friendships and partnerships with China's neighbors and foster an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood.

Xi arrived in Bishkek on Sunday for a state visit to Kyrgyzstan, China's neighbor to the west, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, a major move of his neighborhood diplomacy.

"WISH OUR NEIGHBORS WELL"

Xi's upcoming trip to Kyrgyzstan will be his third visit to the country as Chinese president, following previous visits in 2013 and 2019. Over the years, stronger connectivity has led to expanded economic ties. In 2025, trade in goods between China and Kyrgyzstan reached 27.2 billion U.S. dollars, up 20 percent year-on-year.

Last year, Xi and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov signed a joint statement on deepening the China-Kyrgyzstan comprehensive strategic partnership for a new era, with the two sides pledging to deepen infrastructure cooperation while tapping new potential in clean energy, green minerals and artificial intelligence.

The growing partnership has also been reflected in the Kyrgyz leader's words. He told Xi that Kyrgyzstan's most valuable advantage is having China as its neighbor.

For Xi, relations with neighboring countries have long occupied a prominent place in China's diplomacy. In 2013, not long after assuming the Chinese presidency, Xi put forward the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in China's relations with its neighbors. A year later, he formally proposed building a community with a shared future with neighboring countries at a central conference on work related to foreign affairs in Beijing.

"Close neighbors are better than distant relatives. This is a simple truth that Chinese people got to know in ancient times," Xi once said in explaining China's approach to its neighborhood. "We always wish our neighbors well."

Harboring that wish, Xi has maintained frequent exchanges with leaders across China's neighborhood.

In 2025, all of Xi's overseas trips took him to neighboring countries, including Kazakhstan, Russia and South Korea.

Such diplomatic exchanges have remained intensive in 2026. In June, Xi made his first overseas trip this year, traveling to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China's neighbor to the northeast. So far this year, Xi has hosted leaders from more than 10 neighboring countries across Asia, including Thailand, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

When meeting with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in June, Xi reiterated China's commitment to the policy of good-neighborliness and friendship. China, Xi said, will continue to provide neighboring countries with new opportunities and fresh dynamism as the country grows.

GOOD-NEIGHBORLINESS IN REGIONAL COOPERATION

In addition to bilateral efforts, Xi has attached great importance to regional cooperation to build an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood.

The SCO is a case in point. "China has always prioritized the SCO in its neighborhood diplomacy," Xi once said. Since 2013, he has attended every SCO summit, either in person or via video link, promoting closer cooperation among member states on security, development and cultural exchanges.

Founded in Shanghai in 2001 by China and its neighboring countries, the SCO has had good-neighborliness at the heart of its mission from the outset. "We were the first to conclude a treaty on long-term good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation, proclaiming our commitment to forge lasting friendship and refrain from hostilities," Xi said while hosting last year's SCO summit in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin.

Over the past 25 years, the SCO has grown into



Chinese President Xi Jinping chairs the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Tianjin, north China, Sept. 1, 2025. (Xinhua/Ding Haitao)



An aerial drone photo taken on May 22, 2025 shows the entrance of the Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative. (Photo by Nitola/Xinhua)



Chinese President Xi Jinping greets the welcoming crowd in Astana, Kazakhstan, June 16, 2025. (Xinhua/Yin Bogu)

the world's largest comprehensive regional organization in terms of geographical coverage and population, while expanding cooperation across an ever-widening range of fields.

At the Tianjin summit, Xi announced three China-SCO cooperation platforms for energy, green industry and the digital economy, along with three cooperation centers for scientific and technological innovation, higher education, and vocational and technical education. Open to all SCO countries, these initiatives seek to share the opportunities created by China's development while fostering sustainable development across the region.

The SCO is part of a broader network of multilateral cooperation across China's neighborhood. Under Xi's leadership, China has worked with neighboring countries through mechanisms ranging from Lancang-Mekong Cooperation to ASEAN-centered East Asian cooperation and APEC, promoting greater connectivity, deeper economic integration and closer people-to-people bonds.

In Central Asia, that approach has also been advanced through a new cooperation mechanism initiated by Xi. In 2023, he launched the China-Central Asia Summit in the Chinese city of Xi'an, bringing together China and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Two years later, Xi traveled to Kazakhstan, Chi-

na's neighbor to the northwest, for the second China-Central Asia Summit. There, the leaders of the six countries signed a treaty on eternal good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation, enshrining the principle of everlasting friendship in legal form. Xi said the treaty is "a pioneering initiative in China's diplomatic engagement with its neighbors."

At the summit, host Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev highlighted China's role in advancing regional cooperation.

"We have forged an unprecedented model of cooperation based on good-neighborliness, friendship and mutual support," Tokayev said. "It is fair to say that China, under the leadership of the great statesman President Xi Jinping, has played a leading role."

A SHARED FUTURE

"Asia is our common home," Xi wrote in a signed article published by Vietnam's Nhan Dan newspaper in 2023 ahead of a visit to the country. "Building a community with a shared future for humanity should start from Asia."

That vision has found concrete expression in China's neighborhood diplomacy. In April last year, Xi convened a central conference on work related to neighboring countries in Beijing, where building a community with a shared future with neighboring countries was identified as a priority.

To advance that goal, the conference under-



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee To Lam jointly witness the launching ceremony of the China-Vietnam railway cooperation mechanism at the International Convention Center in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, April 15, 2025. (Xinhua/Yin Bogu)



This aerial photo taken on Nov. 7, 2023 shows trucks entering the Irkeshtam port in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (Xinhua/Ding Lei)

scored the need for China to work with its neighbors to consolidate strategic mutual trust, support regional countries in pursuing development paths suited to their respective conditions, and properly manage differences.

Days later, Xi embarked on a tour of Southeast Asia that took him to Vietnam, Malaysia and Cambodia, during which he elaborated on how China seeks to put that vision into practice. During the visit, China and the three countries signed a record 108 cooperation agreements, covering traditional infrastructure, connectivity and emerging sectors such as the digital economy.

China, Xi said, would "extend the benefits of Chinese modernization to its neighbors, promote the building of a community with a shared future with neighboring countries, and work together to advance modernization in Asia."

Over the years, the vision has been translated into an expanding web of bilateral and regional cooperation. China has reached common understandings on building communities with a shared future with 17 neighboring countries. At the sub-regional level, China and the five Mekong countries have agreed to build a Lancang-Mekong community with a shared future, while China and the five Central Asian nations have committed to building a China-Central Asia community with a shared future.

Improved connectivity has laid a solid foundation for closer ties. "If the Belt and Road are lik-

ened to the two wings of a soaring Asia, then connectivity represents its arteries and veins," Xi once said. China has signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with 25 neighboring states across Asia, while a connectivity network encompassing "six corridors, six routes, and multiple countries and ports" is now largely in place. Roads, railways, ports and trade routes are bringing markets and communities closer together.

Xi's vision of a shared future goes beyond regional connectivity; it envisions countries of different sizes and with different national conditions coexisting, cooperating and pursuing shared development on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

China's own modernization has enabled its neighbors to achieve technological advances and industrial upgrading through collaboration, said Wirun Pichaiwongphakdee, director of the Thailand-China Research Center of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Xi's neighborhood vision is being translated into reality through concrete projects, helping make Asia a platform for cooperation and shared prosperity, he added.

As Xi once put it metaphorically, "Countries across Asia are like individual lamps. Only when they are connected can they illuminate the night sky of Asia in all its brilliance." Enditem

Iran shines at International Earth Science Olympiad

TEHRAN – Iranian students concluded their participation in the 19th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2026) in Italy with an impressive haul of two silver medals, six bronze medals and a top prize.

Mehraneh Vashaqani-Farahani secured the world's top ranking in the Young Reporters of the International Union of Geological Sciences short documentary category, delivering one of the most notable results for the Iranian team at this year's competition, IRNA reported.

In the individual examinations, Shamim Molla-Qolizadeh and Javad Namjoo each won a silver medal, while Ghazal Qazizadeh took bronze.

Namjoo also won a bronze medal in the Earth System Project (ESP) category. In the International Team Field Investigation (ITFI), Molla-Qolizadeh, Namjoo, Qazizadeh and Vashaqani-Farahani each earned a bronze medal.

Overall, Iranian representatives won eight medals across the individual and team events at this year's International Earth



Science Olympiad, comprising two silver and six bronze medals. Iran also secured the world's top ranking in the short documentary category.

The IESO 2026 was held from August 20 to 27 in Turin, Italy. More than 160 students from 41 countries took part in the international scientific competition.

The International Earth Science Olympiad is regarded as one of the major international academic competitions for school students in the fields of Earth sciences,

geology and environmental science. Participants compete in theoretical examinations, field activities and international team projects.

IESO is an educational event for secondary school students, not older than 18, globally, organized by the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO).

Its aim is to enhance the level of geoscience education worldwide and increase public awareness of Earth Sciences.

It is one of the twelve International Science Olympiads. The first IESO was held in Daegu, South Korea, in 2007, and it has been held annually since, attracting over 200 students from more than 40 countries and regions each year.

Most recently, Iranian students succeeded to win a bronze medal and three honorable mentions at the 22nd International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) held from August 11 to 17 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The International Geography Olympiad is the world's premier academic competition for secondary school students. It is held under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and organized by the IGU Olympiad Commission. This year's competition brought together more than 180 participants from over 50 countries.

Helia Khodabandelou grabbed the bronze medal, while Setayesh Haqnazari, Artina Heidari, and Sana Karbalaee received international diploma of honors.

Data-driven strategies to strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) is implementing a comprehensive range of conservation, scientific, legal and operational initiatives to strengthen the protection of wildlife species and habitats across the country based on a targeted and strategic approach, with priorities guided by data and scientific research.

The DOE focuses on a more scientific approach to develop and implement conservation efforts tailored to specific needs of each species and habitat, IRNA quoted Peyman Valizadeh, an official with the DOE, as saying.

It has so far prepared plans for the preservation of 25 endangered species, with thirteen more plans being developed. The plans provide a clear framework for species conservation by delineating the species' status, major threats, conservation priorities, necessary actions, and assessment indicators, he noted.

However, the DOE faces some challenges to implement these measures at national and provincial levels. One of the biggest challenges is securing funding to implement the plans. Developing specialized capacity to preserve species is the other problem. Lack of trained, specialized forces has made it difficult to implement the conservation action plans effectively. Therefore, training specialized personnel, developing experts' capacities in provinces, and strengthening scientific and technical capabilities of the headquarters are put on the agenda, the official highlighted.

Referring to adopted measures to combat wildlife trafficking, Valizadeh said to foster greater coordination among the responsible agencies, the DOE has established a national committee on combating wildlife trafficking; the committee has held three expert meetings so far. Furthermore, the drafting of a comprehensive plan to combat and prevent wildlife trafficking is nearing completion. Furthermore,

a comprehensive program to combat and prevent wildlife trafficking is being drafted.

To manage human-wildlife conflicts, efforts have been made to shift the approach from a reactive posture to the identification of critical hotspots, understanding the drivers of conflict, and implementing preventive measures. The DOE has identified some conflict hotspots for species like leopard, black bear, and herbivores; collecting data on black bear in Hormozgan and Kerman provinces is underway.

Moreover, the DOE has signed an agreement with the National Environment Fund and the Agricultural Products Insurance Fund to support local communities and compensate their losses, Valizadeh further noted.

Accurate information on species distribution, habitats, movement paths, and ecological corridors make conservation efforts more effective, he added.

In this regard, the DOE in cooperation with Shiraz University has carried out research to prepare comprehensive distribution maps to identify migration and movement corridors for herbivores and carnivores.

The maps will serve as a management tool for habitat conservation, prevention and management of human-wildlife conflicts, development of conservation priorities, and proper use of smart monitoring and conservation programs, thereby providing a more accurate basis for conservation decision-making, Valizadeh said.

The official went on to say that the DOE will secure funds, train skilled human forces, and foster intersectoral cooperation to establish an integrated system that benefits from scientific information, field data, capacities of local communities, and the capabilities of executive agencies to develop and implement conservation plans for each species and habitat.

Working together to preserve Iran's precious biodiversity

Iran ranks among the top 20 countries in the world for biodiversity and is home to a variety of plant and animal species. However, in recent years, certain actions have destroyed habitats and pushed many species to the brink of extinction.

So far, more than two million plant and animal species have been identified in the world, of which 43,000 exist in Iran. In fact, there are 11 types of ecosystems in the world, including aquatic, terrestrial, natural, and artificial ecosystems. Iran has 9 of these 11 ecosystems. Also, out of the 42 types of wetlands in the world, 41 types have been identified in Iran.

According to the Department of Environment, some 2,000 animal species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and inland fish, and about 1,200 fish species have been identified in the country's ecosystems. Of these species, 210 mammal species, 640 bird species, 300 reptile species, 23 amphibian species, and 350 inland fish species can be mentioned.

According to statistics, Iran can be considered the cradle of genetic diversity in the world. Even in international classifications, it is considered among the countries with high biodiversity. However, Iran's biodiversity, like the rest of the world, faces many challenges such as habitat destruction, overhunting, drought, and climate change.

Studies show that 148 vertebrate species in the country are endangered, including critically endangered species, endangered species, and critically vulnerable species.

Given the current circumstances, let's all join hands to protect biodiversity, because the future of the Earth, the future of life, and the future of the next generations depend on our decisions and actions today.

IRCS, ICRC hold TOT workshop on psychological support for specialist teams



TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have organized a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on 'Delivering Psychosocial Support for the Specialist Teams of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.'

The three-day workshop, held from August 24 to 26 in Tehran, aimed at strengthening mental health and psychosocial support for IRCS emergency responders.

It responded to the psychological pressures faced by Relief and Rescue personnel working in conflict, crisis and other high-pressure environments, the ICRC website announced in a press release on August 26.

Approximately 20 IRCS psychologists from across the country participated in the training. The workshop combined theoretical learning, practical exercises and facilitated discussions, covering responder wellbeing and resilience, peer support, identification of psychological distress, referral pathways, supportive interventions and self-care.

"The initiative follows four earlier workshops conducted last year, which trained approximately 160 IRCS first responder personnel", Roman Paramanov, the deputy head of the ICRC delegation in Iran, said in the opening ceremony of the workshop.

The workshop used a two-phase cascade training model to extend psychosocial support across the IRCS Relief and Rescue Organization. In the first phase, participants from provinces received this three-day Training of Trainers (ToT), strengthening their skills in responder wellbeing, self-care, peer support, psychological distress identification and referral.

In the second phase, the trained psychologists work in 10 co-facilitation pairs, delivering mental self-care and psychosocial support workshops to Heads of Relief and Rescue Bases and operational personnel.

Through this cascade approach, the programme aims to reach approximately 600 IRCS staff, while ongoing supervision, online follow-up and technical support help ensure consistent application and sustainability.

Need for strategic partnership roadmap

On August 5, the IRCS deputy director for international and humanitarian law affairs, Raziieh Alishvandi, in a meeting with the new president of the ICRC, Stephan Bonamy, highlighted the need to enhance cooperation to a long-term strategic partnership, proposing the development of a roadmap for collaboration.

The official also called for increasing support for relief workers, expanding technological cooperation, and utilizing extensive capabilities of the IRCS in responding to regional and international crises.

Highlighting the capabilities of the IRCS, including its vast search-and-rescue network, land and air fleets, medical and rehabilitation centers, helal (crescent) houses, massive volunteer network, training and production capacities, she stated that the IRCS is one of the most capable national societies in the region and is prepared to share its experiences and resources with other national societies.

Referring to over 200 rehabilitation centers, pharmaceutical, and medical facilities affiliated with the IRCS operating in the country, and the IRCS capabilities in manufacturing medicines, medical equipment, and relief supplies, Alishvandi proposed expanding collaborations in technology transfer, product standardization, and the utilization of the IRCS production capacity within supply chains and international humanitarian operations.

She also voiced the IRCS readiness to serve as a regional hub in fields such as rehabilitation, International Humanitarian Law training,

Chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) training, crisis management, Restoring Family Links (RFL), and mass gathering management.

The official stressed the need to benefit from modern technologies, noting that the use of artificial intelligence in crisis management, hazard analysis, satellite image analysis, humanitarian data management, operational information systems, and digital crisis management can bring about a significant transformation in the quality and speed of incident response.

Moreover, Alishvandi called for the implementation of joint projects in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), the training of specialized personnel, the development of post-crisis intervention protocols, and cooperation during regional crises.

Highlighting the development of regional cooperation regarding crisis preparedness and response, Alishvandi said developing joint emergency response scenarios, conducting collaborative exercises, pre-positioning relief supplies, and strengthening regional coordination can enhance the international movement's preparedness for future crises.

The official also urged the ICRC to play a more constructive role in safeguarding civilians and rescuers during the conflicts.

"Support for aid workers must become a key pillar of joint efforts. Joint protection programs, specialized training on mission security, the documentation of attacks against relief personnel, and the exchange of international experiences should be put on the agenda," she noted.

For his part, Bonamy underlined sustaining and developing the ongoing collaboration between the two organizations, lauding the ICRC the IRCS capabilities and valuable experience in relief operations, pre-hospital care, rehabilitation, international humanitarian law, and humanitarian crisis response. The official announced the ICRC willingness to expand technical and specialized cooperation between the two parties.

Expressing sympathy with the Iranians, he noted that: "We are aware of the difficult conditions people have faced in the aftermath of the war." The ICRC will strive, within the framework of its humanitarian mandate, to effectively cooperate with the IRCS to alleviate human suffering.

Offering condolences on the martyrdom of the relief workers, he expressed sympathy with their families and the Iranian nation, highlighting that: "The loss of relief workers while carrying out humanitarian missions is a matter of deep concern to us. Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are members of a family. In such circumstances, they must stand together and support one another."

Referring to the future plans of the ICRC, Bonamy said that cooperation with the IRCS is a cornerstone of the committee's activities in the country, adding that enhancing preparedness to face potential crises requires close cooperation, ongoing coordination, and joint programming.

The ICRC is prepared to expand its cooperation with the IRCS in areas like search and rescue, pre-hospital services, psychosocial support, rehabilitation, the promotion of mental health for relief workers and disaster victims, and specialized training.

Referring to the economic and livelihood impacts of the US attacks on residents in southern parts of the country, particularly fishers, the official voiced the ICRC readiness to support assistance programs aimed at restoring the livelihoods of those affected.



AUGUST 31, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is of two kinds: patience over what pains you, and patience against what you covet.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:05 Evening: 18:52 Dawn: 4:09 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:36 (tomorrow)

Cinema Museum to show restored version of Kiarostami's "Through the Olive Trees"

TEHRAN – The restored version of "Through the Olive Trees" directed by Abbas Kiarostami will be screened and discussed at the Cinema Museum of Iran in Tehran.

As part of the "Guild Classics" program, the Iranian Film Directors Guild, in collaboration with the Cinema Museum of Iran, will screen the restored version of "Through the Olive Trees" on Tuesday, Honaronline reported.

During the event, "Through the Olive Trees"—considered one of Kiarostami's most significant works—will be analyzed and reviewed by film critic Saeid Ghotbizadeh. The discussion will explore various aspects of Kiarostami's cinematic vision, his narrative style, and the film's position within his artistic career.

Through the "Guild Classics" program, the Iranian Film Directors Guild and the Cinema Museum of Iran aim to review the works and enduring legacies of prominent Iranian directors. The upcoming event emphasizes the distinguished role and position of Abbas Kiarostami in Iranian cinema.

"Through the Olive Trees" is a 1994 drama written, produced, edited, and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami. As the final installment of Kiarostami's Koker trilogy, the story is set in earthquake-devastated Northern Iran and revolves around the making of the movie "And Life Goes On...", a revisit of his earlier work "Where Is the Friend's Home?". The film explores the interplay between art and reality, skillfully blurring the lines between fiction and truth in typical Kiarostami fashion.

The film follows Hossein Rezai, a local stonemason-turned-actor, who faces challenges both on and off the movie set where he proposes to his co-star, Tahereh. Misunderstandings arise due to his social status and illiteracy, causing Tahereh's family to reject his offer. As the boundaries between their on-screen roles and personal lives blur, the complexities of love and communication are magnified.

The film was chosen as Iran's entry for the Best Foreign Language Film category at the

67th Academy Awards, though it did not receive a nomination. Despite this, "Through the Olive Trees" has been hailed by many as a cinematic masterpiece for its nuanced storytelling and rich exploration of relationships and human emotions. The poignant and thought-provoking narrative leaves the audience pondering the unresolved conclusion as the characters navigate through the olive groves, symbolizing the ambiguity of life's answers.

The film garnered acclaim from international cinema critics, particularly in France, and was nominated for the prestigious Palme d'Or at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival. It went on to win the Espiga de Oro at the 1994 Seminci in Valladolid, further solidifying its reputation. The movie's enigmatic final scene sparked vibrant discussions and was lauded for its thought-provoking nature.

In the 2012 Sight & Sound poll, "Through the Olive Trees" was recognized by six critics and four directors as one of the top 10 greatest films ever made.

Abbas Kiarostami (1940–2016) was a highly acclaimed Iranian filmmaker known for his unique storytelling style and innovative approach to cinema. His films often blurred the lines between reality and fiction, challenging viewers to question the nature of truth and perception. Kiarostami's works, characterized by their minimalist and naturalistic aesthetic, delved deep into the complexities of human emotions and relationships, offering a profound and contemplative look at life and society.

Throughout his career, Kiarostami gained international recognition and numerous awards, including the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival for his film "Taste of Cherry." He was considered a master of the cinematic art form, with critics praising his ability to capture the essence of everyday life in a poetic and profound manner. Kiarostami's influence extended beyond the borders of Iran, shaping the landscape of world cinema and inspiring generations of filmmakers with his unparalleled vision and storytelling prowess.

Cartoon of Day



Kites in Gaza

Cartoonist: Mahmoud Rifai from Jordan

Minab school tragedy will never be forgotten or forgiven, Iran FM says

TEHRAN– Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the tragedy at a school in Minab, southern Iran, will never be forgotten or forgiven, describing the students killed in the incident as a symbol of heroism for the Iranian people.

Araghchi made the remarks on Friday at the opening ceremony of the group exhibition "Minab School," held at the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization in Tehran.

The exhibition has been organized by the Nam Cultural and Artistic Institute and features works by a number of prominent contemporary Iranian painters.

"The students of this school have become an epic for the Iranian people. We will never forget or forgive this incident, nor will we erase it from our memory. We will continue to pursue it," Araghchi said.

He emphasized the power of art to preserve historical events and convey messages, saying a single painting can sometimes communicate with an audience and leave an impact equivalent to several speeches and books.

"These works are documents of the legitimacy and victimhood of the Iranian people and the children who were deliberately and unjustly targeted in this war," the foreign minister said. "Although we lost them, they have become heroic symbols for the Iranian people."

Araghchi expressed hope that the exhibition could be taken to other countries, allowing international audiences to see the works and learn about what happened to the Iranian children.

"I hope we can take this exhibition abroad, country by country, and show it to people," he said, adding that those who claim to defend human rights should see the artworks depicting the consequences of the conflict.

The foreign minister also highlighted the role of art in diplomacy, saying paintings, films, poetry and music can convey messages in ways that written statements and speeches often cannot.

He noted that Iranian artists produced numerous works during the recent conflicts, including music, video productions and visual artworks, stressing



that such efforts should continue so that future generations and international audiences understand the sacrifices made by the Iranian people during the 12-day and 40-day wars.

Araghchi said the Foreign Ministry's public diplomacy department is responsible, among other things, for cultural and artistic diplomacy. He added that the ministry is ready to support Iranian artists and facilitate the presentation of exhibitions such as "Minab School" abroad.

He also said the Foreign Ministry's legal department has been documenting what he described as crimes committed by the United States and Israel during recent wars against Iran. According to Araghchi, four or five volumes of documentation have so far been compiled, while the ministry is continuing to document the impact of economic sanctions.

The minister criticized what he described as the politicization of human rights by Western countries, saying that while Western governments issue numerous statements concerning individual cases in Iran, they have failed to take comparable action over the deaths of Palestinians in Gaza.

"Our policy is completely clear: We genuinely believe in human rights in Iran and have always defended the rights of the Iranian people," Araghchi said, stressing that Tehran would not allow human rights to be used as a tool

for political exploitation.

The exhibition features works by artists including Behzad Shishegaran, Sirous Moqaddam, Gholam-Ali Taheri, Morteza Asadi, Kazem Chalipa, Ali Nedai, Hassan Yaqouti, Abdolhamid Ghadirian, Mostafa Goudarzi, Nasser Seifi, Jamshid Haqiqatshenas, Seyyed Masoud Shojai Tabatabai, Kamyar Sadeqi, Seyyed Ali Mirfatah, Mahyar Charmchi, Mostafa Qorbani, Hossein Einibakhsh and Mohammad-Ali Naderi.

Araghchi, Head of the Art Bureau Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman and a number of prominent visual artists attended the opening and visited the exhibition.

"Minab School" will run through September 22 at the Art Bureau, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

On February 28, the Shajareh Tayyebah girls' elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a devastating massacre as the United States and Israel initiated their strikes against Iran.

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

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

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

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

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

New Tehran mural mocks Trump



TEHRAN – A new mural featuring US President Donald Trump in a theatrical disappearing act

has gone on display at the intersection of Jomhuri and Valiasr avenues, carrying a satirical

message about US policies.

Titled "No Tricks! Blink, You're Gone!", the mural was designed by Iranian artist Danial Farrokhi and alludes to reports that Trump was secretly moved from Air Force One in Turkey via a catering truck and transferred to another aircraft amid fears of an Iranian attack, Mehr reported on Saturday.

The large-scale artwork depicts a magician performing a trick while pointing toward a catering truck containing an image of Trump. Several white doves fly across the scene, adding to the

imagery of a stage performance and illusion.

Located in one of Tehran's major thoroughfares, the mural joins a series of large-scale works displayed in the capital that use public art to comment on current political developments and international affairs.

The new artwork was created under the auspices of Art Bureau, an institution that has frequently used murals and other visual works in public spaces to address social, political and cultural themes.

Activists hope to shift Venice Film Festival focus on crisis in Gaza

Dozens of Hollywood A-listers will descend on the Venice Film Festival this week, but activists hope to shift the spotlight from the red carpet to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Scores of local political and grassroots organizations are expected to join the march, running under the title Stop the Genocide – Free Palestine, The Guardian reported.

More than 1,500 people, including industry figures, have signed an open letter from the group Venice4Palestine (V4P) calling on the festival "to be more courageous and clear in condemning the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the ethnic cleansing across Palestine carried out by the Israeli government and army".

They have also urged the organizers to withdraw invitations to the actors Gerard But-

ler and Gal Gadot over their previous support for Israel – both star in Julian Schnabel's new film "In The Hand of Dante," which is premiering on the Lido.

Gadot has spoken out against Hamas and in support of the Israeli hostages but has also called for a diplomatic solution to the Gaza-Israel conflict.

Butler attended a gala for the Friends of the IDF in Los Angeles in 2018 but has not commented publicly on the events in Israel and Gaza since October 7, 2023.

The festival's artistic director, Alberto Barbera, told a press conference on Wednesday: "We have never hesitated to clearly declare our huge sadness and suffering vis-a-vis what is happening in Gaza and Palestine. The death

of civilians and especially of children, who are victims, the collateral damage of a war which nobody has been able to terminate yet. I think there are no doubts in regard to the biennale's position on this."

Reports suggested Gadot had dropped out of the festival after the scrutiny, but Barbera has said the "Snow White" star was never planning to attend.

On Wednesday morning, a group of activists held a demonstration in front of the festival red carpet promoting Saturday's march. International signatories to the V4P letter include Ken Loach, Céline Sciamma, Claire Simon, Audrey Diwan and the Macedonian director Teona Strugar Mitevska, whose new film "Mother" – about Mother Teresa – opened the festival's Orizzonti sidebar.