

Naftali Bennett: Israel is known for 'baby killers' just as Italy for pasta

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Naftali Bennett has admitted the collapse of Israel's reputation among younger Americans. In a recent interview with Itai Segal, the former Israeli prime minister conceded that among American youth, Israel is synonymous with genocide.

"For the first time since the establishment of Israel, among the American public, Israel has become a negative brand," Bennett stated.

He outlined the severity of this shift. "If you ask an American student, 'Israel, what comes to mind?' They say genocide. That is the situation." He offered a comparison. "You say Italy, 'pasta, spaghetti.' You say Israel, 'baby killers.'" ► **Page 5**

Iranian feature "Slumber" to premiere at Vision Asia section of 31st Busan International Film Festival

TEHRAN – The 31st Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) has unveiled 11 features for its Vision Asia section, including a film from Iran.

Iranian filmmaker Mani Moghaddam will compete in the section with his feature debut "Slumber," employing elements of magical realism in the story of a man suffering from sleep disorders and moving between everyday reality and a relationship experienced through his dreams, Honaronline reported. ► **Page 8**

10 missing fishermen found in UAE; 3 still unaccounted for

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official has confirmed that ten fishermen from Bandar Lengeh who had been missing since mid-August have been located in the United Arab Emirates and are expected to return to Iran shortly.

Mohammad Soleimani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Representative Office in Hormozgan, said the development followed intensive diplomatic efforts to determine the whereabouts of 13 fishermen who went missing in waters off Bandar Lengeh.

"Following the reports of 13 missing fishermen, there were concerns that they may have entered the territorial waters of neighboring countries and been detained," Soleimani said, adding that Iranian authorities had been closely monitoring the situation in both the UAE and Qatar. ► **Page 2**

Rebuilding damaged industries; a strategy to protect production, ensure financing supply chain stability

TEHRAN- The US-Zionist imposed war, in addition to causing direct damage to some production units, also affected parts of the country's industrial supply chains. However, planning for the swift return of damaged units to the production cycle and preventing the halt of related industries has now become one of the central axes of industrial policymaking. In this path, securing financial resources, prioritizing strategic industries, and utilizing domestic capacities form the basis of support measures.

In a report that comes below, IRNA has investigated the issue:

The new strategy of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in this regard is not limited merely to rebuilding the buildings and equipment of damaged units, but is pursued with the aim of preserving production capacity and strengthening the resilience of supply chains. ► **Page 4**



IRGC says one of its two targets on August 30, 2026, was the Al Azraq base in Jordan, which hosts US air assets

Iran Strikes US Bases in Jordan, UAE, Vows 'More Devastating' Responses to Every Attack

Iran's Foreign Ministry denounced the US strike on Larak Island as an explicit breach of the United Nations Charter, urging the world body to hold the aggressor accountable.

IRGC says a rogue supertanker attempting to navigate an unauthorized route in the Strait of Hormuz struck two sea mines, triggering massive fires on board the vessel and bringing it to a complete stop

TEHRAN — The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran launched extensive, coordinated retaliatory military operations against American bases in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) following a fatal US military aggression against Larak Island in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The decisive counter-strikes targeted key American military infrastructure across the region, delivering a firm response to the violation of Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced on Monday morning that its Aerospace Force dealt severe blows to US military installations in Jordan through a combined missile and

drone operation codenamed "Punishment of the Aggressor."

According to the IRGC statement, the retaliatory operation targeted the King Hussein and Al-Azraq military bases, both hosting American forces.

The IRGC confirmed that the precision strikes successfully hit "technical and repair infrastructure, as well as the enemy fighter deployment sites," inflicting significant damage on the aggressor's military assets.

The IRGC emphasized that the strike was the necessary and lawful answer to Sunday night's attack on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz, which martyred and wounded several Iranian combatants and compatriots.

"Aggression and crimes will not solve the enemy's desperation in attempting to weaken the Islamic Republic's control over the Strait of Hormuz, and every attack will be met with even more devastating responses," the IRGC statement declared.

Concurrently, the Islamic Republic of Iran Army announced a massive drone operation targeting US military forces stationed at an installation in the United Arab Emirates. ► **Page 3**



'De-dollarization' and 'economic integration' on Iran's agenda at SCO summit

TEHRAN— Iran is seeking to use the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's 2026 summit in Bishkek to deepen economic integration with Eurasian partners, advance de-dollarization and expand trade and transport links.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in the Kyrgyz capital on Monday for the two-day summit, accompanied by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. His visit includes participation in the SCO and SCO Plus meetings as well as a series of bilateral talks with leaders of member states. ► **Page 2**

Iran vows decisive response as Trump threatens retaliation

TEHRAN — Iran has warned that any further US attack would trigger a response "dozens of times stronger," as an Iranian official told Reuters that Tehran considers the latest exchange of fire with Washington limited and contained, even as President Donald Trump threatened to strike Iran "very hard" and the conflict increasingly exposes the White House to military, economic and political risks.

The Iranian official, speaking to Reuters on Monday, said Tehran's retaliatory operation following a US strike on Iranian missile launchers on Larak Island ► **Page 3**

General Naqdi: Over 90 percent of Iran's missile reserves remain intact

TEHRAN — Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi, a senior adviser to the Commander-in-Chief of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), strongly rejected rumors regarding a decline in Iran's weapon capabilities.

In an interview with Al Mayadeen, Naqdi stressed the self-sufficiency and long-term sustainability of the nation's missile manufacturing network. He added that more than 90 percent of Iran's strategic missile stockpiles remain completely intact.

Emphasizing Iran's indigenous production capabilities, the IRGC adviser asserted that domestic facilities continue to manufacture missiles at a rate that offsets operational deployments. ► **Page 2**

Trump's Venezuelan delusion: Same foolish blueprint he plots for Iran

TEHRAN – In a move that exposes both his strategic shortsightedness and his penchant for delusional grandiosity, US President Donald Trump has announced plans to refill America's depleted Strategic Petroleum Reserve using Venezuelan oil. The scheme, which Trump has bizarrely described as a "gift from Venezuela to the American people," reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of energy markets, infrastructure realities, and geopolitical dynamics—a dangerous combination that now threatens to be replicated in US policy toward Iran. ► **Page 4**

The domestic cost of Jordan's alliance with Washington

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

TEHRAN — Amid the US-Israeli war against Iran and the widening attacks on American interests in Jordan, more than 200 Jordanian political, cultural, academic, tribal and retired military figures issued an open letter to the government in late July 2026. They called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Jordanian territory, the cancellation or review of the security and military agreement with the United States, and the submission of that agreement to parliament.

The signatories also called for Jordan's airports, ports, military bases and other strategic infrastructure to be shielded from any military or logistical use connected to the regional war, and urged the country to adopt a policy of genuine neutrality. The letter argued that the presence of foreign forces exposed Jordan to security, political and economic risks and increased the likelihood of the country being dragged into a war in which it does not consider itself a party. ► **Page 5**

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

SCO: Iran's opportunity to contain unilateralism

The Iran newspaper, in an analytical article, refers to Masoud Pezeshkian's trip to Bishkek to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. Given the ongoing Iran-US war and its consequences for regional and global order, this visit should not be viewed as a routine diplomatic appearance. Instead, it represents a strategic opportunity for Iran to redefine its position within the Eurasian axis and encourage Tehran's key partners to take on a more active role in shaping the emerging order in West Asia. For Iran, the summit carries two layers of importance: First, as a full member of the SCO, Iran seeks to consolidate its membership and transform it from a symbolic status into a practical instrument. Second, the summit provides a diplomatic platform for Iran to deliver direct and unfiltered strategic messages to Beijing and Moscow at a moment when the United States is applying intense military and economic pressure. Pezeshkian's trip is a significant test for Iranian diplomacy at a highly sensitive moment, and an opportunity to safeguard national interests.

Hamshahri: Iran will not be containable or sanctionable

Hamshahri focuses on the ineffectiveness of US economic sanctions against Iran. Citing former diplomat Seyyed Ali Saghaeian, the paper notes that Washington's so-called "crippling sanctions" began in the 1990s and continued through the Trump administration. US officials repeatedly claimed that Iran would be unable to withstand such pressure. However, after a decade, it became clear that Iran had learned how to bypass sanctions effectively and continued its trajectory—achieving notable progress in scientific, economic, military, and other fields. Iran has consistently demonstrated that it cannot be isolated or broken through sanctions. Therefore, the US Treasury's recent announcement of a new "comprehensive sanctions package" is described as largely symbolic and rhetorical—an attempt to compensate for Washington's failures through heavy publicity. Even international observers and American analysts believe these new claims are unlikely to succeed.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The US and Israel are enemies of the Islamic world

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz stresses the need for unity across the Islamic world. Recent regional developments show that hostility from the United States and Israel is not limited to Iran or the regional resistance axis; rather, they are adversaries of the entire Islamic world. During the Ramadan War, the US openly stated that the security of Arab states held no value for Washington. Therefore, Iran's resistance against the US

and Israel is not merely an effort to protect itself—it is portrayed as a defense of the broader Islamic world. The time has come for Muslim nations to support one another against the enemy and to pursue synergy across all aspects of material and spiritual life—wealth, security, knowledge, and progress—toward the creation of a new Islamic civilization. Iran is prepared to lead this path and extend a warm hand of friendship to Muslim nations, offering its capacities for collective advancement.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Iran in the "grey zone"

Donya-e-Eqtasad offers an interpretation of Iran's foreign policy, arguing that the country lacks a coherent and unified strategic doctrine. The paper introduces the concept of the grey zone or multialignment, which it defines as "walking on the edge of balance." In this approach, states no longer need fixed alliances or long-term strategic blocs; instead, they can maintain tactical relations with all countries based on national interest. According to the paper, Iran's geopolitical position requires such a grey-zone strategy—neither falling into the orbit of the West nor becoming trapped by the East. In this zone, Iran can interact with all major actors. Iran is a bridge at the crossroads of global geopolitics, a "geographical shield" connecting East and West. This position is a strategic lever provided by Iran's historical geography, and the country must use it wisely. For Iran's long-term security, its economy must be integrated with the global economy so that Iran's security becomes intertwined with global security.

Arman-e-Melli: Controlling regional tension is the priority

In an interview with international-affairs analyst Seyyed Jalal Sadatian, Arman-e-Melli evaluates the visit of Pakistan's army chief, Asim Munir, to Tehran. After the Islamabad agreement was signed, the Americans violated it and launched attacks on southern Iran. However, they were met with a strong Iranian response—one they had not anticipated, especially given Iran's economic challenges. Arab states then attempted to persuade Washington to avoid further escalation, fearing that they would suffer the greatest losses. With US mid-term congressional elections approaching in November, it appears Washington sought to manage tensions rather than escalate them. According to Sadatian, mediators have now resumed efforts. Pakistan, which maintains good relations with the US, has brought Washington's message to Tehran. Pakistan has stated that, in good faith, it has attempted to help and will continue working to control regional tensions. Iran has welcomed this approach.

10 missing fishermen found in UAE; 3 still unaccounted for

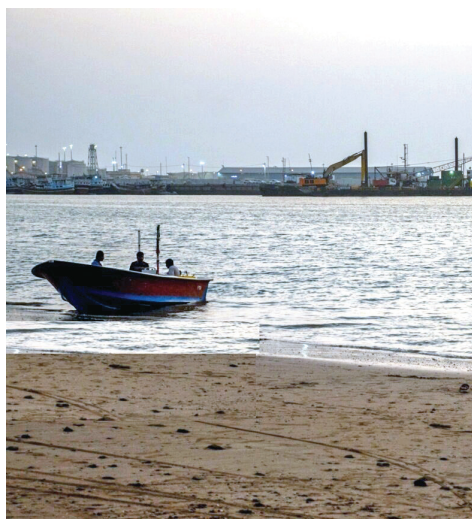
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"Following the reports of 13 missing fishermen, there were concerns that they may have entered the territorial waters of neighboring countries and been detained," Soleimani said, adding that Iranian authorities had been closely monitoring the situation in both the UAE and Qatar.

According to the official, the UAE government notified the Iranian Embassy in Abu Dhabi that ten of the missing fishermen had been identified within its territory and cleared to leave the country.

As the fishermen had been traveling without passports when they went missing, the Iranian Embassy issued emergency travel documents to facilitate their return.



Soleimani said the group is scheduled to return to Hormozgan Province on the first available flight this week.

The search for the three remaining fishermen, however, is continuing. Soleimani said their whereabouts remain unknown, but stressed that diplomatic channels remain active and that Iranian authorities are coordinating with neighboring countries to locate them.

'De-dollarization' and 'economic integration' on Iran's agenda at SCO summit

From page 1 ▶ The 2026 summit, which marks the 25th anniversary of the SCO, brings together leaders from China, Russia, India, Iran, Pakistan, Belarus and the Central Asian member states. Turkey is also participating as a dialogue partner. The organization has expanded significantly since its establishment, with the combined GDP of its members rising from about \$1.67 trillion in 2001 to approximately \$25 trillion in 2025, according to figures cited in the accompanying reports.

For Tehran, however, the summit is about more than multilateral diplomacy. Iran is seeking to convert its membership in the organization into practical economic mechanisms that can reduce its exposure to sanctions and strengthen its access to regional markets.

De-dollarization on economic agenda

One of Tehran's central proposals is the establishment of a Shanghai Development Bank, with its capital structure based on the national currencies of member states and supported by independent systems for trade and financial settlement.

The proposal was presented during discussions among finance ministers and central bank chiefs in Bishkek. Under the plan, the proposed institution could help finance infrastructure projects, particularly in the energy and transportation sectors and along major regional corridors.

Iranian officials view the initiative as part of a broader effort to reduce dependence on the US dollar and create alternative channels for trade and finance.

Hassan Qashqavi, spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's National Security Commission, said continued dominance of the dollar remained a source of economic pressure on Iran but argued that sanctions did not leave Tehran without options.

The proposal is expected to be referred to SCO's interim secretariat for further consideration.

Energy and transit links with central Asia

From page 1 ▶ Meanwhile, recent reports published by major American media outlets have challenged White House claims that US military operations against Iran succeeded in destroying Tehran's missile and drone capabilities. According to assessments cited by US outlets, military strikes have failed



Pezeshkian's meeting with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov highlighted Tehran's effort to translate political ties into concrete economic projects.

The Iranian president welcomed Bishkek's proposal to establish a joint oil refinery in Kyrgyzstan and said Iran was prepared to supply the crude required by the facility and share the resulting refined products with Kyrgyzstan.

Pezeshkian also proposed establishing a Kyrgyz logistics center at Iran's Bandar Abbas port. The facility could provide Kyrgyzstan with a route to the Persian Gulf, the Indian subcontinent and East Asian markets while allowing other members of the Eurasian Economic Union to make greater use of Iran's transport infrastructure and access to international waters.

Japarov welcomed the expansion of economic and energy cooperation and invited Iranian oil exploration companies to contribute their technical expertise to projects in Kyrgyzstan.

The discussions reflect Iran's broader strategy of positioning itself as a transit and energy gateway between landlocked Central Asian economies and international maritime markets.

India emerges as a key economic partner

Pezeshkian's talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were particularly significant against the backdrop of sanctions and regional tensions.

The Iranian president emphasized the extensive potential

for cooperation between Tehran and New Delhi in economic, political, scientific and cultural fields, arguing that closer bilateral ties could help mitigate the effects of sanctions.

The two leaders also discussed transportation and maritime cooperation, developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and progress at Iran's Chabahar Port, one of the country's key gateways to the Indian Ocean.

Pezeshkian thanked India for its cooperation with Iran during the recent U.S.-Israeli war and called for stronger diplomatic efforts to restore peace and stability in the region.

He reiterated Tehran's position that Iran does not seek war and that regional disputes should be addressed through dialogue and negotiations. He also urged India to use its relations with different parties to encourage a shift away from confrontation and toward diplomacy.

Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening its long-standing relationship with Iran and expressed readiness to expand and diversify bilateral trade. India's Foreign Ministry described the meeting as "fruitful" and reiterated New Delhi's position that outstanding disputes should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

Broader Eurasian diplomacy

Pezeshkian also held talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, with both meetings focusing on

strengthening bilateral cooperation and making greater use of existing economic and political capacities.

The meetings form part of Tehran's broader diplomatic push across Eurasia, where Iran is seeking to expand trade, energy cooperation, transportation links and strategic partnerships.

Iranian officials have also emphasized that Tehran's defense cooperation with other countries is intended to strengthen regional security rather than target neighboring states. Pezeshkian has described regional security as a collective responsibility and argued that greater cooperation among regional states is the most sustainable way to prevent external interference.

The SCO summit therefore provides Iran with a platform that combines diplomacy, economics and security at a time of major geopolitical realignment.

The organization now represents a substantial share of the global population and economy, while its members have increasingly sought to strengthen economic cooperation outside Western-dominated financial structures.

For Tehran, the priority is to turn that emerging framework into tangible economic opportunities — from alternative payment mechanisms and infrastructure financing to energy partnerships and transit corridors.

As the SCO marks its 25th anniversary, Iran is positioning itself as an active participant in the organization's evolving economic architecture, seeking to use multilateral cooperation to reduce the impact of sanctions, diversify trade and strengthen its role as a link between Central Asia, the Persian Gulf and the wider Asian market.

The summit is expected to produce the Bishkek Declaration and a series of agreements covering areas including security, energy, transportation and digital development, further underscoring the organization's expanding role in the emerging Eurasian order.

General Naqdi: Over 90 percent of Iran's missile reserves remain intact

From page 1 ▶ Meanwhile, recent reports published by major American media outlets have challenged White House claims that US military operations against Iran succeeded in destroying Tehran's missile and drone capabilities. According to assessments cited by US outlets, military strikes have failed

to neutralize Iran's hardened subterranean missile networks and drone launch platforms. Instead, US media reports indicate that sustained military engagements have led to a severe depletion of American air defense inventories. US military officials cited in these reports noted that continuous

attempts to intercept Iranian volleys have expended critical stockpiles of high-tier interceptors—including Patriot and THAAD systems—faster than US defense industrial lines can produce replacements, creating significant strategic strain for Washington.

Iran war raises questions over Washington's ability to avoid another endless conflict: NYTimes

TEHRAN — The United States' ongoing military campaign against Iran is increasingly raising questions about whether Washington can avoid becoming trapped in another prolonged conflict, as the experience of the 20-year war in Afghanistan offers a cautionary example of how difficult it can be for successive US administrations to end wars once they have begun.

The New York Times examined this issue in an article.

The Afghanistan war formally ended five years ago with the chaotic withdrawal of US forces from Kabul. The departure followed two decades of fighting and culminated in scenes of thousands of Afghans crowding Kabul airport to flee the Taliban. A suicide bombing during the evacuation killed 13 US service members.

Yet many of the fears that had persuaded successive US presidents to maintain the war ultimately failed to materialize. Afghanistan did not become the launchpad for a major new wave of attacks against the United States after the withdrawal.

The parallel with Iran is now becoming increasingly relevant as Washington faces the challenge of determining how to end its latest military confrontation without allowing it to evolve into another open-ended war.

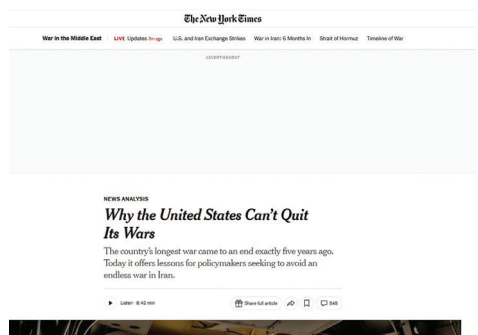
US officials initially portrayed the campaign against Iran as limited and decisive. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said earlier this year that the conflict would bear little resemblance to the prolonged wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, describing the operation as focused, swift, and intended to produce a decisive outcome.

The course of the conflict, however, has complicated that assessment.

Iran responded to US attacks by closing the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important maritime chokepoints. The disruption has presented Washington with a military and economic challenge extending beyond the immediate battlefield.

Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, has acknowledged that air power alone may not be sufficient to defeat Iran or restore normal commercial traffic through the strait. His assessment underscored a fundamental limitation facing Washington: military strikes can impose substantial damage but translating that damage into a political outcome may require a much broader and more costly commitment.

The United States has subsequently placed greater emphasis on naval pressure, including a blockade of Iranian exports through the strait, alongside economic sanctions. While there have been indications of increased mar-



itime traffic and oil shipments, US officials have increasingly discussed the possibility of a campaign lasting months or longer rather than a rapid victory.

That shift has revived questions that haunted the Afghanistan war: how long can Washington sustain a military campaign when its objectives remain difficult to define, and the costs of escalation continue to rise?

Afghanistan demonstrated how concerns over credibility, commitments to allies and the sacrifices of troops can make withdrawal politically and institutionally difficult. Military leaders who had spent years fighting were often reluctant to acknowledge that the strategic objectives had become unattainable.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran strikes US bases in Jordan and UAE, vows ‘more devastating’ responses to every attack

Iran’s Foreign Ministry denounced the US strike on Larak Island as an explicit breach of the United Nations Charter, urging the world body to hold the aggressor accountable.

From Page 1 ▶ In an official statement released on Monday morning, the Army confirmed that the retaliatory strike involved dozens of suicide drones, hitting critical locations housing US military helicopters and personnel at al-Minhad Air Base, located approximately 24 kilometers (15 miles) south of Dubai.

The Army emphasized that the operation was carried out in direct response to the fatal US attack on Larak Island.

Highlighting the strategic importance of al-Minhad Air Base as a key logistics and air transport hub for foreign forces, the Army pledged further retaliatory operations against US troops if hostile actions continue.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran’s Army forces remain steadfast in ensuring lasting security and defending Iran’s territory until the enemy threat is removed from the area,” the statement noted, adding that the armed forces will avenge the blood of all the martyrs of the imposed war by confronting “US terrorist forces.”

Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the hostile US attack on southern Larak Island, describing it as a flagrant violation of the Islamic Republic’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity while affirming Tehran’s legitimate right to defend its territory.

In a comprehensive statement issued on Monday, the Foreign Ministry confirmed that Iranian armed forces targeted US mili-



tary bases in Jordan in response to the American “military attack” on parts of Larak Island that killed and injured several people.

The ministry stated that the “terrorist” US army’s attack on Sunday resulted in the death and injury of several Iranian servicemen of armed forces and civilians and caused damage to public and private property.

“In response to this military aggression and in accordance with the inherent right of self-defense, the powerful armed forces of Islamic Iran delivered defensive and crushing blows to US military bases in Jordan, which served as the origin and supporter of the US military aggression against Iran,” the ministry emphasized.

The statement reiterated that the US strike on Larak Island was an explicit breach of the United Nations Charter, urging the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General to fulfill their

responsibilities in preserving international peace and security and holding the aggressor accountable.

Addressing the broader context of regional maritime stability, the ministry noted: Iran reminds the UN Secretary-General, the Security Council President, and all the countries that have expressed concern about insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz that “the only factor behind insecurity in the region’s shipping routes has been the illegal and aggressive actions of the United States and the Zionist regime.”

The ministry underlined that these destabilizing acts began with the US-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28 and have continued over the past six months in various forms, including a naval blockade and other “provocative and interventionist” measures.

The statement stressed that Iran’s armed forces would not

hesitate to exercise the country’s inherent right of self-defense and would respond firmly to any military aggression by the enemies, warning that:

Speaking to reporters on Monday morning before departing Tehran for Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to attend the 26th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized that while Iran does not seek war, it will deliver a firm and unyielding response to any act of aggression.

President Pezeshkian reiterated that Tehran has consistently conveyed its “clear” message of avoiding war to the international community.

“We are not seeking war, and this is a clear message that we have repeatedly communicated to the world,” he said.

However, he issued a stern warning against miscalculations by hostile powers, asserting that Iran would never remain silent in the face of any aggression and would deliver a “decisive” response to the aggressors.

Highlighting the vital need for collective security and economic integration across the region, President Pezeshkian added: “Instability and unrest in the region are not in the interest of any country and will create challenges for all. Therefore, we must join hands and strive to ensure security, economy and development in the region.”

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

Iran vows decisive response as Trump threatens retaliation

From Page 1 ▶ demonstrated that “no target in the region is beyond Tehran’s reach.” The official said Iran would respond with significantly greater force to any further American attack.

The official also warned that conditions in the Strait of Hormuz would become more difficult for vessels that violate the rules. At the same time, the official characterized the latest confrontation as “limited and contained,” suggesting that Iran does not currently regard the exchange as the beginning of a broader war.

The comments came after Iran launched attacks on US positions in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates in retaliation for the American strike on Larak Island, according to reports. The US operation targeted two Iranian launchers that Washington claimed could be used to deploy missiles carrying sea mines in the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

Trump, however, adopted a more confrontational tone.

Speaking to Fox News on Monday, the US president said Washington would respond to Iran’s attacks and “hit them very hard.”

Trump separately intensified his rhetoric on social media, describing Iran as a “failed country” and claiming that its military and economic institutions had been severely weakened by the conflict and US sanctions.

Despite the threats, Trump did not completely rule out diplomacy. His remarks reflected the increasingly difficult balance facing the administration as it seeks to pressure Tehran while avoiding a conflict that could become significantly more costly.

The challenge is particularly acute because the war has disrupted one of the world’s most important energy corridors. The Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly 20% of global oil flows under normal conditions, has remained at the center of the confrontation. Oil prices rose more than 2% on Monday after the latest US-Iran exchanges, with markets again reacting to the prospect of prolonged disruption to energy shipments.

The economic consequences are also becoming an increasingly sensitive political issue inside the United States. US gasoline prices have remained above \$4 a gallon, roughly \$1 higher than a year earlier, according to Reuters. The rise has placed additional pressure on American consumers and complicated Trump’s efforts to campaign on lowering the cost of living ahead of November’s congressional midterm elections.

Reuters reported last week that Trump was preparing to meet US refiners and fuel



retailers to reduce gasoline prices before the elections. His approval rating had fallen to 33%, while only 31% of Americans approved of the conflict, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling cited in the report.

The political risks extend beyond gasoline prices. An Associated Press-NORC poll in July found that about two-thirds of US adults believed the war with Iran had not been worth fighting. The conflict has also become an issue in closely contested congressional races, where Democrats are seeking to link higher household costs to Trump’s decision to pursue the war.

Western analysts have increasingly questioned whether Washington has a clear path to a favorable outcome.

Jonathan Panikoff, a former US deputy national intelligence officer for the Middle East, told Reuters earlier in the conflict that Trump faced “poor options all around” for ending the war, in part because Washington lacked clarity over what a satisfactory outcome would look like.

That dilemma has become more pronounced as the conflict has continued. Trump faces a difficult choice between escalating military pressure in the hope of forcing Tehran to concede and seeking a negotiated exit that could expose him to accusations that the campaign failed to achieve its objectives.

The energy shock makes the calculation even harder. Reuters reported that oil prices had reached as high as \$112 a barrel earlier in the conflict before retreating as some shipping through the Strait partially resumed. But renewed fighting has again raised concerns over supply disruptions.

For Trump, the stakes are therefore no longer confined to the battlefield. A prolonged confrontation could keep fuel prices elevated, intensify inflationary pressures and complicate Republican efforts to retain control of Congress.

At the same time, backing away from the confrontation could carry political costs for a president who has repeatedly promised to project strength against Iran.

The looming failure of Operation Economic Outcast

By Jeffrey D Sachs and Sybil Fares

Last week, Pakistan announced that it will not comply with the latest sanctions the United States imposed on Iran and will continue trading with its neighbor. The news came just days after China made a similar statement.

The sanctions announced by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on August 24 under “Operation Economic Outcast “ are supposed to be “the toughest sanctions in history” designed to impose “the greatest coordinated economic isolation in the history of the world.”

Earlier, President Donald Trump called it in a social media post “ECONOMIC D-DAY.” He promised “tremendous economic consequences” for any nation that extended Iran “any type of lifeline.”

Six months of US bombing and naval blockade have produced no US victory, so the plan now is to starve Iran into capitulation. The new approach is illegal, cruel, and will fail for several reasons.

To begin with, there is the historical record. Economic sanctions do not bring down governments determined to survive them. Yes, sanctions can impoverish populations, empower the security services that control smuggling and hand the targeted nation a rallying point built on US malice. But they do not topple governments.

Consider, as well, the basic arithmetic of the world oil market. Bessent proposes to remove Iranian oil exports from a world that

has already lost a fifth of its oil supply because the Strait of Hormuz is shut. The US proposes to deepen a stagflationary shock already being borne by Europe, Japan, and its other allies, and orders those countries to enforce sanctions that will throttle their economies.

Above all, the campaign is targeted against China, which buys more than 80 percent of Iran’s oil exports. If the US sanctions the Bank of China or the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Beijing will not respond with a mild diplomatic note. It will restrict its rare earth exports, because it has already run this experiment once and won.

In April 2025, China imposed export licensing on heavy rare earths in response to Trump’s tariffs and within weeks American and European automakers were idling assembly lines for want of rare-earth magnets. In October 2025, China announced a far more sweeping package, and Washington folded, agreeing to pull back its own newly expanded restrictions on Chinese companies in exchange for a suspension of Beijing’s measures for a period of one year.

The April controls have never been lifted, and the suspension of the October measures ends in November. So Bessent has chosen this moment, just over two months before China’s expanded rare earth regime returns and weeks before Chinese leader Xi Jinping is due for a visit in Washington, to inform Beijing that it is either with the US or against it. This is a trap for the US of its own making.

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

LATEST NEWS

■ Iran: Over 1,000 Israeli troops killed in recent war, military spokesman says

A senior Iranian military spokesman says more than 1,000 Israeli military personnel were killed and thousands wounded during the recent US-Israeli war on Iran, adding that hundreds of US troops also lost their lives.

Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi described the US military as a “Hollywood and propaganda army,” saying Iran’s greatest achievement was exposing its “weak and demoralized” facade. He warned the US president that any attempt to claim the Strait of Hormuz would remain a “dream,” stressing that Iran is determined to expel American forces from the region. He also vowed revenge for all Iranian martyrs killed in the conflict.

■ Araghchi slams Netanyahu for ‘suckering’ US into war on Iran

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of manipulating the US administration into waging a war against Iran for Israel’s benefit.

In a post on X, Araghchi cited Netanyahu’s own remarks in Hebrew and English, in which he allegedly boasted about influencing US policy through extensive appearances on American television networks. “In Hebrew, Netanyahu openly crows that he suckered the US Administration into a war on Iran on behalf of Israel,” Araghchi wrote, adding that Netanyahu “praises POTUS’ leadership” in English while laughing about his influence.

■ Pezeshkian seeks to end ‘neither war nor peace’ stalemate, official says

President Masoud Pezeshkian believes the current “neither war nor peace” situation is not in Iran’s interest and intends to seize any diplomatic opportunity to move past the crisis, according to a senior official.

Deputy chief of protocol Abbas Mousavi said Pezeshkian is ready to pursue genuine diplomacy if mediators open a window, while stressing that Iran is clear the other side shows no seriousness. On Iranians abroad, Mousavi said most are patriotic and highly educated, and the president is pursuing their return decisively. He added that participation in the upcoming UN General Assembly is still being finalized.

■ Iran, Mongolia FMs meet on SCO sidelines in Bishkek

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met with his Mongolian counterpart Battsetseg Batmunkh on Monday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Kyrgyzstan’s capital.

The two top diplomats discussed recent regional developments and issues of mutual interest. The 26th SCO Heads of State Summit, held under the slogan “25 Years of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Together for Peace, Development, and Sustainable Prosperity,” runs through September 1. President Pezeshkian arrived in Bishkek on Monday for the summit and bilateral meetings with several leaders.

■ Qalibaf mocks US treasury secretary Bessent over ‘lies,’ rising bond yields

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has again mocked US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, citing Nobel laureate Paul Krugman’s article titled “Scott Bessent Fails to Gaslight the Market” to expose Bessent’s “lies” about Iran.

In an X post, Qalibaf pointed to rising US Treasury bond yields and mocked Bessent’s recent claim of “transiting 130 million barrels of oil” through the Strait of Hormuz, saying the number “130” recalls the \$130 billion cost of the war with Iran. “Liar liar yields on fire,” Qalibaf wrote, taking another jab at Bessent over a reported financial loss involving trading firm Jane Street.

■ PJAK terror group attacks villagers in Iran’s Marivan county

Local media reported Monday that PJAK terrorist group elements attacked local people in the village of Dary in Marivan County, Kordestan Province, near the Iraqi border.

According to Fars News Agency, the victims were returning from their farms when they came under attack. An IRGC base in the same village had previously been targeted by PJAK in 2018, resulting in the martyrdom of 11 local Basij forces. The attack underscores continued security challenges along Iran’s western borders.

■ MP warns enemy: ‘Wait in fear and terror’ for crushing response

The head of Iran’s parliamentary National Security and Foreign Policy Commission has warned the enemy to “wait in fear and terror,” vowing a crushing and instructive response to any new aggression.

Rebuilding damaged industries; A strategy to protect production, ensure financing supply chain stability

TEHRAN- The US-Zionist imposed war, in addition to causing direct damage to some production units, also affected parts of the country's industrial supply chains. However, planning for the swift return of damaged units to the production cycle and preventing the halt of related industries has now become one of the central axes of industrial policymaking. In this path, securing financial resources, prioritizing strategic industries, and utilizing domestic capacities form the basis of support measures.

In a report that comes below, IRNA has investigated the issue:

The new strategy of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in this regard is not limited merely to rebuilding the buildings and equipment of damaged units, but is pursued with the aim of preserving production capacity and strengthening the resilience of supply chains. Alongside reconstruction, the modernization of industries is also on the agenda so that directly damaged industries, units affected by supply chain disruptions, and small and vulnerable enterprises, depending on the type of damage, are covered by support packages and reconstruction programs.

To achieve this goal, financial resources are needed, and it has been decided that the use of capital market capacities and modern financial instruments, alongside reconstruction funds, should also be considered. Saeed Shojaei, Deputy Minister for Planning at the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, has announced the issuance of a permit for 100,000 billion tomans in facilities for the reconstruction of industries, stating that this permit has been issued by the cabinet and that, for its implementation, approval from the Supreme Supervisory Council on Banks is also required.

According to him, measures such as obtaining approval for certain budgetary items, including the issuance of 25,000 billion tomans in bonds, are also necessary from higher authorities, including the heads of the three branches of government or the Supreme National Security Council, and must be taken into consideration.

Alongside securing financial resources for damaged units, another important issue concerning the regeneration of industries has also been taken into account. Under this plan, industries are divided into three categories: "directly damaged," "damaged within the supply chain," and "small and vulnerable industries," with special operational packages developed for each category.

In this plan, a specialized platform has been designed for registering the type of affliction of each company. Through this system, the demands of industries are connected to a network of expert consultants and management specialists in the country, so that the reconstruction process can begin swiftly based on scientific methods and lived experiences from the era of the Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq war).



Macro-strategy of Small Industries Organization for reconstructing war-affected areas

In this regard, Tahmoures Lahouti Ashkouri, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade and CEO of the Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization of Iran, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, while explaining his organization's new strategies in dealing with the consequences of the war, stated that "protecting production capacities" and "reviving damaged industrial units" are the two main pillars on the agenda of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

He emphasized that maintaining the stability of the production flow and precise monitoring of the supply chain of essential goods goes beyond a routine task; it is a defensive priority for the organization to prevent the disruption of upstream and downstream production links, from agriculture and processing industries to the final consumer market.

Referring to the damage inflicted on industrial infrastructure across 17 provinces of the country, Lahouti Ashkouri said: "One-third of all damaged units were concentrated in industrial towns and zones—units that played a vital role in supplying industrial requirements and strategic goods."

Support package; A roadmap for returning to production cycle

The CEO of the Small Industries Organization identified "financing" as the main bottleneck in industrial reconstruction and announced that a special support package has been drafted with the active participation of the Ministries of Economy, Labor, and the Central Bank, and is in the final stages of approval. After final approval by the Supreme National Security Council and the heads of the three branches of government, this plan will be communicated as the operational framework for reconstruction.

He added that special arrangements have been made for the allocation of land in industrial towns with the lowest down payments and long grace periods. Furthermore, for more than 1,500 industrial units, financial processes have been facilitated with the aim of settling debts arising from usage rights, in order to minimize the financial risks faced by enterprises.

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

Construction of 75,000 rental housing units forecasted

TEHRAN- The Minister of Transport and Urban Development has announced the start of construction for 94,000 worker housing units and a forecast for building 75,000 rental housing units, stating that in the first phase, 6,000 rental units will be allocated to young couples.

According to a Tuesday report by IRNA from the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh detailed some of the actions taken by the 14th administration in the housing sector.

Referring to the government's plans in the worker housing sector, she said: "Alongside supportive housing and housing for the underprivileged, we have begun construction of 94,000 worker housing units with the cooperation of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, and factories."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development added: "In this plan, the land is either supplied by the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, or factories and industrial units have the required land, and they also consider special facilities for their workers."

She continued: "Additionally, the required land for about 200,000 more units has been identified, and we will pursue worker housing alongside other programs."

She also announced the implementation of a 50,000-unit plan for underprivileged housing by the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation, saying: "The land for 40,000 units of this number has been supplied by the National Land and Housing Organization, and construction operations for 18,000 units have also begun."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development added: "These 50,000 underprivileged housing units are progressing with the same low-interest facilities from the Housing Foundation, and preparation costs will not be charged to applicants. The facilities considered for 350,000 underprivileged housing units can also be used in this sector."

Referring to the government's program for developing rental housing, she said: "Another action we have initiated in the supply and demand sector is the rental housing scheme, which, despite having relevant laws and regulations, governments have rarely pursued over the past 20 years."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development emphasized: "For people to become homeowners, especially lower-income groups and young couples, ownership is not the only solution. Rental housing with a lease period of four to five years and rent lower than the market rate can help solve the housing problem for people, particularly the first to fifth income deciles."

She added: "Our initial forecast was for 10,000 units, but due to problems, especially those caused by the war and reconstruction issues, we were able to secure resources for 6,000 units, and their registration was also carried out during Government Week."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development said: "Based on the studies conducted, we hope to deliver 6,000 housing units to young couples who have been married for less than five years within the next one to two months."

She considered this action as the first step in the rental housing sector and added: "Our vision is to build 75,000 rental housing units, and in this regard, numerous meetings have been held with developers, builders, and facilitators to involve the private sector in worn-out urban textures in this area."

She continued: "In this plan, we can provide land or facilities to the private sector, and given the expansion of boundaries and capacities created, we can provide grounds for their participation, so that a portion of private sector participation with the government is allocated to rental housing."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development noted: "Although this initiative has a difficult start, it will certainly be effective. We have also entered into discussions with municipalities in this regard, and the rental hous-

Trump's Venezuelan delusion: Same foolish blueprint he plots for Iran

TEHRAN – In a move that exposes both his strategic shortsightedness and his penchant for delusional grandiosity, US President Donald Trump has announced plans to refill America's depleted Strategic Petroleum Reserve using Venezuelan oil. The scheme, which Trump has bizarrely described as a "gift from Venezuela to the American people," reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of energy markets, infrastructure realities, and geopolitical dynamics—a dangerous combination that now threatens to be replicated in US policy toward Iran.

The numbers tell a stark story. America's SPR has plummeted to its lowest level since November 1982, standing at just 289.7 million barrels—approximately 40 percent of its 714-million-barrel capacity. Over the past eight months alone, more than 121 million barrels have been drained from the reserve, largely due to massive releases ordered by the Trump administration itself to stabilize markets amid war-related disruptions.

Yet Trump, in his characteristic disregard for facts, blames his predecessor Joe Biden for the depletion—a conveniently selective memory that ignores his own administration's role in the drawdowns.

Now, Trump claims that Venezuelan oil will come to the rescue. He has boasted of securing control over 65 billion barrels of proven reserves through what he calls "the biggest oil deal in world history." But this is where the fantasy collides with reality.

Venezuela's oil infrastructure is crumbling.



Years of underinvestment, sanctions, and neglect have left the country's production capacity severely compromised. Even under optimistic projections, Venezuela could at best add perhaps 1.5 million barrels per day to global supply—a drop in the ocean compared to the 121-million-barrel shortfall America must fill. Moreover, Washington's own watchdog reports have repeatedly warned that the SPR's aging infrastructure cannot sustain rapid drawdowns or injections, making Trump's plan operationally dubious at best.

What makes this delusion truly dangerous is the looming possibility that Trump intends to apply the same reckless playbook to Iran. Having already waged an unjust war that has disrupted global energy markets and inflicted suffering

on ordinary Americans through higher gasoline prices, Trump now appears to believe that he can bully, coerce, or "strike a deal" with Iran similar to his Venezuelan fantasy.

Such thinking is not merely naive—it is profoundly dangerous. Iran is not Venezuela. Its infrastructure is resilient, its leadership is not susceptible to pressure tactics, and its people have demonstrated extraordinary endurance in the face of aggression. Trump's Venezuelan scheme will fail because it is built on illusions, not realities. If he imagines he can replicate this disastrous blueprint with Iran, he is setting himself up for an even more humiliating defeat—one that will further destabilize global energy markets and expose the hollowness of his strategic vision.

Expansion of electricity generation capacity continues

TEHRAN- An official has stated that in the renewable energy sector, production capacity has increased from 1,250 megawatts to approximately 7,000 megawatts, and in the thermal power plant sector, about 3,000 megawatts have been added to the country's generation capacity.

According to the Mehr News Agency from Iran's Power Generation and Distribution Company (known as Tavanir), Abolfazl Asadi, Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs at Tavanir Company, in a radio interview referring to the one-year performance of the country's electricity industry, said: "To ensure reliable and stable electricity for the people, the most important challenge ahead is the imbalance between production and consumption, for which there are two fundamental solutions: first, increasing production capacity, and second, optimizing consumption. In recent years, to encourage investors to build renewable power plants, the Green Board was created, and for thermal power plants, the Free Board was established on the Energy Exchange. These boards have made it possible for private sector investors to offer their generated electricity on the Energy

Exchange, with buyers also coming from the private sector. This new model is based on the obligations of the Seventh Development Plan, which envisions the expansion of Energy Exchange transactions for the Ministry of Energy, and we have taken steps to realize it."

Historic leap in renewables and introduction of energy savings board to electricity market

Stating that significant investment has been made in the electricity generation sector during the 14th government, he added: "In the renewable energy sector, production capacity has increased from 1,250 megawatts to about 5,600 to 7,000 megawatts, and in the thermal power plant sector, about 3,000 megawatts have been added to the country's generation capacity. Additionally, for the first time, the Energy Savings Board was unveiled on the Energy Exchange, which has provided a suitable financial model for investors. Under this model, any industry that invests in energy savings can offer and sell its saved electricity on the market. This initiative has increased the number of energy savings contracts from 2 contracts per year to 59 contracts in the light-

ing sector and especially in cooling, including the replacement of water cooler motors with low-consumption (BLDC) motors and the replacement of low-efficiency coolers with high-efficiency ones."

The Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs at Tavanir Company, emphasizing that the Seventh Development Plan also stresses the expansion of Energy Exchange transactions, stated: "Large industries are obligated to supply part of their electricity needs through the construction of dedicated power plants by the end of the plan. Fortunately, industries have moved in this direction, and so far about 100 to 200 megawatts of this capacity has been realized. This approach both helps boost supply and production and, through consumption optimization, gradually reduces the imbalance. By strengthening these boards, we are changing past practices and will increase the pace of progress."

Removing transmission bottlenecks with 140 mega-projects and developing small-scale power plants

Referring to investments made in the electricity transmission and dis-

tribution network, he added: "Fortunately, the goals we summarized in the form of 140 mega-projects in September last year have been realized in the transmission and distribution sectors, and we currently have no limitations in transmission capacity. Additionally, small-scale power plants (2 to 5 megawatts) are being built by the private sector at consumption sites, which, in addition to supporting the network, can also offer their electricity on the Free Board."

The Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs at Tavanir Company concluded by expressing gratitude for the cooperation of the people, saying: "All these achievements have been made under the special circumstances of war and unprecedented heat. The people, through their savings and cooperation, played an effective role in passing the peak consumption period, which deserves appreciation and thanks. We hope that with the continuation of this cooperation and the development of Energy Exchange boards, we can provide more reliable electricity for the people."

located, the important point is that the land must first be prepared and have the capability for habitation and construction."

Sadegh continued: "By prepared land, I mean land that, when given to a family, allows them to begin construction. The preparation cost per hectare is a significant amount, and in addition, infrastructure and connections for water, electricity, gas, and other services must also be provided."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development emphasized: "I will not even get into the issue of superstructure services here, such as schools and mosques; the mere fact that the land is buildable and a family can start building their home is a significant matter."

Referring to the increased speed of land preparation, she said: "Preparations have also begun under the previous government, and naturally, it is a time-consuming process, but now it is being done at a faster pace, and more land plots are being prepared."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development also announced the entry of about 300,000 rural housing units into the land allocation cycle, saying: "In some cases, applicants choose a city or village where they or their spouse wish to receive the land in the same location."

She added: "The processes related to this matter are being prepared so that

the capacity of about 300,000 rural housing units can also enter the land allocation cycle."

Farzaneh Sadegh, referring to the delegation of authority to governors, said: "It has been decided that each governor can decide and implement land allocation in any city of their province where there are applicants and prepared, buildable land is available, or even through annexation, the required land can be provided."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development considered this action as part of the government's package of programs in the housing sector and said: "A series of actions are underway in the areas of rental housing, supportive housing, land allocation, rural housing, and settling the remaining Mehr housing units."

Referring to the status of remaining Mehr housing units, she said: "About 60,000 Mehr housing units still remain, of which about 20,000 are cases where the owner has received the land and is constructing it themselves, and about 40,000 units are among the remaining Mehr housing units."

She added: "Units with over 75% physical progress are also on the agenda, and alongside them, National Housing units and other projects with high physical progress are also included in the set of actions for completion and delivery."

Naftali Bennett: Israel is known for ‘baby killers’ just as Italy for pasta

From page 1 ▶ Bennett attempted to deflect blame, pointing to a supposed “25-year Qatari influence operation.” The math tells a different story. Billions spent on Hasbara and Zionist propaganda campaigns have failed to sanitize Israel’s genocidal occupation.

The association with genocide is the direct result of the ongoing slaughter in Gaza. The enclave’s Health Ministry reports that over 73,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 2023. The overwhelming majority are women and children.

The U.S.-backed ceasefire implemented last October did nothing to halt the violence. Israeli forces have repeatedly violated the truce, leaving another 1,300 Palestinians dead and 4,300 severely injured. The destruction is absolute. Rebuilding costs are estimated at over \$70 billion.

The architects of this campaign are now international fugitives. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu remains wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, a warrant active across 125 nations.



Public opinion data reflects this reality. A recent Brandeis University survey found that 75 percent of American university students believe Israel is committing genocide. Pew Research Center figures show 60 percent of U.S. adults now hold an unfavorable view of Israel.

Lawmakers recently approved a \$730 million public diplomacy budget to push pro-Israel content. None of it is working.

The facts on the ground have completely dismantled Israel’s constructed image. Bennett’s confession simply acknowledges a collapse that is already total and irreversible.

Israeli settler arson and military sieges devastate West Bank towns



By staff writer
TEHRAN — A coordinated campaign of arson, land seizures, and military raids is accelerating across the occupied West Bank.

Documentation from Palestinian human rights organizations shows that Israel and its armed settler militias are systematically clearing Palestinian communities from their ancestral territory.

Washington continues to shield this ongoing campaign with unconditional military aid and diplomatic backing.

Calculated arson and forced displacement

A report published in late August by the Palestinian Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission reveals a stark pattern.

Illegal settlers and occupation soldiers carried out nearly 89 percent of all arson attacks against Palestinian property since early 2023.

Out of 900 documented fires set to homes, farms, and vehicles, settlers lit 799. Israeli soldiers set 101. The yearly toll has escalated sharply, climbing from 217 incidents in 2023 to 307 in 2025, with over 110 more logged in early 2026.

Between January 2023 and July 2026, regime-backed violence forcibly displaced 121 Palestinian communities across the West Bank. 46 of those communities were entirely emptied. More than 6,200 Palestinians were driven from their homes, including over 3,000 children.

Sieges and military land theft
This violent displacement works alongside direct land confiscation.

Israel recently issued orders seizing 37.5 dunams of Palestinian land in Beitunia to expand an existing military site near the

illegal Beit Horon settlement.

That order follows 31 separate seizure orders issued in July alone, which targeted over 831 dunams across the occupied territory.

On the ground, armed settlers operate in direct collusion with occupation troops. In Qusra, south of Nablus, settlers backed by soldiers have besieged Palestinian families in the Ras al-Ain neighborhood for weeks, severing water and electricity while blocking emergency medical access.

Hebrew media outlets confirmed that army units stood by as masked settlers stormed homes and set surrounding lands on fire.

Similar assaults struck Al-Mughayyir, where troops sealed the main entrance for twenty hours while settlers attacked livestock and shot at civilians. In Nablus and the Al-Amari camp, Israeli special forces opened fire on young men during early morning raids.

Prison abuse
The street violence mirrors the brutal conditions inside Israeli detention facilities. Extremist minister Itamar Ben-Gvir recently filmed himself inspecting cells holding Palestinian female prisoners.

When detainees complained of denied medical treatment, unclean clothes, and missing basic necessities, Ben-Gvir dismissed their words as whining and boasted about stripping away basic rights.

Hamas condemned the visit as political depravity and fascist theater, warning that Israeli prisons have become arenas for systemic torture.

The seamless coordination between rampaging settlers, army command, and cabinet ministers exposes a unified strategy.

Why and how Israeli assassinations in Gaza intensify

By Ali Minabi



lish a new balance of deterrence that prevents its adversaries from even considering attacking it in the future. In doing so, it is attempting to restore part of the deterrence equation upon which its security doctrine has been based for the past 78 years.

That doctrine has suffered severe damage over the past three decades and has experienced something close to collapse as a result of failures in Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran in particular.

It has therefore needed to be rebuilt and repaired, especially after the resistance waged by Palestinian forces in Gaza amid the U.S.-backed genocidal war and the series of events that followed.

The latest of these was the humiliating defeat suffered by the Israeli regime, together with its American ally, at the hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The second reason concerns the desire of current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to improve his electoral prospects

ahead of the next election. According to opinion polls, he currently finds himself trailing his main rival, Gadi Eisenkot.

This has become a nightmare he will seek to escape by every possible means, even if doing so leads to the collapse of the ceasefire in Gaza or the resumption of aggression on the Lebanese and Iranian fronts.

How assassinations are carried out

The IOF has recently assassinated prominent figures among Palestinian resistance forces whom it had failed to reach during the many months of genocidal war, despite the enormous efforts it had devoted to doing so.

There are two types of assassination operations. Each has its own circumstances and specific tools, and one of them requires a particular window of time. Without that window, the operation is canceled altogether and, in some cases, postponed until a later date.

1. Targeted assassinations

The first type can be described as “targeted operations.” They generally focus on senior leaders of Palestinian resistance forces and are carried out through a dedicated surveillance and tracking system operating around the clock.

Its task is to locate the intended target. Once that succeeds, the target is monitored with extreme precision through various means.

Chief among these are technological methods for monitoring wired and wireless communications, text messages, and electronic communications, in addition to visual surveillance.

This can be conducted through drones equipped with extremely high-resolution cameras that operate day and night, some of which have thermal-imaging capabilities. It can also be carried out through agents and spies, who, despite the enormous advances in technology, remain a trusted source of information provided to the regime’s intelligence agencies.

The assassination of resistance leaders requires particular circumstances, including timing that may serve a political interest of the enemy, as well as consideration of the impact the assassination could have on the other side, whether by disrupting the leadership hierarchy or by placing pressure on the Palestinian resistance’s political leadership, particularly during rounds of negotiations.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The domestic cost of Jordan’s alliance with Washington

From page 1 ▶ The letter needs to be understood in the context of a changing reality surrounding the US military presence in Jordan. For years, the American presence had been one of the main pillars of the two countries’ security cooperation and largely remained a behind-the-scenes issue. The war, however, suddenly turned it into something much more tangible for parts of Jordanian society.

Jordan hosts around 4,000 US troops, and the two countries operate under a broad framework of defense and military cooperation. During the war, Iranian missiles and drones targeting Israeli or American positions crossed Jordanian airspace, while some strikes hit facilities used by the US military inside the country. Attacks on American forces stationed in Jordan, including the deaths of US service members, reinforced concerns that hosting American troops was effectively turning Jordan into a secondary battlefield in the war.

For the signatories, however, the issue was not simply about the military risks. They also linked the American presence to Jordan’s foreign policy, particularly its close relationship with Israel. Support for Palestine has deep roots in Jordanian society, and the war in Gaza, along with Washington’s support for Israel, has deepened anti-American sentiment among parts of the population. As a result, Iran’s attacks on US military targets presented a complicated picture. On the one hand, the attacks posed a direct security threat to Jordan. On the other, they reinforced the argument made by critics of the US presence that the alliance with Washington was imposing direct security costs on the country. This connection between the war, the Palestinian issue, the American military presence and national sovereignty turned the letter into something broader than a simple protest against foreign troops.

The composition of the signatories also gave the letter political significance. The initiative was not limited to a single party or political current. It included figures associated with the left, Pan-Arabism, Islamism, nationalism, the cultural sphere and tribal communities. Among those who signed were figures such as former minister Amjad Hazza al-Majali, former Islamic Action Front secretary-general Salem al-Falahat, writer Muwaffaq Mahadin, political activist Sufyan al-Tell, retired military officers including Ali al-Habashneh, and former Jordanian Communist Party secretary-general Saud Qbeilat. This diversity made it difficult to dismiss the letter simply as the initiative of one particular political faction. At the same time, it would be misleading to claim that the letter represented Jordanian public opinion as a whole. There is no

reliable public polling on such a sensitive issue, and the political environment in Jordan makes widespread public opposition difficult to express openly.

The Jordanian government’s response was largely at odds with the demands of the signatories. Officials stressed that Jordan was not a party to the war and would not allow its territory to be used to launch attacks against other countries. Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi also emphasized that the American personnel in Jordan were there as part of long-standing defense cooperation. From Amman’s perspective, therefore, military cooperation with Washington did not mean that Jordan had entered the war, but rather that the US presence was part of the country’s broader security and defense arrangements.

Inside Jordan, however, reactions showed that this explanation did not convince everyone. Debate in parliament over the deaths of American soldiers on Jordanian soil became particularly heated. When MP Ali al-Khalayleh suggested that parliament should offer condolences to the United States over the deaths of its soldiers, he was met with strong objections from other lawmakers. One accused the US military of killing women and children. The episode was significant because it showed that opposition to US policy was not confined to activists outside the political establishment; it could also surface within Jordan’s formal political institutions.

Statements by some Jordanian officials about the nature of the American military presence also fueled controversy. Al-Khalayleh argued that US forces were not stationed in independent American bases and made particularly controversial remarks about some of the American personnel killed in the desert, suggesting they had been there with shepherds. These comments came as US Central Command was reporting the deaths of American service members in an Iranian missile and drone attack. The apparent gap between the Jordanian account and information released by the US military added to public scrutiny over the actual nature and extent of the American military presence in Jordan.

The American reaction was also significant. Following the deaths of US personnel in Jordan, Donald Trump criticized the way American forces had been protected and suggested that the incident might not have happened if US forces had been more directly responsible for the defense mission. From the perspective of Jordanian critics, the remarks could reinforce the argument that Washington itself did not consider Jordan an entirely secure environment for American troops. The Jordanian government, by contrast,

could point to the attacks as evidence of why defense cooperation with the United States and stronger air-defense capabilities were necessary rather than as an argument for expelling American forces.

Iran’s response was different and arguably more political. Tehran sought to distinguish between the Jordanian people and the Jordanian government. In a message addressed to the Jordanian public, Iran emphasized that it was not hostile toward Jordan or its people and framed its dispute as being with the American military presence in the region. Iranian attacks on US-linked targets in Jordan continued in the following days. The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps also said information about the locations of American forces in Jordan had been provided by Jordanian civilians and military personnel and expressed gratitude for cooperation from the Jordanian people.

The media reaction was equally important. Despite the significance of the letter and the large number of prominent figures who signed it, major Jordanian media outlets did not publish the full text. Critics of the government saw this as evidence of the restrictions on political and media space in Jordan. Some Jordanian analysts argued that the limited space for dissent meant that the level of opposition visible in the media was likely lower than the level of dissatisfaction that exists in society. At the same time, the lack of mainstream media coverage made it harder for the letter to develop into a broader national debate. Much of its circulation therefore took place through social media and media outlets outside Jordan.

The fact that such a diverse group of political and social figures came together suggests that the domestic cost of the US alliance is rising as the war continues. The angry reactions from some lawmakers, the absence of the letter from Jordanian mainstream media, Iran’s efforts to address the Jordanian public directly, the government’s defense of its military agreement with Washington, and Trump’s criticism of the protection of US forces all show that the American military presence is no longer simply a diplomatic matter between Amman and Washington. It has become an increasingly sensitive domestic political issue.

The deeper significance of the letter is that it has exposed a growing gap between the government’s strategic calculations and the views of parts of Jordanian society. The government sees the American presence as a component of national security, while its critics argue that the same presence has made Jordan a target and dragged the country into a war in which its citizens have little say.

Pezeshkian attends opening ceremony of 2026 WNG

TEHRAN – Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the opening ceremony of the sixth edition of the World Nomad Games in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Ahmad Donyamali also traveled to Bishkek to accompany Pezeshkian at the ceremony.

Donyamali departed for Bishkek on Monday morning to attend the opening ceremony.

The ceremony took place in Bishkek on Monday evening, with Pezeshkian and Donyamali in attendance.

Iran's cultural and sports delegation is represented by 130 athletes at the sixth edition of the World Nomad Games. The Iranian athletes will compete against their counterparts from around the world in a range of traditional and competitive disciplines.

Iran is participating in this edition under the name "The Martyred Leader" and with the slogan "Unity, Strength and Victory."

The 6th World Nomad Games are being held in Kyrgyzstan from Aug. 31 to Sept. 6, bringing together athletes and participants from across the world to celebrate traditional sports, culture and the heritage of nomadic civilizations.

The opening ceremony was held at the Bishkek Arena in Bishkek on Monday at 9:00 PM local time.

Iran come fourth in 2026 Asian Youth Handball bronze medal match

TEHRAN – Iran lost to South Korea 29-28 at the 2026 Asian Youth Handball Championship bronze medal match on Monday.

Bahrain and Qatar will lock horn for the gold medal on Monday.

Iran's youth national team were placed in Group B, alongside Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The 2026 Asian Youth Handball Championship takes place in Jordan from Aug. 20 to 31.

The Championship is the official competition for youth men's national handball teams of Asia, and takes place every two years. In addition to crowning the Asian champions, the tournament also serves as a qualifying tournament for the Youth World Championship.

20-year-old Iranian basketball player dies

TEHRAN – A basketball game in Iran's Fars province was overshadowed by tragedy after 20-year-old player Reza Kazemi suffered a cardiac arrest during a provincial league match and died.

Kazemi, a member of the Nava team, had played for around 10 minutes before being substituted and taking a seat on the bench. He suddenly collapsed and lost consciousness.

Fars Basketball Association president Feyreydoon Raeisi said medical staff at the venue immediately rushed to assist the player.

Kazemi's mother, who is a nurse, was also at the arena and witnessed the incident. The father of another player, who is a doctor and had attended the game as a spectator, also joined the efforts to revive Kazemi.

Despite immediate resuscitation attempts, Kazemi could not be saved.

Raeisi said an ambulance took around 15 minutes to reach the venue, but Kazemi had already died before it arrived.

The tragedy was made even more heart-

breaking by the presence of Kazemi's mother, who witnessed the emergency unfold from the stands.

Raeisi added that Kazemi had passed the required medical checks and had been cleared to compete.

"All players must provide a medical fitness certificate before taking part in competitions, and Reza Kazemi had one," Raeisi said. "Why this happened so suddenly is a matter that must be investigated by the forensic authorities, who will determine the exact cause of death."

Bagherpour happy with Iran's performance in Asia

TEHRAN – Iran women's national volleyball team middle blocker Soudabeh Bagherpour said the team put on a strong performance against the continent's top sides at the Asian Women's Volleyball Championship.

Iran lost to Japan 3-0 (25-21, 25-16, 26-24) on Sunday at the 2026 AVC Women Asian Continental Championship.

Following Iran's fourth-place finish in Tianjin, Bagherpour reflected on the team's campaign, saying: "Today, we faced a team that had competed in the Volleyball Nations League about a month ago. Based on our analysis, we gave everything we had to beat Japan, but unfortunately, it wasn't enough."

"We fought hard in the third set, but Japan performed better. Their excellent defense and ability to keep the ball in play put us under pressure, and they eventually won the match," Bagherpour added.

Iran beat Palestine in AFC U20 Asian Cup 2027 qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran turned on the power in the second half to defeat Palestine 2-1 in their AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027 Qualifiers Group C tie on Monday.

Both sides failed to convert their chances in the first half but that changed six minutes into the second period with forward Mahdi Chesmberah shrugging off markers to unleash a sizzler from 25 meters to put Iran ahead.

The second came 20 minutes later, with substitute Erfan Khodadadian Miri finding space behind the Palestine defense to slot home from the top of the penalty box.

Palestine tried to find their way back but could reduce the deficit by one, with forward Jasin Abouchaker netting in the first minute of added time.

Iran lose to Philippines at FIBA World Cup Asian qualifier

TEHRAN – The Philippines rallied past Iran 68-56 to complete a crucial sweep in the fourth window of the 2027 FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers on Sunday before a packed crowd at Mall of Asia Arena.

The Filipino dribblers lost to their West Asian counterparts in the last 2 times they battled in the FIBA stage, including a 78-70 result back in the 2019 World Cup Qualifiers' Second Round back in November of 2018.

Gilas Pilipinas improved to 4-4 and more importantly, put themselves back into serious contention for a top-three finish in Group E and an automatic qualification for next year's World Cup in Qatar.

Kai Sotto came up big anew on both ends with 13 points and 16 rebounds, while Dwight Ramos and Juan Gomez de Liano led the Philippines in scoring with 16 apiece.

Mobin Sheikhi led Iran with 21 points.

From rail to coast and wellness: A new tourism chain takes shape in northern Iran



By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Traveling with a group of fellow journalists from Tehran to Bandar-e Anzali recently offered us more than a two-day tour of tourism projects under development. The journey was designed to show how railway travel, coastal destinations, accommodation, recreation and wellness services could be brought together to form a single tourism experience.

Our trip began on Thursday morning at Tehran Railway Station, where we boarded a tourism train bound for Rasht, the capital of Gilan province. From there, we continued by bus to Bandar-e Anzali, the Caspian port city that has long been one of northern Iran's best-known tourism destinations.

The media tour, organized by the Tourism Group of the Social Security Organization (HEGTA), took us to several projects within Anzali Coastal Village, a large resort complex with more than five decades of history. The itinerary was intended to demonstrate different elements of a tourism model that HEGTA is seeking to develop, from rail travel and accommodation to coastal recreation and health and wellness services.

The centerpiece of our visit was Anzali Coastal Village, established in 1974 on an area of about 200 hectares. The complex contains hundreds of villas and apartment units. Much of its original development has already been completed and transferred to owners, while several new projects are be-

ing built within the existing resort.

Among the projects we visited were the Gilora wellness and health complex, a 14-unit prefabricated villa project and an eight-unit residential development.

At Gilora, project managers explained to us that the complex is being developed around the idea of combining tourism, recreation and wellness, drawing on both Iranian traditional medicine and modern health practices.

The project is not intended to operate as a conventional medical center. Instead, the idea is to give visitors an opportunity to spend several days away from their normal routines while receiving health and wellness services tailored to their individual needs.

One of the key spaces is a unit described as a "well-being consultation" room. According to the project team, visitors will initially be assessed by a physician specializing in traditional medicine before receiving a wellness plan based on their circumstances, lifestyle and needs.

The planned team also includes a nutritionist, psychologist and corrective exercise specialist.

Other facilities include a health café and a health-oriented supermarket. The café is expected to serve healthy food and beverages, while the supermarket will offer products associated with wellness, healthy lifestyles and Iranian traditional medicine.

The accommodation section of Gilora was also taking shape during our visit, with around 10 chalet-style units under con-

struction.

Project officials told us the concept is aimed particularly at short-term stays and multi-day wellness tours. Depending on the final operating model, visitors could spend four days to a week or longer at the complex, combining health consultations and wellness programs with recreation in the coastal environment.

Retirees covered by Iran's Social Security Organization are among the groups being considered as potential customers, while people working in high-stress occupations have also been identified as a target market.

Officials said the wellness complex could be completed within about three months and begin hosting multi-day wellness tours thereafter.

For Alireza Tabesh, chief executive and vice chairman of HEGTA, the projects we visited should not be viewed separately.

He described railway transport, travel routes, destinations, accommodation, wellness services and the overall visitor experience as interconnected parts of a single tourism chain.

That idea was also evident in the structure of our own trip: we began the journey on a train, continued by road to a coastal destination and then explored accommodation and wellness projects being developed there.

The approach reflects HEGTA's broader effort to move beyond simply managing its existing properties and instead use them as a platform for creating new

tourism products.

The second project we visited was a 14-unit villa development within the coastal village. Its most distinctive feature is the use of prefabricated components rather than conventional construction methods.

During our visit, Seyyed Meysam Seyyedbaqeri, chief executive of Anzali Coastal Village, told us that the main structure of each villa can be assembled in about three days. The entire process, from structural installation to completion and handover, is expected to take approximately four months.

Around 10 of the 14 units had already been installed when we visited the site, while work was continuing on the remaining four.

The eventual business model for the villas, however, has not yet been finalized. Project managers told us that operating the units as tourism accommodation is one option, while transferring ownership of some or all of them is also under consideration, taking into account construction costs and expected returns.

A short distance away, we visited another eight-unit project with a markedly different architectural and structural approach.

The site has steeper terrain, allowing the developers to incorporate underground levels into the buildings. The project provided another example of how different parts of the existing resort are being used for new forms of development.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Five-year Iran-Poland study sheds new light on life in Iran before the Medes

Evidence from human remains

Bioanthropological examinations were conducted on the remains of at least 52 individuals, including 18 men, nine women, four adults of undetermined sex, and 21 infants and children.

Dental caries affected about 21 percent of individuals examined, a finding consistent with regular access to carbohydrate- and starch-rich foods associated with agriculture.

Researchers also identified signs of physiological stress, including indicators associated with iron deficiency and anemia, in the cranial vault and eye sockets. These conditions were more frequently observed among adults than children.

Evidence of physical trauma was also recorded. Injuries consistent with blows from sharp and blunt objects were identified on the skulls of two adult men and one woman, suggesting episodes of physical violence or social tension within the community.

Isotopes provide clues to diet and farming

Researchers analyzed stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes from 53 human dentin samples and 30 animal bone and dentin samples to reconstruct dietary patterns and subsistence strategies.

The nitrogen isotope values in the collagen of Qareh Tepe residents were unusually high compared with those reported from other contemporary sites on the Iranian plateau. The researchers argue that the elevated values cannot be explained solely by high meat consumption.

Instead, they suggest that intensive agricul-

ture and the widespread use of animal manure to enrich agricultural soils may have contributed to the isotopic signature. Such practices would be consistent with intensive land management within a relatively limited and densely populated area of the Qazvin Plain's alluvial fan.

The findings suggest evidence supporting a settled agricultural economy rather than a predominantly mobile pastoralist way of life.

The researchers also identified significant differences in carbon isotope values between men and women, potentially indicating differences in the sources of grain or in dietary practices between the sexes.

Tracing mobility and geographic origins

Another major component of the project involved analyzing radiogenic strontium isotope ratios in tooth enamel from 60 individuals. The method can help researchers distinguish people who grew up locally from those who may have originated elsewhere.

The analysis was designed to assess the extent of mobility within the Qareh Tepe population and identify possible migrants, providing additional evidence for understanding patterns of settlement and movement in the region during the Iron Age.

The researchers say the combined osteological and isotopic evidence offers a more nuanced picture of communities living in the Qazvin Plain between roughly 1200 and 750 BC, a period preceding the formation of early states in Iran.

Cheetah conservation plan revised with focus on reducing human threats

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment has revised the national cheetah conservation program with the participation of experts, academics, rangers and non-governmental organizations, with reducing human-induced threats and strengthening habitat protection identified as top priorities.

Hamid Zohrabi, the DOE deputy head for natural habitats and biodiversity, said measures being pursued to improve cheetah protection in natural habitats include controlling free-ranging livestock and camels, monitoring waterholes, preventing hunting and strengthening field surveillance.

He also identified road safety measures as a key component of efforts to reduce cheetah fatalities. Among other measures included in the conservation program are strengthening the national database, expanding the use of camera traps and promoting participatory conservation initiatives involving local communities, IRIB reported.

He made the remarks on the occasion of the 'National Cheetah Day' celebrated annually on August 31 to raise awareness about the significance of safeguarding and increasing the existing population of Asiatic cheetahs in the country.

Commenting on the latest situation at the cheetah captive-breeding site, he said that although young females had



displayed appropriate mating behavior; no births were recorded at the facility during the past breeding season. He attributed this in part to the young age of the females.

He stressed that the primary approach is to conserve cheetahs in their natural habitats, adding that breeding efforts are being pursued alongside habitat protection and measures to reduce the threats endangering the species' survival.

Once roaming vast plains from West Asia into India, the Asiatic cheetah is now found only in Iran. Since 2001, around 85 cheetahs have died because of human-related factors, indicating we have posed a greater threat to their survival than nature.

Listed as one of the most critically endangered big cats in the

world, saving the Asiatic cheetah from extinction has turned into a shared responsibility.

The latest report by the Department of Environment (DOE) has shown that there are 26 Asiatic cheetahs in the country, with 20 individuals living in the wild, and six in captivity.

According to the head of the DOE, Shina Ansari, the extinction of the world's rarest cat has become a symbol of our challenges and responsibilities towards Iran's nature.

Preserving cheetahs is not merely an environmental concern. It is a symbol of the country's ecosystem's health, a life-balance preserver. Protecting the cheetah means ensuring the right to life for people and nature.

The DOE makes its best efforts

to preserve endangered animals. However, the goal will be fulfilled only by the participation and involvement of people, media, responsible institutions, and nature lovers.

According to the latest report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), some 154 species of Iranian vertebrates are critically endangered of extinction.

In May 2025, President Masoud Pezeshkian issued an order, obligating the DOE to develop a strategic plan to preserve endangered species in the country.

The DOE has already developed action plans for the conservation of 25 endangered species, and the plans are being implemented in the country. It is also planning to organize a committee for the preservation of critically endangered species, including cheetahs, black bears, and great bustards.

Currently, about 128 species of animals and vertebrates in the country are at risk of extinction, some of which are not in good condition, and amphibians are the most vulnerable in this area. Persian zebra, Asiatic cheetah, black bear, and yellow deer are in danger of extinction.

A comprehensive and operational plan in the field of the environment is needed to cover different environmental sectors. It must include goals, assumptions, operational measures, financial resources, and results.

New partnership to promote herbal, traditional medicine

TEHRAN – A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy and the Inter-Islamic Network on Nanotechnology (INN), aimed at expanding scientific and technological cooperation, fostering networking among research centers and knowledge-based companies, and strengthening the international presence of Iran's traditional medicine capabilities and its herbal and natural products.

The agreement also aims to expand scientific and technological cooperation, foster networking between research centers and knowledge-based companies, and enhance the international presence of the country's traditional medicine, herbal and natural products, IRNA reported.

Technological development and the conversion of scientific achievements into effective economic and technological capacities require the establishment of transboundary collaboration networks and connections among universities, research centers, specialists, knowledge-based companies, and scientific and technological institutions to pave the way for knowledge sharing, the implementation of joint projects, and the development of international markets.

One of the main objectives of the MOU is to establish a network of influential international agents, identify and benefit from the capacities of knowledge-based companies and experts, for example, the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC), facilitate interactions among research and scientific centers, and provide a platform for the implementation of joint research projects and initiatives.

According to the MOU, INN will help boost ties between domestic and international scientific and technological networks, which can contribute to recognizing scientific partners in Islamic countries, and enhancing collaborations between knowledge-based companies and research centers.

The adopted approach will enhance scientific and technological diplomacy, expedite the development of joint research, knowledge and experience exchange, and technology transfer, improve product standards, promote technological collaborations, and ultimately expand regional and international markets for Iranian knowledge-based products in medicinal plants and Persian medicine.



According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), Iran ranks third in traditional medicine trials in the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), highlighting the country's status as one of the world's pioneers in traditional and complementary medicine.

China and India rank first and second, respectively, the health ministry's website reported.

The share of clinical trials in traditional and complementary medicine in Iran makes up about three percent of all clinical trials registered in the country, while just about 0.3 percent of the healthcare staff are experts in traditional and complementary medicine. The report shows the high capacity of Iranian researchers to move towards evidence-based medicine.

Persian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

It is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sauda). The concept of the four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

So far, about 30,000 plant species have been identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species, which is more than the whole of the species found in Europe.

Around 500 Persian medicine experts are providing health and medical treatment services across the country. More than 1,000 general practitioners who have passed the Persian medicine courses approved by the health ministry are also offering services.

Training Persian medicine experts has always been at the top of the Persian medicine office's agenda. Therefore, different skill courses have been developed and held under the supervision of the health ministry.

Innovative youth population projects to be supported



and children's health through the use of cell-based, gene-based, and tissue-based technologies.

The fourth National Youth Population Award is set to be held on November 15, with the aim of strengthening the institution of the family, advancing effective demographic policies and initiatives, and encouraging greater public participation in implementing the Youth Population Law.

Organized by the National Population Headquarters, the event aims to raise public awareness about the importance of population issues, encourage young people to get married and start a family, showcase successful and inspiring role models, strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation and synergy, as well as support research, innovation, and initiatives in the youth population field, IRNA reported.

Highlighting principles and values such as sustainable population development, social justice, public participation, innovation and science-based approaches, and the preservation of human dignity, the event seeks to recognize leading individuals, families, institutions, and organizations, and promote successful experiences in fostering youth population.

The event will be organized across seven categories including media, non-governmental organizations, executive agencies, private companies and institutions, managers, elites, and families. The measures, performance, and actions of the participants will be assessed in accordance with the indicators, metrics, and points approved by the National Population Headquarters.

Iranian experts attend BRICS Youth Energy Summit

TEHRAN – Four young Iranian experts represented the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) at the 8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit, which was held online on August 17 in India, under the theme 'Energy for All'.

They presented the country's perspectives across three main fields of energy security and sustainability, energy access and equity, and technology and innovation, IRNA reported.

Three young Iranian students from Amirkabir University's scientific society of Energy Engineering namely Mahan Ahmadi-Rahmatabadi (postgraduate student in Energy), Ermia Rakhshani (postgraduate student in Energy Economics), and Gisoo Kouhbar (undergraduate student in Energy Engineering) actively participated in specialized panels addressing energy portfolio diversification, supply chain resilience, renewable energy development, the role of hydrogen and emerging technologies, as well as digitalization and the application of artificial intelligence in power grids, sharing their expert insights with international counterparts, while showcasing Iranian students scientific capabilities.

Their presence has led to the establishment of a network connecting young Iranian professionals with experts from BRICS member states (including China, India, Russia, Brazil, and the UAE), paving the way for the enhancement of future specialized interactions, development of joint research projects, and technology transfer.

It also highlights the successful connection between the university as a center of knowledge generation and energy diplomacy, which serves as the country's tool of soft power.

The 8th summit focused on youth partic-

ipation in energy cooperation and brought together more than 100 participants from academia, government institutions, and energy ministries of BRICS member countries. The main topics of discussion focused on:

Energy security and sustainability – sustainable energy systems, source diversification, supply chain stability, grid modernization and energy storage systems.

Energy accessibility and equity – universal access to energy, clean food preparation, affordable finance, capacity building and support for developing economies.

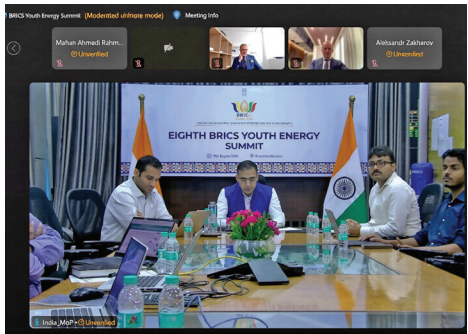
Technologies and innovations – smart grids, hydrogen, digitalization, artificial intelligence, biofuels, carbon capture and energy efficiency.

CPDI to improve Iran's sci-tech co-op with BRICS

In June, the Center for Progress and Development of Iran (CPDI) prepared a report illustrating Iran's participation in scientific, technological, and innovation cooperation within BRICS, as well as strategic opportunities and required measures to enhance the country's role in this sector.

BRICS, as one of the most important players in the international system in recent years, has made extensive investments in science, technology, and innovation in addition to economic and political cooperation. Now, the bloc has turned into one of the largest scientific cooperation networks in developing countries, benefiting from 14 specialized working groups and dozens of joint research and technological programs.

CPDI, as the center for the coordination of Iran's technological and scientific interactions with BRICS, is responsible for leading the country's representatives, analyzing special documents, providing technical advice, and developing connections among



domestic institutions and BRICS specialized structures.

According to the report, 2025 can be considered as the starting point for Iran's involvement in BRICS scientific, technological, and innovation structure, which has succeeded in showcasing the country's capabilities in science and technology, laying the basis for active participation in collaborative projects in the future, and strengthening the country's position in scientific and technological cooperation.

The country had a dynamic participation in BRICS technical and specialized meetings in different scientific fields like artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology, neurosciences, ocean sciences, spatial information technology, astronomy, photonics, nanotechnology, material sciences, social and human sciences, and research infrastructures in 2025.

One of the main focuses of BRICS activities in 2025 was the development of collaborative research projects among member states in fields such as AI, health, clean energy, food security, quantum technologies, data sciences, and advanced materials.

Iran's membership in this network would provide a great opportunity for researchers and scholars to participate in international projects.

IRCS ready to assist flood-hit Nepal

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Pirhossein Kolivand, has announced the IRCS's readiness to dispatch rescue forces and relief supplies to help people affected by the flood in Nepal.

"With deep sorrow, we have learned of the devastating flood, severe rainfall, flooding, and landslides in Nepal, which have tragically resulted in the loss of lives, missing persons, and extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, telecommunications, transportation routes, roads, bridges across various regions

of the country. We are deeply saddened by this tragic disaster and the suffering it has caused to the people of Nepal.

The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran stands with you in these difficult moments and, while expressing its sincere sympathy to Your Excellency and the Nepal Red Cross Society, as well as its condolences to the bereaved families and those affected by this tragic disaster, hereby declares its readiness to dispatch relief and medical teams.

We sincerely wish you and your colleagues continued strength, health, and success in your noble humanitarian efforts," Kolivand wrote in a message to Bishal Kumar Bhandari, the chairperson of the Nepal Red Cross Society.

On the morning of 26 August 2026, a sudden and powerful flash flood swept through the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river systems in central Nepal, affecting settlements across Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading districts, including the Rasuwagadhi border crossing area. Officials suspect that the flooding may have

been triggered by an upstream ice or rock avalanche, or by a glacial lake outburst, rather than by local rainfall. The exact cause remains under investigation.

Nepal's National Disaster Management Authority said on Saturday that 673 bodies had been recovered, Aljazeera reported.

The total number of people missing on the Nepalese side of the border has risen to 2,496, of which 517 are foreigners – which could include tourists as well as foreign workers.



SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Overlook and forgive the weaknesses of the generous people because if they fall down, Allah will help them.
Imam Ali (AS)

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

Iranian painter creates new works marking Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) birthday



TEHRAN- Iranian painter Ali Bahreini has created two new paintings marking the anniversary of the birth of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), drawing on episodes and themes associated with the life and spiritual legacy of the Prophet.

The two works, titled "Cave of Thawr" and "Qurrat al-Ayn of the Prophet," were created during the "Prophetic Art Passage" workshop in Shiraz, Mehr reported on Monday.

"Cave of Thawr" depicts the cave in Mount Thawr in Mecca, where Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) sought refuge from the Quraysh during his migration to Medina.

As the Prophet left Mecca with Abu Bakr to escape persecution, they took refuge in the cave on Mount Thawr while their pursuers searched for them. Islamic tradition recounts that divine protection prevented the pursuers from discovering their hiding place, with a spider's web and a bird's nest at the cave's entrance cited as signs that the cave was unoccupied. The episode has since become a powerful symbol of divine protection, trust and perseverance.

Bahreini's second painting, "Qurrat al-Ayn of the Prophet," focuses on the Prophet's deep affection for his grandson, Imam Hussein (AS), portraying the close spiritual and emotional bond between the two figures.

Numerous Islamic traditions describe the special place Imam Hussein (AS) held in the Prophet's heart, portraying him as a beloved member of the Prophet's family. This relationship has made the bond between the Prophet (PBUH) and Imam Hussein (AS) an enduring theme in Islamic religious culture, symbolizing familial love and the spiritual significance of the Prophet's household.

The paintings were produced as part of the workshop held in Shiraz to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), combining religious themes with contemporary Iranian ritual painting.

The works add to Bahreini's body of religious art, through which he explores important narratives and figures from Islamic history and presents them through a visual language rooted in Iranian religious-art traditions.

The birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is commemorated by Muslims around the world as an occasion celebrating the birth and life of the Prophet and his message of compassion, unity and faith. In Iran, the anniversary is observed during the Islamic Unity Week, which begins on Rabi al-Awwal 12 and continues through Rabi al-Awwal 17, the date traditionally observed by Shi'a Muslims as the Prophet's birthday. The occasion is marked by religious ceremonies, cultural programs and gatherings promoting Islamic unity.

Cartoon of Day



Trump's Economy
Cartoonist: Beccs from Argentina

Iranian feature "Slumber" to premiere at Vision Asia section of 31st Busan International Film Festival

TEHRAN – The 31st Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) has unveiled 11 features for its Vision Asia section, including a film from Iran.

Iranian filmmaker Mani Moghaddam will compete in the section with his feature debut "Slumber," employing elements of magical realism in the story of a man suffering from sleep disorders and moving between everyday reality and a relationship experienced through his dreams, Honaronline reported.

Reza Attaran, Merila Zarei, Hoda Zeinolabedin, Kazem Sayyahi, and Ali Mosaffa play in "Slumber," which will compete with films from Vietnam, Japan, India, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong, China, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and Mongolia.

The festival describes its Vision Asia program as a showcase for new Asian independent cinema. The 11-film Vision-Asia lineup stretches from Southeast and East Asia to Central and South Asia, with several feature debuts among the selections.

With filmmakers ranging from established festival names to first-time feature directors, the 2026 Vision Asia lineup once again places



the spotlight on independent cinema while offering a broad snapshot of emerging filmmaking trends across Asian region.

The festival's full competition lineup is still to come. BIFF will unveil its complete official selection in Seoul on September 1 at its official opening press conference.

The Busan International Film Festival, held annually in Haeundae District, Busan, South Korea, is one

of the most significant film festivals in Asia.

The main focus of the BIFF is to introduce new films and first-time directors, especially those from Asian countries. Another notable feature is the appeal of the festival to young people, both in terms of the large youthful audience it attracts and through its efforts to develop and promote young talent.

The festival is classified as 'A'-list

festival from 2026, joining prestigious competitive festivals such as Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Locarno and San Sebastian, under the revamped accreditation process by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations.

The 31st Busan International Film Festival will run from October 6 to 15, with the Asian Contents & Film Market held from October 10 to 13.

Ashura-inspired marquetry work donated to Shah Abdol-Azim Museum

TEHRAN- Iranian marquetry artist Hamed Asgarian has donated his conceptual artwork "Blood of God," inspired by the tragedy of Ashura, to the museum of the holy shrine of Shah Abdol-Azim al-Hasani (AS) in Rey.

The artwork was donated during Asgarian's exhibition "Marquetry ... A Different Kind," which was held at the Rayzan International Conference Center on September 28 and 29, Mehr reported.

The exhibition featured a collection of Asgarian's works that bring together natural wood, geometry, nature and cultural narratives, presenting marquetry from a contemporary perspective.

One of the main events of the exhibition's opening was the presentation of "Blood of God" to the museum of the holy shrine of Shah Abdol-Azim al-Hasani (AS). The ceremony was attended by Ali Ansarian, director general of cultural affairs at the holy shrine, and Mehdi Barari, head of its museum.

Created in August 2022, "Blood of God" measures 74 by 53 centimeters and weighs 4.75 kilograms. The conceptual work is made of natural, dried wood, which has been left untreated and free of additional ornamentation to preserve the material's natural texture and character.

The work draws on the events of Ashura and the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS). Its visual composition combines contrasting areas of light and darkness with elements representing earth and sky, while two luminous circles evoke the symbolic imagery of Karbala.

The description accompanying the artwork refers to Imam Hussein (AS) as "the blood of God" and recalls the moment when his head was raised on a spear, likening the scene to the appearance of two suns in the blood-stained sky of Karbala.

By donating "Blood of God" to the museum, Asgarian has placed a contemporary work inspired by one of the most enduring narratives of Iranian religious and cultural memory within a permanent museum collection. The work can now form part of the institution's visual record of contemporary artistic interpretations of Ashura.

Asgarian, who holds degrees in mechanical engineering and operations research, has combined his engineering background with years of experience in marquetry. His artistic practice has resulted in a distinctive approach known as "Chiltechini."

In works based on this style, geometry serves as more than a decorative element and functions as a structural principle. Repeated hexagonal forms are combined with pieces of wood that retain their natural textures, creating a visual balance between geometric precision and the organic qualities of nature.

Curated by Sara Golestani and with Mona Fahmideh as artistic director, the exhibition aimed to move marquetry beyond its conventional association with handicrafts and traditional decoration and explore its possibilities as a contemporary art form.

Asgarian has previously exhibited his works in countries including the Netherlands, Türkiye,

Costa Rica, Oman and Spain. His work "Family" received attention at an international competition in Costa Rica, while "Tavaf-e Del" (Heart's Circumambulation) has been registered in the collection of Iran's National Library and Archives.

Ashura refers to the tenth day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, and marks one of the most significant events in Islamic history: the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In 680 CE, Imam Hussein led a small group of family members and companions against the massive army of Yazid I, the Umayyad caliph, at the plains of Karbala in present-day Iraq. This clash was not merely a political struggle for power, but a profound moral stand against tyranny and injustice. Despite being outnumbered and denied access to water for days, Imam Hussein and his followers remained steadfast in their principles until their eventual martyrdom.

The legacy of Ashura transcends time and geography, serving as a universal symbol of the struggle between truth and falsehood. For millions of people worldwide, Imam Hussein is revered as the "Prince of Martyrs" and a timeless icon of courage, sacrifice, and integrity. His refusal to pledge allegiance to a corrupt ruler, even at the cost of his own life and the lives of his loved ones, continues to inspire movements for liberation and human rights. Today, Ashura is commemorated through mourning rituals, processions, and reflections on the enduring victory of the oppressed over the oppressor.

Nellie Bly's "Ten Days in a Mad-House" published in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book "Ten Days in a Mad-House" by American journalist Nellie Bly has been released in bookstores across Iran.

Elnaz Imani has translated the book and Qoqnoos Publishing House has brought it out in 136 pages, ILNA reported.

It was initially published as a series of articles for the New York World. Bly later compiled the articles into a book, being published by Norman Munro in New York City in 1887.

The book was based on articles written while Bly was on an undercover assignment for the New York World, feigning insanity at a women's boarding house, so as to be involuntarily committed to an insane asylum. She then investigated the reports of brutality and neglect at the Women's Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island (now called Roosevelt Island).

After a night spent practicing expressions in front of a mirror, she checked into a boardinghouse.

She refused to go to bed, telling the boarders that she was afraid of them and that they looked "crazy." They soon decided that she was "crazy," and the next morning summoned the police. Taken to a courtroom, she claimed to have amnesia. The judge concluded she had been drugged.

Several doctors then examined her; all declared her insane. "Positively demented," said one, "I consider it a hopeless case. She needs to be put where someone will take care of her." The head of the insane pavilion at Bellevue Hospital pronounced her "undoubtedly insane." The case of the "pretty crazy girl" attracted media attention: "Who Is This Insane Girl?" asked the New York Sun. The New York Times wrote of the "mysterious waif" with the "wild, haunted look in her eyes" and her desperate cry: "I can't remember I can't remember."

Once admitted to the asylum, Bly abandoned any pretense at mental illness and began to behave as she would normally. The hospital staff seemed unaware that she was no

longer "insane" and instead began to report her ordinary actions as symptoms of her illness. Even her pleas to be released were interpreted as further signs of mental illness. Speaking with her fellow patients, Bly was convinced that some were as "sane" as she was.

Bly experienced the deplorable conditions firsthand. The nurses behaved obnoxiously and abusively, telling the patients to shut up, and beating them if they did not. The food consisted of gruel broth, spoiled beef, bread that was little more than dried dough, and dirty undrinkable water. The dangerous patients were tied together with ropes. The patients were made to sit for much of each day on hard benches with scant protection from the cold. Waste was all around the eating places. Rats crawled all around the hospital.

After ten days, The World secured Bly's release from the asylum. Her report, published in The World and later released as a book, caused a sensation and brought her lasting fame.

The question in hand was how Bly managed to convince professionals of her insanity in the first place. As revealed in her first-hand account, "Ten Days in a Mad-House," Bly spoke of how the main physician that performed her examination was more focused on the attractive nurse that was assisting the examination than with Bly herself. While physicians and staff worked to explain how she had deceived so many professionals, Bly's report prompted a grand jury to launch its own investigation with Bly assisting. The jury's report resulted in an \$850,000 increase in the budget of the Department of Public Charities and Corrections. The grand jury also ensured that future examinations were more thorough such that only the seriously ill were committed to the asylum.

The book received widespread acclaim. The combination of her reportage and the release of her content brought her fame and led to a grand jury investigation and financial increase in the Department of Public Charities and Corrections.