

Former US diplomat: Profit-driven foreign policy, American weapons enabled Gaza genocide

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Hala Rharrit spent 18 years inside the United States State Department. She gave her adult life to American diplomacy. In April 2024, she walked away.

She became the first American diplomat to resign publicly over the Biden administration's actions in Gaza.

More than two years later, she views the institution she left behind as a hollowed-out machinery masking a profit-driven war apparatus.

In an interview with Middle East Eye published on August 31, Rharrit detailed a bureaucracy that systematically ignores war crimes, enriches military contractors, and treats Arab lives as expendable.

Her verdict leaves no room for ambiguity. American diplomacy in the Middle East is dead. ▶ Page 5

Hormuz: The bill for America's strategic miscalculation

By Mehrdad Bazrpash

TEHRAN — Washington's great miscalculation in attacking Iran may have been that it weighed the cost of war too heavily on the military battlefield and too little on America's economic balance sheet. The initial assumption may have been that pressure on Iran would remain confined to a limited, controlled, and manageable framework. But the vortex of the Strait of Hormuz has shown that in today's deeply interconnected economy, war does not flow only where the missiles land. Part of the bill is now showing up in diesel prices, gas contracts, shipping insurance, the Treasury bond market, the Federal Reserve's interest rate, and the cost of financing America's \$40 trillion debt.

For this reason, the biggest error in analyzing recent developments is to measure the severity of the crisis by the daily price of oil. Whether Brent crude sits at \$95 or crosses \$100 is only the first layer of the issue; the more important transformation is happening beneath the market's skin. The Hormuz shock has moved beyond crude oil, reaching refined products and gas, raising the cost of transport and production, and from there entering inflation and the "price of money" in the United States.



Everyone Is Against This War, Except Its Architects

US aggression against Iran hits rock bottom at home and abroad

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer responds to Donald Trump calling the war on Iran "small potatoes", saying there is "nothing small" about the 18 US troops killed and hundreds wounded in the conflict.

TEHRAN — Growing opposition to the war launched by the US and Israel against Iran on February 28 has reached a breaking point, as mounting global rage, crippling domestic inflation, and a wave of political rebellion transform America's illegal assault into an unmitigated disaster.

What Donald Trump promised would be a swift and decisive victory has transformed into a protracted geopolitical nightmare. From the halls of the US Congress to the streets of American cities, and from European capitals, a resounding global consensus has emerged: nobody wants Washington's war.

Inside Washington, resistance to the

conflict is boiling over as American casualties mount and the domestic economy spirals. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer fiercely condemned President Trump after the White House attempted to dismiss the conflict as "small potatoes". In a post on X, Schumer wrote: "Tell that to the families of the 18 troops we have lost, the hundreds of wounded service members, and the Americans suffering every single day from record high prices." He added emphatically: "There's nothing small about it."

Lawmakers are increasingly dismantling the administration's fabricated narratives. US Representative Ted Lieu explicitly questioned the White House's insistence that Iran is a failed state, asking: "Then how does Iran keep launching drones and missiles at our bases and our allies?" Warning of a permanent quagmire, Representative Ro Khanna cautioned that the US risks getting pulled into "another endless war" if the conflict isn't brought to an end before the midterm elections, noting that food and petrol prices are creating public pressure to act. Khanna said: "There are the political incentives to bring this war to an end. Food prices are high. Gas prices are high. ▶ Page 3

US congressman rejects Trump's 'failed state' rhetoric on Iran

TEHRAN — Six months after the US and Israel launched their unprovoked aggressive campaign against Iran, domestic political fissures in the United States are tearing open the official White House narrative.

As the economic fallout hits American consumers and missile stockpiles run dry, lawmakers in Washington are increasingly calling out the administration's desperate propaganda.

Speaking with US broadcaster MS Now, US Representative Ted Lieu explicitly questioned Washington's insistence that Iran is a "failed state" or on the verge of collapsing under Western military pressure. Pointing to the uninterrupted tactical operational capabilities of Iran's defense forces, Lieu dismantled the administration's talking points. "If Iran is a failed state, then how does Iran keep launching drones and missiles at our bases and our allies?" Lieu asked. The congressman then highlighted the mounting domestic economic burden of Washington's foreign adventurism, noting that working-class Americans are paying the price at the pump. ▶ Page 2

How journalists navigate the chaos of war

TEHRAN - Journalism is essential in any society, as it provides the information necessary for people to navigate and understand the world around them. This role becomes even more critical during wartime, when the public relies on on-the-ground reporting to distinguish between fact and fiction amid the chaos of conflict. For journalists, covering a war is a uniquely demanding task, as it is rife with existential and logistical challenges rarely encountered during peacetime.

With this in mind, the Tehran Times sat down with Mohammad Neginipour, who recently covered the 40-day US-Israeli war against Iran from start to finish. He shared his first-hand experiences, offered an intimate look at what he witnessed, and revealed the raw realities of reporting from the heart of a war in 2026.

Below is the full text of the interview:

To start, could you explain what it means to be a crisis or war reporter? How does this field differ from other areas of journalism?

To define crisis journalism, we first need to understand what a "crisis" actually is. There are many academic and scientific definitions of crisis. Also, Everyone has their own interpretation. The closest understanding I have is that a crisis is a situation where a specific location is affected by both time and place—meaning that a certain event or condition causes disorder and instability in a particular environment.

▶ Page 2

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Iran inaugurates first smart police boarding high school

TEHRAN — Iran has inaugurated its first smart police boarding high school in Tehran and six provinces, aimed at training future police personnel. President Masoud Pezeshkian and Police Commander Brigadier General Ahmad-Reza Radan attended the opening ceremony on Saturday.

The schools are part of a new police initiative to identify talented students and create an educational pathway for developing specialized personnel. The first school, named after Martyr Lieutenant General Mohammad Baqeri, is located in Tehran.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The only viable path — America must return to the agreement

The Iran newspaper, in an interview with Mashallah Shakeri, former ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, explored why Pakistan is once again attempting to mediate between Iran and the United States. Shakeri explained that with the renewed outbreak of conflict between Iran and the US and the intensification of regional tensions, Pakistan has resumed efforts to play a mediating role. According to him, three main factors drive Islamabad's approach: A mission assigned to Pakistan by the United States, indicating Washington's desire for indirect channels of communication. Pakistan's strategic interests and sensitivities regarding Persian Gulf states, which compel Islamabad to maintain balanced relations. Public opinion in Pakistan, where societal attitudes toward Iran are generally positive, creating domestic support for mediation. Shakeri stressed that any diplomatic initiative between Iran and the US will only be taken seriously by Tehran if Washington returns to the bilateral agreement previously signed. He added that the United States must fully implement its commitments within the agreement's clear and defined provisions. Only practical, sustained US adherence can make the agreement acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran as a legitimate basis for future action.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Reducing external tension; the first step toward economic reform

Arman-e-Emrooz analyzed sanctions and economic pressures, quoting banking expert Kamran Nadri. Nadri stated that since the late 2000s, when nuclear-related sanctions began, Iran's economic conditions have steadily worsened. He emphasized that sanctions were not merely a political bluff; they have had real and measurable effects. For sanctions to reach their full potential, however, broad international cooperation is required. He noted that much of the discussion about intensifying economic pressure has already materialized in practice. Nadri argued that the war must be resolved first. After that, conditions for lifting sanctions can be created. Only then can Iran pursue deep structural reforms. He insisted that all political factions and the entire country must prioritize resolving the fundamental challenge of war and moving toward peace. Remaining in a prolonged state of tension is impossible, as it inevitably produces economic and social damage.

Kayhan: Europe's deepening energy crisis

Kayhan focused on Europe's worsening energy situation, arguing that Europe has fallen victim to what it calls "Trump's folly." According to the paper, reports show that

the energy crisis — triggered by US and Israeli military operations against Iran — has pushed Europe's gas reserves to their lowest level in 15 years just as winter approaches. This has heightened fears of another sharp rise in energy prices. Energy traders had expected prices to fall as tensions eased in West Asia and gas exports normalized. However, the prolonged war and continued supply disruptions have overturned those expectations. Europe now enters the cold season with significantly lower-than-normal reserves, limited time to replenish storage, and greater dependence on imported shipments, making it more vulnerable to price volatility and any new supply disruption.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Europe must be punished

Siasat-e-Rooz analyzed the European Union's formal participation in the US -led economic exclusion campaign against Iran. The paper wrote that the EU welcomes efforts to ensure Iran halts destabilizing activities and engages in peace negotiations in good faith — including through additional economic pressure such as the US -led exclusion operation. However, the article argues that although Europe claims to be an independent global actor, its behavior reveals servility toward the United States and Israel, acting outside its own interests. The paper asserts that while the US seeks to demonstrate international consensus against Iran, Europe's lack of autonomy actually reveals Washington's weakness in building genuine consensus. The article concludes that the time has come for Iran to increase pressure — including maintaining strict control over the Strait of Hormuz and preventing energy exports to Europe, so that Iran can punish Europe decisively.

Etemad: Stabilizing deterrence and blocking CENTCOM's strategy

Etemad reported on US attacks against Iran and Iran's forceful response. Following US airstrikes on areas in southern and southwestern Iran, Iran's armed forces launched their largest and most coordinated retaliatory operation since the ceasefire. They targeted five US military bases and command centers in Jordan, Kuwait, Erbil (Iraq), and Bahrain using a combination of missile and drone attacks. According to the paper, Iran's retaliatory operation delivered a clear strategic message to the White House: "The era of one-sided attacks is over." By precisely striking five strategic US installations, Tehran significantly increased the cost of any further American military action.

Iran urges BRICS to pursue war crimes accountability

TEHRAN- Iran has called on BRICS judicial authorities to take concrete legal steps against those responsible for 'war crimes and crimes against humanity' committed during two wars of aggression against the Islamic Republic, arguing that international justice must not be subordinated to political power.

Addressing the BRICS Chief Justices' Forum in New Delhi, Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei urged member states to condemn violations of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity and to make use of the principle of universal jurisdiction to pursue individuals allegedly responsible for serious international crimes.

The BRICS Chief Justices' Forum, hosted by India's Supreme Court from Sept. 4 to 6, is bringing together chief justices, presidents of supreme courts and senior judicial officials from BRICS members and partner countries. Its agenda includes international commercial disputes, cross-border enforcement of arbitration awards, artificial intelligence in judicial administration and sustainable development.

Mohseni-Ejei said the international community needs justice "more than ever," but warned that justice loses its meaning when it is applied selectively or shaped by political considerations.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

US congressman rejects Trump's 'failed state' rhetoric on Iran

From page 1 ▶ "How come the average price of gas is \$4.12 across America?" Lieu demanded, calling out the administration's severe disconnect from reality. "The White House is clearly not telling the truth. They need to come clean to the American people. How are we going to exit this endless war in Iran instead of trading strikes back and forth?"

US miscalculation

The joint US-Israeli aggression began on February 28. Miscalculating the resilience of the Islamic Republic, Western strategists envisioned a quick, decisive campaign that would cripple Iran's military infrastructure and break the spirit of the nation. Instead, Iran's retaliatory response quickly shattered Western arrogance. Iran's Armed Forces executed defense operations across the region. Utilizing high-precision, domestically manufactured ballistic missiles and advanced swarming drone platforms, Iranian forces repeatedly bypassed multi-billion-dollar Western air defense systems. Key enemy targets, regional facilities hosting US forces, and vital logistics nodes were methodically targeted, demonstrating that Iran retained full strategic initiative.

Concurrently, Tehran exercised its sovereign control over the Strait of Hormuz—the vital global energy choke point. By shutting



down transit access to hostile entities, Iran exposed the extreme fragility of the imperial economy.

By early April, the sheer scale of Iran's relentless defense forced Washington to reckon with the staggering cost of its aggression. The US had to announce a ceasefire that went into effect on April 8. Faced with a rapidly worsening strategic crisis, Washington sought diplomatic channels to halt the escalation. These initial pauses culminated on June 17, when the United States and Iran signed a 14-point memorandum of understanding (MOU). Under the provisions of the MOU, Washington agreed to an immediate cessation of military operations, was forced to lift its naval blockade on Iranian ports, and was coerced into issuing broad oil sanctions waivers to allow Iranian crude to re-enter global markets freely. However, the US continues

to violate its commitments.

Far from demonstrating American strength, the months of conflict have severely drained Western military reserves and decimated domestic stability. Military analysts and congressional insiders have openly warned that months of firing multimillion-dollar interceptors—such as the Patriot, SM-3, and THAAD batteries—to counter Iran's cost-effective drone and missile strikes have led to a dangerous depletion of US missile inventories. Washington's defense-industrial base has simply proved incapable of keeping pace with the attrition rates demanded by modern high-intensity warfare against a peer adversary.

On the home front, the American public is suffering the direct consequences of Washington's military recklessness. Gas prices across the US have skyrocketed.

Iran backs China's call for homegrown security architecture for West Asia



TEHRAN — Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has welcomed China's call for a new security architecture in the Middle East, saying regional countries must take control of their own security and future and stressing that lasting stability cannot be achieved through arrangements imposed by outside powers.

In a post on X on Friday night, Qalibaf said Beijing's emphasis on the concept of common security was consistent with a principle Iran has advocated for years.

"China's emphasis on fostering common security reflects a principle Iran has long championed," Qalibaf wrote.

"Regional countries must be taking their future into their own hands, and true stability can only come through a new security architecture that is homegrown. Iran stands ready," he added.

Qalibaf's remarks came shortly after Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled a four-point proposal for establishing a new security framework for West Asia during talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo.

Xi called for a regional security system based on common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, while urging West Asian countries to strengthen dialogue, reject external interference and take greater responsibility for resolving their own security challenges.

China calls for regional ownership of security

Xi's proposal places particular emphasis on strengthening the internal drivers of regional security. He said the people of the Middle East should remain "masters of their own affairs" and that countries in the region should take their future into their own hands rather than rely on external powers.

The Chinese president also called for an integrated approach to the region's interconnected conflicts, arguing that individual crises cannot be addressed in isolation. He identified development as a fundamental pillar of lasting security, while stressing the need to tackle the underlying causes of conflict.

The proposal also calls for stronger international coordination, with the UN Charter and international law serving as fundamental principles for addressing Middle Eastern affairs. Xi urged the international community, particularly outside powers, to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of regional states and avoid applying double standards.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

How journalists navigate the chaos of war

A firsthand account of reporting the 40-day war from the ground

From page 1 ▶ For example, we are currently in an economic crisis due to sanctions and pressure, but that doesn't necessarily fall under crisis reporting unless there's a specific event that causes chaos — like an explosion, a flood, or a collapse of order — where normal routines are broken and control is lost. In such cases, both the location and the timing are affected by the crisis, and journalists or documentarians can play an active role.

More than defining crisis journalism itself, I believe crisis documentation—paired with artistic and cinematic techniques—has a special importance. It involves creating a documentary that combines journalistic integrity with visual storytelling, often with an artistic or cinematic angle. This form of crisis documentation helps produce a journalistic documentary or film that captures the human and emotional layers of a crisis.

A crisis journalist or documentary filmmaker needs both journalistic skills and film-making expertise: understanding how to use cameras during chaotic moments, how to shoot meaningful shots, and how to structure a compelling narrative. It's crucial to shoot footage that can be effectively

used in editing, where the choice of shots and their emotional impact matter greatly.

It's essential to understand that working in a crisis situation is fundamentally different from working in normal conditions. For example, right now we're sitting calmly, talking about crises. What we're discussing might be a crisis or a conflict, but we're not inside one. In a real crisis—say, during a missile attack, a riot, or a natural disaster—people react emotionally, sometimes violently. Blood, anger, fear, and chaos are common.

In such situations, you can't approach people the same way you do in regular interviews. Someone who has just lost a loved one or witnessed violence may react unpredictably or violently. A crisis reporter must have emotional intelligence and behavioral sensitivity. Understanding human reactions—fear, anger, grief—and how to approach victims and witnesses without exacerbating their trauma is vital.

Without this experience, a journalist or documentary filmmaker can inadvertently worsen the crisis, or fail to handle it properly. I've seen cases where a journalist entered a scene without under-



standing the emotional tension, filming grieving families or traumatized individuals, which often led to anger or violence from them. It's very important to manage the interaction carefully and respectfully, especially when dealing with grief-stricken families.

During the recent war, when was the first time you left your home or office to cover the situation? Can you tell us about that experience?

The first time I left home was right after the missile strikes on the Leader's office. I went up to the rooftop because cruise missiles were passing overhead. They came very close—about fifty or a hundred meters away—and I

filmed them. The sound of the missiles and the jets was very loud, and I documented them from above.

My first major report was during the explosion at Ferdowsi Square. The site of the explosion was near the police diplomatic headquarters, and opposite it, there was a cultural and film center that was hit. You might have seen footage of the debris falling on civilians. Most military sites are evacuated during war, but many civilian and civilian-adjacent buildings—like the police station or cultural centers—were targeted and destroyed, even if they were apparently empty.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Hormuz: The bill for America’s strategic miscalculation

How the Iran attack sent an energy shock through the bond market, the Fed and America’s \$40 trillion debt



From Page 1 ▶ The crude oil market still has tools to absorb the shock — increased exports from Iraq, rerouted shipments, capacity from other suppliers, and demand adjustments can offset part of the shortfall, which explains why the sharp drop in traffic through Hormuz has not necessarily translated into an equivalent explosion in Brent prices.

But this relative calm can be misleading, because the real point of transmission for the crisis is now less crude oil itself and more products like diesel and jet fuel. The rise of the average U.S. diesel price to \$5.820 per gallon, an increase of roughly 55 percent since the start of the conflict, and the surge in diesel refining margins to more than \$108 per barrel show that the issue has moved beyond a mere “shortage of oil barrels.” Diesel directly fuels trucking, mining, agriculture, machinery, the cold chain, construction, and industrial production; therefore, its rise transmits to production costs and consumer prices faster than crude oil does. Trump may have counted, when deciding to attack, on America’s position as the world’s largest oil producer — but the strategic folly lies precisely in overlooking the difference between “having oil” and “being immune to an energy shock.”

A country may have abundant crude oil, but if it lacks the right refined product, sufficient refining capacity, a secure shipping route, or adequate inventory at the point of consumption, it remains vulnerable to a price shock.

The same logic has become evident in the liquefied natural gas market. The rerouting of some Qatari and Emirati cargoes to ship-to-ship transfers outside the Strait of Hormuz may, from an operational standpoint, be a way to keep export flows moving, but from a political-economy standpoint it signals that the crisis has entered a deeper phase. When one of the most standardized and capital-intensive supply chains in global energy trade is forced to change its shipping pattern in order to bypass a geopolitical chokepoint, it means the risk is no longer reflected only in the oil price chart — it is settling into the cost structure of trade itself. Extra vessels, more expensive insurance, longer transit times, more complex operations, larger precautionary reserves, and higher legal risk are all costs that are ultimately passed on to the consumer or the investor. For this reason, “cargo passage” should not be mistaken for “trade returning to normal.” Even if Hormuz is formally open, a strait whose passage carries the risk of seizure, attack, penalty, or a spike in insurance premiums is fundamentally different, economically speaking, from a normal route.

This is where the strategic error of the attack on Iran moves from the energy domain into U.S. monetary policy. The Federal Reserve faces an equation with no clean solution: raising interest rates does not reopen Hormuz and does not produce a single additional barrel of diesel, but if the energy shock feeds through into inflation expectations, wages, services, and the price of goods, the central bank cannot ignore it either. The Federal Reserve is now caught between two risks: an aggressive response could push the economy toward recession at a time when the labor market is already softening, while excessive delay could allow inflation to become entrenched again. In this way, Trump’s decision has placed on the central bank’s ta-

ble an issue whose origin is not fundamentally monetary but whose consequences are directly monetary.

Yet the more important issue is not even the outcome of the Fed’s next meeting; the deeper point lies in Christopher Waller’s remarks about the erosion of the “safety and liquidity premium” of U.S. Treasury bonds. For decades, the U.S. government enjoyed an exceptional privilege: investors, due to the security, liquidity, and status of the dollar, were willing to hold Treasury bonds at lower yields. If this historic discount is now eroding, and if the economy’s neutral interest rate is also structurally rising, then the United States would need to pay higher interest to attract capital even without a Hormuz shock — Hormuz has simply worsened the timing and intensity of this pressure.

This development has come at precisely the worst possible moment for the U.S. Treasury: federal debt has surpassed \$40 trillion, the budget deficit remains large, and technology companies have become serious rivals for capital as they pursue a massive wave of investment in artificial intelligence, data centers, chips, and electricity. As a result, the U.S. government is no longer without competition in the capital market and must compete for the same dollars that large private companies are also seeking. Against this backdrop, the Hormuz vortex creates a dangerous feedback loop: expensive energy makes inflation stickier; sticky inflation limits its room for interest rate cuts; higher rates raise the cost of issuing and rolling over debt; higher interest costs deepen the budget deficit; a larger deficit demands more bond issuance; and greater bond supply requires higher yields to attract buyers.

The issue is not that the United States is on the verge of bankruptcy — such a claim would be exaggerated and analytically of little value. The far more important issue is the shrinking of Washington’s “freedom of action.” A great power is not measured only by the volume of its resources, but also by the amount of free resources it can deploy in the next crisis. The state of America’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve makes this point more concrete: after extensive releases, the reserve has fallen to its lowest level in more than four decades — meaning Washington, in order to contain the fallout of today’s error, is consuming part of tomorrow’s economic ammunition. Even rebuilding this reserve is not without cost or constraint, and the debate over using heavy Venezuelan crude has shown that oil specifications, refining capacity, and logistical limitations do not allow every barrel to simply replace one drawn from the emergency reserve.

The United States, of course, still has three major shields: enormous domestic production, its strategic reserve, and the deepest financial market in the world. None of these three shields has collapsed; but the strategic point is that the margin of safety on all three has narrowed. Shale cannot make up for any degree of Middle East disruption within a few weeks; the emergency reserve is far smaller than it once was; and the Treasury no longer necessarily enjoys the same historic discount on its borrowing costs. The real cost of Trump’s decision should be sought precisely in this “shrinking margin of safety,” not merely in a few extra dollars on the price of oil.

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

Everyone is against this war, except its architects

US aggression against Iran hits rock bottom at home and abroad

From Page 1 ▶ The American people are demanding that the war end before they cast their votes in November.” He revealed he is building an “unconventional coalition” — including outreach to former Republican Congressman Thomas Massie and others across the aisle — to push for a resolution. Appealing directly to Trump’s base, Khanna urged: “If you believe that we need to be for America First, if you voted for Trump on the promise of no new wars, then please, let us work together to bring a ceasefire to the war in Iran, to have diplomacy, negotiation, and prevent America from getting into another forever war in the Middle East.”

Pentagon in panic

As American firepower falters, the US military establishment is turning on itself. The New York Times is reporting, citing government officials, that the Trump administration investigators have subjected roughly 50 members of the US military’s Joint Staff to polygraph tests over leaks to journalists, including about how the Iran war has created a shortage of crucial munitions. It was reported that the investigators asked military officers and civilian employees on the Joint Staff last month if they disclosed information about diminished US munitions stocks. In a statement to the newspaper, Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said that the department “does not comment on internal personnel or investigative matters but takes all leaks of classified national security information extremely seriously and investigates accordingly”.

Widespread discontent and operational strain are also rapidly eroding morale across the US armed forces, highlighted by severe distress aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln following exhausting deployments in the region. This frontline exhaustion is mirrored at the highest levels in Washington, where the resignation of high-ranking military leadership—including Army Secretary Dan Driscoll and Navy Secretary John Phelan amid



South Korean protesters hold banners depicting Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu during a rally denouncing the US and Israel’s attack on Iran, near the US Embassy in Seoul, South Korea. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

clashes over war readiness and command purges—underscores a deepening crisis within an increasingly fractured US military establishment.

Iran’s strategic dominance

Even American intelligence agencies have been forced to admit that a more confident Iran has emerged after six months of war. Intelligence reports in recent weeks indicate that Iran has grown more confident in its ability to attack American bases in West Asia and appears determined to continue the conflict for months to frustrate the United States. Current and former officials note that Iran has emerged with a far better understanding of its military strengths and is more sure of its capabilities, while exercising precise control over the vital Strait of Hormuz.

Representative Jason Crow, a member of the Intelligence Committee, admitted: “Iranians are feeling pretty bullish about their position. They have taken substantial damage, but that has always been built into their system. They understand they can take damage, and they are playing a much longer game here.” Crow noted that Iran’s formerly splintered leadership is now more united, internal opposition

has been silenced, and it continues to have a stockpile of missiles and drones.

Representative Josh Gottheimer, another member of the Intelligence Committee who initially supported the war, also said the administration lacks a clear strategy.

Americans pay at pump

The American public is suffering the direct fallout of Washington’s warmongering. Petrol prices in the US are likely to top \$4 per gallon as the war on Iran continues to raise energy costs, with data from GasBuddy predicting a cost of \$4.03 on Labor Day—far higher than the previous record of \$3.83 per gallon set in 2012. The national average petrol price hovered at about \$4.13 per gallon on Thursday, up nearly a dollar from last year’s average, as analysts told Reuters the \$4 mark is the “pain point” for US consumers. National polling demonstrates widespread public opposition to the conflict, as President Trump’s approval rating plummets to record lows ahead of the November midterms.

Europe rejects war

Washington stands utterly abandoned by its Western allies, with both NATO and European

states refusing to join the military conflict. Meanwhile, the economic contagion has hit the United Kingdom hard. New UK Chancellor John Healey warned of a tough upcoming budget amid the economic fallout from the US-Israel war on Iran, telling the Financial Times: “What’s happening in the Middle East is hitting inflation, it’s hitting growth, it’s hitting borrowing costs. It’s part of a more dangerous world that is more uncertain, and it’s one of the challenges we have to meet in this country.” British economists have called for more tax increases following sweeping hikes last year under Healey’s predecessor, Rachel Reeves, as Healey pledged that he and Prime Minister Andy Burnham would find “a buffer” against economic uncertainty.

Russia, China stand with Iran

While the West fractures, global powers Russia and China have condemned US-Israeli aggression and reaffirmed their strategic alignment with Tehran. Russian President Vladimir Putin recently met with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and declared Moscow’s full solidarity with the Iranian nation, stating that Russia is striving to provide all necessary assistance and essential goods during this difficult period while praising the courage of the Iranian people in defending their sovereign interests. President Pezeshkian reiterated that through multilateral platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, Iran and its global partners will continue to counter Washington’s unilateralism and illegal sanctions. For now, the balance of power is clear: Iran stands resilient on its home soil, supported by key global allies, while an isolated White House faces economic collapse and deep popular rejection. Israel is also suffering from the strategic fallout of the war it waged jointly with the US against Iran.

LATEST NEWS

- **Iran VP: Nuclear threat narrative against Iran proven false**

Iran’s First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said the narrative portraying Iran as a nuclear threat had been proven false, stressing that Tehran would continue advancing technology to serve national and regional needs. Speaking at an empowerment and entrepreneurship festival in Tehran, Aref criticized Israel’s claims about Iran’s peaceful nuclear program, saying the regime itself has failed to uphold international rules. He added that decades of external pressure and attempts to exploit Iran’s ethnic and social diversity had failed to undermine national unity and independence.
- **US claims it attacked three Iranian oil tankers**

The United States military says its forces struck three Iranian crude oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

In a statement released on Saturday, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said two crude oil carriers that it linked to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), identified as M/T Downy and M/T Stark 1, were struck off the coast of Kharg Island and near the southeastern port of Jask. CENTCOM added that a third vessel, the unladen crude oil carrier M/T Kulo, also known as Noxen, was hit in the Gulf of Oman after its crew was instructed to abandon ship.
- **Iran to US public: Don’t become cannon fodder in a war you never chose**

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei has called on the American people to refuse to be recruited into the war against Iran and not become “cannon fodder” in a war they never chose, and that was instead

- waged by Israel.
- Baqaei made the remarks late on Friday in an X post accompanied by a photo of an opinion piece published by Israeli newspaper The Jerusalem Post, which proposed forgiving young Americans’ debts to encourage them to enlist in a potential US ground invasion of Iran.
- **IRGC denies rumor of attack on Isfahan nuclear facilities**

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) in Iran’s Isfahan Province has denied reports circulating on social media claiming that Israeli or US forces have attacked nuclear facilities in the central province.

The provincial IRGC unit issued a statement on Saturday, rejecting reports of an attack on nuclear centers and facilities in the province.

The statement said that, following the circulation of false reports and claims on social media alleging that US-Israeli forces had attacked Isfahan’s nuclear facilities, the public should be informed that the reports are entirely false and that no attack by the Zionist regime or the United States has taken place against the province’s nuclear facilities as claimed.
- The IRGC described the dissemination of such rumors under the current sensitive circumstances as an attempt by hostile elements to create tension, alarm the public, and disrupt people’s psychological calm.
- **IRGC dismantles terrorist team in southeast Iran**

Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said it had dismantled a terrorist team in Sistan and Baluchestan Province,

- killing two members in a joint operation with the Intelligence Ministry and provincial security forces. The IRGC Quds Base said the group had been identified through intelligence monitoring and was planning attacks against predetermined targets. It added that the team was affiliated with Israel and the United States and intended to conduct attacks in coordination with the US war.
- **Blasts in Damavand caused by military drill**

Explosions heard in Damavand, east of Tehran, on Saturday morning were caused by scheduled training activities and the “Heydar Karrar” military exercise, the Tehran Province’s IRGC said. The sounds were related to exercise and associated training programs, IRGC stated.
- **US embassy in Bahrain urges US citizens to ‘exercise heightened vigilance’**

The US embassy in Bahrain has issued a security alert urging Americans there and throughout the region to “exercise heightened vigilance”.

US citizens in the region should prepare for “potential flight cancellations, airspace closures, and travel disruptions”, the embassy added.
- **Bahraini, Egyptian FMs discuss Hormuz disruption**

Bahrain’s Foreign Minister, Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, has spoken by phone with his Egyptian counterpart, Badr Abdelatty, about bilateral ties and the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, according to Bahrain’s national news agency.



South Pars Phase 11 on verge of producing 1b cubic feet of gas

TEHRAN- South Pars Phase 11 has witnessed a significant production surge and simultaneous developmental progress during the 14th government.

Production at Location B, which stood at around 400 million cubic feet per day during the 12th and 13th governments, has now exceeded 915 million cubic feet per day in the 14th government. According to the schedule, with the connection of the 12th well in the coming weeks, it will reach maximum production of 1 billion cubic feet per day.

At Location A, the 4,000-ton jacket has been installed offshore, and the construction progress of the topside, which was about 4% at the start of the 14th government, has now reached nearly 50%.

According to IRNA, quoting the Oil Ministry, South Pars Phase 11 is considered one of the country's key gas development projects due to its location in the border section of the shared South Pars field.

The development of this phase was pursued in previous years with the presence of companies such as Total and CNPC, but the withdrawal of these companies following sanctions affected the project's progress. Subsequently, the phase's development continued relying on the capabilities of Iranian companies, with the Petropars Group, a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company, taking over the project's execution.

During the 12th and 13th governments, Location B produced approximately 400 million cubic feet per day using the Phase 12D jacket and a platform transferred from Location 12C. In the 14th government, with continued drilling, well completions, and their gradual connection to existing facilities, production at this location has reached over 915 million cubic feet per day. According to the project schedule, with the connection of the 12th well in the coming weeks, production will reach 1 billion cubic feet per day—the maximum production capacity of Location B.

Simultaneously, the development of Location A has also followed a remarkable trajectory. At the start of the 14th government, the jacket for this location had about 35% progress and had not yet reached the uprighting stage, while topside construction was in its early phases with about 4% progress. Now, the jacket, weighing approximately 4,000 tons, has been installed at its offshore site, and topside construction progress during the 14th government has risen from about 4% to nearly 50%. Over 700 meters of piling have been completed for the jacket installation.

The advancement of this section of the project was carried out under conditions where Phase 11 faced sanctions-related restrictions, regional threats, and security challenges. During the 40-day "Third Imposed War" [referring to recent conflicts], the contractor's site for the 11A topside construction was struck by several rockets, but construction

operations did not halt, and the project's execution continued.

On the topside front, in addition to physical construction progress, a significant portion of the project's procurement items—especially long-lead equipment—has been finalized. These equipment pieces are currently being manufactured, tested, and transported to the contractor's site to prepare the topside for final stages.

According to the execution plan, topside progress will reach approximately 80% at the time of load-out, and after transportation, installation, and offshore commissioning, Location A will enter the production phase.

Initial production at this location will begin with 4 to 6 wells, and drilling of subsequent wells will continue in phases. The project estimates that on average, one new production well will come online every four months, with drilling continuing for about three years until the platform's nominal capacity is fully achieved.

South Pars Phase 11 is part of the Petropars Group's track record in developing South Pars. Petropars has been involved in a significant portion of this field's development projects both onshore and offshore, with over half of the development plans for the South Pars gas field's phases in coastal and offshore sections carried out by this group.

What has been achieved in Phase 11 during the 14th government can be summarized in three main indicators: increasing production at Location B from about 400 million cubic feet per day during the 12th and 13th governments to over 915 million cubic feet per day in the 14th government, moving toward maximum production of 1 billion cubic feet with the connection of the 12th well; installing the 4,000-ton jacket at Location A; and advancing topside construction progress during the 14th government from about 4% to nearly 50%. This trajectory, alongside continued drilling and well completions, will increase Phase 11's production capacity in the coming years.

The South Pars gas field is a supergiant natural gas accumulation located in the Persian Gulf, shared between Iran and Qatar. It is the world's single largest gas accumulation with over 2,000 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of recoverable resources. The field is being developed in 24 phases, and it is the foundation of Iran's energy supply, providing approximately 70–80% of the country's domestic gas needs.

Phase 11 is the last undeveloped phase of this shared field and is strategically important due to its location on the maritime border. Initially, a \$4.8 billion contract was signed in 2017 with a consortium led by France's Total and China's CNPC, but both companies withdrew following the re-imposition of US sanctions, leaving Iran's domestic company, Petropars, to execute the project.

The development of Phase 11 has seen significant progress recently.

TCCIMA to dispatch trade delegation to Kazakhstan intl. oil, gas exhibition, conference

TEHRAN- The 30th Kazakhstan International Oil & Gas Exhibition and Conference (KIOGE 2026) will be held from September 30 to October 2, 2026 (8 to 10 Mehr 1405) in Almaty. The Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) intends to dispatch a trade delegation consisting of economic activists and capable Iranian companies to Kazakhstan concurrently with this event.

Participation in the exhibition, the opportunity to attend the specialized conference, and holding business-to-business (B2B) matchmaking meetings with Kazakh companies and economic activists will provide an excellent opportunity to showcase the capabilities of Iranian companies and identify areas for cooperation and development of commercial relations.

Priority areas of work for participation in this delegation include: oil and gas equipment and machinery, drilling and well services, technical and engineering services, refineries and petrochemicals, pipelines and

oil and gas transmission, oil and gas field services, automation and processing, instrumentation and control, electronic equipment and information technology, and HSE and environmental services.

KIOGE 2026, the key industry event in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, brings together leaders of the oil and gas and energy industries.

The anniversary year marks an important milestone for the project: over three decades, KIOGE has evolved from a specialized industry platform into a strategic international forum where decisions shaping the future of the region's energy sector are formed. Today, KIOGE is a space where the interests of government, business, and international partners converge, where the challenges of the global energy transition are discussed, and where practical mechanisms are developed to help the industry adapt to new realities.

Oil minister details 2-year achievements

TEHRAN- Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has reported significant progress in the country's oil and gas sector during the first two years of the 14th government.

Since taking office, approximately 11.5 million cubic meters per day of flare gas has been collected through various projects, bringing total associated gas recovery to 17 million mcm/d when combined with pre-existing efforts.

The administration has also completed oil production increase plans, expanded processing capacity in shared fields, discovered new gas reserves, and halted diesel imports.

Paknejad described the early challenges upon his appointment in September 2024, noting that initial fuel reserve reports were concerning. President Pezeshkian personally followed up on gas and diesel supplies every few days, coordinating between the Oil Ministry, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Energy to prevent shortages. A landmark South Pars pressure boost contract—the oil industry's first major deal under the new administration—was signed in March 2025 to counter the field's natural pressure decline and address cumulative energy imbalances built over 20 years.

In the area of production, the Minister reported that a contract for increasing oil output



by 250,000 barrels per day has been implemented, with approximately 70,000–80,000 bpd already achieved. Over 30 infill wells have been drilled in South Pars, contributing to increased gas production. The administration also set new records in raw gas production and increased crude oil processing capacity by over 300,000 barrels in shared fields. Paknejad emphasized that downstream oil and gas industries remain a key priority for value addition and job creation.

War-time resilience and export continuity

The oil sector faced severe challenges during the 40-day war. Infrastructure across multiple provinces came under attack: the Fajr Jam Refinery and South Pars Phase 14 Refinery were hit, four gas refineries in Assaluyeh were struck, Tehran's oil depots—including Rey, Shahran, and Quchak—were targeted,

and petrochemical utility units in Mahshahr and Assaluyeh sustained damage. Despite these assaults and a surge in gasoline consumption reaching 200 million liters per day in the war's early days, the country did not face serious fuel shortages.

Paknejad highlighted the rapid response of technical teams, who brought damaged facilities back online within hours. Reconstruction of refineries began within days, and a significant portion of lost capacity has already been restored. The Minister noted that even under bombardment, crude oil exports never stopped for even one hour—a remarkable achievement given that Kharg Island was hit over 550 times.

Loading operations continued throughout the attacks

Following the war, Iran faced successive naval blockades. The

first blockade, defined between Ras al-Hadd and Pakistan's Gwadar port, was overcome through logistics rerouting. The second blockade, which began later and continues, has not halted the industry. The administration has been transferring oil outside the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman to enable delivery to customers thousands of kilometers away.

The "Two Degrees Less" consumption campaign, proposed directly by the President, helped manage winter gas demand. Paknejad stressed that consumption optimization—not merely reduction—is key to closing the production-consumption gap. He praised the President's personal example in energy savings, noting that Pezeshkian keeps minimal lighting and avoids cooling devices even in summer, and once questioned why a corridor light was on during a visit to the Oil Ministry. The Minister called on the public to cooperate in minimizing costly gasoline imports, emphasizing that Iran's people have always risen to such challenges. He also noted that the President's courage and honesty were evident throughout the crisis, with surprise visits to the Oil Ministry during war days and persistent follow-ups on flare gas collection projects even amid hostilities.

Activating border crossings, expand mining capacity necessary in Ilam: industry minister

TEHRAN- The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade emphasized the need to strengthen the Mehran border crossing and activate other crossings and border markets in Ilam, stating: "We must utilize the capacity of cross-border trade laws and, by developing border markets, increase the province's share of the country's trade."

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade noted that Ilam's share of the country's trade value-added stands at just 0.6% —a figure that does not align with the province's border potential and its approximately 430 kilometers of shared border with Iraq. He stressed that existing capacities should be better utilized to develop trade, production, and employment.

According to IRNA, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak stated in a meeting with economic activists in Abadan County on Saturday: "Ilam has significant capacities for developing foreign trade, and the groundwork must be laid to make greater use of these capacities."

He added: "The 14th government has considered measures and approvals to facilitate trade

in border provinces, the implementation of which can pave the way for increased economic activity in border regions."

The Minister continued: "Trade laws have been facilitated for border residents with Iraq, and Ilam, with approximately 430 kilometers of shared border with that country, has suitable potential for expanding commercial exchanges."

Atabak said: "Ilam's share of the country's trade value-added does not match its border capacity, and economic activists must use new opportunities to increase the province's share in foreign trade."

He stated: "Developing trade with Iraq can be one of the pathways to increasing economic activity in the province, and Ilam's border capacities must serve the flourishing of production, exports, and employment."

The Minister noted: "The average industrial value-added in the country is about 23–24%, while in Ilam it is 3.9–4%. This gap with the national average shows that the province's industrial capacity has not yet been sufficiently activated."

Atabak said that out of a total

of 645 industrial projects initiated in Ilam province, 503 projects are inactive, and only two projects have achieved 80–100% physical progress.

The Minister stated: "The status of industrial projects in the province shows the need for a revision in how projects are selected and implemented. Priority should be given to projects that have financial backing and economic advantage."

Atabak added: "Regional advantages, available resources, and financing methods must be considered from the outset of industrial project implementation so that units do not face funding shortages and operational difficulties after investment"

He added: "Paying attention to these factors can prevent the creation of unfinished and inactive projects and direct investment resources toward units capable of production and job creation."

The Minister said: "Given Ilam's oil and gas potential, approximately 70–75% of the province's value-added comes from oil and gas reserves."

Atabak emphasized: "This economic capacity should serve as

the basis for developing downstream oil and gas industries in the province so that raw materials and available resources are converted into higher-value products within the province."

He continued: "Downstream oil and gas industries are among Ilam's most important industrial advantages, and investment in this sector can lead to increased production and job creation in the province."

The Minister said: "The use of oil and gas capacities in Abadan should also be considered, and industrial projects in this country should be defined and implemented in line with existing advantages."

Atabak stated: "The purpose of establishing industrial parks is to house production units and develop industrial activities. The lands in these parks should not become a venue for profiteering"

He stressed: "Lands in industrial parks must be allocated to genuine investors, and the lands that have been allocated should be used for establishing production units."

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

شرکت معدنی و صنعتی گل گهر اصفهان

Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/16

Gol Gohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Gol Gohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export **70,000** metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.5 ave.) on basis of F.O.B at Rajae Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: [www.ggg.ir](#). All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 15. Sep.2026 to Gol Gohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 15. Sep.2026 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
%Fe Ave	66.5	
%FeO	Min 24	Max 28
%P Max	0.04	
%S Ave	1.0	
%SiO2 Max	3.0	
%Al2O3 Max	0.7	
%CaO Max	0.9	
%MgO Max	2.5	
%Moisture Max	5.0	
Size ave	80%<0.48 mm	

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

شرکت معدنی و صنعتی گل گهر اصفهان

Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/17

GolGohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export **70,000** metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.50) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: [www.ggg.ir](#). All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 15. Sep.2026 to Gol Gohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 15. Sep.2026 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
%Fe	65.50	Min
%FeO	1.0	Ave
%P	0.035	Max
%S	0.01	Max
%SiO2	3.0	Max
%Al2O3	0.7	Max
%CaO	0.7	Max
%MgO	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)	Ave 250	
8-16 mm%	Min 90	
-6 mm%	Ave 5	
A.1%	Max 3.5	
T.1%	Min 95	
Prostity%	19-24	
Reducibility%	Min 90	

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Former US diplomat: Profit-driven foreign policy, American weapons enabled Gaza genocide

From page 1 ▶

The receipts of complicity

Shortly after October 2023, Rharrit assumed a unique role as the Arabic-language spokesperson.

She says she refused orders to go on television and repeat State Department talking points that ignored Palestinian casualties and destroyed hospitals. Instead, she says she began compiling daily snapshots.

These intelligence briefs summarized Arabic-language media coverage and social media reactions, documenting the visual evidence of the carnage.

According to Rharrit, the reports traveled high up the chain of command. They reached an interagency task force, the assistant secretary for global public affairs, and the seventh floor where Secretary of State Antony Blinken sat.

Rharrit says she stuffed them with viral images of emaciated children and rubble. Career diplomats privately praised her.

Then the directive changed. In January 2024, the Bureau of Global Public Affairs told her the daily snapshots were no longer required. Washington had seen enough.

“At that point, it became evidence, right, of the war crimes,” Rharrit said. “It became evidence of everything that the administration actually did know. We’ve got the receipts. We know exactly what you knew when you knew it.”

A despicable public relations stunt

Recent media appearances by former Biden officials framing themselves as conflicted bystanders draw sharp contempt from Rharrit.

Former National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and former spokesperson Matthew Miller have publicly expressed regret or conceded that Israel committed war crimes. Rharrit re-



jects this narrative outright.

“They’re so disgusting,” she said. “Those individuals, particularly Jake Sullivan and a handful of others, actually had the power to save human lives. They actually had the power to stop unconditional arms assistance to Israel.”

The scale of the destruction required Washington’s material support. “The Israelis were not killing the Palestinians by themselves,” she noted.

“The Israelis were killing the Palestinians with American bombs, with American jets, with American everything. We enabled it 100%. They enabled it 100%.”

She categorized their belated apologies as a cynical strategy born out of polling data.

Americans turned against forever wars. The former officials are simply trying to salvage their reputations to secure future employment.

The profit over people paradigm

Rharrit describes U.S. foreign policy through a strict financial lens. The military-industrial complex dictates outcomes. Democratic and Republican establishments both run on defense money.

The “Gaza pier” provides the clearest example of this structural greed. The project cost American taxpayers roughly

\$250 million. It functioned for barely 20 days.

It saved no one. The parallel airdrop campaign actually killed Palestinians when parachutes failed to open.

“Jake Sullivan did exactly what he was tasked to do,” Rharrit explained. “He made rich people richer. That was his mandate.”

This paradigm requires constant war. A destabilized West Asia allows Israel to pursue territorial expansion while U.S. military contractors secure endless government funding.

The Minab school massacre

This profit-driven model directly paved the way for the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Rharrit sees the two wars as a single continuous front.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sold Washington faulty intelligence, promising easy regime change and access to Iranian oil.

The tactical execution mirrored the worst of the Gaza campaign. Rharrit pointed directly to the American strike on an elementary school in Minab. The U.S. murdered at least 155 civilians in the attack, including over 120 children.

She dismisses the possibility of an intelligence failure or accidental targeting. The U.S. military possesses incredibly precise imaging capabilities.

According to Rharrit, the strategy was intentional.

“We took straight out of the Israeli playbook of going straight after school, going straight after children,” she said. The strike was designed as a double-tap operation. “That means we hit. We waited for more people to come, and in this case, it was parents and teachers and other kids, and we hit again.”

The war failed its strategic objective. Rather than sparking a revolution against the Iranian government, the massacre unified the population against foreign aggression.

Now, Rharrit watches her former colleagues go on television to intellectualize the war on Iran. None of them mention the dead children in Minab.

‘They got over Iraq; they’ll get over this, too’

Before finalizing her exit from the government, she met with a highly influential State Department official.

Rharrit says she delivered a final warning. The unconditional support for Israeli atrocities was spawning a dangerous wave of anti-Americanism across the Arab world.

The official offered a chilling response. “They got over Iraq. They will get over this, too,” the official told her, referencing the Arab public.

Over one million Iraqis died due to U.S. sanctions and the subsequent military invasion. That conversation cemented Rharrit’s realization that human life held zero weight in Washington’s strategic calculations.

She harbors no regrets about walking away from her career.

“I am grateful every single day when I wake up that I resigned, that I’m free,” she said. “Nothing for me is worth me [sic] selling my soul.”



Israel’s war on UNRWA: Killing the witness

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – For over seven decades, UNRWA has stood as more than a relief agency; it has been the living archive of Palestine’s dispossession.

Its schools, clinics, and registration ledgers do not only dispense aid; they preserve the names, villages, and stories that Zionism has tried to erase. This is why the Israeli regime’s assault on the agency is not administrative or diplomatic, it is existential.

When a criminal kills a witness to his crime in an attempt to conceal the evidence and erase the evidence, in a futile and desperate effort to clear himself of the crime, they are implicitly acknowledging that the truth is closing in on them and that the crime itself is suffocating them.

This is precisely what the Israeli regime is doing in its war against the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, known as UNRWA.

The regime’s war against UNRWA aims to kill the international living witness to the crime of the Nakba, the tragedy of displacement, and the United Nations’ enshrined right of return for the Palestinian diaspora.

It is directed against the agency’s physical presence, including its buildings, institutions, refugee camps, employees, and services, as well as its moral and symbolic presence: what it represents as a humanitarian and political cause, a historical and legal record, a repository of the memory of the Nakba and displacement, and a narrative of tragedy and resilience.

Benjamin Netanyahu summed up the reason for the regime’s decision to target and kill the witness, UNRWA, when he said, “This agency perpetuated the refugee problem instead of solving it.”

The refugee problem is the very evidence of the crime that the Israelis seek to eliminate. Following October 7, 2023, and the beginning of the genocidal war, Netanyahu made his regime’s objective of killing the witness explicit, declaring: “It is time for the international

community and the United Nations to understand that UNRWA’s mission must come to an end.”

This marked the beginning of the Zionist crusade to eliminate UNRWA as a witness to the crime of the Nakba.

UNRWA is a witness to the crime of the Nakba through tangible evidence: the existence of 58 refugee camps administered by the agency across its five fields of operation, and the six million Palestinian refugees registered in its records.

It is also a witness through the historical evidence contained in its extensive documentation of the tragedy of displacement and exile, preserved in archives filled with paper and digital records, as well as the information contained in Palestinian refugee registration cards, the ration cards, which identify the original town of each Palestinian refugee family.

It is also a witness through legal evidence establishing refugee status and the right of return. Most importantly, Palestinian refugees are defined as those who were expelled from Palestine during the Nakba and their descendants; UNRWA’s existence is linked to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194, which affirms the right of return; and UNRWA reports are regarded as legal documents that can be used before international forums and courts.

To kill the witness, UNRWA, to the Zionist crime of the Nakba, the regime has pursued several parallel paths. The most dangerous has been the campaign on the ground, whose latest episode was the seizure of the agency’s vocational training institute in the Qalandia refugee camp north of occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

This preceded the demolition of the agency’s central administrative headquarters in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied al-Quds.

The campaign reached its most brutal peak during the genocidal war in the Gaza Strip, with most of the agency’s buildings and facil-

ities destroyed through aerial bombardment and ground demolition, hundreds of its employees killed, and the delivery of aid to the agency blocked.

Alongside this destructive campaign on the ground, the occupying regime has pursued legal, media, and financial campaigns. The legal campaign took the form of Knesset legislation targeting UNRWA during the genocidal war, most notably banning the agency from operating in areas under the occupied territory, revoking the 1967 agreement between the regime and the agency, and prohibiting Israeli contact with UNRWA.

The media campaign has taken the form of demonizing the agency, distorting its role, stripping it of its status as a neutral humanitarian organization, and accusing it of supporting terrorism without evidence.

The financial campaign has involved pressuring Western countries that fund the agency to suspend their contributions in an effort to economically strangle it, a strategy that has succeeded completely with some countries and partially with others.

The paths that the regime has pursued in its war against UNRWA, as part of its policy of killing the witness to its ongoing Zionist crusade, are intended to eliminate humanitarian sympathy for the refugee cause and political solidarity with the Palestinian cause, while stripping the refugee issue of its national dimension and emptying it of the right of return.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The Kuhestak tragedy: An unbroken American trail of blood and broken bodies

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN — There are moments when the machinery of war strips away every pretense and leaves only the sound of a mother’s scream.

In the small coastal town of Kuhestak, on a night meant for music, henna, and the shy laughter of a bride, American munitions turned a wedding into a slaughterhouse. Guests in bright dresses and flower garlands had gathered in the home of a simple fisherman to celebrate his daughter’s marriage. Then the roof came down. Four people were torn apart. More than sixty others were left bleeding, many of them children. Among the dead was a four-year-old boy whose small body had to be carried to the grave while his family still heard the music that had been playing only moments before.

This was not an isolated “battlefield incident.” It is the latest entry in a continuous ledger of civilian flesh paid by Iranian, Lebanese, and Palestinian families under American fire. The same Washington that now speaks of “precision” is the same aggressor that reduced the Shajareh Tayyeb elementary school in Minab to a mass grave on February 28. There, scores of children, most of them young girls sitting at their desks, were buried under concrete and steel. Teachers who stayed to protect them died with them. Parents who ran toward the school never came home. Amnesty International has concluded that U.S. forces were very likely responsible. Human Rights Watch has demanded investigation as a potential war crime. UNESCO called it a grave violation of international law. The dead numbered in the hundreds of children whose only crime was attending school.

CENTCOM answers in the cold language of military bureaucracy: American forces do not target civilians; precision-guided weapons strike military objectives. Precision describes the path of a missile. It does not erase the blood on a child’s school uniform or the shattered henna on a bride’s hands. Under international humanitarian law, distinction, proportionality, and precaution are not optional. A classroom full of little girls is not a military formation. A wedding courtyard filled with families is not a lawful target simply because someone in Washington decided it was.

The pattern is familiar and sickening. In Gaza and Lebanon, the same explanations are recycled: mistakes were made, civilians were not the intended target, investigations are ongoing. Yet the investigations never produce accountability. The word “mistake” becomes a shield. Victims become statistics. Responsibility dissolves into press releases while parents dig through rubble for pieces of their children.

This is the deeper rot. The International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice, and the United Nations Security Council fall silent when the accused holds a permanent veto. The principle of distinction does not pause for American passports. The prohibition on disproportionate attacks contains no exception for U.S. national security. When justice depends on the identity of the perpetrator, it ceases to be justice at all.

Every child crushed in Minab, every guest



blown apart in Kuhestak, becomes another permanent wound in Iran’s memory. Decades of sanctions, pressure, and targeted killings have not produced surrender; they have produced deeper rage and longer memory. Governments across the Persian Gulf watch closely. If Washington is willing to accept this scale of civilian carnage as the cost of its objectives, the value of its security guarantees collapses.

Kuhestak is not merely another strike. It is a test of whether civilian life still carries any weight in the eyes of the current American decisionmakers. CENTCOM’s talk of precision cannot answer the only questions that matter: What intelligence justified turning a wedding into a kill zone? What precautions were taken to confirm a military objective existed inside a house full of celebrating families? Will an independent investigation ever be allowed to examine the evidence without political interference?

Repeating that civilians were not the intended target is not enough. Intent matters, but so do the nature of the target, the precautions taken, and the foreseeable civilian harm. The bombs that destroyed a wedding in Kuhestak must not also destroy the principle that civilian life remains protected in war.

The most devastating silence is not the silence of the rubble. It is the silence of the institutions created to speak when such acts occur. International law cannot remain credible if it keeps quiet. The International Criminal Court (ICC) cannot claim universal jurisdiction if accountability is selective. The United Nations cannot defend a rules-based order while its own machinery repeatedly fails when a permanent member is implicated.

If the strike on Kuhestak was an unlawful attack on civilians, an independent investigation is the minimum demand of justice, not a political favor. If it was lawful, the evidence must withstand open scrutiny. If it was not, those responsible must face consequences.

The dead of Minab and Kuhestak do not need another statement of regret. They need names, evidence, and accountability.

Iran will never forget the classrooms of Minab or the blood-soaked wedding in Kuhestak. The bombs have stopped. The silence of international law has not. When the aggressor can walk away from the bodies of children and wedding guests without consequence, the international community must feel abandoned.

Germany’s far-right AfD is poised for power

The Alternative for Germany (AfD) party is speeding into state elections in Saxony-Anhalt on Sunday with a sizeable lead in the polls. If the party gets an outright majority, it will put the far right in charge of a state for the first time since World War II.

The party is projected to get 42% of the vote in the eastern German state, according to pollster Infratest dimap – a massive jump compared to its support just a couple years ago, and potentially enough to propel it to power in the country’s electoral system, CNN reported.

But there are roadblocks to the AfD expanding its success in mainstream German politics.

The party has been classified as “extremist” by German intelligence for its rhetoric in relation to Muslim citizens of Germa-

ny and on immigration, and it’s been denounced by mainstream conservatives and progressives alike.

All other parties in the country operate a so-called “firewall” – an unwritten rule to not form a coalition with the AfD or work together in parliament. If the AfD doesn’t get an absolute majority in Sunday’s elections, all other parties could form a ragtag coalition to shut it out of power in the state.

It’s partly that isolation at home that has compelled the AfD to seek out ties with the United States’ MAGA movement.

It’s also partly the shared right-wing politics and the brazen rhetoric and branding – hats with the slogan “Make Germany Great Again” are not uncommon at AfD events now. And the ties go well beyond merch.



SPORTS

Wheelchair basketball’s participation in worlds in doubt

TEHRAN - With the Ottawa 2026 IWBF Wheelchair Basketball World Championships set to begin on Wednesday, visas for two members of Iran's coaching staff have yet to be issued, raising the possibility that Iran could withdraw from the competition.

The 15th edition of the Championship will be held in Canada from Sept. 9 to 19.

Iran are one of 16 teams participating in the tournament and have been drawn into Group D, where they will face Morocco, Germany and host nation Canada.

“Canada, which is hosting the World Championship, has issued visas for the players, but the visas for the head coach and assistant coach have not yet been issued, and we are running out of time. I hope this issue is resolved soon so that, given the limited time remaining, we can take part in the competition,” Iran head coach Behrouz Soltani said.

“If our visas are issued, we will participate in the tournament. Otherwise, there is a possibility that we could miss the World Championship. I believe our goal is to achieve the best possible results in this competition, but such an issue could disrupt the process and preparations we have planned,” he added.

“We had a good training camp in Turkey, and the visa application process was also carried out properly and carefully. Given that embassies are closed on Saturday and Sunday, and the competition begins on Wednesday, I hope this issue will be resolved as soon as possible so that we can travel to the tournament with a well-prepared team within the remaining time,” he concluded.

Iran drop two places in latest FIBA World Ranking

TEHRAN - The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) has released its latest world ranking for men's national teams, with Iran dropping two places to 28th in the world.

Despite the decline in the global standings, Iran remain fourth among teams from the Asia-Oceania region.

The United States, Germany and France occupy the top three spots in the latest FIBA ranking, respectively.

Iran's drop comes after the national team suffered back-to-back defeats against New Zealand and the Philippines in the qualifiers for the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup.

The results have seen Iran slip two places in the latest ranking, although they continue to hold their position among the top teams in Asia and Oceania.

Iran seek to end Indian and Chinese Taipei kabaddi dominance

TEHRAN - Iran's women's national kabaddi team are entering the 2026 Asian Games with a significantly reshaped squad, as the coaching staff seeks to build a new generation of players capable of challenging the traditional dominance of India and Chinese Taipei.

Speaking about the team's preparations, the technical adviser of Iran's women's national kabaddi team, Gholamreza Mazandarani, said around 78 percent of the squad has changed this year. The new team are considerably younger than previous editions, with many players showing high motivation and energy but lacking experience at the international level.

According to the technical adviser, gaining competitive experience was therefore a major priority from the beginning of the team's preparation.

“The coaching staff had planned a series of friendly and preparatory matches to expose the young players to international competition. However, the plans were delayed by several obstacles,

including the war, flight disruptions, difficulties related to leaving the country and the refusal of some potential host countries to accept the team for friendly matches,” Mazandarani said.

Despite these challenges, the team eventually managed to take part in an international training camp and a series of matches. The technical adviser described the experience as extremely valuable, particularly for the younger members of the squad. For many of the players, it was their first international trip and their first opportunity to compete against foreign opponents.

“The camp also gave the coaching staff an opportunity to assess the players under competitive conditions. Almost every member of the squad was given the chance to play in six or seven full matches, allowing the coaches to evaluate their abilities and determine how they could contribute to the national team,” he added.

The technical adviser acknowledged that transforming a young and inexperienced squad into a genuine championship contender in a limited period would be difficult. He said that simply declaring the gold medal as the team's objective could be considered somewhat ambitious. Nevertheless, the coaching staff is determined to prepare the team for the best possible performance at the Asian Games.

Hosseinnejad linked with move to Pogon Szczecin

TEHRAN - Reports suggest a possible move for Iranian midfielder Mohammadjavad Hosseinnejad to the Polish Ekstraklasa. The player appearing for Russia's Dinamo Makhachka?a is a priority transfer target for Pogoni Szczecin.

From the reports presented by Daniel Trzepacz from Pogonsportnet.pl, it is understood that the priority of Pogonia is Mohammad Javad Hosseinnejad.

Javad is a 23-year-old footballer appearing in the position of offensive midfielder and currently bound by a contract with Russia's Dinamo Makhachkala.

He is also a five-time representative of Iran.

According to the above source, the representative of Ekstraklasa is in talks regarding the transfer of Hosseinnejad and it seems that the parties are close to working out an agreement. Previously, Javad was targeted by, among others, by Portuguese club Rio Ave.

Iranian athletes win medals on Day 5 of World Nomad Games

TEHRAN - Iran added one gold and one bronze medal to its tally on the fifth day of the World Nomad Games in Kyrgyzstan, bringing the country's overall haul to 15 medals.

Mostafa Toghani secured Iran's latest gold medal in the over-100kg Pahlavani wrestling category. The Iranian defeated his Kyrgyz opponent by fall in the final to claim the top spot on the podium.

Mersad Shakeri also contributed to Iran's medal tally by winning bronze in the Kurash competition. He edged past his opponent from Turkmenistan 5-4 in the third-place bout.

Iran has now collected four gold, three silver and eight bronze medals at the Games.

Reza Gheitasi (mas-wrestling), Sajjad Soltaninejad (strongman), Mostafa Najafi (Alysh/Gyulesh wrestling) and Mostafa Toghani (Pahlavani wrestling) have won gold medals.

Sadegh Azarang (Kurash), Mohsen Mirzaei (right-arm wrestling), and Iran's four-member tug-of-war team consisting of Nader Kazemi, Sajjad Jafari Gohari, Abbas Azimi and Hamidreza Saeid have claimed silvers.

Maryam Farahaninia (mas-wrestling), Abolfazl Heydarimehr (Alysh), Mohaddeseh Tabarok (right- and left-arm wrestling), Amirreza Sahraei (Seryum wrestling), Hassan Pouladi (men's -64kg sambo), Pouria Shokri (Kazakh Kuresi), and Mersad Shakeri (Kurash) have secured bronze medals.

The 2026 World Nomad Games, which bring together athletes from across the world in a variety of traditional sports and competitions, will continue in Kyrgyzstan through Sunday.

Ritual marking anniversary of Fatima Masumeh’s arrival in Qom added to national heritage list

TEHRAN – The ritual marking the anniversary of the arrival of Fatima Masumeh (S.A.), sister of the eighth Shia Imam, Imam Reza (A.S.), in the Iranian city of Qom has been inscribed on the national list of Iran's intangible cultural heritage, a senior cultural heritage official said.

Ali Darabi, deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said the annual observance commemorating Fatima Masumeh's arrival in Qom has been an important historical and cultural event for the city and that its registration would contribute to safeguarding Qom's intangible heritage and historical identity.

The anniversary falls on 23 Rabi al-Awwal in the Islamic lunar calendar and has also been designated as Qom Day. The period between Qom Day and the



anniversary of Fatima Masumeh's death on 10 Rabi al-Thani is known as the Masumeh Days, Darabi said.

He added that the inscription

would help preserve, document and transmit the tradition to future generations, while reflecting greater attention to the living and spiritual heritage of local communities.

Barzin Zarghami appointed deputy minister for handicrafts

TEHRAN – Barzin Zarghami has been appointed deputy for handicrafts and traditional arts at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts by Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri.

A ceremony held on Saturday, marked the appointment, with the ministry also honoring Behrouz Nadaei for his services during his tenure as acting head of the deputyship.

Speaking at the ceremony, Salehi-Amiri highlighted the need to continue policymaking efforts, strengthen executive capacities and establish effective links between the creative economy and the development of handicrafts markets.

Earlier in June, Salehi-Amiri announced that the government would pursue a program to expand domestic and international markets for handicrafts, increase exports, support artisans and develop a complete val-

ue chain for the sector.

Speaking at a ceremony marking National Handicrafts Week in Isfahan, the minister said Iranian handicrafts continued to receive international recognition and cited growing foreign interest in Iranian artistic products.

He added that the government aimed to establish Iranian handicrafts marketplaces in capitals around the world and was working to remove barriers to international market access.

According to the minister, strengthening the sector requires completion of the entire value chain, from raw material supply and production to marketing, sales and exports.

He said the ministry had held discussions with domestic and international companies in recent months to facilitate broader access for Iranian handicrafts to global distribution networks.

Direct Iran-Tunisia flights resume

TEHRAN – Direct flights between Iran and Tunisia have resumed from Imam Khomeini International Airport, with the route now operating once a week, an airport official said.

Ramin Kashef-Azar, CEO of Imam Khomeini International Airport City, said the Tehran-Tunis service is currently scheduled every Saturday.

The route had previously operated on Fridays, Kashef-Azar said. Following its resumption, the

Tehran-Tunis route has been incorporated into the airport city's flight network with the new Saturday schedule.

He said expanding flight destinations and strengthening air links with other countries are among the priorities of Imam Khomeini International Airport City.

The development comes a week after the launch of a direct Iran-Vietnam flight route.



A total of 299 handicraft branches are currently practiced across the country, which is home to 17 cities and villages designated by the World Crafts Council as world craft hubs.

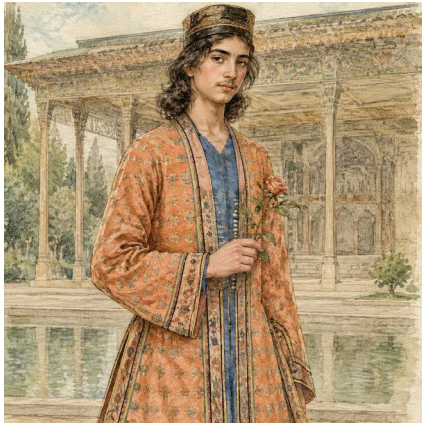
Echoes of the past: Ceremonial dress of a Safavid noble

The National Museum of Iran preserves a red-ground silk robe whose material and formal characteristics locate it firmly within the Safavid textile tradition.

Woven in Yazd and dated to the 11th century AH, this long-sleeved, ankle-length garment with slits at the sides and cuffs measures ninety-seven centimeters in height. Its construction, the tailored fit, the choice of silk, the employment of metallic-woven trims, and the structural lining of blue cotton was deliberately orchestrated to produce a lively, dignified silhouette upon the wearer.

A distinct visual rhythm animates the fabric's surface. An underlying network of hexagonal compartments, set against a subtly dissolving ground, frames identical but isolated floral sprays. This systematic repetition of plant motifs in white, blue, green, and brown against the red field accomplishes more than mere ornament; it converts the garment's two-dimensional plane into a modulated three-dimensional surface, establishing geometric coherence and a measured, almost architectural, sense of balance. The chromatic contrast, in particular, heightens the botanical forms, rendering them legible from a distance while rewarding close inspection with fine brush-like delineation.

Ornamental elaboration further distinguishes the robe's ceremonial function. Gold-woven bands (zarbaft), embroidered with foliage and blossoms in red, green, purple, and white, edge both sides of the chest



opening, the lateral slits, and the cuffs. These metallic accents, juxtaposed with the silk ground, impart a lustrous, courtly opulence. Seventeen silver buttons—sixteen conical ones along the left chest opening and five smaller specimens on one sleeve—serve simultaneously as fastenings and as integral elements of the decorative scheme. Their presence reinforces the garment's formal, official character and aligns it with the protocol of Safavid court dress, where such details signified rank and ceremonial readiness.

The Safavid court's sustained patronage of textile arts provides the essential historical framework for this piece. Royal support encouraged the convergence of painting, architecture, calligraphy, and weaving within the royal workshops. In this environment, textile designers often worked across media, and certain painters themselves assumed the loom, weaving the

luxurious silks and brocades they had originally drafted on paper. Weaving centers in Tabriz, Qazvin, Isfahan, Yazd, and Kashan consequently produced velvets, satins, multi-layered silks, and brocades that were unrivaled in chromatic variety and figural invention. These fabrics were not confined to domestic consumption; they entered long-distance trade networks as prized Iranian exports, reaching markets from the Ottoman Empire to the European continent.

Ultimately, this red silk qaba synthesizes several distinct strands of Safavid material culture: the weaver's technical expertise, the painter's eye for spatial patterning, the tailor's concern for bodily form, and the court's demand for visual markers of rank. It remains a concrete, tangible document of a period when Persian dress achieved a distinctive stylistic unity and asserted its place among the most sophisticated textile traditions of the early modern world.

Radiotherapy remains a cornerstone of cancer treatment

TEHRAN – World Radiotherapy Awareness Day is marked on September 7 to raise awareness of radiotherapy as a vital cancer treatment. Radiotherapy helps cure cancer, relieve symptoms, and improve quality of life for millions of people around the world.

Radiotherapy is one of the oldest established methods of cancer treatment and remains a cornerstone of modern oncology, alongside surgery and chemotherapy. Its clinical history dates back to the late 19th century, following the discovery of X-rays and the early development of radiation-based treatments.

Despite its long-standing role in cancer care, access to radiotherapy remains highly unequal around the world. Low- and middle-income countries are home to the vast majority of the world's population, yet they have a disproportionately small share of global radiotherapy resources. Historically, countries in the developing world have accounted for around 85% of the global population but only about 35% of radiotherapy facilities, highlighting the significant global gap in access to essential cancer care, according to Mitra Ghalibafian, head of the radio-oncology department at Mahak Hospital.

Overall, approximately half of all cancer patients are estimated to require radiother-



apy at some point during the course of their treatment, with some estimates placing the figure at 50–60% depending on cancer type, stage and treatment strategy.

Radiotherapy also plays an important role in the diagnosis, staging and treatment planning of childhood cancers. Advanced medical imaging is often essential for identifying the location and extent of a tumor, assessing its relationship with surrounding organs and tissues, and monitoring the response to treatment. Radiotherapy itself is then used,

when clinically indicated, to destroy cancer cells and control or eliminate tumors.

In children, however, radiation treatment requires special consideration because growing and developing tissues can be more sensitive to radiation and survivors may live for many decades after treatment. For this reason, pediatric radiation oncology increasingly focuses on highly precise treatment techniques that deliver the necessary dose to the tumor while minimizing exposure to healthy organs.

Iranian university, Russian academy to hold joint educational course

TEHRAN – Imam Sadiq University and the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) have scheduled to conduct the second joint educational course, titled 'modern technologies in public administration,' in autumn.

The first joint course, 'digital transformation in the country's public administration', was held last winter, IRNA reported.

The current course aims to help managers and experts get familiar with modern public administration approaches, strategies, methods, and tools, and to benefit from the Russian Federation's experience in enhancing the effectiveness, transparency, and accessibility of public management.

The educational course will be centered on:

1. Modern public administration and management technologies; current trends in public administration; Russia and global experiences; strategic planning and foresight; project management; human resource management.
2. Digital transformation in public administration: fundamentals of digital transformation; international models and standards for strategic planning in digital development; Russia's experience with/in e-government services, government technologies (GovTech) and gate



operating system technology (GosTech) platform; digital feedback and interaction between the government, citizens, and businesses; artificial intelligence as a driver of digital transformation—from automation to autonomy.

3. The citizen-centric approach in public administration; fundamentals of the citizen-centric approach; key dimensions and practical strategies; global experiences; implementation tools; the effects and consequences of adopting a citizen-centric approach.

The course will be held online and last around 45 days, comprising three educational modules, a panel discussion, specialized webinars, e-content study, and online educational activities.

Professors, specialists, and researchers from the Graduate School of Public Management (GSPM) at RANEPA will teach the second course.

Tehran, Moscow emphasize need to boost scientific cooperation

In June, Iranian Science, Research and Technology Minister, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, and Russian Science and Higher Education Minister, Valery Falkov, reviewed strategies for developing scientific, educational, and academic cooperation between the two countries with an emphasis on expanding professor and student exchanges, strengthening research cooperation, and facilitating academic interactions.

In a telephone conversation, Simaei-Sarraf expressed hope that in-person meetings between the two sides will be held in Tehran and Moscow in the near future, IRNA reported.

He also announced the upcoming holding of a meeting of the presidents of top Iranian and Russian universities in Tehran, and considered the development of Russian language chairs in Iranian universities and Persian

language chairs in Russian universities as a sign of deepening scientific and cultural ties between the two countries.

Falkov, for his part, pointed out the beginning of a new university admission period in Russia and the welcoming of Iranian students to study at the country's universities, emphasizing the importance of providing employment opportunities and utilizing the academic potential of graduates after their return to Iran.

Referring to the decrease in the number of Russian universities approved in Iran's evaluation system, he called for a review of the methods of evaluating and validating educational qualifications.

Simaei-Sarraf continued by emphasizing the readiness of the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology to review the evaluation system of Russian universities and develop joint educational and research cooperation.

The two sides also agreed to continue cooperation on developing professor and student exchanges and expanding scientific cooperation between the universities of the two countries. The discussion ended with Simaei-Sarraf and Falkov mutually emphasizing the continuation of consultations, strengthening academic cooperation, and planning for face-to-face meetings in the near future.

DOE bans rut tours to help Persian red deer conservation

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has prohibited rut tours to help protect the natural life cycle of the Persian red deer, known as maral in Iran.

The Persian red deer is one of the largest deer species, but unfortunately, its population has declined significantly in Iran. The red deer rutting season begins in late summer and continues through the fall. During this period, the sound of roaring males can be heard as they compete for females and defend their territories. Rival males engage in fierce fights, locking and clashing their antlers as they compete for mating opportunities and dominance.

"The red deer rutting season is one of the most critical stages in the biological cycle of the Caspian red deer. An increase in human presence within its habitat, particularly due to tourism activities, could disrupt the species' natural behavior and interfere with its normal behavioral patterns," IRNA quoted Hamid Zohrabi, an official with the DOE, as saying.

"Exploiting this natural phenomenon for commercial or profit-driven tourism can have detrimental effects on the species. Therefore, approaching the habitats of Caspian red deer is strictly prohibited, except for

trained and qualified personnel—preferably members of local communities—who are involved in monitoring and conservation efforts. Even their presence must be limited to what is operationally necessary and carried out in accordance with established safety and security protocols, without causing disturbance or stress to the animals," he added.

Genetic map for endangered species being developed

The DOE is developing a genetic map of endangered wildlife species to increase their chance of survival, create a breeding plan, manage their population, and address the risks facing them in their natural habitats.

Effective conservation of endangered species is almost unattainable without a precise understanding of population genetics. To this end, genetic and molecular studies of key wildlife species in the country have been put on the agenda, ensuring that management decisions are based on accurate scientific data, IRNA quoted the head of the National Museum of Natural History and Genetic Resources, Leila Ezzeddinlou, as saying.

Preserving genetic diversity within and between populations, preventing declines in effective population size, avoiding inbreeding and genetic erosion, conserving

genes adapted to diverse environmental conditions, and providing genetic resources for species restoration, propagation, and introduction or reintroduction programs are among primary objectives of these studies, she added.

Referring to three research agreements signed between the DOE, the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources of the University of Tehran, and Gorgan University, the official said that as part of the cooperation, a project is underway to investigate the genomic diversity and phylogeny of Levant viper and Latifi's viper populations, employing conservation and therapeutic approaches based on genomic markers.

Moreover, the development of genetic profiles and maps for the Asiatic cheetahs, black bear, and Persian yellow deer, as keystone and threatened species, has kicked off.

The other part of the agreements focuses on the assessment of genetic variation, inbreeding, and kinship relationships within the Persian zebra population, which is being conducted in collaboration with Yazd's provincial DOE department. The initiative plays a key role in managing small populations and preventing the loss of genetic biodiversity, she highlighted.

More Iranian universities in Round University Ranking 2026

TEHRAN – The Round University Ranking (RUR) 2026 has placed 41 Iranian universities among the world's top universities, up from 36 in 2025.

This year's ranking includes 1,313 universities from 99 countries, providing one of the most comprehensive views of institutional performance across the global higher education landscape.

RUR evaluates universities through a multidimensional methodology based on 20 indicators grouped into four core dimensions: Teaching, Research, International Diversity and Financial Sustainability. The methodology covers teaching capacity, research productivity and impact, international academic and student composition, international co-authorship, institutional income, research income, and other key performance areas.

Islamic Azad University, ranked 90 globally (up from 93 in 2025), ranks first in the country.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranks (119), University of Tehran (180), Iran University of Science and Technology (235), Sharif University of Technology (271), Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (232), University of Tabriz (375), Isfahan University of Technology (441), Shahid Beheshti University (457), and K.N. Toosi University of Technology (505), rank second to tenth.

Based on the Teaching Ranking dimension, Islamic Azad University, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, and University of Tehran are placed first to third, with global rankings of 22, 48, and 109, respectively.

In the Research Ranking dimension, Iran University of Science and Technology (146), Sharif University of Technology (151), and Islamic Azad University (189) are the top three universities in the country.

In the International Diversity Ranking dimension, Islamic Azad University, with a global ranking of 313, is placed first, followed by University of Religions and Denomination (579), and Imam Hossein University (608).

In the Financial Sustainability Ranking dimension, Imam Hossein University (161), Iran University of Science and Technology (237), and Baqir al-Olum University rank first to third.

The 2026 edition of RUR confirms the continued expansion of international university benchmarking. Compared with the 2021 ranking cycle, the total number of ranked universities has increased from 872 to 1,313 institutions, representing an absolute growth of 441 universities, or 50.6 percent. Compared with the 2025 edition, the ranking expanded by 74 universities, reflecting a 6.0 percent year-on-year increase.

For university leaders, ranking offices, international departments, research offices and strategic planning teams, RUR provides a framework for understanding how institutional inputs are transformed into measurable performance outcomes. The ranking helps universities benchmark against peers, identify areas of relative strength and weakness, evaluate progress over time and support evidence-based institutional development.

Harvard University, California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Stanford University, Johns Hopkins University, and University of Pennsylvania are the top five universities in RUR 2026.

Recent rankings

Shanghai University ranking 2026 has placed six Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide, unchanged compared to the past year. In total, more than 2,500 universities are ranked, and the best 1,000 are published.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and the University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 501–600, are jointly placed first in the country, IRNA reported.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, and Tarbiat Modares University rank third to sixth, respectively.

The 2026–2027 edition of the U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings has included 80 Iranian universities among the world's 2,250 top universities.

The institutions from 105 countries have been ranked based on 13 indicators that measure their academic research perfor-

mance and their global and regional reputations, which helps students to explore the higher education options that exist beyond their own countries' borders and to compare key aspects of schools' research missions.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 314), Islamic Azad University (460), Sharif University of Technology (578), Tehran University of Medical Sciences (585), University of Tabriz (663), Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (783), Tarbiat Modares University (783), Amirkabir University of Technology (791), and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences (801) ranked first to tenth in the country, respectively, Mehr news agency reported.

The following is the ranking of these universities based on their global subject standings.

University of Tehran: Polymer Science (5), Green and Sustainable Science and Technology (17), Water resources (35), Pharmacology and Toxicology (59), Agricultural Sciences (65), Energy and Fuels (66), Engineering (68), Food Science and Technology (76), Plant and Animal Science (77), Mechanical Engineering (78), Civil Engineering (92), and Artificial Intelligence (104).

Islamic Azad University: Polymer Science (12), Green and Sustainable Science and Technology (26), Energy and Fuels (44), Mathematics (47), Mechanical Engineering (56), Food Science and Technology (59), Civil Engineering (66), Water Resources (69), Engineering (77), Pharmacology and Toxicology (77), Public, Environmental and Occupational Health (102), and Artificial Intelligence (107).

Sharif University of Technology: Mechanical Engineering (73) and Civil Engineering (109).

Tehran University of Medical Sciences: Polymer Science (32), Pharmacology and Toxicology (49), Public, Environmental and Occupational Health (86), and Food Science and Technology (96).

University of Tabriz: Water Resources (55), Polymer Science (66), and Food Science and Technology (69).

Mashhad University Medical Science: Public, Environmental and Occupational Health (77), and Pharmacology and Toxicology (97).

Tarbiat Modares University: Water Resources (90); Amirkabir University of Technology: Polymer Science (49).

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences: Polymer Science (21), and Pharmacology and Toxicology (94).

The 2025 World University Rankings (WUR) report by the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has included 76 Iranian universities, an increase from 72 in 2024.

Among the top universities of Islamic countries, Saudi Arabia ranks 229. Qatar (301–350), Malaysia (351–400), Iran, and the UAE (jointly rank 401–500) are placed next.

In the research criterion, Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranks first in the country. The university's global ranking is 373, up from 501–600 in 2024.

In the education criterion, Graduate University of Advanced Technology (129), Iran University of Medical Sciences (214), Tehran University of Medical Sciences (255), Golestan University of Medical University (273), and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (340) are placed first to fifth.

In the international activity criterion, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (440), University of Tehran (465), and Amirkabir University of Technology (611) rank first to third.

In the innovation criterion, Amirkabir University of Technology ranks 774, and Sharif University of Technology ranks 804.

In the social impact criterion, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences rank 307, 410, and 427, respectively.

The 23rd edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings (WUR), 2027, has placed 11 Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, up from nine universities in 2026.

Sharif University of Technology (ranking 390) and Amirkabir University of Technology (483) are placed second and third.

The 16th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026 has included 10 Iranian universities in three broad subject areas.



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SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

That knowledge which remains only on your tongue is very superficial. The intrinsic value of knowledge is that you act upon it.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:03 Evening: 18:43 Dawn: 4:15 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:41 (tomorrow)

Arasbaran Cultural Center to screen “Tuner”



TEHRAN- “Tuner,” a 2025 crime thriller film directed by Canadian filmmaker Daniel Roher, will be reviewed at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday evening.

Film critic Kourosh Jahed is set to attend a screening of the film followed by a review session.

“Tuner” combines the worlds of classical music and organized crime through the unusual story of a gifted piano tuner whose extraordinary sensitivity to sound turns him into an unlikely safecracker.

Written by Roher and Robert Ramsey, the film stars Leo Woodall as Niki White, alongside Havana Rose Liu, Dustin Hoffman, Lior Raz, Tovah Feldshuh and Jean Reno.

Niki is a young piano tuner and former musician who works as an apprentice to Harry Horowitz (Hoffman), a veteran tuner who was also a close friend of Niki’s late father. Niki’s career as a pianist was cut short by hyperacusis, a condition that makes ordinary sounds painfully intense. Although he is forced to protect his ears from noise, his heightened hearing gives him an unusual ability: he can detect the mechanisms inside safes and eventually learns how to open them.

Niki first discovers this talent after Harry forgets the combination to his own safe. What begins as a personal favor soon becomes an opportunity for easy money. While working at a wealthy client’s home, Niki unexpectedly encounters a group of Israeli thieves and demonstrates his safecracking ability. Their leader, Uri, sees his potential and offers him work.

At the same time, Niki develops a relationship

with Ruthie, an ambitious young pianist and composer. His connection with her gradually brings him back into the musical world he was forced to abandon. However, when Harry suffers a heart attack and mounting medical expenses threaten his future, Niki accepts Uri’s offer and joins the criminal operation.

Working with Uri, Yoni and Benny, Niki uses his specialized hearing to break into the safes of wealthy homeowners. His involvement deepens when the group becomes entangled with Korean criminals seeking access to a cryptocurrency fortune worth more than \$18 million.

Following Harry’s death, Niki attempts to distance himself from the criminal world, but Uri refuses to let him walk away. His refusal sets off a dangerous confrontation that eventually leaves Niki seriously injured and partially deaf.

The injury, however, changes Niki’s life in an unexpected way. No longer overwhelmed by ordinary sounds, he can finally exist without the ear protection that had defined much of his life. In the film’s emotional conclusion, he returns to the piano and performs again after years away from the instrument.

“Tuner” was selected for the Toronto International Film Festival’s 2025 Canada’s Top Ten list. Roher and Ramsey also won the Vancouver Film Critics Circle award for Best Screenplay for a Canadian Film, while Woodall received a nomination for Best Actor in a Canadian Film.

By bringing together music, crime and the sensory experience of its central character, “Tuner” offers a distinctive take on the crime thriller while placing its protagonist’s lost and rediscovered relationship with music at the heart of the story.

Cartoon of Day



Children of Gaza

Cartoonist: Alaa Allagta from Palestine

Children’s Book Council announces Iranian nominees for 2028 Hans Christian Andersen Award

TEHRAN – Author Ahmad Akbarpour and illustrator Reza Dalvand have been selected by the Children’s Book Council (CBC) of Iran as the Iranian nominees for the 2028 Hans Christian Andersen Award.

Akbarpour has been selected by the CBC for the second time. In 2026, he was one of the final six authors nominated for the awards in the authors section though he did not win it, IRNA reported.

Born in Fars Province, Ahmad Akbarpour, 56, is a novelist and author of short stories and children’s books. He got his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran and his master’s degree in children’s literature from Shiraz University in Shiraz.

He began writing for adults before turning to children’s and young adult literature after discovering Constantin Virgil Gheorghiu’s “Twenty-Fifth Hour”. A student of Reza Baraheni and Houshang Golshiri, he soon started writing fiction for adolescents, adopting a postmodern style of writing.

Introduced to Iran’s Children’s Book Council, he submitted his first poem, and soon became one of Iran’s most celebrated authors for young readers, with over 50 books to his name.

His short novel “That Night’s Train” (1999) received the Book of the Year award from Iran’s Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. During his career, Akbarpour discussed such topics as fear, loneliness, and peace.

In some of his works, he shows his disdain for the destructive impact of war on children. His children’s anti-war book “Good Night Commander” and “That Night’s Train,” illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault, were published in English by Groundwood Books in the US and Canada in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

Known for inventive storytelling that challenges conventional narratives, Akbarpour invites readers to think critically and empathetically, weaving universal themes such as peace, friendship, and family into works like “The Giant and the Bicycle”.

His versatility spans humor, fantasy, realism, and myth, as seen in “Good Night Commander,” “Roc



Girl,” and “That Night’s Train”. He also addresses social issues, including the experiences of children with special needs or from marginalized backgrounds. His stories often collaborate closely with Iranian illustrators, enhancing their visual and emotional impact.

Translated into multiple languages, including English, German, Korean, Chinese, Turkish, Italian, Portuguese, and Arabic, and adapted into films, his works have earned recognition, including the 2024 White Ravens list (Munich), the National Children’s Literature Festival of Shiraz, and inclusion in Iran’s “Must Read and Influential Books of the Last Thirty-Three Years.” He was shortlisted for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2023 and 2025.

The most distinguishing characteristic of his works is their humor, which makes his writings captivating and agreeable. Akbarpour, who is always on the lookout for new and different elements, is thus able to look at his subject from a different perspective in some of his works and pull the reader’s imagination along. He has also had the experience of rewriting some old legends. He conducted some research and gathered Persian satire proverbs and traditional children’s games.

Beyond writing, Akbarpour mentors emerging writers through workshops, helping shape the next generation of Iranian children’s literature. His commitment to creativity, inclusivity, and critical thinking has made him a leading voice in global children’s literature.

Reza Dalvand, 37, is an award-winning author and illustrator of more than 30 books for readers of all ages, including “Where Is My House?” and “Mrs. Bibi’s Elephant”. His works have been showcased in many solo and group exhibitions in Iran, England, Japan, South Korea, Ukraine, and several other countries.

His illustration has received worldwide recognition; he has been longlisted for the World Illustration Awards, has been featured twice by the Bologna Exhibition Book Fair, received the Grand Prize of the Os-hima Picture Book Museum Award of Japan, was a nominee for two Astrid Lindgren Memorial Awards, was highlighted at Sharjah Children Reading Festival, and many more.

Dalvand is a member of Iranian Illustrators Society. He graduated from Isfahan Art University, and gained a Master’s in Illustration from Tehran University. He has taught at Tehran University and worked as art director on hundreds

of children’s books.

His work blends emotional storytelling with poetic visuals, often exploring themes such as childhood, self-acceptance, social justice, and identity.

Creating magical worlds rooted in real cultures, details, and feelings, he invites both children and adults into stories that are whimsical yet deeply human.

Strongly influenced by his Persian heritage, his work carries a universal resonance that has reached readers around the world.

The Hans Christian Andersen Awards are two literary awards given biennially by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), recognizing one living author and one living illustrator for their lasting contribution to children’s literature.

The writing award was first given in 1956, the illustration award in 1966. The former is sometimes called the Nobel Prize for children’s literature.

The awards are named after Hans Christian Andersen, a 19th-century Danish author of fairy tales, and each winner receives the Hans Christian Andersen Medaille (a gold medal with the bust of Andersen) and a diploma.

Iran’s children’s theater festival announces sections, calls for entries

TEHRAN- The call for entries for the 31st edition of Iran’s International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults, scheduled to take place from November 29 December 4 in Hamedan under the direction of Iranian theater artist Marzieh Boroumand, has been published.

Organized with the slogan “Today’s Children’s Well-being, Tomorrow’s Iran’s Well-being,” the festival will feature eight sections, including competitions for theater for toddlers, children and young adults, outdoor and alternative performances, playwriting, productions from other countries, international theater, as well as academic and research workshops and experience-sharing sessions.

The festival will accept productions that have already been staged or are ready for performance.

In the toddler theater competition, particular attention will be paid to active participation of young audiences in the play-performance process, age-appropriate concepts and language, comprehensible imagery and suitable performance duration. Up to seven productions will be selected, with preference given to works that can be staged in kindergartens, play centers, educational institutions and similar venues.

The children’s and young adults’ theater competitions will each accept up to seven productions. The competition for outdoor and alternative forms of performance will cover theatrical works presented in venues other than conventional theater halls. Up to seven productions will be admitted in this section.

The playwriting competition will focus exclusively on the theme of “water and its importance to sustainable development, the resilience of Iran’s land, and the need to safeguard water resources.” Applicants must



submit a one-page synopsis along with their plays. Previously staged or published plays will not be eligible.

A non-competitive guest section will also feature productions selected by the festival director. Specialized children’s and young adults’ theater festivals may nominate their winning productions for consideration in this section.

The international theater section is designated for productions by non-Iranian theater groups.

Applications for all sections must be submitted online through the festival’s website, icy.theater.ir, along with the required documents. Applications will only be accepted within the specified registration period. Performance videos may be submitted through Google Drive links.

Performance videos must be of sufficient quality to allow the selection council to clearly assess the production and its artistic details. No specific filming method has been imposed by the festival secretariat.

Written authorization from the playwright,

translator or publisher is mandatory for registration in all sections. Any production found at any stage to lack the required authorization will be disqualified.

The festival secretariat will recognize only the director of a production as its artistic owner and head of the participating group. For performance sections, only complete video recordings of productions will be accepted. Each applicant may submit a maximum of two productions, but may participate in the final festival with only one work and in only one section.

Productions that have appeared in previous editions of the festival will not be eligible unless they have undergone substantial and clearly observable changes in their performance structure, staging, set design or other artistic elements and an updated version is submitted.

Registration will begin on September 6 and close on October 17. The deadline for submitting plays to the playwriting competition is November 1, while the results of the productions advancing to the next stage are scheduled to be announced on November 1.

Iran’s International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults is one of the country’s major cultural events dedicated to theater for younger audiences. Held annually, the festival brings together Iranian and international theater groups and provides a platform for productions created for toddlers, children and young adults.

Alongside competitive sections, it features international and guest performances, outdoor and alternative theater, playwriting, and educational and research programs, seeking to promote creativity, cultural exchange and new approaches to theater for younger generations.