

‘Iranian people build Iran’s economy, not U.S. Treasury Department’

TEHRAN- The Minister of Economy, reacting to the U.S. Treasury Secretary’s remarks about intensifying sanctions and economic pressure on Iran, said: “The notion that pressure on Iran’s economy can change the decisions of a nation is a mistake.”

According to Mehr News Agency, Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, referring to recent statements by U.S. officials about economic pressure, isolating Iran, and cutting off financial ties, stated: “Iran’s economy is a vast collection of people, enterprises, entrepreneurs, producers, exporters, merchants, farmers, engineers, and millions of economic actors who, over the past years and under the harshest sanctions conditions, have found new ways for production, trade, and financing.” ► Page 4

Are regional countries blindly following the US-Zionist plot?

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – Whatever intentions and calculations some regional leaders have, there is a concern that their peoples will grow accustomed to the killing, criminality, massacres, and daily terror that have turned the lives of millions across West Asia into an unbearable hell.

On October 13 last year, a considerable number of world leaders met in Sharm el-Sheikh at the invitation of U.S. President Donald Trump, who had announced on January 15, 2026, the formation of what was called the “Board of Peace” for Gaza, and who has demonstrated throughout the period since then that he serves the Zionist regime. ► Page 5

Iran attends 39th Moscow International Book Fair

TEHRAN – The Iranian Book and Literature House attended the 39th Moscow International Book Fair, held from September 2 to September 6, with a collection of 500 book titles, a series of illustrations, and various cultural programs.

The pavilion of Iran presented a diverse collection of works from Iranian publishers and executed various programs to introduce the country’s cultural capacities, promote the Islamic Republic of Iran’s “Grant” program, and follow up on contracts previously established with Russian publishers during the Tehran Publishing Fellowship, Mehr reported.

The titles displayed at the Iran pavilion covered topics such as literature, culture and art, children and young adults, and themes related to religion, faith, and Iranian national and cultural identity. ► Page 8



Children swim at the beach in Bandar Abbas as a grounded cargo ship is seen in the background in the Strait of Hormuz, September 2, 2026

Iran’s Retaliatory Fire Sends US Warships Fleeing, Exposes American Vulnerability

IRGC: ‘Should the hostile and aggressive actions continue, the US regime must expect devastating responses from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic’

TEHRAN — Iran’s fresh retaliatory actions against US warships and military infrastructure have underscored Tehran’s unwavering position that its armed forces will never leave aggression unanswered. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has deployed heavy ballistic capability, tactical countermeasures, and air defense systems to neutralize Washington’s hostile footprint across the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and broader West Asia airspace.

In a dramatic assertion of regional naval control, the IRGC’s Aerospace Force launched multiple ballistic missiles targeting a primary US aircraft carrier and

an American destroyer participating in Washington’s illegal naval blockade against the Islamic Republic, forcing the vessels to withdraw.

The force staged the reprisal against the vessels “belonging to the child-killing, aggressor US military that had been harassing Iranian vessels and participating in the blockade,” the Corps said in an official statement released on Saturday.

“After sustaining damage and fearing another reprisal, the two warships were forced to flee the area of engagement,”

the statement added.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM), meanwhile, acknowledged that the vessels had come under “multiple” Iranian strikes. Referring directly to the admission, the IRGC noted how the “aggressor enemy, which for years had swaggered around the region with false pride and hollow claims, was today forced to officially acknowledge that two US Navy warships had come under strikes.”

The IRGC emphasized that CENTCOM’s official acknowledgment of the strike serves as living evidence of the enemy’s strategic defeat and proof of the IRGC’s formidable offensive capabilities. ► Page 3

Qalibaf warns of faster, heavier Iranian response to any new aggression

TEHRAN — Iran will respond to any new aggression against its national interests and security with a faster, heavier, and more painful response, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Sunday, warning that the era of “proportionate responses” had come to an end.

Addressing an open session of parliament, Qalibaf said the United States should understand that “the rules of the game have changed” and that Iran’s recent strikes against hostile US positions were only the beginning. ► Page 2

Iran FM holds consultations with Turkish, Saudi counterparts

TEHRAN — Iran’s foreign minister held phone calls with his Turkish and Saudi counterparts on the latest diplomatic efforts to ensure security in the Strait of Hormuz.

Abbas Araghchi discussed bilateral issues and the latest regional developments separately with Hakan Fidan and Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Saturday night.

The three top diplomats also consulted on the progress of diplomatic efforts to promote stability in the West Asia region and address insecurity in the Strait of Hormuz resulting from “aggressive actions” by the United States. ► Page 2

Sayyari: Iran’s deterrence capabilities have significantly increased after recent wars

TEHRAN — Iran’s deterrence capabilities have significantly strengthened following the country’s recent military confrontations with the United States and Israel, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, deputy chief of Iran’s Army for Coordination Affairs, said.

Reacting to recent remarks by US President Donald Trump about maintaining pressure on Iran, Sayyari said Washington’s statements reflected its inability to achieve its objectives on the battlefield.

He said strengthening Iran’s deterrence remained a central responsibility of the Armed Forces and that the military had drawn on its experience in recent conflicts to identify weaknesses and reinforce its capabilities. ► Page 2

Israeli warplanes slaughter civilians, obliterate hospital in southern Lebanon

By staff writer

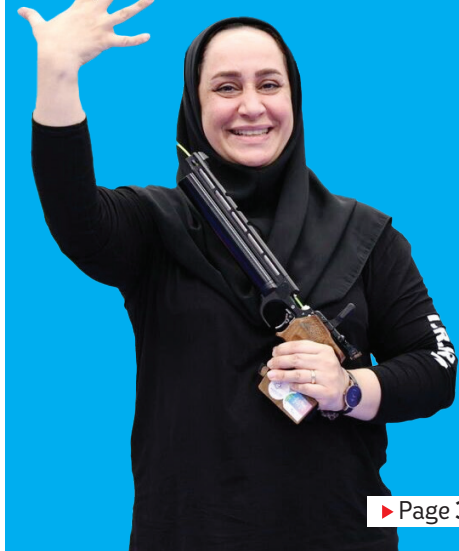
TEHRAN — Israeli warplanes ripped through residential districts in southern Lebanon at dawn on Sunday, killing four civilians and wounding 20 others.

Israeli strikes targeted populated areas across the Nabatieh district, hitting Nabatieh al-Fawqa, Kfar Remman, and Arab Salim.

Women and children bore the brunt of the assault. Two women died in Arab Salim when a strike leveled a villa. Four women were wounded in Kfar Remman as another building collapsed under artillery fire.

Israeli forces also obliterated Al-Ghandour Hospital in Nabatieh al-Fawqa. The medical facility had suspended operations due to relentless bombing. ► Page 5

Javanmardi among shooting stars to follow in Changwon 2026



► Page 3



Final stages of rebuilding Hormozgan war-damaged bridges

TEHRAN- During its recent war with Iran, the terrorist American army attacked key bridges in Hormozgan to isolate the province from the rest of the country.

From the first days of the aggression, Iranian engineers and road workers created alternative routes and began reconstructing the damaged structures. The project is now in its final stages, with the Gariveh, Kahurestan, and water reservoir bridges nearing completion.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

A new chapter in judicial diplomacy

Khorasan examined the Judiciary chief's trip to New Delhi and his participation in the BRICS judicial summit. According to Khorasan, today's world is moving through a historic transition and entering a new phase in the global configuration of power, economics, politics, and international law. Traditional power balances are shifting, new centers of influence are emerging, and independent states are increasingly seeking mechanisms to expand their role and share in shaping the future architecture of the international system. Within this context, the trip was more than a formal or ceremonial visit; it represented a multilayered diplomatic initiative. BRICS is not merely an economic opportunity for the Islamic Republic of Iran; it is also a significant legal and judicial platform. A transformed judiciary must possess effective international capacity alongside domestic authority. The visit demonstrated that Iran's judiciary can, in addition to its inherent responsibilities, play a role in foreign policy, economics, trade, protection of nationals, combating transnational crime, and contributing to the formation of future global legal norms.

Ham-Mihan: Iran wants concessions

Ham-Mihan commented on the uncertain situation between Iran and the United States in the current conflict. It wrote that a complete US withdrawal from the Strait of Hormuz without securing any concessions from Iran — including lifting the blockade on Iran — would be unimaginable even for the unconventional Trump administration. Such a move would allow Iran to present a full victory and give the government in Tehran a powerful psychological boost, undermining much of what the US and Israel have achieved over the past three years in weakening Iran's regional resistance network. Moreover, it is unlikely that Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz for free passage without receiving concessions. Additionally, if Washington retreats, Iran could revive and rebuild its nuclear program — an outcome that would constitute a significant defeat for the United States.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: A new security architecture

Vatan-e-Emrooz discussed the Chinese president's remarks in Cairo and his important message to Arab leaders. Xi spoke of a "new security architecture" for West Asia; an approach that rejects foreign intervention and entrusts the region's future to its own countries. For Tehran to benefit fully from China's new framework, it must go beyond welcoming the slogan of regional security and translate it into concrete proposals: a Persian Gulf security dialogue, a permanent

de-escalation mechanism, joint arrangements for maritime security, emergency communication channels between military forces, and even a multilateral framework to prevent regional territories from being used as platforms for attacking neighboring states. A country that seeks security through war with its neighbor ultimately turns its own security into a hostage of conflict; a country that builds security through agreement with its neighbor makes its stability durable. This is precisely where Iran's national interests intersect with China's new vision.

Resalat: Disarming the resistance cannot replace ending occupation

Resalat analyzed the Israeli occupation of the Ali al-Taher ridge in Lebanon. It argued that the positions of Hezbollah and Iran rest on a clear principle: disarming the resistance cannot substitute for ending the occupation. Hezbollah has stated this explicitly, and Iran's recent warning shows it will not allow Israel to exploit the vacuum created by the ceasefire to define new military boundaries in Lebanon. The dispute over Ali al-Taher is not merely about a ridge; it is about who has the authority to set the rules for the post-war phase. For the resistance axis, the core issue is not preserving a single position or elevation, but preventing the establishment of a formula in which Israel turns war, occupation, and ultimately the disarmament of its rival into a single chain for reshaping the regional balance. At this juncture, the role of Iran and Hezbollah moves from peripheral presence to a central part of the future equation in Lebanon and West Asia.

Farhikhtegan: Trump's project

Farhikhtegan wrote about Trump's project, arguing that Iran must consolidate its recent gains and establish deterrence, while Trump seeks to turn defeat into victory. This has linked the sky and the street as the central issue for the coalition of political losers in Tel Aviv and New York. Trump is now playing multiple cards and shifting toward various tools — from blockade to plus sanctions, and from confrontation to conflict — all of which have entered his agenda. This approach can be seen as a tactic to confuse Iran, but it also signals the expiration of previous tools. Iran, the paper argues, is in a situation where dividing the nation, polarizing political and social issues, and oversimplifying concepts for electoral gain may seem easy — but one must remember that this is the eve of war, not the eve of elections. All domestic political factions must remain united and avoid playing into Trump's plan to drag the conflict into Iran's internal political arena.

Iran FM holds consultations with Turkish, Saudi counterparts



From page 1 ► The calls came after a series of naval confrontations between Iran and the United States earlier Saturday.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Aerospace Force has launched several ballistic missiles at a US aircraft carrier and an American destroyer participating in Washington's illegal naval blockade against the Islamic Republic, forcing the vessels to flee. The US Central Command, meanwhile, acknowledged that the vessels had come under "multiple" Iranian strikes.

The IRGC also said it has attacked a Remotely Operated Vessel (ROV) belonging to the terrorist US military in Iran's southern coast. In a statement released on Sunday, the IRGC's Public Relations Department said that the vessel targeted was attempting to enter the protected area of the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has been administering since the early days of the illegal US-Israeli aggression against the country.

Iran's attacks are in response to the latest deadly US strikes in southern Iran and American assault against Iranian vessels.

Qalibaf warns of faster, heavier Iranian response to any new aggression

From page 1 ► "Any aggression against Iran's national interests will be met with a faster, heavier and more painful response," he said.

Qalibaf also stated that recent Iranian military strikes against US installations had confused American leaders, accusing Washington of resorting to 'deceptive tactics,' including the use of artificial intelligence to generate fabricated battlefield footage.

The speaker thanked the Iranian public for enduring two "imposed wars" involving the United States and Israel, referring to the 12-day and 40-day conflicts. He said maintaining domestic cohesion and strengthening external deterrence were essential to confronting external threats.

"Any speech or action that



weakens these two fundamental pillars is contrary to rational prudence," Qalibaf said, urging officials to avoid moves that could undermine national unity.

Turning to the economic front, Qalibaf said Iran must respond to intensified sanctions by strengthening domestic production, improving manage-

ment of imports and supply chains, protecting energy infrastructure and making greater use of the country's technical and professional expertise.

He also called on the government to improve the quality of public services and move more quickly to address economic difficulties, saying that while Iranians were prepared to endure hardship in confronting the "terrorist US government," they would not accept mismanagement or inaction.

"The people expect us to manage the current situation properly and swiftly," he said, describing this as their "indisputable and inalienable right."

Top Iranian general hails armed forces' asymmetric response to US, Israel

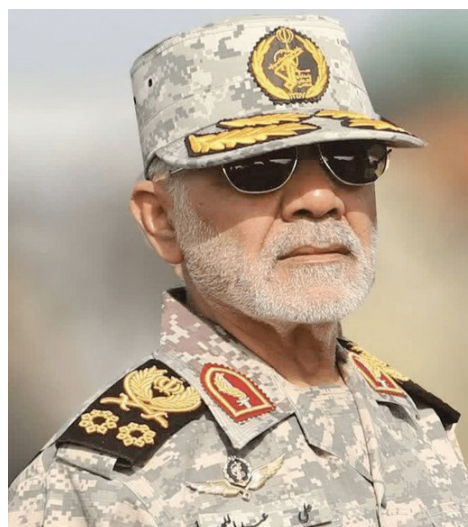
Sunday.

Speaking at an event, Abdollahi said Iran was now facing an "all-out hybrid, soft and cognitive war," involving a combination of military, economic and psychological pressure.

He said the United States had not been accustomed to hearing a "no" from other countries for more than 80 years and had wrongly assumed, before launching its war of aggression against Iran, that the Iranian people would eventually surrender.

"That illusion will never become reality," Abdollahi said.

The senior commander stated that the United States and Israel were attempting to make up for their strategic shortcomings and setbacks by employing soft and cognitive warfare, along with economic pressure. He asserted that these efforts would ultimately fail due to the resilience of the Iranian people and the sound judgment of the country's officials.



TEHRAN — Iran's armed forces have successfully confronted the United States and Israel through an asymmetric approach to warfare, Major General Ali Abdollahi, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, said on

Sayyari: Iran's deterrence capabilities have significantly increased after recent wars

From page 1 ► "Based on the valuable experiences gained from the 12-day war jointly imposed by the United States and Israel against Iran, as well as the subsequent 40-day conflict, including what we refer to as the Ramadan War and the Hormuz War, we have made extensive efforts to address potential weaknesses and strengthen our capabilities," Sayyari said.

"These efforts have significantly increased the country's deterrence power," he added.

Sayyari was also dismissive of Trump's remarks about a possible naval and economic blockade of Iran, describing them as unfounded and repetitive.

He said Trump had repeatedly made similar claims about Iran,

including that the country did not possess nuclear weapons, that its navy and air force had been destroyed, and that its economy was in severe difficulty.

"We have become accustomed to these unfounded and baseless statements," Sayyari said.

The senior commander said US officials were well aware of Iran's military capabilities and argued that Washington would not be able to overcome 'the combat power, resistance and national resolve of the Iranian people.'

"As long as the people remain united and stand alongside the government officials, no one can defeat Iran," he said.

Sayyari pointed to Iran's



eight-year war with Iraq, from 1980 to 1988, known in Iran as the Sacred Defense, as a historical example of 'the Iranian people's resilience under sustained military pressure.'

He also praised 'the continued support of the Iranian people for the Islamic Republic,' describing national unity and public resilience as important elements of Iran's deterrence.

Dennis Ross: Iran's resilience during US war continues to 'surprise'

TEHRAN — The clearest path to a deal to end the US war on Iran may lie in the dispute over shipping fees through the Strait of Hormuz, according to former US negotiator Dennis Ross, as Washington confronts the reality that months of military and economic pressure have failed to force Tehran into submission.

The United States and Israel launched their war against Iran on February 28, apparently expecting that sustained military pressure would weaken the Islamic Republic and compel its leadership to make far-reaching concessions. Instead, Iran has maintained its political and military footing while continuing to challenge US pressure, particularly around the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has repeatedly demonstrated that it can absorb severe pressure while retaining significant leverage over the course of the confrontation. Despite the heavy economic costs imposed by US sanctions and the na-

val blockade, Tehran has rejected demands that it sees as compromising its sovereignty and has continued to insist that any settlement must address the consequences of Washington's military campaign.

Ross said Iran could abandon any demand for a formal toll on shipping while retaining the right to charge for legitimate navigational, security or environmental services. Such an arrangement, he argued, could give both sides a way to claim a political victory, allowing Tehran to step back from its demand without appearing to capitulate.

"The Iranians have consistently surprised us in terms of their resilience," Ross said, adding that he doubted economic and military pressure alone would force an Iranian retreat.

The Strait of Hormuz has become the central pressure point in the confrontation. Washington has sought to use its

naval power and economic blockade to restrict Iran's oil exports, while Tehran has maintained that the strait cannot simply be treated as an instrument of US power. Recent military exchanges around the waterway have further demonstrated the risks of trying to resolve the dispute through force.

"If you could announce that the strait were reopened, I think Trump would do a deal," Ross told The Associated Press.

For Washington, such a deal could provide a face-saving way to end a costly confrontation. For Tehran, reopening the waterway while preserving its sovereign rights and securing an end to the pressure campaign could equally be presented as a victory.

After months of war, the emerging lesson is that Iran's resilience has become one of the central factors pushing the US to search for an exit from the conflict.

Iran’s retaliatory fire sends US warships fleeing, exposes American vulnerability

From Page 1 ▶ The IRGC asserted that the Corps, alongside the rest of Iran’s Armed Forces, remains fully committed to defending the Islamic Republic’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security.

“Should the hostile and aggressive actions continue, the US regime must expect devastating responses from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic,” the Corps declared. “We stand stronger than ever. Victory belongs to the resilient people of Islamic Iran, while defeat and regret are the inevitable fate of the aggressors.”

The Corps expressed firm confidence that the bravery displayed by the Armed Forces—bolstered by nationwide popular support for defensive and retaliatory operations—would consistently prevent the enemy from achieving its sinister objectives.

Earlier, the IRGC unveiled previously unreleased operational footage documenting its decisive actions against non-compliant foreign vessels in the vital Strait of Hormuz. The released imagery debunked Washington’s claims of effectively escorting and supporting trespassing vessels through the maritime choke-point.

“The United States is the greatest threat to the security of regional countries and maritime trade; US support and escort operations are nothing but a big lie!” the IRGC cautioned. Before the footage release, the Corps announced striking three United States-linked vessels and three trespassing oil tankers in direct retaliation for earlier American attacks on Iranian oil tankers.

Demonstrating total operational awareness along its maritime boundaries, the IRGC Navy targeted and neutralized a Remotely Operated Vessel (ROV) belonging to the US military off Iran’s southern coast.

In a statement released on Sunday, the IRGC’s Public Relations Department confirmed that the targeted unmanned vessel was attempting to breach the protected area of the Strait of Hormuz, an essential body of water that Iran has active-



ly administered since the onset of illegal US-Israeli aggression against the nation.

“With the grace and favor of Almighty God, every desperate move by the enemy is being closely monitored by brave, self-sacrificing IRGC Navy forces and will be met with a decisive attack,” the statement noted.

Reiterating national control over key sea lanes, the IRGC emphasized that the Strait of Hormuz “is under the management of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that any move by the child-killing enemy will receive a firm response. The aggressor United States must understand that it has no choice but to leave the region and stop its acts of mischief.”

Simultaneously, the Aerospace Force of the IRGC extended its anti-reconnaissance umbrella to neutralize airborne spying apparatuses operating in neighboring airspace. Iranian defense forces shot down a 35-meter-long US military surveillance balloon over Erbil in northern Iraq. The targeted airborne platform was capable of carrying up to 500 kilograms of payload and operated at an altitude of approximately 750 meters. Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday that the strike forms part of a systematic strategy aimed at dismantling Washington’s regional reconnaissance and early-warning networks.

The retaliatory strikes by Iranian armed forces come against a background of severe, unlawful military aggression by American forces on Iranian territory and civilian centers.

Larak Island attack: On Monday, US armed forces launched a direct military assault on Iran’s Larak Island, located strategically in the Strait of Hormuz, resulting in the martyrdom of several individuals.

Strikes across Khuzestan: US missile strikes struck three distinct locations near Ahvaz and Aghajari in Khuzestan Province on Tuesday, martyring seven people and wounding eight others, according to provincial officials.

Kuestak Wedding Ceremony Bombing: US forces struck a residential building in Kuestak, Hormozgan Province on Tuesday, while a local wedding reception was taking place. The strike resulted in the martyrdom of at least five people and wounded 68 others, including women and children.

In direct response to these violations, Iran’s armed forces executed coordinated salvos of retaliatory missile and drone strikes targeting hostile US military positions and bases spread across Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain. Furthermore, Iranian defensive actions led to the striking of three additional US-linked vessels that attempted to breach Iranian security zones or facilitate hostilities.

The current combat operations mark an intensification of the conflict that erupted on February 28, when the United States and Israel initiated unprovoked, large-scale military attacks against Iran in clear violation of the United Nations Charter.

Since February 28, Washington has repeatedly violated international law, targeting sovereign

territory, critical national infrastructure, and civilian neighborhoods. However, Tehran’s defense strategy has transformed the confrontation into an operational strain on the US military.

Independent security analysts and strategic defense reports confirm that the continuous deployment of interceptors against complex Iranian missile and drone salvos has severely depleted US military stockpiles.

Interceptor exhaustion: US stocks of key interceptors, including Patriot PAC-3 and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile systems, have been depleted by well over half.

Strategic vulnerability: Defense intelligence estimates indicate that the rapid consumption of these high-cost interceptor inventories has pushed American air defenses in multiple theaters to critical levels, creating global operational gaps that will take defense manufacturers years to rebuild.

While Washington faces a rapidly shrinking stockpile of high-grade munitions and logistical strain, Iran’s defense doctrine—built upon domestic production, underground missile facilities, and vast stockpiles of asymmetric assets—has demonstrated enduring strength.

Despite sustained military pressure and illegal blockades from Washington, the national resilience of the Islamic Republic remains unbroken. The defensive actions executed by the IRGC have consolidated popular support across Iran, proving that threats and military coercion cannot alter Tehran’s posture.

By striking high-value naval assets, enforcing strict control over the Strait of Hormuz, dismantling American intelligence platforms, and enduring external attacks, Iran’s armed forces continue to demonstrate that foreign aggression will consistently carry unacceptable costs. As the IRGC leadership affirmed, the Iranian nation stands stronger than ever, fully prepared to maintain its sovereignty and deliver decisive responses to any future hostile miscalculations.

Former Pentagon analyst to Tehran Times:

US military emulates Israeli ‘total war’ tactics by deliberately targeting civilians



The latest joint X Space hosted by Tehran Times and Sputnik featured former Pentagon analyst Karen Kwiatkowski in a wide-ranging discussion on the rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

The conversation focused on the escalation of the conflicts in Ukraine and Iran, the role of Washington, the CIA and Israel in shaping U.S. foreign policy, growing tensions between Russia and NATO, developments inside the Pentagon, the transformation of the U.S. military-industrial complex through technologies such as drones, AI and data systems, and the increasingly serious risk of nuclear escalation.

Throughout the discussion, Kwiatkowski shared her assessment of U.S. strategy, domestic political dynamics and the challenges facing American military and financial power.

Sputnik: To what extent is Zelensky acting independently versus taking direction from Washington, and what is the role of the CIA and the Trump administration in Ukraine?

Karen Kwiatkowski: “I think a great deal of what we are seeing ultimately comes from Washington. Ukraine did not have the capability, even years ago, to take on Russia as a whole. What happened in Ukraine was cultivated, encouraged and manipulated through U.S. government involvement, particularly from 2014 onward and under Zelensky. The United States, and Britain as well, have had an interest in preventing peace talks, encouraging deeper strikes and continuing to weaken and harass Russia.

The CIA is enormously funded and has very little accountability. It has interests of its own that can survive changes of president. Ukraine was a place where the CIA could operate relatively freely for decades; I would describe it as a CIA ‘playground.’ In my view, the CIA, Israel, war and imperialism had already found a home in Ukraine before the current war. I see this less as one president’s war than as ‘CIA’s war.’”

Tehran Times: From a military perspective, what is happening regarding the U.S. strike on a civilian wedding in southern Iran? Why are civilian areas targeted with precision weapons, and how should the American people respond?

Karen Kwiatkowski: “I think the U.S. government and the Pentagon are increasingly fighting in the way the Israelis fight. They increasingly view these conflicts as ‘total wars.’ Hitting civilians, children and families, including deeply heartbreaking targets, has become part of the targeting portfolio.

We have seen this pattern in Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan and North Africa. I don’t believe the people directing these operations would simply apologize and say that attacks on schools or other civilian locations were accidents. The United States has enormous intelligence capabilities and the ability to distinguish targets. To me, this represents a late-stage imperial military strategy, essentially a total-war approach. The purpose is not simply to defeat an opposing military force. It is to assault the humanity of the opponent and deliberately impose suffering on civilians.

There is also a huge disconnect between Americans and their government. Trump campaigned on MAGA, ending foreign wars

and bringing troops home. Once elected, however, much of what he had promised did not happen. ‘They all lie.’ Voting is not working in the way people expect it to work. Americans repeatedly vote for candidates who promise peace, while the country continues to fund imperial wars despite enormous levels of national debt.

If Americans want to stop this, they need something beyond simply voting. And we also have to recognize the enormous influence of the Israel lobby. In my view, the Zionist government of Israel sets U.S. foreign policy in more ways than most Americans understand.

Tehran Times: What does the current situation inside the Pentagon tell us—especially with Hegseth removing individuals deemed disloyal and the resignation of Dan Driscoll?

Karen Kwiatkowski: “I think the Pentagon, the U.S. military and the political leadership above them are already very weakened. Historically, when an administration fires large numbers of generals and admirals and replaces them with people considered more loyal, it is usually an attempt to ensure that the military will carry out a particular political agenda.

The Trump administration places a very high value on loyalty, but professional military feedback is increasingly interpreted as disloyalty. That is deeply dysfunctional. I also think appointing Hegseth was a sign of weakness; he was not qualified for the position and was essentially a political hack.

If someone like Brian Mast were chosen to replace Dan Driscoll, I would see that as another indication that the administration wants the U.S. military to become more closely aligned with Israeli military ideology. I consider Mast a particularly strong Zionist ideologue. The Israeli military operates according to a different set of values and tactics, and in my view, it has not demonstrated that it can actually win wars, even though it can carry out what I would characterize as genocide. What I see in Washington and at the Pentagon is weakness, panic, fear and incompetence.”

Sputnik: Regarding modern military-tech developments and reports that Trump might consider nuclear weapons against Iran: is this a bluff or a genuine danger?

Karen Kwiatkowski: “Modern warfare is moving toward cheap, disposable drones and AI, clashing with the traditional military-industrial complex model built on expensive systems.

Regarding nuclear weapons, Trump has a very strong need to ‘win’ and may be willing to sacrifice lives to achieve that. What worries me is the politicization of military leadership. If professional officers are replaced with loyalists, you remove barriers that might prevent a president from using nuclear weapons first.

What worries me even more is the possibility that Israel could use those threats as ‘top cover’ for some kind of false-flag operation—an incident involving a nuclear device or radiation that is attributed to Iran to pressure Trump into responding. The role of intelligence agencies like the CIA and Mossad in such a scenario could be extremely insidious. Preventing nuclear escalation is imperative.

LATEST NEWS

■ Pezeshkian orders probe into fatal fuel tanker explosion in western Iran

President Masoud Pezeshkian has ordered an immediate investigation into the causes of a fuel tanker explosion that killed 11 people and injured seven others on the Sanandaj-Hamedan road in western Iran.

In a message posted on X Sunday, Pezeshkian expressed condolences to the victims’ families and the people of Kurdistan Province, calling for urgent medical care for those injured, support for the affected families and a thorough investigation into the cause of the incident.

■ Iran seizes arms shipment bound for central regions

Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has seized a shipment of weapons and ammunition intended for delivery to central parts of the country, the IRGC’s Hamzah Sayyid al-Shuhada Base said Sunday. The shipment, intercepted near the border in Oshnavieh County, included six AK-47 rifles, 28 magazines and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. The IRGC said the weapons were being transported by separatist groups for subversive activities.

■ Iran’s OIC mission condemns US strike on oil tanker

Iran’s mission to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has condemned a US attack on an Iranian commercial oil tanker in the Persian Gulf, calling it a “cowardly” and illegal assault. Responding to a US Central Command statement describing the operation as “precision and professionalism,” the mission questioned how attacks on civilian sites in Iran could subsequently be dis-

missed as mistakes. It accused Washington of applying double standards when civilian lives are at stake.

■ Iran embassy in Beirut rejects unofficial claims on Lebanon

Iran’s Embassy in Beirut has stressed that Tehran’s official positions on developments in Lebanon are communicated only through authorized institutions and representatives. The embassy issued the clarification after Lebanese media attributed comments by individuals to Iran’s official stance on developments in southern Lebanon. It said such remarks represented the personal views of those individuals and should not be interpreted as positions of either the Islamic Republic or its diplomatic mission, urging media outlets to rely on authorized sources.

■ Iran envoy warns of attempts to destabilize south Caucasus

Iran’s ambassador to Azerbaijan, Mojtaba Damirchiloo, has warned against US and Israeli efforts to create tensions in the South Caucasus and Caspian Sea region. His comments followed US Vice President JD Vance’s claim that Azerbaijan, Turkey and Persian Gulf states were assisting Washington in actions against Iran. Damirchiloo said regional countries would not allow such “mischief,” arguing that their vigilance would prevent efforts to destabilize the region.

■ Iran rejects reports of rail restrictions through Kazakhstan

Iran’s Embassy in Kazakhstan has rejected reports that restrictions have been imposed on rail transit to Iran through Kazakh territory. The embassy said no disruption or restrictions had been reported affecting

Iranian companies or rail wagons traveling through Kazakhstan to Iran. The clarification followed reports that Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan had introduced restrictions on rail cargo bound for Iran amid intensified US sanctions pressure. Iranian diplomatic missions, the embassy said, are continuing to monitor the situation closely.

■ Mine uncertainty keeps Strait of Hormuz under pressure

Uncertainty over the possible presence of mines in the Strait of Hormuz continues to weigh on commercial shipping despite US claims that mines in international waters have been cleared. The Financial Times reported that the United States conducted a months-long mine-clearing operation involving naval forces, robotic boats and unmanned underwater vehicles. Iran has disputed Washington’s claims, saying only Tehran knows the precise locations of the mines. The uncertainty has reportedly pushed insurance costs sharply higher.

■ Iran, Mexico move to deepen trade and investment ties

Iran and Mexico are moving to establish a joint committee aimed at expanding trade and investment, with health tourism, automobiles and auto-parts manufacturing identified as potential areas of cooperation. Mexico’s ambassador to Tehran, Guillermo Puente Ordorica, welcomed the initiative during talks with Iran Chamber of Commerce President Samad Hassanzadeh. Iran also proposed cooperation in agriculture, artificial intelligence, medical equipment, engineering services, petrochemicals and minerals, while both sides highlighted transport and financial barriers.

Tehran, Baku emphasize development of transit, infrastructure cooperation

TEHRAN- Farzaneh Sadegh, Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development, and Shahin Mustafayev, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, held a telephone conversation to review the latest developments in bilateral relations and explore ways to expand economic ties, particularly in transit, energy, and border infrastructure.

According to a Sunday report by IRNA from the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, both sides assessed the growing trend in bilateral relations and emphasized the continuation of high-level consultations.

Farzaneh Sadegh, referring to specialized meetings held in gas, electricity, and transportation sectors, called for accelerating the formation of joint committees to follow up and implement the approvals from these meetings.

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, pointing to the damage caused by recent regional tensions to transportation infrastructure, stated: "Despite existing challenges, the reconstruction of damaged routes has been prioritized and the process of completing ongoing infrastructure projects continues without interruption."

She attributed the strengthening of relations between Tehran and Baku to the will of the presidents of the two countries and the close interaction of executive officials at various levels.

Shahin Mustafayev also expressed satisfaction with the progress of railway projects during the call, stating: "The railway route within Azerbaijan's territory up to the 'Aghband' region has been completed, and with the completion of the section within Iran, we will witness a significant transformation in the region's transit and logistics capacities."

Praising the professional performance of Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development in addressing infrastructure damage, he added: "The Iranian government's determination to revive and activate transit corridors is a commendable approach."

At the end of the call, the two sides exchanged views on the latest regional developments and emphasized deepening strategic and economic cooperation as the main pillar of stability and development in the region.

In a decisive move that signals a new phase in regional economic integration, Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan are rapidly expanding their bilateral trade and transit cooperation through a series of high-level agreements, infrastructure projects, and customs facilitation measures. The momentum, driven by political will at the highest levels and supported by tangible results at border crossings, positions the two neighbors as strategic partners in connecting the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Persian Gulf.

At the heart of this economic rapprochement lies the Bileh Savar border crossing in Iran's northwestern Ardabil Province—a 24/7 customs post that has emerged as a vital artery for trade. Over the past year alone, the crossing recorded \$268 million in exports, demonstrating its growing capacity to handle increased commercial volumes. This figure is particularly noteworthy given that the period coincided with external pressures and regional instability, underscoring the resilience of Iran's border economy and its ability to maintain trade flows even under challenging circumstances.

The most recent milestone in this partnership came with the signing of a customs cooperation memorandum of understanding at the Bileh Savar zero point, bringing together Foroud Asgari, Deputy Minister of Economy and Head of Iran's Customs Administration, and Shahin Baghirov, Head of Azerbaijan's State Customs Committee. The agreement formalizes a shared commitment to accelerating customs clearance processes for commercial and transit goods, creating a framework for ongoing cooperation that extends well beyond the current accord.

Asgari identified border congestion as the primary challenge facing bilateral trade, emphasizing that procedural and physical bottlenecks continue to hamper the smooth flow of trucks. However, he expressed optimism that recent agreements would yield measurable improvements, particularly as both sides move to complete critical infrastructure projects. Bridges under construction at the As-



tara and Nakhchivan border crossings were highlighted as game-changers that would significantly strengthen connectivity and facilitate the movement of commercial vehicles.

"The completion of these bridges by the Republic of Azerbaijan will bring prosperity to trade and ease the movement of commercial vehicles," Asgari stated, underscoring the tangible benefits that improved infrastructure would deliver to both economies.

Baghirov reciprocated Iran's positive sentiments, describing bilateral trade as "important" and welcoming the establishment of 24-hour online communication with Iran's customs chief—a mechanism designed to facilitate the immediate resolution of emerging issues and prevent costly delays in customs procedures. "Holding these meetings is very important and significant," Baghirov noted, emphasizing that such engagements have a tangible impact on resolving problems and removing obstacles to trade.

Beyond border-specific initiatives, the broader bilateral relationship has been formalized through an ambitious cooperation document signed at the 17th session of the Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Economic Committee. The memorandum, signed by Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev, outlines joint initiatives across ten sectors, providing a comprehensive framework for economic integration.

In transport, the two sides agreed to expand cooperation in road transport, border management, and railway development. Key infrastructure projects include the Kalaleh-Aghband bridge, the Astara bridge, the widening of the Kalaleh-Jolfa road, the Kalaleh-Siahroud rail link, and the launch of the Astara rail terminal at the shared border. Many of these projects are already in advanced stages, with the Kalaleh-Aghband bridge nearing completion and expected to play a significant role in facilitating transit flows once operational.

The energy sector also features prominently in the agreement, with cooperation approved in oil blocks one and two and the establishment of a joint working group to follow up on related memoranda of understanding. Electricity cooperation covers plans to connect the power grids of Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia, as well as electricity exports from Azerbaijan to Iran. Water cooperation focuses on joint projects related to the Khoda Afarin and Qiz Qalesi dams and power plants, along with the Marazad-Orduabad hydropower project.

Additional understandings cover tourism, agriculture, customs, industry, investment, and sports and youth affairs—creating a truly multidimensional partnership that extends beyond mere trade facilitation.

Speaking at the Joint Economic Committee meeting, Minister Sadegh highlighted Iran's ambitious target to increase transit volumes on the western branch of the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) to 15 million tons by 2030—a significant expansion of current transit volumes that would require more than tripling current fleet movements.

The figures already reflect substantial cross-border freight activity: approximately 120,000 Iranian trucks transited through Azerbaijani territory over the past year, while more than 50,000 Azerbaijani trucks entered Iran. Trade between the two countries has reached approximately \$650 million over the past two years, with exchanges following an upward trend.

Sadegh emphasized that achieving the ambitious transit target would require continued investment in border infrastructure and streamlined procedures, underscoring the importance of the comprehensive agreements now in place.

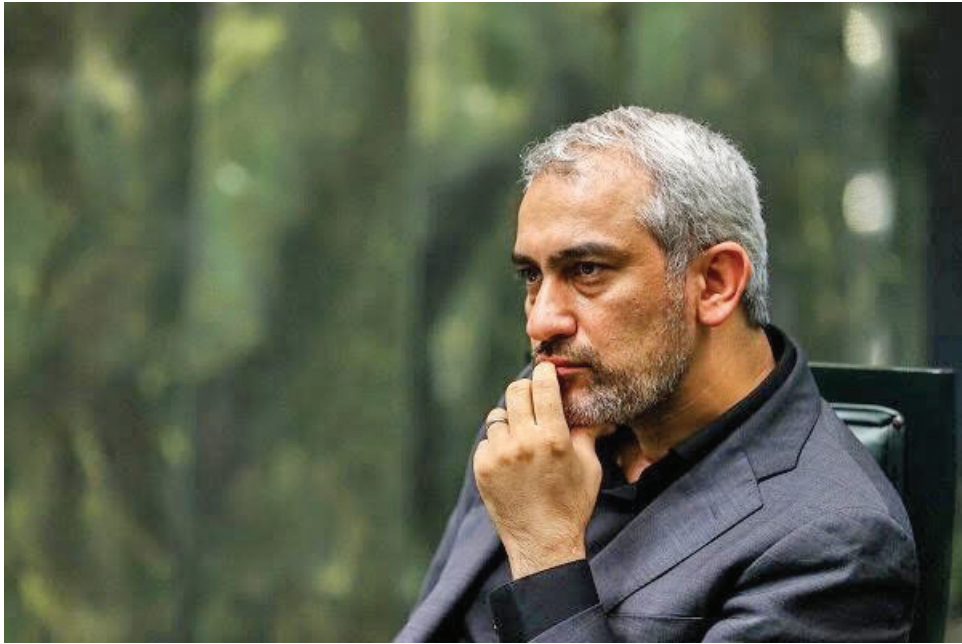
‘Iranian people build Iran’s economy, not U.S. Treasury Department’

TEHRAN- The Minister of Economy, reacting to the U.S. Treasury Secretary's remarks about intensifying sanctions and economic pressure on Iran, said: "The notion that pressure on Iran's economy can change the decisions of a nation is a mistake."

According to Mehr News Agency, Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, referring to recent statements by U.S. officials about economic pressure, isolating Iran, and cutting off financial ties, stated: "Iran's economy is a vast collection of people, enterprises, entrepreneurs, producers, exporters, merchants, farmers, engineers, and millions of economic actors who, over the past years and under the harshest sanctions conditions, have found new ways for production, trade, and financing."

In a video message, he added: "Today, despite the pressures and difficulties created, trade, production, exports, and imports continue in the country, and essential goods needed by the people are being properly supplied. The lack of alignment by many countries with U.S. policies, as well as the dialogues and follow-ups conducted with regional countries and aligned nations, have prevented the enemy's sanctions objectives from being realized."

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, emphasizing that the government does not deny the country's economic problems, said: "The responsibility for reforming Iran's economy lies with the Iranian government and people, not the U.S. Treasury Department. They speak of the collapse and strangulation of Iran's economy, but we speak of reforming the economic structure, increasing productivity, developing trade and production, attracting investment, and ex-



panding economic relations."

Madanizadeh outlined the government's economic strategy as diversifying trade partners, developing regional trade, strengthening the private sector, reducing the budget's dependence on oil revenues, increasing non-oil exports, reforming trade corridors, reforming the banking system, attracting investment, and controlling inflation, and added: "We run Iran's economy for the life and welfare of the Iranian people, not for Washington's approval."

Stating that there is a great distance between bearing economic costs and economic submission, he emphasized: "The Iranian nation has paid a heavy price over the past years, but will never surrender. If the enemy's

goal is to pressure Iran, our response will be economic resistance alongside economic reforms."

The Economy Minister stressed: "The Iranian people will build Iran's economy, and the Iranian people will also determine Iran's future—with will, with a plan, and in line with their own interests."

Madanizadeh concluded by saying: "They can make our financial pathways difficult, but they cannot sanction the will of a nation to build its economy. Just as they could not defeat the Iranian nation with what they claim is the world's largest military, they will not achieve their goals in the economic war either."

Border rail exchanges proceeding uninterruptedly



TEHRAN- The Director General of Foreign Trade at the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, emphasizing the normal and growing flow of exchanges across all 13 railway border crossings, has denied rumors about the suspension of transit operations and announced plans to double transit capacity at northeastern borders and develop ports connected to the rail network.

According to IRNA, Shahriyar Naghizadeh, in an interview on Saturday, highlighted the key role of the national rail network in connecting international routes and stressed the growing trend of exchanges while dismissing any ambiguity regarding the flow of goods at rail borders.

Explaining Iran's geographical

position, he said: "The national rail network in the northeast connects to Turkmenistan's rail network through the Sarakhs and Incheh Borun borders. Turkmenistan, as a vital connecting link, connects us to the CIS member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization along the East-West Corridor (from China to Europe), as well as on the North-South Corridor (from Russia and Kazakhstan to Iran)."

Naghizadeh added: "Due to this feature, rail connectivity and border exchanges with Turkmenistan hold special and strategic importance for the country's economy."

Responding to some reports circulating on social media, the Director General stated: "It is

natural that adversaries seek to produce fake news to inflame the atmosphere, but it must be understood that the railway serves peace, the environment, and the country's industrial development."

He emphasized: "Contrary to rumors aimed at creating black markets and disrupting the supply chain, the normal flow of goods is proceeding without any issues across all 13 rail borders, including Sarakhs and Incheh Borun. The exchange trend at these borders has not only not stopped but has experienced significant growth compared to last year."

Naghizadeh, referring to the need to upgrade service levels, said: "With increasing international demand, we are obliged to develop the logistical capacities of border stations—including loading, unloading, rail lines, and hardware facilities—so that goods enter the country swiftly and safely without delays at borders. We have very close cooperation with the Customs Administration of Iran in this regard."

He continued: "According to Articles 57 and 58 of the Seventh Development Plan, the railway's obligations to achieve target transit volumes have been specified. By developing the Sarakhs and Incheh Borun stations, which currently handle approximately 5

million tons combined, we have targeted increasing this figure to over 10 million tons."

Regarding alternative routes, the Director General said: "To diversify the supply chain for essential and industrial goods, new combined routes have been planned and implemented. Our cooperation with Kazakhstan—the gateway to China's rail network—has grown several-fold. Currently, we have increased from 7 trains annually to 3 trains monthly on the China-Iran route, indicating very high demand and the great potential of our rail network."

Referring to maritime capacities, he added: "On the Caspian Sea coast, we are connected to the national rail network at the ports of Amirabad and Caspian, and the performance of these ports has multiplied compared to last year. Given developments on the southern coasts, we are expanding the capacities of northern ports to strengthen connectivity to Russia and the North-South Corridor."

The railway official emphasized: "Utilizing 15,000 kilometers of rail network and 35,000 freight wagons, our goal is the economical, safe, and rapid movement of goods from entry points to other destinations and countries."

Iran-China MOU powers Maku Free Zone as new silk road gateway

TEHRAN- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation has been signed between the Maku Free Zone Organization and a Chinese company, targeting strategic investments in energy, railways, automobiles, and mining.

The agreement aims to develop investment and implement major projects across sectors including energy, rail transport, logistics, mining and mineral industries, as well as electric and hybrid vehicles. The MOU covers technical-engineering cooperation, financing, investment, management, and execution of infrastructure and economic projects within the zone.

Key priorities include studying and participating in the development of the East-West rail corridor and the Tabriz-Cheshmeh-Soraya railway line, which would connect Iran's rail network to Turkey and international routes.

Additional focus areas are solar and thermal power plants, mining and mineral processing, production, assembly, and import

of hybrid and electric cars, logistics village development, dry port facilities, and transit infrastructure.

Both parties will jointly conduct feasibility studies, design financial models, prepare investment packages, and attract domestic and foreign investors for priority projects in the Maku Free Zone.

The Maku Free Zone, located in Iran's West Azarbaijan province near the borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan, is emerging as a pivotal transit and industrial hub.

This Chinese partnership signals Iran's push to deepen economic ties with Beijing despite sanctions, leveraging China's expertise in high-speed rail, renewable energy, and EV manufacturing.

The East-West rail corridor is particularly significant—it forms part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and could shorten freight routes between Asia and Europe.

For China, this aligns with its Belt and Road

Initiative, offering an alternative overland path. For Iran, it means much-needed foreign investment, technology transfer, and job creation. However, implementation faces geopolitical hurdles, including sanctions. Still, if realized, these projects could transform Maku into a logistics powerhouse, boosting non-oil exports and positioning Iran as a key transit bridge between East and West.

In recent years, Iran-China relations have been elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership, with both countries focusing on energy, infrastructure, transit, and technology under the framework of their 25-year long-term cooperation agreement. China, as Iran's largest trading partner, plays a key role in developing transit corridors and railway projects. In return, Iran's unique geopolitical position facilitates China's access to West Asian and European markets. The Maku Free Zone cooperation is a tangible example of this strategic partnership, moving beyond traditional oil contracts toward advanced infrastructure and industrial projects.

Israeli warplanes slaughter civilians, obliterate hospital in southern Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ Its destruction removes a healthcare asset from a region deliberately starved of survival infrastructure by U.S.-supplied munitions.

The strikes took place despite a U.S.-sponsored framework agreement signed on June 26 that ostensibly provides for a gradual Israeli withdrawal, a commitment that remains unfulfilled as the occupation deepens and the death toll mounts.

Resistance drones disrupt underground sabotage

Tel Aviv faces severe tactical friction on the ground. Israeli engineering units tried transporting heavy explosives into subterranean tunnels beneath the eastern flank of Ali al-Tahir Hill.

They wanted to trigger massive detonations. The objective was optical. Israeli commanders hoped to manufacture a propaganda victory claiming the destruction of Hezbollah's underground infrastructure.

The Resistance dismantled this plot. Hezbollah launched precision suicide drones at Israeli troop concentrations.

One drone incinerated a military transport vehicle loaded with explosives just as it approached the tunnel entrance.

Contrary to Israeli claims of operational control, local observers report zero Israeli military movement atop Ali al-Tahir Hill as of Sunday.

Scorched earth retreat and institutional panic

This battlefield paralysis coincides with institutional chaos in Tel Aviv. The Israeli military abruptly launched an unannounced readiness drill dubbed "Dawn 2.0". Concurrently, the army ordered Zionist citizens to urgently flee Egypt, Jordan, and Qatar.

These maneuvers expose a widening internal rift. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu



blames military commanders for the stalled offensive. The army is pushing back.

Leaked military maps show a proposed forced withdrawal. The plan would shrink the occupation footprint to a narrow strip two to four kilometers deep.

Knowing they cannot hold territory against Hezbollah ambushes, Israeli troops accelerated a scorched-earth campaign. They are indiscriminately demolishing civilian homes in Bani Hayyan, al-Mansouri, and Houla before they pull back.

Hezbollah condemns U.S. complicity, Lebanese government failure

Hezbollah leadership views these maneuvers as the flailing of a defeated army. Senior parliamentarian Hussein al-Hajj Hassan publicly mocked the diplomatic pressure campaign, declaring that surrender is absent from the Resistance's vocabulary.

Additionally, in a statement issued Saturday, Hezbollah condemned Israel's campaign

of "killings, bombings, destruction and systematic demolition of houses and villages," accusing the United States of providing political and military support.

The group said ongoing strikes are carried out with "full cooperation, cover and planning by the United States," aimed at pressuring Lebanese authorities to serve Israeli interests.

Hezbollah also criticized the Lebanese government's approach to direct negotiations, arguing that continued occupation and bloodshed proved the framework failed.

"The continuation of the occupation, aggression, and the spilling of Lebanese blood" undermined claims of progress.

Since March 2, Israeli attacks on Lebanon have killed over 4,360 people and wounded more than 12,300 others, with incursions extending over ten kilometers into sovereign Lebanese territory.

Are regional countries blindly following the US-Zionist plot?

Lives of millions of people across West Asia have turned into an unbearable hell

From page 1 ▶ This was preceded by Trump's meeting in New York on 24 September with senior leaders and officials from multiple Muslim countries. Despite these "peace" efforts, the occupying regime continues its massacres against the Palestinian people.

In its latest figures, the Palestinian Ministry of Health stated that since the ceasefire, which began on October 11 last year until the end of August 2026, Israel has killed at least 1,329 Palestinians in Gaza alone and wounded another 4,425, with injuries of varying severity.

There have been no new figures on the massacres committed by the regime in the occupied West Bank, while Zionist provocations continue at the al-Aqsa compound as Israeli officials continue competing with one another in calling for the need to kill the Palestinian people in their entirety.

What have the countries allied with Washington and members of the "Board of Peace" done to persuade Trump to prevent, or force, the occupying regime to halt its criminal aggression against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank?

Analysts further question whether the leadership of these countries, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan, which are part of the Mecca alliance, will put some form of pressure on Trump to honor the promises he made to them during their meetings in New York and Sharm el-Sheikh.

Since experts believe the answer to this question will quite likely be no, Netanyahu has no reason to do anything but escalate his war crimes in Palestine and Lebanon, and his provocations in Syria, where the Israeli Occupation Forces continue to move freely across Syrian territory every day.

Meanwhile, the new rulers in Damascus are celebrating Trump's decision to remove Syria from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism. This is the

same Trump who, in 2018, had offered a \$10 million reward for information about Abu Mohammad al-Julani, whom he met in Riyadh on May 14, 2025, after he had become known as Ahmed al-Sharaa, following Trump's decision, in his own words, to grant him legitimacy.

Trump likewise granted legitimacy to the Lebanese president when he received him at the White House on July 21 last year, after the Lebanese and Israeli governments signed what was called the "Framework Agreement" on June 26, setting out the foundations and principles for joint cooperation in the security and military fields to disarm Hezbollah.

This agreement received the green light and even support from most members of Trump's "Board of Peace" for Gaza. Yet neither the agreement nor Lebanese President Aoun's meeting with Trump was enough to prevent the Zionist regime's ongoing massacres against the Lebanese people.

The latest figures from the Lebanese Ministry of Health showed that 4,335 Lebanese citizens had been killed and another 12,325 wounded between March 2 and September 2, 2026.

At the same time, the occupying regime's aggression continues its daily bombardment of many areas of Lebanon without withdrawing from most of the territories it occupied during the past months.

Nor has it withdrawn from 60 percent of Gaza or from southern Syria, where it has advanced 40 kilometers deep, according to Netanyahu himself, who provoked the new rulers of Damascus when he inspected his forces in the area.

This is an area that the leaders of the Arab and Muslim countries, Trump's allies, seem to have forgotten, just as they have forgotten the real reasons behind the Zionist-American aggression against Iran on February 28 this year, and before that, in June of last year.



This aggression against Iran continues, a country without which, had it not stood its ground, all the countries of the region might well have been doomed.

This is acknowledged by senior Israeli officials, who threaten the Arab world every day while speaking during their election campaigns about the biblical texts and historical myths in which they believe in a "Greater Israel". They are joined by the majority of the regime's settlers, who demand that these rulers carry out more massacres, so long as most Arab and Muslim rulers are blindly or indirectly complicit with the Zionist-American alliance.

Otherwise, critics argue, why are they silent about the alliance's massacres in Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran, its provocations in Syria, and its "smart and covert" actions in Iraq?

Israeli provocations also continue in the Horn of Africa through its alliance with the complicit rulers of Somaliland, who remain in contact with the Ethiopian rulers, backed by the Zionist regime.

Last week, Ethiopia threatened to build three new dams on the Blue Nile in what appears to be a calculated attempt to test its intentions to join the new Trump-backed "Mecca" alliance, after it had failed from the outset to address this crisis with Egypt. The reason for Ethiopia's failure goes back to the Camp David agreement.

The ultimate objective of all these daily conspiracies, both those openly declared and those carried out in secret, is to make the peoples of the region lose their patience and their hope in steadfastness and resistance, until they surrender in body, spirit, and faith, and the region returns to the era of old colonialism with all its brutal rules, customs, and traditions.

This alone explains the hostility toward the resistance in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, and Yemen. It is also the sole reason for the hostility toward Iran, which has persisted from the Islamic Revolution to this day.

Otherwise, what does the Zionist-American alliance want from Iran? Why does Trump threaten Iran and warn every day that he will wipe it off the map, destroy its civilization, and starve its people?

And why has Trump failed to honor, and continues to refuse to honor, the agreement he personally signed on June 17 last year?

Observers argue that the answer to all these questions, and many others, is very simple for anyone who wants to understand the truth, provided they are neither foolish nor complicit, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

The reality is that the Israeli regime wants all of this, and what the peoples of the region want is of absolutely no importance as long as their leaders blindly allow this regime to continue destabilizing West Asia.

Shadowy Emirati firm exposed as major oil supplier for Israeli military

By staff writer

TEHRAN — While Israel continues its campaign of mass extermination in Gaza, a newly established Emirati company has quietly stepped out of the shadows to ensure the Israeli war machine never runs out of fuel.

Heritage Petroleum FZCO, a secretive Dubai-based trading firm incorporated in December 2023, is circumventing regional bans to pump crude oil directly into Israeli refineries.

A sweeping investigation by Oil Change International and the Center for Research on Multinational Corporations, published on September 3, reveals how Heritage and Swiss trading giant Vitol jointly exported 22 million barrels of crude to the occupied territories between October 2023 and June 2026.

This volume accounts for 11 percent of all Israeli crude imports during a period when Israeli forces massacred more than 74,500 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

The findings strip away the obscurity surrounding these covert shipments. They expose the UAE as a willing sanctuary for corporate actors sustaining Israeli genocide and apartheid.

The Emirati pipeline

Heritage Petroleum materialized from nowhere. It began shipping crude oil to Israel just months after its mysterious inception in Dubai.

By the time the genocide reached its second year, the obscure Emirati entity had chartered 8.3 million barrels across ten major shipments. It now stands as Israel's second-largest named crude oil charterer.

The destination of this crude is documented. The oil flows into Israeli ports and feeds refineries at Ashdod and Haifa, run by conglomerates such as the Bazan Group.

These facilities are explicit about their role. They refine the fuel that powers the fighter jets flattening Gaza and the tanks rolling through Palestinian neighborhoods.

Israel imports 97 percent of its crude oil. The Israeli military relies entirely on the global supply chain to sustain its assault.

Weapons manufacturers do not act alone. Producers, traders, and complicit states such as the UAE offer the logistical backbone for



ethnic cleansing.

The Turkish loophole and the logistics of genocide

The shipping data shatters the illusion of regional boycotts.

The Turkish government claimed it suspended all trade with Israel on May 2, 2024. Yet six months later, Heritage began chartering crude oil to Israel. Every single shipment departed from the Turkish port of Ceyhan.

Researchers tracking the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline identified two Turkish subsidiaries of Heritage on the national trade registry.

Shiptech Maritime Ltd. and Limosa Trading Logistics Inc. operate as local fronts. When pressed by investigators, Shiptech's head of operations admitted the subsidiary and Heritage are the exact same entity.

Ankara claims no vessel leaving Ceyhan is authorized for Israel. The reality on the water contradicts this.

Ownership transfers in transit allow the Emirati firm to bypass the blockade entirely. The formal trade ban remains a bureaucratic fiction. The crude flows unabated.

International law leaves no room for ambiguity. Countries and corporations facilitating the transport of oil to Israel risk direct complicity in genocide under the Genocide Convention.

A paper embargo saves no lives. Oil traders continue their lethal business because the states where they operate refuse to enforce accountability.

Activists have been demanding an uncompromising energy embargo to choke off the logistics of Israel.

China's practical push for Middle East peace and better global governance



Iran, the SCO's stance carries unusual weight.

A new security architecture for the Middle East

The Middle East has long been a geopolitical tinderbox. American intervention, beginning with the first Arab-Israeli war, helped plant the seeds of lasting disorder; more recent Israeli and American actions against Iran have only deepened the instability.

In talks with Egypt's president, Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, Mr. Xi outlined a four-point proposal for a new regional security framework.

First, the region's peoples must take charge of their own destiny and resist outside interference, an implicit rebuke to decades of American meddling.

Second, security requires comprehensive approaches, with the Palestinian question remaining central rather than being sidelined, as in the Abraham Accords that isolated Iran while bypassing the core issue.

Third, lasting peace rests on development; shared economic interests can dry up the soil in which conflict grows.

Fourth, outside powers should abandon double standards and let the United Nations play a genuine role.

Taken together, the four points sketch a security order based on common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security—distinct from arrangements designed primarily to preserve American primacy, and closer to what most regional states say they want.

From idea to results: The Global Governance Initiative's first year

A year after Mr. Xi launched the Global Governance Initiative on the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, nearly 160 countries and international organizations have endorsed it. More than 60, including Iran, have joined the "Friends of Global Governance" group.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Javanmardi among shooting stars to follow in Changwon 2026

TEHRAN – Some of the world’s most decorated shooting Para sport athletes will compete in pistol events from 10 to 15 Sept.

Changwon is preparing to host the first WSPS World Championships in three years, and from 10 to 15 Sept. the spotlight will turn to some of the world’s leading pistol athletes at the Changwon International Shooting Range.

Sareh Javanmardi is the most successful Paralympic pistol athlete of all time returns to the World Championships for the first time in seven years. A four-time Paralympic champion and five time medalist, Javanmardi has won three P2 golds (Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020, Paris 2024) and one P4 gold (Rio 2016).

She claimed her first Worlds title in Suhl 2014 (P2) and added P2 silver at Sydney 2019 before taking time away from competition to give birth to her son, Avash.

The current P2 world ranking leader, she also holds the qualification records in P2 (580) and P4 (556) – the latter set in Changwon at the 2024 World Cup, Paralympic.org reported.

Aysel Ozgan (Turkey), Jeongdu Jo (South Korea), Manish Narwal (India), Yan Xiao Gong (USA), and Yang Chao (China) are among the shooting stars to follow.

Iran overpower India at 2026 AVC Volleyball Continental C’ship

TEHRAN – Iran swept past India in straight sets (25-20, 28-26, 25-18) in Pool B of the 2026 AVC Men’s Volleyball Continental Championship.

Iran started the campaign with a 3-0 win over New Zealand and are scheduled to meet China on Wednesday.

The competition takes place in Kitakyushu, Japan from Sept. 4 to 13.

Teams were split into three pools with four teams each. Japan, hosts, were automatically placed in the top position of Pool A as the first seed, while the previous runners-up were placed at the top of Pool B as the second seed.

The next four teams from the FIVB World Ranking were placed across the first and second lines using the serpentine system. The third and fourth lines consisted of the remaining teams according to the ranking and were drawn in the ceremony.

The winning team will earn a direct quota place for the 2028 Summer Olympics, while the top three finishers will secure qualification spots for the 2027 FIVB Men’s Volleyball World Cup.

Iran in Pot 1 of AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup 2026

TEHRAN – The stage will be set for the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2026 on Sept. 10 (Thursday), 2026 when the Final Draw takes places at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

To take place at 3pm, the ceremony will divide the 12-strong cast into three groups of four for the 12th edition of the competition, which is scheduled to run from Nov. 18 to 28, 2026.

Thailand are hosting for a fourth time—matching the United Arab Emirates’ record—and as with each of the preceding occasions, the action will be played out in the city of Phang Nga.

Eleven sides featured at the most recent campaign in 2025 as reigning record four-time champions Iran and Japan maintain their streak of participating at every edition, while Uzbekistan make their return after last being involved in 2023.

The cast has been seeded into four pots for the draw based on a points system derived from their final rankings across the most recent three editions, with hosts Thailand as the top seed, as follows:

Pot 1: Thailand (Rank: 5; Hosts), Iran (1), Oman (2)

Pot 2: Japan (3), United Arab Emirates (4), Lebanon (6)

Pot 3: Saudi Arabia (7), Bahrain (8), Vietnam (9)

Pot 4: Afghanistan (10), Iraq (11), Uzbekistan (12)

The winners and runners-up of each group, as well as the two best third-placed teams, will advance to the Knockout Stage of the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2026.

Iran basketball hold first training session in Nagoya

TEHRAN – Iran’s national basketball team held their first training session in Aichi-Nagoya after arriving in Japan ahead of the 2026 Asian Games.

The Iranian squad, which arrived in Nagoya on Saturday, took part in their first training session Sunday under the supervision of head coach Sotirios Manolopoulos. The players followed the team’s preparation program as they continued their preparations for the start of the 2026 Asian Games basketball tournament.

The basketball competition at the 2026 Asian Games will be held at the Aichi International Arena, with Iran drawn into Group alongside Qatar, Chinese Taipei and Jordan.

Team Melli will start the campaign on Thursday against Qatar. Iran then play Chinese Taipei and Jordan on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

The basketball competition at the Asian Games will run from Sept. 10 to 20, with Iran looking to make a strong run and challenge for a place on the podium.

Ahead of the Nagoya Asian Games, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) released its latest FIBA Men’s World Ranking.

According to the new ranking, Iran dropped two places compared with the previous edition and now sit 28th in the world. The Iranian team remain fourth among teams from Asia and Oceania.

The United States, Germany and France occupy the top three positions in the global ranking, respectively.

Iran will now look to turn their preparations in Nagoya into results on the court, beginning with their opening group-stage clash against Qatar.

Iran pull out of 2026 Wheelchair Basketball World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran’s national wheelchair basketball team will not travel to Canada for the upcoming Ottawa 2026 IWBF Wheelchair Basketball World Championships after the visas of head coach and assistant coach failed to arrive in time.

Jalil Koohpayehzadeh, head of Iran’s Sports Federation for the Disabled, said the federation had been determined to send the team to the tournament, but participation without the coaching staff was not possible.

“The team’s decision was to compete, but this cannot be done without the technical staff,” Koohpayehzadeh said. “The competition starts on Wednesday, and there is no longer enough time for the visas to be issued, as the process takes at least several days.”

He added that the federation has been in constant contact with the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) over the visa issue. According to him, the IWBF and the tournament organizers have made significant efforts to accelerate the process and understand the circumstances surrounding Iran’s inability to secure the visas.

He also expressed hope that Iran would not face sanctions or penalties for withdrawing, stressing that the federation had made every effort to participate and had followed the legal visa process.

Regarding qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics, Koohpayehzadeh said the World Championship will determine the number of qualification spots allocated to each continent. With Iran unable to compete in Canada, the team will now face an even tougher route to securing an Asian quota place.

“We have to beat all the Asian teams to secure the continent’s quota,” he said.

From Shiraz to Zanzibar: A look into centuries-old Persian connection

TEHRAN – For centuries, the Indian Ocean served not as a barrier separating Iran from East Africa, but as a maritime corridor linking the two regions.

Seasonal monsoon winds carried sailors, merchants, religious scholars and migrants between the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula, the Swahili coast and the Indian subcontinent, creating networks through which goods, ideas, languages, religions and cultural practices circulated.

Among the most enduring traditions associated with these connections is the story of the “Shirazis”, people said to have migrated from the southern Iranian city, to the East African coast. The story has long occupied an important place in the historical memory of communities in Zanzibar, Kilwa, Mombasa and other parts of the Swahili coast. But historians have increasingly cautioned against interpreting the tradition as evidence of a single, large-scale migration from the Iranian city of Shiraz.

Instead, the history appears to have been shaped by successive movements of people across the western Indian Ocean, including merchants and settlers from the Persian Gulf, as well as by inter-marriage and the gradual formation of cosmopolitan coastal communities.

Tanzanian historian Professor Abdul Sheriff has been one of the most prominent scholars to examine this complex history. Born in Zanzibar in 1939, Sheriff studied geography and history at the University of California, Los Angeles, before earning a doctorate in African history from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. He later became a professor of history at the University of Dar es Salaam and played a major role in the study and preservation of Zanzibar’s heritage. His work has focused particularly on the history of Zanzibar, the Swahili coast and the dhow culture of the Indian Ocean.

His 2010 book *Dhow Cultures of the Indian Ocean: Cosmopolitanism, Commerce and Islam* places the movement of people between Iran and Africa within the wider history of the Indian Ocean. Sheriff argues that the dhow was not simply a vessel for transporting commodities. Because sailors



and merchants often had to remain in foreign ports until seasonal winds allowed their return journeys, maritime trade created opportunities for long-term residence, intermarriage and cultural exchange. Over time, commercial networks developed into social and cultural communities.

The monsoon system was central to this process. Sailors could travel between the East African coast and the Persian Gulf at particular times of the year, then return when the winds changed. Ports such as Siraf and Hormuz were part of a much wider maritime network extending toward the African coast. Zanzibar, meanwhile, occupied a strategically important position at the center of the Swahili coast, where maritime routes connected Africa with Arabia, Persia and India.

One of the best-known accounts of Persian migration to East Africa concerns Ali ibn al-Hasan, traditionally described as a member of a Shirazi ruling family who established himself at Kilwa. The story is preserved in versions of the Kilwa Chronicle, a collection of traditions concerning the history of the city-state.

The traditional account should, however, be treated with caution. Earlier historians interpreted it literally, while later scholars questioned whether the “Shirazi” migration represented a direct movement of people from Shiraz to Kilwa.

Historian Neville Chittick, for example, argued that the available archaeological and documentary evidence did not support a simple account of a direct migration from the Persian Gulf to Kilwa. He suggested instead that the movement associated with

the Shirazi tradition may have involved settlers from the Banadir coast of present-day Somalia. His study also connected the emergence of a Shirazi dynasty at Kilwa with archaeological evidence and locally minted coins.

Other research has nevertheless strengthened the case for a genuine Persian component in the history of the Swahili coast. Archaeologist Stéphane Pradines, examining the site of Sanje ya Kati near Kilwa, argued that archaeological evidence points to Persian influence on the East African coast between roughly the 10th and 12th centuries. At the same time, he stressed that “Shirazi” should not automatically be understood as meaning people exclusively from the city of Shiraz.

More recent genetic research has added another layer to the debate. A 2023 study of medieval populations from the Swahili coast found evidence of admixture between African and Persian-associated populations beginning around AD 1000. The researchers said the findings were consistent with accounts of Persian arrivals preserved in the Kilwa Chronicle, while emphasizing the complex African and Asian ancestry of Swahili populations.

The evidence therefore points to interaction rather than replacement. African coastal communities were not passive recipients of an imported Persian civilization. They were active participants in the development of the societies that became known as Swahili.

Trade was one of the principal mechanisms behind this process. Merchants did not merely exchange ivory, spices, timber,

textiles and other commodities. They also exchanged technologies, religious ideas, architectural traditions, languages and social practices. The resulting urban culture was distinctly Swahili, even though it contained elements derived from several parts of the Indian Ocean world.

Architecture provides some of the clearest evidence of these interactions. Historic mosques and houses along the Swahili coast reflect centuries of contact between African communities and societies across the Indian Ocean. The 12th-century Kufic inscription at Kizimkazi in Zanzibar is among the important archaeological remains associated with the early Islamic history of the islands. Sheriff has also examined the architectural connections between Zanzibar, the Swahili coast and the Persian Gulf.

Cultural connections were not confined to architecture and material remains. Elements associated with the Persian calendar have also survived in parts of Zanzibar and the wider Swahili world. The celebration known as Nairuzi, a local form of the name Nowruz, has been associated with communities in Zanzibar and other coastal areas. In Makunduchi, in southern Unguja, the Mwaka Kogwa festival continues to combine ritual combat, singing, dancing, fire and communal celebration.

The story of the Shirazis is consequently not simply a story of migration from one Iranian city to Africa. It is a story of movement, settlement, marriage, commerce and cultural exchange across an ocean that connected rather than divided societies.

Restoration work continues at Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili shrine complex



tion of the complex’s interior decorations, upgrading electronic equipment, and several research and study projects.

The official added that some projects have already been completed, including the installation of railings and protective barriers around the historic site, improvement of the facades along a passageway from the direction of Sheikh Safi Bathhouse, and completion of the tilework on the entrances of the complex’s commercial shops.

According to Eyni, the projects will help safeguard the complex’s historical, architectural and artistic values, increase the durability and stability of its physical elements, improve the quality of its cultural landscape and strengthen its conservation and visitor-service infrastructure. They are also intended to improve site management and create better conditions for tourists, researchers and heritage enthusiasts.

The Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili complex dates back about seven centuries. According to the Ardabil provincial Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, the site was originally part of a large garden, where Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili taught and guided his followers and pupils. During his lifetime, the site functioned as a khanegah, or Sufi lodge.

Following Sheikh Safi’s death in 735 AH (1334–35), his son, Sadr al-Din Musa, built the tomb tower known as Allah Allah at the site of his burial. During the Safavid period, additional buildings were added to the original complex, which subsequently became a dynastic burial complex for members of the Safavid family, including women, children and

grandchildren, as well as Shah Ismail I and several prominent figures.

The ensemble contains architectural and artistic elements dating from the 14th to the 17th century, including tilework, mosaic tilework, wall paintings, carved and pierced wooden tomb chests, silver doors and the renowned Chini Khaneh, or Porcelain House.

The complex was inscribed on Iran’s national heritage list in 1931 and was added to UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 2010.

UNESCO describes the Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble as an architectural and artistic masterpiece and an outstanding representation of the principles of Sufism. The complex developed as a micro-cosmic city containing bazaars, public baths, squares, religious buildings, houses and offices, and became one of the most prominent Sufi shrines and pilgrimage centers in Iran.

The ensemble also reflects architectural traditions from the Ilkhanid and Timurid periods, combined with influences from Sufi philosophy, and served as a prototype for innovative architectural expressions and later khanegah designs.

The site remains an important tourist attraction in Ardabil, drawing visitors during the country’s peak travel seasons. Its architectural decoration includes mosaic tilework, muqarnas, stucco, calligraphic inscriptions, wood carving, silverwork, painting, illumination and gilding.

Ardabil, the capital of Ardabil province, is located in northwestern Iran and is a major destination for domestic and international tourists.

Iran hosts over 40% of world's rare plant species: study

TEHRAN — A comprehensive international study has found that Iran is home to 75 of the world's 180 known species of *Melanocrommyum*, underscoring the country's status as a major global hotspot for plant biodiversity.

The study was conducted by Iranian researcher Alireza Dolatyari of the National Center for Genetic and Biological Resources, in collaboration with researchers from Uzbekistan, China, and Turkey, ISNA reported.

Focusing on *Allium* subgenus *Melanocrommyum*, the study analyzed 4642 georeferenced occurrence records representing 170 taxa together with plastome- and ITS-based phylogenetic datasets to assess species richness, weighted endemism, phylogenetic diversity, phylogenetic endemism, relative phylogenetic endemism, categorical neo- and paleo-endemism, turnover, and environmental correlates of phylogenetic diversity.

The results confirm the Irano-Turanian region as the main evolutionary center of *Allium* subgenus *Melanocrommyum*, with the strongest concentration of species richness, phylogenetic diversity, and phylogenetic endemism in the Central Asian mountains, especially the Tian Shan and Pamir-Alay systems. These areas contain both high species numbers and geographically restricted evolutionary history, indicating their role as centers of diversification and long-term lineage persistence.

The researchers identified two prominent centers of endemism, one in northwestern Iran (Ardabil and East Azarbaijan provinces) and the other in Uzbekistan (Kyzylkum, Navio Region), highlighting that intermediate climate and solar radiation played a key role in shaping these patterns.

The National Center for Genetic and Biological Resources is tasked with collecting, identifying, standardizing, preserving, propagating, distributing, and promoting the sustainable use of genetic and biological resources, helping safeguard Iran's biodiversity from various threats.

To improve Iran's scientific standing in biotechnology, the center has established a platform to consolidate scientific and research activities, ensuring the sustainable preservation of the country's biological treasures for future utilization.

In November 2025, the head of the Iranian parliament's environment fraction, Somayeh Rafiei, underlined paying special attention to



endemic and native plant species and implement plant diversity conservation projects in the country.

Zagros [forests in the western part of the country] is one of the top 20 global biodiversity hotspots, and nine out of 11 ecosystems in the world have been identified in the country, which is why Iran has a rich diversity of flora and fauna, ISNA quoted Rafiei as saying.

The country is home to over 8,500 plant species, most of which are found in Zagros, while there are only 5000 plant species known in Europe, she added.

Emphasizing the significance of developing a gene bank and genome map for plant genetic resources in the country, especially those that are disappearing, the official called for supporting research projects on plants.

She also underlined prioritizing endemic and native species, focusing on those that have medicinal values and those that are drought-resistant and play a key role in ensuring food security.

Working together to preserve Iran's precious biodiversity

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

the brink of extinction.

More than two million plant and animal species have been identified worldwide to date, including some 43,000 species found in Iran. The world is home to 11 major types of ecosystems, encompassing aquatic, terrestrial, natural, and artificial ecosystems, nine of which are found in Iran. In addition, 41 of the world's 42 recognized types of wetlands have been identified in the country.

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

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

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



rant, a voluntary recall of contaminated products by a manufacturer, an outbreak from imported products, or a natural disaster.

Food safety hazards do not recognize borders, so in an increasingly interconnected global food supply, risks posed by unsafe food can rapidly evolve from a local problem to an international emergency.

This year's theme, 'Food safety: prepare for the unexpected', underlines the importance of being prepared for food safety incidents, no matter how mild or severe they can be.

Food safety incidents are situations where there is a potential or confirmed health risk associated with food consumption. A food incident can happen, for example, due to accidents, inadequate controls, food fraud, or natural events.

While being ready to manage food safety incidents requires

dedicated efforts from policymakers, food safety authorities, farmers, and food business operators, consumers can also play an active role.

Food safety has a critical role in assuring that food stays safe at every stage of the food chain - from production to harvest, processing, storage, distribution, all the way to preparation and consumption.

With an estimated 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses annually, unsafe food is a threat to human health and economies, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalized people, especially women and children, populations affected by conflict, and migrants.

An estimated 420,000 people around the world die every year after eating contaminated food, and children under 5 years of age carry 40 percent of the foodborne disease burden, with 125,000 deaths every year.

Iranian, Iraqi universities explore potential to foster ties in AI



TEHRAN – The chancellor of Sharif University of Technology, Masoud Tajrishi, and the president of Al-Zahra University for Women, Zeinab Al-Sultani, have discussed expanding academic cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) and generative systems, particularly in postgraduate education.

An Iraqi delegation led by Al-Sultani visited Sharif University of Technology on September 1 to learn more about the university's academic capabilities and educational programs, Mehr News Agency reported.

Highlighting the educational and research capacities of Al-Zahra University, the Iraqi official said the university is interested in developing ties in AI and generative systems, as well as launching joint educational courses for post-graduate students.

For his part, Tajrishi stressed the importance of expanding scientific cooperation among Islamic countries, particularly neighboring states. He outlined Sharif University of Technology's capabilities and achievements in education, research, and technology, while highlighting the university's prominent position in engineering, its innovation ecosystem, and its strong ties with industry.

Iraq seeks to boost scientific, academic ties with Iran

On August 6, Iraqi officials in a meeting with Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, called for expanding academic, scientific, and technological cooperation with Iran.

The science minister met Iraq's Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Haider Abd-Dahd Al-Rubaie, Iraq's Minister of Health, Abdul-Hussein al-Mousawi, and Acting Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Abdul Hussein Al-Mussawi, in Baghdad, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, the two sides underscored the need to expedite the implementation of the previously signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

Sharing Iran's expertise in higher education development to achieve quantitative and

qualitative goals, addressing the needs of Iraq's substantial youth population, as well as attracting genius Iraqi students, and enhancing research collaborations were among the key focuses of the talks.

Simaei-Sarraf also held a meeting with Iraq's National Wisdom Movement leader Sayyed Ammar al-Hakim.

Underlining the extensive scientific and academic capacities of Iran and Iraq, both parties exchanged views on strategies for promoting scientific cooperation, expanding joint research collaborations, and developing academic interactions between the higher education institutions of the two countries.

In April, Simaei-Sarraf and Al-Aboudi underlined the need to boost scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

The officials also discussed ways to develop collaborations on artificial intelligence (AI) utilizing the capacities of the two nations, IRNA reported.

During a meeting held in Tehran on April 18, Al-Aboudi announced that the establishment of a branch of Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iraq has been put on the agenda.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf voiced Iran's readiness to share the country's scientific, research, and educational achievements with Iraq to help enhance bilateral ties.

The official said that Iranian and Iraqi students have conducted a total of 350 joint research projects so far, which needs to be improved considering the available capacities.

Referring to an upcoming Iran-Iraq science week, which is scheduled to be held in Isfahan and Fars provinces, Simaei-Sarraf said the event was delayed because of the [US-Israeli imposed] war, but it will be held at the earliest convenience.

As the two officials agreed, AI and smart education will be among the topics to be discussed during the Iran-Iraq science week. The event is expected to lay the basis for holding a joint conference on AI in the near future.

Iran shakes with 80 earthquakes in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 80 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from August 29 to September 4, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

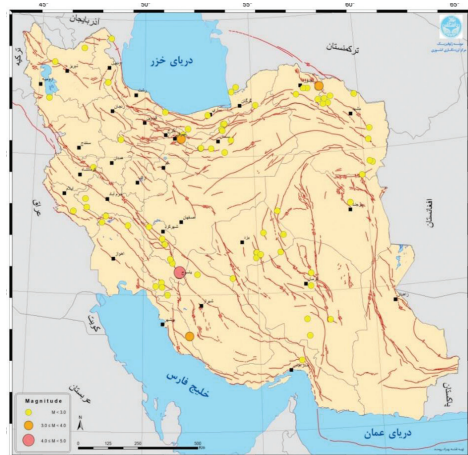
Statistically, 74 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, five earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4, and one earthquake with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 3.8 on the Richter scale, which occurred on September 1st in Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi experienced the highest number of earthquakes with 10, followed by Yazd, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, and Mazandaran each with 7 earthquakes.

During the same period, four earthquakes hit Tehran. No earthquakes were recorded in Isfahan, Alborz, Zanjan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Qom, Qazvin, Kordestan, Gilan, and Markazi, provinces.

A total of 2,380 earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 2.5 on the Richter scale were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2025–March 2026), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, Mehr news agency re-



ported.

Out of recorded earthquakes, 910 had a magnitude greater than 3, 130 had a magnitude greater than 4, and 15 had a magnitude greater than 5 on the Richter scale.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran, but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world's earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes.



SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Beware! Whoever is cruel and harsh to a non-Muslim minority, curtailing their rights, overburdening them, or stealing from them, I will complain [to God] about that person on the Day of Judgment.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 18:42 Dawn: 4:16 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:41 (tomorrow)

Iranian writer, poet and artist Javad Mojabi passes away

TEHRAN- Javad Mojabi, the prominent Iranian writer, poet, satirist, painter and literary and art critic, passed away on Saturday following a period of illness. he was 87.

Mojabi was one of the prominent figures of contemporary Iranian literature and art, whose career spanned more than six decades and encompassed literature, visual arts, journalism and art criticism.

Born in 1939, in Qazvin, Mojabi began his literary and artistic activities in the 1960s. He produced more than 50 works in various forms, including poetry, short stories, novels, satire, plays, screenplays and research.

His first book, the poetry collection "A Season for You," was published in 1965 when he was 25. Mojabi later recalled that the publication of the book served as his formal entry into the literary world of his generation.

Alongside literature, painting remained an important part of his artistic life. He began painting as a child with his brother, Hossein, and later became recognized as one of the pioneering figures in the field of painting criticism and research on visual arts in Iran.

Mojabi pursued his professional career in journalism as well, while continuing to write extensively on literature and contemporary art. His critical and research works on painting and Iranian artists appeared in various publications and books, further establishing his position as a figure active across several branches of the country's cultural life.



He was also widely known for his contribution to contemporary Iranian satire, which he explored through different literary and artistic forms. His fiction output included works such as "The Lost Garden," "Naked Narrative," "In This Weather" and "Speaking While Saying Nothing."

Mojabi remained artistically active during the final years of his life. In 2026, while he was hospitalized at Iranmehr Hospital, a collection of his paintings titled "White Nights of the Hospital and Me" was put on display, reflecting his continued engagement with painting despite his illness.

Through a career extending over more than six decades, Mojabi became part of a generation of Iranian intellectuals and artists who moved between literature, visual arts, journalism and cultural criticism. His multifaceted body of work left a lasting presence in Iran's contemporary cultural landscape.

Cartoon of Day



Trump's Oil War!

Cartoonist: Shahid Atiqullah from Afghanistan

Sydney art exhibition highlights Minab tragedy, voices of war, resilience



TEHRAN – The "When the Earth Embraces the Sky" art exhibition, featuring works addressing war, loss, displacement and resilience, has opened in Sydney, Australia, with the Iranian section focusing on the Minab school tragedy and commemorating the children who lost their lives in the attack.

The exhibition opened on Sunday at the Frank Oliveri Community Centre in Heckenberg, New South Wales, and will remain open to the public through September 13. The event brings together more than 50 artworks from artists and community members from diverse backgrounds, including Iranian, Afghan, Iraqi, Lebanese and Palestinian communities.

Organized by the Conference of Birds – Shia Hub for Art & Culture, the exhibition explores the

human consequences of war and displacement while emphasizing memory, resistance, resilience, connection and hope for renewal.

The event brings together representatives and artists from communities whose countries have experienced war and military conflict in recent decades. Through painting, drawing, photography, mixed media, sculpture, calligraphy and other forms of visual art, the exhibition seeks to transform experiences of loss and destruction into a broader reflection on human dignity and resilience.

The Iranian section has been dedicated to the tragedy at Shajareh Tayyebah Elementary School in Minab, Hormozgan province, and serves as a memorial to the children killed in the attack.

The Minab tragedy occurred on February 28, when the school was struck during the opening phase of the US-Israeli war on Iran. Iranian authorities reported that 168 people were killed and at least 95 others wounded in the attack, which struck the school while children and teachers were attending classes.

As part of the program, the documentary "Minab," directed by Iranian filmmaker Maryam Yousefi-Sadr, was screened on Sunday following the opening ceremony. The screening was proposed by the Benevolent Iranian Women Association, which is also participating in the exhibition's Iranian section.

The exhibition's broader theme draws on the enduring concepts of memory, loss and rebuilding, while seeking to present the

experiences of communities affected by conflict beyond images of destruction alone. According to the organizers, the event aims to highlight the capacity of individuals and communities to remain rooted, rebuild and envision a more hopeful future.

Inspired in part by the spirit of Karbala and Imam Hussein (AS), the exhibition also seeks to create a space for dialogue among Sydney's multicultural communities and demonstrate the ability of art to bring together people with different cultural backgrounds around shared experiences of grief, displacement and hope.

The exhibition is free to the public and continues at the Frank Oliveri Community Centre in Heckenberg until September 13.

Iran attends 39th Moscow International Book Fair

TEHRAN – The Iranian Book and Literature House attended the 39th Moscow International Book Fair, held from September 2 to September 6, with a collection of 500 book titles, a series of illustrations, and various cultural programs.

The pavilion of Iran presented a diverse collection of works from Iranian publishers and executed various programs to introduce the country's cultural capacities, promote the Islamic Republic of Iran's "Grant" program, and follow up on contracts previously established with Russian publishers during the Tehran Publishing Fellowship, Mehr reported.

The titles displayed at the Iran pavilion covered topics such as literature, culture and art, children and young adults, and themes related to religion, faith, and Iranian national and cultural identity.

In this event, a collection of works by Iranian illustrators was also put on display for the audience. This section was designed with the goal of introducing Iran's artistic and creative capacities, particularly in the field of children's and young adult literature.



In the design and visual space of the pavilion, an effort was made to bring together elements of the country's culture, history, and identity. On one side of the pavilion, an illustration of Ferdowsi and his enduring poems, alongside images inspired by the art of Persian painting and miniatures, showcased the grandeur of Iran's literary and artistic heritage. On the other side, a composition featuring Iran, the Persian Gulf, and the Strait of Hormuz could be seen.

This year, a special section of the pavilion was dedicated to images of the martyred leader of the Islamic Revolution and a memorial for the child martyrs of Minab, emphasizing concepts such as national identity, territorial integrity, Iranian culture,

and honoring the memory of the martyrs and the culture of resistance.

Alongside the exhibition of books and artworks, various attractive programs were arranged at the Iran pavilion. These included cultural and literary meetings and events, programs related to illustration and art, as well as participation in the fair's collective activities. Meetings with publishers, booksellers, and officials from the host country's publishing industry were also among the programs planned during the fair.

The focus of the Iran pavilion was to introduce the capabilities and products of the country's publishing industry, clarify national and cultural identity,

represent Iranian literary and artistic luminaries and works, address religious and faith-based themes, and provide narratives related to the history and civilization of Iran. Furthermore, topics such as war and its impact on children and families were addressed in some of the works and programs presented.

The presence of the Iranian Book and Literature House at the Moscow International Book Fair was an opportunity to introduce the country's publishing and cultural capacities, familiarize Russian audiences with Iranian works, and develop connections between the publishers, authors, illustrators, and publishing industry activists of the two countries—a connection that can pave the way for greater cooperation in the fields of translation, rights exchange, joint production, and cultural interaction between Iran and Russia.

Over the course of five days, 300 publishers from Moscow and various Russian regions along with foreign participants from Iran, India, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and China presented hundreds of thousands of titles at the 39th Moscow International Book Fair.

Iranian short film "Warden" wins at 39th Kélibia International Amateur Film Festival



TEHRAN – The Golden Falcon, the grand prize of the Kélibia International Amateur Film Festival, known as FIFAK, was awarded to the Iranian short film

"Warden," written and directed by Sabah Mohammadi, at the end of the 39th edition of the event which concluded last week.

"Warden" follows the mid-

dle-aged manager of a girls' dormitory, named Zivar, whose routine night shift spirals into confrontation after a student returns late, turning an ordinary corridor into a charged emotional crossroads. However, in her solitude, she feels guilty for her harsh reaction and tries to improve the situation, ILNA reported.

The cast includes Yasaman Nasiri, Tara Qobadi, Atefeh Azmogh, Fardin Qaderi, and Elham Banihashem. The film was produced by the Iranian Youth Cinema Society's Kordestan office alongside Mohammadi. Interna-

tional distribution is handled by Madakto Pictures.

Earlier in May, "Warden" won the Best Short Film and Best International Short Film awards at the 13th Leiria International Short Film Festival in Portugal.

The FIFAK is the oldest cinema event in Tunisia since 1964 and the most important gathering of young filmmakers, film enthusiasts, and students from film schools in Tunisia.