

Volkswagen to hand historic German auto plant to Israeli weapons manufacturers

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Volkswagen has formalized an agreement to transfer its Osnabrück car plant to Israeli investors.

The facility will reportedly operate as a dedicated military production hub for Israel's "Rafael Advanced Defense Systems." This transaction physically integrates German industrial capacity into the Israeli war machine. ►Page 5

Yemeni forces strike Saudi facilities in retaliatory blitz

TEHRAN – The Yemeni Armed Forces announced the successful execution of a large-scale offensive targeting critical Saudi economic and military installations.

This came in direct retaliation for a "brutal and unjust" three-day Saudi aerial campaign against civilian-populated areas across Yemen.

In a statement broadcast on national television, a spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF), Brigadier General Yahya Saree, detailed that dozens of ballistic missiles and combat drones struck the Aramco facilities in Abha, Najran, and Jizan. They also targeted the Economic City and the King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait. ►Page 5

Israeli troops storm Breqa as raids expand across southern Syria

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israeli forces stormed the village of Breqa in Syria's southern Quneitra province on Tuesday, raiding a residential home in the latest brazen assault on Syrian sovereignty.

According to Al-Ikhbariah, troops searched the property before withdrawing without making arrests. The incursion marks the second targeted raid on Breqa in five weeks, following a July 31 operation where Israeli military vehicles erected an illegal checkpoint to interrogate residents.

The Tuesday raid forms part of a systematic campaign of ground incursions, arbitrary searches, and heavy artillery bombardment across Quneitra and Daraa.

Occupation forces shelled the outskirts of Eastern Samadaniya on Sunday, just a day after firing six artillery rounds at AL-Rafid and advancing military vehicles into the area. ►Page 5

Tehran metro takes on a new role in urban tourism

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Tourism maps have been installed at 24 metro stations in Tehran to help passengers discover historical, cultural and tourism attractions located around the stations, the Tehran Municipality Tourism Headquarters said.

"Tehran, with more than 10 million people and an extensive public transportation network, has considerable potential for using the metro for tourism," Amir Ghasemi, head of the headquarters, said at a ceremony unveiling the maps on Tuesday.

"The initiative was designed to make greater use of Tehran's extensive metro network as a tool for urban tourism, in addition to its conventional role as a public transport system."

He added that the idea of using the metro network to promote tourism was first raised about two years ago and was subsequently developed by the municipal tourism headquarters with the participation of people who had conducted field research on Tehran's history and attractions. ►Page 6



Pezeshkian Fires Back at Trump's Fantasies Iran Fights On Until the Enemy Kneels in Regret

*Major General Mohsen Rezaei:
The operational posture toward
US warships and bases has been
fundamentally recalibrated*

TEHRAN — President Masoud Pezeshkian has delivered a stern warning to the US, vowing that Iran will maintain its steadfast resistance until foreign aggressors feel "complete regret" for their military miscalculations.

In a statement posted on X, Pezeshkian explicitly dismissed US President Donald Trump's recent social media claims of an impending American victory and plummeting oil prices, emphasizing that while the Islamic Republic has always opposed war and prioritized regional stability, it will not back down in the face of foreign aggression.

"Just as it has bravely stood up in defense against aggression until today, it will continue this resistance with strength until the complete regret of the aggressors," the Iranian president stated, affirming his administration's unwavering commitment to protecting the rights and sovereignty of the Iranian nation.

Pezeshkian's remarks came as a direct

rebuttal to a post by Trump on his Truth Social platform, where the US president attempted to project confidence amid a nearly seven-month war on Iran that has yielded no military victory for Washington. "Oil prices will drop precipitously, like everything else is dropping (but more!), when we WIN the war with Iran," Trump wrote, promising Americans that gasoline would fall to three dollars a gallon, and "ultimately, below two dollars a gallon." He added that this drop would happen quickly and declared that "Iran will never have a Nuclear Weapon. MAGA!" ►Page 3



Iran seizes US autonomous underwater vehicle in Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN– Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy said Tuesday that it had seized an advanced US unmanned underwater vehicle at the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement carried by Iranian state television, the IRGC said its naval forces had captured one of the most advanced autonomous and "smart" underwater systems in the US fleet. Tehran said the vehicle had entered service with the US military in 2025 and that images of the captured platform would be released.

The reported seizure would represent a significant development in the increasingly contested undersea domain around the Strait of Hormuz, where autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) are increasingly relevant to intelligence, ►Page 3

FM briefs parliamentary committee on regional security and Hormuz Strait

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has briefed Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission on the latest regional developments, diplomatic efforts and maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, as Iran continues to confront US pressure over the strategic waterway.

Commission Chairman Ebrahim Azizi said the meeting focused on recent domestic developments, cooperation under the Iran-Oman memorandum of understanding, and security in the Strait of Hormuz. ►Page 2

Iran criticizes Canada's support for US measures over Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN– Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei has criticized Canada's support for US measures against Iran, saying Ottawa's position amounts to "submission to intimidation" and will not shield it from pressure by its powerful neighbor.

Baqaei was responding to a joint statement issued Sunday by Canada's foreign and finance ministers, who called on Iran to end "threats to vessels seeking to transit the Strait of Hormuz" and expressed support for US measures, including economic sanctions, aimed at reopening the strategic waterway. ►Page 2

Iran 'broke the prestige' of US military in recent war, Basij chief says

TEHRAN— Iran's Basij chief, Hojjat al-Islam Hossein Taeb, said Tuesday that the Islamic Republic had shattered the perceived prestige and military dominance of the United States on the international stage during the recent war imposed on Iran.

Speaking at a ceremony in Tehran, Taeb said Iran's Armed Forces had challenged the standing of the US military at a global level, arguing that the conflict marked a significant shift in the international order.

Taeb said the United States had moved from a strategy centered on hybrid warfare to direct military intervention, but that the recent conflict had shown the limits of American military power.

He described the developments as evidence of an emerging new global order, saying a major transformation in the international system was taking shape as the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding. ►Page 2

Iran warns against normalizing attacks on nuclear facilities

TEHRAN– Iran has warned that normalizing attacks on nuclear facilities could have far-reaching consequences beyond the immediate damage caused by such strikes, saying the precedent set by attacks on safeguarded nuclear sites could eventually threaten other countries.

Speaking at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors in Vienna, Iran condemned US and Israeli attacks on its peaceful nuclear facilities, which are subject to IAEA safeguards, saying the strikes violated the UN Charter, the IAEA Statute and fundamental nuclear safety principles. ►Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Resalat: The US fleet under Iranian ballistic fire

Resalat analyzed the complex IREG operation targeting two American vessels. The IREG stated the two US vessels, after being struck and sustaining damage, quickly left the engagement zone out of deep fear of a second wave of missile attacks and were forced into a tactical retreat. The strategic significance of this development lies in the fact that, at this sensitive moment—while the United States is trying with full force to impose crushing economic and military costs on Iran by relying on its traditional air and naval superiority and to cement its dominance over movement in the Strait of Hormuz—the Islamic Republic has elevated the scale and quality of its response to an unprecedented level. Tehran seeks to reinforce the reality that the presence of US combat fleets near Iran's territorial waters and the Persian Gulf no longer guarantees immunity or deterrence for Washington.

Sazandegi: The tanker war pushes the situation toward crisis

Sazandegi, in a commentary, assessed Iran's maritime conflict and the clashes involving oil tankers. Military tensions between Iran and the United States have once again entered a new phase—this time at sea, centered on tankers that have become one of the most critical links in the chain of economic pressure on Tehran. The significance of this confrontation is not limited to just three tankers. Fighting at sea is directly tied to Iran's oil exports, maritime security, and the future of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz—an artery vital to global oil and gas transportation. These figures show that the maritime confrontation is no longer merely a clash between military forces; it can also affect trade and energy transport across the region. Furthermore, targeting tankers could increase economic pressure on Iran, since oil exports remain one of Tehran's most important sources of revenue under sanctions and wartime conditions. The more traffic through the Strait of Hormuz declines, the greater the global concern over energy supply becomes.

Javan: Iran's air defense; a power that did not stop during the war

From the beginning of the war, Trump repeatedly claimed that Iran's missile centers and defense systems had been destroyed and that Iran was effectively incapable of continuing military confrontation. This hollow claim is contradicted by many facts: Iran's continued attacks at the same offensive level and the rapid restoration of its defensive capabilities not only refute the claim but demonstrate Iran's preserved military strength despite enemy-inflicted

damage. Due to the domestic development of its military and defensive industries, Iran has managed to rebuild its military power after sustaining damage and integrate those restored capabilities into its defense network. Overall, during the Third Imposed War, the integrated air-defense network has engaged not only drones but also manned aircraft and cruise missiles. Iran's defense industry has not stopped under sanctions; relying on self-confidence, a broad domestic production network, and investment in young specialists, it has reached a level of self-sufficiency that has become one of the key pillars of national power and deterrence.

Shargh: The uncertain outlook for Iran's oil exports

Shargh wrote that Iran's oil exports now face an ambiguous future. With the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the naval blockade of Iran, and the decline of Iran's floating oil reserves outside the strait, the country faces increasingly complex conditions for sending oil shipments. For years under sanctions, China has been almost Iran's only major oil customer, but some reports now indicate declining Chinese interest in purchasing Iranian oil. With the launch of the intensified US sanctions campaign—known as the “economic expulsion operation”—Washington has pressured Beijing to reduce its imports of Iranian oil. Chinese leaders have repeatedly protested the US military presence in the region and expressed dissatisfaction. Under these circumstances, it is clear that China is now squeezed between the pressure of the Strait of Hormuz and the threat of Malacca. The prolonged war and the closure of Hormuz could place China under increasing strain—an outcome that may affect its oil purchases from Iran.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Iran's new doctrine in the Strait of Hormuz

Donya-e-Eqtasad, in an article on Iran's new doctrine in the Strait of Hormuz, wrote that exchanges of fire in the strait continue, and sporadic Iranian and American strikes on each other's maritime positions keep tensions high. Meanwhile, diplomatic contacts in recent days aimed at finding a way out of this unstable situation have also intensified. Experts believe Tehran has shown that it is unwilling to compromise on its pressure lever in the Strait of Hormuz. According to David Miller, a former senior US negotiator, two points are now clear given the latest Middle East developments: Iran's willingness to attack US naval vessels directly signals a new readiness to take risks, and the US response is unlikely to fundamentally alter Iran's core calculations.

Iran warns against normalizing attacks on nuclear facilities

From page 1 ► In a statement delivered Monday under the agenda item “Nuclear and Radiation Safety” at the Board of Governors' quarterly meeting, the Iranian delegation referred to ‘acts of aggression’ by the United States and Israel against Iran's nuclear facilities in 2026 and 2027.

The delegation said the attacks constituted violations of the UN Charter, the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency and fundamental principles governing nuclear safety.

It also recalled concerns raised in the Agency's General Conference Resolution 444 regarding the implications of attacks on nuclear facilities for radiation and nuclear safety.

The Iranian statement said the developments demonstrated the “irresponsibility” underlying the US and Israeli attacks on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities operating under IAEA safeguards.

Warning of the broader consequences of such actions, the Iranian delegation said: “The normalization of such illegal attacks will be the least of the adverse consequences of these acts of aggres-



sion. Today, Iran is the target; tomorrow, it could be another country. Be vigilant and prepared. Welcome to the new global disorder.”

Iran has repeatedly argued that attacks on nuclear facilities pose risks not only to the targeted country but also to nuclear safety and security more broadly, particularly when such facilities are subject to international safeguards.

FM briefs parliamentary committee on regional security and Hormuz Strait

From page 1 ► He said Araghchi's briefing would provide valuable input for lawmakers as they consider the proposed “Strategic Action Plan for Securing and Advancing the Strait of Hormuz.”

The parliamentary initiative comes amid heightened tensions over the strategic waterway following the US naval blockade targeting Iranian oil exports. Tehran has strongly rejected Washington's attempts to dictate the terms of maritime traffic in the area, stressing that the security of the Strait of Hormuz must be addressed with due regard for Iran's sovereignty and its strategic role in the waterway.

Iran has repeatedly emphasized that the Strait of Hormuz is under the effective control of its armed forces and that any arrangement concerning maritime traffic must take into account the country's security interests. Tehran has also been coordinating with Oman on a framework for maritime traffic



through the strait.

The renewed parliamentary focus on Hormuz reflects the waterway's central role in Iran's regional security strategy. Located between Iran to the north and Oman to the south, the narrow passage connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

At its narrowest point, the

strait is about 21 miles (34 kilometers) wide, with designated shipping lanes measuring roughly two miles (3.2 kilometers) in each direction. Before the current crisis, around one-fifth of global petroleum supplies passed through the waterway each day, making it one of the world's most important energy chokepoints.

For Iran, however, Hormuz is more than an energy corridor. Its strategic location gives the Islamic Republic significant leverage in confronting external pressure and defending its national interests in the Persian Gulf.

The US naval blockade has added a new dimension to the longstanding tensions surrounding the strait. While Washington has sought to restrict Iranian oil exports and exert pressure on Tehran, Iran has sought to reinforce its position as a key security actor in the waterway and reject attempts to undermine its sovereignty over the strategic maritime corridor.

Against this backdrop, Tehran's coordination with Muscat and the proposed parliamentary action plan indicate Iran's efforts to establish a security framework for the Strait of Hormuz based on regional cooperation, national sovereignty and its strategic interests.

Iran criticizes Canada's support for US measures over Strait of Hormuz



From page 1 ► In a post on X early Tuesday, Baqaei said Ottawa's position reflected Canada's willingness to accommodate US pressure, including amid repeated remarks by US President Donald Trump questioning Canada's sovereignty and suggesting that it could become the 51st US state.

“On the very day the US president, in blatant contempt for Canada's sovereignty and independence, portrayed the entire country

as part of the United States, Canada's foreign and finance ministers chose to further appease their bullying neighbor,” Baqaei said, accusing Ottawa of issuing a statement on Iran that misrepresented developments in the region.

Baqaei also disputed Canada's characterization of the situation surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, saying the waterway had remained open and secure before US-Israeli military aggression against the country on February 28.

He was referring to Iran's decision to close the Strait of Hormuz on March 2, which Tehran has described as a self-defense measure taken in response to the conflict.

“Canada cannot credibly present itself as a champion of ‘peace and security,’ ‘freedom of navigation,’ and ‘international law’ while simultaneously backing US military aggression and Washington's interventionist actions in our region,” Baqaei said.

The Iranian diplomat also referred to previous instances in which Washington had failed to honor its commitments, urging Canada instead to support efforts to end US military action and economic pressure against Iran.

“If freedom of navigation is truly the issue, why does Canada — having itself experienced American bad faith and knowing that US signatures are ‘written in pencil’ — choose to support US military aggression and economic terrorism instead of calling for an end to American aggression, blockade, and economic warfare?” Baqaei said.

He concluded by warning that aligning with Washington would not necessarily insulate Canada from pressure or coercion by the United States. “This is neither ‘diplomacy’ nor ‘responsible statecraft.’ It is a display of strategic confusion and submission to intimidation — a choice that will not even shield Canada itself from American bullying and aggression,” Baqaei said.

Iran ‘broke the prestige’ of US military in recent war, Basij chief says

From page 1 ► Taeb also criticized US President Donald Trump's foreign policy, saying Trump initially condemned the policies of previous administrations but ultimately followed the same path by seeking to shape the course of the 21st century through military power.

The Basij chief argued that the United States and European countries had, over decades, sought to maintain a monopoly

over advanced scientific capabilities and use their technological advantage to make other countries dependent on the West while generating global wealth from that superiority.

According to Taeb, domestic political developments and growing divisions within the United States contributed to a strategic shift toward greater reliance on military means to pursue Washington's objectives.

Turning to West Asia, Taeb accused the United States of providing extensive military and financial support to Israel, saying Washington had helped mobilize Israel's military capabilities and supplied it with advanced weapons, missiles, bombs and other military equipment.

“The entire Zionist regime's war machine was put into operation in this region,” he said, adding that large numbers of

transport aircraft had been used to deliver military equipment and weaponry.

Taeb said the recent conflict had demonstrated the disparity between the resources available to the two sides, arguing that the US military—with an annual defense budget approaching \$1 trillion—had been challenged by Iranian forces whose defense spending was far smaller by comparison.

US weighs smaller military footprint in ME as Iran war exposes regional vulnerabilities

TEHRAN— The United States is considering a reduction in its military and intelligence presence across the Middle East as the conflict with Iran has exposed vulnerabilities in American bases and infrastructure throughout the region, according to a report by CNN citing six current and former US officials familiar with internal discussions.

The discussions reportedly center on the possibility of reducing the number of US personnel and facilities in the region if the Trump administration succeeds in bringing the Iran conflict to an end. Such a move would represent another potential shift in Washington's long-running effort to reduce its military footprint in the Middle East after more than two decades of wars.

The United States currently has about 50,000 troops deployed across the region, alongside significant military assets, including two aircraft carriers and more than a dozen guided-missile destroyers. At the same time, American intelligence personnel who were withdrawn from the region during the most intense phase of the conflict are reportedly returning.

The debate over the future of the US



presence has gained urgency as American military installations have come under repeated missile and drone attacks during the months-long confrontation with Iran. According to US officials cited by CNN, 18 American service members have been killed in the conflict.

American installations in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have reportedly sustained attacks, while a CIA facility in Riyadh was described by a US official and a former intelligence officer as effectively destroyed. The scale of the damage has prompted US defense planners to reconsider how and where American forces and in-

telligence personnel should be based.

One option under discussion is strengthening the defenses of installations that remain operational, including potentially moving some facilities underground to reduce their vulnerability to missiles and drones. The idea of hardened or underground bases had previously been considered by the Pentagon, but the attacks attributed to Iran have reportedly given the proposal new urgency.

US officials are also examining whether some missions currently carried out from permanent bases could instead be conducted through a more flexible model. Under such an approach, personnel and equipment could remain primarily in the United States and be deployed to the Middle East only when specific operations require them.

Some severely damaged facilities may also not be rebuilt, partly because of the potentially substantial cost involved. Pentagon officials have acknowledged that the final cost of repairing American installations overseas remains unclear and would depend in part on decisions about the future US military posture in the region.

Pezeshkian fires back at Trump’s fantasies, says Iran fights on until enemy kneels in regret

From Page 1 ▶ To reinforce his narrative, Trump has also reposted an article from The Wall Street Journal which claimed last month that Iran's top politicians—specifically referring to Pezeshkian and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf—were advocating for an end to the war to shore up a crippled economy, allegedly pushing back publicly against the so-called hardliners taking a more defiant approach in the conflict.

However, this media framing distorts the unified Iranian stance. While Qalibaf and Pezeshkian have called for an end to unnecessary conflict, they have repeatedly stressed that Iran will make no compromise on its national sovereignty and will deliver a crushing response to any acts of aggression.

Trump's reposting of the WSJ article reveals a broader psychological operations tactic. Having suffered a clear strategic defeat after launching an unprovoked war on Iran on February 28, and seeing his subsequent campaign of economic warfare fail to force Tehran's capitulation, the US administration is now actively seeking to sow internal division within Iran. By renewing the artificial narrative of a clash between the so-called hardliners and moderates, Trump is utilizing a PR stunt to cover up his failed military strategy, construct a fabricated sense of victory ahead of upcoming US congressional elections, and manufacture a political off-ramp from a war Washington can no longer win.

Failure of US military and economic strategy

The reality on the ground drastically contradicts Washington's optimistic projections. Since launching its military campaign and initiating "Operation Economic Outcast"—a sweeping initiative aimed at severing Iran's financial ties with the outside world and imposing a naval blockade on Iranian ports—the United States has failed to force Iran into submission. Instead,



Tehran has successfully leveraged asymmetric warfare to inflict heavy damage on US forces, drain critical American munitions stockpiles, and maintain an unbroken political and military front.

Far from lowering energy costs, US aggression has triggered an unprecedented global energy crisis. In response to the US-Israeli aggression, Iran effectively restricted transit through the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most critical energy chokepoint through which roughly 20% of global petroleum consumption historically passes. Tehran's maritime chokehold has sent global crude prices soaring and sparked a severe "diesel shock" within the United States, where the spread between diesel and crude prices recently surpassed \$95 per barrel due to strangled West Asian exports and declining global refinery capacities.

The new maritime paradigm

Heightening the maritime standoff, Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) recently announced plans to declare a comprehensive new "restricted zone" extending beyond the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf, further asserting Tehran's operational control over critical shipping corridors.

In a televised interview, Major General Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of the SNSC, detailed the strategic parameters of the se-

curity measure. He stated that the boundary will begin directly from the US Navy's blockade line and extend into parts of the Persian Gulf, directly enveloping access points leading toward major regional oil loading terminals. Under the incoming policy, any commercial or military vessel attempting to transit the designated sector without explicit prior authorization and tactical coordination with Iranian maritime authorities will be added to an official Iranian sanctions list. Furthermore, Rezaei emphasized that unauthorized entry into this zone will carry immediate punitive financial consequences, jeopardizing international maritime insurance policies and permanently barring non-compliant vessels from future passage through the strategic waterway.

Rezaei forcefully rejected President Trump's claims that the vital energy corridor remains accessible to global trade, dismissing Washington's account as a "big lie" and confirming that the Strait of Hormuz is completely closed and under the exclusive control of the armed forces.

Expanding on military developments, Rezaei revealed that Iranian forces executed a direct tactical operation against US naval assets by deploying and testing a newly developed, advanced anti-ship missile system in immediate proximity to an active American naval vessel. "For the first time, we tested our an-

ti-ship missile above an American warship. This special missile created hell for the Americans, and they fled."

The impact of the test was so severe that US Central Command (CENTCOM) could not conceal the psychological disruption to its forces.

Rezaei also said in his latest X post: "In recent days, Washington has received a clear warning from Iran's new missiles. Economic warfare will be met by a maritime exclusion zone across the Persian Gulf to the blockade perimeter. The operational posture toward US warships and bases has been fundamentally recalibrated."

This tactical demonstration underscores a fundamental shift in the regional power balance. By directly confronting US naval assets in the Persian Gulf, Iran has demonstrated that Washington's strategy of maximum pressure and military deterrence is failing to achieve its intended objectives. Far from forcing Tehran into submission, the continuous escalation has exposed the structural vulnerabilities of the US military footprint in West Asia and highlighted the economic fragility of global energy markets.

As Washington struggles to maintain its narrative of dominance, the realities on the ground tell a vastly different story. The combination of effective asymmetric defense, strict maritime control over the Strait of Hormuz, and political resilience has effectively neutralized the White House's military and economic leverage. Rather than fracturing national unity, foreign aggression has solidified Iran's resolve to enforce its sovereignty over its territorial waters. With crude prices soaring and military projections collapsing, the current trajectory indicates that Washington's campaign has devolved into a costly strategic miscalculation—one that leaves the United States with diminishing options in a conflict it can neither manage nor win.

Iran FM blames US for regional tensions, cites violation of June MoU

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the current "tense situation" in the region stems from the United States' "regrettable" violation of the memorandum of understanding (MOU), stressing that the path to de-escalation is straightforward.

"The solution is simple; the return and adherence of the American side to its commitments and signing of the memorandum of understanding will pave the way for a return to normalcy," Araghchi said in a phone call with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Tuesday.

The top Iranian diplomat also provided his Japanese counterpart with a detailed account of the latest state of negotiations between Tehran and Muscat over the Strait of Hormuz. Araghchi said the two countries have made "significant progress" in talks aimed at establishing a temporary transit arrangement in the strategic waterway. He emphasized the continuation of consultations between Iran and Oman to reach agreement on future mechanisms for managing the Strait.

For his part, the Japanese foreign minister expressed concern about the escalation in the region and emphasized the need for "continued diplomatic consultation and coordination" among countries to establish peace and freedom of navigation in the

Strait of Hormuz.

Tensions in the Persian Gulf escalated sharply after Washington walked away from the memorandum of understanding that had been negotiated with Tehran as part of the diplomatic track aimed at defusing the crisis over the Strait of Hormuz. Under the June 17 MOU, the US side had undertaken a series of commitments — including the lifting of sanctions and the release of Iran's frozen assets — in exchange for Iran's cooperation in restoring normal navigation in the waterway.

However, American officials failed to honor the agreed commitments and violated the MoU. Iranian officials say the US reneging on the agreement — coupled with continued pressure measures and the presence of US naval forces in the region — sabotaged the diplomatic understanding and triggered the current state of tension, forcing Tehran to adopt reciprocal measures, including the imposition of restrictions on passage through the Strait.

Iran has repeatedly stated that it does not seek escalation but insists that any resolution must be based on mutual respect and the fulfillment of commitments. Tehran maintains that the reopening and management of the Strait of Hormuz remains exclusively within the purview of Iran and Oman,



and has conditioned a return to normalcy on Washington's adherence to its undertakings, the removal of sanctions, and the unfreezing of Iranian assets.

The phone conversation with the Japanese foreign minister is part of Tehran's intensive diplomatic contacts with Asian and regional capitals amid the ongoing crisis. Japan, a major consumer of energy passing through the Strait of Hormuz, has repeatedly called for restraint and dialogue, positioning itself as a potential facilitator of de-escalation between Tehran and Washington.

Araghchi's remarks underscore Iran's consistent position that diplomacy remains the sole durable path to resolving the crisis — but only if the American side returns to the negotiating table and honors the commitments it has already accepted.

pull back from further escalation.

Atwan cited repeated warnings from senior Iranian officials, including Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf. He also pointed to what he described as growing US fears of Iranian missile attacks on American bases in Jordan and elsewhere across the region.

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

Iran seizes US autonomous underwater vehicle in Strait of Hormuz

From Page 1 ▶ surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), seabed mapping, mine-countermeasure operations and monitoring of critical maritime infrastructure.

Iranian media identified the vehicle as Anduril's Dive-LD, a large-displacement autonomous underwater vehicle designed for long-endurance operations. Anduril's published specifications describe the platform as approximately 5.8 meters long and capable of operating autonomously for up to 10 days and reaching depths of about 6,000 meters. The system has a modular payload architecture, allowing it to be configured for different mission sets and sensor packages.

The Dive-LD is designed for missions including hydrographic surveying, intelligence collection, mine warfare, seabed reconnaissance, and inspection of subsea infrastructure such as pipelines and communications cables. Its deep-diving capability and modular architecture are intended to provide per-

sistent undersea access without exposing a crewed platform to the operational risks associated with contested waters.

The US Navy received its first Dive-LD in April 2025 for Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Squadron 1, which develops and operates autonomous underwater systems for ISR and other naval missions.

The reported capture comes amid heightened military tensions in and around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime chokepoint through which a substantial share of global energy supplies normally passes.

The incident could offer Iran access to sensitive information on an advanced US autonomous undersea platform, including its sensors, navigation architecture, communications systems, and mission-planning capabilities—making the reported seizure potentially significant beyond the immediate tactical episode.

US congressman describes Iran war as a predictable 'quagmire'

TEHRAN — US Representative Jason Crow has joined the chorus of opposition to the war on Iran, describing the conflict as an entirely predictable "quagmire."

"This is the most predictable thing that we could've imagined: you get involved in another war in the Middle East, that it would be a quagmire, that our adversaries will try to draw us out. It was as predictable on day one as it is today," Crow said in a video.

Six months into what Washington and Tel Aviv marketed as a surgical, limited campaign, the reality has diverged sharply from the official talking points. What was projected as a decisive maneuver has instead devolved into a strategic sinkhole, forcing members of Congress to confront a war defined not by American supremacy, but by grueling attrition and domestic economic instability.

The facade of the official narrative is cracking under the weight of reality. While the White House continues to circulate optimistic briefs, lawmakers are beginning to demand the truth. The disconnect between Washington's rhetoric and the lived reality of the American public—facing spiking costs and energy insecurity—is becoming a political liability.

The pushback against this endless war is no longer restricted to political margins; it has entered the mainstream of legislative debate.

Earlier this month, US Representative Ted Lieu, speaking on MS Now, mounted a direct challenge to the administration's persistent claim that Iran is on the verge of collapse.

Lieu dismantled the "failed state" theory with a simple question: "If Iran is a failed state, then how does Iran keep launching drones and missiles at our bases and our allies?"

For Lieu, the issue is as much about the American economy as it is about foreign policy. Highlighting the \$4.12 national average price for gasoline, he argued that the working class is subsidizing the government's foreign adventurism. "The White House is clearly not telling the truth," Lieu stated. "How are we going to exit this endless war in Iran instead of trading strikes back and forth?"

A failure of strategic calculus

The conflict, ignited on February 28, began with a fundamental miscalculation. Western strategists assumed that a rapid, overwhelming campaign would shatter Iran's military infrastructure and suppress the nation's resolve. That assumption has proven catastrophic.

Instead of submission, Iran responded with a sophisticated, multi-layered defensive campaign. Iranian forces utilized precision ballistic missiles and advanced drone swarms to systematically circumvent the West's multi-billion-dollar air defense networks. By targeting regional facilities housing US forces and critical logistics nodes, Tehran demonstrated that it held the strategic initiative.

Furthermore, by utilizing its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz—the global energy



choke point—Iran underscored the fragility of the imperial economy. By restricting access, Tehran proved that modern warfare cannot be decoupled from the global energy markets upon which the West depends.

By April, the mounting costs of this aggression forced Washington to blink. A ceasefire was implemented on April 8, eventually leading to a 14-point memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed on June 17.

Under the terms of this MOU, the US was compelled to cease military operations, lift its naval blockade, and grant broad waivers on oil sanctions, allowing Iranian crude to return to global markets. While Washington has attempted to obfuscate the reality of these concessions, the geopolitical shift is undeniable. Reports of ongoing US violations of the MOU suggest a government struggling to come to terms with a new, unfavorable status quo.

The conflict has exposed a harsh reality: the US defense-industrial base is currently ill-equipped to sustain a high-intensity war against a peer-level adversary. Months of firing expensive interceptors—Patriot, SM-3, and THAAD batteries—at cost-effective Iranian drones have drained US missile stockpiles.

This inventory crisis is occurring alongside a worsening domestic economic surge. The disruption of global energy supplies triggered a second wave of inflation, pushing the American economy toward stagflation and fueling public outrage. As fuel lines grow and household budgets tighten, the appetite for continued military funding in Congress is rapidly evaporating.

The White House is now engaged in a desperate, quiet search for a "face-saving" exit strategy from this self-inflicted quagmire. Yet, the Trump administration's rhetoric is losing its effectiveness against the harsh reality on the ground.

Tehran, for its part, has maintained a consistent stance: it does not desire war, but it remains fully prepared to deliver overwhelming responses to any threat against its sovereignty. The past six months have proven that no amount of Western military might can dictate terms to a resilient and unified Iran. As the political climate in Washington shifts, the message from lawmakers like Crow and Lieu is becoming clear: the era of unchecked foreign intervention has reached a dead end, and the American public is no longer willing to foot the bill for the consequences.

Analyst: Iran has written its name in history by changing its war strategy

TEHRAN- A prominent regional analyst says Iran has fundamentally changed its strategy in its confrontation with the United States, arguing that Tehran's unprecedented actions in recent days have secured the country a place in history.

In an article examining the latest developments in regional tensions, veteran Arab political and strategic analyst Abdel Bari Atwan assessed the conflict from two main perspectives: the

maritime confrontation between Iran and the United States, including the tanker war, and Iran's missile response, which targeted a US aircraft carrier and two destroyers. He also pointed to 'Washington's conspicuous silence following the alleged strikes and US President Donald Trump's retreat from his earlier threats.'

According to Atwan, Iranian officials have replaced their previous approach with a new military

strategy. Tehran, he wrote, has abandoned a policy of restraint and carefully calibrated responses designed to prevent further escalation, opting instead for rapid retaliatory action, an expansion of the conflict's scope and the deployment of new precision-guided missiles that had not previously been used.

The aim, he argued, is to shock the opposing side and force both the United States and Israel to reconsider their positions and

ICCIMA head, Mexican ambassador in Tehran explore ways to expand trade relations, joint co-op

TEHRAN- The Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and the Mexican Ambassador in Tehran, during a meeting while emphasizing the importance of exchanging trade delegations between the two countries for greater familiarity of economic activists with each other's capacities, discussed the necessity of establishing a joint committee aimed at greater coordination in developing trade and investment relations.

At the outset, Samad Hassanzadeh, President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, noting the significant trade and investment capacities in both countries, described the current level of relations and exchanges as limited and negligible, which should take an upward trajectory through bilateral cooperation.

He referred to Iran's special circumstances resulting from recent unjust aggressions and stated: "Iran is a peace-loving country and has always endeavored to develop its economic relations with various countries in accordance with the potentials at its disposal. Therefore, we propose that a joint committee be formed with Mexico to pave the way for strengthening trade relations. The Iran Chamber is ready to implement this idea."

Hassanzadeh emphasized the exchange of economic information from both sides within the framework of the joint committee and added: "Even through this committee, we can benefit from other countries that have relations with Mexico or Iran."

The Head of the Iran Chamber referred to Iran's economic activities in the fields of new agricultural technologies, industry, artificial intelligence, and more, and added: "If conditions are provided, the Iran Chamber is ready to host a trade delegation from Mexico in these areas."

He also spoke about technical and engineering services, the possibility of implementing major contracting projects, and the significant capacities of Iranian companies in the field of medical equipment, and said: "There is potential for joint cooperation in these sectors as well."

Hassanzadeh pointed to the possibility of exporting petrochemical products, minerals, mining industries, agricultural products, new agricultural technologies, confectionery and chocolate, carpets, chemical fertilizers, industrial equipment, technical and engineering services, tourism, health tourism, and more from Iran, and said: "In addition to trade, there is also scope for joint investment, which the Iranian side welcomes."

He expressed hope that in the near future, international conflicts around the world would come to an end, and peace, security, and tranquility would prevail, and the two problems of transportation and monetary transfers would also be resolved, so that in the shadow of this secure environment, Iran could strengthen its relations with other countries, including Mexico. "Because we believe that no country can grow and develop



alone, and we must stand together and make our resources available to one another."

Mexican ambassador welcomes designing a model for developing trade relations with Iran within the framework of a joint committee

Subsequently, Guillermo Puente Ordorica, the Mexican Ambassador in Tehran, expressing satisfaction with the future of cooperation between Iran and Mexico, said: "The two countries have good capacities for strengthening relations. Of course, Iran and Mexico had exchanges in the past, which have been limited today due to the current situation."

He stated: "I came to Iran during the COVID-19 period. This phenomenon and subsequently the sanctions against Iran prevented the strengthening of cooperation. Nevertheless, I welcome the proposal to form a joint committee and believe this approach will have a positive effect on expanding relations. The new government of Mexico has designed an economic program for cooperation with all countries of the world, and based on this program, all factors for the development of trade relations have been considered."

The Mexican Ambassador in Tehran emphasized: "The international trade program of the Mexican government focuses on various sectors and even includes attracting foreign investment. Therefore, the formation of a joint committee can be the first step in expanding relations."

Guillermo Puente Ordorica considered the connection between the Iran Chamber and Mexican private companies based on the established framework as essential and welcomed the idea of exchanging trade delegations between the two countries.

He continued: "I am familiar with Iran's potentials in the health tourism sector, and this area can be a good field for cooperation between the two countries. On the other hand, Mexico has high capabilities in the automotive sector, auto parts, heavy industries, and more, and Iran can have joint cooperation with the Mexican side in these areas."

The Mexican Ambassador in Tehran proposed that first a joint committee be formed, then trade delegations be exchanged, and after both sides become familiar with each other's capabilities and resources, the next steps can be taken.

Annual car production stands at 926,000

TEHRAN- A recent report by the Iranian Parliament's Research Center on the automotive industry reveals that 926,000 vehicles were produced in the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20), marking a 17.4% decline compared to the previous year.

According to IRNA, the overall status of production, imports, exports, and scrappage of obsolete vehicles, as reflected in the Parliament's Research Center report, shows that vehicle production in 1403 stood at approximately 1,121,000 units, while the figure for the past year fell to 926,000 – a drop of over 17%.

Although this production decline has various causes, the most significant factor is supply chain disruptions and various imbalances in recent years.

According to published statistics, imports in 1404 reached about 67,000 units, indicating a 6.3% growth compared to the 63,000 vehicles imported in the same period of 1403.

Export value in 1404 also experienced a 48% decrease compared to 1403. In the past year, the value of exports in the automotive and parts industry stood at approximately \$65 million, whereas this figure was about \$126 million in 1403.

The scrappage of obsolete vehicles in the past year totaled 204 units, compared to 350 units in 1403, reflecting a 41.7% decline.

The 14th government's policy is to accelerate the scrappage of obsolete vehicles. In this regard, the Organization for Development and Modernization of Iranian Industries (IDRO) has been tasked with implementing this plan. With the recent amendments to the executive regulations of Article 10 of the Automotive Industry Organization Law, it is expected that the country's annual scrappage capacity will exceed 350,000 units.

One of the most significant changes in the new regulations concerns Article 15. Previously, for every 12 vehicles produced, one vehicle had to be removed from circulation. However, under the new amendments and based on the note to Article 10 of the law, this ratio has been changed to one vehicle for every four vehicles – meaning automakers must offset 25% of their monthly production through scrappage of obsolete

Additionally, in the imported vehicle sector, hybrid vehicles have been granted a 50% exemption, and domestically produced electric vehicles have received a 100% exemption from scrappage fees, in order to facilitate the entry of clean vehicles into the country.

Providing financing facilities for scrapping obsolete vehicles can also contribute to the modernization of the transportation fleet, reduction of air and environmental pollution, and improved fuel consumption management.

Iran, Russia forge ahead with financial co-op as Tehran aims to transform customs into passage points

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, offering a positive assessment of the outcomes of his meeting with his Russian counterpart, stated that significant progress has been made in bilateral interactions concerning financial and monetary matters. He also announced that with the implementation of two new plans, customs are set to become places of passage rather than stoppage.

Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, in response to a question from IRNA, added: "In this meeting, transparent and constructive discussions were held regarding recent bilateral interactions and agreements related to mutual accords, which I will convey to Tehran."

He stated: "Given Iran's significant capacity in terms of a highly educated workforce, a proposal was made to dispatch a group of interested individuals to Russia, and it was agreed that the matter would be followed up by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow."

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, noting that he had discussed investment opportunities in Iran's strategic and high-yield industries with his Russian counterpart, cited the facilitation of financial and commercial exchanges as another topic of discussion. He said: "Overall, it was a very productive meeting, and good agreements were reached."

Madanizadeh, who spoke to reporters on Monday evening after a meeting with a group of Iranian economic activists residing in Russia, addressed another reporter's question regarding traders' problems at customs. He said: "Currently, there are serious issues concerning borders and the transfer of goods, some of which stem from the laws, rules, and regulations governing the country and its borders."

He added: "Not all of these issues are necessarily related to customs itself. It is true that customs is stationed at border points, but the number of agencies involved at borders and in trade exceeds 20, some of which are even outside the government."

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance continued: "We currently have two major projects on our agenda: coordinated border management and the seamless transit project. Once implemented, our customs will become mere points of passage rather than stoppage. The execution of these two plans will significantly benefit the country's trade."

According to IRNA, Madanizadeh arrived in Moscow on Sunday for bilateral and multilateral consultations. Madanizadeh met and held talks with Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov on Monday, and on Monday evening, he attended a consultative meeting with Iranian economic activists and traders residing in Russia.

Developing relations with Russia is among 14th government's priorities

The Minister of Economic Af-



fairs and Finance, stating that developing relations with Russia is among the 14th government's priorities, said: "The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been and continues to be seriously committed to following up on joint projects between Tehran and Moscow."

According to IRNA, Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, speaking on Monday night at a consultative meeting with Iranian economic activists residing in Russia, held at the residence of Iran's embassy in Moscow, expressed gratitude for the traders' efforts in meeting the country's needs and boosting exports. He added: "Following recent developments, deepening economic, commercial, and financial relations has become even more important for both countries."

He noted: "Securing essential goods from the Eurasia region, especially Russia, is a priority that we are actively pursuing."

At the start of the consultative meeting, which was also attended by Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance listened to the concerns of traders and economic activists residing in Russia.

The traders present at the meeting raised issues concerning currency exchange, the opening of letters of credit (L/C) for agricultural imports, and the fulfillment of currency obligations. Madanizadeh promised to follow up on these matters in coordination with relevant ministries and agencies.

Some economic activists at the meeting raised concerns about the long queues at the Astara customs and the time-consuming clearance procedures at that border point.

In response, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance announced that the necessary budget allocation for customs to purchase and install X-ray scanners has been made.

He said: "I am personally following up on the process of equipping key customs points in the country, especially Astara customs, to expedite the process; although land allocation and installation of such equipment is a relatively time-consuming procedure."

During the meeting, some Iranian economic activists residing in Russia requested an expansion of the list of goods covered by customs exemptions under the free trade agreement with the

Eurasian Economic Union.

Mehdi Heydari, Deputy Minister and Head of Iran's Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance, also spoke at the meeting, saying: "Representatives of Iranian traders in Russia presented precise points in this meeting, reflecting their responsible approach."

He went on to describe the current period as a historic opportunity to remove barriers to trade with Russia and the Eurasia region, emphasizing the government's commitment to enhancing trade with northern neighbors.

Heydari also noted the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance's efforts in identifying and introducing investment opportunities in Iran across key sectors such as oil and gas, mining, logistics, and more, inviting investors to participate in these projects.

Iranian and Russian finance ministers held constructive talks

Iran's Ambassador to Moscow stated that the finance ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation held constructive and productive talks in Moscow on Monday.

According to IRNA, Kazem Jalali, speaking on Monday night at the consultative meeting of economic activists and Iranian traders residing in Russia with the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance at the residence of Iran's embassy in Moscow, added: "Madanizadeh's negotiations with his Russian counterpart can open a bright horizon for bilateral relations."

Iran's Ambassador to Moscow, referring to the September 1, 2026 meeting between the presidents of the two countries on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, described the discussions as constructive and said: "The Iranian government has a serious determination to strengthen relations with Russia."

He noted: "Russia has great economic potential for Iran, and the purchase of essential goods is one of these capacities. The trend of bilateral exchanges over the past few years has been positive, and serious commercial activity has begun between the two countries, given Russia's large market."

Jalali further emphasized the importance of removing obstacles to the development of trade with Russia, including strength-

ening market knowledge, developing transit infrastructure, resolving customs issues, facilitating monetary and banking exchanges, and improving logistics.

Referring to the government's efforts to strengthen transportation infrastructure along the North-South Corridor, he cited as an example the pursuit of the Rasht-Astara railway construction agreement. He said: "Following the President's directive, the Minister of Roads and Urban Development is actively pursuing the acceleration of this project, which the Russian side has stated will be completed within three years."

Iran's Ambassador to Russia also addressed the proposed plan to construct a second railway line with Russian gauge standards from Astara to Bandar Abbas, stating: "If we truly want the North-South Corridor to be realized in its railway segment, the construction of a broad-gauge line is essential."

Iran-Russia economic agreements on track for finalization

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, stating that he is traveling to Russia as the President's representative to finalize previous bilateral memoranda of understanding, said: "With the signing of relevant contracts and the development of bilateral financial relations, significant breakthroughs are on the horizon."

Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, speaking to reporters on Sunday upon his arrival at Moscow's Sheremetyevo International Airport, added: "The policies of the 14th government, and particularly the President, focus on developing relations with neighboring countries, aligned nations, and any country in the world that engages in proper interactions."

He stated: "In this regard, over the past two years, effective measures have been continuously taken to expand the country's relations, the results of which are evident in the resilience of Iran's economy during the period of siege."

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance described his trip to Moscow as a continuation of consultations between the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation aimed at developing economic and financial relations.

He recalled: "Previously, the country's executive bodies have conducted considerable studies in this area, as well as on logistics development, the North-South Corridor, and the facilitation of trade between the two countries and other regional nations. Following the signing of memoranda with the Russian government, contracts have been prepared that I, as the President's representative, aim to finalize during this visit to Moscow."

He noted: "With the signing of these contracts, significant progress will be achieved, the results of which will be evident in the country's exports, imports, and production."

1,000-cubic meter desalination plant goes operational in Asaluyeh

TEHRAN- Simultaneously with the visit of Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi to Bushehr Province, a 1,000 cubic meter desalination plant in Asaluyeh County was officially inaugurated on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by the Governor of Bushehr and the representative of the counties of Kangan, Dayyer, Jam, and Asaluyeh, aimed at meeting part of the county's water needs.

According to IRNA, the CEO of Bushehr Province Water and Wastewater Company stated at the inauguration ceremony: "This project has been implemented with a final capacity of 5,000 cubic meters of water pro-

duction per day, of which the first phase – 1,000 cubic meters – has been brought into operation."

Ali Bardestani added: "For this project, 1,000 meters of water transmission pipeline, 1,500 meters of power lines, and a 100-cubic-meter storage reservoir have been constructed. Approximately 4,200 subscribers will benefit from the water produced by this desalination plant."

He noted: "This project has been on the agenda since 2023 (1402), and with the commissioning of its first phase, part of Asaluyeh County's water shortage will be alleviated."

The CEO of Bushehr Province Water and Wastewater Company stated that Asaluyeh faces a drinking water deficit of 237 liters per second, and the newly operational desalination plant will address 58 liters per second of this shortfall.

Bardestani added: "Additionally, considering the county's water needs, a water supply project through wells and eight projects in the areas of water distribution and consumption management are also underway. These measures are collectively planned to reduce and compensate for part of the region's water deficit."

Volkswagen to hand historic German auto plant to Israeli weapons manufacturers

From page 1 ▶ Berlin is cementing its position as the primary European supplier for a regime executing a genocide in Gaza and expanding its aggression throughout the region.

Bypassing shareholder opposition

The September 7 agreement hands majority ownership of the plant to the Tel Aviv-based Aurelius Capital. The State of Lower Saxony retains a minority stake.

This structure deliberately removes Volkswagen from a direct partnership with Rafael.

Earlier this year, the Qatar Investment Authority blocked a proposed joint venture between the automaker and the Israeli arms firm.

Qatari officials hold 17 percent of Volkswagen voting rights. They categorically refused to endorse the militarization of the plant.

German executives and state politicians engineered a blatant workaround. They transferred ownership to Aurelius and the state government, neutralizing the Qatari veto to guarantee Israel a European manufacturing foothold.

Industrializing the occupation

Civilian vehicle production in Osnabrück ends in summer 2027. The site currently employs roughly 2,300 workers assembling the T-Roc Cabriolet and Porsche models.

The facility will transition into a military manufacturing center. Rafael serves as the anchor project.

The workforce is scheduled to manufacture heavy launchers, military vehicles, and power generators supporting Israeli air defense systems.

Aurelius managing director Tomer Jacob confirmed the acquisition represents only the first phase in a broader strategic partnership. The facility will also convert Volkswagen Amarok pickup trucks into military



vehicles.

A plant originally founded under the Nazi regime is now being repurposed to arm an occupying regime facing genocide charges at the International Court of Justice.

Nicaragua has already filed an ICJ case accusing Germany of violating the 1948 Genocide Convention.

Local peace activists in Osnabrück have staged ongoing protests. Lea Reisner, international affairs spokesperson for the Left Party, accused the German government of applying unlimited double standards by expanding military support while issuing hollow condemnations of Israeli officials.

Submarines and surging exports

The Rafael deal coincides with an unprecedented spike in German military support for Tel Aviv. Official records show Berlin approved nearly 800 million euros in arms exports to Israel during the first half of 2026.

This dwarfs the 260 million euros approved for all of 2025. Chancellor Friedrich Merz briefly paused certain shipments last year before quietly lifting those restrictions.

Direct corporate manufacturing is only one facet of German complicity. On September 1, ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems delivered the INS Drakon to the Israeli Navy. The 68-meter Dolphin-class submarine features ten torpedo tubes. Military experts confirm the vessel accommodates nuclear warheads.

German taxpayers subsidized the purchase with a 135 million euro injection. Three more Dakar-class vessels will follow starting in 2031.

Berlin continues to supply sea-based nuclear strike capabilities to Tel Aviv as the Palestinian death toll surpasses 73,000.

German political leaders publicly claim to respect international law. Their systematic arming of Israel proves otherwise.

several Yemeni provinces,” stressing that “these attacks will not go unanswered or unpunished.”

The council stressed that it would not stand idly by in the face of the continued escalation, affirming its right to defend its people, sovereignty, and interests. It warned that continuing along this course would push the situation into a new phase for which Saudi Arabia would bear responsibility for the resulting consequences and repercussions.

The council called on the United Nations, the Security Council, and relevant international organizations to immediately and explicitly condemn the attack on the correctional facility and take a position on “the continued silence over crimes committed against the Yemeni people.”

Earlier, Saudi forces launched attacks on Yemen’s Al Jawf, Al Bayda, Ma’rib, and Taiz provinces, carrying out a number of airstrikes and cruise missile attacks, according to the Saba news agency in Sanaa.

The latest exchange marks one of the most significant escalations since the collapse of UN-brokered ceasefire talks earlier this year. The Sanaa government has repeatedly accused Saudi Arabia of exploiting the diplomatic lull to intensify its bombing campaigns.

However, with the YAF demonstrating the capability to strike multiple high-value targets simultaneously deep inside Saudi territory, the military balance has shifted. The regular strikes on Saudi Aramco facilities, the kingdom’s economic lifeline, carry particular weight and have raised global oil prices. They signal that the YAF forces are prepared to inflict direct financial pain on their adversary.

International observers have expressed concern over the widening scope of the Saudi-initiated conflict, but the YAF remain unyielding. As their statement made clear, they view this as a war of existence, one in which every act of Saudi brutality will be met with an equal or greater response. Sanaa has voted that will continue until the aggression ceases and the deadly blockade on Yemen is lifted.

Yemeni forces strike Saudi facilities in retaliatory blitz

TEHRAN – The Yemeni Armed Forces announced the successful execution of a large-scale offensive targeting critical Saudi economic and military installations.

This came in direct retaliation for a “brutal and unjust” three-day Saudi aerial campaign against civilian-populated areas across Yemen.

In a statement broadcast on national television, a spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF), Brigadier General Yahya Saree, detailed that dozens of ballistic missiles and combat drones struck the Aramco facilities in Abha, Najran, and Jizan. They also targeted the Economic City and the King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait.

The strikes, he said, were “accurate and direct, by the grace of Allah,” and inflicted substantial damage on these strategic assets. The operation, code-named “Siege for Siege,” was presented as a proportionate and lawful response to Saudi Arabia’s intensifying aggression against the Yemeni people.

The YAF statement opened with a stark reminder that the Yemeni nation has endured twelve years of foreign military intervention and a crippling blockade imposed by the “Saudi enemy”.

Over the past 72 hours, the Saudi air force has launched more than 120 airstrikes across five governorates: Marib, Al-Bayda, Hodeidah, Taiz, and Al-Jawf. The Sana’a government emphasized that these air raids marked a “major and comprehensive escalation” designed to break the will of the Yemeni people and serve the interests of the American and Israeli regimes.

The most heinous of these attacks, according to the statement, was the bombardment of the Central Prison in Al-Hazm, capital of Al-Jawf province. That strike claimed the lives of a large number of inmates, including women and children who were visiting their detained relatives.

The YAF denounced the prison bombing as a war crime and a clear violation of international humanitarian law. They accused Riyadh of deliberately targeting non-com-



batants in a desperate attempt to demoralize the population.

“This is not a war against armed forces,” the statement read. “This is a war against our very existence, against our homes, our prisons, our children. The Saudi enemy seeks to occupy our country and exterminate our people, all while hiding behind the pretext of fighting terrorism. But the world knows the truth: they are the terrorists.”

Faced with this unprovoked escalation, the YAF declared that it would meet aggression with greater aggression. The missile and drone salvo against Saudi Aramco facilities and the Khamis Mushait airbase was underlined as only the opening act of a sustained campaign.

Saree pointed out that the targets were chosen for their strategic and economic significance to the Saudi war machine. These are oil installations that fuel the “enemy’s” military logistics, and airbases from which the bombing sorties are launched.

“Every attack against our country and our people will be met with a decisive response,” the YAF pledged. “We will not hesitate to launch stronger and broader strikes against the criminal Saudi enemy, God willing. We have the means, the resolve, and the divine support to carry this fight to the very heart of the aggressor’s land.”

The Sanaa government also issued a direct warning to the Saudi leadership. All military mobilizations, troop movements, and aerial operations will not intimidate Yemen, the “land of Islam and Arabism.” Nor will they weaken the resolve of its faithful, freedom-loving people. Instead, the statement

asserted, such brutality only steals the nation’s determination to confront every act of aggression.

Central to the YAF’s message was the reaffirmation of the “blockade for blockade” equation. Since 2015, Saudi Arabia has imposed a comprehensive air, sea, and land blockade on Yemen, strangling its economy and depriving millions of essential goods, medicine, and fuel.

The YAF declared that they would continue to target Saudi depth, both economic infrastructure and military staging points, until the siege on Yemen is lifted and all foreign forces withdraw from its territory.

“Our people stand on the side of truth, while our enemy stands on the side of falsehood,” the statement concluded. “And indeed, falsehood is destined to perish. We are a people of faith and wisdom; we do not start wars, but we do not shy away from finishing them. The Saudi regime, backed by its American and Israeli patrons, thought it could crush us with bombs and hunger. Today, they are learning that the Yemeni spirit is unbreakable.”

Meanwhile, Yemen’s Supreme Political Council strongly condemned the targeting of the detention center in the city of Al Hazm, Jawf province, holding Saudi Arabia fully responsible for the attack and its consequences.

It said that “targeting detainees and civilians constitutes a dangerous escalation and a violation of international humanitarian law.”

The council said that “the Saudi escalation was not limited to the detention facility, but coincided with attacks on civilian homes in

The voice of mothers that makes Washington tremble

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mosaavi

TEHRAN — His age was too small for a flag. His life had only just begun.

In the village of Kuhestak, along the burning coast of the Strait of Hormuz, they buried Amir-Mohammad Karimi. He was four years old. He was about to start kindergarten. He died at a wedding when an American munition smashed into a gathering of joy and turned it into a grave. His father has asked the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps to avenge him.

Then his mother spoke.

Not with tears. Not with pleas. Not with the broken voice that empires expect from a woman standing over a child’s coffin. She spoke with fire. She looked toward Donald Trump and named the crime without ornament: “America the aggressor, you are child-killers.” Then she delivered the sentence that no missile can answer: “Whatever power you may have, you cannot match the power of the Iranian people. With the strength we have and the faith we have, we are victorious. Islam is victorious.”

Understand this woman, and you understand Iran. Fail to understand her, and you understand nothing.

She did not appear from nowhere. She is the living heir of a lineage that has outlasted kings, dictators, and empires. In 1979, when the streets of Tehran boiled and the throne of the Shah began to crack, it was mothers who held the line. They raised sons to march. They endured SAVAK. They buried friends, hid revolutionaries, and refused to bow. The Shah had prisons, secret police, and the blessing of Washington. He did not have the mothers. He fell.

Then came eight years of Sacred Defense — the war Iraq hurled upon Iran with the quiet applause of the same powers that now rain steel on wedding halls. Mothers sent their sons to the front: three, four, five from a single house. They watched boys walk toward almost certain death and did not pull them back. They called it sacrifice, and they meant every syllable. One mother opened her home to volunteers. Another became known as the mother of eighteen children, four of whom she gave to Islam. They called her a hero. She called herself a believer.

This is the bloodline Amir-Mohammad’s mother inherits. This is the standard she raises.

Look deeper still. Go back fourteen centuries.

On the sands of Karbala, Imam Hussein (AS) stood against the army of Yazid. He was slaughtered. His family was taken captive. His children were martyred around him. And in the wreckage of that massacre, it was not the swords that preserved the truth. It was the women. Zainab, sister of Imam Hussein (AS), walked the streets of Kufa and Damascus with her head unbowed. She did not weep for the tyrant’s satisfaction. She did not beg. She told the rulers of her age exactly what they had done, and her words outlived their



thrones. Umm al-Banin lost four of her sons in that battle. She did not curse her fate. She did not question God. Across the centuries she became the emblem of the mother who gives everything and asks for nothing except that the truth be spoken aloud.

Iranian mothers today are the mothers of a contemporary Karbala. They have learned from Zainab. They have learned from Umm al-Banin. They have learned the oldest and most dangerous lesson in history: power is not measured in missiles. Power is measured in the will to stand when everything has been taken from you.

So when Amir-Mohammad’s mother speaks, she does not speak as one grieving woman in one southern village. She speaks with a voice forged across fourteen hundred years. She speaks as every mother who has ever buried a child beneath the shadow of an empire. She speaks as every woman who has stood in the rubble of her home and refused to kneel.

“We are victorious,” she said.

Say that again. In the hour of her greatest loss, surrounded by the small coffin of her four-year-old boy, she declared victory. This is not the language of defeat. This is not the language of grief collapsing into silence. This is the language of a woman who knows something Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu cannot buy, cannot bomb, and cannot comprehend.

You may have weapons, she is telling them. You may have armies. You may have the entire military-industrial complex of the United States at your back. You do not have what we have.

The lineage of Amir-Mohammad Karimi’s mother is a civilization that refuses to bow. It is a lineage of mothers who have been losing sons and standing taller for fourteen centuries. It is a revolution that taught them dignity is not granted by Washington — it is seized. It is a Sacred Defense that taught them survival is not of the body. It is of the soul.

“We will stand until our last breath,” she said. “Until the last drop of our blood, we stand by our country, by our system, by our leader.”

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israeli troops storm Breqa as raids expand across southern Syria

From page 1 ▶ On September 5, four armored vehicles pushed into Quneitra toward Al-Razaniya, while Israeli drones routinely surveil villages across Daraa’s Yarmouk Basin.

Recent artillery strikes have also ignited farmland near Jabata al-Khashab, shelled Wadi Abdeen, and targeted Tal al-Ahmar, where troops abducted a local shepherd.

Deepening the aggression, Israeli warplanes launched eight airstrikes on August 18 against the Abu al-Duhur airbase in Idlib.

This unrelenting violence accelerated after December 8, 2024, when Benjamin Netanyahu’s government exploited the fall of Bashar al-Assad to unilaterally tear up the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement.

Israeli troops seized the strategic heights of Mount Hermon and built armed posts inside the buffer zone, treating southern Syria as an open target for conquest.

Tactical restraint by Damascus has yielded

zero security dividends.

Syria’s ruler Ahmad “al-Jolani” al-Sharaa sought to negotiate a security arrangement through foreign mediation, promising not to surrender claims to the occupied Golan Heights.

Yet those efforts collapsed during U.S.-brokered talks in Jordan between Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani and Israeli officials.

Tel Aviv flatly rejected withdrawing to pre-December 2024 lines, publicly calling its illegal occupation of the buffer zone an indispensable security asset.

On Tuesday, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria condemned the escalating operations.

Commissioner Fionnuala Ní Aoláin warned that sustained ground incursions, land seizures, and the detention of 49 Syrian civilians violate international law and may amount to war crimes.

Futsal star Gholami hangs up her boots

TEHRAN - Iran women's futsal star Nasimeh Gholami has officially announced her retirement from the national team after almost 20 years of service.

Gholami was one of the standout players of Iran's golden generation, winning the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup twice and representing Iran at the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup.

She also helped the national side finish third at the Asian Indoor Games.

"Deciding to say goodbye to the national team was not easy at all," Gholami said. "For some people, retirement may simply mean saying a sentence, but for me it means the end of a part of my life — a part that I lived for with all my heart for almost 20 years.

"I didn't just collect memories with the national team; I found my sporting identity there. I grew up, suffered defeats, got back on my feet, celebrated championships and went through many difficult days. Naturally, saying goodbye to such a journey is extremely difficult.

"But I felt the time had come to make this decision. I wanted to leave the national team while I still loved this shirt with all my heart, rather than being forced to leave or reaching a point where I no longer had the ability or motivation to continue."

Gholami stressed that her decision does not mark the end of her futsal career, but rather the closing of one chapter.

"This is not goodbye to futsal," she said. "I am simply closing a chapter of my professional life. I can proudly say that I gave everything I had to the national-team shirt. If I could go back and make the choice again, I would choose the same path."

Gholami's international career included two Asian titles, a World Cup appearance and a bronze medal at the Asian Indoor Games. Asked about her best memory in an Iran shirt, she admitted that choosing just one was difficult.

"Picking one memory is really hard because I have almost 20 years of memories," she said. "But if I had to talk about a particular feeling, it would be the moments when the Iranian flag was raised and our national anthem was played. Those moments will never be forgotten.

"Winning the Asian Cup was a great honor, but what meant more to me than the medal was the feeling of wearing the Iran shirt. Knowing that millions of people were celebrating with you and that you were representing a part of your country's people was a huge responsibility.

"Playing at the World Cup was also a dream that became reality. Every athlete probably dreams of standing on the biggest stage in the world one day, and I'm happy that I had the chance to experience it," she concluded.

Woman cyclist Dehghan targets gold in Nagoya

TEHRAN - Iranian women's cyclist Mandana Dehghan is aiming to return home from the Nagoya Asian Games with the most coveted medal.

Dehghan, who is currently in China training and competing with her club team, told Tehran Times in an exclusive interview that she hopes to make history at the Asian Games.

"Despite all the difficulties this year, particularly the wartime conditions and the events that affected our training, I tried not to miss even a single training session," Dehghan said.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

TENDER NOTICE

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Tehran hereby invites sealed Tenders for the captioned work from reputed firms/companies dealing in janitorial services to participate in the Tender.

Interested bidders may collect the bidding documents from the office of the Head of Chancery, Embassy of Pakistan, Block # 1, Street Etemadzadeh, Main Fatemi Boulevard, Jamalzadeh Shomali, Tehran. Bidders are requested to give their best and final prices as no negotiations are expected. The rates quoted should be valid for a period of at least 120 days after the bid opening date. Bidding will be conducted according to normal Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules (PPRA Rules). Bidders must have a work experience in provision of janitorial services of at least 3 years.

Bids must reach the office of the Head of Chancery, Embassy of Pakistan, Block # 1, Street Etemadzadeh, Main Fatemi Boulevard, Jamalzadeh Shomali, Tehran, before 1100 Hours on Thursday 24th September, 2026. The technical proposals will be opened on the same day at 1130 hours in the presence of the representatives of the bidders, while financial bids of technically qualified firms only will be opened on the same day. No Tender documents shall be issued on the date fixed for opening of tender.

Conditional, incomplete and tenders without Proof of company/ business registration and prior work experience shall be considered as non-responsive. Further personal canvassing or recommendations will disqualify the bidder(s). Bid(s) not submitted on time on Embassy's prescribed format/BOQ will out rightly be rejected. This tender is only an invitation to offer and the Embassy reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or a proposal and shall, upon request, communicate to any bidder or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, the grounds for its rejection of all bids but is not required to justify those grounds PPRA's rule 33(1).

Head of Chancery,
Embassy of Pakistan,
Tehran.
Phone: **+98-21-66941388**
+98-21-66941389
+98-21-66941390

Tehran metro takes on a new role in urban tourism

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - Tourism maps have been installed at 24 metro stations in Tehran to help passengers discover historical, cultural and tourism attractions located around the stations, the Tehran Municipality Tourism Headquarters said.

"Tehran, with more than 10 million people and an extensive public transportation network, has considerable potential for using the metro for tourism," Amir Ghasemi, head of the headquarters, said at a ceremony unveiling the maps on Tuesday.

"The initiative was designed to make greater use of Tehran's extensive metro network as a tool for urban tourism, in addition to its conventional role as a public transport system."

He added that the idea of using the metro network to promote tourism was first raised about two years ago and was subsequently developed by the municipal tourism headquarters with the participation of people who had conducted field research on Tehran's history and attractions.

Ghasemi cited Tokyo, Paris, London and Barcelona as examples of cities where metro systems have been used from a tourism perspective, saying Tehran was also



moving in that direction.

He said the maps were developed as tourism infrastructure rather than as a conventional contracted project, with field researchers documenting attractions and features across the city.

A team based at Tehran's Aslani Historical and Cultural House mapped metro routes according to nearby tourism attractions and prepared the maps unveiled under the initiative, he said.

According to Ghasemi, an initial assessment identified 40 metro stations with significant tourism potential. Maps have so far been installed at 24 stations, including at entrances, exits and on platform areas.

The assessment covered historical sites, museums, shopping and entertainment facilities, green

tourism attractions, religious sites and essential public services. It also considered connections with other forms of public transportation, including Tehran's bus rapid transit network.

Ghasemi said most information about commercial, medical, architectural and environmental sites had been collected through fieldwork over the past two years. As a result, facilities established during the past four or five months may not yet appear on the maps and will be added in future revisions, he said.

The maps generally cover attractions within a 500-metre radius of each station. The radius for Tajrish station was expanded because the Simin and Jalal House and Nima House are located about 700 meters away.

From sacred spring to stone museum: the long journey of Khusro II's bust

Located north of Kermanshah, the Taq-e Bostan archaeological complex is renowned for its magnificent Sasanian rock reliefs and royal grottoes.

Among these celebrated carvings stands a lesser-known but equally significant artifact: a heavily damaged freestanding bust locally called Kol-e Jubor. This Kurdish toponym translates to "the short one who cuts the water stream" and is deeply rooted in regional agrarian folklore.

Local farmers traditionally attributed supernatural powers to the statue, blaming it for magically interrupting irrigation channels from the Kulehkehu River (Cham-e Bashir) whenever their fields ran dry, cementing its folkloric identity as an aquatic saboteur.

The bust is one of the few surviving ex-

amples of freestanding Sasanian sculpture, offering exceptional insight into the artistic and ideological expressions of the late empire. The most prominent parallel is the Colossal Statue of Shapur I, which stands in a limestone cave near Bishapur in southern Iran. Together, these two monuments constitute the only known major examples of Sasanian freestanding stone statuary.

The Kol-e Jubor's historical trajectory has been marked by severe instability and displacement. After being recorded by the 10th-century Arab historian Mis'ar bin al-Muhallil (Abu Dolaf) in 341 AH, the statue toppled and remained submerged in the large karst spring before the grottoes for centuries. Western travelers Eugene Flandin (1840) and Annee Holt (1867) documented it lying in the water. By 1878, it had been extracted and propped up on dry ground, where it suffered extensive degradation from prolonged submersion and human vandalism, including gunfire that obliterated its facial features.

The statue's turbulent history is further illuminated by photographic and archaeological records. A modern image reveals a pockmarked, cracked, and heavily eroded stone torso, stripped of all fa-

cial features, currently secured within a gray metal frame and wooden clamps at the Taq-e Bostan Stone Museum. This condition is contextualized by early 20th-century documentation.

The renowned archaeologist Ernst Herzfeld photographed and recorded the statue, categorizing it within the "Sasanian Monuments" subseries of his papers. His handwritten notes explicitly identify it as a "Statue in round, Khusro II" (Taq-i Bustan: Carved in the Round Statue of Khusro II). This archival record, part of the Ernst Herzfeld Papers at the National Museum of Asian Art Archives, Smithsonian Institution, provides crucial evidence of the statue's early 20th-century state.

Despite the severe damage, the surviving torso preserves critical iconographic details. It highlights imposing, bulky shoulders and arms resting across the chest, along with a distinct vertical line of erosion indicating the placement of a sword vertically between the legs, against which the figure heavily leans. This configuration is interpreted as a deliberate symbolic allusion to military power and martial authority. The posture echoes the central investiture scene, while the attire matches Khusro's hunting reliefs. Facial reconstruction studies further indicate the king's characteristic short neck and broad visage, firmly aligning the bust with the monumental imperial effigy of Khusro II (Khosrow Parviz) and corroborating Herzfeld's identification.

Beyond royal portraiture, scholars have proposed a ritualistic interpretation, suggesting the grotto and statue collectively functioned as a tomb-sanctuary. In this framework, the lateral hunting and musical reliefs symbolize the preparation of sacred food and joyful entertainment meant to appease the Fravashi (royal guardian spirits) during the Zoroastrian Hamaspaspathmaedaya festival. The statue may therefore have embodied the sovereign's physical presence on earth, complementing the celestial representation of his investiture in the grotto.

In September 1818, Sir Robert Ker Porter recorded carved pairs of feet attached at the ankle on the flat plateau above the large arches.

Subsequent field surveys confirmed these remnants at the end of the sculpted staircases on the eastern side, indicating this elevated platform as the statue's original pedestal. Likely toppled from this height due to iconoclastic violence, the statue fractured severely. Consequently, recent research proposes that the fragmented torso undergo careful restoration and be re-erected at its original location atop the arches, allowing the Kol-e Jubor to once again preside over the sacred springs of Taq-e Bostan.

First Announcement

2270744
1



National Iranian Oil Company
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0440047

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity	UNIT
01	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 12-1/4 IN., I.A.D.C.2.1.4	140	NO
02	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 8-1/2 IN., I.A.D.C. 2.1.4	45	NO
03	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 6-1/8 IN., I.A.D.C. 2.1.4	60	NO
04	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 5-7/8 IN., I.A.D.C. 2.1.4	40	NO
05	NOZZLES FOR SIZE 8-3/8 TO 12-1/4 INCH	200	NO
06	NOZZLES FOR SIZE 5-5/8 TO 6-3/4 INCH	100	NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **30,045.30 EURO** or **51,332,740,000 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN. PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D INCLUDING 25% ADVANCE PAYMENT, SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 341 23589 Fax No.: 061 34457437

PUBLIC RELATIONS

www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://iets.mporg.ir> www.setadiran.ir

Iran proposes regional action plan to preserve Caspian seal

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has submitted a draft regional action plan aimed at preserving the Caspian seal to the Secretariat of the Tehran Convention for consideration at the ministerial meeting of the Caspian littoral states.

Effective conservation of the Caspian seal is impossible without regional cooperation; the proposed regional action plan aims to require all littoral states to participate in the protection of this valuable species, as the measures implemented by a single country cannot guarantee the success of preservation efforts, ISNA quoted Shahram Fadakar, director general for the protection of marine ecosystems and coasts at the Department of Environment (DOE), as saying.

The Caspian seal is the only marine mammal native to the Caspian Sea, which is listed as an endangered species facing numerous threats. The depletion of food sources, particularly Kilka, which is a key food source for the Caspian seal, sea pollution, chemical contamination, hunting, accidental capture in fishing nets, viral and parasite infections, and climate change are among other major threats to the species, the official noted.

Reducing mortality rates within the species requires the implementation of a set of simultaneous measures such as monitoring, conservation, rescue operations, and personnel training. The expansion of rescue centers in coastal provinces, the enhancement of coastal monitoring efforts, the training of fishermen and local communities, and the prompt examination of fresh carcasses can facilitate the identification of threats and mitigation of potential harm, Fadakar highlighted.

The movement of the species across the shared waters of the Caspian Sea and the potential drifting of carcasses between the coastlines of littoral states indicate that a transboundary approach is needed to address this crisis. Pursuing a regional action plan for the conservation of the Caspian seal can facilitate the enhancement of coordination among the coastal nations and the adoption of joint measures to preserve the species' population, Fadakar further noted.

Over the past few years, the Department of Environment has adopted various measures to protect the species and mitigate these threats, he added.

The DOE, in cooperation with related executive agencies, universities, and other stakeholders, has developed the regional action plan to safeguard the endangered species, Fadakar highlighted.

Currently, the DOE is implementing the following measures to protect the Caspian seal; these include launching a secretariat for the Caspian seal conservation, establish-



ing executive working groups in the northern provinces, setting up and equipping rescue centers, installing information signs in sensitive areas, and preparing educational and informational materials to train target groups regarding this species.

Conservation action plan to save Caspian seal

In recent years, the increasing discovery of seal carcasses on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea has raised concerns among environmentalists that the Caspian seal is at a greater risk of extinction than ever before.

The species is now listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, with its population declining due to various reasons, from one million in the past to 70,000 currently.

In 2025, the first specialized center in the country for the conservation, treatment, and dissection of Caspian seals opened in Bojaq National Park in the Caspian Sea province of Gilan.

The center aims to revive and care for the seals, the only marine mammal in the Caspian Sea; the inauguration of the center will serve as a milestone in the implementation of national and regional programs for the protection of this endangered animal, IRIB quoted Ahmad-Reza Lahijan-zadeh, the deputy head of the Department of Environment for Marine and Wetlands Affairs, as saying.

The center has the capacity to become a specialized veterinary and research complex to study the causes of death in seals, he added.

Training fishermen to report incidents and transport injured seals quickly (to the center), and using drones to monitor seals will play a key role in lowering losses, Lahijan-zadeh added.

The official went on to say that the coastal community can also contribute to the preservation program through reporting seal sightings or carcasses.

In November 2024, DOE started implementing a national action plan that focuses on the conservation of the Caspian seal.

The main objective of the plan is to conserve the Caspian seal, a rare, valuable, endemic, and endangered species of the Caspian Sea, as the priority of marine environmental activities. IRNA quoted Mohammad Talebi-Matin, an official with the DOE, as saying.

The establishment of a center for the Caspian seal conservation in Tarbiat Modarres University's branch in Noor County is among the important measures taken in this regard.

It has fostered positive interactions between the university and the executive units, which is expected to bring about positive results in the protection of Caspian seals in the near future, the official noted.

Executive working groups have been formed in cooperation with governors and other beneficiaries under the management of provincial departments of environment in Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan provinces.

Also, the rescue centers for seals in these three provinces are well-equipped, and a specialized training workshop has already been held for the beneficiaries and rangers, Talebi-Matin said.

The training included basic methods of rescue, release, carcass disposal, and correct sample gathering.

In addition, examining the seals' carcasses on the beaches to identify the cause of their loss is being pursued in cooperation with neighboring countries and related organizations.

polymakers and decision-makers. Delay in diagnosis is a major challenge. Many patients are diagnosed when the treatments have a low efficacy.

That's why the theme underlines the decisive role of early diagnosis. Timely interventions provide opportunities for better treatment and management of the disease, yielding positive health outcomes.

This year's theme highlights the importance of early diagnosis as the key to unlocking a whole raft of treatment, care and support options, both pharmacological and non-pharmacological. The month seeks to raise awareness of the benefits that a diagnosis can provide to those living with the condition, alongside carers and the wider society.

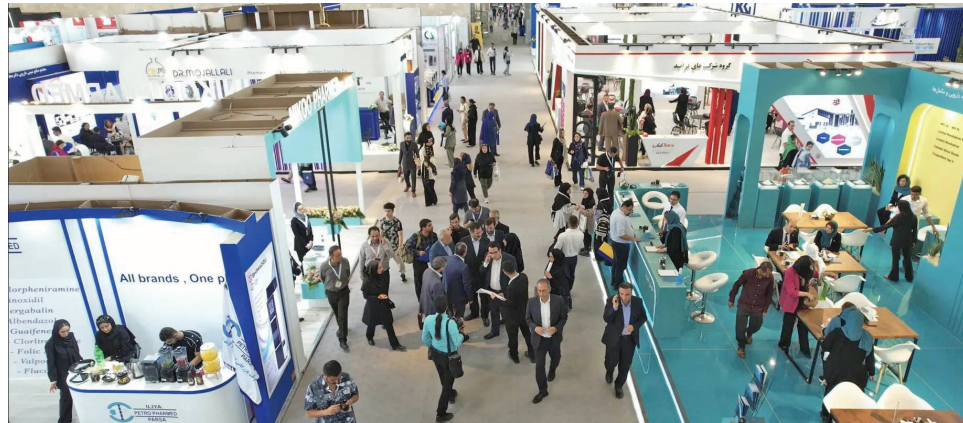
Unfortunately, Alzheimer's disease doesn't just affect the individuals diagnosed with the disease; it has a profound impact on their families and caregivers as well.

With the passage of time, over 80 percent of home caregivers, who often provide around-the-clock support, suffer from frustration, physical and mental health issues, including backache, sleep disorders, and depression.

World Alzheimer's Day takes place during World Alzheimer's Month and is on 21 September every year.



Some 75 foreign companies attending Pharmex intl. exhibition 2026



TEHRAN – A total of 547 knowledge-based firms, including 75 foreign companies, are participating in the 8th Pharmex international exhibition being held in Tehran from September 8 to 10.

The event marks the first major gathering of pharmaceutical supply chain stakeholders since the 40-day war imposed on the country by the United States and Israel, Mehr news agency reported.

Pharmex brings together industry stakeholders to highlight the country's capabilities in the production of pharmaceutical and chemical raw materials, pharmaceutical packaging, as well as specialized equipment and machinery for the pharmaceutical sector.

This year's exhibition features 135 educational sessions planned to be conducted through workshops and specialized panels.

To enhance pharmaceutical and medical cooperation with other countries, knowledge-based firms are scheduled to hold meetings with the ambassadors taking part in the exhibition.

There will also be specialized tours for students to visit different parts of the exhibition, get familiar with companies and the experts operating in the industry, and attend students league.

"This year, Pharmex is not simply an exhibition taking place in the aftermath of the war; it is an exhibition shaped by the lessons learned from it.

This distinction is particularly significant. During the recent crisis, Iran's pharmaceutical industry demonstrated substantial capacity to sustain production and maintain the continuity of supply. At the same time, the crisis highlighted a number of structural vulnerabilities, including liquidity constraints, foreign exchange challenges, pricing policies, dependence on certain segments of the supply chain, and obstacles to long-term investment," Hassan Bayrami, a member of the Board of Directors of the Syndicate of Pharmaceutical, Chemical, and Pharmaceutical Packaging Manufacturers, said.

"Pharmex 2026 must go beyond showcasing the strength of Iran's pharmaceutical industry and serve as a platform for demonstrating its capacity to rebuild, strengthen resilience, drive innovation, and deepen its integration into the regional pharmaceutical value chain," he highlighted, according to the Pharmex Secretariat.

Pharmex is recognized as one of the largest and most prominent international pharmaceutical industry events in Iran and West Asia. The exhibition brings together leading pharmaceutical manufacturers, packaging companies, suppliers, technology providers, and industry professionals from across the region and beyond.

Iran regional leader in health system

In May 2025, the World Health Organization's (WHO) director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) said Iran is a leading country in expanding its healthcare system and providing access to universal health coverage.

Lauding the country's achievements in recent years, Hanan Balkhi said that by expanding primary health care services, increasing access to health coverage in rural areas, maintaining high vaccination rates, and reducing maternal and newborn mortality, Iran has managed to become a successful role model in the region, the health ministry's website reported.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA).

Self-sufficiency in medicine, medical equipment is a priority

The issue of medicine and medical equipment production and self-sufficiency in these areas is one of the government's priorities, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi has said.

Medicine and medical equipment are two important areas related to people's health, he said, adding: "We are trying to reach self-sufficiency for the supply of medicine and medical equipment," IRNA reported

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment, such as anesthesia machines and other equipment, are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

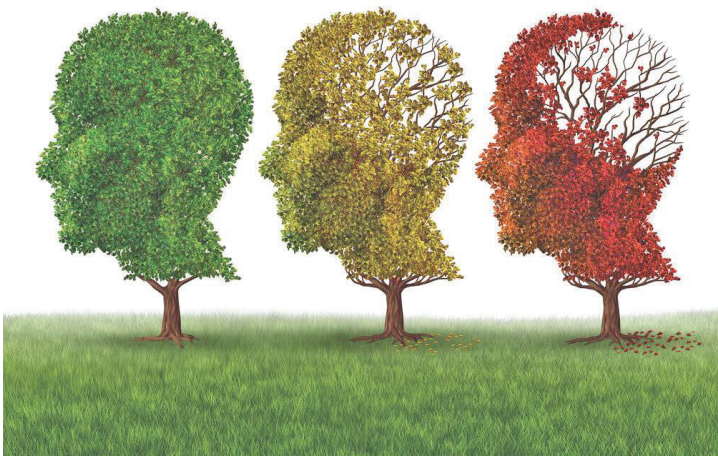
World Alzheimer's Month: early dementia diagnosis matters

TEHRAN – September, observed as World Alzheimer's Month, provides an important opportunity to raise awareness among the public and healthcare professionals about Alzheimer's disease, dementia, their various aspects, and the challenges they present.

Dementia is a condition caused by brain diseases and affects memory, thinking, and the ability to function. More than 57 million people live with dementia worldwide, and nearly 10 million people get newly diagnosed every year. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and is estimated to account for 60–70 percent of cases.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive condition that gradually damages memory and cognitive abilities and, over time, impairs a person's ability to perform even the simplest everyday tasks. In most cases, symptoms emerge later in life. Beyond its profound impact on patients, the disease also places a significant social and economic burden on families, caregivers, and society as a whole.

Dementia affects an individual's ability to live independently, work and function, while placing substantial burdens on families and carers. It carries a major economic loss, costing the global economy an estimated US\$ 1.3 trillion annually. About half



of this cost is driven by unpaid care provided by families and friends. Understanding risk factors and taking action to prevent dementia can improve health and quality of life, helping people live longer, healthier and more independent lives.

Each year, the month is celebrated under a specific theme. This September, it seeks to tackle the persistent stigma and discrimination surrounding dementia by shining a spotlight on the timely and important issue of early diagnosis under the theme: The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do: A Dementia Diagnosis Matters.

It has been more than a century since Alzheimer's disease was first identified. However, many

individuals and even institutions have no or insufficient knowledge of the disease; many are unaware of their disease in the early stage.

In recent years, global themes and initiatives regarding Alzheimer's disease have followed a logical, evolutionary path: over the past five years, the trajectory began with raising awareness and understanding the disease, proceeded to underscore the importance of prevention and the management of risk factors, particularly physical inactivity, and ultimately culminated in a focus on action and advocacy.

With the increase in elderly population, dementia and Alzheimer's disease have become key areas of focus for health



Stationery exhibition opens in Tehran

The 12th stationery exhibition, called "Iran Nevesht," opened in Tehran on Monday, bringing together producers and cultural product manufacturers. The exhibition will run through September 22 and features more than 100 manufacturers presenting their products across 70 booths, with a special focus on national identity and Islamic themes.



SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Blessed is the man who always kept the life after death in his view, who remembered the Day of Judgment through all his deeds, who led a contented life and who was happy with the lot that Allah had destined for him.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 18:39 Dawn: 4:17 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:43 (tomorrow)

Gaza Cinema Academy launches at Venice Film Festival

A group of prominent Palestinian, Arab, and international filmmakers and industry professionals on Monday launched the Gaza Cinema Academy at the Venice Film Festival.

The new entity aims to establish a sustainable space for film education, training and production in Gaza, while connecting emerging Palestinian filmmakers with the wider international film community, Variety reported.

The Gaza Cinema Academy is being supported by 2025 Venice Silver Lion winner — and Venice jury member — Kaoother Ben Hania (“The Voice of Hind Rajab”) and fellow directors Annemarie Jacir (“Palestine 36”), Mai Masri (“3000 Nights”) — who is the academy’s co-founder — and Ezzaldeen Shalah, as well as actors Hiam Abbas, Ramy Youssef and Saleh Bakri. Italian producer Graziella Bildesheim and Cairo-based distributor and Arab film industry promoter Alaa Karkouti are also on board.

The academy will focus on film education and training, supporting young talent and women, developing and producing new Palestinian films, strengthening the presence of filmmakers in Gaza and their connections with the Palestinian, Arab and international film communities, and building a sustainable film institution in the Gaza Strip.

They are seeking to build a rapport with film festivals and other cultural institutions, as well as film funds, and production companies. “The academy aspires to build an international network of partners that supports

emerging film talent in Gaza, strengthens opportunities for learning and production, and helps their films reach festivals, platforms and audiences around the world,” it noted.

“In Gaza, cinema is not merely an art form; it is a means of preserving memory, reclaiming our right to shape our own image, and giving a new generation the tools to tell its own story,” said Shalah, who is founder of the Gaza International Women’s Film Festival and co-founder of the Gaza Cinema Academy, in a statement. “We want the academy to open a window for young people and women in Gaza to learn, create and make their own films, and for their voices and images to reach the world. We invite our partners in institutions, universities and the international film community to be part of building this space.”

The first edition of the Gaza International Women’s Film Festival was held Oct. 26-31, 2025, amid rubble in the heart of the Gaza strip. The Gaza fest opened with “The Voice of Hind Rajab.”

There are two Palestinian films in Venice’s official selection this year: Ahmed Has-souna’s “Citizen Osama,” which portrays a photographer as he attempts to juggle his roles as father and a journalist while capturing the realities of war in Gaza; and Muayad Alayan’s “Conversation With the Sea,” about a 60-year-old Palestinian man named Kamal who becomes entangled in a tendentious web of Israeli bureaucracy.

Isfahan to host 38th children’s film festival

TEHRAN- The 38th edition of International Film Festival for Children and Youth will be held in Isfahan, with the organizers planning a range of cinematic, educational and cultural programs aimed at children and teenagers.

The festival will be jointly organized by the Farabi Cinema Foundation and Isfahan Municipality, with Hamed Jafari serving as its secretary, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

The arrangements for holding the event in the central Iranian city were finalized through a memorandum of understanding signed by Isfahan Governor Mehdi Jama-linejad, Deputy Culture Minister and Cinema Organization head Raed Faridzadeh, Isfahan Mayor Ali Qasemzadeh, and Farabi Cinema Foundation Managing Director Hamed Jafari.

The upcoming edition is expected to draw on Isfahan’s cultural and urban capacities to create broader opportunities for children, teenagers and families to engage with cinema.

Speaking about the event, Jama-linejad said Isfahan has extensive cultural, social and administrative capacities that should be utilized more effectively in this edition of the festival.

He called for the participation of provincial cultural institutions, artists and organizations active in the field of children and adolescents, emphasizing the need to create an inclusive atmosphere for the festival both in Isfahan and at the national level.

Faridzadeh described the festival as one of the region’s longstanding



and reputable events dedicated to children’s cinema, saying that protecting and enhancing its standing is a responsibility that should be pursued seriously.

He noted that holding the festival in Isfahan, with the support of the provincial administration and city authorities, provides valuable potential for a successful edition.

Faridzadeh also stressed the need to strengthen the festival’s national and international standing and use it as a platform for the development of children’s and adolescents’ cinema in Iran.

For his part, Qasemzadeh said Isfahan Municipality is ready to provide its administrative, cultural and promotional capacities for the

event.

He added that efforts would be made to ensure that the festival has a visible presence across the city and that municipal facilities are used to encourage greater participation by children and families.

Jafari said this year’s festival has witnessed an increase in the number of submitted works and applications for participation.

He expressed hope that the growing interest would result in the selection of a strong lineup of films for screening during the event.

Alongside film screenings, the festival will feature special programs designed to give children

and teenagers a more active role in the event. The Adolescents Film Olympiad, educational workshops and other programs focusing on young audiences are among the activities planned for the 38th edition.

According to Jafari, the festival aims not only to screen films but also to provide an environment for discovering young talent, education and developing a stronger relationship between the younger generation and cinema.

The 38th International Film Festival for Children and Youth will be held in Isfahan in the near future with the participation of the Farabi Cinema Foundation and Isfahan Municipality.

“Like Water for Chocolate” to take stage at Baghdad Intl. Theater Festival

TEHRAN- Iranian director Ebrahim Poshte Kouhi’s acclaimed play “Like Water for Chocolate,” adapted from the novel by Mexican author Laura Esquivel, is set to be staged at the Baghdad International Theater Festival, which will be held from October 10 to 18.

Written and directed by Poshte Kouhi, the production is based on Esquivel’s internationally known novel of the same name and was first staged in Iran in 2013.

“Like Water for Chocolate” has previously appeared at several theater events and received awards for best actress, best music, best stage design and best costume design.

Poshte Kouhi is no stranger to the Bagh-

dad International Theater Festival. Two of his other productions, “Macbeth Zaar” and “Particles of Chaos,” have previously won the festival’s Grand Prize.

The Iranian director has also presented his works at theater festivals in Moscow, Munich, St. Petersburg, Shaki, Baku, Yerevan and Budapest, among other cities.

His productions often draw on Iranian cultural traditions and performance rituals while seeking to establish a dialogue with international audiences.

“Like Water for Chocolate” follows Tita, a young woman whose love for Pedro is thwarted by a family tradition that requires

her to remain unmarried and care for her mother. Forced to watch Pedro marry her sister, Tita expresses her emotions through the food she prepares, with her feelings seemingly passing into her cooking and affecting those who eat it.

Blending love, family conflict, and magical realism, the story explores the ways in which personal emotions and suppressed desires can challenge social and family traditions. Through its interplay of everyday life, memory and the supernatural, the play offers a poetic portrayal of love and resistance against restrictions imposed by tradition.

Iran attends Cosmoscw International Contemporary Art Fair for third consecutive year



TEHRAN – Officials at Iran’s pavilion in the 14th Cosmoscw International Contemporary Art Fair announced that the works of Iranian artists have been well-received by visitors to the event, which is considered Russia’s most important professional art showcase.

The event was held from September 4 to 6 at the Timiryazev Tsentri in Moscow, featuring 108 galleries. Modern and contemporary Iranian art was showcased at this international event through a dedicated “Persian” section, IRNA reported.

Iranian artists have been participating in this exhibition for the third consecutive year. Selected works from over 50 artists, represented by eight Iranian galleries, were displayed and available for sale.

The collection presented in this project showcased diverse

experiences of modern and contemporary Iranian art across several generations and artistic movements. Works by established international artists, including Mansour Ghandriz, Massoud Arabshahi, Ali Akbar Sadeghi, Sirak Melkonian, Aydin Aghdashloo, Nikzad Nodjumi, Mohsen Vaziri Moghaddam, Reza Derakhshani, Farideh Lashai, Hossein Kazemi, Farshid Maleki, and other pioneers, alongside contemporary Iranian artists, were met with visitor interest.

Kazem Jalali, Iran’s Ambassador to Russia, visited the Iranian pavilion at this fair and emphasized the importance of utilizing the potential of visual arts and fostering direct interaction between artists, galleries, and cultural institutions of both countries to develop cultural relations between Iran and Russia.

“The significance of the pres-

ence of Iranian artists and galleries in the Russian market is not limited to displaying and selling works. Participating in such an event means an Iranian artist entering the professional network of the Russian art market, gaining visibility among collectors, gallerists, experts, and cultural institution managers, and creating opportunities for future exhibitions, artwork sales, and collaborations,” Jalali stated.

“The continuity of such presence helps build trust and recognition in the art market, which in contemporary art usually only comes through consistent presence and direct interaction among artists, galleries, and collectors,” he noted.

Margarita Pushkina, Director and Founder of the Cosmoscw International Contemporary Art Fair, also commented during her visit to Iran’s pavilion: “We all know that without any exaggeration, Iranian culture and art are very rich, and we have always been interested in it.”

“Before the participation of contemporary Iranian artists in our exhibition, we had heard and were aware of much about their capabilities. When the opportunity arose to invite Iranian galleries and artists to participate in this event, it was a great honor for us,” Pushkina added.

“Russian people have become acquainted with the work of talented Iranian artists over the past

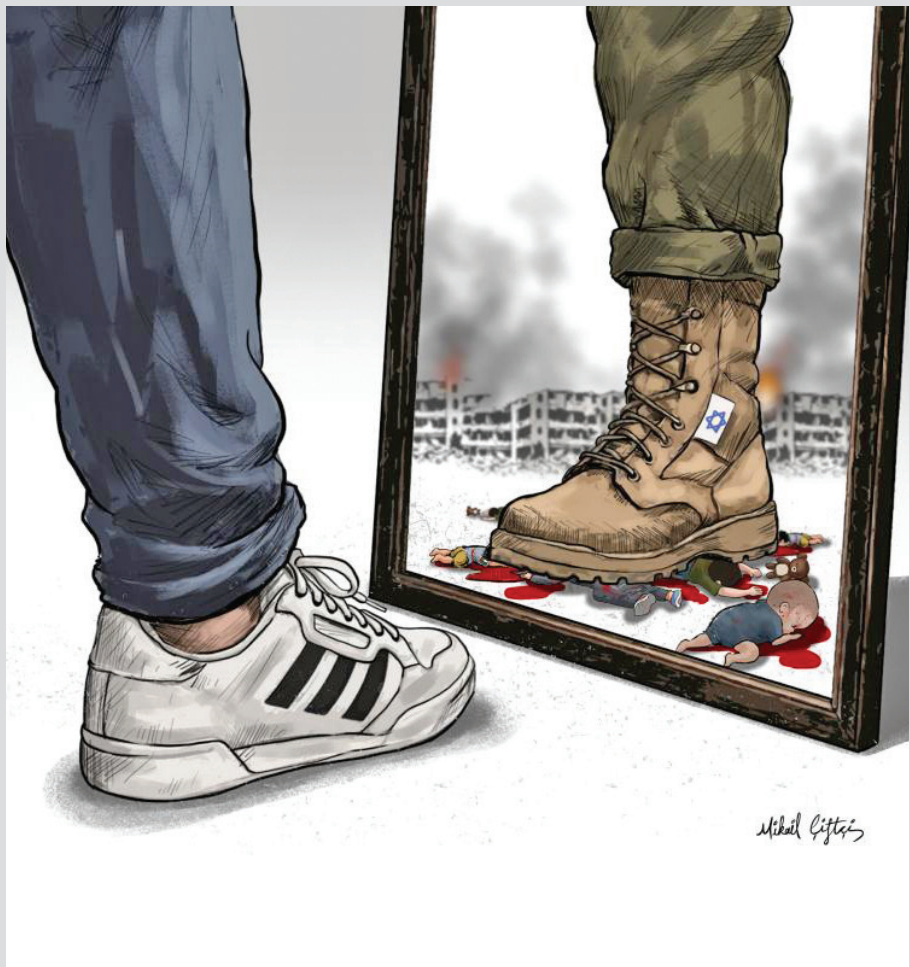
years and have become accustomed to Iran presenting its galleries and artists’ works to them.”

Also speaking during the visit, Abdolreza Rashed, the Cultural Attaché of the Iranian Embassy in Russia, said: “The presence of our country’s artists in Cosmoscw for the past three years is not merely a ceremonial act. This presence can be considered a practical example of cultural diplomacy through art, a path through which Iran is introduced not only through official programs but directly through the works and language of Iranian artists.”

“Over the past three years, by supporting the participation of Iranian galleries and artists, accelerating and facilitating negotiations with the Russian side, making necessary arrangements with the exhibition organizers, and assisting in establishing connections between art professionals of both countries, we have tried to pave the way for a more regular and effective presence of Iranian art,” Rashed further noted.

“In the Iran pavilion, titled ‘Persian Art: Dialogue of Generations,’ an effort has been made to present a contemporary image of Iranian art to the Russian audience, going beyond stereotypical perceptions. Through the presence of works from different generations, the historical continuity between modern and contemporary Iranian art has been showcased,” he stated.

Cartoon of Day



Adidas Advertisement
Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey