

Bab el-Mandeb under Ansarallah's control as oil crisis deepens

By Xavier Villar

MADRID — In 2011, during the so-called “Arab Spring,” the grievances of the Yemeni population reached a critical point, triggering mass protests demanding the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who had ruled the country for more than thirty years. Following Saleh's resignation, Saudi Arabia backed Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi as the country's new leader. Ansarallah rejected this appointment and launched a military campaign against the new government.

Since 2015, Ansarallah has controlled the capital, Sana'a, as well as most of the Red Sea coast, and has developed a foreign policy centered on hostility towards the Western presence in the region, particularly against the United States and Israel. ▶ Page 5

Aoun's dilemma: When diplomacy fails to change reality on the ground

TEHRAN — Lebanese President Joseph Aoun's visit to Nabatieh was intended to convey a powerful political message: the Lebanese state stands with the people of the south.

The other half of Aoun's message was that the state remains committed to restoring national sovereignty, securing the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces (IOF), bringing back displaced civilians and prisoners, and rebuilding the areas devastated by the IOF aggression. ▶ Page 5

Iraqi Resistance rejects Saudi pipeline accusation as ‘an honor we do not claim’

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The Islamic Resistance in Iraq has formally rejected Saudi allegations blaming it for recent drone strikes on the kingdom's East-West crude pipeline.

The resistance movement dismissed the charge on Saturday as “an honor we do not claim” and warned that the accusations are part of “malicious Zionist-American plots” meant to trap Iraq in a regional crisis.

Riyadh halted its 1,200-kilometer Petroline on Friday after strikes hit the Riyadh and Madinah regions. ▶ Page 5

All the Pentagon's Men

The Iran war and a crisis of command in the US: what do 12 departures mean?

By Maede Zaman Fashami

TEHRAN — Since the beginning of the war against Iran, Donald Trump and his Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, have repeatedly described the performance of US forces and the results of American military operations in glowing terms, using phrases such as “victory,” “historic success,” and “major military achievements.” According to the administration's narrative, US operations have been carried out with overwhelming force, their intended targets have been hit, and American forces have demonstrated their superiority on the battlefield. The picture presented by the White House and the Pentagon is that of a highly capable, disciplined, and tightly controlled military machine operating in full coordination with the administration.

But alongside that narrative, another important reality has emerged, one that receives far less attention in the political messaging: sweeping changes at the highest levels of the US military and national security establishment.

Under Pete Hegseth, a significant number of generals, admirals, and senior civilian officials at the Pentagon have been fired, pushed into early retirement, resigned, or otherwise removed from their positions under unexpected circumstances. These changes have not been limited to mid-level commanders. They have reached some of the most senior positions in the US military, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,

The sweeping Pentagon purges expose deep divisions within the US administration amid the failed military strategy and serious miscalculations in the Iran war

the chief of naval operations, senior Army commanders, Air Force leaders, the head of US Special Operations Command, the head of Cyber Command, and the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

The significance of this development lies not only in the number of people who have left their positions. The timing of these departures is equally important. Some of the changes took place before the war with Iran. Others came amid the escalating tensions with Tehran and in the period immediately preceding military operations. Still others occurred while the United States was already engaged in a full-scale war and extensive military operations in the Middle East.

Some of these dismissals came without any clear official explanation. In several cases, the Pentagon simply cited a “loss of confidence.” In others, the officials were removed without any public explanation at all. Reports in the US media have also pointed to disagreements over military strategy, force management, the war in Ukraine, Middle East operations, the future structure of the Army, weapons production, and even how the United States should deal with Iran. One of the most significant examples was the removal of Defense Intelligence Agency Director Gen. Jeffrey Kruse, who was dismissed shortly after a controversial intelligence assessment questioned the extent of the damage inflicted on Iran's nuclear program. ▶ Page 3



Gen. Randy George, Chief of Staff of the Army



Gen. David Hodne, Commander of Army Training and Transformation



Gen. James Mingus, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army



Daniel P. Driscoll, Secretary of the Army



Lt. Gen. Douglas Sims II, Director of the Joint Staff



Gen. Jeffrey Kruse, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency



Gen. Christopher Donahue, Commander of US Army Europe and Africa



Gen. William Green Jr., Chief of the Army Chaplain Corps



John Phelan, Secretary of the Navy



Adm. Alvin Holsey, Commander of US Southern Command



Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, US Military Representative to NATO



Joe Kent, Director of the National Counterterrorism Center

Iran consults BRICS members to facilitate accession to NDB

TEHRAN— Iran is consulting fellow BRICS members to remove obstacles and facilitate its accession to the New Development Bank (NDB), Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, as Tehran seeks greater access to multilateral financing and alternative financial channels through the emerging-economy bloc.

Speaking at a meeting with his counterparts at his residence in New Delhi on Saturday, Araghchi said Iran was holding consultations with BRICS members to advance its bid to join the Development Bank. ▶ Page 3

Iran says IAEA chief's reports helped pave way for US-Israeli attacks

TEHRAN— Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei has accused the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency of helping create a narrative that was later used by the United States and Israel to justify military attacks against Iran.

Speaking at a news conference in Lamerd, a southern Iranian city that was targeted by the United States during the recent war, Baqaei said the IAEA director general's reports over the past several years had contributed to the emergence of a narrative that Washington and Israel exploited to build a case for attacking Iran.

“Iran's nuclear program was completely peaceful,” Baqaei said, arguing that “ambiguous and inaccurate” IAEA reports provided grounds for the United States and Israel to justify ‘unlawful military action.’ ▶ Page 2

Economists' prescription for breaking Iran's inflation cycle

TEHRAN— Iran's inflation has become a persistent, multi-layered economic problem that cannot be solved through a single tool or a simple policy choice. Economists interviewed by IRNA argue that suppressing prices, restricting demand, or relying only on monetary instruments such as interest rates or liquidity controls will not break the inflation cycle. Inflation can only be contained when the policymaker simultaneously controls the money-creation engine, directs financial resources toward production, prevents supply-side shocks, and protects the purchasing power of vulnerable groups without generating a new inflationary wave. ▶ Page 4



Pezeshkian pursues wider economic ties and financial alternatives on BRICS sidelines ▶ Page 2



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran's opportunity in BRICS

Jam-e-Jam analyzed the multifaceted importance of BRICS for Iran. It noted that establishing an independent financial system within BRICS is not feasible in the short term, and even among member states there are disagreements about the pace and form of “de-dollarization.” India has also emphasized that it is not currently seeking a BRICS common currency, focusing instead on cross-border payments and the use of national currencies. However, this gradual path can still be valuable for Iran. The more Iran's trade with regional partners is conducted through local currencies, special accounts, monetary agreements, and independent payment systems, the more a portion of financial sanctions pressure can be neutralized. The key objective is to transform membership into a network of monetary and banking agreements, interconnected payment systems, use of local currencies, financing of joint projects, and ultimately the creation of a regional trade network resistant to sanctions — a network that can reduce the cost and risk of Western financial restrictions on Iran's economy.

Khorasan: Iran passing through a historic turning point

Khorasan, in an article examining Iran's current position against adversaries, wrote that West Asia — especially the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz — is now in an extremely complex, historic, and decisive situation. The series of recent events, the developments on the battlefield in Iran's favor, the strong operational control of Iranian forces over the Strait of Hormuz, the failure of the United States and Israel to achieve any of their declared objectives against Iran, and the decline of America's standing in global public opinion all point to an undeniable reality: not only has Iran been the victor in this imposed conflict so far, but the distance to achieving final victory — including the removal of US military bases from the region, especially those in Persian Gulf littoral states, and the full implementation of Iranian arrangements over the Strait of Hormuz — is not very great. The article concludes that Iran will successfully navigate this historic and decisive turn, enter a new phase in its national history, demonstrate its power and authority, and firmly consolidate it.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Pakistan's renewed effort to restart talks

Arman-e-Emrooz discussed Islamabad's efforts to mediate between Tehran and Washington with the aim of establishing peace. According to the newspaper, Pakistan is seeking to create an environment that can help reduce regional tensions and provide a suitable foundation for constructive dialogue. Pakistan's defense minister stated that contacts exist between Iranian and

American sides, though these communications are indirect and conducted through intermediary channels. These indirect contacts indicate that despite heightened tensions, neither side has completely closed the door on diplomacy, and the possibility of advancing negotiations remains. The main goal is to build mutual trust and reduce misunderstandings so that agreements ensuring regional security can be reached. Lowering tensions would benefit not only Iran and the United States but the entire region — and even the global economy — since instability in this part of the world has cascading effects on energy markets and international trade.

Ettelaat: New technology in naval warfare

Ettelaat reported on Iran's recent attacks on American targets using missiles equipped with electro-optical guidance technology. According to the article, instead of relying on satellite systems, these missiles use cameras and optical sensors to identify and track targets. Military experts say that the introduction of such technology into anti-ship missiles could pose a new threat to US warships, as it reduces the reaction time of defensive systems and complicates target identification. However, the increase in retaliatory attacks — along with attacks on tankers in the region — has raised concerns about safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil shipments transit.

Etemad: Showdown in Vienna

Etemad highlighted the issuance of a resolution against Iran at the IAEA Board of Governors. The newspaper wrote that Western diplomatic pressure in Vienna has intensified. The United States, Britain, France, and Germany have drafted their proposed resolution against Iran and submitted it to the Board; the resolution calls for referring Iran's case to the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly. Referring the case does not automatically trigger the return of UN Security Council sanctions, and any new action would face the political balance within the Council — including the positions of China and Russia. Some analysts believe that simultaneous pressure on Iran's aviation industry, energy exports, and nuclear file has narrowed diplomatic space. Others argue that the expansion of US sanctions on Iran's aviation sector — alongside rising tensions in Iran's southern waters and intensified political pressure within the IAEA — shows that Washington is seeking to employ economic, military, and diplomatic tools against Tehran simultaneously. However, Iran's contacts with regional actors and Qatar's emphasis on ending the “no war, no peace” situation indicate that the path to dialogue has not been completely closed.

Iran says IAEA chief's reports helped pave way for US-Israeli attacks

From page 1 ► Baqaei said the director general was undermining the credibility of the UN nuclear watchdog through such reports, adding that Iran would continue to demand accountability from both the agency and its director general.

His remarks came as Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), traveled to Vienna on Saturday with a delegation of senior officials to attend the 70th General Conference of the IAEA.

Lamerd strike was a war crime

Baqaei also described the US attack on Lamerd as an unequivocal war crime, saying investigations into the strike had established, according to Iranian findings, that a prohibited weapon had been used.

He identified the weapon as a cluster missile and said each munition contained about 180,000 fragments and three-gram pellets.

Standing at the site of the attack, Baqaei said the location was a civilian volleyball stadium where two teenage volleyball players, Helia and Elham, were killed.

He said several teenage football players were also killed at a football field opposite the stadium. A school behind the stadium

was heavily damaged, while the Lamerd blood transfusion center was also located in the same area.

“All these sites were civilian facilities,” Baqaei said, adding that three other missiles had struck residential areas.

According to the Iranian spokesman, a total of four missiles hit the city within 35 seconds, leaving the population of Lamerd, a city of around 30,000 people, mourning.

Tehran seeks international investigation and accountability

Baqaei called on the international community, governments and people concerned about human rights to join Iran in seeking justice for those killed in the Lamerd attack.

He also referred to the attack on Minab on the same day, saying 168 people, including students and teachers, were killed.

Baqaei highlighted the case of Avina, a two-year-old child who has become, in his words, a symbol of the civilian toll of the war.

He said Avina represented the “innocence and victimhood” of the Iranian people during ‘the US and Israeli military aggression against Iran.’

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

Pezeshkian pursues wider economic ties and financial alternatives on BRICS sidelines

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has used his participation in the BRICS summit in New Delhi to intensify bilateral diplomacy with key members of the grouping, holding a series of meetings with the leaders of India, Malaysia, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates as Tehran seeks to expand trade ties and promote financial mechanisms less vulnerable to Western pressure.

Pezeshkian met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday and held further talks on Saturday with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, Indian President Droupadi Murmu and Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

Taken together, the meetings highlight the economic and diplomatic priorities Iran has been pursuing through BRICS: expanding bilateral trade, strengthening ties with emerging economies and neighboring states, increasing the use of national currencies in trade and developing alternative payment channels that could reduce exposure to sanctions and Western-dominated financial institutions.

The approach is also broadly consistent with the direction of the BRICS discussions in New Delhi. The grouping's latest declaration has placed greater emphasis on facilitating cross-border payments and trade settlement in national currencies, while stopping short of advocating an immediate



common BRICS currency.

India: Expanding trade and strategic economic cooperation

Pezeshkian's meeting with Modi on Friday focused on strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with the Iranian president emphasizing the importance of economic and financial cooperation among BRICS members and the continued implementation of strategic agreements between Iran and India.

Pezeshkian said the numerous historical and economic commonalities between Iran and India could provide a strong foundation for expanding bilateral relations and called for greater use of the two countries' economic potential.

The meeting came as India seeks to balance its relations with Iran, Russia, the Persian Gulf states and Western powers. Modi told Pezeshkian that India remained committed to dialogue and diplomacy in addressing regional disputes and stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability

in West Asia, including the safety of navigation and commerce.

Pezeshkian also met President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday, stressing the need for strategic planning to expand relations and make greater use of the economic potential available to the two countries.

Murmu, for her part, said India attached importance to deepening relations with Iran and described Pezeshkian's visit as significant, noting that it was his first trip to India in eight years.

For Tehran, India is particularly important not only as a major BRICS economy but also as a long-standing economic partner with which Iran has sought to develop trade, transport and connectivity links despite sanctions.

Malaysia: Stronger trade and economic ties

In his meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Pezeshkian stressed the importance of strengthening relations between Iran and Malaysia, while discussing bilateral ties,

regional developments and issues of mutual interest.

Pezeshkian framed the broader regional confrontation as an obstacle to cooperation among Muslim and neighboring countries and said Iran sought peace, respect for its rights and the removal of ‘unjust sanctions.’

Anwar expressed support for closer relations with Iran, particularly in trade, economic and educational fields. He also praised the resilience of the Iranian government and people and reiterated Malaysia's opposition to attacks on Iran's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The meeting is significant from an economic perspective because Malaysia provides Iran with another avenue for expanding commercial relations with a major Asian Muslim economy outside its immediate neighborhood.

UAE: A high-level channel with a key Persian Gulf neighbor

Pezeshkian's meeting with Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, was among the most politically significant of his bilateral encounters in New Delhi.

The meeting brought together senior Iranian and Emirati officials at a time when relations between Tehran and Abu Dhabi have been affected by wider regional tensions. The two sides have nevertheless maintained an interest in dialogue, regional stability and economic engagement.

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

Iran urges genuine reform of international governance mechanisms

TEHRAN- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for genuine reform of international governance mechanisms, arguing that effective multilateralism requires equal respect for national sovereignty, non-discriminatory enforcement of international law and greater representation for developing countries.

Addressing a closed-door meeting of BRICS leaders in New Delhi on Saturday, Pezeshkian said the summit's theme, “Inclusive Global Governance and Strengthening Multilateralism,” had taken on added significance amid growing global interdependence and the simultaneous resurgence of unilateralism, political pressure and the weaponization of financial and technological systems.

He said the credibility of any international governance system ultimately depended on its ability to protect the rights of all countries, regardless of their size or power. If the UN Charter cannot protect nations against

the unlawful use of force, or if international rules are binding on some while remaining open to interpretation by others, genuine multilateralism cannot exist, he argued.

Pezeshkian said Iran had experienced the consequences of such double standards firsthand, referring to US and Israeli military aggression against Iran, which had killed civilians and damaged vital economic and civilian infrastructure.

He cited the killing of late Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and 168 children at a school in Minab on the first day of the 40-day war, as well as the attack on Lamerd Stadium, as examples of the threat posed to civilian life by unilateralism and military action, compounded by ‘inaction by the United Nations and its Security Council.’

He also pointed to the plight of civilians in Gaza and Lebanon, saying the situation had challenged the conscience of humanity. In-

ternational governance, he stressed, could not retain its legitimacy if multilateral institutions were unable to protect human life and national sovereignty from war, genocide and aggression.

“We need real reform of international mechanisms,” Pezeshkian said.

He then outlined four principles for more inclusive global governance: equal respect for national sovereignty and non-discriminatory implementation of international law; reform of global governance structures, including the UN Security Council and international financial institutions; translating multilateralism into practical measures, such as trade in national currencies and independent payment mechanisms; and meaningful action against unilateral sanctions that affect not only governments but also ordinary people, patients, children and national development.

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

Xi signals China's ‘due role’ in advancing West Asia peace via BRICS

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — President Xi Jinping has underscored China's readiness to assume a role in advancing peace and stability in West Asia, positioning the BRICS bloc as a pivotal force for regional de-escalation amid the ongoing war between Iran and the United States.

Speaking at the 18th BRICS Summit in the Indian capital on Saturday, President Xi emphasized that “China will work with fellow BRICS members to play a due role in bringing peace and tranquility” to the Middle East and the Persian Gulf region, according to Xinhua news agency. The Chinese president noted that the ongoing conflict “has caused serious losses to people across the region and does not serve the common interests of the international community.”

Characterizing the BRICS cooperation mechanism as the world's most influential platform for the Global South, President Xi staunchly rejected the “Cold War



mentality and bloc confrontation.” He called on the BRICS members to collectively “oppose violations of other countries' sovereignty [and] interference in their internal affairs.” Xi further urged the bloc to uphold true multilateralism, lead global governance reform, and amplify the unified voice of emerging economies.

The timing of these remarks is particularly significant as China prepares to assume the BRICS presidency next year to host the 19th BRICS Summit. Furthermore, Beijing's persistent call for prior-

itizing dialogue over confrontation—consistent since the outbreak of the ongoing hostilities on February 28—lends additional gravity to Xi's diplomatic overtures in New Delhi.

These efforts are not isolated; they build upon a comprehensive diplomatic blueprint. Earlier this month, while meeting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo, President Xi detailed a four-point vision for a new security architecture. This vision, centered on common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, has been warmly received in Tehran.

“China's emphasis on fostering common security reflects a principle Iran has long championed,” noted Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Iran's parliament speaker and special representative for China affairs, on X (formerly Twitter) on September 4. “True stability can only come through a new security architecture that is homegrown. Iran stands ready.”

This initiative mirrors the four-point peace proposal for the Middle East that President Xi put forward in April during his meeting with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. It called for peaceful co-existence, respect for national sovereignty, adherence to international law, and the coordination of development and security. Iran promptly backed the plan, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Ambassador Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli reaffirming Tehran's readiness to support its core principles.

Iran's alignment with Beijing extends further to the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), which President Xi unveiled at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tianjin in September 2025. President Masoud Pezeshkian described the GGI as a vital roadmap toward a more just and equitable international order—a clear rejection of the unilateralism that has historically destabilized the region.

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

All the Pentagon's men

The Iran war and a crisis of command in the US: what do 12 departures mean?

From Page 1 ▶ Some of these dismissals came without any clear official explanation. In several cases, the Pentagon simply cited a “loss of confidence.” In others, the officials were removed without any public explanation at all. Reports in the US media have also pointed to disagreements over military strategy, force management, the war in Ukraine, Middle East operations, the future structure of the Army, weapons production, and even how the United States should deal with Iran. One of the most significant examples was the removal of Defense Intelligence Agency Director Gen. Jeffrey Kruse, who was dismissed shortly after a controversial intelligence assessment questioned the extent of the damage inflicted on Iran's nuclear program.

The departures of senior commanders during the war have raised even more questions. Gen. Randy George, the Army's top officer, was forced into retirement in April 2026 while the United States was actively fighting Iran. At the same time, Gen. David Hodne and Gen. William Green were also removed.

During the same period, Navy Secretary John Phelan left his post. Several months later, Army Secretary Daniel P. Driscoll resigned amid reports of deep disagreements with Hegseth over the future of the Army, its structural transformation, and the repeated removal of senior commanders.

When a large number of senior military and national security officials are replaced within a relatively short period, the pattern itself becomes an important sign of instability, internal disagreements, and profound changes inside the Pentagon.

Of course, these departures do not all tell the same story. Some officials were directly fired, others were pressured into early retirement, and some resigned. In certain cases, no clear official reason was ever provided. In others, disagreements over the future of the military, modernization plans, Hegseth's policies, or intelligence assessments concerning Iran appear to have played a role.



2. Gen. Christopher Donahue, Commander of US Army Europe and Africa

Gen. Christopher Donahue was one of the most prominent commanders of his generation. A Special Forces officer and West Point graduate, he commanded the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta and the 82nd Airborne Division. He became widely known as the last American soldier to board a C-17 during the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. He later became commander of US Army Europe and Africa and commander of NATO land forces.

1. Gen. Randy George, Chief of Staff of the Army

Gen. Randy George was one of the most experienced senior officers in the US Army. A career infantry officer, he served in the Persian Gulf War as well as in Iraq and Afghanistan. Before becoming Army chief, he held a number of senior command positions and also served as the senior military assistant to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. He ultimately rose to become the Army's highest-ranking officer.

But on April 2, 2026, roughly five weeks after the war with Iran began, Hegseth asked George to step down and take immediate retirement. The decision came as the United States was actively engaged in the war with Iran and the Army was carrying out extensive military operations in the region. A US official told CBS that Hegseth wanted someone who would implement his and Trump's vision for the future of the Army. After his departure, George told Army personnel that American soldiers deserved leaders who were courageous and had character.

3. Gen. David Hodne, Commander of Army Training and Transformation

Gen. David Hodne was a senior Army commander responsible for a structure that played a major role in training, preparing, and transforming US ground forces for future wars. His position was

particularly important at a time when the Army was reconsidering its force structure and moving toward greater reliance on drones, unmanned systems, and emerging technologies.

Hodne was removed in April 2026, at the same time Randy George was pushed out and while the United States was fighting Iran. No specific official reason was given for his removal. But the timing was significant: three senior Army leaders were removed at roughly the same time, as the United States was engaged in war and as Hegseth was pushing major changes to the Army's future structure and leadership.

4. Gen. William Green Jr., Chief of the Army Chaplain Corps

Gen. William Green Jr. headed the US Army Chaplain Corps, the organization responsible for providing religious services and spiritual support to soldiers and military families. His position may have been less visible than that of the Army chief, but his removal from office was significant because it demonstrated how broadly Hegseth's changes extended across the military establishment.

Green was also removed in April 2026, during the war with Iran, and the Pentagon did not provide a specific explanation for the decision. Hegseth had previously criticized the Chaplain Corps, accusing it of being influenced by “political correctness” and “secular humanism.” Green's removal on the same day as the departures of George and Hodne reinforced the perception that Hegseth's reshaping of the military was not limited to operational commanders at the very top, but extended across different parts of the Army's institutional structure.

5. Gen. James Mingus, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army

Gen. James Mingus was a senior Army officer with extensive experience in military operations and command. He served for roughly two years as the Army's vice chief of staff, making him one of the most senior figures in the Army's internal leadership structure.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



grown substantially. BRICS countries account for around half of the world's population and about 39% of global GDP, according to BRICS sources.

Its expanding economic footprint, combined with its concentration of major energy producers, manufacturers, commodity exporters and some of the world's fastest-growing economies, has made BRICS an increasingly important platform for discussions on trade, investment, development finance and the international monetary system.

For Iran, securing a place in the NDB would therefore represent more than access to another development lender. It would deepen the country's institutional engagement with the financial architecture emerging around BRICS at a time when Tehran is seeking to diversify its sources of capital, expand trade in national currencies and reduce the vulnerability of its external economic relations to Western financial restrictions.

The bloc's economic weight has

the country seeks to reduce its exposure to financial restrictions and payment channels vulnerable to sanctions.

What is the new development bank?

The New Development Bank is a multilateral development bank established by the five original BRICS members — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — in 2015. Its mandate is to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable-development projects in emerging markets and developing countries, complementing existing multilateral and regional development institutions.

The NDB is headquartered in Shanghai and has expanded beyond its five founding shareholders. Its current members include Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Algeria and Uzbekistan, alongside the five founding countries. Uzbekistan became the bank's 10th member in June 2026 and the first Central Asian country to join the institution.

The bank finances projects in areas including transport, clean energy, water and sanitation, digital infrastructure, housing and other forms of social and economic infrastructure. Its stated aim is to bridge financing gaps in emerging economies while supporting sustainable economic development.

Iran consults BRICS members to facilitate accession to NDB

From Page 1 ▶ “There are some obstacles created by certain countries,” Aragchchi said, according to remarks reported from the meeting, adding that consultations were under way to resolve the outstanding issues and facilitate Iran's membership process.

Iran's effort to join the NDB comes as Tehran places increasing emphasis on BRICS as a platform for expanding trade, investment and financial cooperation outside traditional Western-dominated institutions.

Aragchchi also highlighted the significance of the BRICS leaders' summit and the economic discussions taking place alongside it. He said the BRICS Business Council had been established on Friday and noted speeches by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's remarks on expanding the use of national and local currencies in trade among BRICS members had also attracted significant attention, Aragchchi said.

Aragchchi is in New Delhi alongside President Masoud Pezeshkian and Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh for the BRICS leaders' summit and related meetings.

The push for greater use of national currencies has become an increasingly important element of Iran's economic diplomacy as

Army, IRGC chiefs vow ‘unbreakable unity’ against hostile powers

TEHRAN – The chief commanders of the Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have underscored that the iron-clad unity and operational synergy between the country's armed forces have established an unbreakable shield against hostile powers, dealing a crushing blow to enemy miscalculations.

During a joint meeting held on Saturday to review the latest developments on the battlefields, IRGC Commander Major General Ahmad Vahidi and Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining full operational coordination in defense of the nation's security and territorial integrity.

Vahidi said the Army and the IRGC, as two major anti-American powers, dealt a crushing blow to “terrorist powers” in the recent wars. He noted that Iran's military realities are being revealed on the battlefield.

He said unprecedented unity, intelligence, and operational synergy among Iran's armed and law enforcement forces have been among the important factors behind Iran's victory in the face of the US-Israeli aggression.

Vahidi praised the performance of the Army in the recent wars, saying the fighting spirit and patriotism of its commanders and forces have recorded “brilliant pages of manhood and self-sacrifice” in Iran's history.

The IRGC commander also said the military capabilities of the Army were beyond what the enemy had imagined and calculated.

He further argued that the Israeli army would collapse in a very short time without US support.

Vahidi said the United States and Israel encountered the “solid barrier” of the faith and determination of the Iranian people, adding that signs of desperation and helplessness could be seen in the decisions and conduct of US administration.

He slammed President Donald Trump for re-



sorting to lies and deception to manufacture achievements, saying US and Israeli espionage and military agencies misled American political officials about the Iranian military's resilience.

For his part, Hatami said the IRGC has been one of the main pillars of Iran's national power, security, and deterrence for more than four decades and has remained at the forefront of defending the country's independence and security.

He emphasized that the unity and coordination between the Army and the IRGC constituted a strong pillar of national security and a key to strengthening Iran's national security and power.

“During the recent imposed wars and our resistance to the demands of the enemies, we once again proved that we will not bargain over our national interests,” Hatami said.

He said the Iranian people and the armed forces emerging from the nation would continue the path of the martyrs with strength.

Hatami warned that any aggression against Iran would be met with a “unified, swift, intelligent and strong” response from the Army and IRGC forces. He stressed that the unity between the two forces has served as an “iron shield” protecting the country against enemy plots and conspiracies.

‘Utterly absurd’: Iran rebuffs US attempt to invoke 9/11 to justify reckless war

TEHRAN — Iran has strongly dismissed Washington's attempts to weaponize the anniversary of the September 11 attacks to rationalize and justify a “reckless and unlawful war” against the Islamic Republic, exposing the glaring historical and moral contradictions underlying decades of aggressive American foreign policy and military interventionism.

“The narrative advanced by the US Secretary of War on the anniversary of 9/11 is riddled with fundamental contradictions,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei wrote in a statement published on X early Saturday. Baghaei's remarks came as a direct rebuke to provocative and hawkish assertions made by the Pentagon chief, who sought to use the solemn occasion to legitimize ongoing American military aggression across the region by boasting that Washington was continuing to eliminate its perceived adversaries in an unprovoked conflict against Iran.

Baghaei stressed that the United States cannot simultaneously wage unilateral wars of aggression, orchestrate state-sponsored assassinations, and inflict massive civilian casualties while arrogating to itself the exclusive authority to define terrorism and dictate whose violence is legitimate under the guise of international security.

“The perpetrators of 9/11 were not Iranians; they were the very same people whom the US itself had armed, organized, or otherwise cultivated in the preceding decades,” Baghaei underscored, reminding the international community of Washington's direct, documented role in nurturing, financing, and training extremist networks during the late Cold War proxy battles.

Denouncing the catastrophic and destabilizing legacy of the global “war on terror,” the Iranian diplomat pointed out that the subsequent US-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq unleashed decades of military occupation, mass slaughter, institutional collapse, and wholesale regional devastation.

“Against this backdrop, invoking the anniversary of 9/11 to justify a reckless and

unlawful war against Iran is utterly absurd,” Baghaei asserted, firmly rejecting Washington's cynical deployment of counterterrorism slogans to whitewash state-sponsored aggression and geopolitical coercion.

“A criminal war that has involved the assassination of officials of a sovereign state and the targeting of civilians, including women and children, cannot be made morally coherent simply by wrapping it in the language of counterterrorism,” Baghaei emphasized.

The historical pretext for Washington's boundless militarism was codified in the immediate aftermath of September 11, 2001. Less than a month after the tragic attacks claimed nearly three thousand lives on American soil, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom on October 7, 2001, violently invading Afghanistan. Billed deceptively to the global public as an imperative campaign to eradicate extremism and establish democracy, the invasion served as the bloody vanguard for an imperial doctrine masquerading as a global crusade against terror. Washington unleashed an overwhelming military apparatus upon one of the poorest and most vulnerable nations on Earth, setting off an unbroken chain of human suffering, indiscriminate aerial bombardments, abusive night raids, and systemic atrocities.

Yet after two decades of brutal military occupation, the expenditure of trillions of dollars drawn from domestic resources, and the slaughter of tens of thousands of Afghan civilians, the American war machine collapsed in profound humiliation and strategic defeat. Washington failed to fulfill any of its stated objectives; it neither eradicated the forces it pledged to defeat nor established a functional state structure.

Instead, twenty years of occupation left behind a shattered nation littered with unexploded ordnance, deeply institutionalized trauma, and a destitute population, only for US troops to flee in chaotic panic in August 2021, handing back power to the very entities they had initially set out to topple.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

ECO stresses speedy operationalization of regional center for anti-corruption co-op between members



TEHRAN- At the meeting of prosecutors general of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states in Kazakhstan, on Friday, September 11, the ECO Secretary General emphasized the need to expedite the operationalization of the “ECO Regional Center for Cooperation among Anti-Corruption Bodies and High Inspectors (Ombudsmen).”

According to IRNA, citing the ECO Secretariat, the Seventh Meeting of Prosecutors General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states was held on Friday, in the city of Turkistan, Republic of Kazakhstan.

Prosecutors general and heads of delegations of ECO member states—including the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan (host), the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan—actively participated in the meeting.

Assylov Berik Nogayevich, Prosecutor General of Kazakhstan, welcomed the delegations participating in Turkistan and emphasized Kazakhstan's firm commitment to further strengthening ECO regional cooperation in the field of prosecution and judicial affairs among member states and within the framework of the organization.

ECO Secretary General Asad Majeed Khan, in his opening speech, thanked Kazakhstan for its excellent hosting of the Seventh Meeting of ECO Prosecutors General and stressed the importance of the practical and realistic implementation of the “Interaction Plan among the Prosecutors General's Offices of ECO Member States,” as well as the speedy operationalization of the “ECO Regional Center for Cooperation among Anti-Corruption Bodies and High Inspectors (Ombudsmen).”

He also referred to Pakistan's proposal for an “Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among ECO Member States,” an agreement that would strengthen institutional ties among member states.

The ECO Secretary General noted that the future strategic goals of “ECO-2035” will outline the future roadmap for economic development and prosperity in the ECO region.

It is worth noting that at Friday's summit in Turkistan, Kazakhstan, the prosecutors general and heads of delegations of ECO member states, while presenting their national statements, held comprehensive and constructive discussions and exchanges of views and expressed confidence that collective efforts would strengthen a coherent and efficient framework for prosecution in the ECO region—a framework that enhances judicial cooperation, institutional capacities, transparency, and accountability.

The meeting also reaffirmed the importance of regularly holding prosecutors general meetings as vital platforms for strategic alignment, mutual confidence-building, and the advancement of regional legal cooperation.

At Friday's ECO meeting, the Republic of Azerbaijan's proposal to host the next meeting, as well as the proposals of the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan to host future events in their countries in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat, were welcomed.

ECO is a regional organization that promotes economic, technical, and cultural cooperation among its member states. In recent years, it has expanded its focus to include legal and judicial dimensions, recognizing that economic integration depends on reliable legal frameworks.

The Seventh Meeting of Prosecutors General in Turkistan therefore represents more than a routine diplomatic event. It reflects a broader effort to build a regional architecture for justice, anti-corruption, and mutual legal assistance. The emphasis on operationalizing the Regional Center, implementing the Interaction Plan, and exploring a mutual legal assistance agreement shows that member states are moving from

principles to mechanisms. If these initiatives advance, they could improve cross-border investigations, asset recovery, and integrity-building across the ECO region.

Iran has recorded an 82 percent growth in trade with members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) over the past five years, a senior trade official announced in April, reaffirming Iran's commitment to strengthening regional economic ties despite ongoing challenges.

Elham Hajikarimi, director of the Revival Office of Trade Agreements and International Organizations at the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, made the announcement during the first meeting of the “Technical Committee for Negotiations on the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)” in Tehran.

“Despite the oppressive sanctions and the imposed war against our country, which has damaged some of our trade and economic infrastructure and created limitations, Iran is fully prepared to actively participate in the ECO and to help formulate a new trade agreement,” Hajikarimi stated.

She emphasized that all member countries, beyond the current ECOTA members, can use the existing ECOTA text as a framework to move toward a more comprehensive agreement—one that addresses both present needs and future requirements.

Hajikarimi underscored the necessity of cooperation among all members to realize the ECO 2035 vision, noting that Iran has focused its economic and trade diplomacy on maximum engagement with friendly countries, including ECO member states.

Strategic regional bloc

The Economic Cooperation Organization, with its permanent secretariat located in Tehran, comprises 10 member nations: Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

The organization represents over 500 million people and spans a vast geographic region connecting Central Asia, the Caucasus, the West Asia, and South Asia.

The ECO's primary objectives, outlined in its charter and the 2035 Vision, include facilitating intra-regional trade, improving transportation networks, and eventually establishing a common market. Key frameworks like ECOTA aim to liberalize and boost commerce among members.

Transport connectivity

In a related development last August, Iran's Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh announced that Iran is prepared to provide facilities for landlocked ECO member states to develop multimodal transport links.

Speaking at a meeting of ECO landlocked countries in Turkmenistan, Sadegh highlighted that strengthening transport and transit connections between landlocked and coastal ECO countries is a priority under the Izmir Treaty, the organization's founding document.

Sadegh noted that Iran's strategic location at the crossroads of north-south and east-west transport corridors, combined with 250,000 kilometers of roads, 15,000 kilometers of railway, and 16 commercial ports, positions the country to play a constructive role in regional connectivity.

The recent launch of an ECO freight train connecting Turkey, Iran, and Turkmenistan—part of the Almaty-Tashkent-Ashgabat-Tehran-Istanbul corridor—was cited as a milestone in linking landlocked ECO states to global markets.

Iran has also drafted an “ECO Gate” document aimed at granting landlocked members access to open seas with special port and maritime concessions from coastal members, a proposal awaiting implementation with support from the ECO Secretariat and relevant UN offices.

Economists’ prescription for breaking Iran’s inflation cycle

From Page 1 ► After decades of inflation accompanying Iran's economy, the problem can no longer be attributed merely to growth in money supply or demand. Alongside political factors, sanctions, and blockade conditions, a combination of monetary, foreign-exchange, fiscal, trade, and supply-side disruptions has made rising prices one of the most stable and painful concerns for households. In this environment, the policymaker does not face a simple choice between raising interest rates or controlling liquidity. It must manage bank behavior, the budget deficit, foreign-exchange flows, repatriation of export earnings, capital flight, the supply of essential goods, and household purchasing power all at once.

The article stresses that success in anti-inflation policy becomes clear when the “unruly horse” of inflation is brought under control. In this context, containing inflation does not mean prices begin to fall. Rather, it means the policymaker has seized control of the inflation-generating process and slowed it down. The recent slowdown in inflation over two months, reflected in Central Bank statistics, raised hopes for improvement in the coming months. However, this success was achieved through liquidity management and strict Central Bank policies requiring banks to observe monetary discipline and preventing money creation.

A review of economists' views shows that the prescription for containing inflation is a combination of monetary and fiscal discipline, control of banks' balance sheets, management of interbank interest rates, directing credit to productive sectors, strengthening the supply side, stabilizing foreign-exchange and trade policies, and targeted support for lower-income deciles. Implementing this package requires coordination between the government and the Central Bank and avoiding temporary, contradictory policies.

Why supply shocks matter

Experts share a consensus principle: Iran's inflation in recent years is rooted more in supply shocks caused by war, sanctions, and shortages of production inputs than in money printing or rising liquidity. Kamran Naderi, a university professor, argues that a supply shock caused by war cannot be contained with monetary policy. When a naval blockade halts trade, raw materials cannot be imported, and essential goods and oil cannot be sold, prices inevitably rise. Even if the Central Bank controls interest rates, this structural inflation remains.

Economic analyst Majid Shakeri makes the same point explicitly. In food supply, for example, attention must be paid both to imports and to the pressure of blockade and sanctions. Therefore, hav-



ing a response to the blockade—whether economic or military—is itself a correct response to inflation. These views show that monetary policies, including control of bank balance sheets or interest rates, are only partly effective. Other economic policies must also be used.

Economic expert Hassan Hassan-Khani, emphasizing the supply shock, notes that the economy faces recession and idle production capacities, with many production units operating below real capacity. The main source of inflation, he believes, is shocks. Problems preventing the supply of production inputs and goods have a major effect on inflation. University professor Morteza Ezati warns that if policies do not proceed correctly and goods become scarce in the market, inflation will jump again.

Inflation cannot be defeated with one tool

Inflation in Iran has for years gone beyond a purely monetary phenomenon. It is now a multifaceted issue. The first question in policymaking is whether one specific tool—such as raising interest rates or limiting bank balance-sheet growth—can fight inflation and stop price increases. Majid Shakeri insists that to contain inflation, its components must first be understood. Inflation is not cured merely by suppressing demand, because the economy simultaneously needs reconstruction, production growth, and relief from supply-side constraints. If price growth in different sectors does not stem from one cause, a single prescription cannot produce the desired result.

Kamran Naderi also emphasizes using several tools at once. Among monetary tools, he gives special importance to the interest rate. After that come control of banks' balance sheets and the statutory reserve ratio. If the Central Bank can control the interbank market interest rate, growth in the monetary base will also be controlled to some extent automatically. Thus, the first common point among experts is that containing inflation requires a coordinated set of policies. The main disagreement is over how much weight each tool should carry in Iran's current conditions.

One of the most important tools

experts propose is controlling the banking network and preventing money creation by banks. Unregulated growth of bank balance sheets can increase money creation and intensify inflationary pressures. Naderi believes the Central Bank must pursue two paths simultaneously: managing the interbank interest rate and quantitatively controlling banks' balance sheets. In current conditions, directly raising deposit and loan rates is not necessarily appropriate. Instead of focusing on rates passed directly to people and producers, the Central Bank should manage the interbank rate. By controlling balance sheets, it can regularize bank activity and direct facilities toward the country's essential needs.

Shakeri defends the Central Bank's balance-sheet controls, saying they have helped reduce liquidity growth in recent months. The Central Bank can even use the disqualification of bank managers as an important deterrent for monetary discipline. Alongside controlling liquidity, the monetary policymaker must specify which sectors should receive limited financial resources, or strengthen the supply side. For example, if inflation in essential goods has risen, the policymaker should not merely reduce demand. It must plan to increase production or imports of those goods. This approach links monetary policy with industrial policy so that limited resources put the least pressure on production. Credit policy must become a targeted tool for solving specific economic problems, not a general policy without priorities.

Experts stress that part of inflation comes from the supply side, and monetary policy alone cannot counter it. Naderi views this as a product of sanctions and economic blockade. When trade is disrupted or foreign-exchange revenues fall, the economy faces a supply shock. A shortage of goods naturally raises prices, and higher interest rates or restricted liquidity cannot bring into the market a good that does not exist. If the source of price increases is a shortage or supply-chain disruption, the solution must be sought on the supply side.

Shakeri argues that in current conditions, an economic response to trade restrictions and goods supply is part of anti-inflation

policy, so that supply and demand can balance and inflation does not rise from this area. Controlling inflation should not mean suppressing demand. Even in a war situation, the economy needs production growth and reconstruction. The policymaker must choose measures that produce the greatest results. Support for production should not become widespread resource distribution or untargeted exemptions. Resources must reach sectors that can increase supply and remove inflationary bottlenecks.

The exchange rate is one of the most important channels transmitting shocks to prices. Therefore, exchange-rate stability is inseparable from anti-inflation policy. Hassan-Khani believes the bulk of inflation should be sought in incorrect economic policies. Controlling inflation requires simultaneous stability in foreign-exchange, monetary, fiscal, and trade policies. Without coordination and a clear plan to support households, public confidence cannot form. The exchange-rate issue is not limited to the Central Bank's reserves. Even if export earnings do not return to the official economic cycle, the foreign-exchange market will remain turbulent. Repatriation of export earnings and prevention of capital flight must be central to foreign-exchange policymaking. Until inflation is controlled, people cannot be expected to abandon speculation and enter production.

A multi-layered policy is needed

The article concludes that a division of labor is necessary. The Central Bank must continue controlling bank balance sheets, manage the interbank interest rate, and prevent unbacked credit creation. Credit restriction must not be blind; limited resources should go to sectors that increase supply and reduce inflationary bottlenecks. The Planning and Budget Organization must prevent the budget deficit from being transferred to banks and the Central Bank, because inflationary financing can neutralize all Central Bank efforts. On the foreign-exchange front, policy stability, export-earning repatriation, prevention of capital flight, and confidence-building for domestic investment are priorities. On the supply side, targeted imports, raw materials, removal of production bottlenecks, stronger trade, and maintaining essential goods flows must be part of the anti-inflation program. E-vouchers can serve as temporary, targeted support, but only with non-inflationary resources and careful design.

Overall, Iran's economy needs a multi-layered anti-inflation policy—one that deals simultaneously with money and interest rates, but also with foreign exchange, the budget, banks, production, trade, and household livelihoods.

TPO head outlines 3-pillar strategy to overcome export barriers

TEHRAN — Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (PMO), has outlined three core priorities for the organization this year: monitoring, facilitation, and proactive engagement.

Speaking at the second National Foreign Trade Think Tank meeting in Isfahan, Dehnavi acknowledged that the current year has been difficult for foreign trade, particularly due to war and regional developments, but stressed

that these conditions should not lead to despair or halted activity.

On monitoring, he called for real-time awareness of trade conditions, identifying bottlenecks at borders, and analyzing export trends down to the product and company level—not merely comparing customs statistics. On facilitation, he emphasized resolving practical obstacles facing the private sector, including currency obligations, goods clearance delays, and rising logistics costs.

He warned that if transport costs make exports economically unviable, exporters will exit markets, leading to lost revenue and lost market share.

On proactive engagement, Dehnavi urged moving beyond reactive responses to anticipate opportunities and threats in export markets. He also stressed the importance of using provincial chambers of commerce and ensuring trade missions produce concrete agreements and export growth.

Restoring stability, trust, predictability: private sector’s roadmap for Iran’s economy

TEHRAN- Hossein Pirmoazen, the vice chairman of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) emphasizes in a note that restoring stability, trust, and predictability to the economy provides the basis for returning capital to produc-

tion, increasing employment, and strengthening hope in society.

In conditions where society faces rising forex rates, high prices, declining purchasing power, concern about the future, and anxiety caused by regional developments, the issue of the economy is not

limited to economic indicators alone; rather, trust and hope for the future also rank among the country's most important assets.

An economic actor only invests when they can predict the future to some extent. The producer must know how the cost of raw

materials, foreign exchange, energy, taxes, and financing will be. The investor must be confident that their decision today will not be nullified by a sudden change in policies.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Mass Irish protests erupt against Trump over Gaza, aggression against Iran

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Over 10,000 demonstrators filled central Dublin on Saturday, September 12, transforming Donald Trump's visit to Ireland into a scathing public indictment of American imperial power and its complicity in Israel's genocidal war crimes.

The procession stretched from the Garden of Remembrance to the Dáil, Ireland's parliament, taking over half an hour to clear its starting point.

Carrying Palestinian flags and placards labeling the U.S. president a warmonger, the crowd delivered a sharp refusal to normalize Washington's backing of the genocide in Gaza and its military aggression against Iran.

The Saturday rally capped days of visible anger across the country.

On September 10, activists unfurled a banner over O'Connell Bridge reminding the public of Trump's civil liability for sexual abuse.

By September 11, environmental campaigners had carved "NO KINGS, GAZA, IRAN, ICE" into the



sand at Dublin Bay, summarizing popular opposition to American militarism, illegal occupations, and forced deportations.

Polls published ahead of the trip showed that at least 69 percent of the Irish public opposed the visit, reflecting deep alignment between Irish citizens and the Palestinian struggle for liberation.

Political resistance crossed party lines, bringing together Sinn Féin, the Greens, Labour, the Social Democrats, and People Before Profit alongside university

student groups like Trinity College Dublin's BDS movement.

Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald explicitly called on Washington to stop arming Israel and end its active facilitation of Palestinian slaughter. Demonstrators emphasized that the regime must no longer act with total impunity under U.S. protection.

Protesters also connected Washington's foreign policy directly to domestic economic hardship. The U.S.-Israeli campaign of aggression against Iran has driven up global energy prices,

leaving working-class Irish families struggling with soaring electricity and home heating costs.

Lawmakers and speakers at the rally noted that everyday citizens in Europe are paying a heavy price for America's reckless regional wars.

To shield Trump from public hostility during his meetings with Irish leaders and his trip to the Irish Open in Doonbeg, authorities deployed an extraordinary security apparatus.

Over 4,000 security personnel, including roughly 1,000 U.S. Secret Service agents, armed snipers, and anti-drone units, cordoned off Phoenix Park and surrounding roads at a cost of over 20 million euros to Irish taxpayers.

Trump tried to dismiss the backlash, claiming he saw no protests and calling the mood friendly. Yet the sheer scale of the demonstrations proved otherwise. Outside the heavily fortified perimeters of Doonbeg and Dublin, the Irish public soundly rejected the red carpet laid out by government officials.

Bab el-Mandeb under Ansarallah's control as oil crisis deepens



Oil shipments fell sharply to 1.5 million barrels per day in August, after Ansarallah resumed attacks on Saudi maritime transport in the Red Sea in July.

From page 1 ► This brings us to the current regional situation, in which everything changed with the United States and Israel's attack on Iran this past February. In July, the Ansarallah government allowed an Iranian plane to land at Sana'a airport, effectively breaking the air blockade imposed on the country by Saudi Arabia. The escalation began after the Saudis struck Sana'a International Airport in retaliation.

Then came Ansarallah's response. Since announcing, on July 20, a maritime blockade targeting Saudi Arabia, Ansarallah has attacked eight ships in the Red Sea and forced at least thirty others to turn back to avoid the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait. On August 4, it also sank an Indian vessel. The new scenario has caused a sharp 28% drop in maritime traffic in the area, as well as a steep rise in marine insurance costs.

In the current geopolitical landscape, Yemen's geography has become even more relevant to the region and to global economic flows. The country sits directly across from the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Known in Arabic as the "Gate of Tears" due to its history of shipwrecks, the strait lies at the southern end of the Red Sea and connects it to the Gulf of Aden, in the Indian Ocean. It is roughly 100 kilometers long and barely 30 kilometers wide at its narrowest point. It separates Yemen, on the Arabian Peninsula, from Djibouti and Eritrea, in the Horn of Africa. As the Red Sea forms part of the maritime route linking Europe and Asia, the strait is typically one of the most heavily trafficked shipping points in the world. Oil tankers and cargo ships use it to reach the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal, shortening journeys between Asia, Europe and North America by thousands of kilometers.

The strait has always been a vital route for global oil supply. In 2023, for example, 12% of the world's seaborne oil transited through it. With Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb became a vital alternative.

Saudi crude shipments from the Red Sea port of Yanbu surged after the start of the Iran war, averaging some 3.8 million barrels per day between March and July — roughly five times pre-war levels, according to estimates from the commodities data firm Kpler.

In daily terms, that figure amounted to around 4.5% of the crude processed by refineries worldwide in 2025.

However, shipments fell sharply to 1.5 million barrels per day in August, after Ansarallah resumed attacks on Saudi maritime transport in the Red Sea in July.

With limited oil storage capacity, Saudi Arabia has been forced to cut production. Crude exports fell to some 3.1 million barrels per day in August, down from 5.1 million barrels per day in July, according to Kpler — the lowest level since at least 2013.

Kpler's preliminary data put exports at 2.44 million barrels per day during the first nine days of September.

Strategically, Saudi Arabia has moved from mass bombings in Yemen — which contributed to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis through violence, hunger and dis-

ease, without achieving any of its political objectives — to negotiation. Since 2022, it has sought to manage the conflict through negotiations, hoping to keep calm on the kingdom's southern border.

Riyadh's approach in recent years has been essentially one of containment. But Ansarallah concluded that Saudi Arabia was far more vulnerable, more reluctant to take risks and less willing to return to a large-scale war.

For now, the Saudis appear to favor a gradual response. Rather than immediately launching a sustained air campaign, Riyadh is letting pro-Saudi Yemeni forces take the initiative on the ground, providing them with advanced weaponry, intelligence, and defensive and maritime support. But in recent hours, the pro-Saudi mercenary troops have suffered considerable defeats, putting Riyadh's strategy at risk.

On Sept. 10, Ansarallah took control of Mocha, on the country's western coast, giving the movement greater control over Bab el-Mandeb while at the same time expanding its hold on the Red Sea coast. Moreover, a diplomatic solution is, at this moment, very difficult for the Saudis. Ansarallah now demands that Saudi Arabia withdraw completely from Yemen, stop financing and supporting the mercenary troops, and pay compensation for its military intervention.

At the same time, Iran — which had previously sought to reduce tensions — has shifted its position over the past year. In the context of its broader confrontation with the United States, Tehran sees real benefits in fresh disruptions to the oil market stemming from attacks in Bab el-Mandeb.

And there is this, too: Saudi Arabia has a bilateral security pact with Pakistan and a trilateral security pact with Pakistan and Turkey. If the Saudis request direct military intervention under the collective security clause, Pakistan would find itself in a very delicate position. If Pakistan bombs Ansarallah, its carefully built détente with Iran, constructed through its mediation efforts, could collapse.

Ansarallah was already able to disrupt maritime traffic before gaining greater control over access to Bab el-Mandeb. But territorial control changes the equation. The current situation, which shifts by the minute, gives it greater operational flexibility to regulate one of the world's most important maritime corridors.

Washington's reluctance to re-engage in a major confrontation with Ansarallah points to an uncomfortable conclusion: the previous US campaign failed to establish sustainable deterrence. In a meaningful sense, Ansarallah succeeded in creating its own equation of deterrence with Washington. The Trump administration does not want another open-ended war in the Middle East, and Ansarallah understands that limitation.

More importantly still, what we are witnessing is directly related to the broader failure to establish deterrence against Iran. Both the Islamic Republic and Yemen have concluded that the current moment offers an opportunity to change the regional strategic map, rather than merely survive within it.

Iraqi Resistance rejects Saudi pipeline accusation as 'an honor we do not claim'

From page 1 ► Saudi authorities produced zero evidence linking the drones to Iraqi territory. Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi still moved abruptly, dismissing the operations commander in southern Maysan province and closing border crossings.

The Iraqi Resistance expressed sheer astonishment at Baghdad's haste. The faction criticized the Iraqi government for adopting a hostile foreign narrative without concrete investigations.

To expose the deception, the movement announced its full readiness to participate in a joint government fact-finding committee.

The Saturday statement described the Saudi allegations as a desperate political distraction. Riyadh is trying to mask the consecutive defeats its forces and mercenaries suffer against Ansarallah.

The Iraqi Resistance took the opportunity to congratulate the Yemeni people on their "continuous battlefield victories" and reaffirmed its unwavering support for a nation besieged by Saudi aggression for over a decade.

The collapsing oil lifeline

The Petroline shutdown lands a devastating blow to Saudi Arabia's strategic energy network. The overland pipe stretches from the eastern Abqaiq facilities to the Red Sea port of Yanbu, boasting a capacity of seven million barrels per day. It was designed specifically to bypass the Persian Gulf.

Riyadh's need for that bypass has become especially acute recently. Tehran has tightened restrictions on passage through the Strait of Hormuz to counter the illegal American naval blockade and the wider U.S.-Israeli war targeting Iran and the Resistance Front.

Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser admitted last month that the East-West pipeline was mitigating the Hormuz closure far more effectively than any release of emergency crude reserves.

A two-front maritime siege

Riyadh's Red Sea escape route is now equally paralyzed. Yemen's Armed Forces declared a comprehensive maritime embargo against Saudi Arabia in July.

Operating under a righteous "siege for siege" doctrine, Yemeni forces advanced to secure the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

This maneuver effectively traps Saudi oil exports. Iran controls the Persian Gulf exit. Yemen commands the Red Sea gateways.

Ship-tracking platforms Kpler and Vortexa both recorded severe drops in Saudi crude loadings from Yanbu in August, with estimates falling as low as 1.5 million barrels per day. Attempts to divert cargo through Egypt's Suez and SUMED routes have failed to replace the lost capacity.

Saudi crude production is now in historic freefall. OPEC data confirms output plunged from 8.1 million barrels per day in July to just 6.24 million in August. This represents the lowest reported extraction level since 1990.

Aoun's dilemma: When diplomacy fails to change reality on the ground

From page 1 ► Yet for Aoun's critics, the visit illustrates precisely the problem they have been highlighting for months. They argue that the Lebanese president has become increasingly effective at describing what Lebanon wants, but far less successful at changing the conditions that prevent those objectives from being achieved.

Their central criticism is therefore not simply that Aoun is "doing nothing." It is more specific: Lebanon has entered a diplomatic process that has imposed expectations and obligations on Beirut without producing an effective mechanism capable of compelling the IOF to withdraw or end its aggression.

This is the fundamental weakness of Aoun's approach.

The U.S.-brokered "framework agreement" signed between the Lebanese and Israeli governments in Washington on June 26, 2026, was presented as a pathway toward ending the state of war and restoring stability. It was supposed to facilitate the withdrawal of the IOF, strengthen Lebanese state authority in the south, allow displaced civilians to return, and create the conditions for reconstruction.

But the reality that followed has made critics in Lebanon and beyond question whether the agreement has achieved its most basic purpose.

The IOF has continued to maintain positions in southern Lebanon, while the regime's aggression and civilian massacres have continued. Homes and infrastructure have been destroyed, agricultural land has been damaged, and civilians remain displaced.

For Aoun's critics, that creates an obvious contradiction.

If the purpose of the agreement was to restore Lebanese sovereignty and end the IOF aggression, why does the regime continue to execute its war crimes on Lebanese territory with impunity?

This question goes to the heart of the criticism.

Aoun has repeatedly called for an IOF withdrawal. He has condemned Israeli attacks. He has appealed to the broker of the "framework agreement," the United States and the international community, to pressure the regime. He has described withdrawal, the return of displaced people, and reconstruction as national constants.

But none of those declarations, however legitimate, constitutes leverage.

The distinction matters

A government can issue statements demanding that an occupying force withdraw. It can appeal to international organizations. It can negotiate through intermediaries. But if the other side continues to occupy territory, wage war crimes, and set conditions for withdrawal, the diplomatic strategy must ultimately be judged by its ability to



alter those facts.

By that measure, Aoun's approach has been a disaster.

The problem of an unequal bargain

The sharpest criticism concerns the structure of the framework itself.

Israel has made clear that it does not intend to withdraw unless it believes the threat from Hezbollah has been sufficiently addressed. That effectively connects the occupying regime's withdrawal to Hezbollah's military status.

This creates an unequal bargain.

Lebanon is being asked to consolidate state control, deploy its army, and address Hezbollah's armed resistance, while the IOF retains military positions and continues to act militarily inside Lebanon.

The result is a political equa-

tion in which Lebanon is expected to dramatically change an unrealistic situation in the south while the IOF retains the ability to determine when conditions are sufficient for its own withdrawal.

That is precisely what opponents object to.

They argue that Lebanese sovereignty cannot depend on whether the occupation regime considers Lebanon's internal security arrangements satisfactory. A sovereign state should not have to meet conditions imposed by an occupying power before that power leaves its territory.

This is where the framework's critics believe Aoun has failed to establish a sufficiently strong Lebanese negotiating position.

The "framework agreement" becomes even more complicated because Hezbollah's weapons are now intertwined with the question of the IOF's withdrawal.

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

Iran learn fate at 2026 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup

TEHRAN - The pathway to AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2026 glory was revealed following the Draw at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The 12 teams, led by defending champions Iran, were divided into three groups.

In Group A, hosts Thailand will have to battle it out with three-time winners Japan, 2006 champions Bahrain and Iraq.

Iran, seeking a record-extending fifth title, were drawn in Group B where they will face Lebanon, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Group C will see 2015 champions Oman locking horns with two-time champions the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan.

The winners and runners-up of each group, as well as the two best third-placed teams, will advance to the quarter-finals.

The 12th edition of the competition is set to take place in the city of Phang Nga between Nov. 18 to 28, 2026.

Draw result

Group A: Thailand (H), Japan, Bahrain, Iraq

Group B: Iran, Lebanon, Vietnam, Afghanistan

Group C: Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan

Iran basketball victorious over Chinese Taipei in 2026 Asian Games

TEHRAN - Iran bounced back from their opening defeat to Qatar with a 72-69 win over Chinese Taipei at the 2026 Asian Games on Saturday.

Team Melli entered the game under pressure after suffering an unexpected 59-53 loss in their first match in Group B, but they responded strongly and showed greater composure throughout the contest.

Mohammad Jamshidi played a key role in Iran's success, leading the team with 18 points and providing valuable scoring when his side needed it most.

Chen Ying-chun collected 29 points for Chinese Taipei.

The victory gives Iran an important boost in confidence as they continue their Asian Games campaign. After the disappointment against Qatar, the result against Chinese Taipei provides a timely response and keeps Iran's hopes of making a deep run in the competition alive.

With Jamshidi leading the way, Iran will now look to build on this momentum in their next match against Jordan, slated for Sunday.

Iran discover rivals at 2026 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships

TEHRAN - Iran's men's canoe polo team have discovered their opponents at the 2026 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships.

Iran U21 team are drawn in Group A along with Spain (defending champions), New Zealand, China, and Switzerland.

will start the campaign on Tuesday with a match against New Zealand.

The ICF Canoe Polo World Championships are international competitions in the sport of canoe polo. They have taken place every two years since 1994 (U21 since 2002), in a different venue each time. Medals are awarded by national team; the German team have won the most medals in total.

The 2026 Canoe Polo World Championships will be held in Duisburg, Germany from Sept. 15 to 20.

Changwon 2026: Iranian para shooters win gold and silver

TEHRAN - Faezeh Ahmadi and Nasrin Shahi Samakhoun from Iran claimed a gold and silver medal respectively at the World Shooting Para Sport Championships on Saturday.

Iran's female athletes produced an incredible performance to win the nation's first gold at the Changwon 2026 Worlds.

Ahmadi, the reigning Asian Para Games champion, displayed remarkable consistency to claim her first Worlds title and a LA28 quota place for her country, winning the P2 - 10m air pistol women SH1 with 238.3.

Emotions flowed after Ahmadi fired her final shot and secured victory ahead of compatriot Nasrin Shahi Samakhoun, a former champion at the Changwon World Cups, who finished with 233.7 points.

India's 20-year-old Bhakti Sharma denied Iran a clean sweep by claiming bronze after an impressive performance to finish on 213.1. Three-time Paralympic champion Sareh Javanmardi finished fourth on 194.1.

Earlier, the Iranian trio - Ahmadi, Samakhoun and Javanmardi - also combined for a world record effort of 1707-44x in the qualification to take the team gold.

A total of 324 athletes from 53 nations chase world titles and LA28 qualification quotas at the WSPS World Championships from 10 to 15 September in Korea.

Iran advance to 2026 AVC Volleyball Continental C'ship final

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Australia 3-1 (25-21, 17-25, 25-17, 25-22) at the 2026 AVC Men's Volleyball Continental Championship semifinals on Saturday.

Ali Hajipour and Pouriya Hossein Khanzadeh scored 20 points apiece for Iran, while Lorenzo Pope scored 18 for Australia.

Team Melli will play winners of Japan and South Korea in the final match on Sunday.

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

Zahedi scores in JDT win over Negeri Sembilan FC

TEHRAN - Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) continue to show their dominance as a local football giant when they defeated Negeri Sembilan FC (NSFC) 3-0 in the Super League match at the Sultan Ibrahim Stadium.

The stylish victory saw the Southern Tigers collect three important points to further strengthen their position in the league.

Shahab Zahedi did not have to wait long to record his name as a scorer when he scored JDT's opening goal after Kevin Medina cleverly stole the ball before passing to the Iranian-born player to release the shot to beat Muhammad Azri.

Bergson da Silva doubled the home side's lead through a neat finish from the team's leader, Mohd. Afiq Fazail.

While the visitors were looking for goals, JDT punished their influence through a quick counter-attack when Arif Aiman carried out the push before Marcos Guilherme completed the move to produce the home team's third goal.

JDT closed the match with a 3-0 win, strengthening their position in the Super League competition.

Quzlu: A stepped village offering a glimpse of rural Iran

TEHRAN - The stepped village of Quzlu, nestled in the mountainous landscape of northwestern Iran, offers travelers a chance to experience traditional rural architecture, unspoiled nature and a time-honored cultural heritage.

Located in Zanjan province, Quzlu is among the rural settlements that reflect the long-standing relationship between human habitation and the natural environment. Its hillside homes, built into the mountain landscape, provide a distinctive setting for visitors seeking an alternative to conventional tourist destinations.

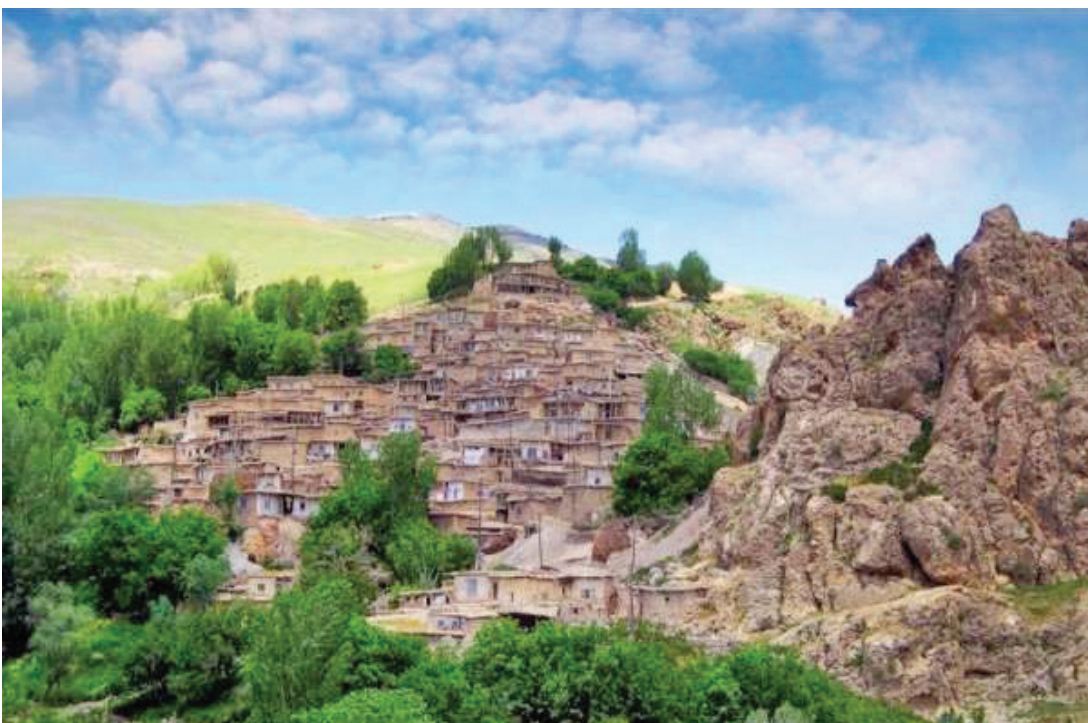
Quzlu's most striking feature is its stepped architecture, in which the roof of one house serves as the courtyard of the home above it. The arrangement follows the contours of the mountainside and creates a compact settlement that blends with its surroundings.

Traditional construction materials, including stone and wood, are part of the village's architectural character. The buildings and their relationship with the surrounding landscape offer visitors an opportunity to observe a form of rural architecture rooted in local conditions.

Preserving this architectural fabric could help maintain Quzlu's identity while creating opportunities for heritage tourism and traditional-style accommodation.

The landscape surrounding Quzlu adds another dimension to a visit. Mountain scenery, green pastures and springs are among the natural features described as attractions of the area.

The village and its surroundings offer potential for nature-based activities, including walking, photography and ex-



ploring the rural landscape. Seasonal changes in vegetation and scenery provide different experiences throughout the year.

For travelers interested in quieter destinations, Quzlu presents an opportunity to spend time in a mountainous environment away from the bustle of major cities.

Quzlu is part of Mahneshan county, an area known for its distinctive geological formations and historical sites.

Among the region's notable attractions are the formations known as the "Jinn's Chimneys," volcanic rock structures that rise dramatically from the landscape. The ancient Behestan Castle, also known as Takht-e Div or the "Devil's Throne," is another landmark that adds historical interest to the area.

The combination of unusual geological features, ancient fortifications and traditional villages gives Mahneshan potential

for both geotourism and cultural travel.

Experts say development of tourism in Quzlu could also create opportunities for the local community. Proposals include restoring traditional homes for use as eco-lodges, improving walking routes and providing training for residents who wish to host visitors.

Such initiatives could help introduce travelers to local food, handicrafts and agricultural products while creating additional sources of income for villagers.

The development of rural tourism, however, would need to be managed carefully to ensure that visitor numbers and new infrastructure do not undermine the village's architectural character or natural environment.

Stepped villages: where architecture meets the mountains

Iran's stepped villages offer

travelers a rare chance to experience places where architecture, nature and traditional life have developed together over centuries. Built into hillsides and mountain slopes, these settlements are more than scenic destinations. They are living examples of how communities adapted to challenging landscapes while preserving their cultural identity.

One of the best-known examples is Masuleh in Gilan province, northern Iran. Its distinctive houses rise one above another along the green mountainside, creating a remarkable architectural landscape. In many parts of the village, the roof of one house serves as the courtyard or passageway of the house above it. Narrow lanes, stone steps and traditional buildings give Masuleh a character that is difficult to find elsewhere.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Iranian women showcase traditional crafts at BRICS exhibition in New Delhi

TEHRAN - A group of female Iranian artisans highlight skills at a handicraft's exhibition being held on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

The five-day exhibition, titled BRICS Bazaar, runs from Sept. 10 to 15. It brings together handicrafts from BRICS member countries in an effort to strengthen cultural and artistic cooperation, as well as broader economic and political ties.

The exhibition was designed as a symbol of cultural links among the participating countries, according to IRNA's correspondent in the Indian capital.

At the entrance, handmade carpets from member countries are arranged in a circle in a range of colors, highlighting the cultur-

al, ethnic and religious diversity of the BRICS grouping.

Talking to IRNA, Ameneh Sedighi, an artisan from Iran's northern Gilan province, said her participation aimed to introduce Iranian traditional embroidery, particularly Rashti-doozi, to international visitors.

She said the craft dates back between 330 and 550 years before Christ and was historically practiced by men, but is now carried out by women.

Rashti-doozi is produced using natural silk thread from Gilan and a special hook, Sedighi, who teaches the craft, said.

"We were able to showcase the distinguished art of Rashti-doozi and our country's

traditional arts to visitors at this exhibition," she said.

Sedighi said foreign visitors, particularly Indians, had shown strong interest in Iranian handicrafts and praised the host government's cooperation with Iranian artisans.

The exhibition also highlights the similarities between the handicrafts of Kashmir and Iran. A representative from Kashmir attributed the resemblance to the close cultural ties between the two peoples, IRNA said.

The BRICS grouping, whose name derives from its original members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, was established in 2009. It has since expanded beyond its founding membership.

Iran Air seek to resume flights to Malaysia



TEHRAN - Iran's flag carrier, Iran Air, has explored the resumption of flights to Malaysia following a lengthy suspension, the airline said after its chief executive met with Malaysia's ambassador to Iran.

Taher Abdolhay, chief executive of the Airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran, formally known as Iran Air, held talks with Dato' Wan Yusri, Malaysia's ambassador, on expanding the airline's flight network and exploring opportunities for its return to East Asia, Mehr news agency reported on Saturday.

The meeting focused on the capacities and requirements for restoring Iran Air flights to Malaysia, as well as opportunities to resume services to the country after a prolonged interruption.

They also discussed expanding bilateral cooperation and strengthening air links between Iran and Malaysia, particularly their

role in promoting economic, trade, tourism and cultural exchanges.

Abdolhay said restoring the Tehran-Kuala Lumpur route could, as a first step, facilitate travel by passengers and tourists while helping expand economic and cultural ties between the

two countries.

He stressed Iran Air's role as Iran's national flag carrier and described the development of air connectivity as an effective means of strengthening relations between Iran and Malaysia.

Wan Yusri, for his part, welcomed the prospect of Iran Air resuming flights to Malaysia and highlighted the airline's history and position as Iran's flag carrier, the report said.

He also expressed readiness to support and facilitate the necessary coordination for the resumption of Iran Air services to Malaysia.

In addition, the meeting examined the coordination and other requirements for restoring flights, available capacities, opportunities for cooperation between relevant sectors and challenges facing the process.



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National document on Persian medicine governance being developed

TEHRAN - The first expert meeting to develop the National Governance Document for Iranian Traditional Medicine was held with the aim of re-viewing the sector's overarching policies, bringing together senior officials, leading academics, and representatives of executive bodies.

The meeting was attended by Hossein Rezaeizadeh, the head of the headquarters for developing traditional medicine and medicinal herbs, university professors, and representatives of executive agencies, Mehr news agency reported.

The first part of the meeting focused on the country's current status regarding medicinal plants and traditional medicine, the challenges inherent in the previous documents and their respective strengths and weaknesses, as well as novel policies and approaches for inclusion in strategic objectives of the new document.

Drawing on past experience, participants identified several key areas for strengthening the new document. These include benchmarking it against international frameworks developed by leading countries such as India and China; adopting more people-centered implementation indicators; prioritizing education while avoiding an excessive emphasis on credentialism in medicine; and leveraging the potential of health diplomacy.

The development of technological infrastructure, including medicinal herb refineries, the use of artificial intelligence (AI), market regulation, development of new pharmaceutical and therapeutic documentation, and scientific management of traditional herbal shops and guilds are among other discussed issues.

Other points highlighted by the participants included compiling a comprehensive statistical yearbook on medicinal plants; clearly defining the mandates of each relevant agency and ministry in line with their respective responsibilities; reviewing the composition of the headquarters council; restructuring executive operations; and reforming budget allocation mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness of the National Governance Document for Persian Medicine.

National research, technology network

The health ministry's traditional medicine is developing a national research and technology network for Persian medicine to integrate scientific and technological efforts to enhance Persian medicine's status and expand the value chain of medicinal plants.

The network will organize the country's research and scientific capacities in supplementary medicine and Persian medicine to meet the needs of the health sector and knowledge-based economy, Rezaeizadeh said in February.

It will serve as a platform for the development of a roadmap for technologies relating to indigenous knowledge to address the challenges, such as the lack of a structured link between tradi-



tional knowledge and modern technologies, the official further noted.

The network's core areas are centered around biochemical, molecular, and microbiological research, animal studies, disease models, safety assessments, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacokinetics.

Developing interdisciplinary research and utilizing new technologies such as proteomics, metabolomics, microbiome studies, cellular models, bioinformatics data analyses, epidemiological studies, and advanced animal models are among other key pillars of the network to create synergy between traditional knowledge, biological, and data-driven sciences.

Iran's commitment in traditional medicine

During the closing ceremony of the second World Health Organization (WHO) Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, Iran pledged commitments to advance the implementation of the Global Strategy for Traditional Medicine 2025-2034.

Co-organized by the WHO and the Government of India, the second global Summit on Traditional Medicine was held from December 17 to 19 last year in New Delhi, under the theme 'Restoring Balance: The science and practice of health and well-being'.

Rezaeizadeh, Arman Zargar, the advisor to the health ministry's traditional medicine office, and Mohammad Fathali, the ambassador to India, attended the event.

Iran's five commitments include launching a WHO collaborating center, launching a national platform for clinical trials, strengthening research and evidence, publishing in reputable journals, compiling five standard operating procedures (SOPs) for specialized Persian procedures, and integrating traditional medicine into the health system, the health ministry's website reported.

The second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine aimed to advance a global movement to restore balance for people and the planet, grounded in the science and practice of Traditional Medicine.

During the summit, Iranian officials took part in specialized discussions on traditional medicine. Zargar was the first speaker to deliver a speech, titled 'Codifying complexities: standardization in traditional medicine research', at the parallel session 2A themed 'Translating the WHO Traditional Medicine Research Roadmap into Global Action'.

Like many ancient medical systems, Persian medicine takes a holistic approach to health, emphasizing lifestyle factors such as adhering to a proper diet, moderate exercise, sufficient sleep, and mental/emotional balance.

According to Roshanak Ghods, an associate professor of Persian medicine at Iran University of Medical Sciences, many treatments in Persian medicine focus on restoring balance and boosting the body's natural healing capacities.

"The knowledge accumulated over centuries of practice and research provides clinical insights and therapeutic approaches complementary to modern medicine", she said. "Preserving this medical tradition and making it accessible ensures that people today can benefit from this time-tested system of natural healing and its unique principles, but of course, we also need the evidence on the effectiveness and safety of traditional and complementary medicine, based on suitable research methods for personalized medicine."

Ghods' vision is for a health-care system that combines traditional with conventional medicine, without prejudice. "Our goal for the future should be to provide personalized, patient-centered care that addresses the person's mind, body, and spirit", she said.

of cooperation with Iran's Forensic Medicine Organization.

The ICRC's humanitarian forensic work aims to ensure the dignified management of the dead, support the scientific identification of human remains, and help clarify the fate of people who have died or gone missing in conflicts and emergencies.

In Iran, the ICRC has worked with the Forensic Medicine Organization and other national institutions for about two decades, providing technical support, training and equipment for the identification and repatriation of remains from the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s.

Its work has also expanded to strengthening preparedness for mass-fatality incidents, including training in forensic anthropology and the dignified recovery and management of human remains. At the heart of this work is helping families learn the fate of their loved ones while ensuring that the dead are treated with dignity.

Another aspect of the ICRC's work in Iran is facilitating networking opportunities between national institutions and the international forensic community to promote the exchange of expertise, methodologies and good practices on the search for and identification of missing and deceased persons affected by conflict, emergencies and migration.

Webinar on fertility preservation for people over 30 set for October

TEHRAN – Royan Institute will host a specialized webinar on October 1 to help individuals make informed decisions about their reproductive health, focusing on fertility preservation options and strategies for single women and men over 30.

The rising age of marriage and delayed childbearing have made reproductive health, awareness of one's fertility status, and knowledge of available fertility preservation options more important than ever, IRNA reported.

Nevertheless, understanding age-related changes and recognizing opportunities to preserve fertility and extend their reproductive timeline can play a significant role in empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their future childbearing.

Titled 'Fertility preservation in modern era, opportunities and strategies for single women and men over 30', the specialized webinar will examine various aspects of male and female fertility, covering topics such as the impact of aging on fertility, the assessment of fertility status and capacity, the importance of understanding one's fertility status before delaying childbearing, and the methods for preserving reproductive cells.

It will also discuss the medical considerations associated with fertility preservation methods, the factors that influence the success of these methods, as well as the opportunities and limitations facing individuals who postpone childbearing for any reason.

Policies, programs for infertility treatment

To address infertility, which is known as one of the main challenges of health and population in the country, the government has adopted different measures, including infertility insurance to lower high-cost and out-of-pocket expenses of infertility treatment.

Covering the services associated with fertility treatment, the insurance organizations have played a key role in infertility treatment since the Iranian year 1400 (2021), IRNA reported.

The covered services include the costs of tests, medications, and assisted reproductive methods, like IVF and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), which have facilitated access to specialized services and encourage couples to have regular health visits.

In government centers, 90 percent of the treatment costs, which are based on subsidized rates, are covered, while in private centers, 90 percent of the costs, which are based on free rates, are covered.

Currently, 150 medical centers are providing health services to infertile couples, out of which 120 centers are under the coverage of health insurance.

Over the past Iranian year (March 2025 – March 2026), the health insurance reviewed

a total of 107,374 claims and reimbursed 9.98 trillion rials (around 6.743 million dollars) to medical centers.

The health insurance also paid 11.16 trillion rials (almost 7.541 million dollars) for prescribed medications to infertile couples. Since the Iranian year 1400, the health insurance has invested 37 trillion rials (about 25 million dollars).

Apart from insurance, the government has taken other measures to boost fertility, such as developing specialized infertility treatment centers in metropolises and deprived areas, considering incentive policies for infertile couples, like financial support and granting loans for treatment, implementing national projects, and comprehensive programs on family health and population to promote childbearing and reduce infertility.

Equipping medical centers with advanced facilities for in vitro fertilization (IVF), providing counselling and psychological services, are among other actions taken to help infertile couples.

Demographic shifts in Iran

With older adults already accounting for 13 percent of Iran's population and the country's fertility rate continuing to decline, demographic shifts are accelerating. Current projections indicate that within the next 25 years, nearly one-third of Iran's population will be aged 60 and above.

Iran is aging, and this demographic shift will place significant pressure on the health-care system, pension funds, social support agencies, and the national economy. To prevent the consequences of an aging population, the country is pursuing policies aimed at boosting the youth population and incentives for childbearing.

Aging is a natural process of the life cycle, but the way society approaches this life phase today will shape the living conditions of future generations.

An aging population entails more than just an increased demand for healthcare services; the rising number of elderly individuals also drives a growing need for care services, rehabilitation, home-based care, environmental adaptations, and social welfare services, which will alter the pension system and pose serious challenges to it.

Demographic shifts make action more urgent than ever. Actions need to be taken now to be able to address the livelihood and well-being of the elderly in the years to come. The interval between the current situation and advanced aging offers an opportunity for policymaking and structural reform; failing to act would result in consequences that are significantly more challenging to address.

Fortunately, Iran is in a population window of opportunity – a period when a large proportion of the population is of working age; the country has 15 to 20 years before the demographic window begins to close.



Where farmlands bloom in gold

Sunflower fields in Isfahan have created a spectacular golden landscape across the region's farmlands as the flowers bloom.

Sunflower cultivation is an important part of Iran's agricultural sector, contributing to domestic production of sunflower seeds, a popular snack among Iranians. Iran produced approximately 66,000 tons of sunflower seeds in 2024, according to FAO data.

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A wise man first thinks and then speaks and a fool speaks first and then thinks.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:00 Evening: 18:33 Dawn: 4:21 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:46 (tomorrow)

What’s in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* Melal Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of Iranian artists.

The exhibition named “Between Earth and Sky” will be running until October 9 at the gallery that can be found at the Melal Cultural Center in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.

* Sharif Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by a Mostafa Emami.

The exhibit entitled “The Dream of the World” will be running until September 18 at the gallery that can be found at 11 Mahruzadeh Alley, Shariati Ave. near Quds Square.



* Sonia Salemi is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition in Vaali Gallery.

The exhibit named “Monument and Other Works” will continue until September 22 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.

* Qader Mansouri is putting his latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until September 28 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.



* A collection of paintings by Marjan Toomar is on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibition named “Before Tomorrow” will be running until September 22 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Keiman Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Maryam Esteki.

Entitled “Between Two Worlds”, the exhibition will be running until September 20 at the gallery located at 10 Akhgari St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.



Drawing

* White Line Gallery is displaying drawings by Parjam Parsi in an exhibition.

The exhibit will be running until September 22 at the gallery located at 22 Parvin Alley, off Jame Jam St. off Vali-e Asr Ave.

Multimedia

* Liam Gallery is showcasing sculptures and paintings by a group of artists in an exhibition.

The exhibit named “Ishtar 2” runs until September 25 at the gallery located at No. 118, Fathi Shaaqai St. near Salmas Square.



* Paintings and photos by Pegah Bahador and Amir Esfandari are currently on view in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibit named “Fresh-Cut Flowers” will be running until September 22 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Shahin St., Sanai St.

Iranian drama “Whisper My Name” wins two awards at International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir

TEHRAN – The 1st International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir in India concluded on Thursday evening, with Iranian film “Whisper My Name” winning two awards.

“Whisper My Name,” directed by Rasoul Sadrameli, was adjudged the best film, while the best actor (male) award went to Amin Hayai for the film, Honaronline reported.

The film is about Ziba, a teenage student working girl. Living in a dormitory, with no bonds to her parents, she dreams of moving to a room of her own. She’s struggling to find a path to be independent, but everything becomes even more complicated when her dad, Khosro, shows up. He has escaped from a psychiatric hospital to celebrate his daughter’s birthday with her.

The 2025 drama stars Amin Hayai, Juliet Rezai, Mehran Ghafourian, and Setareh Pesiani. It won the Best Film Award at the 2025 Fajr Film Festival.

Saman Lotfian’s cinematography captures various facets of the city with realism and artistry, occasionally presenting images of intense beauty. The many close-ups, though, do not work after a point. Bahram Dehghani’s editing maintains a fast pace that suits the episodic nature of the story.

With this film, director Sadrameli continues his creative exploration of Iranian family



ethics. The film focuses on the father-daughter relationship, and its overall atmosphere is described as a “suffocating rainforest, oppressive home.”

According to Sadrameli, “everywhere in the world, you can find the lonely youngsters trapped in the chambers of poverty and family problems. In some countries, there are also some other elements in discussion – for example, tradition and obligation. But we have to move forward to make the world a better place for them. We must find a way to connect with them. It seems that, in order to bridge the

gap between the generations, we have no choice but to engage in dialogue with each other, understand each other, and learn to love each other.

As many as 135 films from around 40 countries were screened during the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir. Organizers said the festival received around 1,100 submissions from over 80 countries.

Organized by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the festival took place from September 7 to 10, with the theme “Rang-e-Cinema”. It is

dedicated to promoting artistic excellence, cinematic innovation, and cultural exchange, while fostering a deeper appreciation for world cinema.

The programming featured an international competition, curated showcases, and dedicated sections for feature, documentary, short, and regional films, including the J&K Select and Bharat Panorama categories.

Ultimately, the festival aims to bring filmmakers, industry professionals, and audiences together in one of India’s most distinctive cultural landscapes.

“Pressure” to go on screen at Tehran cultural center

TEHRAN- Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran is scheduled to screen Australian filmmaker Anthony Maras’ 2026 war drama “Pressure” on Sunday evening.

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

“Pressure” explores the tense hours before the Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II, focusing on the crucial role played by meteorologist James Stagg in determining when the D-Day operation could safely begin.

Andrew Scott stars as Stagg, the Scottish meteorologist appointed chief meteorological officer at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), while Brendan Fraser portrays Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Allied commander responsible for making the final decision on the invasion. The cast also includes Kerry Condon, Chris Messina and Damian Lewis.

Set in 1944, the story follows the final preparations for Operation Overlord, the massive Allied campaign to liberate German-occupied Europe. The invasion is initially scheduled for June 5, but Eisenhower is increasingly concerned about the risks involved, particularly following the disastrous Exercise Tiger rehearsal several weeks earlier.

Gaza Documentary “NAZA” earns record-breaking ovation at Venice Film Festival

“NAZA,” the new documentary from Israeli “No Other Land” co-directors Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, earned a massive 24.5-minute ovation at its Venice Film Festival premiere on Thursday.

This marks the longest-ever standing ovation in Venice — besting the 22 minutes for “The Voice of Hind Rajab” last year — and apparently the longest at a major film festival, period, Variety reported.

Oscar-winning “Zone of Interest” director Jonathan Glazer, who is an executive producer on the film, embraced Abraham and Szor and cheered them on throughout the astounding applause. The directing duo looked somber and both got teary-eyed at points, as did the audience, some of whom held up Palestinian flags.

“NAZA” shows “in detail the systems behind Israel’s calcu-

er.

On June 2, Eisenhower summons Stagg to Southwick House, SHAEF’s headquarters, and asks him to provide a weather forecast for the operation. Stagg leads a British-American meteorological team that soon identifies two powerful low-pressure systems moving toward the English Channel. Their forecast predicts heavy rain, poor visibility, strong winds and high waves, conditions that could make the planned amphibious landings extremely dangerous.

Stagg’s assessment puts him at odds with American meteorologist Col. Irving P. Krick, who relies heavily on historical weather patterns and believes the conditions will remain favorable. As the two forecasts continue to conflict, Eisenhower finds himself under increasing pressure from his senior commanders, who warn that postponing the invasion could give German forces time to discover the Allied plans.

The disagreement reaches a critical point on June 4, when Stagg once again argues that the invasion should be postponed. He faces resistance from senior commanders, but remains convinced that proceeding under the predicted conditions could lead to catastrophe. His personal situation also becomes in-

creasingly difficult when he learns that the hospital where his pregnant wife is staying has been bombed.

A breakthrough eventually comes when weather observations from Ireland indicate a temporary break in the storm system. Krick agrees with the new assessment, giving Stagg the confidence to recommend June 6 as the next possible date for the invasion.

In the early hours of June 5, Stagg presents his final forecast to Eisenhower, who decides to proceed. The following day, Allied forces launch the Normandy landings by sea and air. The invasion catches German forces off guard and marks the beginning of the liberation of Western Europe.

After hearing news of the operation’s success, Stagg leaves Southwick House to find his family. He discovers that his wife and newborn son have survived the bombing, bringing a deeply personal conclusion to his ordeal.

The film closes by recalling Eisenhower’s later assessment that the success of D-Day was partly due to the Allies having “better meteorologists than the Germans,” underlining the extraordinary importance of weather forecasting in one of the most consequential military operations in history.

er Land,” alongside Palestinian filmmakers Basel Adra and Hamdan Ballal, which won the 2025 best documentary Oscar and depicts the Israeli government’s efforts to force Palestinians from their homes in the southern West Bank.

In an interview with Variety ahead of the doc’s premiere, Abraham said: “As Israelis, we found ourselves wanting to use the kind of position that we have — the access that we have to people in our own society who went into the military — to look at that system as it carried out what all human rights organizations are saying is a genocide.”

The film, which is the only documentary feature in this year’s Venice’s competition lineup, is produced by British newspaper The Guardian and James Wilson (JW Films) and executive produced by Glazer. Wilson and Glazer are the Oscar-winning

team behind the film “The Zone of Interest.”

Last year, Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania’s Gaza-set “The Voice of Hind Rajab,” about the death of a 6-year-old girl killed by Israeli military fire while attempting to flee Gaza City with her family, elicited a 22-minute standing ovation. Ben Hania is part of Venice’s Maggie Gyllenhaal-led jury.

At least 73,658 Palestinians have been killed and 174,622 injured since the beginning of Israel’s genocide in Gaza in October 2023.

There are still victims remained beneath the rubble and on roads, with ambulance and civil defense teams unable to reach them.

Israeli occupation forces have continued artillery shelling, airstrikes and drone attacks across Gaza despite the ceasefire, alongside the destruction of residential areas and infrastructure.