

Iran court hears lawsuit by nearly 353,000 Iranians over crimes during 12-day war

TEHRAN — Iran's Judiciary on Sunday held the first hearing in a case seeking compensation for damages caused by the United States and Israel during the 12-day war against Iran in June last year, IRNA reported.

The hearing was held at Branch 55 of Tehran's International Court, with Judge Hossein-Zadeh presiding. The case was filed on behalf of 352,983 Iranian plaintiffs seeking compensation for moral damages resulting from an unlawful violation of Iran's territorial integrity. ▶ Page 3

Hormuz Strait and Bab al-Mandab: Two strategic chokepoints

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN — The current link between the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab is just a geographic connection between two maritime points.

It should be understood as the potential formation of a geo-economic deterrence system stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea.

For decades, one of the objectives of grand U.S. strategy has been to ensure freedom of movement in vital regions and to maintain the ability to control and manage the trade and energy routes on which the global economy depends.

The Persian Gulf region has been one of the most important of these vital areas. ▶ Page 5

How can BRICS help Iran's trade get past sanctions, dollar?

TEHRAN- For Iran, BRICS is not merely an economic pact; it is a large market and a set of financial, commercial, and transit routes that, if their capacities are activated, can open a new chapter in the country's foreign trade.

According to Mehr News Agency, Iran attends the BRICS summit in India at a time when the group has become one of the most important centers of Global South trade. According to the UN Conference on Trade and Development, BRICS members' merchandise exports reached about \$6 trillion in 2024 and their imports about \$5 trillion, while intra-group trade rose to about \$1.2 trillion.

These figures show that for Iran, BRICS is not merely a political coalition; rather, it encompasses a set of major consumer, producer, energy-exporting economies and capital-market owners. ▶ Page 4



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Iran, Persian Gulf states to discuss Strait of Hormuz in Muscat

FM Araqchi: Oman Understanding Not Enough to Reopen Hormuz

Iran says reopening the Strait of Hormuz depends on the US honoring its commitments under the June MoU

TEHRAN — Iran and other Persian Gulf littoral states are scheduled to convene on Monday, September 14, in Muscat to deliberate on the security architecture of the Strait of Hormuz.

The high-stakes summit comes as Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi reaffirms that the reopening of the world's most vital oil transit corridor is contingent exclusively upon the United States returning to its obligations under the Pakistan-brokered June interim agreement and halting its hostile campaign against the Islamic Republic.

Clarifying the scope of upcoming dip-

lomatic efforts, Araqchi stated firmly in an interview with Al Araby Al Jadeed that preliminary bilateral understandings forged with Oman do not equate to a premature reopening of the choke point.

"It in no way means the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz," Araqchi underlined, emphasizing that a resumption of normal commercial transit hinges entirely on Washington honoring the

14-point memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on June 17 through Pakistani mediation.

Araqchi revealed that the agenda for Monday's regional gathering would center on presenting a calibrated blueprint for maritime traffic. "We will provide the details of the understanding reached with Muscat, as well as maritime maps delineating the proposed new shipping corridors, to the participating littoral delegations," he stated, reiterating that responsibility for Persian Gulf security rests solely with its indigenous actors. ▶ Page 3

Pezeshkian urges BRICS to turn economic resilience into practical cooperation

TEHRAN- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called on BRICS to move beyond political declarations and develop practical mechanisms to strengthen economic resilience, expand financial and trade cooperation and defend national sovereignty, as he linked economic security to the broader security environment confronting countries across the Global South. ▶ Page 2

Iranian top diplomat's consultations go beyond BRICS

TEHRAN— Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has stepped up diplomatic consultations with regional counterparts on the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, using his meetings and telephone calls on the sidelines of the BRICS Leaders' Summit in New Delhi to explain Tehran's position on the strategic waterway and outline the regional approach Iran is pursuing with Oman.

Araghchi's consultations with the foreign ministers of Oman, Turkey, Egypt, Russia, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Iraq come ahead of a ministerial-level meeting in Muscat on Monday, where Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral states are expected to discuss regional developments and arrangements concerning maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. ▶ Page 2

Hollywood-style PR cannot mask Washington's strategic defeat in Iran skies

TEHRAN — The administration of US President Donald Trump has increasingly resorted to Hollywood-style public relations campaigns in a desperate bid to manufacture a false sense of victory over Iran, seeking to gloss over the catastrophic failure of its military adventurism against the Islamic Republic.

Washington's latest attempt to engineer a cinematic narrative out of an operational humiliation came to light after a CNN report revealed that the Pentagon pressured two US Air Force crewmen—whose F-15E Strike Eagle was shot down deep within Iranian territory—to participate in a curated interview with CBS's "60 Minutes." ▶ Page 3

Hojjatolislam Qomi visits "Minab School" exhibition, calls for international presentation of artworks

TEHRAN- Hojjatolislam Mohammad Qomi, the head of Iran's Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, paid a visit to the group exhibition "Minab School" at the Art Bureau in Tehran on Saturday, calling for the international presentation of artworks addressing the Minab tragedy.

During his visit, he also met with a number of the participating artists and discussed their works and perspectives on the events surrounding Minab.

The artists explained the approaches behind their works and spoke about their needs and requirements for more effective production and presentation of artworks dealing with the subject. ▶ Page 8

Iran runners-up at 2026 AVC Men's Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN - Japan clinched the 2026 AVC Men's Volleyball Continental Championship title with a commanding 3-0 (25-21, 26-24, 25-23) victory over Iran in the final on Sunday.

Playing on home soil, Japan produced a composed performance in the decisive moments of each set to secure the continental crown and book their place at the 2028 Olympic Games.

Yuji Nishida was Japan's leading scorer with 18 points, matching Iran's Ali Hajipour, who also finished with 18 points.

Iran had enjoyed an impressive run to the championship match, defeating China, India, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei and Australia along the way.



A different way to travel: Azadeh Abedinzadeh explains



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Scan this QR code to watch the video.

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

The new strategic power of the Resistance

Kayhan, in a note discussing recent developments in the Middle East, argues that a new strategic power structure has emerged within the Resistance axis. This new power is the result of several interconnected factors: Iran's ability to overcome and outmaneuver the United States, Israel, and their regional allies, Yemen's offensive military capabilities, and the steadfastness of Lebanon and Palestine. These elements have combined to create a coherent and consolidated strategic force that has "broken through all barriers" and established a new regional equation stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean. This new equation has taken shape over nearly three decades of conflict, and despite the severity of ongoing events, it is now entering a phase of final stabilization. When, in the midst of Yemen's successful operations and Iran's repeated strikes, certain Arab governments ask Iran to reduce tensions with the United States, Israel, and themselves, it reveals that all previous options against the Resistance have become obsolete. The current moment is one of consolidating the Resistance's major achievements, and that such consolidation requires a cleansing of the region, meaning the removal of destabilizing or hostile elements.

Sobh-e-No: BRICS; from potential cooperation to operational implementation

Sobh-e-No analyzed President Pezeshkian's trip to New Delhi for the BRICS summit. The visit has two main dimensions. First, bilateral relations between Iran and India. The meeting between Pezeshkian and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the importance of Tehran-New Delhi ties. Both sides emphasized expanding cooperation and continuing strategic agreements. Second, turning BRICS cooperation into practical mechanisms. Tehran's focus during this trip was on ensuring that BRICS membership does not remain at the level of political dialogue. Instead, Iran wants BRICS capacities to be transformed into operational frameworks in areas such as trade, financial systems, use of national currencies, and broader economic cooperation. The simultaneous presence of both leaders at the BRICS summit created an opportunity to pursue bilateral and multilateral diplomacy at the same time.

Javan: The Strait of Hormuz will not be reopened

Javan discussed the recent understanding reached between Tehran and Muscat, with Persian Gulf foreign ministers present. According to the paper, the agreement is strictly technical, concerning the details of new entry and exit routes in the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and Oman. Other Persian Gulf states are attending the meeting

only to signal their implicit non-objection to the international community. Javan emphasizes that this understanding does not mean the Strait of Hormuz will reopen. Iran has delivered seven conditions to the United States through intermediaries. These conditions have been approved by Iran's highest authorities, and until they are fully implemented, the strait will remain closed. Thus, the Iran-Oman agreement does not signify reopening; rather, it establishes that if the strait is eventually reopened, it will be done under this specific framework, which the paper describes as a major step in asserting Iran's sovereignty. Any reopening depends entirely on US compliance with Iran's conditions.

Ham-Mihan: Why has Iran's nuclear file returned to the UN Security Council?

Ham-Mihan explains that Western governments are trying to move Iran's nuclear issue from the IAEA Board of Governors back to the UN Security Council to create a "two-track process." Track One is the JCPOA & Snapback Mechanism. This track is based on alleged Iranian violations of the JCPOA. However, China and Russia opposed this path in the Security Council, preventing it from gaining full legal legitimacy. Track Two is Safeguards Non-Compliance Referral. This new track focuses on alleged Iranian non-compliance with its IAEA safeguards agreement. The key difference of the second track is that because in the Board of Governors, there is no veto, so a resolution can be passed and the case referred to the Security Council. Once referred, China and Russia cannot easily dismiss the IAEA's findings and will face a more difficult diplomatic position. Ham-Mihan argues that the Western goal is for these two tracks to reinforce each other, increasing pressure on Iran.

Farhikhtegan: Dynamite in the oil market

Farhikhtegan analyzed the reasons behind the surge in oil prices above \$100 per barrel. The paper says that although analysts cite various factors, they all agree on one central issue: geopolitical developments in Yemen and around the Bab al-Mandab Strait. Energy experts argue that the main issue is not just reduced supply but the shrinking security margin of the global oil market. Key factors include: ongoing restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, increased control by Yemen's Ansarallah around Bab al-Mandab, reduced Russian supply and refining capacity, declining global inventories, and changes in China's oil purchasing patterns. However, the \$109 price recorded on Thursday night was clearly the result of Ansarallah's dramatic and rapid territorial advances, which sharply intensified geopolitical risk and pushed prices beyond the \$100 threshold.

Iran ready to confront any new war, defense chief says

TEHRAN — Iran is fully prepared to confront any new threat or military conflict, caretaker Defense Minister Brigadier General Majid Ebn al-Reza said on Sunday, stressing that the country's defense capabilities have become significantly more advanced and powerful than during previous confrontations.

Ebn al-Reza said some US officials had mistakenly assumed that repeated threats and warnings could alter Iran's resolve or intimidate the Islamic Republic.

"They are seriously mistaken," he said, stressing that Iran cannot be dealt with through threats.

The Iranian defense chief said many of the threats directed at Iran amount to political messaging rather than statements backed by genuine military capabilities, arguing that Tehran's response is based on its own assessment of threats and its independent defense capabilities.

He stressed that Iran has never posed, and will never pose, a threat to neighboring or regional countries, saying Tehran has consistently sought to distinguish between friends and adversaries through prudence

and 'a wise and calculated approach to regional security.'

Ebn al-Reza said that should another war occur, Iran would enter the confrontation from a considerably stronger technological position than in previous conflicts.

He noted that the military and defense capabilities occasionally displayed publicly represent only a fraction of the country's overall defense and industrial potential.

"This is only a small part of our capabilities," he said, indicating that Iran's defense industries would continue developing their technological and production capacities.

The remarks underscore Iran's longstanding emphasis on self-reliance in the defense sector, particularly the development of domestically produced military equipment and technologies amid restrictions on access to foreign arms and defense markets.

The defense minister said Iran's preparedness was not based solely on military hardware, but also on an independent strategic approach and the country's ability to develop and sustain its own defense requirements.

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

Pezeshkian urges BRICS to turn economic resilience into practical cooperation

From page 1 ► Addressing the 18th BRICS Plus Summit in New Delhi on Sunday, Pezeshkian said resilience, cooperation and sustainability should be treated not as slogans but as responses to fundamental global challenges. He argued that nations must not only manage existing crises but also build economic and institutional capacity to withstand future shocks.

"Economic resilience without security will not be sustainable," Pezeshkian said, pointing to the consequences of military conflict for economic, energy and development infrastructure. He argued that attacks on such infrastructure can rapidly produce repercussions extending beyond national borders and affecting regional and global stability.

Pezeshkian said excessive dependence on a limited number of financial and trade systems leaves economies vulnerable to political pressure. In this context, he described unilateral sanctions as more than an economic issue, arguing that they can directly affect food security and people's welfare.

The Iranian president urged BRICS members to develop greater collective capacity for economic resilience by expanding trade in national currencies and strengthening the New Development Bank (NDB). He also said BRICS could help its members establish independent mechanisms for trade, investment and financial cooperation, gradually reducing their exposure to unilateral economic pressure.

The issue featured prominently in Pezeshkian's assessment of the summit. He said BRICS members opposed unilateral sanctions and coercive measures, while participants also supported Iran's accession to the World Trade Organization and discussed expanding trade through national and regional currencies.

According to Pezeshkian, the summit brought together the 11 main BRICS members and 10 countries seeking to join the group, with discussions centered on resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. He said the gathering created promising prospects for investment, financial exchanges, banking cooperation and broader economic engagement.

Iranian top diplomat's consultations go beyond BRICS

From page 1 ► The Iranian foreign minister has stressed that the understanding being pursued between Tehran and Muscat should not be interpreted as an agreement to reopen the strait. Rather, Iran views the proposed arrangement as a framework for managing maritime traffic through a new route under regional coordination and within the framework of international law.

Tehran-Muscat-Ankara coordination takes center stage

Araghchi held a telephone conversation with Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi on Saturday evening while in New Delhi as part of President Masoud Pezeshkian's delegation to the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit.

The two foreign ministers discussed the latest regional developments as well as bilateral issues. Their conversation came as Muscat prepared to host the upcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran and other Persian Gulf littoral states.

The Tehran-Muscat channel has assumed particular importance in the current crisis because Oman has traditionally maintained diplomatic ties with the various parties involved in regional disputes and has played a role in facilitating dialogue.

Araghchi's remarks indicate that Iran wants neighboring countries to have a direct role in determining how maritime traffic is managed in the strategic waterway.

Araghchi also held a telephone conversation with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan



For Tehran, the emphasis on financial and trade cooperation is particularly significant as Iran seeks to expand economic ties beyond Western-dominated financial channels and strengthen links with emerging economies.

Iran as a regional trade and transit hub

Pezeshkian said Iran's geopolitical position, energy resources and transit capabilities could provide BRICS with additional avenues for strengthening trade and energy connectivity among member states.

He singled out Chabahar Port as a major transit hub capable of linking north and south with east and west, arguing that Iran is prepared to revive its historic role as a regional crossroads and create new opportunities for trade, investment and broader economic exchanges.

The president also welcomed greater Indian investment and joint ventures in Chabahar, placing the port within the wider framework of Iran-India economic cooperation. He emphasized Iran's longstanding historical and cultural ties with India and said Tehran was determined to further expand bilateral political, economic, cultural and scientific cooperation.

The emphasis on transit and connectivity reflects Iran's broader effort to leverage its geographic position as a bridge between major markets and transport corridors. Within the BRICS framework, Tehran sees such capabilities as a potential contribution to deeper economic integration among emerging economies.

Security and economic development presented as interconnected

nected

Pezeshkian devoted a substantial part of his BRICS address to the relationship between security and economic development, arguing that sustainable growth cannot be separated from national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the prohibition of the use of force.

He condemned attacks on Iran's economic, energy and development infrastructure, saying the Iranian people had paid a heavy price in the conflict, while infrastructure developed over decades had suffered damage. He also referred to the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Lebanon and called for a stronger international response to military aggression and attacks on civilians.

The Iranian president urged BRICS to play a more active role in defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said the group could transform the "scattered capacities" of the Global South into shared capabilities and become a platform for practical action rather than simply a forum for political coordination.

Pezeshkian also warned against allowing new technologies and artificial intelligence to become instruments of domination, arguing that innovation should instead contribute to empowering nations and expanding development opportunities.

He described BRICS as increasingly representing demand for a more balanced and inclusive international order in which no single center of power can determine the fate of other countries.

Diplomacy no pressure

Speaking separately to India Today on the sidelines of the summit, Pezeshkian rejected US allegations that Iran is seeking nuclear weapons and reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and international law.

He said Iran had accepted extensive international inspections and remained prepared to engage in dialogue within international legal frameworks, while describing allegations concerning an Iranian nuclear weapons program as pretexts for military action.

The president said Iran did not seek war and had repeatedly participated in negotiations aimed at ending the conflict. At the same time, he questioned the reliability of agreements following 'the abandonment of previous commitments.'

Pezeshkian maintained that Iran's military actions had been defensive responses to attacks and said the pressure placed on the country had reinforced national unity. He also rejected the prospect of Iran yielding to sanctions, economic pressure or efforts to create internal divisions.

Hormuz another test of regional cooperation

The Strait of Hormuz was another major issue addressed by Pezeshkian, who said Iran and Oman had discussed a framework for maintaining a shared maritime route through the strategic waterway.

He said Arab foreign ministers were expected to meet in Muscat on Monday to pursue the implementation of the Iran-Oman arrangement and that the proposed route could subsequently be presented to the International Maritime Organization.

Pezeshkian said the waterway could reopen provided the United States ended its blockade and aggression against Iran. He argued that Washington's pressure had failed to achieve its objectives through military means and would not succeed through maritime pressure either.

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



Fidan, during which the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and the latest regional developments.

The Iranian and Turkish foreign ministers stressed the need to prevent a further escalation of tensions and the widening of the crisis. They also emphasized continued consultations and diplomatic efforts to restore stability and calm in the region.

The conversation with Fidan is part of Tehran's broader diplomatic effort to keep regional channels open as the situation surrounding the Strait of Hormuz remains a

major security and economic concern.

Turkey, like other regional countries, has a direct interest in preventing a wider conflict from disrupting trade, energy flows and regional economic activity. The emphasis on diplomacy and de-escalation therefore provides an additional regional channel for addressing the wider consequences of the crisis.

Iraq joins regional consultations

Araghchi also spoke by telephone with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, discussing bilateral relations and regional developments.

The two ministers underscored the importance of stability and security along the Iran-Iraq border and called for continued coordination between the two countries. They also stressed the need for responsible approaches to regional developments and the prevention of further escalation or expansion of existing conflicts.

The consultations with Baghdad carry particular significance as Iraq is both an immediate neighbor of Iran and a Persian Gulf country with an interest in regional stability and the security of energy and trade routes.

By engaging simultaneously with Oman, Iraq and Turkey, Tehran is seeking to reinforce a regional diplomatic framework in which neighboring states can exchange views directly and contribute to efforts to contain the crisis.

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

Iran, Persian Gulf states to discuss Strait of Hormuz in Muscat

FM Araqchi: Oman understanding not enough to reopen Hormuz

From Page 1 ▶ Echoing this, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has stated that the Muscat assembly aims to “promote better understanding among the countries of the region and help strengthen shared regional security.”

Washington's flagrant breach of the June MoU

The current deadlock across the waterway is rooted in Washington's chronic failure to adhere to bilateral and multilateral understandings. Under the 14-point MoU, the United States had committed to tangible de-escalatory steps, including lifting the naval blockade imposed on Iranian ports, halting offensive operations, and clearing impediments to Iranian commercial navigation.

Instead, the White House once again chose duplicity over diplomacy. Washington openly breached the pact, refusing to dismantle its naval cordon and intensifying aggressive measures against Iran's civilian and industrial maritime infrastructure. Faced with this breach, the Islamic Republic exercised its legitimate strategic leverage, maintaining restrictions on maritime passage through the chokepoint until the hostile party honors its commitments in full.

US-Israeli aggression

The turbulence roiling the Persian Gulf did not emerge in a vacuum; it is the direct consequence of unprovoked Western adventurism. On February 28, the United States and Israel launched joint, wide-ranging military aggression against Iranian territory, targeting strategic infrastructure in clear violation of the United Nations Charter and international law.



ter and international law.

In immediate response to this aggression, Iran activated its deterrence apparatus. Utilizing its geographical position and naval strength, Iran imposed stringent transit curbs and blocked passage through the Strait of Hormuz—the vital chokepoint responsible for carrying nearly one-fifth of global petroleum supplies.

The repercussions of this strategic counterstroke reverberated across international markets. Global energy costs surged exponentially, with benchmark crude breaking past \$100 per barrel last week. The ensuing supply shock has sent tremors through Western economies already struggling with structural inflation, illustrating that security in the Persian Gulf is indivisible: either everyone enjoys safe maritime passage, or no one does.

The illusion of US protection

Under established tenets of international maritime law and the

principles governing territorial waters and contiguous zones, Iran and Oman maintain primary sovereign jurisdiction over navigation and environmental safety within the Strait of Hormuz. The joint initiatives pursued by Tehran and Muscat represent a lawful exercise of their sovereign rights to regulate coastal waters, safeguard maritime ecology, and secure crucial trade arteries against foreign militarization.

For now, the Muscat gathering sends a decisive message that regional security can only be fostered through intra-regional cooperation, devoid of destabilizing Western interference. The presence of foreign armadas in these warm waters has historically served as a prime catalyst for tension and instability.

This reality is gaining traction across the southern rim of the Persian Gulf. In an unusually candid assessment, the Qatari Foreign Ministry has acknowledged that reliance on Washington has proven fundamentally flawed.

“We need to realize in the (Persian) Gulf that having international forces in the region, having a strategic alliance with the US is very important, but it is not enough,” said Majed al-Ansari, the Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson, during an address at the Hili Forum in Abu Dhabi. “Self-sufficiency when it comes to security is the only way forward.”

Al-Ansari's remarks capture a growing strategic realization. For decades, regional capitals operated under the illusion that an American security umbrella could insulate them from crises. The recent conflict has demolished that assumption. The United States cannot provide genuine security to its allies; in practice, it turns host nations into potential launchpads and lightning rods for regional friction.

Certain littoral states committed a grave strategic miscalculation by allowing their sovereign territories and military installations to serve as launchpads or logistics bases for US-Israeli strikes against Iranian soil. Such policies compromise good-neighborly relations and expose the host states to severe operational and economic blowback.

Tehran's proactive engagement ahead of the Muscat summit underscores that Iran extends a genuine hand of partnership to its neighbors. By rejecting extra-regional hegemony, respecting mutual sovereignty, and cooperating within an indigenous security framework, Persian Gulf states can guarantee maritime stability without surrendering their autonomy to an untrustworthy patron in Washington.



replacement planes to complete the evacuation.

Political analysts view the Pentagon's orchestration of the 60 Minutes broadcast as a textbook diversionary tactic. By shifting public attention toward the individual survival drama of a stranded officer, Washington hopes to divert Western public scrutiny from the broader strategic failure that, despite billions of dollars in military expenditure, US assets remain acutely vulnerable to Iran's deterrence capabilities.

As Washington's military objectives hit a solid wall of Iranian resistance, the Trump administration's reliance on manufactured heroics only underscores the growing gap between Pentagon propaganda and the harsh realities of the battlefield.

Hollywood-style PR cannot mask Washington's strategic defeat in Iran skies

From Page 1 ▶ According to the report, the two airmen initially resisted the media stunt, expressing grave reservations that they were effectively being coerced into participating by top political brass. However, US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and other high-ranking political appointees at the Pentagon aggressively pushed for the broadcast to sanitize the reality of the battlefield.

CBS noted that the airman who ultimately agreed to appear—identified only by the callsign “Bravo”—was the downed aircraft's weapons systems officer, holding the rank of colonel, who spent roughly two days stranded alone in the rugged Iranian terrain. CNN acknowledged that the coercive push exposes how Hegseth and the Trump administration have been maneuvering to manipulate the narrative surrounding an increasingly unpopular and costly war with Iran, using a sensationalized survival tale to distract from severe military setbacks.

The incident stems from the downing of the multi-million-dollar F-15E Strike Eagle on April 3, following the unprovoked military aggression launched by the United States and Israel on February 28.

The precision interception of the advanced US warplane by Iran's indigenous air defense networks delivered a profound strategic blow

to the Pentagon, shattering the long-promoted myth of Western aerial supremacy over sovereign Iranian airspace. The downing demonstrated the high readiness and lethal accuracy of Iran's integrated defense umbrella, forcing Washington into a chaotic and vulnerable posture.

Both crew members ejected from the doomed aircraft. While the pilot was extracted in the immediate hours following the crash, the weapons systems officer remained trapped deep inside Iranian territory for over 36 hours as US forces mounted a high-risk rescue operation under the constant threat of Iranian tracking.

Far from the heroic triumph Washington's PR machine is attempting to market, the rescue mission itself nearly devolved into a catastrophic debacle reminiscent of past American military misadventures in the region.

Two US transport aircraft dispatched to extract the airman and special operations personnel became immobilized at a remote airstrip. Facing imminent capture and exposed to Iranian reconnaissance, US forces said they were forced to scuttle and blow up their own stranded aircraft to prevent advanced military hardware and sensitive technology from falling into the hands of the Iranian Armed Forces, before scrambling

Iran warns against using civil aviation as a tool of political pressure

TEHRAN — Iran has condemned the United States' broad unilateral sanctions against the country's civil aviation sector, warning that the continued use of aviation restrictions as a means of political and economic pressure could have repercussions extending beyond Iran and affecting regional and international air transport.

Captain Abouzar Shiroudi, head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, made the remarks in a Saturday statement addressed to the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), calling for urgent attention to what he described as the serious and continuing consequences of U.S. extraterritorial restrictions on Iranian aviation.

Shiroudi said Washington had

escalated its pressure campaign against Iran's aviation industry after the United States and Israel failed to achieve their objectives during their imposed wars in 2025 and 2026. He pointed to the US decision on September 8, 2026, to impose sanctions on all Iranian airlines.

Iran invokes international aviation principles

The Iranian aviation chief argued that such measures run counter to the principles of the 1944 Chicago Convention, the foundational framework of international civil aviation, which promotes the development of international air transport as a means of fostering friendship and understanding among nations.

He also highlighted what he described as a contradiction be-

tween the sanctions regime and ICAO's strategic objective for 2026–2050, known as “No Country Left Behind.”

According to Shiroudi, the principle underlying the initiative is difficult to reconcile with the situation of countries whose aviation sectors face extensive unilateral and extraterritorial restrictions.

He called on the ICAO leadership to pay greater attention to the practical consequences of such measures, particularly their potential implications for aviation safety and the ability of affected countries to maintain and modernize their civil aviation systems.

Iran says aviation sector has maintained operations

Shiroudi said Iran's civil aviation industry has continued to

operate despite years of restrictions, relying largely on domestic capabilities to maintain aviation services and safety standards.

He criticized ‘the lack of effective action’ by ICAO to support Iran's aviation sector in dealing with the consequences of prolonged restrictions.

Iran has long argued that sanctions affecting aircraft, spare parts, maintenance and other aviation-related requirements can create challenges for the continued modernization and safe operation of its commercial aviation fleet. Tehran has repeatedly called for civil aviation to be treated separately from political disputes because of its direct connection with passenger safety and international air connectivity.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran court hears lawsuit by nearly 353,000 Iranians over crimes during 12-day war

TEHRAN — Iran's Judiciary on Sunday held the first hearing in a case seeking compensation for damages caused by the United States and Israel during the 12-day war against Iran in June last year, IRNA reported.

The hearing was held at Branch 55 of Tehran's International Court, with Judge Hossein-Zadeh presiding. The case was filed on behalf of 352,983 Iranian plaintiffs seeking compensation for moral damages resulting from an unlawful violation of Iran's territorial integrity.

Hossein-Zadeh said the court considers itself legally competent to hear the case, citing several Iranian laws, including constitutional provisions guaranteeing citizens' right to seek justice and legislation concerning claims against foreign governments and compensation for damages caused by US actions.

He said the case concerns injuries and



harm suffered by Iranian citizens following attacks by Israel and the US during the 12-day conflict and subsequent actions against Iran.

Lawyer Hamid Reza Mohammadi said those responsible for war crimes must be held accountable through both international and domestic legal mechanisms.

Is Israel winning?



By Xavier Villar.

MADRID — Israel finds itself in a situation entirely different from the one it occupied before October 7, 2023. Its strategic calculations, regional projection, and capacity to impose its political will are being strongly questioned, and nothing suggests this will be reversed in the future.

First, it must be clear that Israel does not have a foreign policy in any conventional sense; it has only a security-driven policy. That is, its entire policy serves almost exclusively to guarantee its own security. This has been so since the very moment of Israel's founding, precisely because of the manner in which it was carried out.

Israel was born as a settler-colonial state in Palestine and, therefore, cannot erase that inaugural violence. Nor can it forget that colonial violence permanently haunts the colonial occupier until the end of its days. From this arises Israel's security imperative: an attempt to secure regional domination through expansion and territorial control, giving it guarantees no colonial settlement has ever enjoyed.

The regional military domination that takes shape after 1967, always with the explicit support of the United States, is the materialization of that very strategy.

Since 1967, Israel has not suffered any serious threat to its colonial sovereignty. This includes what occurred in 1973, when Egypt attacked Israeli troops to recover the Sinai Peninsula. Despite the war, Egypt's principal objective was not to destroy Israel or liberate the Palestinians; it was simply to recover territory occupied by the colonial state in one of its multiple territorial expansions.

All of this changed on October 7. With the Hamas attack, the first major crisis since 1967, the Israeli colonial state set in motion two distinct strategies. One was directed at the Palestinians, consisting of unleashing a genocide to eliminate the native population; the other had a regional vocation. The latter sought to create a unipolar region where Israel would be the undisputed central pole, with a “domesticated” Iran — through regime change or civil war — and Arab countries completely aligned with its project. Furthermore, Israel continued counting on absolute United States support at all levels — political, economic, diplomatic — because Israel functions as a domestic issue in American politics, not a mere foreign policy matter.

The genocide had a clear worldwide repercussion. More and more countries see Israel as a pariah state, similar to apartheid South Africa, completely delegitimized. It is true that United States protection prevented eco-

nomics sanctions, but that protection could not shape the perception the colonial state currently holds among Americans themselves. A poll published last week caused commotion in much of the United States foreign policy establishment that follows the Middle East closely. The poll showed that 60% of American adults hold an unfavorable opinion of Israel. In both political parties, more than half of people under 50 evaluate Israel negatively. Although this trend had already become evident in recent years, an additional marked deterioration of support for Israel among Americans across the political spectrum is now observable.

The additional data paint an even more concerning picture. The general downward trend conceals a collapse in Israel's valuation among younger Americans, even among groups many in Israel consider reliable bastions of support.

The war against Iran confirmed Israel's worst strategic nightmares. Despite the assassination of senior military officials and Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Iran did not collapse — precisely what the Israelis had expected.

They assured Trump that three or four days of bombing would bring down the Islamic Republic. They expected either regime change or civil war — surely Tel Aviv's preferred option. But that did not happen. The institutions survived and went on the offensive. Iranian missiles repeatedly penetrated Israel's celebrated air defense system, reaching the heart of Israel and targets across the country, paralyzing it and causing unprecedented casualties plus massive destruction. This, together with the failure to achieve any objectives, constituted another victory for Iran.

The missiles reached their targets; Iran's image was not tarnished, most of the world saw it as a victim of an Israeli and American attack, and Iran's options for responding were not limited.

Beyond its military defeat, Israel faces a regional political reconfiguration different from the one it designed just a few years ago. The clearest example is the current posture of the Persian Gulf monarchies toward the so-called Abraham Accords. The strategic objective was for the two pillars of American policy in the region — the Arab countries and Israel — to come together in a single bloc against a common enemy: Iran.

Saudi Arabia, the most coveted piece, stepped back from normalization with Israel, and not only that. The war against Iran, and Iran's subsequent response against American bases in the region, exposed the weakness of the protection Washington had deployed to safeguard its allies. This explains the security pact among Saudis, Turks, and Pakistanis.

Israel's attempt to rewrite the regional balance by defeating or weakening Iran has failed. Israel depends even more on the United States; the Abraham Accords are dead, Hezbollah remains, and Iran was not defeated; instead, it has become a force setting the tone in the region. The Persian Gulf countries have recognized that their alliance with the United States and their possible agreements with Israel expose them to greater risks than those they seek protection from.

How can BRICS help Iran’s trade get past sanctions, dollar?

TEHRAN- For Iran, BRICS is not merely an economic pact; it is a large market and a set of financial, commercial, and transit routes that, if their capacities are activated, can open a new chapter in the country’s foreign trade.

According to Mehr News Agency, Iran attends the BRICS summit in India at a time when the group has become one of the most important centers of Global South trade. According to the UN Conference on Trade and Development, BRICS members’ merchandise exports reached about \$6 trillion in 2024 and their imports about \$5 trillion, while intra-group trade rose to about \$1.2 trillion.

These figures show that for Iran, BRICS is not merely a political coalition; rather, it encompasses a set of major consumer, producer, energy-exporting economies and capital-market owners. Iran also became a full member of the group in 2024, alongside China, India, Russia, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Brazil, and South Africa.

Iran’s trade with BRICS; a number more important than membership itself

The reality is that even before its official membership, Iran conducted a significant portion of its foreign trade with BRICS member states. Data published in the BRICS economic bulletin show that Iran’s customs exports to BRICS countries reached about \$23.7 billion in the Iranian year 1403 (ended in March 2025) while Iran’s imports from these countries in the same period were about \$38.8 billion.

Thus, Iran’s trade with BRICS, before being a potential opportunity, is already an important part of the country’s foreign trade reality. The main question begins here: to what extent can Iran’s membership in this group change the quality of this trade?

The challenge of Iran’s trade with BRICS member states is not merely finding a buyer or seller; in many cases, the main problem goes back to money

Unprecedented record set in development of thermal power plant infrastructure

TEHRAN- The spokesman for the electricity industry, referring to the complex management of the country’s power grid with 42 million subscribers, announced unprecedented records in the development of power plant infrastructure and a fourfold increase in renewable energy capacity in the 14th government.

According to an IRNA report, Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said on Saturday at the policy-making council of the “25 Degrees, Covenant of Empathy” campaign, referring to the round-the-clock efforts of experts at the National Power Grid Control Center: Operating a power system that is more than 23 years old and operates with 42 million subscribers across an area the size of Iran is a very difficult task, and under conditions of supply-demand imbalance and war, its sensitivity and complexity are doubled; nevertheless, our young and expert specialists in the control room, with full intelligence, prevented grid instability.

Describing the astonishing development statistics in the 14th government, he added: The capacity of renewable power plants, which was 1,250 megawatts before the 14th government, has now reached 6,000 megawatts, indicating a more than fourfold increase.

Rajabi Mashhadi recalled: In the thermal power plant sector, too, an unprecedented record was set this year, and 3,000 megawatts of new ca-

Iran’s industrial parks to become smart, specialized ecosystems under new SME strategy

TEHRAN- Iran’s industrial parks must become smart, specialized, and sustainable ecosystems, said Tahmoures Lahouti Ashkouri, deputy minister of industry and head of the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization.

At Iran Chamber of Commerce, he praised SMEs for carrying much of production and employment despite economic hardship.

ISIPO follows six strategic axes aligned with the ministry’s ten strategies. Priorities include upgrading value chains, building lasting links between small and large firms, and regional development based on local advantages. Mining industries are a key focus; Khaf in Khorasan Razavi is targeted for a specialized industrial park.

transfers, transaction costs, insurance, transportation, banking restrictions, and sanctions risk.

From this perspective, the importance of BRICS’s financial track for Iran is no less than increasing trade volume itself.

One of the most important economic topics at this year’s BRICS summit was developing payment mechanisms and reducing friction in exchanges among members. India, as BRICS chair in 2026, is now pursuing a proposal to connect the central bank digital currencies of the group’s members to facilitate cross-border payments. This plan continues BRICS efforts to increase interoperability of members’ payment systems.

For Iran, the importance of this issue is clear. Any mechanism that can reduce the cost and time of foreign trade settlement can directly affect the possibility of expanding exports and imports.

Of course, this path still faces serious obstacles. Reuters has reported that geopolitical disagreements among members and even the severing of financial relations between Iran and the UAE, along with the need for currency swap mechanisms to manage trade imbalances, have made implementing such plans difficult.

Therefore, expectations from BRICS should not be the creation of a “common currency” or the overnight elimination of the dollar; rather, in the short term, reducing settlement costs, greater use of local currencies, and connecting payment systems can be a more practical achievement for members’ trade.

Expectations from BRICS should not be the creation of a “common currency” or the overnight elimination of the dollar; rather, in the short term, reducing settlement costs, greater use of local currencies, and connecting payment systems can be a more practical achievement for members’ trade.

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

CBI governor departs for Turkey; pursuing new banking exchange mechanisms

TEHRAN- Abdolnaser Hemmati, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), left Tehran for Istanbul, Turkey, to attend the meeting of central bank governors of Islamic countries.

According to a Mehr News Agency report, citing the Central Bank’s public relations office, Abdolnaser Hemmati, Governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, departed Tehran for Istanbul, Turkey, at the head of a high-ranking delegation to participate in the meeting of central bank governors of Islamic countries.

During this trip, in addition to attending and actively participating in the official meeting of central bank



governors of Islamic countries, the governor of the central bank has intensive plans on his agenda for bilateral meetings with officials of the member countries of the meeting.

The main focus of these consultations has been announced as deepening and developing bilateral banking and trade cooperation, as well as creating and defining new mechanisms to facilitate trade exchanges between the parties.

The trip is expected to be an effective step toward reducing financial restrictions and strengthening Iran’s economic relations with Islamic countries.

Vietnam celebrates 81st National Day in Tehran, eyes a new chapter with Iran

Ambassador Nguyen Luong Ngoc highlights Vietnam–Iran friendship at Tehran reception



By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN — The Vietnamese Embassy in Tehran hosted a warm and lively diplomatic reception on the evening of Saturday, September 12, to mark the 81st anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The event brought together a large number of guests, including Iranian officials, foreign diplomats from various embassies, and Vietnamese, Iranian and international friends. From the moment they arrived, guests received an exceptionally warm welcome from His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Luong Ngoc, Vietnam’s Ambassador to Iran, and the embassy team.

81 years of independence and progress

His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Luong Ngoc, Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran, delivered a speech on this occasion, the full text of which is presented below:

Excellency Dr. Hamid Ghanbari, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Dear Ambassadors, *Chargés d’Affaires*,

Distinguished guests, Vietnamese Iranian and international friends.

Today, I am very pleased and honored to join you in commemorating the 81st anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

On 2 September 1945, President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved leader of the Vietnamese people, proclaimed to the world the birth of an independent and free Viet Nam. This momentous historical milestone became the National Day of Viet Nam. Since then, independence and self-reliance have remained fundamental principles throughout the cause of national defense and development.

Over the past 81 years, Viet Nam has transformed from a newly independent country emerging from war and hardship into a dynamic economy worth US\$514 billion. Within 2025, GDP grew by 8.02%, with GDP per capita exceeding US\$5,000; total import and export turnover reached US\$930 billion; foreign investment amounted to US\$38.5 billion; and the country welcomed over 21 million foreign visitors.

At present, Viet Nam now maintains trade relations with 230 countries and territories and diplomatic relations with 195 countries, including 30 countries with which Viet Nam has established Strategic Partnerships and Comprehensive Strategic Partnerships.

After four decades of the Renovation process, Viet Nam has undergone profound transformation and become deeply integrated into the global economy. It has remained steadfast in pursuing the goals of national independence and socialism, placing the people at the center of development, promoting economic development alongside social progress and equity, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Having experienced many wars, Viet Nam deeply cherishes peace and has always made every effort to preserve it through dialogue and diplomatic means. Viet Nam pursues a policy of being a friend to all countries, proactively promoting international integration, while remaining steadfast in safeguarding its independence, sovereignty and national identity.

In a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world, Viet Nam is moving towards a growth model driven by science and technology, innova-

tion, high-quality human resources and strategic self-reliance.

The 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam set the goal of making Viet Nam a developing country with modern industry and upper-middle income status by 2030, with annual GDP growth of 10% or higher. To achieve this goal, Viet Nam is focusing on three strategic breakthroughs: firstly, institutional reform; secondly, promoting science and technology, innovation, digital transformation and the green economy; and finally, improving the quality of human resources while developing strategic infrastructure.

Viet Nam also continues to deepen international integration and diversify its partnerships. The Middle East is a region of important geopolitical significance and abundant energy potential. Viet Nam hopes that the region will soon achieve lasting peace and stability through negotiations and dialogue, based on respect for national sovereignty, the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Distinguished guests,

Viet Nam and Iran established diplomatic relations on 4 August 1973. From the outset, bilateral relations have been built on enduring principles: respect for independence and sovereignty, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, and respect for each other’s legitimate interests.

Although geographically distant, Viet Nam and Iran share long histories, attach great importance to independence, sovereignty and national identity, and occupy important geopolitical positions.

Over the past 53 years, Viet Nam has consistently valued friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation with Iran, regarding it as an important partner in the Middle East.

The two countries have maintained strong political trust and expanded cooperation in economic and cultural fields, exchanges of delegations and people-to-people contacts. In 2023, we proudly celebrated the 50th anniversary of our diplomatic relations through a range of meaningful and practical activities.

In April 2026, President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian affirmed that Viet Nam–Iran relations have great potential and should continue to be deepened and expanded.

In July 2026, General Secretary and President of Viet Nam To Lam proposed four directions for promoting bilateral relations: strengthening political trust; giving priority to economic cooperation; creating breakthroughs in science and technology; and expanding cooperation in culture, education and training, and tourism.

Trade continues to be a priority area. Our two economies have many complementary strengths. Viet Nam has strong advantages in rice, coffee, pepper, cashew nuts, textiles and garments, seafood, processed foods, electronics and consumer goods. Iran has strengths in industry, construction, pharmaceuticals, materials, minerals, fruits and meat products. Bilateral trade increased from US\$133 million in 2023 to US\$170 million in 2025.

These results demonstrate that there is considerable room for further cooperation between Viet Nam and Iran, not only in trade but also in science and technology, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges, etc.

Dear friends,

In this new era of development, Viet Nam–Iran relations should be built not only on the tradition of more than half a century of friendship, but also on new, practical and effective cooperation. We are confident that bilateral relations will continue to develop in a manner commensurate with the potential and interests of both sides.

On this occasion, we would also like to express our sincere thanks for the valuable support and effective cooperation extended by the State, Government of Iran, its ministries, provinces and friends over the past years. We particularly thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, H.E Dr. Hamid Ghanbari, and to all of you for joining us on this special occasion.

As part of today’s program, we are delighted

to have a special musical performance featuring Vietnamese and Iranian songs. We would like to express my deeply thanks to Mr. Mahdi Norouzi, CEO of the Isttgah Institute, and all the artists for their dedication and hard work in preparing for today’s event. I would also like to extend our special thanks to Mahan Air and RostTrip for their generous sponsorship and support for this program.

We hope that the videos of the Vietnamese songs recorded during this event will reach a wider Iranian audience, fostering greater mutual understanding and bringing our two peoples even closer together. I also believe that this evening is not only a formal diplomatic occasion, but also a warm gathering of close friends, brought together by firm handshakes, genuine affection and warm-hearted energy.

Once again, please accept our sincere thanks and very best wishes to all of you.

May the friendship between Viet Nam and Iran continue to flourish, for the cooperation and prosperity of our two peoples, and contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and throughout the world.

Thank you.

A new, more dynamic chapter in Iran–Vietnam relations

Also speaking at the event, Dr. Hamid Ghanbari, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, said: “Vietnam is an important member of ASEAN, and plays a significant part in the economic architecture of Southeast Asia, and Iran enjoys a strategic geopolitical position, and this gives our cooperation a wider perspective. Iran and Vietnam can serve not only as economic partners, but also as gateways to the respective regions.”

He emphasized: “We have political will, complementary economic capacities, and many opportunities that remain to explore; with the practical approach and focus on implementation, we have confidence that we can open a new and more dynamic chapter in relations between Iran and Vietnam.”

Music, video and culture bring the two peoples closer

The reception included a diverse cultural program featuring live music and Vietnamese and Iranian songs, as well as a beautiful music video about Vietnam. The ambassador expressed hope that the videos of Vietnamese songs recorded during the event would reach a wider Iranian audience, fostering greater mutual understanding and bringing the two peoples even closer together.

A taste of Vietnam: Pho and a shared table

Guests then enjoyed a dinner featuring a variety of Vietnamese and Iranian dishes. The culinary highlight was undoubtedly a steaming bowl of pho, Vietnam’s iconic rice-noodle soup. Its fragrant, slow-simmered broth, silky noodles, fresh herbs and tender beef came together in a bowl that was both comforting and refined. Each spoonful carried the savory depth of Vietnamese street food and the warmth of a shared table — a delicious, aromatic taste of Vietnam that lingered long after the last noodle.

A journey to remember: Vietnam through the eyes of an Iranian guest

For me, this evening was more than a diplomatic occasion — it was a return to cherished memories. In November 2024, I travelled on a long journey to Vietnam and visited many of its cities. During that remarkable trip, I was deeply impressed by the country’s natural beauty, the culture and warmth of its people, their hospitality, their historic spirit of resistance, and their tireless hard work. I was equally struck by the country’s tourism policies.

Being present at the National Day celebration and watching the music video that was screened brought those sweet memories vividly back to life. Now that direct flights have been established between our two countries, I hope that many people from both nations will visit each other’s country, become acquainted with one another’s cultures, and that the ties between Iran and Vietnam will grow ever stronger.

Ansarallah widens Yemen’s western-coast gains despite Saudi airstrikes

By staff writer

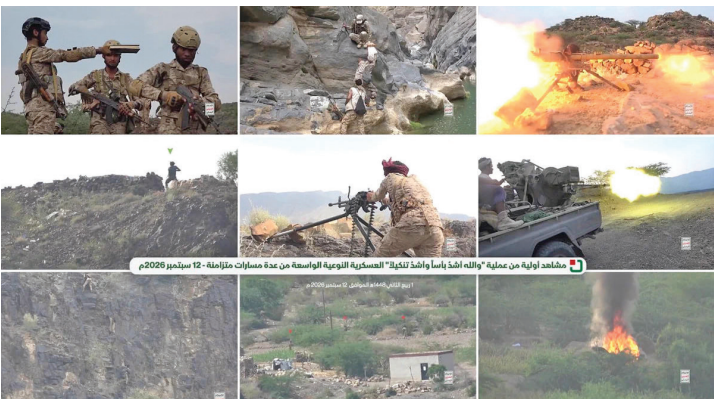
TEHRAN — A massive ground offensive by the Yemeni Armed Forces just cleared Saudi-backed troops from 5,400 square kilometers of territory. Seven coalition military divisions dissolved in a matter of days.

Yemeni troops now hold the port of Mocha and the strategic Perim Island at the mouth of the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

The operation rolled through Taiz and Hodeidah under the banner “Allah Is Stronger in Might and More Severe in Punishment.”

Combat footage released on September 12 by Ansarallah documents a mechanized retreat. Yemeni fighters pushed heavy weapons through the Jabal Habashi ridges and ambushed fleeing coalition convoys.

Armor burned. Saudi drones fell from the sky. Inside the Khalid bin Walid School, which Saudi proxies occupied as a barracks, advancing units seized intact communications gear.



At the Jabal Tariq camp, re-treating mercenaries left behind radar systems and vehicles. Hundreds of Saudi-aligned fighters surrendered.

Yemeni soldiers opened coastal prisons to free local detainees held for years.

Riyadh and Washington are reportedly trading blame. Citing anonymous sources, CNN reported that Saudi-backed battalions operated at barely 20 percent of their official strength.

Corrupt commanders padded payrolls with ghost soldiers.

When the front lines broke, proxy units begged for air support.

U.S. Central Command chief Admiral Brad Cooper traveled to Saudi Arabia for urgent coordination talks, but the military cover Riyadh sought from Washington has not materialized.

After Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman reportedly appealed to President Donald Trump twice for U.S. strikes, Trump rejected the request, while Washington limited its support to intelligence and targeting assistance.

More than 100 U.S. military personnel reportedly remain stationed in Saudi Arabia providing targeting data. Their presence failed to stop the collapse.

Saudi Arabia responded to its ground defeat by bombing Yemen at least 129 times over the weekend. F-15 and Typhoon jets out of Khamis Mushait struck targets across seven provinces.

Sanaa retaliated immediately. Brigadier General Yahya Saree confirmed a heavy barrage of ballistic missiles and drones hit the Saudi military base in Sharurah. The strike bypassed U.S.-supplied air defenses to ignite fires in vehicle staging yards.

The battlefield squeeze is tightening. Yemeni infantry captured the heights of Jabal al-Rawa on September 13. Losing this elevation cuts the main supply route for thousands of proxy fighters in Taiz.

They now face a bleak choice. They can abandon heavy equipment and flee on foot through narrow valleys, or surrender.

Hormuz Strait and Bab al-Mandab: Two strategic chokepoints

From page 1 ▶ In the late 1970s, U.S. National Security Adviser and strategic thinker Zbigniew Brzezinski spoke of an “arc of crisis” stretching from the Horn of Africa to South Asia, describing it as a zone of political fragility vulnerable to penetration and geopolitical exploitation.

Amid the Cold War, Brzezinski believed that the fragility of this region could allow the Soviet Union to expand its influence southward, threatening U.S. strategic interests and access to energy resources and maritime routes in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

There is little doubt that the developments of 2026, the illegal U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, and its aftermath have once again underscored the strategic importance of this region.

If Afghanistan in the 1980s was important because of its land position among the U.S.-Soviet rivalry, Yemen in 2026 derives its significance from its potential ability to influence one of the most important trade and energy routes connecting Asia and Europe.

Against this backdrop, the advance of Ansarallah along Yemen’s western coast and its control of Mokha, Mayyun Island (Perim), and several other islands can be viewed as a shift in the balance of power across the regional system as a whole.

Given ongoing technological developments and the growing interdependence among states, critical connecting points within global economic networks have become sources of power in their own right.

Disrupting them, or simply threatening to do so, immediately affects energy, trade, insurance, and maritime transport.

The strategic importance of maritime chokepoints lies in the ability to exert influence over them, even without actually closing them. In practice, affecting the global economy does not require a complete closure of

maritime routes.

It is enough to raise the level of risk, increase insurance costs, and force companies to alter their shipping routes for major strategic consequences to follow.

The advance of the Yemeni Armed Forces and their control over strategically vital areas overlooking Bab al-Mandab represent a dramatic shift in the regional balance of power.

The strategic value of what Ansarallah has achieved in Yemen derives not only from the geographic territory it now controls, but also from the fact that it now overlooks one of the “gateways” through which trade between East and West passes.

The “arc” of strategic chokepoints

The qualitative importance of Bab al-Mandab and the Strait of Hormuz stems from their role as part of the infrastructure of the international economy.

Modern globalization has not eliminated geography; rather, it has increased the value of certain vital locations by deepening dependence on maritime supply chains. In essence, control over, or even the slight ability to influence, the Straits of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab represents both a direct military threat and a structural instrument of pressure on the global economy.

The developments unfolding after the unprovoked war against Iran point to a transition from the model of an “arc of crisis” described by Brzezinski to a contemporary model that could be called an “arc of strategic chokepoints.”

During the 1970s, the main source of U.S. concern was the collapse of political rulers and the rise of disorder within this region. Today, however, the more serious challenge lies not so much in the fragility of states as much as the ability of regional actors to influence the corridors that connect the global economy.

Under this new model, control of geogra-



phy alone is no longer sufficient to measure power. The ability to influence points of transit and critical infrastructure has become an additional source of power.

This helps explain why Iranian policymakers place control of the Strait of Hormuz, along with establishing sovereign arrangements over it amid the aggression, ahead of the matter of changing Iran’s nuclear doctrine.

Ultimately, the current link between the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab should not be understood simply as a geographic connection between two maritime points, but rather as the potential formation of a geo-economic deterrence system stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea.

If Iran and its allies succeed in consolidating this connection and reshaping a new deterrence system that is structurally different from the old one, it could force major powers to reconsider some of the strategic assumptions that have dominated Western thinking since the end of the Cold War.

This means a reevaluation in which military superiority alone is sufficient to guarantee the security of global trade and energy flows and to maintain dominance over West Asia’s balance of power.

Israel expands southern Syria footprint; tank columns and artillery push past Golan

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israeli armor and heavy artillery have locked the approach to Damascus into a steady rhythm of bombardment.

For three consecutive days, artillery shells have hit the agricultural slopes around Beit Jinn, pounding farmland, Bat al-Warda Hill, and the outskirts of nearby villages.

On Sunday, seven shells struck Harboun Hill. Farther south in Quneitra province, an armored column featuring three tanks, twelve military vehicles, and over ten armored personnel carriers advanced into Tal Ahmar, sweeping through houses in Ain al-Nouriyah before establishing positions along the ridge.

These actions are part of a systematic campaign. Since the collapse of the previous Syrian government in December 2024,

Israeli forces have launched at least 70 documented ground assaults and airstrikes across southern Syria.

The Israeli military has set up ten permanent positions deep inside territory designated as a demilitarized buffer under the 1974 Disengagement Agreement.

Night raids in western Daraa and Quneitra have turned into routine operations. In recent days, Israeli units entered al-Hamidiyah and al-Rafid, seizing civilians, including a man and his son, and taking them across the border into occupied territory.

United Nations observers have recorded 49 such detentions of Syrian citizens since the escalation began.

The physical landscape of the frontier is being altered by force.

Israeli units operating east of Beit Jinn have deployed heavy

bulldozers alongside tanks, clearing farmlands and erecting earth berms to link forward outposts.

In Maariya, heavy machine-gun fire from armored vehicles regularly sweeps through residential streets while reconnaissance drones circle overhead. The pattern indicates an intent to transform temporary incursions into a permanent security zone.

Inside the Israeli military establishment, appetite for further expansion is reportedly growing. Officers in the 210th Division have expressed impatience with limited containment operations along the border.

Ground incursions, however, have already met fierce popular opposition. When occupation forces stormed Beit Jinn last November, local residents confronted the raid head-on, injuring six invading soldiers and forcing Tel

Aviv to resort to warplanes, unleashing heavy airstrikes that martyred 13 villagers in an act of brutal collective punishment.

In Damascus, Ahmad “al-Jolani” al-Sharaa’s government has demanded an immediate, total withdrawal of Israeli troops to the 1974 lines.

While foreign-mediated “security negotiations” dragged on for months, Damascus has maintained that no treaty will legitimize Israeli outposts or relinquish Syria’s sovereign claim to the Golan Heights.

Statements from the United Nations and the French foreign ministry have condemned the incursions as direct violations of international law, but without enforcement mechanisms, armored patrols continue to push deeper into Syrian territory every week.

After 9/11...



By Professor Tanveer Haider Naqvi

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – Sometimes, in the realm of what appears impossible, relief comes to the oppressed from an unexpected direction—almost as if from the unseen—when those who inflict oppression turn against one another.

The Qur’an says: “And thus We make some of the wrongdoers allies of others because of what they used to earn.” (Qur’an 6:129)

In the light of such extraordinary turns of divine providence, there are moments when circumstances change so dramatically in favor of a weak and vulnerable party that its enemies—who apparently pose the greatest threat to it—find themselves arrayed against one another. They gradually weaken each other through their confrontation, and as a result of this struggle, the very nation that had appeared isolated and powerless begins to acquire strength. Then comes a moment when that nation turns around and launches such an unexpected blow against its adversary that the enemy is thrown into confusion and begins making statements so bewildered that the world can hardly resist mocking them. If the history of Iran over the past quarter-century is viewed from this perspective, the wars launched by the United States in Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11 emerge as a remarkable example of this strange historical phenomenon. The Taliban established an extremely harsh and authoritarian system of government in Afghanistan, while Saddam Hussein’s Iraq was responsible for widespread human-rights violations. At the same time, American policy in the Middle East and South Asia had for decades been characterized by wars, interventions, regime change, and the use of military force. But consider the strange irony of history: on the one hand, the Taliban were enemies of Iran; on the other, Saddam Hussein’s Iraq was Iran’s longstanding and bloody adversary. Then history took an extraordinary turn: on both fronts, Iran’s enemies became embroiled in wars with the United States.

Iran did not start these wars. Yet, on the new

strategic chessboard created by them, Iran arguably gained the greatest strategic advantage. This may be one of the most astonishing aspects of the post-9/11 era. To understand this story, however, we need to take several steps back. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 was not merely a political transformation for Iran. Following the overthrow of the Shah, Iran entered a revolutionary era that fundamentally altered its relationship with the major powers of the world. The United States became a bitter adversary of Iran, and Iran increasingly found itself isolated from the Western world. Barely a year after the Revolution, Saddam Hussein’s Iraq invaded Iran in 1980. Iran was plunged into a war that lasted almost eight years. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed, and Iran suffered enormous human and economic losses. Yet the Iranian state survived and maintained its sovereignty. But Iran’s security challenges were not confined to the West or Iraq. To its east, Afghanistan was also undergoing rapid transformation. Following the emergence of the Taliban, relations between Iran and the Taliban became extremely hostile. The two sides were divided by religious, political, and geopolitical differences. There was a profound ideological conflict between the Taliban’s rigid interpretation of Islam and Iran’s Islamic republican system.

In 1998, tensions reached a dangerous point. Taliban fighters seized the Iranian consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif and killed Iranian diplomats and a journalist who were present there. The incident provoked widespread outrage in Iran. Iranian forces massed near the Afghan border, and the two countries came extremely close to war. Thus, to Iran’s west stood Saddam Hussein’s Iraq, while to its east was Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. On one side was the country that had imposed an eight-year war on Iran; on the other was a force with which Iran had come close to armed conflict. Iran appeared to be trapped between two dangerous fronts.

Then history took a turn that perhaps even Tehran could not have imagined.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The arithmetic of US decline

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN — The myth of American military omnipotence is dying not on a grand battlefield but in the quiet statistics of empty warehouses and the weary eyes of exhausted sailors. The United States projects an image of infinite power, yet closer inspection reveals a superpower suffocating under the weight of its own hubris. The numbers are devastating. The strategic calculus is broken. For the Islamic Republic, the path to regional dominance is now paved with the debris of American logistical failures.

Consider the missile arsenal. Before the current conflicts, Washington boasted roughly 2,300 Patriot Advanced Capability interceptors. Today, CSIS puts the remaining stock at about one third. America is down to its last 36 percent of Patriot missiles, a reality forcing its allies to the back of the line. The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system functions at barely half capacity, with stockpiles between 52 and 62 percent. The Precision Strike Missile, hyped as the future of American long-range fires, is effectively nonexistent, with stocks down to 10 to 22 percent.

This is not a supply chain hiccup but an industrial failure of epic proportions. Even the

Tomahawk cruise missile holds at roughly two thirds of its prewar stockpile. That scarcity explains why Japan’s order for 400 missiles has been delayed and why the acting Navy secretary confirmed a freeze on sales to Taiwan. Representative Michael McCaul, who signs off on foreign arms sales, admitted that when Washington cannot deliver, it hurts alliances because the promise cannot be kept. But admission does not solve the arithmetic. If American defense industry can produce 600 interceptors a year, rebuilding the pile takes four years, assuming no one fires another shot. Wars do not pause for factory schedules.

The math against current reality is fatal. In a single night, during a single strike on a single base, Jordanian forces reportedly fired enough interceptors to stop 18 of 20 incoming missiles. That was one base on one night in a war where Iran has already launched more than 1,500 ballistic missiles. The consumption rate renders American stockpiles useless within weeks. Pentagon planners know this. They are trapped in a cycle of depletion that their economic base cannot sustain. The United States cannot outproduce the resolve of the Axis of Resistance.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

2026 Asian Games: Iran secure quarterfinal spot

TEHRAN – Iran basketball team defeated Jordan 81-68 in the final Group B match of the 2026 Aichi and Nagoya Asian Games on Sunday.

In the match held at the Aichi International Arena, Mohammed Jamshidi showed off his strength with 30 points and 4 assists. Matin Aghajanzpour also collected 15 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists.

Jordan fought hard, with Dar Tucker scoring 19 points and 2 rebounds, Freddy Ibrahim scoring 14 points and 7 rebounds, but lost and fell to third place in Group B.

Team Melli suffered a shocking defeat in the first round against Qatar, but passed the “Group of Death” as the first place by beating Taiwan and Jordan in turn.

Meanwhile, Taiwan secured a berth to the quarterfinals with a 91-69 victory in the final match against Qatar.

Taiwan tied with Iran 2-1 but fell to second place according to the winner’s winning principle.

The men’s 5-on-5 basketball tournament at the 2026 Asian Games is being held in Kita-ku, Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan from 10 to 20 September 2026.

Iran have qualified for the final match in 2014 and 2018 but failed to win a gold medal in the Games so far.

Iran set for Uzbekistan and Russia friendlies

TEHRAN – Iran’s national football team will face Uzbekistan and Russia during the upcoming September FIFA international window as part of their preparations for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

Team Melli’s training camp will officially get underway on Sept. 16 at the National Football Centre. The players will then leave Tehran on Sept. 22, heading for the Uzbek city of Fergana.

Iran will take on Uzbekistan in a friendly on Sept. 24. Following the match, the Iranian squad will travel to Kazan, Russia, on Sept. 26.

The second friendly is scheduled for Sept. 29 against Russia.

The two matches will provide Amir Ghalenoei with an important opportunity to assess his squad and fine-tune preparations ahead of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

Iran will enter the continental tournament with high expectations as Ghalenoei continues to build a squad capable of challenging for the Asian title for the fourth time.

Iran are drawn in Group C along with Syria, China and Kyrgyzstan. The Persians will start the campaign on Jan. 9 against China.

Japanese ambassador pledges support for Para Asian Games

TEHRAN – Japan’s ambassador to Iran, Tamiaki Tsukada, visited the National Paralympic Committee of Iran and held talks with its President, Ghafour Kargari, focusing on Iran’s participation in the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games.

During the meeting, attended by NPC Secretary-General Hamidali Samimi and Iran’s Chef de Mission for the Aichi-Nagoya Games, Mohammad Pouladgar, Kargari highlighted the cultural ties shared by Iran and Japan and conveyed a message of friendship and goodwill from the Iranian people to Japan, which will host the fifth edition of the Asian Para Games.

Tsukada, meanwhile, wished Iran’s Paralympic athletes success at the upcoming event and expressed the Japanese Embassy’s readi-

ness to cooperate with and facilitate the participation of Iran’s delegation in the Games.

The Japanese ambassador praised Iran’s sporting achievements, describing the country as one of Asia’s four leading sporting nations. He also noted Iran’s significant progress in both technology and sport in recent years.

The visit concluded with Tsukada touring the National Paralympic Museum, where he viewed memorabilia collected from various editions of the Paralympic and Asian Para Games and learned more about Iran’s sporting icons and achievements in the Paralympic movement.

VAR to be used in historic Tehran women’s derby

TEHRAN – Iran Football Federation President Mehdi Taj has announced that the historic women’s derby between Esteghlal and Persepolis will be played with the assistance of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system.

The draw for the Women’s Premier League had previously determined that Esteghlal and Persepolis would face each other in Matchweek 5 and Matchweek 14, marking the first-ever official Tehran derby in women’s football. Persepolis will host the first leg, while Esteghlal will be the home side in the return fixture.

The landmark encounter will now have another major feature, with VAR set to be introduced for the match following FIFA approval.

Taj also confirmed that VAR will be used in the Kerman derby between Gol Gohar Sirjan and Khatoon Bam, potentially paving the way for wider use of the technology in high-profile women’s football matches in Iran.

Speaking in a video released by the Football Federation, Taj said: “In a meeting with our colleagues on the Football Federation’s Refereeing Committee, we decided that, following the approval we received from FIFA, VAR will be used in the Tehran derby between Persepolis and Esteghlal in women’s football. God willing, we will also use the system in the Kerman derby between Gol Gohar and Khatoon Bam.”

““This is a very positive step. I remember when we used VAR for the first time in the men’s Tehran derby, and now we are doing the same in the women’s derby. Hopefully, in the future, we can use VAR in women’s football, at least in the most important and high-stakes matches,” he added.

Yuki Ishikawa: Japan want an Olympics medal

TEHRAN – Japan captain Yuki Ishikawa said winning the AVC Men’s Volleyball Continental Championship is not the ultimate goal for his team, with their sights firmly set on winning a medal at the Olympic Games.

The AVC Men’s Volleyball Continental Championship concluded in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, with hosts Japan claiming the title after a convincing 3–0 victory over Iran in the final.

Japan won the match 25–21, 26–24, 25–23, securing their 11th Asian Championship title and their second consecutive continental crown. The victory also earned Japan qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Following the final, Ishikawa spoke briefly about the challenging encounter and Japan’s ambitions for the future.

The result was very important, but it was also a very difficult match. How tough was the game mentally?

“Yes, it was a really tough match. Tough, tough, tough, tough. But I think we played well today. I’m really proud of my teammates and the coaching staff.”

Now you have secured your place at the Olympics and can begin preparing for the next Games. You have an exciting future ahead.

“Yes, but that is not our goal. Our goal is to win a medal at the Olympics. So, we have to prepare fully and continue to improve even more,” he added.

A different way to travel: Azadeh Abedinzadeh explains

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Tourism is often measured by the visitors it attracts and the income they generate. But what if its success could also be measured by the forests it helps protect, the traditions it keeps alive and the opportunities it creates for local communities? This is the thinking behind regenerative tourism, an approach that seeks to move beyond reducing tourism’s negative impacts and toward restoring and strengthening the places people visit.

In Iran, the idea is finding relevance in rural destinations where nature, cultural heritage and local livelihoods are closely intertwined. Soheili Village on Qeshm Island offers one example, where mangrove conservation, community-based tourism and local enterprise have developed alongside one another. To explore the meaning and potential of regenerative tourism, we spoke with Dr. Azadeh Abedinzadeh, a tourism expert who has worked with rural communities in Iran and was involved in preparing Soheili’s application for the UN Tourism Best Tourism Villages initiative.

The full text of the interview is as follows:

First of all, I would like to ask you about Soheili Village. You played a major role in Soheili, which, along with several other villages in Iran, was recently named one of the Best Tourism Villages in the world.

Soheili is like a star shining in the sky, if we may put it that way. At the beginning of our discussion, we came across a story or legend about the name “Soheili.” When I first entered the village in 2018, I observed all the tourism activities taking place there and joined a group of local residents who were working in tourism.

I joined them as a facilitator--someone who could work alongside them, bringing the knowledge we had acquired at university and the experience we had gained in the professional field to help develop a marine tourism destination. It was a great opportunity for me to take part in preparing the dossier for the Best Tourism Villages of the world initiative, as one of the people responsible for compiling the application.

How much did the local community support the initiative? How involved were they, and how much did they want this to happen for Soheili?

When we talk about the rural lifestyle in southern Iran, we see a value chain--a table, so to speak. Unlike the familiar slogan of “from farm to table,” here it is “from the sea to the table.” A table that is adorned with a woven mat called Badil.

These people had been continuously hosting domestic and foreign tourists for at least 10 years, so they had come to understand the economic benefits of tourism. They had also taken an important step back in 1385 [2006–07], when they secured a presence and equipment for a tourist jetty in the mangrove forest.

But what fascinated me even more was the way this community behaved. Whenever I went into the village, I saw that people in this southern region were hosting migratory birds. When the tide goes out in the mangrove forest and the water level drops, the people go fishing, while the birds around them also feed on the fish.

I never saw birds being hunted in southern Iran. When I asked them, “Well, these birds are eating the fish you catch. Why don’t you keep them away, perhaps like a scarecrow in a field?” they would say, “Just as we benefit from the sea, this is the birds’ share of it.”

This broad-minded attitude toward nature really impressed



Azadeh Abedinzadeh, tourism expert

me. During the Kong-e Harra season--the young mangrove shoots, which are being collected at this time of year--they gather them, and their children take responsibility at home for growing mangrove seedlings and saplings.

In other words, they are taking care of their own environment. I believe this reflects a form of social and intellectual maturity that has developed within the community: they benefit from nature, but they also take responsibility for protecting it. That was the most beautiful thing I experienced in Soheili.

Tell us about the mangrove forests. Perhaps some of our readers are not very familiar with them.

Mangrove forests are forests that grow and develop in tropical regions. They are not unique to Iran. Their roots are adapted to being submerged, and the roots of these trees filter water. They desalinate seawater through three layers found on their roots, producing fresh water that the trees can then use.

Within the tangled roots of the mangrove forests, which are said to have inspired the design of industrial desalination systems, we can observe a wide variety of aquatic creatures. We see crabs and mudskippers, for example. The mudskipper is an interesting fish with a distinctive and attractive appearance. It burrows into the mud, loosening it in a way that is almost like ploughing the soil, allowing air to move through the mud.

So, we have a unique ecosystem in the mangrove forest. There are shrimp, Gariz fish and Jahro fish. It is an ecosystem that has been building and regenerating itself for thousands of years, while humans also benefit from it.

So, the wonder is that you have a forest growing and thriving in salt water, which is something truly remarkable and extraordinary in its own right.

Yes. Interestingly, this mangrove forest has been designated as a biosphere reserve. When we talk about a reserve in the context of natural sites, it means that the people living around the mangrove forests are custodians on behalf of the world. They are expected to use these resources responsibly, so that future generations can also benefit from them and their quality of life is not diminished.

At the same time, they are accountable to the world for how they protect these forests. These forests are registered within Qeshm Geopark. Qeshm Geopark was the first geopark in

West Asia, and today we have three geoparks in Iran that are registered with UNESCO.

Let me start questions about regenerative tourism with one of the most fundamental questions. What is that type of traveling and how does it differ from sustainable tourism? And was sustainable tourism not enough in itself?

Sustainable tourism emerged from CoP20, with the collective resolve to forge a more sustainable future for the world’s natural heritage.

At one point, we needed that concept. What it basically means is that we examine the impacts of tourism, identify them, and try to reduce the negative impacts. But, as has been demonstrated by experience around the world, negative impacts can never be reduced to zero. The aim in sustainable tourism is therefore to further develop and increase the positive impacts of tourism.

But regenerative tourism has a difference from sustainable tourism.

In a way, regenerative tourism represents a new paradigm in global tourism. It means working alongside the local community through participatory approaches, so that while they are managing the impacts, they are also able to do what is truly the right thing to do. Tourism is approached with a forward-looking perspective. It is not simply about tourists coming to a village.

In the context of sustainable tourism, we have always opposed mass tourism. But now, in regenerative tourism, we say that perhaps 10 tourists who behave

destructively and damage the environment can cause more harm than 100 tourists who understand nature tourism and appreciate and respect the local community.

These distinctions have emerged in the definitions because the economic and social impacts that tourism should have on a village cannot simply be defined or achieved through restrictions alone.

You said that regenerative tourism is a new paradigm. I want to ask you about a possible paradox. A tourist comes into a village, consumes water and spends money. We want to know what that tourist can actually do for the environment so that, when they leave the village, they have left something behind--that the environment is better, the local community has earned more income, young people in the village become interested in staying there, and traditions or even foods that are at risk of disappearing are revived. What can happen to create these positive impacts?

In regenerative tourism, we are making a transition from sustainable tourism, in a sense. We are not rejecting sustainable tourism; rather, we are going beyond it and adding another dimension.

For example, when a tourist visits Soheili Village during the season for planting Kong-e Harra, the local community involves the tourist in the process and the event. Chichak-haye Harraye Soheili is an event during which children go into the mangrove forest and collect mangrove seeds themselves.

The child who is being educated and raised in this way is learning in front of the tourist. The children draw pictures there and explain the process of growing the seedlings to visitors. In this way, the tourist sees the next generation. If the tourist is interested, they are given the opportunity to plant 10 mangrove seedlings of their own.

Each tourist becomes, in a way, a cultural ambassador for the village they have visited. They see that, with the growth of tourism, young people in the village are becoming interested in staying there.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

International Tender

No.: 05.T/861

Security Printing and Minting Organization (SPMO) of Central Bank of Islamic Republic of IRAN intends to procure the following equipment through a public tender from eligible and qualified companies:

Two (2) Units Automatic High-Precision Coin Blank Checkweighers, together with spare parts for five (5) years of operation, consumables for three (3) years, and on-site installation, commissioning and training services, in accordance with the technical specifications and conditions set forth in the tender documents.

Required documents:

- 1- Bidders shall submit a Bid Bond Guarantee in the amount of EUR 20,110 or its equivalent in IR Rials (for Iranian individuals only), calculated based on the Euro buying rates published on the Central Bank of Iran's ETS website (fxmarketrate.cbi.ir). The Bid Bond Guarantee shall be issued by a reputable bank acceptable to SPMO, in favor of SPMO, and clearly marked as "Tender Guarantee", in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the Tender Documents.
- 2- The bidders are requested to submit their company profile, articles of association, turn over including list of supplied goods, client list, etc. for the last 3 years.
- 3- It should be noted that the priority for bidders is given to the domestic participants in equal conditions.

The tender documents consisting of technical specifications, requirements, price and packing conditions, required guarantees, terms of payment, shipment, delivery, installation and training are available on demand. For receiving them, please contact us via the following address, fax or E-mail until 2026/09/27:

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Knowledge-based companies to expand role in advanced materials sector

TEHRAN – Building links between small knowledge-based companies and major industries is a key strategy for reforming the technology structure, expanding markets, and achieving sustainable growth, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy has said.

Vahid Zarghami, the secretary of the Vice Presidency's advanced materials and manufacturing technologies development headquarters, emphasized the need to establish a collaborative cycle between small knowledge-based companies and the country's major industries, saying such ties could strengthen the capabilities of technology companies, facilitate their entry into the supply chains of major industries, and help them consolidate their position in the market.

Referring to the support mechanisms available through the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, Zarghami described measures such as tax credits as an opportunity to promote the growth of small knowledge-based companies while addressing the technological needs of major industries, IRNA reported.

Connecting small companies to the supply chains of major industries would not only accelerate their growth but also increase their market share, Zarghami added. He said the process could help establish a sustainable cycle linking technological capabilities, industrial demand, and the market.

In January, the national document for the development of advanced material science and technology was unveiled.

Approved by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution



lution in the last month of the Iranian year 1403 (March 2024 – March 2025), President Masoud Pezeshkian signed and declared the document on December 25, 2025, IRNA reported.

The national document acts as a comprehensive roadmap for the promotion of advanced materials in the country. It aims to improve Iran's position in the global science and technology arena and contributes to achieving sustainable development goals.

Improving the country's ranking in science and technology, particularly advanced materials and modern techniques for materials processing, enhancing the export of knowledge-based products in the advanced materials sector, boosting productivity and lowering environmental impacts of Iranian-made products, improving the quality of life and enhancing social impact, completing the value chain with an approach to reducing raw material sales are among the main objectives of the document.

"It is the first comprehensive scientific document in the field of advanced materials; it lays the foundation for the development

ment of other documents such as quantum and artificial intelligence (AI)," IRNA quoted Ali-Baqer Taherinia, an official with the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, as saying.

Highlighting the growing importance of advanced materials sciences and technology in the economic, health, nutrition, and other sectors, the official expressed hope that the implementation of the document would be beneficial to the country, as it plays a critical role in gross domestic product (GDP) and sustainable development.

Given the country's progress in publishing scientific articles in advanced materials and modern techniques for materials processing, proper management is essential for the country to gain a meaningful share of the advanced materials market.

The Vice-Presidency for Science, Research, and Technology will put the document into force, Taherinia further noted.

Iran ranks 72 in technology, innovation

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Technology

ogy and Innovation Report 2025, Iran is ranked among upper middle-income countries, ranking 72nd among 166 countries.

The country's ranking has improved by one position compared to 2022.

UNCTAD has categorized 17 types of technologies as frontier technologies, including artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, big data, 5G, 3D printing, robotics, drone technology, solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, biofuels, biogas and biomass, wind energy, green hydrogen, electric vehicles, nanotechnology, and gene editing.

The Technology and Innovation Report 2025: Inclusive Artificial Intelligence for Development surveys the complex artificial intelligence landscape, aiming to help decision-makers design science, technology, and innovation policies that foster inclusive technological progress.

The Report 2025 calls for AI that puts people first and is shaped through global cooperation in which all countries have a say. The Report identifies three key leverage points – infrastructure, data, and skills – offering a broad socioeconomic perspective on AI while analyzing requirements and policies to promote sustainable industrialization and innovation.

The sub-indices of readiness for frontier technologies in 2025 show that Iran's best ranking is in the research and development sub-index (35th in the world).

In the finance sub-index, the country's ranking has improved from 62 in 2022 to 56 in 2025. In other sub-indices like skills and the establishment of information and communication technology, its ranking has decreased from 74 and 78 in 2022 to 82 and 94 in 2025, respectively.

Amiruddin Zaidi, the third secretary of the embassy, was also present at the meeting.

Building on this momentum in academic diplomacy, Malaysia continues to deepen its long-standing partnership with Iran through its flagship Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP), which has been operating in Iran for years. On November 29, the Malaysian Embassy in Tehran hosted its annual dinner reunion for MTCP alumni, bringing together Iranian professionals from academia, government, and industry who have completed the program.

Ambassador Khairi bin Omar, who led the gathering, emphasized that MTCP—established in 1980—has welcomed over 70 Iranian participants since 2002, offering training in technology, economics, agriculture, and other critical fields. In his address, the Ambassador described the alumni as "Friends of Malaysia" and urged them to serve as advocates for stronger bilateral ties, while reaffirming Malaysia's commitment to sharing technical expertise and building a lasting global community of leaders. Attendees praised the evening as highly productive and inspiring, with Ambassador Omar reiterating that the embassy remains open to alumni ideas for advancing mutual prosperity. The MTCP, he noted, is more than a training course—it is the foundation of a lifelong partnership that continues to enrich both nations' policy frameworks and professional networks. As Malaysia seeks to elevate relations with Iran, the alumni network is viewed as a key bridge for unlocking even deeper cooperation in the years ahead.

Iranian universities, Malaysia's UKM discuss joint high-tech research projects

TEHRAN – Iran's top universities are ready to launch joint technology projects with Malaysia's National University (UKM) in artificial intelligence, semiconductors and clean energy, Iran's scientific attaché to East Asia said during a visit to the Malaysian university.

Alireza Tavakkolpour, Iran's scientific attaché and acting head of student affairs in East Asia, Australia and New Zealand, made the remarks while presenting Iran's latest achievements and innovations in mechatronics and advanced thermoacoustic systems at a specialized meeting with UKM officials.

The meeting was held on Sunday at the invitation of senior officials from UKM's Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment. The participants discussed ways to expand scientific cooperation, implement joint technology projects and facilitate academic exchanges, IRNA reported.

The meeting was attended by the faculty's deputy dean, directors of its international relations and industrial networking offices, and the second counselor for public diplomacy at Iran's Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. The participants explored potential areas of synergy between Iran's leading universities and UKM, which ranks 130th globally, through operational memoranda of understanding.

Tavakkolpour outlined the three-pronged mission of Iran's scientific attaché offices, as defined by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasizing the need to elevate bilateral scientific cooperation.



Referring to successful collaborations with Iranian universities, including Shiraz University of Technology and Amirkabir University of Technology, he presented the research achievements and innovations of his team in mechatronics, robotics, wind tunnel technology and the development of nonlinear oscillators.

He also introduced advanced thermoacoustic systems as a new generation of heat engines without moving parts. He highlighted their potential to directly convert clean and renewable energy sources, including palm oil waste and solar energy, into electricity, and proposed joint research projects in the field.

UKM welcomes faculty, student exchanges

Officials from UKM's Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment welcomed the meeting and outlined the university's scientific and research standing, including its first-place national ranking in arts and humanities and third-place ranking in engineering in Malaysia.

They also highlighted the activities of the university's Auto-

motive Research Centre (CARP) and Sustainable Process Research Centre (SASPRO), as well as the establishment of a Quantum Technology Centre and the development of artificial intelligence and semiconductor programs.

The Malaysian side welcomed expanded engagement with Iranian academic institutions and expressed readiness to design and implement joint academic programs, modeled on the university's successful partnerships with leading European universities. It also offered opportunities for research fellowships, faculty and student exchanges, and the use of industrial grants and international research chairs.

Promoting higher education cooperation

On Tuesday, August 18, Muhammad Hamizam Kamaruzaman, the chargé d'affaires of the Malaysian Embassy in Tehran, met Abbas Qanbari-Baghestan, the deputy head of the Students Affairs Organization of the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, to explore ways to promote higher education cooperation to further advance bilateral relations.

Iran to chair Tehran Convention, lead Caspian Sea environmental protection efforts



TEHRAN – Iran will host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention on the protection of the Caspian Sea environment from September 20 to October 1, following a three-year hiatus, and will assume the convention's rotating presidency at the conclusion of the meeting.

Arman Khorsand, head of the International Affairs and Conventions Center of the Department of Environment, said the Tehran Convention, which provides the main framework for cooperation among Caspian littoral states on environmental protection, marks its 20th anniversary of entry into force this year.

The seventh Conference of the Parties (COP7) will be held over four days, with the first three days dedicated to expert-level meetings and the final day to a high-level session, he added. Environment ministers and officials from the five Caspian littoral states, along with representatives of the United Nations, will attend the meeting.

Khorsand said reviewing and finalizing documents related to the convention's various protocols, as well as a declaration by the environment ministers of the member states, are among the main issues on the agenda.

Holding COP7 after a three-year hiatus is particularly significant and could help strengthen regional cooperation to protect the Caspian Sea environment and address the environmental challenges facing the body of water, he noted.

The official further said that with the meeting being held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran will assume the rotating presidency of the Tehran Convention for the upcoming term.

In October 2025, DOE head Shina Ansari said Iran is willing to maintain and promote a collaborative relationship with the Tehran Convention, develop structures, as well as establish a permanent secretariat.

She made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with Mahir Aliyev, the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention), IRNA reported.

The two officials also discussed arrangements and preparations for holding COP 7, the perspectives of the Caspian Sea littoral states on cooperation for advancing the goals of the Tehran Convention, as well as reducing pollution and harmful substances in the Caspian Sea.

Tehran Convention

The need for joint protection and management of the Caspian environment and its resources has been a long-standing concern for the Caspian littoral states. In 1998, the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) was established as a regional initiative aimed at stopping the deterioration of the Caspian Sea's environmental conditions and promoting sustainable development for the long-term benefit of the Caspian population.

Since its inception, the CEP has tackled various environmental issues by developing a coordinated management structure, creating Strategic and National Action Plans, and implementing transnational measures to address imminent threats to the Caspian environment. Funded by the littoral states, the European Union, and the international community through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the CEP has worked to formalize its structure and activities by concluding the Tehran Convention.

In 2003, the Caspian littoral states: Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic

of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Turkmenistan, signed the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention). After the ratification by all the five Governments, the Tehran Convention entered into force on August 12, 2006.

The Tehran Convention serves as an overarching legal framework that establishes general requirements and an institutional mechanism for environmental protection in the Caspian Sea region. It is based on principles such as the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle, and the principle of access to and exchange of information. The two major areas of focus are (i) prevention, reduction, and control of pollution, and (ii) protection, preservation, and restoration of the marine environment. The Convention includes provisions on environmental impact assessment as well as general obligations related to environmental monitoring, research and development.

COP 7 to focus on Caspian seal protection

Known for its unique biodiversity, the Caspian Sea is home to different kinds of valuable species and plays a vital role in the economy, food security, and ecological sustainability of the region.

Over recent decades, marine life, particularly sturgeon and Caspian seals' populations in the sea, have sharply declined due to threatening factors such as illegal fishing, overfishing, oil, industrial, and agricultural pollution, climate change, reduced water flow, as well as habitat destruction.

The Caspian seal is the only marine mammal in the Caspian Sea. The species is now listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, with its population declining due to various reasons, from one million in the past to 70,000, currently.

In recent years, the increase in the discovery of seals' carcasses on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea has raised concerns among environmentalists that the Caspian seal is at greater risk of extinction than ever before. In just two months, 18 carcasses were discovered on Mazandaran coasts, IRNA reported.

Addressing the coordination meeting for the protection of the Caspian seal species, Ansari said that, given the recent losses of the seals and their critical status, conservation efforts need to be prioritized. Hence, COP 7, which will be held in Tehran, will focus on the preservation of the Caspian seal.

During the 11th Nevsky International Ecological Congress, held from May 22 to 23, 2025, in Saint Petersburg, Russia, the five Caspian Sea states (Iran, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Kazakhstan) discussed environmental challenges threatening, such as shrinking water level, pollution, habitat destruction, and decline in population of marine animals," IRNA quoted Ansari as saying.

Underscoring the need for regional cooperation to protect the biodiversity of the Caspian ecosystem, Ansari said based on regional diplomacy, it is essential to focus specifically on the Caspian Sea environment to save endangered species, particularly the Caspian seals, through enhanced joint measures, the official noted.

The official went on to highlight the significance of promoting inter-sectoral cooperation among responsible bodies such as fisheries and veterinary organizations, saying that fostering joint efforts will reduce conflicts over the conservation of these species.



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SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:00 Evening: 18:31 Dawn: 4:22 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:47 (tomorrow)

Iranian director to stage reading of Edward Albee's "A Delicate Balance"

TEHRAN- Iranian director Ariou Raqeb Kiani plans to stage a reading performance of the prominent American playwright Edward Albee's play "A Delicate Balance" at Iran Art Boutique in Tehran on Friday.

The performance will be held by a cast composed of Zahra Ansarifard, Mohammad Soltani, Aynaz Kakavand, Mahrou Zabihi, Alireza Shayani and Sepideh Dehqan.

"A Delicate Balance" is a three-act play written in 1965-1966 and first premiered in 1966. The play won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1967, becoming the first of three Pulitzer Prizes awarded to Albee during his career. Set primarily in the home of an affluent suburban couple, the play explores family tensions, emotional isolation, fear, marriage and the fragile arrangements people create to maintain a sense of stability.

The story centers on Agnes and Tobias, an upper-middle-class couple in their late 50s, whose apparently comfortable life is unsettled by the presence of Agnes's witty but alcoholic sister, Claire, who has become a permanent guest in their home. Agnes frequently reflects on the possibility of losing her mind and on the difficulty of maintaining order in a household where everyone carries emotional wounds and unspoken resentments. Tobias, meanwhile, remains haunted by the death of the couple's young son years earlier, an event that continues to affect his marriage and relationship with his wife.

The family's uneasy routine is disrupted when Agnes and Tobias's longtime friends, Harry and Edna, unexpectedly arrive at their home. The couple, who are also empty nesters, are frightened by an unnamed and seemingly inexplicable terror. Unable to explain exactly what they are afraid of, they ask Agnes and Tobias if they can stay with them. Their arrival creates an immediate conflict, particularly because Tobias and Agnes's daughter Julia is returning home after the collapse of her fourth marriage.

Julia, 36, is bitter and frustrated when she discovers that Harry and Edna have taken

over her former bedroom. Already resentful of her parents and deeply dissatisfied with her life, she becomes increasingly hostile toward the unexpected guests. Her anger exposes long-standing tensions within the family, while Claire's drinking and sharp observations add another layer of discomfort to the household.

As Harry and Edna settle in, the question of whether they should remain becomes increasingly difficult to avoid. Julia insists that they leave, while Edna argues that she and Harry have a right to stay because of their close friendship with Agnes and Tobias. The conflict reaches a disturbing point when Julia returns carrying a gun and demands that the couple leave. Despite this, Edna insists that they belong in the house and are prepared to remain there if necessary.

The family members gradually confront the reasons behind Harry and Edna's arrival and their own complicated relationships. Agnes recalls the death of her son and the painful decision Tobias once made to prevent another pregnancy. Suspicions about Tobias's past infidelity also emerge, revealing how much unresolved pain lies beneath the family's carefully maintained surface.

After a sleepless night, Tobias finally confronts Harry about the situation. Harry admits that if the circumstances were reversed, he and Edna might not accept Agnes and Tobias into their own home, despite their friendship. Tobias acknowledges that he does not truly want them to stay, but feels that, as friends, they have a right to be there. Eventually, Harry and Tobias begin moving the couple's suitcases back to their car.

The play closes with Agnes reflecting on the fragile balance that governs their lives. Her thoughts suggest that darkness, fear and emotional instability are unavoidable parts of human existence, while daylight represents the temporary return of order. Albee leaves the characters—and the audience—suspended between these opposing forces, emphasizing how easily the delicate structures of family and social relationships can be disrupted.

Cartoon of Day



Dirty Money

Cartoonist: Luc Descheemaeker from Belgium

International Painting Competition Sorena to focus on Minab martyred children

TEHRAN – The unveiling ceremony of the poster and the press conference for the International Painting Competition Sorena, with the theme "Iran through the eyes of Iranian children in and abroad, and children around the world," was held on Sunday at the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) in Tehran.

The competition is being held in collaboration with the Abbas Abad Cultural and Tourism Area, the General Directorate for Cultural and Social Affairs of Iranians Abroad at the ICRO, the Art Bureau of the Islamic Dissemination Organization, and the Kian Iranian Smart Technologies Development Group (iGap messenger). The competition is centered on the children who were martyred at the Shajareh Tayyebeh school in Minab, ILNA reported.

At the conference, Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Hejazi, CEO of the Abbas Abad Cultural and Tourism Area; Hojatoleslam Ali Ahadi, Director General of Cultural and Social Affairs for Iranians Abroad at the ICRO; Hossein Divsalar, Deputy for the Development of Scientific and Cultural Cooperation at the ICRO; Ali Janbaz, CEO of Soureh Omid at the Art Bureau; and Rabiei, Deputy of the iGap messenger, provided explanations regarding various dimensions of this event.

Hojatoleslam Ahadi stated during the meeting that Iranians living abroad remain a part of Iranian society, and their connection to and presence in the country's cultural affairs are of great importance.

He added that many of these compatriots live outside Iran's borders for reasons such as education or employment, and various programs have been planned over the past few years to maintain and strengthen their connection with the country.

Ahadi continued that in recent weeks, the first e-sports league specifically for Iranians abroad has been designed and implemented, and he expressed hope that these initiatives would contribute to honoring Iranian culture and art.

Also speaking at the event, Mohammad Hossein Hejazi said that if the potential of Iranian art, the role of children in the country's future, as well as the issue



of peace and the unequal war against Iran are to be addressed, the children of Minab are a clear example to express this.

For his part, Ali Janbaz emphasized the necessity of registering this event in global memory, stating that this tragedy must be recorded as one of the significant crimes of the United States against humanity.

He added that if such events are not seriously documented and followed up on, the possibility of their repetition remains, and one of the effective factors in globalizing the crime against the children of Minab has been the efforts of Iranians living abroad.

Janbaz continued that one should not remain solely in the stage of mourning when facing this incident; it is necessary to move beyond this stage toward action and movement.

He said that painting, as one of the international languages, can play an important role in making this narrative enduring, and the innocent and oppressed narrative of the Minab children even has the capacity to be pursued in international judicial forums.

Deputy of the iGap messenger Rabiei referred to the capacity of this messenger to cover the Sorena competition, stating that with 30 million installs and seven million active users, iGap can convey the message of this event to a wide range of Iranians inside and outside the country.

Hossein Divsalar continued the meeting by pointing to the role of narrative in shaping historical memory, stating that history is

Hojatoleslam Qomi visits "Minab School" exhibition, calls for international presentation of artworks

TEHRAN- Hojatoleslam Mohammad Qomi, the head of Iran's Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, paid a visit to the group exhibition "Minab School" at the Art Bureau in Tehran on Saturday, calling for the international presentation of artworks addressing the Minab tragedy.

During his visit, he also met with a number of the participating artists and discussed their works and perspectives on the events surrounding Minab.

The artists explained the approaches behind their works and spoke about their needs and requirements for more effective production and presentation of artworks dealing with the subject.

Hojatoleslam Qomi expressed his appreciation to those who had contributed to organizing the exhibition and to artists who have produced works focusing on Minab.

"I appreciate those who made efforts to organize this exhibition and those who are working for Minab," he said, adding that committed artists are expected to continue producing works on the subject.

He also stressed the importance of following up on and supporting such artistic productions.

He described artistic approaches to war crimes as an effective means of raising awareness and influencing international public opinion.

He said the Art Bureau has a responsibility to support artworks addressing such issues, while emphasizing that his main concern is ensuring the effective and appropriate international presentation of works related to Minab.

"These works should certainly be presented in venues such as the United Nations and institutions that are the source of important international decisions."

He added that the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization would do everything within its capacity to facilitate the international presentation of the artworks and would pursue the matter seriously.

The "Minab School" exhibition brings together works by a group of Iranian artists who have approached the Minab tragedy through different artistic forms and perspectives.

Among the artists featured in the exhibition are Behzad Shishegaran, Sirous Moqaddam, Gholam-Ali Taheri, Morteza Asadi, Kazem Chalipa, Ali Nedai, Hassan Yaqouti, Abdolhamid Ghadrian, Mostafa Goudarzi, Nasser Seifi, Jamshid Haqiqatshenas, Seyyed Masoud Shojai Tabatabai, Kamyar Sadeqi, Seyyed Ali Mirfatah, Mahyar Charmchi, Mostafa Qorbani, Hossein Einibakhsh and Mohammad-Ali Naderi.

The exhibition is currently underway at the Art Bureau's gallery and will continue through September 22. It is open to visitors daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On February 28, the Shajareh Tayyebeh girls' elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a devastating massacre as the United States and Israel initiated their strikes against Iran.

While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a missile strike that caused the building to collapse, trapping

present an image of the powerful Iran of today to the world," he underlined.

He also emphasized that the Sorena event is an important initiative that has taken its name from the martyred child of Minab and can be effective in reflecting part of the US crime against Iranian children at the international level.

The International Painting Competition Sorena has considered cultural and cash prizes for its winners, and the responsibility for judging the works will be with the Art Bureau for Children and Adolescents.

According to the organizers, the selected works will be exhibited in various countries after being judged, and an exhibition of the competition's entries will also be held at Tabiat Bridge.

At the end of the ceremony, the poster for the event was unveiled.

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While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a missile strike that caused the building to collapse, trapping children and teachers beneath the rubble. Iranian authorities confirmed a final death toll of 168 people, with at least 95 others wounded, marking one of the most harrowing incidents of the conflict's opening day.

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Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations have painted a starkly different picture.

An analysis by Al Jazeera's digital investigations unit, utilizing over a decade of satellite imagery and recent video clips, revealed that the school was a clearly distinct civilian facility, separated from any adjacent military sites for at least ten years. Furthermore, witness accounts and satellite-based analyses confirmed that the school was triple tapped by three separate, deliberate strikes, leaving no doubt about the nature of the attack.

The international community has faced mounting evidence regarding the responsibility for this atrocity, with investigations from major global outlets including The New York Times, BBC Verify, CBC, and NPR all concluding that the United States was responsible for the strike.

These findings have raised fundamental questions about the intelligence used to justify the bombing, as the patterns of the strike suggest a direct targeting of a civilian educational institution. The Minab school tragedy now stands as a somber testament to the immense human cost of the aggression and a focal point for those demanding international accountability.