

Khandouzi introduced as new head of Leader's office economic review unit

TEHRAN- The introduction ceremony for Seyyed Ehsan Khandouzi as the new head of the Economic Review Working Group of the Review Department of the Office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and the farewell for Ali Aqa-Mohammadi, was held on Tuesday.

According to IRNA, citing the Public Relations Department of the Office of the Leader, Ehsan Khandouzi is a faculty member at Allameh Tabataba'i University and served as Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance in the government of the martyred President Raisi. ► [Page 4](#)

Iran's large trade delegation in Russia: an opportunity for a leap in exchanges

TEHRAN- More than 300 business figures from 18 provinces of Iran who have traveled to Russia to participate in two international exhibitions discussed practical solutions for a leap in trade between the two countries in a meeting with Iran's ambassador, the governors of Yazd and Bushehr, and the heads of Iran's Fisheries Organization and Veterinary Organization.

According to an IRNA reporter on Tuesday, this delegation—described by our country's ambassador as the largest Iranian trade delegation in the past seven years—has traveled to Russia to participate in the International Food and Beverage Industry Exhibition in Moscow and the International Fisheries and Aquaculture Exhibition in St. Petersburg. ► [Page 4](#)

War on Iran the greatest error in U.S. history

By Martin Love

NORTH CAROLINA - Probably half of U.S. citizens have been plunged into misery by the fact of the U.S.-Zionist war on Iran and support for Israel...even among those blindly ignorant of history and foreign countries and most everything else and whose weak primary complaint is the cost of gasoline.

Here at the home of the University of North Carolina, a savvy artist created a poster and took it on campus recently where students mingled between classes. The poster was protest against Trump and his policies. My poster pal stood there and students passed him by and no one gave him any mind at all. This neglect reminded us both of when we were students when we and many others even shut down the university for a while in protest to the Vietnam War in 1970. Ignorance or lack of care or concern has apparently overtaken college students here in North Carolina. We were stunned. ► [Page 5](#)

“I Want My Music to Carry a Message of Iranian Unity and World Peace,” says Conductor Paniz Faryousefi



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Iran Rules Out US Talks Until Conditions Are Met

Iran's Supreme National Security Council urged the negotiators not to be distracted by contradictory messages from US president



By Mahmoud M. Ravi-Nejad

TEHRAN — Iran has ruled out any negotiations with the United States until its conditions are met, with Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei warning Washington that the strategic equations surrounding oil and regional waterways have changed and that attempts to contain the consequences of the conflict will not alter what lies ahead.

In a post on X, Rezaei urged Tehran not to be distracted by contradictory messages from US President Donald Trump, who has alternated between rejecting negotiations with Iran and signaling that Washington is prepared to enter talks.

“Do not let the contradictory signals from the US president distract you—from ‘we will not negotiate’ to ‘we are ready for talks,’” Rezaei wrote.

“The equations concerning oil and the straits have changed. Struggling to control the consequences will not prevent what is coming,” he added.

He then drew a firm line on diplomacy: “Until Iran's conditions are met, there will be no negotiations. Period.”

Rezaei's remarks came after Trump said on Monday that he was ready to reach a swift agreement with Iran and that the United States was open to negotiations. Trump said Washington was “open and ready” to reach a deal with Tehran.

Tehran sets conditions

Iranian officials have repeatedly said that any future dialogue with Washington must address the circumstances that led to the current confrontation rather than simply return to negotiations without resolving the underlying disputes.

Iran's primary demand is for Washington to fully end the war and halt its attacks against the country. Tehran is also calling for the lifting of the blockade on its ports, compensation for war-related damages, the removal of sanctions on its economy, and the unconditional release of Iran's frozen assets held abroad. ► [Page 3](#)

IRGC downs third intruding US drone in 24 hours over Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN — Iran's integrated air defense network intercepted and destroyed an intruding US MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle over the strategic Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, marking the third American drone brought down within 24 hours.

The sequence of interceptions began earlier with a successful strike by the Iranian Army's Air Defense Forces, which brought down an MQ-1 drone in southeastern Iran. This was followed by a statement released on Tuesday morning by the Public Relations Department of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), which confirmed the downing of a second US drone by their air defense units. ► [Page 3](#)

UN fact-finding mission holds US responsible for deadly attack on Kuhestak wedding

TEHRAN — The UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran has held the United States responsible for a deadly airstrike on a wedding celebration in Kuhestak, Hormozgan Province, warning that repeated attacks causing civilian casualties raise serious questions about Washington's compliance with international humanitarian law.

The Mission said a US airstrike on September 1 struck a residential house in Kuhestak, where a wedding celebration was reportedly taking place. According to credible reports and information obtained by the Mission, five people, including two children and a woman, were killed, while dozens of others were injured. ► [Page 3](#)

US drone strike targets Iranian fishing boats in the Persian Gulf

TEHRAN — In another blatant violation of maritime security and international law, a US drone strike targeted two Iranian civilian fishing vessels in the Persian Gulf waters late Monday, leaving several fishermen missing.

The incident occurred approximately 12 nautical miles off Larak Island and 30 miles off the port of Korgan, located in Minab city in southern Hormozgan province.

Local sources confirmed that projectile strikes directly hit the two small craft while they were operating within standard coastal fishing zones. Following the attack, an immediate emergency search-and-rescue operation was launched by provincial maritime authorities and relief units to locate the missing crew members. ► [Page 2](#)

‘NAZA’ documentary confirms AI mass murder in Gaza, triggers ‘treason’ charges

By staff writer

TEHRAN — An 80-minute Israeli documentary exposing the systematic, algorithmic murder of Palestinian civilians in Gaza has triggered a severe political breakdown inside the regime.

Directed by Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, NAZA derives its title from the Hebrew military acronym for expected collateral casualties.

The film premiered at the Venice Film Festival, where it won the Special Jury Prize and reportedly received a 25-minute standing ovation.

Its international acclaim has laid bare the calculated mechanics of the genocide to a global audience, shattering Tel Aviv's propaganda. ► [Page 5](#)

Qalibaf: US plot along Iran's western border thwarted

TEHRAN — Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Tuesday that a US attempt to launch security and military operations against Iran from Iraq's Kurdistan Region during the 40-day war had been thwarted through cooperation with Iran's partners in the region and a timely response by the Iranian armed forces.

Qalibaf made the remarks during a meeting in Tehran with Bafel Talabani, president of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), who is heading a senior delegation on a visit to Iran. The two sides discussed regional security, border cooperation and ways to expand political and economic ties between Iran, Iraq and the Kurdistan Region. ► [Page 2](#)



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

BRICS is trying to change the rules of the game

Siasat-e-Rooz examined the significance of the Delhi Declaration at the BRICS summit for Iran. The declaration matters for Iran in several ways. First, BRICS expressed concern over the rise of unilateral tariff and non-tariff measures that violate World Trade Organization rules. Second, the declaration deemed economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures imposed without UN Security Council authorization as contrary to international law, and called for their removal. Although the declaration does not explicitly name the United States, this clause is legally and politically important for Iran, since much of the economic pressure on Iran comes through unilateral and secondary sanctions. Third, the declaration supported reforming global economic governance structures, including the IMF and World Bank. Fourth, BRICS supported Iran and Ethiopia's accession to the World Trade Organization — a notable development for Tehran. Taken together, these points show that BRICS is attempting to change the rules of the game, not merely form another economic club.

Shargh: Following US sanctions: Iran's third-largest trade partner complies

Shargh analyzed Turkey's alignment with sanctions as Iran's third-largest trading partner. The paper wrote: After the UAE — Iran's second-largest trade partner — announced that it was halting all financial and commercial exchanges with Iran, Turkey has now officially prohibited its companies from trading with Iran and declared that it cannot pay for Iranian gas imports due to US sanctions, and will settle this debt only through food and medicine. For Iran, Turkey is not merely an export market; it is a potential route for connecting to regional production, distribution, and trade networks. Turkey's proximity to Europe, its transportation infrastructure, membership in the EU customs union, and its extensive network of international companies have turned it into a major industrial and export hub. Turkey's official stance comes at a time when it has sought to take advantage of the US-Israel conflict with Iran by activating alternative transit corridors to replace Iranian routes and the Strait of Hormuz.

Javan: Where do we stand?

In an article, Javan discussed Iran's position in the international system. It wrote: Iran is present in the international system and is a member of many international institutions and organizations. What matters is the extent to which Iran uses the capacities of international law to defend its interests, consolidate its positions, and participate in shaping international norms and practices. Iran's place in the global legal order depends on its ability to convert its political, scientific, and human capacities into legal influence. If Iran adopts

an active approach in the international arena, utilizes international institutions, trains specialized human resources, and expands legal cooperation with other countries, it will be able to exert greater influence on global legal processes. Iran must move beyond mere presence in the global legal order and become an active player — one that both defends its sovereignty and national interests and contributes meaningfully to shaping the rules that determine the future of relations among nations.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Foreign trade caught in war corridors

In recent years, Iran has sought to expand its foreign relations and reduce pressure from international sanctions by joining groups such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union, and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). However, the continuation of wartime conditions and disruptions in major foreign trade routes have once again highlighted the vulnerability of Iran's economic and commercial networks. Mohammadreza Modoudi, a trade expert, told Donya-e-Eqtasad that regional and international agreements play an important role in developing Iran's foreign trade. He said: From a broad perspective, joining international agreements — especially trade agreements that can connect Iran beyond its borders — is a positive and necessary step. Nevertheless, evaluating the performance of these agreements should not ignore Iran's internal trade problems. If these agreements have not yet demonstrated their full potential in Iran's foreign trade, the reason is not solely the inefficiency of these institutions; a significant part of the problem stems from fundamental domestic obstacles.

Hamshahri: Military spoils — from tactical gain to strategic leap

Hamshahri interviewed military analyst Mehdi Tolouvand about US military equipment captured by Iranian forces. He argued that the importance of such equipment is not merely in possessing a weapon or system, but in the technology embedded within it, which can provide opportunities for understanding and advancing Iran's defense industries. Thus, the value of these spoils is not limited to the equipment itself; the information and technology they contain are also significant. Sometimes the software, and sometimes the hardware, is the most valuable part of a system. Access to such equipment initially has tactical value, but can influence the country's long-term weapons strategy. By disassembling this equipment, Iran has studied components such as CPUs and microprocessors, and through reverse engineering has modified and localized certain technologies to meet its own needs.

Iran kicks off training for 1,000 'Janfada' resistance battalions

TEHRAN — The "Janfada" (self-sacrifice) grassroots headquarters has officially announced the commencement of training and organization for 1,000 national resistance battalions.

According to its inaugural statement, the move follows overwhelming public enthusiasm and continuous appeals from citizens eager to stand alongside the country's armed forces to defend the nation. Following close coordination with military authorities, the necessary groundwork has been laid to transition the massive civic momentum into structured tactical units.

The "Janfada" campaign officially started on March 29, emerging as a spontaneous public movement launched in direct response to persistent threats and aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran's coasts, islands, and borders. Organizers have framed the initiative as a modern reflection of Iran's deep-rooted historical tradition of national resilience. Designed to demonstrate public readiness to defend the country under sensitive geopolitical conditions, the campaign quickly exceeded expectations as millions of citizens nationwide rushed to register. Spanning diverse communities, the initiative has rapidly evolved from an open public registry into an expansive framework for popular defense and national solidarity.



US drone strike targets Iranian fishing boats in the Persian Gulf

From page 1 ► Ahmad Nafisi, Deputy Governor of Hormozgan for Political, Security, and Social Affairs, confirmed the incident and stated that emergency and maritime search teams are scouring the area.

"Emergency teams and relevant authorities are currently conducting search-and-rescue operations in the perimeter of the incident, and the status of the missing fishermen is under active investigation," Nafisi stated, adding that official assessments and casualties will be released as soon as verified details become available.

The strike on civilian fishermen near Minab comes amid a dangerous and persistent pattern of US military hostility targeting Iran's southern coastal regions, maritime traffic, and civilian infrastructure following the broader military confrontations that erupted on February 28.

Since the onset of the February 28 war, US naval and unmanned aerial forces deployed across the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the



Sea of Oman have repeatedly escalated operations beyond declared parameters, increasingly endangering non-military vessels. Monday night's strike on unarmed local fishing boats reflects a critical degradation of US engagement protocols and constitutes a direct assault on innocent local populations whose livelihood depends entirely on regional coastal waters.

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and basic tenets of international humanitarian law, civilian vessels, non-combatants, and local economic assets are strictly protected from military strikes. Washington's continued use of loitering munitions and unmanned combat aerial vehicles against unverified civilian targets in coastal waters constitutes an unambiguous vi-

olation of freedom of navigation and maritime safety conventions, undermines established de-escalation frameworks, and demonstrates a total disregard for the distinction between legitimate military assets and innocent civilian infrastructure.

Iran's naval forces and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Navy have consistently maintained that the security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is the sole responsibility of regional littoral states. Continued foreign military adventurism—especially acts targeting civilian lives near strategic hubs like Larak Island and the Strait of Hormuz—heightens the risk of broader retaliatory deterrence and regional escalation. Tehran has repeatedly warned that hostile actions against Iranian nationals, territory, and civilian assets in southern waters will not go unanswered, placing the full responsibility for the consequences of such unilateral aggression squarely on Washington.

Qalibaf: US plot along Iran's western border thwarted

From page 1 ► Qalibaf said the conflict had demonstrated the importance of close relations between Iran and its neighbors, particularly in the security, political and economic spheres. Referring to the activities of separatist groups near Iran's western borders during the war, he said the United States had sought to exploit the Kurdistan Region as a potential route for military action against Iran.

"During the 40-day war, the Americans hoped to carry out security and military operations against Iran from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq," Qalibaf said, adding that the plot was defeated through cooperation from Iran's partners in the region and the timely response of the Iranian armed forces.

He stressed that Iran should further strengthen its ties with neighboring countries to prevent hostile actors from exploiting regional divisions. In particular, he called for broader cooperation with the Kurdistan Region in both security and economic affairs.

Qalibaf also said Iran and Iraq should remain vigilant against attempts by the United States and Israel to create divisions between the two neighbors. He argued that such efforts could intensify following 'Washington being forced to leave Iraqi territory and airspace.'

The Iranian parliament speaker called for greater coordination and mutual trust between Tehran, Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region, saying closer relations would help prevent external powers from turning security challenges into sources of regional tension.

He also highlighted the long-standing relationship between Iran and the Talabani family, recalling the late Iraqi President Jalal Talabani as a longstanding and loyal friend of Iran. Qalibaf expressed hope that Bafel Talabani's visit would lead to further expansion of political, security and economic relations.

Emphasize border security and counterterrorism

Talabani also held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, with security cooperation, counterterrorism and economic and trade relations forming key elements of the

discussions.

Araghchi described Iran's relations with the Iraqi government, people and Kurdistan Region as positive and constructive, saying the extensive economic and commercial potential along the common border offered significant opportunities for expanded cooperation.

He described the outlook for Iran-Iraq relations, particularly ties with the Kurdistan Region and Sulaymaniyah, as bright and promising, and reaffirmed Tehran's readiness to deepen engagement with the region.

Security cooperation featured prominently in the talks. Araghchi said Iran was prepared to strengthen coordination along the common border and expand joint efforts against terrorism, while warning that Iran's adversaries could seek to exploit militant activity and insecurity to create tensions between neighboring countries.

The foreign minister stressed the importance of implementing the Iran-Iraq security agreement and called for close coordination to prevent armed groups operating from Iraqi territory from posing threats to Iran's security.

He also warned against false-flag operations aimed at creating mistrust and divisions among neighboring states, urging regional actors to remain vigilant against attempts to manipulate security incidents for political purposes.

Tehran has repeatedly emphasized that the implementation of the Iran-Iraq security agreement is essential to addressing security concerns along the two countries' shared frontier and preventing armed groups opposed to Iran from using Iraqi territory to threaten the country.

Talabani: Iran's war is our war, its victory is our victory

Talabani, for his part, said his visit to Tehran was aimed at expanding cooperation between Iran and Iraq in political, security and economic fields.

Thanking Iran for its support for Iraq and the Kurdistan Region during difficult periods and

times of conflict, the PUK leader described the relationship between the two sides as close and strategic.

"Iran's war and hardships are our war and hardships, and its victory is our victory," Talabani said, underscoring 'the PUK's commitment to maintaining strong relations with Tehran.'

He also said the PUK had regained a strong position in Iraq and was seeking to further expand its political, security, economic and trade relations with Iran.

Talabani made clear that the Kurdistan Region would not allow its territory to be used as a base for activities threatening Iran's security. He reaffirmed the PUK's readiness to cooperate in implementing the Iran-Iraq security agreement and strengthening coordination along the shared border.

Security and trade form a single strategic agenda

The discussions in Tehran underscored the close link between security and economic cooperation along Iran's western frontier. For Tehran, expanding trade and cross-border commerce with Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, particularly Sulaymaniyah, goes hand in hand with efforts to maintain a secure and stable border.

Iran has consistently emphasized its desire to maintain constructive relations with both Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region while ensuring that Iraqi territory is not used against its national security.

The meetings with Qalibaf and Araghchi also reflected Tehran's broader approach to relations with its neighbors: strengthening economic interdependence, deepening political coordination and establishing closer security cooperation as a means of preventing external actors from exploiting regional fault lines.

Against this backdrop, both Qalibaf and Talabani stressed the importance of preventing Iraqi territory from becoming a source of insecurity for Iran, while reaffirming their commitment to closer cooperation in security, counterterrorism, trade and economic affairs.

130 Iranian lawmakers call for legal process to withdraw from NPT

TEHRAN — A total of 130 Iranian lawmakers have signed a statement calling on parliament to initiate the legal process for the country's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), arguing that international mechanisms have failed to protect Iran's rights, security and peaceful nuclear infrastructure.

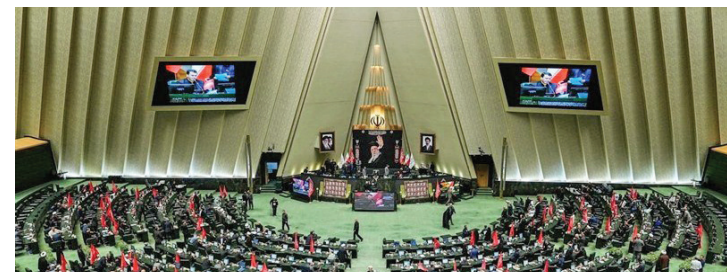
Meysam Zohourian, a lawmaker from Mashhad and a member of parliament's Economic Commission, said on Monday that the statement calls for reconsidering Iran's NPT membership in light of recent developments and the ineffectiveness of international mechanisms in safeguarding the country's rights and security.

The lawmakers went beyond

calling for a review of Iran's membership, urging the presiding board of the Islamic Consultative Assembly to activate the legal process for complete withdrawal from the treaty "in the shortest possible time." They also called for expanded scientific, technical and legal cooperation with countries they regard as like-minded.

"The NPT is based on the reciprocal balance of 'commitment to non-proliferation' and 'guaranteeing the rights and security of members,'" the lawmakers said, arguing that recent developments had demonstrated the failure of that balance.

They cited "structural discrimination" and the inability of international institutions to secure even Iran's minimum le-



gal rights under the treaty. Their position, they said, was rooted in their responsibility to safeguard national security and vital interests, as well as the achievements of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and Iranian nuclear scientists.

Lawmakers cite attacks on nuclear facilities

The statement identified four principal reasons for the pro-

posed withdrawal: the failure of international mechanisms to protect Iran's nuclear facilities; attacks and sabotage targeting nuclear infrastructure and the assassination of nuclear scientists; Iran's alleged deprivation of the benefits guaranteed under the NPT; and the misuse of International Atomic Energy Agency inspections for espionage and political pressure.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran rules out US talks until conditions are met

Iran’s Supreme National Security Council urged the negotiators not to be distracted by contradictory messages from US president

From Page 1 ▶ A central Iranian demand is an end to US military intervention and the withdrawal of American forces and military bases from the region. Tehran has argued that the continued deployment of US forces around Iran, including military facilities in neighboring countries, represents a direct security threat and cannot form the basis for a sustainable regional settlement.

Iran has also called for an end to the use or threat of force against the country, the lifting of unilateral US sanctions and respect for Iran’s sovereignty and legitimate national interests. President Masoud Pezeshkian has similarly said Iran remains open to dialogue provided Washington abandons pressure and sanctions and does not seek to dictate terms through force.

An end to the war on all Resistance Fronts, including Lebanon, is another important condition for Iran to negotiate.

The Iranian position effectively links any diplomatic process to a broader change in the US approach to the region: an end to military pressure, removal of sanctions and the establishment of security arrangements based on regional cooperation rather than permanent US military presence.

Hormuz and oil become central to the confrontation

Rezaei’s reference to oil and the straits comes amid heightened tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most strategically important energy corridors. Recent reports indicate that commercial traffic through the waterway has fallen sharply amid the continuing conflict and security concerns. Reuters reported that only four commodity vessels crossed the strait on Monday, compared with a pre-war average of about 125 daily transits.

Diplomatic efforts involving Iran and Persian Gulf states to address maritime security and the management of traffic through Hormuz have also been postponed. Oman had been preparing to host regional discussions, but the meeting was delayed amid disagreements among Persian Gulf states over proposed arrangements.

The developments have also had a direct impact on global energy markets. Brent crude has recently risen above \$108 a barrel amid concerns over supply disruptions, underlining the international economic significance of the confrontation around the region’s strategic waterways.

Trump signals openness; Tehran demands a change in US policy

Rezaei’s warning followed renewed statements by Trump that Iran was seeking an agreement and that Washington remained open to engagement. Trump has neverthe-



less insisted that any settlement must meet US demands, while recently suggesting that the United States could maintain a presence in Iran and benefit from its oil resources.

Tehran has rejected such an approach, arguing that negotiations cannot be meaningful while the United States maintains military pressure and seeks to retain a dominant security role in the region.

Against this backdrop, Rezaei’s message reflects a broader Iranian position that any return to diplomacy must begin with a change in the strategic environment surrounding Iran. For Tehran, that means an end to US military intervention, the withdrawal of American forces and bases from the region, the lifting of sanctions, and recognition of Iran’s sovereignty and security interests.

The message also underscores Iran’s view that the balance surrounding the region’s energy routes has changed, making the security of the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz a central component of any future political and security arrangement.

For now, Rezaei’s message leaves little ambiguity over Tehran’s position: Iran says it will not enter negotiations simply because Washington is ready to talk; the conditions for dialogue must first be created.

Iran’s upper hand in Hormuz

The strategic balance in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz increasingly gives Iran significant leverage over one of the world’s most vital energy corridors. The Strait carries a substantial share of global oil and LNG shipments, and recent disruptions have demonstrated how quickly Iran-related

tensions can reverberate through international energy markets.

Iran’s leverage does not rest solely on geography. The ability to affect maritime traffic through Hormuz gives Tehran a powerful strategic card in any confrontation with Washington, particularly as Persian Gulf energy flows remain vulnerable, and oil prices have moved above \$100 a barrel.

A recent understanding between Iran and Oman has also highlighted that the future of the waterway is closely tied to the conditions Tehran has set for the United States, reinforcing Iran’s role as a decisive factor in determining the security environment around the strait.

At the same time, the United States is facing growing pressure on its weapons and munitions stocks. Recent U.S. assessments have acknowledged significant challenges in replenishing critical munitions, with industrial-base constraints limiting the speed at which depleted inventories can be rebuilt. A recent U.S. defense assessment warned that the health of the country’s munitions production and stockpiles is critical to national defense and that existing production capacity remains insufficient for rapidly restoring strategic reserves.

It therefore appears that the remarks by Iran’s Supreme National Security Council secretary were not a political bluff but rather reflected his assessment of his country’s capabilities and its capacity to inflict serious damage on a power that is now not only struggling to support its regional allies, but also finding it increasingly difficult to ensure the security of its own military bases.



30, a reported US airstrike destroyed a residential home in Qeshm, killing a man, a woman and their two-year-old son, while injuring their two other children, according to the Mission.

Viviana Krsticevic, another expert member of the Mission, said attacks affecting civilians should prompt comprehensive investigations into the circumstances, methods and consequences of the strikes.

“Strikes on civilians should trigger an in-depth review of the events, methods, and impacts to prevent further losses, and secure truth, justice and reparations for victims,” Krsticevic said.

It reiterated its call on UN member states to take immediate diplomatic steps to halt

the military conflict, reduce tensions and revive a credible, good-faith dialogue focused on peace, human rights, and justice.

The Mission’s intervention comes as civilian casualties and damage to residential areas have become a major point of international concern amid the continuing conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran.

By publicly identifying the United States in connection with the Kuhestak strike and calling for an investigation into attacks that caused civilian deaths, the UN body has placed renewed emphasis on the obligations of states conducting military operations to protect civilians under international humanitarian law.

IRGC downs third intruding US drone in 24 hours over Strait of Hormuz

From Page 1 ▶ These three consecutive interceptions within a 24-hour window highlight the seamless operational coordination across the country’s multi-layered defensive umbrella.

The latest interceptions come against the backdrop of heightened regional tensions triggered by US-Israeli military aggression, which has prompted Tehran to enforce strict maritime and airspace surveillance around the Strait of Hormuz—the world’s most vital energy chokepoint.

Military analysts point out that Iran’s air defense capabilities have evolved dramatically. Following US strikes on southern Iranian military and civilian sites on July 31, Iranian forces demonstrated their strategic reach by locking onto a stealth US F-35 fighter jet while simultaneously taking down an advanced MQ-9 Reaper drone.

The persistent interception of US unmanned platforms has dealt a major blow to Washington’s aerial surveillance and combat readiness in West Asia.

Reports from Western media outlets, including Bloomberg and The War Zone (TWZ), confirm that Iran’s air defense forces have neutralized more than two dozen MQ-9 Reaper drones since late February. With each unit valued at roughly 30 million, total losses



for the US military have climbed past the 1 billion mark, amounting to nearly 20 percent of the Pentagon’s pre-conflict Reaper inventory.

Congressional testimony reveals that the US Air Force’s active fleet of MQ-9 Reapers has plummeted to approximately 135 operational aircraft—well below the Pentagon’s mandatory minimum operational threshold of 189 platforms.

The situation is further compounded by supply shortages. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, the manufacturer of the aircraft, confirmed that fewer than 10 new airframes remain available for acquisition, while the production line for the MQ-9A variant has been officially closed, leaving Washington with limited options to replenish its mounting losses.

Pentagon report puts Iran war cost at \$33.4 billion, cites US weapons shortfalls and extensive base damage

TEHRAN- A newly released US government report has shed further light on the financial and military costs of Washington’s war with Iran, estimating that the conflict had cost the United States \$33.4 billion by June 29, while Iranian strikes damaged or destroyed hundreds of structures and dozens of American aircraft across US military facilities in the Middle East.

The figures are contained in the latest Lead Inspector General report to Congress, issued by the US Department of Defense and covering the conflict through the end of June. The assessment highlights not only the scale of material damage sustained by US forces but also mounting pressure on American weapons stockpiles and the defense-industrial base responsible for replenishing them.

Billions spent as US munitions stocks come under pressure

According to the report, \$22.3 billion of the \$33.4 billion total was spent on munitions, while equipment losses accounted for another \$3.7 billion and other expenses for approximately \$7.4 billion. The heavy consumption of American weapons during the campaign, the report said, “resulted in strategic inventory shortfalls and revealed industrial base bottlenecks for munitions resupply.”

The assessment is significant because the United States entered the conflict with one of the world’s largest and most sophisticated military arsenals, yet the pace of weapons expenditure exposed limitations in its ability to rapidly replenish key systems during a sustained high-intensity conflict.

The report also puts the direct physical damage to US diplomatic facilities in Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates at \$184 million because of Iranian attacks. Separate emergency response and evacuation operations added substantially to the overall cost of the conflict.

The findings contrast with repeated assurances from US President Donald Trump that American weapons production remains exceptionally strong. Ahead of the report’s release, Trump said the United States was producing more “Exquisite and Elite Weapons” than at any point in its history.

Iranian strikes damage US aircraft and military infrastructure

The Pentagon assessment also documents the impact of Iranian attacks on US military installations across the region. Hundreds of buildings and other structures were damaged or destroyed, while dozens of aircraft

were lost or damaged by the end of June.

Among the aircraft affected was an F-35A Lightning II, which sustained damage from Iranian fire. The incident was particularly notable because it represented the first reported combat damage to an F-35A, one of the most advanced and expensive aircraft in the US inventory.

The report also recorded the destruction of four F-15E Strike Eagle fighters and one A-10 Thunderbolt II, while seven KC-135 Stratotanker aerial-refueling aircraft were damaged or destroyed. In addition, seven helicopters and more than 30 unmanned aircraft were lost.

Earlier Congressional Research Service assessments had already identified at least 42 US aircraft lost or damaged during Operation Epic Fury, although the CRS cautioned that its figures were based on publicly available information and could be revised as additional information emerged.

Continuing losses underline the cost of the campaign

The military costs have continued to accumulate beyond the period covered by the Pentagon report. In early September, an Iranian ballistic-missile attack on Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan damaged an A-10 and approximately eight F-15 aircraft, according to US officials. The A-10 reportedly suffered severe damage to one wing, while the F-15s were assessed as serviceable after sustaining lighter damage.

The attack also required US forces to launch roughly 30 Patriot interceptors, adding to concerns over the availability of expensive air-defense munitions. Reuters reported that US officials and analysts have warned of pressure on interceptor inventories after months of sustained operations.

The emerging picture is therefore one of a conflict imposing costs well beyond the battlefield itself. In addition to the billions of dollars spent on combat operations, the United States has faced damage to bases and aircraft, depletion of high-value munitions and growing demands on its defense-industrial supply chain.

For Washington, the report offers a rare official accounting of the price of the Iran war and highlights a central challenge of prolonged high-intensity warfare: maintaining the pace of weapons consumption while simultaneously replacing sophisticated systems that are costly, technologically complex, and difficult to produce at scale.

Expanding authority, strengthening private sector can pave way for increased investment in free zones

TEHRAN- The Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones, emphasizing the capacity of free and special economic zones to strengthen the country's economy, said: Increasing the authority of free zones and making broader use of the capacity and experience of the private sector can provide the basis for attracting investment, developing economic activities, and making more effective use of these zones' capacities.

According to IRNA, citing the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones, Hossein Forouzan said at a meeting of the deputies of the Secretariat and the CEOs of organizations of free and special economic zones, attended by Mohammad Jafar Ghaempanah, Executive Deputy of the President: The enemies expected Iran, like some other countries, to surrender to pressures, but the bravery, planning, and measures taken prevented this goal.

Forouzan added: Today, economic war is the issue, and in these conditions we must place greater trust in free zones. We ask the government to give free zones enough time and authority, and in return for these authorities, it should be confident that the managers of free zones will strive to achieve the set goals and will not disappoint the government.

He continued: We will work with all our strength and lovingly for the development of free zones and the country's economy, and we believe that if more authority is given to free zones, existing capacities can be used to pass through difficult economic conditions.

Emphasis on private sector's presence in decision-making

The Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones proposed that, if possible, the private sector's share in the decision-making structure related to free zones be increased.

Forouzan said: I propose that, if such a possibility exists, in the five-member decision-making composition, at least two members be from the private sector, because private-sector actors can greatly help attract investment and solve economic problems.

He added: Instead of government managers seeking to attract investors, the capacity of private-sector actors should be used. The private sector has the experience, connections, and motivation needed to attract investment and can play a more effective role in this regard.

The Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones, emphasizing the capacity of special economic zones, stated: Special economic zones are an important opportunity for the country, and this capacity must be used in the current economic conditions.

Forouzan, criticizing some restrictions created in the path of activity of special economic zones, said: Unfortunately, every day we face new issues in various areas, including land and banking issues, which make the activity process of these zones difficult.

He continued: The Central Bank, in some cases, instead of helping special economic zones use their capacities, has created restrictions, and even at times the cutting of resources of special economic zones has been raised.

The Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones at the end called for the government to provide more opportunity for the activity of free and special economic zones and said: At least give us this opportunity that for a specified period we can use the capacities of free zones, so that it becomes clear to what extent these zones can play a role in the country's economy.

Forouzan at the end emphasized: Our expectation is that the government trusts free zones and, in return for the authorities it gives them, evaluates their performance. We assure that we will use this trust for the development of the country and will try not to disappoint the government and the blood of the martyrs.

Special economic zones: drivers of trade, investment, and employment development

In continuation of this meeting, Morteza Safdarizadeh, CEO of Birjand and Sarv Urmia Special Economic Zone? referring to activities carried out in the Birjand and Sarv Urmia special economic zones, stated: Private-sector activity in these zones has provided employment for about 7,500 people in various industries, and this shows that there are considerable capacities for investment



and employment in special economic zones.

Safdarizadeh, appreciating the government and the country's officials for measures taken in the recent difficult conditions, added: At this time, when the country faced foreign pressures and special conditions, the government and officials tried to bring the country out of this bottleneck, and we hope that after passing through this passage, the position of Islamic Iran in the international arena will be strengthened more than before.

He further, referring to the issue of the incomplete implementation of Article 119 of the Development Plan Law, said: In this law, emphasis has been placed on elevating the position of the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones, but the necessary mechanism for realizing this issue has not been fully implemented.

The CEO of the Birjand and Sarv Urmia Special Economic Zone continued: The position of the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Free Zones has undergone changes at different times; in the past, the Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Zones was at the position of deputy and advisor to the President, but later this body was defined under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

Safdarizadeh, emphasizing the need for an expert review of the position of the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones, stated: It must be examined to what extent these changes have been in the interest and expediency of the country. If a decision is to be made about the position of the Secretariat, its effects and consequences must be precisely examined.

Referring to the capacity of the country's free and special economic zones, he stated: Free and special economic zones can be the best passage and path for solving part of the problems the country faces today, and the capacities of these zones must be used for the development of trade, investment, and relations with neighboring countries.

The CEO of the Birjand and Sarv Urmia Special Economic Zone, referring to the performance of the South Khorasan Special Economic Zone at the Iran-Afghanistan border, said: According to statistics, more than 55 percent of goods exported through Iran to Afghanistan or transited from the country toward Afghanistan pass through this route.

Safdarizadeh added: In this zone, we tried to create the needed infrastructure and facilities and, by governing the private sector's view and management, direct the attention of Iranian and Afghan traders to this border.

Comparing this border with older borders of the country, he said: Compared with borders such as Dogharoun, which have several decades of activity, this border in a shorter time has been able to find its place and become one of the important routes of trade with Afghanistan.

The CEO of the Birjand and Sarv Urmia Special Economic Zone noted: Given the boom created at this border, the government also entered to complete road infrastructure and took necessary measures in this regard. On this path, the Afghan side also cooperated appropriately, and Afghan authorities were on board for the development of trade and border interactions.

Safdarizadeh, emphasizing the necessity of entrusting economic affairs to the private sector, said: Our view is that if we prepare a suitable ground, the private sector can carry out many affairs with more speed and productivity. Experience has shown that wherever the private sector has entered, in addition to creating benefit for itself, it has brought more benefits for the country.

He added: This model can be implemented in various sectors of the country's economy. Today Iran has export relations with about 40 countries, and this shows the country is full of economic and trade opportunities.

Iran's large trade delegation in Russia: an opportunity for a leap in exchanges

TEHRAN- More than 300 business figures from 18 provinces of Iran who have traveled to Russia to participate in two international exhibitions discussed practical solutions for a leap in trade between the two countries in a meeting with Iran's ambassador, the governors of Yazd and Bushehr, and the heads of Iran's Fisheries Organization and Veterinary Organization.

According to an IRNA reporter on Tuesday, this delegation—described by our country's ambassador as the largest Iranian trade delegation in the past seven years—has traveled to Russia to participate in the International Food and Beverage Industry Exhibition in Moscow and the International Fisheries and Aquaculture Exhibition in St. Petersburg.

Iran's ambassador to Russia, in remarks at the ceremony, referring to the West's anti-Iranian measures in the field of sanctions, the imposition of two wars, and the martyrdom of the martyred leader of the Islamic Revolution and other compatriots, said: "The message of each of these martyrdoms is that the Islamic Republic of Iran becomes stronger."

Kazem Jalali continued by describing the recent remarks of the US president as an admission that military aggression against Iran was not carried out with goals such as supporting the people, freedom, and human rights.

Stating that "We stand by our Iran," he said: "Iranian traders, who pave the way for the prosperity of the country's production and exports, have in practice shown their commitment to Iran."

Iran's ambassador to Russia, referring to regional and global developments, said: "A valuable opportunity is now available to strengthen trade between Tehran and Moscow, and in this regard, not only must relations between the two countries be strengthened, but ties must be founded that would not be damaged even if the current situation in international relations changes."

He cited the strengthening and full launch of the North-South Corridor capacity, as well as the transfer of Russian gas to Iran, as projects that will sustain trade relations between the two countries for decades.

Jalali, expressing satisfaction that Iran's trade office in Russia is being



established through the efforts of a private-sector company, expressed hope that this measure will accelerate the development of trade exchanges between the two countries.

Iran will also defeat the enemy's economic war

Bushehr Governor also said in remarks at the meeting: "After failing in military aggression, the enemy has turned to siege and economic war; although this situation has made trade conditions difficult in the southern coastal provinces of the country, Iran is a great and large country with special capacities, and by relying on these capabilities, the enemy's new actions will also fail."

Arsalan Zare, emphasizing the importance of the role of the diplomatic apparatus in supplying the country's needs for essential goods, described the efforts of Iran's embassy in Russia in this regard as valuable and worthy of appreciation.

In another part of his remarks, stating that Bushehr Province enjoys unparalleled capacities for attracting investment, he referred to this province as Iran's economic and energy capital and said: "Despite having 1.5 percent of Iran's area and population, this province has an 8 percent share in the country's GDP, and in this situation has made Bushehr a favorable province for economic activities and investment."

Yazd Governor also said in remarks at the meeting that the presence of the province's delegation in Russia is in line with strengthening provincial diplomacy, and described this approach of the country's foreign policy apparatus as a valuable initiative.

Mohammad Reza Babaei, referring to the production capabilities and capacities in Yazd Province, noted:

"More than 900 types of goods are produced in this province, some of which are produced beyond national needs and for export."

He described Yazd Province's capability in producing 140 materials needed in the construction industry, as well as producing greenhouse products, as an opportunity for developing the province's exports to other countries, including Russia.

Meeting Russia's needs is an opportunity for the country's economy

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Head of Iran's Fisheries Organization also said in remarks at the meeting, referring to the emphasis of the martyred leader of the Islamic Revolution and also our country's president on developing relations with Russia: "Tehran and Moscow are considered trustworthy friends for each other, and Iranian traders playing a role in meeting Russia's needs will be an opportunity to support our country's production and economy."

Hamzeh Rostamipour added: "If we want sustainable trade relations with Russia, we must witness the prominent role of the private sector, just as today in the fisheries sector, non-governmental sector actors are pioneers and have high returns in fisheries and aquatic production."

He noted: "The presence of more than 300 Iranian traders from various provinces at the two international exhibitions in Russia, as well as the presence of our country's pavilion (integrated national pavilion) at the International Fisheries and Aquaculture Exhibition in St. Petersburg, shows that actors in the field of production and economy have come to the field for Iran."

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Head of the country's Veteri-

nary Organization also said in this meeting, referring to the missions of this organization: "As soldiers of the beloved homeland, we are alongside and support you in all stages of production, harvesting, and transportation of products."

Vahid Salehi, stating that he carries the warm greetings of the Minister of Agriculture-Jihad to Iranian food and fisheries production actors on the trip to Russia, said: "The Supreme Advisory Committee for Resilience and Policy-making in the Field of Food Security has been formed in this ministry."

He invited production actors to join this committee and present their solutions for elevating the country's economy.

At this meeting, a number of economic actors presented their issues, views, and proposed solutions for developing trade with Russia, and the officials present at the session responded to the topics raised, which caused the meeting to be prolonged.

A group of economic actors, managers, and members of the chambers of commerce of the provinces of Bushehr, Yazd, Khuzestan, East Azerbaijan, Hormozgan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Zanjan, Kerman, Fars, Gilan, Golestan, Isfahan, Razavi Khorasan, Tehran, Alborz, Markazi, and Lorestan have traveled to Russia as Iran's trade delegation.

The Governor of Abadan, a number of deputies and managers of the Fisheries and Veterinary Organizations, the Aquatic Production and Trade Union, and the Greenhouse Growers Association are also present on this trip.

Members of Iran's large trade delegation on this trip, in addition to participating in the two international exhibitions in Russia, will negotiate with government officials and the private sector of that country about ways to remove obstacles and develop economic cooperation.

According to IRNA, the International Food and Beverage Industry Exhibition of Russia will be held during September 15-18 in Moscow, and the International Fisheries and Aquaculture Exhibition will be held during September 16-18 in St. Petersburg.

Khandouzi introduced as new head of Leader's office economic review unit

TEHRAN- The introduction ceremony for Seyyed Ehsan Khandouzi as the new head of the Economic Review Working Group of the Review Department of the Office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and the farewell for Ali Aqa-Mohammadi, was held on Tuesday.

According to IRNA, citing the Public Relations Department of the Office of the Leader, Ehsan Khandouzi is a faculty member at Allameh Tabataba'i University and served as Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance in the government of the martyred President Raisi.

At the ceremony, Ali Aqa-Mohammadi's 36 years of service were thanked and appreciated.

Khandouzi had been also a former representative of the people of Tehran in the parliament.

In a report published by Fars News Agency,

he emphasized the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, and said: Iran should not view this strait merely from the perspective of economic revenues; rather, by involving its strategic partners, it can turn Hormuz into a lever for strengthening regional power and redefining the country's economic, political, and geopolitical relations.

As reported by the Fars News Agency's Economic Desk; Seyyed Ehsan Khandouzi, economy minister of the 13th government, on the Ecofa program, emphasizing the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, said: The issue of the Strait of Hormuz should not be measured merely by calculating its economic and financial returns, because managing this strait can be one of the important components

in redefining Iran's economic, sanctions-related, political, and geopolitical relations with the countries of the region.

He added: Instead of considering the management of the Strait of Hormuz merely an economic issue, Iran can involve its strategic partners in this matter and give them a share in Iran's new regional power.

Khandouzi continued: In such conditions, if the United States wants to build consensus in the UN Security Council or other international institutions for action against Iran, countries such as China and Russia and some others can stand against the formation of the US-desired order in West Asia and support the presence of a powerful Iran in the region.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Energy minister visits Fars: water projects inaugurated, power substations opened

TEHRAN- Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi arrived in Shiraz on Monday evening at the head of a delegation via Martyr Ayatollah Dastgheyb Airport for a two-day trip to inspect water and electricity projects and inaugurate major projects in various counties of Fars Province. He was welcomed by Fars Governor Hossein-Ali Amiri and other provincial officials.

His first program Monday evening was a meeting in Marvdasht to review water and electricity issues in Marvdasht, Pasargad, and Arsanjan counties.

The 66 kV Guyem substation in Shiraz, with a capacity of 15 MVA, was inaugurated in the presence of the energy minister and Fars governor.

The substation had been hit by an Israeli-American missile. After full reconstruction and repair, it was returned to operation.

Also, water transmission ring lines between reservoirs from western to southern Shiraz were commissioned, attended by the minister, governor, and national and provincial officials.

The ring is 142 km long; its implementation will increase Shiraz's water transfer capacity by 3,000 liters and play an important role in grid stability and equitable water distribution. In the first phase, 24 km of water transmission lines were completed over two years.

The project to complete the water transfer ring between Shiraz drinking water reservoirs, one of the most important development programs

of the metropolis's Water and Sewerage Company, has now produced tangible results, permanently resolving water stress in the south, the old urban fabric, and parts of central and eastern Shiraz and fully improving water supply there.

To address water supply problems in Shiraz, significant water projects have been implemented over the past two years, most importantly completing the water supply ring. The plan aims to provide sustainable water across Shiraz by transferring water from the second line of Doroudzan Dam to southern and eastern Shiraz. About 30% of the city's water production is now supplied from the dam's second water supply line.

The energy minister and Fars governor also visited Fasa's wastewater

treatment plant, described as a flagship national wastewater project.

According to IRNA, the project to build collection, transmission, and treatment facilities in Fasa, with 135 km of collection network and transmission lines and enabling more than 112,000 people to benefit from modern wastewater services, has become one of Fars Province's most notable infrastructure and environmental projects.

The Fasa project, which has nearly 80% physical progress in 16 months, is being implemented to improve health indicators, protect water resources, expand use of treated wastewater, and complete urban infrastructure, and ranks among the country's flagship wastewater projects in terms of speed.

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – Why has the United States not intervened militarily to try to stop the advance of the Yemeni Armed Forces and prevent them from establishing full control over the Bab al-Mandab Strait?

This matter is being raised increasingly today amid media reports that the Saudi Crown Prince made two phone calls to U.S. President Donald Trump on the same day, asking him to intervene militarily to halt the advance of the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF), but to no avail.

Setting aside Trump's recent statements, in which he claimed that the Sanaa government had contacted him and asked him not to intervene, the U.S. decision not to interfere has other reasons, both direct and indirect.

Intervening to halt the advance of the YAF would require an air campaign with an unpredictable timeline. Otherwise, any limited strikes would be useless and would make any subsequent victory by Ansarallah appear even greater. It would amount to a double defeat for both the United States and Saudi Arabia.

But what is preventing the U.S. from launching a broad air campaign to prevent the YAF from taking control of Bab al-Mandab?

It is no longer a secret that U.S. forces deployed near the Persian Gulf region are not in the best shape in terms of combat readiness. In addition to the frustration and low morale among troops serving aboard warships and aircraft carriers, the severe shortage of ammunition and missiles of various types and functions has left the U.S. military leadership facing two choices.

The first would be to open a new front against Ansarallah, exhausting what remains of its stocks of ammunition and missiles. That would leave the U.S. completely incapable of taking action should the confrontation with Iran escalate.

The second option would be to keep itself out of this conflict to preserve the minimum level



of readiness among its forces, in anticipation of any developments in the illegal war with Iran. Washington had to weigh the priorities of its various fronts, and the Iranian front appears to be the most important.

So far, Washington has chosen the second option in dealing with the rapidly unfolding events in Yemen, particularly because this approach serves two immediate objectives.

The first goal is to prevent oil prices from rising even further above their current levels. Entering the war would, in practical terms, push Ansarallah to close the Bab al-Mandab Strait completely.

The second goal is punishing Riyadh for refusing direct military participation in the aggression on Iran, and for its later move to establish regional alliances aimed, over time, at dispensing with the American protection umbrella or reducing dependence on it.

Punishing the world

Trump's insistence on continuing Netanyahu's war against Iran despite its military failure suggests that he is not trying to find a way out that would save face and spare him the label of "the defeated president."

There also appears to be a desire whose outlines have become increasingly clear: to punish the world that "let him down" in this unprovoked war against Iran and refused to help him. In Trump's view, there is little harm in allowing oil prices to rise to levels that genuinely hurt national economies, particularly those that depend entirely on imports to meet their

oil needs.

Anyone who has followed Trump's behavior since taking office will recognize his tendency to "discipline" the world, which, in his view, exploits America, takes advantage of it, and depends on it. His policy of raising tariffs is a prime example.

Some argue that the U.S. itself will also be affected by higher global oil prices and rising inflation. That is true, but the impact on the U.S. is entirely different from that on other countries.

First, it is an oil-producing state, and it will have no problem providing the local market with the quantities it needs. Second, the U.S. exports to foreign markets. Under these high prices, its revenues will increase greatly, since it has raised its export volume since the beginning of the aggression on Iran, to strengthen its control over its traditional markets and enter new ones.

Its only problem here is the rise in prices of petroleum derivatives available to American consumers, particularly gasoline, and the possibility that this could fuel domestic anger that translates into the results of the midterm elections.

But Trump appears to have recently decided to free himself from this problem, or, more accurately, to evade it, by making promises to American voters, insisting that oil prices will fall after the midterm elections. He has also offered an attractive proposal under which every American adult would receive \$5,000 to spend on American-made products if Republi-

cans win the midterms.

According to American news outlets, there is skepticism in the U.S. toward Trump's statement, though not in the form of a direct political consensus against him.

The market does not treat Trump's promise as a reliable economic forecast. Instead, it looks at actual supply and geopolitical risks, according to the Financial Times. Other outlets, meanwhile, consider the official forecasts for diesel prices inconsistent with the rapid decline suggested by Trump.

Regardless of what American voters think of the U.S. president's recent remarks, a sentiment that has not yet been reflected in any opinion polls, what is Trump counting on after the elections? More specifically, what does he expect will bring global and domestic oil prices down?

There are only two possibilities.

Either he resumes the illegal war against Iran and uses force to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to oil tankers. That, however, seems unlikely for several reasons that have become clear to observers around the world following developments over the past several months.

Some of these reasons stem from Tehran's firm position and its determination to protect Iranian sovereignty and independence. Others relate to Trump's political, economic, and military ability to launch another illegal war, one that would be no more successful than those that came before it.

The second possibility is that the Strait of Hormuz is reopened under a lasting agreement that ends the state of war and paves the way for a new era of peace in the region.

Given the Iranian negotiating team's steadfast position and its refusal to submit to American demands, such an agreement, despite its importance to the region and the world, would in practical terms amount to an admission of defeat for Trump and his administration, even if it were never acknowledged publicly.

citizens were evicted, as the world watched for the last three months the 'enchanted news' of Ali al-Taher—as well as some political powers and their media spin—while the devastating violations committed in Mansoury and its sisters were marginalized.

Intriguingly, the regional and local reports on Ali al-Taher mirrored exactly the version of events published by Maariv. The months of silence and lack of confirmation from the resistance left everyone in a void. Therefore, as everyone was looking for news, the ones found were from the Zionist media, unfortunately.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Ali Al-Taher, why Netanyahu needed a closure

By Abir Bassam

BEIRUT – The news about 'Ali Al-Taher' Hill has been ongoing since June of this year. The 'Israeli' political and strategic discussions, discussed on their talk shows and then followed by the rest of the regional TV channels and media outlets, made it the most famous hill ever. It was a dilemma manufactured by 'Israel', serving as a political and distraction tool more than anything else.

The Hill is located in the eastern part of Nabatieh District in South Lebanon, directly to the north of the Litani River. It is part of a continuous ridge of heights that were occupied before 2000. Ali al-Taher is

located between two towns, Kfar Tibnit and Nabatieh al-Fawqa. The first one was partly occupied and bombed by the 'Israeli' [army], and the second is daily bombarded.

The bombardment that attracted media attention in 'Israel', followed by the others, was actually serving several goals 'Israel' needed to achieve. The first is to divert attention from occupying more areas, particularly in Sour District, where it is now on the verge of seizing control over the coast extending from the two towns, Henneya and 'Ezeia, towards Mansoury, which is 11.6–13 km to the north of Naqoura.

Mansoury has now been heavily destroyed by the occupation army. The town's

War on Iran the greatest error in U.S. history

From page 1 ► But some historians, it has been claimed, have lately said the war on Iran itself is the greatest strategic mistake in the entire history of the U.S. Those Americans with smarts welcome this strategic failure and the end of the U.S. "empire" that may be imminent, because it just might give way to rational governance where the needs of average citizens can be addressed to some extent and Washington is not wily nilly making enemies across the planet with its violence and greed.

Donald Trump and the Republican Party are likely to be shunned by the majority of voters in the midterm elections in November and the Democrats will likely capture both the U.S. House of Representatives and

the Senate if Trump fails to rig the voting somehow. However, the Democrats, but for a few sage leaders, may not be a notable improvement. Ex-CIA writer Philip Giraldi, who has visited Iran as a guest with other friends, says that Democrats are not much better than Republicans with regard to the Zionist capture of government.

One reason Trump was returned to the White House was solely because his campaign promises looked relatively better than anything the Democrats had been doing with Joe Biden in the White House. Trump has disavowed further war, but his campaign promises have been fully pushed aside by himself and his administration primarily in deference to the Zionists.



Recent research has noted that the voting public in the U.S. in 95 percent of cases does not influence actual policies and especially foreign policies. The U.S. is no longer a "democracy" in fact. It is a kakistocracy which by definition describes a government run by the least qualified people.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

MBS turns to Israel after disastrous setbacks in Yemen: report

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has turned to Israel for "emergency intelligence assistance" through U.S. Central Command following a major collapse of Saudi-backed mercenaries in Yemen, according to reports in Israeli media outlets including Israel Hayom and The Jerusalem Post.

The reported appeal to Tel Aviv comes as Yemeni armed forces have executed a swift coastal offensive, seizing the strategic port city of Mocha alongside Zuqar Island and Perim Island.

By securing Perim, Sanaa now commands operational authority over the Bab al-Mandeb Strait.

Additionally, in his appeals to Arab states in the Persian Gulf and Egypt, bin Salman has reportedly warned that the developments in Yemen could cut off the Red Sea route Saudi Arabia uses to export oil from Yanbu.

Confronting the retreat of entire mercenary brigades along the western coastline, bin Salman has directly pressed U.S. President Donald Trump for American airstrikes against Yemeni defensive positions, according to CBS News.

Trump has so far declined direct combat intervention, limiting Washington's involvement to sending advisers, as well as target coordination and intelligence sharing overseen by CENTCOM commander Brad Cooper during recent emergency meetings in Saudi Arabia.



Simultaneously, Bloomberg reported that Britain agreed to send military advisers after Riyadh appealed to London for help defending its energy sites, while Egypt reportedly supported the Saudi position out of fear that a closed strait would paralyze Suez Canal traffic and decimate national revenue.

Yemeni forces have matched their territorial gains on the coast with precise retaliatory strikes against military infrastructure inside the kingdom.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree confirmed that a qualitative operation using dozens of domestically manufactured ballistic missiles and combat drones heavily hit King Khalid Air Base near Khamis Mushait, neutralizing aircraft hangars, radar systems, runways, and arms depots.

Additional strikes targeted installations near Abha and Jazan, exposing the inability of Western-supplied air defense systems to safeguard Saudi military assets.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

‘NAZA’ documentary confirms AI mass murder in Gaza, triggers ‘treason’ charges

From page 1 ►

Industrialized slaughter by design

The Israeli military uses the acronym "NAZA," taken from the Hebrew "nezek agavi," meaning "collateral damage," to indicate how many civilians it expects to kill as collateral damage in an airstrike.

The documentary relies on nighttime interviews conducted with 24 anonymous Israeli military and intelligence "whistleblowers," including members of Unit 8200.

These "insiders" describe an automated targeting apparatus that systematically treated Palestinian life as disposable data.

AI-assisted systems such as Lavender harvested data from mass surveillance networks to identify tens of thousands of human targets.

In several instances, military commanders have authorized strikes knowing they would kill up to 500 civilians to target a single individual.

Whistleblowers described the remote strikes as "akin to a video game," fueled by a deeply entrenched military culture of total disregard for international law.

One soldier even referred to the slaugh-

ter as "insanely fun," demonstrating the total dehumanization that drives the occupation forces.

Treason charges and panic in Tel Aviv

The film's reception abroad ignited immediate fury across the Israeli political establishment.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released a video message condemning the work as part of a "global wave of antisemitic incitement," declaring that internal exposure of military conduct was "intolerable."

Culture Minister Miki Zohar accused Abraham and Szor of "treason" and announced immediate actions with the Population and Immigration Authority to "revoke their Israeli citizenship."

Far-right Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir denounced the directors as an "embarrassment to the people of Israel" and told them to "go to Gaza instead."

Witch hunt and complicity

The military command moved with equal panic to suppress the domestic fallout.

Military chief of staff Eyal Zamir dismissed the documentary as slander against blood and a deliberate distortion of reality.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



South Korean protesters sit on the pavement outside the U.S. Embassy in Seoul on September 15, 2026, holding signs that read "Oppose troop deployment" and "Do not join a war of aggression" as they reject any South Korean naval commitment to the Strait of Hormuz following a U.S. demand.

Hossein Abdi: Iran U23 ready for Asian Games opener against UAE

TEHRAN – Iran U23 football team head coach Hossein Abdi says his side are ready to face the United Arab Emirates in their opening match of the group stage at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan.

Iran will begin their campaign against the UAE on Wednesday, with Abdi acknowledging the challenges surrounding his squad while insisting that his players are fully focused on making a strong start to the competition.

Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Abdi expressed his delight at returning to Japan and praised the country for its hospitality.

“I’m happy to be back in Japan. I think this is the fifth or sixth time I’ve come here, although I’m not exactly sure,” Abdi said.

“I have very good memories of my previous visits to Japan with my teams. Japan has always been a great host, and I’m very happy and proud to be back at the Asian Games. These competitions provide a great opportunity for players to gain valuable experience. I hope this experience will help them in the future and ultimately benefit Iranian football.”

The Iran coach also spoke highly of the relationship between Iran and Japan, highlighting the cultural ties between the two Asian nations.

“It is an honor and a pleasure for me to be here in Japan because Iran and Japan have had very good relations throughout history. Our cultures also have very old roots. Your culture may be four or five thousand years old, while ours is around seven thousand years old. As Asians, we understand each other and respect one another.”

Abdi stressed that the Asian Games represent more than just a sporting competition.

“We are not here only for football and sport,” he added. “Sport can bring nations closer together. It teaches us to respect one another, to be good people and to work towards building a better world. In my opinion, respect and humanity are the most important values in sport.”

Abdi also addressed the absence of five players for the opening match, with the fixture falling outside the FIFA international window.

“The schedule means that the first match is being played outside the FIFA window,” Abdi explained. “Unfortunately, this is a problem that we cannot do anything about at the moment.

We have to accept the situation. This is the squad we have available for the first match. If we don’t have any injuries, we will face the UAE with 15 outfield players and three goalkeepers.

“That is football. These kinds of chal-

lenges exist, and we have to accept the circumstances. We will give everything we have and do our best to put in a good performance against a strong UAE team.”

Shabab Al Ahli edge Tractor at 2026/27 ACL Elite

TEHRAN – Shabab Al Ahli of the UAE defeated Iran’s Tractor football team 1-0 in the 2026/27 ACL Elite opener Monday night.Yuri Cesar’s opportunistic 22nd-minute strike at the Rashid Stadium capped a well-rounded display by the United Arab Emirates side in their competition opener as they look to lift their first continental trophy.

Tractor’s Mohammad Daneshgar came close to an equaliser in the 79th minute when he came from behind the defence only to skim his header against the bar, with Mehdi Shiri seeing his fiercely-struck 25-yard shot two minutes later tipped over by Donelli.

We lost to one of most prepared teams in the world: Karkhaneh

Iran’s former national volleyball coach says expectations from Team Melli need a reality check.

Iran lost to Japan 3-0 at the final match of the 2026 AVC Men’s Volleyball Continental Championship.

“People expect a lot from this team,” Karkhaneh said, “but let’s not forget — we went to Japan and finished runners-up in Asia against one of the best teams on the planet. That’s not nothing.”

Assessing Iran’s performance in the Asian Championship final against Japan, Karkhaneh didn’t mince words about the gap in preparation. “We played one of the most well-prepared teams in the world, and they had the crowd behind them too. We didn’t play badly against a team like that — if we’d won, it would’ve been a huge result.”

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Tehran, Tashkent discuss ways to expand tourism ties

TEHRAN – Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri and Tashkent’s ambassador to Tehran, Fariddin Nasriev, have discussed ways to expand tourism and cultural cooperation, revive historic Silk Road links and strengthen ties between the two countries during a meeting on Monday.

Salehi-Amiri said Iran and Uzbekistan’s relations were based on the firm will and mutual interests of their presidents, adding that the ties had developed into a shared desire among the two nations to expand bilateral relations in all areas.

The minister formally invited Uzbekistan’s minister of culture and chairman of its tourism committee to visit Iran, and outlined a package of 10 practical



areas for cooperation.

He said ambassadors from the two countries had a key responsibility in implementing the proposed roadmap, with the first priority being to establish direct

links between private-sector companies, holding groups and reputable travel agencies in Iran and Uzbekistan.

Salehi-Amiri also highlighted the need to address visa-related

challenges and facilitate direct air links between the two countries, saying both would play a decisive role in expanding tourism exchanges.

He also called for the immediate establishment of a joint technical committee in Tehran and Tashkent to advance cooperation in the restoration of historic buildings and the revival of the Silk Road’s cultural identity.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister described the historic urban fabric and architectural traditions of Bukhara and Samarkand as prominent examples of the shared heritage of the eastern Islamic cultural sphere, saying their architecture evokes the identity and character of Iran’s Isfahan.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Iraq seen as key market for Iranian handicrafts

TEHRAN – Iraq should become a stable destination for Iranian handicraft exports, an Iranian provincial official has said, calling for targeted efforts to turn the neighboring country into a sustainable market for the products.

In a note on Tuesday, Amin Kougani, deputy head of handicrafts and traditional arts at Kermanshah province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said expanding handicraft exports to Iraq requires identifying buyers, targeted market presence, competitive pricing and sales terms, and continued negotiations until firm con-

tracts and sustainable orders are secured.

Iraq’s geographical proximity to Iran, shared cultural and historical ties, common border and economic, tourism and religious potential make it an important strategic market for Iranian handicrafts, Kougani said.

Kermanshah, which shares a border with Iraq and has access to markets in [Iraq’s] Kurdistan Region, as well as longstanding cultural and commercial ties with the country, can play an effective role in connecting Iranian producers with Iraqi buyers, he added.

“Baghdad, Erbil, Najaf, Karbala and Sulay-

maniyah are among the target markets for Iranian handicrafts. Importers, wholesalers, specialist retailers, hotels, tourism centers and other potential buyers should be identified according to the capacity and characteristics of each city.”

Before sending a trade delegation, market information, consumer preferences, buyer profiles, distribution channels, payment terms and import requirements should be examined to ensure negotiations are based on accurate knowledge and aimed at securing genuine orders.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Newly discovered ‘Sasanian’ rock engravings depict mountain goat, horses in southern Iran

TEHRAN – Needle-engraved rock art depicting a mountain goat and horses dating to the Sasanian period (224–651 CE) have recently been found on the rocky outcrops of the Marvdasht Plain in southern Iran.

Abulhasan Atabaki, an archaeologist, said the engravings were created by skilled artists over the centuries on the rocks of the plain, offering new insights into the symbolic traditions of Sasanian art, Ana news agency reported on Tuesday.

According to Atabaki, the mountain goat was among the most important themes in Iran’s rock art and symbolic imagery from prehistoric times to the

present. The newly identified image, measuring 5 by 4 centimeters, depicts the animal in a seated position and was made using a needle-scratching technique.

He said the seated posture traditionally carried connotations of calm, stability and authority in Iranian visual culture.

Atabaki also highlighted the significance of horses in ancient Iranian art, describing them as key elements of visual and narrative representation whose meaning extended beyond military and equestrian functions.

“From the Achaemenid to the Sasanian periods, horses were interpreted within the framework of royal ideology and the

symbolic system of power, rather than merely as instruments of warfare or realistic representations of the animal,” he said.

Najmeh Ebrahimi, a researcher in history, said the mountain goat had long been associated with “Farr-e Izadi”, the divine glory believed in Sasanian texts to be the source of royal legitimacy and splendor.

She said the recurring appearance of the mountain goat on Sasanian royal crowns, seals, metal vessels, textiles and architectural decorations demonstrated that the motif held a significance beyond ornamentation and formed part of the official and courtly artistic symbolism of

the period.

Ebrahimi said the horse motif in Sasanian art could be understood through three main functions: ideological, military and ritual.

The ideological function was linked to the representation of royal legitimacy and authority, while the military function reflected the importance of heavily armed cavalry in the Sasanian power structure.

The newly reported engravings are expected to contribute to a broader understanding of the symbolic language of Sasanian rock art and the cultural significance of animal motifs in ancient Iran.



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First Announcement

2277641



National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY

AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0540008

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

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	TUBING, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS "EU" THREAD, RANGE 2, AS PER API 5CT/ISO11960 SIZE(OD), WEIGHT(PPF), AS SPECIFIED, MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API 5CT, NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 1 (L.O.I: 1) "QCP/MPs DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM", "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION", 2-7/8 IN., 6.5 PPF	5,000LE
2	TUBING, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS, "HYDRIL CS" THREAD, RANGE 2, AS PER API 5CT/ISO11960, PSL: 2, SIZE(OD), WEIGHT(PPF), AS SPECIFIED, MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API 5CT, NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 1 (L.O.I: 1), "QCP/MPs DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM", "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION", 2-7/8 IN., 6.5 PPF	1000LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 28,530/04 EURO or 50,833,539.072 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaean Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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First Announcement

2277647



National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY

AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0440030

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2	PUP JOINT , TUBING 4-1/2" , 13.5 PPF , 7 FT & 10 FT	120 NO

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Pezeshkian pushes for drafting Iran-China action plan to combat desertification

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has highlighted the need to draft a five-year Iranian-Chinese action plan to manage airborne dust and combat desertification in line with the trilateral memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the two countries.

The MOU was inked in the last month of spring in 2025, in Lanzhou, China, to promote scientific cooperation and address sand and dust storms (SDSs) challenges, IRNA reported.

Following specialized meetings and an assessment of scientific and operational indicators, a five-year action plan is scheduled to be developed, and two regions have been designated as pilot sites for implementing joint efforts.

The selected areas include Salehiyeh Wetland, a major dust source affecting Alborz, Qazvin, and Tehran provinces, and Tabas desert, another main dust hotspot in the country, chosen due to their roles in the expansion of desertification, sandstorms, and their impacts on agriculture and infrastructure.

Highlighting the importance of protecting natural resources and the environment, Pezeshkian called for taking action against unauthorized construction and illegal activities that undermine regulations and lead to environmental consequences, as well as benefiting from the capacities and expertise of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in implementing pilot projects.

The official made the remarks in a meeting held on Monday to give an account of the progress in the bilateral MOU.

Moreover, the president urged the University of Tehran to maintain constant collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and develop a joint action plan to be assessed and discussed in the next meetings. The official also asked the Plan and Budget Organization to secure funds required for the studies and measures in the five-year action plan.

Dust storms are significant environmental challenges that adversely affect food security, human health, and the sustainable devel-



opment process at national and regional levels.

Being located in an arid and semi-arid area, Iran has been negatively impacted by climate change. The rise in temperatures, drop in precipitation, intensified droughts, and frequent SDSs have not only threatened the ecosystem and biodiversity but also jeopardized the country's food security by exacerbating soil erosion, expanding desertification, and declining agricultural productivity.

Iran chairs intl. event on combating SDSs

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, Amir-Saeed Iravani, chaired a high-level event held to mark the International Day for Combating Sand and Dust Storms (SDSs) in New York on July 10.

The event was organized by the Permanent Missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, the Republic of Senegal and Mongolia, in cooperation with members of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, providing a platform to exchange experiences, strengthen partnerships and identify actions to advance implementation at the national, regional and global levels.

At Iran's initiative, in 2023, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed July 12 as the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, recognizing that SDSs and their negative impacts at different scales are issues of international concern.

This year, the day was marked under the theme: 'From Source to Impact: Protecting Land and Life from Sand and Dust Storms'. The event brought together Member States, United Nations entities, regional and international organizations, experts and other stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation and accelerate action to address the growing impacts of sand and dust storms.

As highlighted by the four host countries, dust storms, beyond degrading land and the environment, have severely impacted human health, food and water security, agriculture, transportation, infrastructure, economic activities, biodiversity, and the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Addressing the event, Iravani highlighted that dust storms have become a global challenge affecting development, health, food security, transportation, the economy, climate change, and the environment, which requires a comprehensive, preventive approach based on broad international cooperation to be dealt with, IRNA reported.

Besides climate change, drought, desertification, land degradation, and the unsustainable use of natural resources, conflicts and wars, particularly in the West Asia, have resulted into land degradation, deterioration of natural resource management, and emergence or expansion of dust and sandstorm hotspots, he noted.

Highlighting the impact of uni-

lateral coercive measures and sanctions on the capacity of developing countries to protect their environments, Iravani stressed the need to eliminate barriers to environmental cooperation and ensure equitable access for affected countries to necessary resources, technology, and knowledge.

The official welcomed the regional programs of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as well as the inter-regional cooperation between the Commission and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

He described the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms (2025–2035) a significant opportunity to convert political commitments into practical, results-oriented actions.

During the interactive dialogue session, representatives of UN member states called for strengthening scientific, technical, and financial collaborations, developing early warning systems, ensuring sustainable land management, combating desertification, and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities.

The participants noted that SDSs know no political border, and that no individual country can tackle the challenge on its own. Accordingly, enhancing the role of the UN, fostering cooperation among source countries where dust originates, transit countries, and destination countries that receive dust, as well as effectively supporting developing countries, are essential to achieve sustainable responses.

The four countries, Iran, Iraq, Senegal, and Mongolia, issued a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to promoting regional and international cooperation to combat dust storms. They called for governments, the UN, financial institutions, regional organizations, scientific centers, private sectors, and other stakeholders to enhance their cooperation in areas like prevention, monitoring, early warning, land restoration, knowledge and technology transfer, capacity building, and securing financial resources.

tablishing science and technology parks, particularly in border areas.

During the meeting, Qaboul said, "Our main objective is to develop a joint scientific ecosystem that encompasses everything from higher education to applied research and modern technologies."

Supervising joint dissertations was the other issue raised by the official, noting that Persian and Turkish students can help address common problems between the two countries, conduct collaborative research projects, and ultimately improve the scientific standing of Iranian and Turkish universities in international rankings.

The official also proposed exchanging students, granting scholarships, offering joint scientific calls on shared environmental, technological, and industrial issues, and developing joint curricula to strengthen cultural links and localize education.

Highlighting the capacities of medical universities in the country, Iranian officials announced their readiness to attract more Turkish students. Currently, more than 130 Turkish students are majoring in medical fields in Iran.

For his part, Kirlangic emphasized the need to address problems related to issuing visas and equivalent certificates, saying that establishing transparent mechanisms will increase confidence among students and their families.

DOE calls for stronger global action to protect ozone layer, tackle climate change

TEHRAN – Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment, has called for stronger international cooperation to address the harmful effects of ozone-layer depletion and climate change, saying that global participation, strong commitment to obligations, and dedicated financial resources can produce real, tangible, measurable, and monitorable results.

Speaking at a ceremony on Tuesday, marking World Ozone Day, she said, "We have gathered today to reaffirm our commitment to fully restoring and rebuilding the Earth's protective shield and safeguarding life against harmful solar radiation. We must take more effective steps toward our shared goals of addressing global environmental challenges, both in protecting the ozone layer and in mitigating global warming."

Referring to the Montreal Protocol, Ansari said it is a global agreement aimed at controlling the production, trade, and consumption of chemicals that deplete the ozone layer, with the ultimate goal of protecting life on Earth through the gradual phase-out of ozone-depleting substances.

The official added that the landmark agreement, adopted in 1987 and entering into force in 1989, is now regarded as one of the world's most successful environmental agreements and an inspiring model for environmental cooperation.

"Thanks to the joint efforts of countries around the world, the ozone layer is currently on a path toward recovery and restoration, and significant progress has been made in this regard," she said.

The protocol has demonstrated that science-based policymaking, global participation, effective international cooperation, strong commitment to obligations, and dedicated financial resources can produce real, tangible, measurable, and monitorable results, Ansari noted.

She added that this process has not only made ozone-layer protection possible but has also enabled countries and industries to move toward safer, more environmentally friendly alternatives while supporting economic development.

World Ozone Day theme, "Global Action for a Cooler Planet," reflects the international community's efforts to protect the ozone layer and the need to continue this path with future generations in mind.

Kigali Amendment

Referring to the Kigali Amendment, Ansari said this year marks the 10th anniversary of the amendment, the latest amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which was adopted to gradually reduce global emissions of powerful greenhouse gases known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and accelerate the transition to more efficient and safer refrigerants.

Over the past decade, implementation of the amendment in various countries has demonstrated how the promotion of efficient technologies, the strengthening of industrial capacity, and support for innovation in the refrigeration sector can help advance development priorities, she said.

Ansari predicted that full implementation of the amendment could prevent between 0.5 and 1 degree Celsius of global warming by 2100, describing it as one of the most important approaches to mitigating climate change in the present century.

She said that, in line with the protocol's new objectives of aligning ozone-layer protection with efforts to reduce global warming, issues such as new technologies, increased energy efficiency, equipment modernization, and the development of environmentally friendly technologies have been prioritized, taking into account the country's current circumstances, economic considerations, industrial capacity, market



needs, and access to safe technologies.

Given the structure of the Montreal Protocol and the cooperation of its implementing agencies and financial mechanisms, Iran can use the implementation of its international environmental commitments as an opportunity to modernize and develop domestic technology, the DOE head said.

Referring to this year's World Ozone Day theme, "Global Action for a Cooler Planet," Ansari said the slogan reflects the international community's efforts to protect the ozone layer and the need to continue this path with future generations in mind.

"These efforts offer us the prospect of successfully implementing the Montreal Protocol and creating the necessary conditions and capacities to help address global environmental crises," she said.

The official stressed that, as an inspiring agreement, the Montreal Protocol symbolizes humanity's ability to cooperate.

"When humanity reaches consensus and demonstrates a firm determination to resolve one of the major global environmental crises, it becomes clear that such an achievement is possible," she said.

Ansari added that the agreement has succeeded in realizing this goal, expressing hope that the international community would, through greater cooperation and the responsible conduct of officials, take steps toward addressing the environmental challenges currently facing the world, including habitat and biodiversity protection and plastic pollution as a global concern.

"We hope that this global cooperation can also pave the way for consensus and collaboration on other issues and challenges that have emerged as crises around the world," she said.

Iran's environmental commitments

Ansari said the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken effective steps in this direction in recent years through cooperation among national and international executive bodies, as well as governmental and nongovernmental sectors.

She added that various industries using substances covered by the Montreal Protocol, along with other stakeholders, have taken significant and commendable steps. Such progress has been made possible through a shared and responsible approach to fulfilling the country's commitments under these international treaties, she said.

The head of the Department of Environment further noted that the country is also facing another environmental challenge: the damage and losses caused by two imposed wars waged against Iran over the past two years.

"These two unjust wars, in addition to the many forms of damage they have inflicted on the country, have damaged infrastructure, and unfortunately, civilian targets have also been attacked," she said. "Cultural and historical heritage sites have been targeted, scientific and research centers have been damaged, and irreparable losses have unfortunately been inflicted on the country's natural habitats, coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, and even our environmental protection facilities."

From this perspective, Ansari stressed, the harmful effects and consequences of wars—which can constitute a serious obstacle to the implementation of international agreements—must also be taken into account, as they can have extremely damaging repercussions.

Tehran to foster educational interactions with Ankara

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation led by the deputy minister of education for international affairs and schools abroad has visited Turkey to expand educational cooperation between the two countries and address the challenges Iranian students face in Turkey.

In a meeting with the Iranian ambassador to Turkey, Mohammad-Hassan Habibollahzadeh, the officials discussed ways to boost educational collaboration between Iran and Turkey, explore practical solutions to address the challenges Iranian students face in the country, and develop strategies to support Iranian schools abroad.

The meeting marked a significant step toward fostering synergy between diplomatic and educational institutions to ensure academic excellence for Iranian students abroad.

The two-day visit encompassed targeted interactive meetings with educational staff at Iranian schools abroad, including Turkey, Russia, and Central Asia, which were held online, and a specialized meeting with the Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute (ECOEI).

Holding a meeting with the Ministry of National Education of Turkey and signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the development of scientific cooperation and the enhancement of educational capacities of Iranian schools at the international level were among other objec-



tives of the business trip.

Launching joint innovation center

Iran and Turkey are planning to establish a joint innovation center and define a sustainable business model, Mohammad-Nabi Shahiki, an official with the Ministry of Science, said in July.

In line with the implementation of mega-tech projects, the two countries have developed nine technology projects to implement collectively, IRNA quoted Shahiki as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting held on July 20 to plan the Iran-Turkey Science and Technology Week.

Highlighting the role of science and technology parks in the expansion of international cooperation, Shahiki said the main objective is to transition from academic collaboration towards the development of a synergistic network comprising research institutes, technology parks,

and universities to conduct joint projects in education, research, and technology fields and generate shared strategic outcomes for both parties.

According to the head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology's center for international scientific cooperation, Ehsan Qaboul, Iran-Turkey Science and Technology Week is scheduled to be held in Urmia, West Azarbaijan province, and Tabriz, East Azarbaijan, in the second month of the fall, snn.ir reported.

In February, Qaboul and Turkish ambassador to Tehran, Hicabi Kirlangic, explored the capacities, challenges, and future perspectives for the expansion of scientific, research, and educational cooperation between Iran and Turkey, msrt.ir reported.

The two sides agreed to boost science diplomacy by organizing an Iran-Turkey science week, holding recurrent meetings of the best universities, developing joint scientific projects, and es-



SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Verily Allah - glory be to Him - has made this world for what is after it and has put its inhabitants to trial so that He may know who from among them has the best deeds, and we have not been created for this world, nor have we been commanded to strive for it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:59 Evening: 18:28 Dawn: 4:24 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:48 (tomorrow)

Iranian journalists discuss ties between cinema, city in Tehran gathering



By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- A gathering marking Iran's Cinema Day was held at the City Journalists' House in Tehran on Monday evening, bringing together journalists to share their experiences of covering cinema and discuss the relationship between film, the city and society.

Titled "Journalists' Experiences of the Relationship between Cinema and the City," the event was organized as an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of journalists who have spent years reporting on Iranian cinema and its relationship with urban life and society.

The gathering focused on the ways cinema and the city interact, while also providing a platform for journalists to recount their experiences of working with filmmakers and other cinema professionals.

Participants shared memories and experiences from their years of covering the cinema sector and discussed the role and potential of urban management in supporting cinematic activities.

Another focus of the meeting was the responsibilities of the Tehran Municipality's Center for Communications and International Affairs in relation to film production and

distribution.

Organizers described the gathering as an informal dialogue intended to look at cinema through the perspective of the city and the city through the perspective of cinema.

The meeting was held as part of programs marking Iran's Cinema Day.

The gathering also highlighted the role of journalists as intermediaries between the cinema community, urban authorities and the public, emphasizing the importance of continued dialogue between media professionals and those responsible for cultural management in Tehran.

September 12 marks National Cinema Day in Iran, an occasion that celebrates the country's rich cinematic heritage and the contribution of filmmakers, actors, writers, producers and other professionals to Iranian culture.

The day provides an opportunity to reflect on the development of Iranian cinema, which has gained international recognition through its distinctive storytelling, social themes and artistic achievements, while also highlighting the important role of cinema in documenting Iranian society and engaging with cultural and social issues.

Cartoon of Day



NAZA

Cartoonist: Luc Descheemaeker from Belgium

“I Want My Music to Carry a Message of Iranian Unity and World Peace,” says Conductor Paniz Faryousefi

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- Violinist and conductor Paniz Faryousefi took the podium of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra at Vahdat Hall in November 2025 (Aban 1404), becoming the first woman since the Islamic Revolution to officially conduct the orchestra — a landmark moment in Iran's post-revolution classical music history. She has also recently conducted the Vivo Orchestra in a concert built around works by Iranian composers in August 24, reflecting on what Iran and its people have experienced over the past year, including the Israeli attack on Iran in June 2025 and the subsequent US-Israeli military aggression against the country in 2026.

In an interview with Tehran Times, Faryousefi discussed both experiences, her participation in the international “A Concert for Unity” project in New York as a representative of the Tehran Philharmonic Orchestra, and her reasons for choosing Iranian works for Vivo's recent concert.

I attended the concert in person, sitting in the audience at Rudaki Hall as the program moved from Handel's Passacaglia in G Minor and Elgar's Sospiri, through Tchaikovsky's Melodrama, into four newly commissioned Iranian works: Mohammad-Reza Tafazzoli's Elegy, Mani Jafarzade's Upon Sorrow's Flow, Hasan Rahimi's Narme Nevajesh, and Mohammad-Saeed Sharifian's Sahargah (Dawn). Watching that arc unfold live — from a century-old European lament to newly composed Iranian works carrying the weight of the past year — is what led me to seek out Faryousefi for the conversation below.

The following is the text of the interview.

Tehran Times: For an audience that may be meeting you for the first time, I'd like to begin with one of the most important milestones of your career: in November 2025, you stepped onto the conductor's podium of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra at Vahdat Hall as the first woman to officially conduct the orchestra since the revolution. It was a hugely significant moment in the post-revolution history of Iranian classical music. Could you tell us about your personal experience that night — what was going through your mind, and what did you feel, in the moments before you raised the baton and the performance began?

Faryousefi: For any serious artistic work, the most important moments usually happen before the performance itself. The core of this project took shape during rehearsals with the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, which was a wonderful experience for me. I had the opportunity to work with the country's most established major orchestra and bring to the stage a program that included two pieces by highly accomplished Iranian women composers, alongside works from the Western classical repertoire.

I should mention that about 15 years ago, Ms. Nazanin Aghakhani, who is not based in Iran, was invited to Tehran to conduct the Tehran Symphony Orchestra. I was playing violin with the same orchestra at the time, and I remember very well how excellent her work was and how effectively she worked with the orchestra. However, as far as I know, that collaboration did not ultimately lead to an official performance. She was the first woman conductor invited to Iran to lead the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, and 15 years later, I had the opportunity to have this valuable experience alongside my good colleagues at the orchestra.

Tehran Times: Before that experience conducting the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, there's another milestone in your career: at the time, as a performer and representative of the Tehran Philharmonic Orchestra, you took part in an international project in New York involving musicians from a range of countries — a



project built around the idea of creating unity and peace through music, and one that stood, at the time, as a striking example of music's power to cross geographic and cultural borders. What was it like for you to stand alongside prominent musicians from around the world? In that moment, did you feel you were simply an Iranian musician on stage, or did you feel a particular cultural responsibility on Iran's behalf?

Faryousefi: It was a very sweet experience. The project was called “A Concert for Unity” and, as the name suggests, it was built around the idea of unity. Mahler's Symphony No. 7, which runs well over an hour, was performed there under the direction of one of the world's great conductors, Alan Gilbert. Philharmonic orchestras from around the world were invited to take part, and Mr. Arash Gouran, the conductor of the Tehran Philharmonic Orchestra, put my name forward as the orchestra's representative. I had the chance to be part of this fascinating, high-level artistic project. It carried a great deal of responsibility — both as a performer tackling a technically demanding piece and as a representative of Iran in an international project. I did everything I could to ensure that my participation was carried out in the best possible way.

Tehran Times: After years of experience as a performer, you reached a point where you decided to found your own orchestra independently. When exactly did you make that decision, and what was the main goal behind it? What musical vision did you have in mind for yourself?

Faryousefi: Alongside violin performance — I did a five-year master's program in Armenia — I also completed a course in orchestral conducting, since I'd been interested in the field from a young age, and in Armenia I had the chance to pursue conducting a little alongside my violin studies. After returning to Iran, I worked with youth orchestras, including the orchestra of the girls' music conservatory, and later with a few other institutions, before eventually deciding to have an independent orchestra of my own. Teamwork has always been my core concern, because I believe the most valuable experiences a person can have are far more powerful when they happen collectively — whether it's joy, sorrow, or any deep experience. That matters far more to me than working alone as an artist at home, or thinking only of myself. My main concern over these years has been education and passing on experience to the younger generation of orchestral musicians. That's the approach behind the Vivo Orchestra as well: the young musicians receive training and bring pieces from rehearsal to performance, and we also invite more experienced guest musicians to perform alongside them — a great opportunity for the young players to gain experience and get on stage next to musicians who are, in effect, their mentors. I've always believed orchestral performance as a discipline deserves far more attention; when I was studying in Tehran, this kind of program didn't exist, and

I felt it could be very effective now — and through our experience with this orchestra so far, a lot of good has come of it.

Tehran Times: That idea of shared, collective experience — whether positive or difficult — brings me to your recent concert on Monday, August 24 [2 Shahrivar], where you conducted the Vivo Orchestra performing Iranian works. That performance took place roughly six months after the U.S. and Israeli attack on Iran, with further attacks, particularly on southern Iran, in more recent months. Did you have a particular social and emotional vision in mind for this concert, given those circumstances? How much did the events of the past several months shape your decisions about the timing and form of the concert? And did you feel that, beyond being an artistic event, the concert could have an impact on the spirit of solidarity at a time overshadowed by mourning?

Faryousefi: The initial idea behind the repertoire came from what our homeland went through over the past year. I asked the colleagues and dear friends whose works were performed to write a piece for string orchestra, and they did so beautifully: Mohammad-Reza Tafazzoli, Mani Jafarzade and Hasan Rahimi. We also performed a piece by Dr. Mohammad-Saeed Sharifian titled “Sahargah” (“Dawn”), whose theme was somewhat different from the other three.

Those three pieces — especially “Elegy” by Mohammad-Reza Tafazzoli — have always evoked, for me, a sense of national spirit and pride; that same feeling came alive again while we performed it. “Upon Sorrow's Flow” by Mr. Jafarzade likewise evoked the grief and loss we've experienced over these recent months and the past year. Mr. Hasan Rahimi's piece, “Narme Nevajesh,” was based on a Mazandarani folk melody about the loss of a loved one— a mother, or anyone dear — and he gave voice to that pain. Dr. Sharifian's piece, “Sahargah,” which closed the program, had been written earlier, but it matched the mood we had in mind: it carried real hope, a window toward light, toward dawn, and toward good things to come.

The sequencing of the pieces was also designed so the audience wouldn't simply experience a few musical works, but would carry a specific emotional feeling with them after the concert. That said, because music is by nature somewhat metaphysical, I don't think one can say exactly what feeling a listener should come away with — it may stir different emotions in different people — but the arc of the pieces was arranged to fit the spirit of mourning.

Tehran Times: At the start of the program, before the four Iranian pieces, you also performed a few Western classical works. What did it mean to you to place the Iranian pieces alongside well-known Western classical works in this program? What particular experience did you want to convey to the audience through that pairing?

Faryousefi: Before the Iranian

works, we performed three pieces — by Handel, Tchaikovsky and Elgar. These are three very well-known figures in Western classical music, and our main expertise is largely in that repertoire, but given the circumstances, I decided to also perform Iranian composers. The choice of those Western pieces wasn't arbitrary, either. For instance, we performed a piece by Elgar called “Sospiri,” meaning “sighs,” which was composed at the beginning of World War I. That historical context was one of the reasons the piece was chosen, and it served as a kind of opening for the concert. We also included a section from Tchaikovsky's opera Melodrama, which was chosen to complement the mood and atmosphere of the concert.

Tehran Times: What you said is true — music is more abstract than something we can say a listener must feel or understand in a specific way. But given the situation the country is in, if listeners anywhere else in the world — in London, New York, or any other city — with no familiarity with Iran's cultural and social context or with what's currently happening, and only a general awareness of the attack that took place, were to hear this concert, what would you like the music and the works you performed to convey to that international audience, without the need for explanation or words?

Faryousefi: That's a difficult question, because each listener's interpretation can be very personal, especially without a specialized understanding of the music. But when it comes to the Iranian pieces, if I had to put it in one word, I'd want it to evoke, for a non-Iranian audience, the unity of Iranians and their staying together — whatever their beliefs or ways of thinking. We are all Iranian, and we will do whatever is needed for our homeland; I'd like that message to come through the works of these Iranian composers. But more broadly, I believe art doesn't belong to any particular geography — it's an international language. Something I've always wished for is that one day there will be peace on Earth, and I want art, truly, to be the force that saves us and brings that about. I want there to be peace among all countries and all people of the world, and I feel art has that power. I'd like the art I create to carry that message too, to every listener, Iranian or not.

Tehran Times: Thank you very much for these insights. To close, is there anything in particular — about this concert, or anything else related to your work as a performer, musician and conductor — that you'd like to share with our audience?

Faryousefi: I've recently begun to pursue orchestral conducting more seriously, both in terms of learning and in terms of the work I'm doing alongside my violin performing. I really hope this creates an opportunity in Iran for more women to consider this field. Even though the number of women conductors is growing worldwide, I hope Iranian women in this field can go on to reach great heights, and that we'll see more women artists in the role of conductor.