

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 46th year | No. 15313 | Thursday | April 30, 2026 | Ordibehesht 10, 1405 | Dhu al-Qadah 12, 1447



‘We Came Looking for a Palace, We Found Keshvardoost’

Tehran Times reporter visits the street where the Office of the Leader is located—the place where Ayatollah Khamenei lived and worked for 37 years, and where he was ultimately martyred. These days, it has become a pilgrimage site for Iranian people

Global nightmare: War in Iran & world economy

TEHRAN- According to recent data from the International Monetary Fund, the surge in oil and gas prices triggered by war in Iran could cost the global economy approximately \$600 billion.

If supply disruptions persist, the economic blow to households, businesses, and governments may exceed one trillion dollars. And yet, even this staggering figure is likely an underestimate.

Why? Because these calculations fail to account for the secondary shockwaves of inflation.

Soaring energy costs inevitably drive up fertilizer and food prices, hitting the world's most vulnerable populations first. ▶ Page 4

State visit of staged amnesia for two untouchable Epstein-era dynasts

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The 2026 state visit of Charles III to Washington was supposed to be a victory lap for the Western world. In reality, it felt more like a high-stakes funeral for accountability.

Beneath the roar of the flyovers and the clinking of crystal at White House dinners, a much older and more cynical “Special Relationship” was being renewed: the mutual agreement between London and Washington to ensure the specter of Jeffrey Epstein remains silent. ▶ Page 5

Qalibaf: Enemy turns to media and economic warfare after military failures

TEHRAN - Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said the Iranian nation has foiled multiple US and Israeli plans since the beginning of their aggression against Iran on February 28.

In an audio message, the parliament speaker said the enemy was under the illusion that assassinating Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and military commanders would defeat the Islamic Republic, but this plan failed.

Qalibaf added that the US and Israel then targeted Iran's defensive systems, but Iranian missile and drone strikes thwarted their efforts.

He said they then sought to push Iran toward a “Venezuela-style” scenario, but failed again. He added that they later tried to activate separatist groups in the western parts of the country, efforts that were defeated thanks to the work of the military and intelligence forces.

The parliament speaker said the US and Israel also made an attempt in mid-March to plot a coup, but they were strongly rejected by the Iranian people. ▶ Page 2

Bombed office of martyred Leader considered for national heritage status

TEHRAN – Iran's cultural heritage authorities have initiated procedures to register the official residence and administrative office of the martyred leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, better known as “Beit-e Rahbari”, as a national heritage site.

“Beit-e Rahbari will be registered in the national list [for cultural heritage]”, Ali Darabi, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a specialized meeting titled “Cultural Horizon in the Fog of War: Safeguarding Civilizational Heritage Against Aggression and Reassessing International Responsibilities,” held at the Golestan Palace, Darabi said efforts were underway to rapidly document and register locations affected by the attacks.

He added that authorities intended to highlight the extent of the damage and casualties, which he said included around 4,000 deaths, through coordinated “narrative-building” initiatives aimed at the international community. “We must present a clear account of these events and their consequences,” he said. ▶ Page 6

US engineered economic collapse in Iran to fuel unrest, report says

TEHRAN – A new analysis published by the Libertarian Institute alleges that the United States, under President Donald Trump, deliberately engineered an economic meltdown in Iran as part of a broader strategy to incite civil unrest and weaken the country ahead of a joint US-Israeli military operation.

Drawing from congressional testimony and presidential statements, the report claims that the Trump administration's “maximum pressure campaign” was not merely about sanctions, but an active plot to drive Iranians into the streets. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is quoted as admitting before Congress that the US instigated an economic war against Iran. “What we have done at Treasury is created a dollar shortage in the country,” Bessent testified. “It came to a swift and, I would say, grand culmination in December, when one of the largest banks in Iran went under. The central bank had to print money. The Iranian currency went into free fall. Inflation exploded, and hence we have seen the Iranian people out on the street.” ▶ Page 2

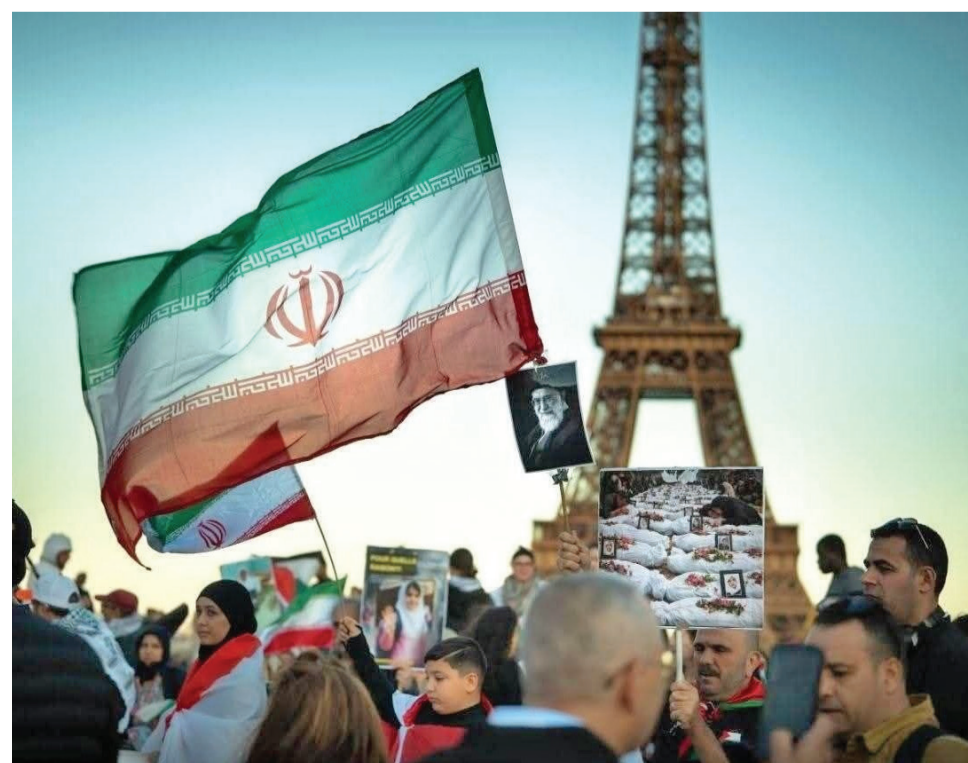
The new Hezbollah drone threat is unsettling Israel

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hezbollah's loitering attack drones are now treated in the Israeli media discourse as a central and prominent challenge to the regime's military.

A review of Hezbollah's six statements in 24 hours reflects this. Five statements reveal that gatherings of Israeli Occupation Soldiers (IOF) and tanks have been targeted with loitering drones, achieving direct hits. The sixth statement said the Lebanese resistance shot down an IOF Hermes 900 drone with a surface-to-air missile.

A tangible, low-cost, and highly adaptable shift is emerging on the battlefield. Loitering attack drones are no longer seen in the regime's media as a secondary addition to a broader arsenal of rockets and artillery, but as a significant component in their own right. ▶ Page 5



The Eiffel Tower could not outshine the tears for Minab's children

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The rain had softened the stones of Place du Trocadéro, but it did not dim the candles. Beneath the Eiffel Tower, hundreds gathered in Paris on April 25 for a vigil that was part mourning, part protest, and part accusation.

The crowd came to honor the victims of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and Lebanon, and to make sure their names were not reduced to statistics or pushed aside by meaningless statements of Western politicians. ▶ Page 5



Piercing gaze of innocence: Tajrish Square hosts “Eyes of Minab” installation

▶ Page 8

Scan this QR code to watch the video.



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

America is desperate in war with Iran

Kayhan discussed Trump's desperation in the war with Iran. While two months have passed since the war, the top brass in the Pentagon and the Trump administration have fallen apart. From the Secretary of the Navy to the Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Army, they have been blamed and fired for Trump's stupidity in the war. Two hundred expensive American aircraft and drones, in addition to its 13 bases in the region, have been destroyed, and Iran and its allies are threatening to block the Bab al-Mandeb Strait in addition to the Strait of Hormuz. Various countries, even America's closest allies in Europe, are blaming Trump for being confused in a costly war. Things have reached a point where the passive German Chancellor emphasized that Iran is humiliating America and has appeared far beyond imagination, and Trump has launched the war without any clear strategy for entry and exit. According to American analyst Eric, all the levers of power are in Iran's hands. America must give in to Tehran's demands.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Iran is strong

Siasat-e-Rooz pointed to Iran's power and cohesion in all areas in its editorial. The newspaper said: The Ramadan War showed that, in addition to missile and drone power and asymmetric warfare, national resilience, from popular unity and cohesion to economic and managerial stability and appropriate and timely capacity building of geopolitical components such as the Strait of Hormuz, has created the basis for superiority against the American-Zionist enemy. The connection between the battlefield, the street, and diplomacy with media support has been a national point that, in addition to ensuring Iran's security, has enhanced its regional and global status. Iran today simultaneously emphasizes the need for convergence among regional countries to achieve local security by expelling the United States and confronting the aggressor Zionist regime, which itself is a document of Iran's commitment and commitment to sustainable and local security for all countries in the region.

Farhikhtegan: Evaluability of negotiations

In an analysis, Farhikhtegan evaluated Iran's conditions in the negotiations and wrote: Iran has learned from the experience of previous failed agreements that each stage of negotiations must have specific indicators for evaluation. This evaluability is the result of the phased nature of negotiations. Enduring and unlimited negotiations

Iran MP warns Bab al-Mandab may feature in "new cards" strategy

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian lawmaker has warned the United States against the continuation of Iran's naval blockade, stressing that Tehran has "the upper hand" and is yet to reveal its "new cards."

"Iran holds the upper hand in the battle against the United States and Israel, and analysts across the United States, Europe, and beyond are well aware of it. They have warned Trump that he has already lost this war," Alaeddin Boroujerdi, deputy chairman of Parliament's National Security Committee, told Tasnim News Agency.

The US and Israel launched a joint war on Iran on February 28. A two-week ceasefire, mediated by Pakistan, halted the war on April 8, but Washington-Tehran negotiations in Islamabad on April 11 failed to reach a deal due to what Iran calls Washington's excessive demands. In mid-April, Trump ordered a naval blockade of Iranian ports to force Iran to acquiesce to his demands, but to no avail.

The US military also seized the Iranian commercial vessel *Touska* in the Gulf of Oman on April 19, detaining its crew.

Boroujerdi condemned such US moves as "maritime piracy" and a "desperate play with no real impact."

The lawmaker highlighted the importance of Iran's control of the Strait of Hormuz, warning the US about the potential implications involving the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

"We still haven't revealed our next cards. Bab al-Mandab is just as important as the Strait of Hormuz, and the Yemenis are waiting for the right moment to close the strait and deliver another blow to the United States."

Iran has restricted transit through the Strait of

are not the desire of either party, and each step must lead to a tangible result. Iran's view is that a ceasefire alone can allow the enemy to rebuild its forces and return to the cycle of pressure, negotiation, and war. In fact, Iran, using the two wings of the battlefield and diplomacy, is seeking an agreement that will not only end the current war but also break the cycle of future wars and stabilize the country's economic and security authority in such a way that it will no longer be affected by obstacles such as threats, sanctions, and the shadow of war.

Khorasan: An important trip to Moscow

Khorasan wrote about the importance of Araghchi's trip to Moscow: Araghchi's trip to Russia should not be considered just another diplomatic visit in the war calendar. The main goal of this trip is to transform the achievements of the war into a new political equation. Araghchi met with Putin in a high-level meeting during this trip. The importance of this trip is that Iran is trying to show that it is not in a passive position after the fragile ceasefire. Tehran has conveyed its messages to Washington through Pakistan, and by taking the case to Moscow, it is reminding the United States that military pressure has not necessarily led to Iran's political isolation. In this context, Moscow cannot be a neutral mediator for Tehran, but a strategic supporter, provided that they have a real will to support.

Arman-e-Melli: What is the importance of the messages exchanged between Iran and the United States?

Arman-e-Melli discussed the US reaction to Iran's moves and proposals in an interview with Morteza Makki, an international affairs analyst. He said: So far, there has been no clear position from the US, but some sources in the White House team have announced that Iran is preparing new preparations for future negotiations. It seems that one of the main issues for Iran is determining the status of the war. If the US intends to enter into new negotiations, it must first present a permanent ceasefire or declare an end to the war. If this is achieved, the next stages of the negotiations will proceed more quickly. Within the US, there are serious restrictions on the use of military authorizations in a war, and widespread criticism has also been raised within the social base of the current government. These factors, along with the time limit for reaching an agreement, could affect the US decision-making process.



Hormuz to hostile parties since the US and Israel launched the war two months ago.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Ansarullah has condemned the US's "piracy" in the Gulf of Oman, saying that attacks on Iranian commercial vessels and the detention of their crews violate international law.

In a statement, the movement warned that "Yemen is not neutral regarding the ongoing attacks against Iran, Lebanon, and Palestine," adding that its position remains "clear, public, and explicit in this regard."

Ansarullah has already warned that it could close down the Bab al-Mandab Strait, which leads to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, if the conflict continues.

US engineered economic collapse in Iran to fuel unrest, report says

From page 1 ► The report argues that economic warfare was only part of the plan. President Trump himself confessed to Fox News, "We sent guns to the protesters, a lot of them." The article, written by Charles Goyette, states that this foreign meddling was designed to provoke a government crackdown, leading to untold loss of life.

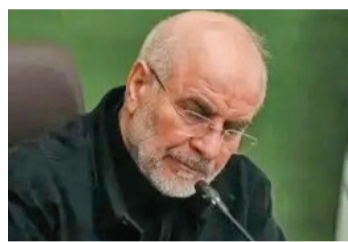
Furthermore, the analysis details active Israeli involvement in destabilizing Iran. In an X post at the height of the disturbances, former CIA head and Trump Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wrote: "Happy New Year to every Iranian in the streets. Also, to every Mossad agent walking beside them." Separately, an Israeli government minister, Amichai Eliyahu, stated, "I can assure you that our people are



working there right now" to destabilize the regime.

The report draws a historical parallel to the 1953 CIA-orchestrated coup that installed the Shah of Iran. "An engineered economic

Qalibaf: Enemy turns to media and economic warfare after military failures



TEHRAN - Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said the Iranian nation has foiled multiple US and Israeli plans since the beginning of their aggression against Iran on February 28.

In an audio message, the parliament speaker said the enemy was under the illusion that assassinating Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and military commanders would defeat the Islamic Republic, but this plan failed.

Qalibaf added that the US and Israel then targeted Iran's defensive systems, but Iranian missile and drone strikes thwarted their efforts.

He said they then sought to push Iran toward a "Venezuela-style" scenario, but failed again. He added that they later tried to activate separatist groups in the western parts of the country, efforts that were defeated thanks to the work of the military and intelligence

forces.

The parliament speaker said the US and Israel also made an attempt in mid-March to plot a coup, but they were strongly rejected by the Iranian people.

He added that the enemy also sought to bring forces into the country and tested this plan in Isfahan, but it ended in a fiasco.

Qalibaf said after all these failures, the enemy is now attempting to create internal collapse in Iran through a naval blockade, economic pressure, and psychological warfare. He also referred to US President Donald Trump's claims about divisions between "hardliners and moderates," saying these are aimed at sowing discord inside the country.

The parliament speaker said the only way to counter these plots is unity. He added that national cohesion has neutralized all conspiracies from the beginning of the war from February 28 until today, and any action that creates division serves the enemy's plan.

Qalibaf concluded that Iran's institutions are working in full unity under the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Iran warns of 'unprecedented' military response if US naval blockade continues: Press TV

TEHRAN - Iran has vowed a "practical and unprecedented military action" against the United States if it continues its blockade of Iranian ports, Press TV cited a high-ranking security official as saying.

According to the source, Iran's military has warned that the country's patience has limits and that a punishing response would

be necessary if Washington maintains its illegal naval blockade, maritime piracy, and banditry around the Strait of Hormuz.

The official said the restraint shown by the armed forces so far has been intended to give diplomacy a chance, allowing the administration of President Donald Trump to learn of and accept Iran's conditions for ending the

EU: US war on Iran drives €27 billion energy shock



TEHRAN - The European Commission president has warned of severe economic consequences from the recent US-Israeli war on Iran and continued tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday that Europe is losing nearly €500 million per day as the conflict drives up fossil fuel prices and disrupts global energy flows.

Addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, she said: "In just 60 days of conflict, our bill for fossil fuel imports has increased by over €27 billion, without a single molecule of additional energy."

The United States imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports in mid-April, a move widely seen as escalating the confrontation and tightening pressure on global energy routes. In response, Iran restricted passage through the Strait of Hormuz to vessels linked to its adversaries.

Goyette writes.

The analysis also criticizes President Trump's susceptibility to Israeli tactics, claiming he was deceived into approving the February war against Iran based on "farcical" intelligence. It quotes CIA Director John Ratcliffe, who reportedly called Netanyahu's assumptions for a quick victory "farcical," and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who dismissed them as "bullshit." However, Trump allegedly "bought it," transforming an Israeli plan into a US-led operation.

The report concludes by questioning whether Americans want their nation's "every act ... clouded in suspicion," suggesting that such "machinations of overweening arrogance" will ultimately backfire and isolate the United States.

Since the start of the war on February 28, which led to a ceasefire on April 8, energy prices have surged worldwide, with Europe among the hardest hit due to its dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The impact is also being felt in the United States. While President Donald Trump argues that the US does not rely on oil passing through the Strait of Hormuz, analysts say global disruptions are still feeding into domestic markets.

American consumers are seeing higher fuel prices at the pump, with gasoline costs rising significantly, alongside more expensive everyday goods due to increased transport and diesel costs.

Diesel prices have climbed, basic commodities are becoming more expensive, and the cost of living is rising—contradicting earlier assurances from the White House.

Gas prices at the pump in the United States are currently averaging about \$4.18 per gallon.

Economists warn that sustained inflation linked to energy markets could become a political issue ahead of the US midterm elections in November.

war permanently.

The official also told Press TV that continued restraint is aimed at pulling the United States out of the current quagmire it finds itself in.

Trump ordered a naval blockade of Iranian ports in mid-April. It came after the collapse of Pakistani-mediated talks between

Iran and the US in Islamabad.

The US and Israel launched a war on Iran on February 28, but Iran's strong military response to the aggression left Trump with no alternative but to announce a two-week ceasefire on April 8.

Iran has repeatedly warned of a crushing response if Israel and the US carry out new aggression.

LATEST NEWS

Iran FM, ICRC chief meet in Tehran

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met with Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in Tehran on Wednesday. The two sides discussed humanitarian issues and joint aid efforts. Egger expressed the ICRC's readiness to strengthen cooperation with Iran, including through the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

Russia to pursue Minab school massacre during UN envoy's visit to Moscow

Russia has announced that it will raise the issue of the killing of Iranian children, including the massacre of students in Minab, during the upcoming visit of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict to Moscow.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alimov stated that the "terrible incidents" resulting in the deaths of Iranian children from US and Israeli airstrikes would be a key focus of discussions with the UN envoy.

"We will follow up on the terrible incidents related to the death of Iranian children as a result of US and Israeli airstrikes, including the massacre of students in Minab, during this visit," Alimov said, according to Russian

state media.

Police officers targeted in Zahedan attack: One killed, three wounded

Armed assailants opened fire on a police patrol that was ensuring the security of citizens in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan, according to a statement from the province's police information center.

The attack resulted in the martyrdom of First Sergeant Mohammad Reza Nezamdoost and left three other officers wounded.

US imposes new sanctions on Iran

The US Department of the Treasury has announced the fresh sanctions imposed against 33 Iranian entities and individuals.

The Department of the Treasury of the United States claimed these entities and individuals were assisting in bypassing sanctions in Iran.

The department also claimed that any entity that pays Iran to transit the Strait of Hormuz will face severe sanctions.

Pakistan vows to continue push for lasting regional peace

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his country will keep striving for a complete end to the US-Israeli war on Iran. Speaking at a cabinet meeting, he

noted his recent talks with Iran's Foreign Minister Araghchi and reaffirmed that Islamabad's diplomatic efforts for peace will not stop.

US lost war against Iran: American professor

An American political scientist and international relations scholar, John Mearsheimer, has emphasized, "The Iranians are not going to give up control of the Strait [of Hormuz]... that's their leverage. They'd be crazy to give up control of the strait. We've basically lost this war. You're going to end up making concessions to the Iranians."

Hegseth will be questioned by Congress

US War Secretary Pete Hegseth will face questioning from lawmakers on Wednesday for the first time since the Trump administration and Israel launched the war against Iran, which Democrats have contested as a costly conflict of choice waged without congressional approval.

US war sec.: We face a complex threat environment across different battlefields

The US Secretary of War has stated that American forces are confronting a complex environment of threats across various operational theaters.

'We came looking for a palace, we found Keshvardoost'

Tehran Times reporter visits the street where the Office of the Leader is located—the place where Ayatollah Khamenei lived and worked for 37 years, and where he was ultimately martyred. These days, it has become a pilgrimage site for Iranian people

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

TEHRAN - "We thought the Leader lived in a very large house with a courtyard, somewhere exclusive and luxurious." This is what Barar Izadi, 56, says. He has come with his family from the town of Pishva County to "Keshvardoost" Street in the heart of Tehran to see the place where Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei lived and worked.

Keshvardoost Street is lined with old houses, homes with worn walls and trees that lean out from their courtyards into the alley, still carrying a sense of life within them. It is a street with a long memory. It was named after martyr Fariborz Keshvardoost, a member of the Iranian military who was killed in the early years of the Islamic Revolution. But in Persian literature, "Keshvardoost" means "one who loves their country," a meaning that, for many people now, has become intertwined with the martyred Leader of Iran.

This street is one of the roads leading to the office of the Leader of Iran, busy, crowded, and, in terms of its urban fabric, entirely ordinary. There is no sign of luxury here, no distance from everyday life. That very simplicity has now become, for many, a revelation.

From the beginning of his leadership, the Leader had lived in this neighborhood with his family. Although another place had been designated for his residence and work, he chose to remain here. And so, for 37 years, Keshvardoost Street became both the home and workplace of the country's highest authority, a constant presence among the people of Tehran.

Throughout those years, mainstream and especially Western media circulated countless rumors about how the Leader lived: multiple palaces, vast estates, private airplanes, and helicopters. It was said that during the 12-day war, he had been moved to a bunker, and even before his martyrdom, some claimed he had left the country for Russia.

But the crime of February 28, 2026, swept all of those narratives aside and exposed reality without a veil. In an attack on the Leader's residence, the United States and Israel martyred him, several military commanders, and members of his family. Among them was his 14-month-old granddaughter, little Zahra. The blast wave from the attack even reached nearby streets, killing a street sweeper.



The Keshvardoost Street sign — once a place where people waited to meet the Leader, now a refuge for a nation in mourning

Let's return to Keshvardoost: a passage that begins at Republic Street and ends at Imam Khomeini's Hussainia, a hall that for years hosted various events, from official meetings with dignitaries and foreign ambassadors to gatherings with ordinary people from all walks of life.

Regular programs were held every year: once with families of martyrs and veterans of the eight-year war; with women, workers, military personnel, students and researchers,



"Forgive me" — the most common message written by people on the concrete blocks along Keshvardoost Street

economic activists, cultural figures, officials from different sectors, athletes, and many others. And among them all, the celebration of religious coming-of-age for nine-year-old



A section of Keshvardoost Street that has been arranged these days to resemble Imam Khomeini's Hussainia

girls stood out as one of the most intimate and memorable events.

Now, for about 60 days, the geography of Keshvardoost Street has changed. It is no longer simply a place to pass through or to wait for a meeting. These days, at all hours, it hosts restless people, people who have come from every corner of Iran, carrying the grief of their martyred Leader.

One night, in this memory-filled passage, a celebration of religious duty is held again for nine-year-old girls, in remembrance of those past gatherings. Another day, recalling the years when workers came here during Labor Week to see their Leader, those same workers return, but this time not for a meeting, only to weep in his absence.

And people from every walk of life now come here, seeking refuge, a place for heavy hearts. Some raise their hands in prayer and whisper; others sit in silence, their tears speaking for them. Each person faces this loss in their own way.

I went to Keshvardoost, remembering the days we would stand here waiting, hoping to catch a glimpse of that familiar face. The entrance to the martyred Leader's residence has now been arranged like Imam Khomeini's Hussainia: blue woven mats, a simple chair, and images of the martyred father of the nation.

People come and sit on the blue mats. Some read the Qur'an; others listen to elegies and quietly cry. Mothers speak to their children about him, about memories, about kindness, about days when meeting him was possible. And the children, just as they once played freely in the Hussainia, now run and laugh here too, unaware of the weight this place carries.

Amid all this, a heavy silence flows through the space, a silence that blends with whispered prayers and the sound of weeping. Every corner of this street holds an unwritten story of longing and loss. People come, sit, stare at the empty chair, at the photographs, at memories that are still alive.

It feels as though time has stopped here, caught between a past full of encounters and a present overflowing with longing. Between moments once filled with anticipation and now recalled through tears.

Keshvardoost is no longer just a street; it has become a living story of loss, of love, and of people whose hearts are still waiting.

My attention is drawn to a two-year-old child. He has come with his mother and runs around in this space that has been made to resemble the Hussainia, occasionally going up to the Leader's picture, pausing to look at it, then returning with a smile.

Fatemeh, 38, is the mother of little Masiha. She says she first saw the Leader in Mashhad in 2004. Back then, she was a teenager, unsure of what field of study to choose. She tells me about seeing the martyred Leader in a dream, how she had asked him for help in tears, and in the dream, he told her: "Trust in God; the path is clear."

Fatemeh now has a religious education. She

also speaks about her father, a war veteran with 75% disability and severe psychological trauma. "When we were children, we could never really be children in front of him. He



Children who these days play on Keshvardoost Street under the symbolic shadow of the father of the nation

couldn't tolerate noise or mischief."

She says, "The Leader was like a father to us. It comforted us to know that even if our father didn't have the patience or the nerves, he was there. We would go to the Leader's residence just to see him. But now what do we do when that father is gone?"



Mr. Ebadollah, the street sweeper of Keshvardoost Street

At this point, her tears interrupt her. I wait for her to calm down so she can continue.

She says she made a vow to come here every Monday with her little Masiha, taking the metro from Karaj, so they can still be with him. "We count the days until Monday so we can come here."

"As a mother," she says, "my greatest wish is for my child to have a good fate. I want Masiha to become like him. We need to come here so he learns not to turn his back on his homeland. Every night we go to squares and mosques so he understands he must stand firm."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Eckert dreams of wearing Team Melli's jersey

TEHRAN - Denis Eckert Ayensa says that to play for Iran national football team is a dream comes true for him.

The 29-year-old Standard Liège forward has recently been called up by coach Amir Ghalenoei to join the Iran football team.

In an interview with the Belgian site hbvl.be, he shares his aspirations to shine in Iran's colors and his personal challenges ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

Eckert Ayensa is the latest addition to the Iranian national team. Born in Germany, he has previously played for Germany's youth teams. After a stint in the Belgian league with Standard Liège, he is now fully focused on the upcoming World Cup, even as he recovers from an ankle injury that forced him to miss a crucial match against KRC Genk.

Having a father of Iranian descent and a Spanish mother, Eckert brings a unique background to the field. He has previous experience in top European leagues including La Liga with Celta Vigo and the 2. Bundesliga with Ingolstadt.

In March 2026, he was officially invited to his first national camp for friendly matches against Nigeria and Costa Rica. Although he trained alongside players like Alireza Jahanbakhsh and Ali Gholizadeh, he couldn't play due to administrative complexities related to his change of sporting nationality, pending FIFA approval. However, the Iranian Football Federation's willingness and his eagerness to wear the national jersey suggest he will be a key player for Iran in the upcoming World Cup.

He mentioned a strong start in the Belgian playoff against OH Leuven, scoring twice as a substitute in just 29 minutes, showcasing why Ghalenoei has faith in him. Unfortunately, he faced an untimely injury against Antwerp, keeping him on the sidelines for now. Eckert hopes to fully recover and join the national team, prepared and fit, ahead of the main training camp.

Eckert expressed his enthusiasm about his first experience with the national team: "It was a very enjoyable experience with incredible days. The national team players and the surrounding staff are very welcoming, and the quality of the facilities is top-notch. Rooming with Ali Gholizadeh, whom I knew from Charleroi, and the support from Alireza Jahanbakhsh helped me adjust quickly. I'm no longer a 19-year-old, and I felt welcome in the new locker room. However, my inclusion in the World Cup squad is not yet guaranteed; it all depends on my performance in the remaining matches with Standard."

Interestingly, he missed the friendly match against Nigeria, which Iran lost 2-1, due to paperwork and the lack of final FIFA confirmation. He noted, "The national team coach was completely honest with me, but he emphasized that I should be present to acclimatize with the group and atmosphere. This is a critical step ahead of the main camp in May. Now, I'm waiting for FIFA to give the final green light so I can step onto the pitch wearing Iran's jersey."

Eckert also touched on off-field matters. Acknowledging the political tensions surrounding the tournament in the U.S., he stated that players are striving to focus solely on football. Regarding his family in Iran, he said, "I have an aunt and two half-brothers living there. I know the current situation may not be pleasant, but I prefer to discuss football as a player."

The most exciting aspect for Eckert is Iran's draw against Belgium in the World Cup, with a match scheduled for June 21 in Los Angeles. He remarked, "Playing against Belgium is incredibly special to me. This country has given me so much, and facing players like Charles De Ketelaere or Nathan Ngoy while wearing the Iranian national colors is truly a dream. The Iranian Football Federation is doing everything to ensure I am eligible in time, and now it's on me to excel in the Belgian playoffs to secure my ticket to the World Cup."

Iranian wrestlers claim four golds at 2026 Asian Beach Games

TEHRAN - Four Iranian wrestlers claimed gold

medals at the 2026 Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China on Wednesday.

Aliakbar Zaroudi defeated Indian wrestler Sid-dharth 2-0 in the final bout of 70kg.

In the final bout of 80kg, Ali Gholami beat Pakistan's Muhammad Asad Ullah 4-0.

Ali Gholami defeated Muhammad Inam of Pakistan 2-0 in the 90kg final.

Amirreza Sahraei also claimed Iran's fourth gold medal after beating Chinese wrestler Da Lu 2-0 in the final bout of +90kg.

The sixth edition of the prestigious Asian Beach Games, now hosted by the dynamic city of Sanya, has made a triumphant return.

The Games officially commenced on Tuesday, bringing together athletes across 14 sports, 15 disciplines, and a total of 61 events, running from April 22nd to April 30th.

Iran beach soccer claim title: 2026 Sanya

TEHRAN - Iran's beach soccer team defeated Oman 6-2 on Wednesday in the final of the 2026 Asian Beach Games.

In the match held at the Sanya Bay Yuhai Club Venue in Sanya, China, Mohammad Dastan, Davoud Shokri (two goals), Movahhed Mohammadpour (two goals), and Ali Mirshekari found the net for Team Melli.

Khalid Khamis Mohammed Al Oraimi and Sami Al Balushi scored Oman's goals.

Earlier in the day, Saudi Arabia claimed the bronze medal with a 6-4 victory over Palestine.

The sixth edition of the prestigious Asian Beach Games, now hosted by the dynamic city of Sanya, has made a triumphant return.

The Games officially commenced on Tuesday, bringing together athletes across 14 sports, 15 disciplines, and a total of 61 events, running from April 22nd to April 30th.

Iran beach volleyball win silver at 2026 Sanya

TEHRAN - Iran beach volleyball team lost to Qatar 2-0 in the final match of the 2026 Asian Beach Games on Wednesday.

Team Melli lost 15-21 in the first set and fell short 12-21 in the second set.

It is Iran's second silver medal in men's beach volleyball at the Games, after the team finished runners-up in 2014.

Thailand made history in the bronze-medal match, beating Oman 21-18, 21-15 to secure their first-ever men's beach volleyball podium at the event.

Iran's Poursargari/Aghajanihasab had defeated Sri Lanka, Syria, Bhutan, China, Japan, and Oman in the event.

The sixth edition of the prestigious Asian Beach Games, now hosted by the dynamic city of Sanya, has made a triumphant return.

The Games officially commenced on Tuesday, bringing together athletes across 14 sports, 15 disciplines, and a total of 61 events, running from April 22nd to April 30th.

Water polo crowned champions at Asian Beach Games

TEHRAN - Iran men's water polo claimed the title of the 2026 Asian Beach Games, beating China 3-2 at a penalty shootout on Wednesday.

Kazakhstan secured bronze with a 3-0 victory over Korea.

Six teams participated in the event, which used a round-robin format, with final standings based on points.

Iran had previously won gold medals in beach handball, beach soccer and beach kabaddi.

Iran's annual sponge iron production increases 16%

TEHRAN- According to the statistics of the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), sponge iron production in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20) increased by 16 percent.

The country's sponge iron output stood at 39.056 million tons in the past year, while the figure was 33.659 million tons in year 1403, the association announced.

Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is produced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets, or fines) into iron by reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural gas or coal. Many ores are suitable for direct reduction.

While Iran is fighting the U.S. severe sanctions on its economy, and the country's different industrial and economic sectors have been affected by the limitations and difficulties caused by the sanctions condition, the country's mining sector is moving forward noticeably, overcoming such barriers.

Among the mining sector's different products, sponge iron is an outstanding example, as the production of this item is rising more and more in the country.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has stated that one of the most important reasons for the increase in sponge iron production in Iran is the establishment of new sponge iron plants, adding that in recent years, with its new strategy and with the participation of the private sector, the organization has been able to launch several projects to produce sponge iron.

It is worth mentioning that according to the statistics of the Iranian Steel Producers Association, steel production in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1404 has recorded a growth of over six percent.

The association has published the statistics for the year 1404 of the country's steel chain. Accordingly, despite intensified energy restrictions, due to optimal management and the introduction of new capacities—both in production and in energy self-sufficiency by steelmakers—Iran's steel production increased by 6.2 percent. Thus, Iran's steel production in 1404 reached 32.1 million tons, equaling the production level of 1402.

The total production volume of steel products in the country in 1404, however, experienced a reverse trend, declining by 1.8 percent. Meanwhile, sponge iron recorded the highest production growth among steel chain products, with a 16-percent increase. However, in the upstream of the steel chain, production of pellets and iron ore concentrate remained at the same levels as the previous year.

According to this report, the significant growth in sponge iron production—due to new capacities coming online on one hand—and the stabilization of pellet and iron ore concentrate production on the other hand, indicates a worsening shortage of raw materials for direct reduction units. However, with the shutdown of more than 14 million tons of sponge iron production capacity due to damages caused by the third imposed war, this shortage will be temporarily absent.

A 3.8-percent increase in steel ingot production against a 1.1-percent decrease in long steel product production indicates the need to develop steel ingot exports. It is noteworthy that the shutdown of more than two million tons of steel ingot capacity due to the third imposed war can be compensated by activating idle capacities for producing this product.

Production of various steel sheets in 1404 remained almost at the level of the previous year. Meanwhile, slab production saw a double-digit growth of 10.2 percent. Unfortunately, due to the damages inflicted on slab-producing companies during the imposed war, the balance of the flat steel products chain has been disrupted, making the import of slabs and hot-rolled sheets necessary and urgent.

Iran's steel industry is a cornerstone of its non-oil economy, having grown into a significant global player. In 2025, the country produced approximately 32 million tons of crude steel, securing its position as the world's 10th-largest producer.

Beyond crude steel, Iran is a major force in the global direct reduced iron (DRI) market. The nation produced roughly 37 million tons of DRI in 2025, accounting for about a quarter of the world's total supply. This DRI is used by its modern electric arc furnace (EAF) mills, which form the backbone of its steelmaking capacity. However, the indus-



try has faced severe headwinds. In early 2026, military strikes on key facilities, including the country's two largest steel plants, caused major disruptions. This came on top of long-standing challenges like international sanctions, domestic inflation, and energy shortages from power and gas cuts.

Despite these obstacles, the sector remains a vital export earner. It exports a significant portion of its output, with semi-finished steel products being a primary driver. While its immediate outlook is clouded by conflict, Iran's steel industry is a testament to resilience and strategic industrial development on the global stage.

Iran's steel industry produces a comprehensive range of products, from semi-finished materials to value-added goods, supporting construction, automotive, infrastructure, and manufacturing. The sector can be broken down into several key categories:

Semi-Finished Steel

The industry's backbone consists of products like billet, bloom, and slab, with Iran producing over 20 million tons of these in an eight-month period alone.

Flat Steel Products

Led by Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC), the largest steel producer in the West Asia and North Africa, Iran's flat steel output includes hot-rolled and cold-rolled coils, as well as coated products such as galvanized and pre-painted sheets. These high-quality sheets are used in major national projects, including large-scale water pipelines.

Long Steel Products

Specialized in by companies like Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO), this segment includes:

- * Rebar (reinforcement bars) for construction

- * Structural sections like I-beams, H-profiles, channels, and angles

- * Railway rails – ESCO is Iran's sole producer of rail tracks

Tubular and Finished Steel Products

These include various welded pipes, galvanized tubes for water and gas, and advanced automotive steel grades like CK45 and S650MC high-strength sheets, which have recently been produced locally to reduce import dependence.

Overall, the diversity of products demonstrates Iran's growing self-sufficiency and its role as a significant global steel producer.

According to the data released by the World Steel Association (WSA), Iran's crude steel production rose 15.1 percent year-on-year to 2.6 million tons in January 2026.

The figures show Iran maintained its position as the world's tenth-largest steel producer, outperforming the broader global trend.

Global crude steel production across 69 countries totaled 147.3 million tons in January, down 6.5 percent compared with January 2025.

China, the world's largest steel producer, recorded a 13.9 percent decline in output to 75.3 million tons. India produced 15.1 million tons, up 10.5 percent year-on-year, while the United States posted a 3.3 percent increase to 7.1 million tons.

South Korea's output rose 5.0 percent to 5.6 million tons. Japan produced 6.8 million tons, down 0.5 percent, and Brazil's production fell 1.4 percent to 2.7 million tons.

Germany registered a 15 percent increase to 3.1 million tons, while Russia's output declined 7.4 percent to 5.5 million tons. Turkey produced 3.4 million tons, up 5.8 percent year-on-year.

The data indicate that while global steel production contracted at the start of 2026, Iran expanded output at a double-digit pace, consolidating its ranking among leading producers.

According to World Steel Association's previous report, Iran's steel production reached three million tons in December 2025, registering more than 16 percent growth compared to the same period last year.

The country remained in tenth place globally with a total steel production of approximately 32 million tons in 2025.

Global nightmare: War in Iran & world economy

TEHRAN- According to recent data from the International Monetary Fund, the surge in oil and gas prices triggered by war in Iran could cost the global economy approximately \$600 billion.

If supply disruptions persist, the economic blow to households, businesses, and governments may exceed one trillion dollars. And yet, even this staggering figure is likely an underestimate.

Why? Because these calculations fail to account for the secondary shockwaves of inflation.

Soaring energy costs inevitably drive up fertilizer and food prices, hitting the world's most vulnerable populations first.

Reduced economic activity and rising unemployment would fol-



low, creating a vicious cycle that amplifies the original damage.

In other words, a trillion-dollar crisis could quickly become far worse.

The nightmare scenario is not abstract. Global supply chains remain fragile, and any major conflict in the Persian Gulf would

choke a critical artery of the world's energy system.

Europe, already reeling from past energy crises, would face renewed hardship.

Developing nations, already burdened by debt and food insecurity, could tip into social unrest.

Even advanced economies would feel the pain at the pump and on grocery store shelves, as inflation erodes household purchasing power across the board.

Policymakers cannot afford to wait. Diplomatic efforts to prevent escalation must be pursued with urgency, while economies accelerate the transition to diversified energy sources.

Investment in renewable energy, strategic petroleum reserves, and international coordination mechanisms are no longer luxuries but necessities.

The cost of inaction is not merely financial—it is measured in hunger, job losses, and global instability. The world must wake from this nightmare before the price becomes unbearable.

US aggression against Iran triggers new currency era

TEHRAN- For decades, America sent the world a clear message: "Accept the dollar, or else." The dollar was not just a currency; it was a weapon. Anyone who crossed Washington's red lines was either expelled from the global banking system, like Russia, or sanctioned, like Iran.

According to an IRNA report, these days, following the aggression of the United States and the Zionist regime against Iran, all economic foundations and assumptions in the world are changing. What has happened in recent weeks, coinciding with Iran's resistance against American bullying, is not a passing shock but the bell tolling for the end of an era – an era defined by America's simultaneous economic and military dominance and its unilateralism.

Donald Trump, the US president who thought he could bring the world to its knees with media rhetoric and military threats, now sees the situation reversed. His policy of maximum pressure, rather than weakening Iran, has narrowed the field for the US dollar. Today, it is not just Iran, China, and Russia fleeing the dollar; even America's traditional allies are packing their bags from Washington's sinking ship.

Kashyap Sriram, a US capital market analyst, reacting to the recent statement by the US Treasury Secretary regarding various countries' requests to create currency swap lines with the dollar, says: "Goodbye to the dollar's unusual behavior in the global economy – and this is no joke; it is a frightening prediction for the future of the West." He adds: "Until yesterday, whenever a crisis occurred in the world, capital would flee toward the dollar because it was known as a 'safe haven.' But now, due to the misguided policies of the Federal Reserve and the US Treasury, the opposite has happened. Instead of making the dollar valuable, America is undermining its value and credibility through its actions. The result? No one views or holds the dollar as treasure or capital. Hence, the dollar can no longer serve as a source of security for the future."

Financial and monetary market observers now say that with the US and Israeli military aggression against Iran, the death knell for the dollar has also sounded. This banknote, once the most valuable currency, is gradually becoming one that no one trusts to preserve value. This is bad news for Americans but excellent news for countries like Iran, China, and other emerging economies.

Annual freight transport via railway increases 8%

TEHRAN- The CEO of the Railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that freight transport volume increased from 40 million tons to 44 million tons in the last Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20), and referring to this eight-percent growth, he set this year's target at achieving 54 million tons of freight transport.

According to an IRNA report from the Railways, Jabbar Ali Zakeri, speaking at a meeting of the Railways' Coordinating Council of Managers and referring to last year's efforts in the rail transport sector, expressed gratitude to all staff, Basij, security, and railway police.

He noted the role of empathy and collective effort in sustaining the railway network's operation across the country and pointed to a five-percent

reduction in incidents last year, achieved despite the increase in freight transport.

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development further emphasized the need to enhance safety at crossings and create a secure zone for train movement.

He also reported an improvement in locomotive readiness, such that this indicator – supported by the President and the Minister of Transport and Urban Development, along with adequate liquidity injection – has increased by 10 percent, rising from 489 units in August 2024 to an average of 610 units this year.

The CEO of the Railways also referred to the holding of six major events with private sector participation and the signing of memorandums of understand-

ing last year. He reported satisfactory progress on companies' commitments and stressed maintaining this momentum to achieve the goals of the Seventh Development Plan.

He identified rail diplomacy and the development of rail-based transit as main approaches of the Railways, stating: "In the past year, significant achievements have been made in this area, and international freight has increased by seven percent."

Zakeri listed increasing transit through rail borders, boosting freight transport especially with Afghanistan, creating new capacities in the railway network, and organizing branch lines as priorities for the current year.

He also emphasized the need

reports, cross-border purchases and sales of bonds, stocks, and other investments in March were 40 percent higher than the average monthly figure for last year. Whatever the reason, this fact is undeniable: the yuan's share of China's total international transactions (including goods, services, and assets) rose to over 56 percent in March.

Kyle Shostak, a US investment firm manager, told RIA Novosti: "US military aggression against Iran may drive the global economy into a prolonged recession. Why? Because the world is no longer like 1990. If America attacked before, others were forced to go along. But now China, Russia, and even Asian and African countries have found alternatives to the dollar and the American system." According to him, a prolonged war with Iran, besides causing astronomical oil prices, will cause capital flight from Western markets to the East – a flight already visible in CIPS data, with \$712 billion flowing into Chinese markets in March.

This trend is such that even Goldman Sachs, a famous American investment bank, has been forced to revise its forecasts. It raised its oil price forecast for the last quarter of this year to \$90 for Brent and \$83 for West Texas Intermediate, whereas it had previously announced \$80 and \$75 respectively. The reason for this change is clear: the unprecedented nature of the oil supply shock. Simply put, oil has become scarce, which for some countries and investment banks means a disaster in the history of oil and economics. This means US sanctions have not removed Iranian oil from the market but have instead enabled Iran to manage its oil with greater power.

It seems the main loser of this crisis is not Iran but rather America itself and those dwarf nations that saw America as their savior – those who believed America was the supreme power and always right. These countries are now being buried under the rubble of Trump's rhetoric. With his threatening language, Trump has dragged the dollar from its peak to its nadir. He has shown that the greatest enemy of the dollar is American politicians themselves, not China or Iran. When you threaten to attack a country, that country has no choice but to separate its financial system from yours. Iran did this, and now China, Russia, and half the world are following the same path. America thought that encircling Iran would kill our economy, but it was unaware that it was wrapping the dollar's noose around its own neck.

to become more competitive with road transport in order to achieve the goals of the Seventh Development Plan.

The official also stressed streamlining the railway network, continuing activities with a jihadi spirit, and the necessity of synergy among all sectors to achieve the goals of the current Iranian calendar year and to increase freight absorption and ton-kilometers.

According to IRNA, despite the damage inflicted on railway infrastructure during the Ramadan War, the record for daily rail freight transport was broken on several days, with daily freight volume exceeding 140,000 tons – an achievement demonstrating the capability, cohesion, and commitment of the Railways team.

The new Hezbollah drone threat is unsettling Israel

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hezbollah's loitering attack drones are now treated in the Israeli media discourse as a central and prominent challenge to the regime's military.

A review of Hezbollah's six statements in 24 hours reflects this. Five statements reveal that gatherings of Israeli Occupation Soldiers (IOF) and tanks have been targeted with loitering drones, achieving direct hits. The sixth statement said the Lebanese resistance shot down an IOF Hermes 900 drone with a surface-to-air missile.

A tangible, low-cost, and highly adaptable shift is emerging on the battlefield. Loitering attack drones are no longer seen in the regime's media as a secondary addition to a broader arsenal of rockets and artillery, but as a significant component in their own right.

In recent weeks, a different description has emerged: the IOF is facing a clear battlefield transformation, where Hezbollah's relatively small and highly flexible weapon has shown clear technological superiority.

From the Zionist regime's perspective, the matter is no longer seen as a "tactical nuisance," but as a weapon that has begun to alter certain rules of engagement. Suicide drones, especially those operating with fiber-optic (FPV) technology, are presented as a nontraditional operational problem, since they do not rely on wireless signals or GPS systems, making electronic jamming methods ineffective.

This reality, according to analysts, places the regime's defense systems before an unfamiliar gap. The weapon does not fully fit within conventional aerial threats, which the regime had designed to counter, nor can it be treated as a classic ground threat.

The result, as portrayed in Hebrew media, is an operational "gray zone" that is difficult to control with available military resources.

One of the most prominent consequences highlighted by Israeli commentators is the impact of these drones on the so-called "security belt" idea. This concept was based on pushing direct threats to the IOF, especially anti-armor missiles, farther away by creating



relatively safe geographic depth in Lebanese territory.

However, loitering attack drones bypass that assumption entirely. They do not require close positioning or a direct line of sight, and can be launched from greater distances with maneuverability that overcomes calculations underlying the concept of distance.

Therefore, geographic depth is no longer a strong protective factor and has become significantly less influential.

Although the regime's concern about this weapon predates the "Taybeh incident" when Hezbollah used a swarm of loitering drones that destroyed six IOF tanks and other military vehicles, the event is used in Israeli regime media discourse as a reference point for this shift.

Hezbollah's Taybeh operation did not stop at targeting an IOF ground unit, but also included the evacuation phase, with additional strikes hitting IOF rescue forces and even a military helicopter.

The Zionist regime's analysis highlights a key point: the loitering drone is no longer just a strike tool, but a means to disrupt the entire "military workflow chain", from engagement to rescue. This expansion in impact raises the weapon's value despite its relative simplicity.

Some analyses by the occupation regime go further, suggesting that these drones could serve as a partial alternative, or at least an effective complement, to anti-armor missiles. They are cheaper, more flexible, and do not require complex or easily exposed launch infrastructure.

Their main drawback is a smaller

explosive payload. However, according to the regime's commentary, this still gives Hezbollah the ability to maintain sustained operational pressure at a higher tempo, while reducing the logistical risks associated with heavier weapons.

The regime's media analysis does not hide the sense of confusion. There is acknowledgment that the IOF did not keep pace with this threat quickly enough, and that serious engagement with it began only after human losses were incurred.

Even more striking, as presented in the media, is the paradox between distant and near capabilities: the Zionist regime, which speaks of alleged freedom of military action in distant skies, struggles to intercept small drones along its northern settlements.

Part of the problem, according to Hebrew media, is not only technical but organizational. There is a debate between the Air Force and the Northern Command over who is responsible for addressing this threat.

Loitering drones fall between two classifications: they are neither a "classic aerial target" nor a purely "ground threat." This ambiguity affects command and control mechanisms and delays the development of a unified and effective response.

Scenes of IOF soldiers attempting to shoot down small drones with individual weapons are used in Hebrew media as evidence of disrupted expectations: an "advanced army" confronting a simple threat with relatively primitive tools. Moreover, the drones' self-filming and live-broadcast capabilities add a sensitive media dimension,

reducing the margin for denial or control of the military narrative.

Hezbollah's military media is publishing footage of these attack drones with cameras attached targeting IOF positions daily.

Facing this challenge, the IOF's security establishment is working to develop various solutions: interception nets, specialized munitions, portable radars, smart optics, and even interceptor drones.

However, the prevailing assessment, as reflected in Hebrew media, is that these solutions remain partial. Some even describe the situation as an "open arms race," where any defensive innovation can quickly be met with a low-cost offensive adjustment based on accessible civilian technologies.

The newspaper Haaretz acknowledged that the IOF lacks effective solutions for "explosive drones," noting that Hezbollah is also using quadcopter drones in this war that are difficult to detect or jam.

The paper's military correspondent quoted an IOF soldier saying that the drone "waits in the air or on rooftops, and explodes above forces as soon as movement occurs," making "every movement in open areas a risk, including contractors demolishing houses."

The correspondent added that Hezbollah is currently using drones "connected by fiber optics, which have several advantages over (IOF) detection and interception systems," as these drones are "silent and emit no signals," making them hard to detect or jam using existing electronic capabilities.

It has become evident that the Zionist regime, which has announced new casualties amid its war in Lebanon, is incapable of finding a solution to Hezbollah's drone capability. The latest surprise in Hezbollah's military arsenal: Fiber-optic drone technology can reach places where the regime's fixed detection systems cannot intercept.

The Lebanese resistance now also possesses imaging and intelligence-gathering capabilities, which help it identify Zionist regime targets. The regime's frustration has become evident as it blows up entire southern Lebanese villages, a clear sign of its inability to defeat Hezbollah in ground combat.

The Eiffel Tower could not outshine the tears for Minab's children

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The rain had softened the stones of Place du Trocadéro, but it did not dim the candles. Beneath the Eiffel Tower, hundreds gathered in Paris on April 25 for a vigil that was part mourning, part protest, and part accusation.

The crowd came to honor the victims of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and Lebanon, and to make sure their names were not reduced to statistics or pushed aside by meaningless statements of Western politicians.

The scene was striking in its mix of people and symbols. Iranian families stood beside Lebanese supporters, French anti-war activists, students, and human rights campaigners.

Many wore black. Others held candles or carried portraits of the Minab schoolchildren killed in the opening strike of the U.S.-Israeli campaign of aggression.

Banners moved above the crowd, alongside Iranian, Lebanese, and Palestinian flags.

A wire fence had been turned into a makeshift Wall of Martyrs, covered in red ribbons that fluttered in the damp night air.

What gave the vigil its force was not only the emotion, but the clarity of its message. The gathering rejected the idea that the war had been precise, limited, or defensible.

According to official figures, the 40-day assault on Iran killed over 3,400 people, at least 45 percent of whom were civilians. The wounded numbered in the tens of thousands, and the destruction reached far beyond military targets.

The Minab school massacre remained at the center of the evening. On February 28, the first day of the campaign of aggression, missiles hit Minab elementary school in southern Iran, killing at least 155 students.

At the Paris vigil, organizers treated Minab not as an isolated tragedy, but as the clearest example of what they described as a war against civilian life itself.

The wider destruction gave that claim weight. Over 125,000 civilian sites were damaged during the war, including 83,351 residential units, 39,508 commercial-residential units, 339 medical facilities, and 942 schools, according to official tallies. Telecommunications infrastructure was also de-



liberately hit, while water purification plants and the power grid were damaged in ways that left ordinary people exposed to deeper hardship.

Paris has become a recurring stage for this outrage. A large rally had already taken place at Bastille on March 1, shortly after the strikes began. Protests continued through March and April, including demonstrations in Europe and outside U.S. embassies in multiple countries after the ceasefire announced on April 8.

The Paris vigil at Trocadéro fit into that larger wave, but it felt different because it was slower, more intimate, and more openly tied to the martyrs.

The symbolism of the location sharpened the political message. Trocadéro is associated with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, yet demonstrators used the space to question what those words mean when schools are bombed and civilian neighborhoods are shattered.

Several participants also criticized France's role, arguing that Paris cannot publicly deny involvement while allowing U.S. aircraft to use French bases for logistical support. In their view, the war is not only being fought by bombs, but sustained by political cover.

The Eiffel Tower glowed across the Seine, but the more lasting image was the one made by the crowd itself: a public memory that refused to move on.

The vigil in Paris gave the martyrs a voice, linked Iranian grief to a wider international protest movement, and reminded the world that the price of this war is being paid first and foremost by civilians.

State visit of staged amnesia for two untouchable Epstein-era dynasts

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The 2026 state visit of Charles III to Washington was supposed to be a victory lap for the Western world. In reality, it felt more like a high-stakes funeral for accountability.

Beneath the roar of the flyovers and the clinking of crystal at White House dinners, a much older and more cynical "Special Relationship" was being renewed: the mutual agreement between London and Washington to ensure the specter of Jeffrey Epstein remains silent.

The most damning moment of the trip happened in the silence that followed a single, desperate request.

Representative Ro Khanna, a key architect of the Epstein Files Transparency Act, had asked the King for a gesture of basic humanity: a private meeting with the survivors of the Epstein network.

It was a chance for Charles to pretend that the monarchy has a pulse. Instead, the King retreated into the coward's veto, turning his back on the very people whose lives were shattered by the circles his family moved in.

To understand this refusal, one must look at the blueprint. Long before Epstein was a household name, Charles maintained a chillingly intimate friendship with Jimmy Savile, Britain's most prolific sexual predator.

Savile was a mentor, a marriage counselor, and a man to whom Charles once gifted gold cufflinks with a note of thanks for services the public would supposedly never know.

That same willful blindness, the ability to keep a predator in the fold until the stench becomes unbearable, is the exact same gear the Royal PR machine is using today to manage the Epstein fallout.

The timing of this visit was almost aggressively ironic.

Following the February arrest of Charles' brother Andrew for misconduct in public office, Andrew stands accused of treating his role as a UK trade envoy as a delivery service for sensitive information meant for Epstein's eyes.



Yet, in the U.S. Capitol, a building literally designed to represent the overthrow of royal tyranny, Charles stood as a symbol of institutional immunity.

He spoke in a rhetorical fog, using vague terms such as "social harms" to avoid ever uttering the names of the victims or the monsters who groomed them.

The American side of the stage was no less scripted. Trump, despite his pledge for "total transparency," has presided over a release of the Epstein files that looks more like a game of Tetris: strategically redacted blocks designed to protect the reputations of those still in power.

Under Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, the "unredacted" truth has remained frustratingly out of reach, hidden behind layers of national security excuses and executive privilege.

When Trump and Charles shook hands, it was a visual confirmation of the untouchables' club.

Both men have names that appear in the ledgers; both men now at least partly control the levers of the very systems supposed to investigate those ledgers.

Even the political fallout in London adds to the grim coherence of this story. The disgrace of Peter Mandelson, the former British Ambassador to the U.S. under Keir Starmer dismissed and arrested for his own web of Epstein-linked misconduct, proves that this rot is an elite infection that transcends the Labour-Tory divide and the Atlantic Ocean.

Trust in NP is steadily eroding: ACA director

If states conclude that the NPT no longer provides security, more countries may seek nuclear arms as protection against coercion

TEHRAN - Kelsey Davenport, the director for Nonproliferation Policy at the Arms Control Association (ACA), says the NPT remains the cornerstone of the global nonproliferation system.

However, she warns that "trust in the treaty is steadily eroding."

Speaking at an Al Jazeera panel discussion along with Tariq Rauf and Seyed Hossein Mousavian on whether the NPT can prevent a disaster, Davenport argues, "If states conclude that the NPT no longer provides security benefits or a credible path toward disarmament, more countries may seek nuclear weapons as protection against coercion."

Though Iran is a signatory to the NPT and its nuclear facilities were closely monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Israel and the United States struck its nuclear facilities during the 12-day war in June 2025 and again in the war, which began at the end of February and lasted for 40 days, even though a fragile ceasefire is now holding with the mediation of Pakistan.

Attacks on Iran's safeguarded nuclear sites dealt a major blow to IAEA credibility

Tariq Rauf, the former head of Nuclear Verification and Security Policy Coordination at the IAEA, also said that the NPT system is facing one of its gravest crises since its creation in 1970.

Rauf warned that the collapse of arms control agreements between the United States and Russia, renewed nuclear competition among major powers, and growing geopolitical tensions have deepened the divide between nuclear and non-nuclear states.

He described the attacks on Iran's "safeguarded nuclear facilities as a major blow to the credibility of the IAEA verification system." He warned that such actions could encourage proliferation rather than prevent it.

Rauf, with years of experience in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control, also stressed that Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal remains a major source of instability in the Middle East.

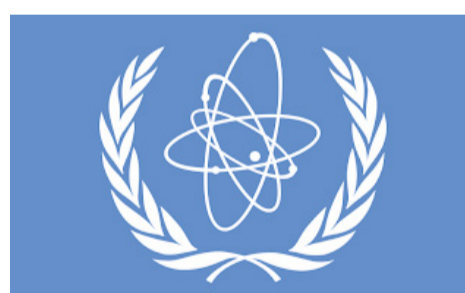
He advocated renewed efforts to establish a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone and said Western powers have long shielded Israel's nuclear program from international scrutiny.

Double-standards have done great harm to NPT

Speaking at the same forum, Seyed Hossein Mousavian, the former Iranian nuclear spokesman and current researcher at Princeton University, said the credibility of the NPT has been severely undermined by double standards and the failure of nuclear-weapon states to fulfill their obligations.

Mousavian emphasized four principal shortcomings: first, the nuclear powers have failed to meet their disarmament commitments under the treaty; second, they continue modernizing and expanding their arsenals; third, major powers maintain strategic relations with nuclear-armed states outside the NPT, such as Israel, India, and Pakistan; and fourth, there is discriminatory treatment regarding peaceful nuclear technology.

He noted that countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands enrich uranium without objection,



while Iran faces demands for "zero enrichment" despite remaining within the NPT.

He further stated that the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran's safeguarded nuclear facilities represented a clear violation of international law, the UN Charter, and the principles of the IAEA.

He stressed that Iran's nuclear program has remained under IAEA safeguards, but neither the IAEA nor the UN Security Council condemned the attacks, reinforcing the perception that the NPT is increasingly being used as a political instrument rather than an impartial legal framework.

Many Iranian decision-makers now see NPT membership as an 'existential vulnerability'

Mousavian added that now many decision-makers in Iran see NPT membership itself as an "existential vulnerability."

Since 2003, both IAEA reports and U.S. intelligence assessments have consistently found no evidence that Iran had decided to build nuclear weapons, he clarified.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Bombed office of martyred Leader considered for national heritage status



Ali Darabi in an undated photo

From Page 1 ► Darabi emphasized that all national and international programs organized by the cultural heritage deputy would incorporate references to the conflict. He said upcoming events, including those marking World Heritage Day and International Museum Day, would address the issue and reflect Iran's position on the war.

He also called for coordinated action among domestic and international bodies, noting that a comprehensive plan had been prepared outlining roles for organizations such as International Council of Museums and International Council on Monuments and

Sites, as well as Iran's Foreign Ministry. A follow-up meeting involving relevant ministers and First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref is expected to review progress.

Darabi said an exhibition on damage to Iran's cultural and historical heritage would also be organized at UNESCO, with preparatory work underway.

At the same meeting, Alireza Izadi, head of the registration office for historical and intangible heritage, announced the national registration of a bombed school in Minab and public gatherings held in The Hague in support of Iran during the conflict.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier

Chosen from the work of architect Le Corbusier that survives in eleven countries on four continents, the sites in seven countries on three continents, implemented over half a century, for the first time in the history of architecture attest to the internationalization of architectural practice across the entire planet.

Situated in Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, and Switzerland, the seventeen sites together represent an outstanding response to some of the fundamental issues of architecture and society in the 20th century.

They all were innovative in the way they reflected new concepts, all had a significant influence over wide geographical areas, and together they disseminated ideas of the Modern Movement throughout the world.

Despite its diversity, the Modern Movement was a major and essential socio-cultural and historical entity of the 20th century, which has to a large degree remained the basis of the architectural culture of the 21st century. From the 1910s to the 1960s, the Modern Movement, in meeting the challenges of contemporary society, aimed to instigate a unique forum of ideas at a world level, invent a new architectural language, modernize architectural techniques, and meet the social and human needs of modern man. The series provides an outstanding response to all these challenges.

Some of the component sites immediately assumed an iconic status and had worldwide influence. These include the Villa Savoye, as an icon for the Modern Movement; Unité d'habitation in Marseille as a major prototype of a new housing model based on a balance between the individual and the collective; Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut for its revolutionary approach to religious architecture; the Cabanon de Le Corbusier as an archetypal minimum cell based on ergonomic and functionalist approaches; and the Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung that became known worldwide, as part of the Werkbund exhibition.

Other sites acted as catalysts for spreading ideas around their own regions, such as Maison Guette, which spurred the development of the Modern Movement in Belgium and the Netherlands; the Maison du Docteur Curutchet which exerted a fundamental influence in South America; the Musée National des Beaux-Arts de l'Occident as the proto-

type of the globally transposable Museum of Unlimited Growth which cemented ideas of the Modern Movement in Japan; and the Capitol Complex that had a considerable influence across the Indian subcontinent, where it symbolized India's accession to modernity.

Many of the sites reflect new architectural concepts, principles, and technical features. The Petite villa au bord du Léman is an early expression of minimalist needs as is also crystallized in the Cabanon de Le Corbusier. Le Corbusier's Five Points of a New Architecture are transcribed iconically in Villa Savoye. The Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor is an example of the application of these points to a residential block, while they were also applied to houses, such as the Cité Frugès, and reinterpreted in the Maison du Docteur Curutchet, in the Couvent Sainte-Marie-de-la-Tourette and in the Musée National des Beaux-Arts de l'Occident. The glass-walled apartment building had its prototype in the Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor.

A few sites inspired major trends in the Modern Movement, Purism, Brutalism, and a move towards a sculptural form of architecture. The inaugural use of Purism can be seen in the Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret, Cité Frugès, and the Maison Guette; the Unité d'habitation played a pioneering role in promoting the trend of Brutalism, while the Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut and the Capitol Complex promoted sculptural forms.

Innovation and experimentation are reflected in the independent structure of concrete beams of the Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung, while pre-stressed reinforced concrete was used in the Couvent de La Tourette. In the Capitol Complex, concern for natural air-conditioning and energy saving led to the use of sunscreens, double-skinned roofs, and reflecting pools for the catchment of rainwater and air cooling.

Standardization is seen in the Unité d'habitation de Marseille, a prototype intended for mass production, while the Petite villa au bord du Lac Léman set out the standard for a single span minimal house, and the Cabanon de Le Corbusier presented a standard, minimum unit for living. The moduler, a harmonic system based on human scale, was used for the exterior spaces of the Complexe du Capitole, which reflect the silhouette of a man with a raised arm.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iran becoming prepared to welcome foreign travelers

TEHRAN – Iran is observing early signs of a return in foreign tourist arrivals as conditions stabilize following recent conflict, a senior tourism official said on Wednesday, adding that infrastructure and planning are in place to support a broader recovery in the sector.

Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey, Deputy Minister of Tourism at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said the country was preparing to host larger numbers of international visitors once a ceasefire is secured or hostilities fully subside.

Speaking at a meeting attended by Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, Mohseni-Bandpey said groundwork had been laid for a "surge" in tourism activity, citing improved infrastructure and strategic planning.

He pointed to a 48.5% rise in foreign tourist arrivals in the first month of the previous Iranian year as evidence of growing demand, attributing the increase to active tourism diplomacy and engagement with target markets. As part of these efforts, Iran hosted 16 tour operators from 26 countries in May last year to promote its tourism offerings internationally.

"With the easing of wartime conditions and the stabilization of the situation, the country must be fully prepared to accommodate a significant influx of foreign tourists," he said, adding that "real demand" for travel to Iran exists and requires careful management.

Mohseni-Bandpey also highlighted the role of media and private sector organizations in advancing tourism goals, calling for



greater transparency, accountability and stakeholder engagement. "Tourism managers should maintain continuous interaction with media and stakeholders without hesitation," he said.

He said recent approvals related to Iran's seventh national development plan marked an important step in facilitating progress in the tourism industry, creating conditions for growth at both domestic and international levels.

The official noted a shift in approach to provincial travel, referencing more than 80 provincial visits by the minister that focused on counties with tourism, cultural heritage and handicraft potential.

He said this broader approach would support more balanced regional development.

Iran has also divided the country into nine tourism regions and deployed managers locally to improve oversight, particularly during crises. The use of modern technologies and real-time monitoring of travel flows has enabled faster and more precise decision-making, he said.

Mohseni-Bandpey described the national Travel Services Coordination Headquarters as a key pillar of tourism governance, playing a central role in managing travel and ensuring coordination across sectors.

He added that a draft strategic tourism document based on multiple scenarios had been prepared, focusing on preservation, resilience and rebuilding Iran's national tourism brand. Government-backed support and incentive packages for tourism stakeholders have also been finalized following directives from the president, he said, aiming to sustain operations and strengthen the sector's long-term recovery.

According to Salehi-Amiri, Iran generated about \$7.4 billion from foreign tourism in the past Iranian calendar year (ended in March 2025), with more than 7 million international visitors arriving in the country.

Over four million sheltered in Iran's eco-lodges in recent war, official says

TEHRAN – More than four million people were accommodated in Iran's eco-lodges during the recent war with the US and Israeli regime, a senior tourism official said, highlighting the sector's role as a refuge for civilians and a means for rural economies.

Seyyed Mostafa Fatemi, director general for domestic tourism development at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, told IRNA that eco-lodges hosted large numbers of travelers during the "third imposed war," which began on Feb. 28. He said rural areas played a prominent role in terms of both visitor numbers and length of stay.

Fatemi said many travelers moved to villages in northern provinces such as Mazandaran, Gilan and Ardabil. Including free accommodation, often provided to acquaintances of eco-lodge operators, facilities recorded an average occupancy rate of about 60%.

The war resulted in casualties among civilians and damage



to non-military infrastructure. Fatemi added that, beyond northern regions, southern provinces and even areas directly affected by the fighting also hosted guests in eco-lodges.

He described eco-lodges as a successful model in Iran, contributing to the preservation of rural culture and identity while supporting handicrafts, traditional cuisine and reverse migration to villages. During the war, he said, these accommodations took on an expanded role, functioning as

relatively safe shelters for people relocating from urban centers.

"These lodges effectively acted as a form of passive civil defense in cultural and security terms," Fatemi said, adding that they helped sustain parts of the tourism cycle while providing safer environments for displaced residents.

Iran currently has about 3,900 active eco-lodges, with the highest concentration in Mazandaran province. Fatemi said accommodation costs vary depending

on regional standards, services, climate and seasonal demand. Nightly rates start at around 10 million rials equivalent in local pricing, while some higher-standard lodges operate with flexible tariffs based on services offered.

He noted that accommodation standards are set and implemented by certification companies affiliated with the ministry.

Iran's eco-tourism development policies in recent years have focused on promoting sustainable rural development, empowering local communities and preserving indigenous cultural identities. Authorities have sought to position eco-lodges as economic drivers in underdeveloped and rural areas.

Key policy pillars include community-based development, job creation, strengthening local heritage, diversifying income sources beyond traditional agriculture and supporting innovation through tourism startups aimed at improving digital marketing and service delivery in the sector.

Iran approves national document dedicated to its museums



TEHRAN – Iran's Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution has approved a "National Museums Document," a senior cultural heritage official said, outlining a comprehensive framework to guide the country's museum sector.

Deputy Cultural Heritage Min-

ister Ali Darabi said on Wednesday that the document was ratified during a council meeting on Tuesday after months of expert consultations and reviews of domestic and international practices.

Darabi described the document as a key upstream policy instru-

ment that sets out a roadmap for the future of museum management in Iran across multiple dimensions. He said it aims to redefine museums from primarily exhibition spaces into institutions that contribute to cultural governance, national identity formation, public education and sustainable development.

The official added that one of the central goals of the document is to establish a unified and integrated governance system for museums and museum practices across the country.

Darabi also linked the approval of the document to broader historical developments, noting that Iran had established cultural heritage institutions during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war and adopted other heritage-related

policies during subsequent periods of conflict. He said the latest move reflects continued attention by senior leadership to the cultural heritage sector.

The official added that effective implementation of the document could transform museums into more dynamic, publicly engaged and influential cultural institutions, enhancing their standing both domestically and internationally.

Iran currently has around 1,000 active museums, a figure officials say is relatively low given the country's long history. Notable institutions include the National Museum of Iran, the Golestan Palace museum complex, the Pars Museum, and the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, which opened in 1977.

Tehran, Bishkek discuss expanding sci-tech cooperation

TEHRAN – Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarrafi, and Minister of Science, Higher Education, and Innovation of Kyrgyzstan, Gulzat Isamatova, have explored ways to deepen scientific and technological ties between the two countries.

The officials held a phone call on Monday, IRNA reported.

Wishing peace and stability for Iran, the Kyrgyz official invited the science minister to pay a visit to the universities and scientific centers in Kyrgyzstan, and participate in forthcoming scientific conferences.

For his part, Simaei-Sarrafi welcomed the idea of enhancing scientific collaborations and stressed the need to benefit from the capacities of science and technology parks to share expertise and strengthen innovation ecosystems, noting that these measures will lay the ground for improving technological interactions between Iran and Kyrgyzstan.

The two sides also discussed boosting cultural interactions among students of the two nations through educational centers to hold Persian and Kyrgyz language courses.

Relations in ICT, economy

In September 2024, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister Sattar Hashemi met his Kyrgyz counterpart to discuss ways to foster cooperation in the ICT sector.



The officials met on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation held in Astana, Kazakhstan, Mehr news agency reported.

Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Nuria Kutnaeva, expressed interest in defining joint projects and developing scientific cooperation. The official emphasized the necessity of cooperation in the field of ICT in addition to economic and cultural collaborations between the two countries.

During the meeting, the two sides welcomed cooperation in local platforms and postal af-

fairs and decided to prepare a draft of a memorandum of understanding in this regard.

Moreover, in April 2025, Iran and Kyrgyzstan held the 14th meeting of their Joint Economic Committee in Tehran, aiming to expand bilateral ties across economic, scientific, cultural, and technical sectors.

Senior officials from both countries, including Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh and Kyrgyz Economy and Commerce Minister Sydykov Bakyt Tolomushevich, attended the meeting, which emphasized boosting trade and investment cooperation.

At the opening ceremony, Nouri highlighted agriculture, industry, energy, and technology as key areas of collaboration. He expressed hope that the session would lay the groundwork for a significant rise in economic exchanges between the two nations.

Sydykov echoed these sentiments, noting the long-standing ties between Iran and Kyrgyzstan since 1992 and underscoring multilateral cooperation through organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union.

Health ministry intensifies workplace safety inspections during war

TEHRAN – The health ministry has strengthened measures to promote the safety and health of workers in workplaces, especially during the recent war with the US-Israeli coalition.

Following the beginning of the war, on February 28, some industrial infrastructures across the country were destroyed, with some being targeted deliberately, ISNA quoted Mohsen Farhadi, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2026, which is observed annually on April 28.

Putting this year's theme, 'let's ensure a healthy psychological working environment', into practice, the health ministry did not stop workplace safety inspections during the 40-day war, but intensified them to ensure mental and physical health of the workforce, identify high-risk places, and prevent possible threats on time, the official noted.

The current conditions of the country, the war, and the economic stress have led to increased mental and psychological tensions. To address these challenges, experts affiliated with the health ministry are and will be dispatched to the industrial units to provide guidance and essential training to help employers and staff reduce workplace stress, and create a positive environment at work, he added.

Referring to work-related sources of

stress, Farhadi said apart from financial problems, dissatisfaction with the shift work is associated with increased stress levels. He also highlighted other influential factors like physical and psychological health of the staff, which are checked before and after their employment, and environmental factors such as lighting and noise.

The official went on to say that the ministries of health and labor are the two main organizations that are responsible for managing the safety of workers and employers at workplaces, and that the two ministries have signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct prevention and minimize accidents at work.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work

The annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.

It is an awareness-raising campaign intended to focus international attention on the magnitude of the problem and on how promoting and creating a safety and health culture can help reduce the number of work-related deaths and injuries.

The psychosocial working environment is defined by how work is designed, organized and managed, and the organizational practices that shape everyday working conditions. Psychosocial factors – such as workload and working time, role clarity, autonomy, support, and fair and transparent

processes – strongly influence how work is experienced and affect workers' safety, health and performance.

When psychosocial factors harm workers, they become hazards which, alongside physical, chemical and biological types, must be addressed and managed to ensure safe and healthy working environments.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) marks the day with a global report that takes an organizational, prevention-focused approach and looks at psychosocial factors across three levels: the job, how work is managed and organized, and the broader policies, practices and procedures that govern work.

In 2003, the ILO began to observe World Day in order to stress the prevention of accidents and diseases at work, capitalizing on the ILO's traditional strengths of tripartism and social dialogue.

This celebration is an integral part of the Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health of the ILO, as documented in the Conclusions of the International Labour Conference in June 2003. One of the main pillars of the Global Strategy is advocacy, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work is a significant tool to raise awareness of how to make work safe and healthy and of the need to raise the political profile of occupational safety and health.

ICRC president in Iran to discuss urgent humanitarian concerns

TEHRAN – Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), is paying an official visit to Iran to discuss urgent humanitarian concerns.

During her visit, Spoljaric Egger is planning to hold meetings with senior government officials and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) to discuss the humanitarian consequences of the recent illegal war by the United States and Israel on Iran and the region, and to reaffirm the importance of international humanitarian law in protecting civilians and essential infrastructure during conflict.

The official is also scheduled to talk about practical arrangements to dispatch additional

supplies to support the IRCS relief services, which are on the front line of providing life-saving aid amid conflicts.

The ICRC is expected to deliver more medical tools and medicine to the country in the near future.

The first humanitarian relief items from the ICRC included 171 tons of essential items such as blankets, water containers, kitchen sets, tarpaulin cloths, hygiene parcels, solar lamps, buckets, and mattresses that were delivered by five trucks, IRNA reported.

Moreover, 200 generators and 100 water pumps, purchased from the country's market, were donated to the IRCS.

The two shipments will pro-

vide for the basic needs of 25,000 families.

The ICRC representative to Iran, Vincent Cassard, hoped the consignment would help alleviate part of the suffering and pain of the Iranian people caused by the destructive measures of the US and Israel during the war.

The ICRC hopes to send more medical and essential assistance in the coming weeks. The organization has also voiced readiness to boost cooperation with the IRCS in providing relief services and assistance to the people in need.

"We aim to extend support for the humanitarian efforts of the Iranian Red Crescent Society. Their committed response,

particularly during difficult situations, is amazing. We are still committed to supporting their critical activities," Cassard noted.

On March 26, Cassard said the scale of civilian casualties and the humanitarian impact of the U.S.-Israeli war of aggression against Iran is deeply shocking, describing images from the strikes as heartbreaking.

The toll on civilians and the destruction of essential services they depend on is deeply distressing, Cassard said in an exclusive interview with IRNA.

He noted that images of the ruined girls' school in Minab and the coffins of numerous children had left a profound emotional impact on him.

Red cross societies express solidarity with Iran over martyred aid workers

TEHRAN – The red cross societies of Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and Norway, in separate letters to the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Pirhossein Kolivand, have expressed their solidarity and offered condolences over the martyrdom of four IRCS staff members, martyred during the US-Israeli aggression.

Hamidreza Jahanbakhsh, Somayeh Mir Abou Eshaq, Alireza Sohbati, and Abolfazl Dehnavi were the relief workers martyred during U.S. and Israeli airstrikes on Iran while carrying out their duties.

The letters expressed deep concern over the killing of humanitarian and aid workers and attacks on civilian infrastructure, emphasizing the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian relief workers, facilities, and emblems, in compliance with international humanitarian law.

Rosario Maria Gianluca Valastro, president of the Italian Red Cross Society, condemned the attacks on humanitarian aid workers and highlighted the need to be committed to upholding fundamental humanitarian principles, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence.

The letter underlined respect for the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems and the protection of humanitarian aid workers as a collective priority, noting that any attack against humanitarian workers is unacceptable, and a grave breach of international humanitarian law.

The Austrian Red Cross noted that the IRCS is on the front line of emergency responses. It is at the forefront of search and rescue operations, emergency medical responses, and many other vital services. The commitment and courage of IRCS in these difficult times reflect the shared humanitarian mission across the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Norwegian Red Cross lauded the valuable relationship between the two national societies, highlighting that interacting and cooperating with the IRCS represents the two societies' commitment to humanitarian actions and reciprocal support.

IRCS to act as regional rescue, relief training hub

Thanks to the high capabilities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society and its remarkable achievements over the past years, particularly during the US-Israel war against the country, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has decided to choose the IRCS as the regional hub for rescue and relief training, the head of the IRCS has said.

This responsibility highlights global trust

in the experiences, commitments, and capabilities of the IRCS, Mehr news agency quoted Kolivand as saying.

An IFRC delegation, led by Xavier Castellanos Mosquera, the IFRC undersecretary-general for national society development and operations coordination, is paying a field visit to the civilian areas, such as residential units and medical centers like Gandhi hospital that were targeted and devastated by the United States and Israeli regime during the imposed 40-day war. The delegation is accompanied by Kolivand.

Holding a meeting on April 21, the officials also discussed the devastating impacts of sanctions on rescue services and people's health.

The red cross societies of Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and Norway offered condolences over four IRCS staff members martyred during the US-Israeli aggression.

Condemning the inhumane measures of the aggressors, Mosquera highlighted the importance of legal action in international forums, and explicitly that would carry the Iranian nation's voice for justice to the ears of the world.

The official also lauded the IRCS relief services and efforts, including quick responding to crises and deploying relief workers, attracting volunteers, providing public trainings, rehabilitation and social services, as well as distributing medicines and medical tools, effectively and precisely.

Recruiting rescuers that ride horses, establishing helal (crescent) houses, and expanding neighborhood-based services were among IRCS initiatives that, according to Mosquera, should be introduced as successful models to other national societies.

The IFRC has put the priority on showcasing the IRCS capabilities, specialized staff and professional volunteers to international societies.

Mosquera officially asked the IRCS to share its valuable experiences with other societies to help them enhance their global preparedness and operational capacity, which further underlines the role and inspiring position of the IRCS in the international arena.

"The Iranian Red Crescent Society is our reliable global partner; the international societies should know that during the 40-day [US-Israeli imposed] war, more than 100,000 rescuers volunteered to provide relief services," IRNA quoted Castellanos Mosquera as saying on April 19.



Restored Maharloo Lake attracts tourists for recreation

Tourists are spending hours at Maharloo Lake in southern Fars Province for leisure and recreation, as significant rainfall last winter and this spring has revived the Lake, which had recently been facing drought and water shortages.

With an area of around 600 sq. km, Maharloo is a perfect stopover for nature lovers. The lake turns pink for a good reason. The growth of bacteria and particularly seaweeds changes the color of the water body, which is rich in potassium and salts.

In mid-summer, the lake loses its water due to high evaporation, leaving behind a white bed and pinkish-colored water. The lake water is used for extracting salt and is considered a natural habitat for migratory birds and wild animals.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

APRIL 30, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Most of those who lose their wisdom, do so because of being dazzled by greed, and shutting their eyes against fact.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 19:09 Dawn: 3:40 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:13 (tomorrow)

IAF to show Terence Davies's "Distant Voices, Still Lives"

TEHRAN – The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen "Distant Voices, Still Lives," a 1988 British period drama film written and directed by Terence Davies, on Friday.

The 84-minute movie will be shown at the Nasser Hall of the IAF at 6 p.m., with Persian subtitles, IRNA reported.

"Distant Voices, Still Lives" evokes working-class family life in Liverpool during the 1940s and early 1950s, paying particular attention to the role of popular music, Hollywood cinema, light entertainment, and the public house within this tight-knit community.

It is made up of two separate films, shot two years apart, but with the same cast and crew. The first section, "Distant Voices," chronicles the early life of a working-class Catholic family living under a thoroughly psychotic, abusive, violent, and mostly hateful father.

The second section, "Still Lives," sees the children grown up and emerging into a brighter 1950s Britain, only a few years from rock and roll and the Beatles, yet somehow still a lifetime away.

The cast includes Pete Postlethwaite, Freda Dowie, Lorraine Ashbourne, Jean Boht, Michael Starke, Andrew Schofield, Debi Jones, and Pauline Quirke among others.

The film won the Grand Prix of the Belgian



Film Critics Association. In 1988, the film won the Golden Leopard of the Locarno Film Festival. In 2007 the British Film Institute re-printed and distributed the film across some of Britain's most high-profile independent cinemas, prompting The Guardian newspaper to describe it as "Britain's forgotten cinematic masterpiece."

In a 2011 poll, carried out by Time Out of the 100 greatest British films of all time, "Distant Voices, Still Lives" was ranked third. The film is now sometimes seen as one of the best films ever made.

The Iranian Artists Forum is located at Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

Cartoon of Day



Trump

Cartoonist: Fares Garabet from Germany

Piercing gaze of innocence: Tajrish Square hosts "Eyes of Minab" installation

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- In the heart of the bustling Tajrish Square, where the vibrant energy of the capital often conceals the quiet sorrow of recent months, a profound artistic intervention has forced passersby to pause.

A new art installation titled "The Eyes of Minab" by architectural designer Reza Golpayegani has transformed the square into a sanctuary of reflection, drawing the gaze of every passerby toward the innocent eyes of children whose lives were tragically cut short during the recent aggressions.

The installation features large-scale, cropped images of the eyes and parts of the faces of children from Minab, young souls who were martyred during US-Israeli attacks.

In Minab, the ordinary rhythm of school life was shattered in an instant. Classrooms that had once echoed with laughter and the scratch of pencils became scenes of unimaginable tragedy. Children, some just beginning to explore the world beyond their homes, were caught in the sudden violence of airstrikes, their lives ending before they had the chance to grow into the futures they had dreamed of.

Streets that were once filled with the chatter of families and friends fell silent, replaced by grief and shock. Parents, who had waved their children off to school with hope, were left grappling with an emptiness no embrace or memory could fill. School that had once been full of life now stand empty and silent, desks and chairs serving as haunting witnesses to the children and teachers whose lives were abruptly taken.

Golpayegani, a seasoned architectural designer and Soreh University graduate with over 12 years of experience and more than 50 cultural projects to his credit, spoke with the Tehran Times about the spiritual and artistic journey behind this moving tribute.

Through this work, one of Tehran's most iconic hubs has been transformed into a space of collective mourning and spiritual reflection. The installation serves as a haunting tribute to the young students of Minab, who became unintended symbols of a national tragedy during the airstrikes launched by the Zionist-US coalition against Iranian soil.

Speaking on the origins of the work, Golpayegani recalled a previous collaboration with UNESCO where small photographs of children were used for a memorial.



Iranian designer Reza Golpayegani

It was then that he became captivated by the sheer power of a child's gaze. "Every feature of a child radiates their youth, but their eyes have a unique power to arrest the senses; they hold a reflection of the soul that war cannot extinguish," Golpayegani noted.

The artist explained that the fragmented nature of the images—focusing specifically on the eyes—symbolizes the tragic physical toll of the strikes on Minab, where the suddenness of the aggression tore apart families and futures. Addressing the challenge of depicting such a heavy subject without causing a sense of repulsion, Golpayegani emphasized that the reality of this conflict must be recounted within the social fabric.

"My concern was that the people might find it too heavy to face daily," he said. "However, the feedback has been the opposite. People are drawn to the innocence. There is a purity in these images that prevents them from being jarring; instead, they are perceived as deeply beautiful and a testament to the right to live that was stolen from these students."

Golpayegani chose Tajrish Square specifically because it represents the "flow of life" more than any other location in Tehran, providing a stark contrast to the silence that now hangs over the schools in Minab. The public reaction has been visceral; the artist shared an account of a local professional who, upon first encountering the installation, circled the square ten times in tears, struck by the magnetic pull of the children's stares.

For Golpayegani, this resonance is a testament to the art-

ist's duty during times of national defense. He believes that while artists should continue their craft, they must choose their subjects with "meticulous obsession" to reflect the truths of war. "I believe the 'Barakat' (blessing) of these martyred children is reflecting itself through the society," he remarked, suggesting that the spiritual weight of the subjects transcends the physical art itself, turning a public square into a site of spiritual resistance.

Looking to the future, Golpayegani insists that this narrative must not fade into the archives of history. The installation, which remains in Tajrish until May 13, is envisioned as a traveling memorial that will move to other affected cities, including Minab itself, as well as Qazvin and Karaj, where other students also fell victim to the aggression.

The artist is particularly committed to keeping the memory of individual victims alive, such as Makan Nasiri—a young student whose remains have yet to be recovered after the strikes and whose DNA tests remain inconclusive. "We must narrate these stories for the children of the

future," Golpayegani concluded. "Even years from now, when the next generation looks into these eyes, they must understand the cost of our sovereignty and never forget the innocence that was sacrificed."

On February 28, the Shajarah Tayyebah girls' elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, was struck by missiles as the United States and Israel launched attacks against Iran. Dozens of children aged 7 to 12, along with their teachers, were killed when the building collapsed, leaving 168 dead and at least 95 wounded.

Investigations, including satellite analyses and witness accounts, confirmed that the school was a distinct civilian facility and was deliberately hit three times. Global outlets, such as The New York Times, BBC Verify, CBC, and NPR, have attributed responsibility to the United States, highlighting the deliberate targeting of a civilian school. The Minab tragedy now stands as a stark reminder of the human cost of the aggression and a rallying point for calls for international accountability.



16th Persian Gulf International Art & Culture Festival kicks off

TEHRAN – The 16th Persian Gulf International Art & Culture Festival was launched in Minab and Bandar Abbas counties as well as Hormuz and Bu Musa islands on Wednesday.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Farkhondeh Jalali, Director General of Culture and Islamic Guidance Office of Hormozgan Province, explained the programs of the festival, announcing that for the first time this year, Minab has been selected as one of the main venues for the event, ILNA reported.

Emphasizing the importance of preserving the historical identity of the Persian Gulf, she stated: "This festival is an annual opportunity to revisit the cultural, artistic, and historical capacities of this valuable body of water. This year, it will be held with a broader and more diverse approach."

She congratulated the public on the National Persian Gulf Day (April 30), highlighting the key role of media and artists in safeguarding the national and cultural identity of Iran.

"Today, more than ever before, the name of the Persian Gulf stands as a firmly established historical and identity symbol on the global stage, a result strongly supported by

media and cultural efforts," she added.

Jalali reported that 277 works were submitted to the Persian Gulf Screenwriting Festival, with 31 coming from Hormozgan Province. Likewise, for the Persian Gulf Book of the Year, 184 works were received, 140 from Hormozgan and 44 focused specifically on the Persian Gulf.

She further announced plans to hold specialized academic and research meetings with domestic and international scholars, focusing on the history, culture, and identity of the Persian Gulf, aiming to enrich academic content in this field.

She revealed that two new books related to the Persian Gulf are in the final stages of publication. One examines Britain's presence in the Persian Gulf, and the other explores the folk culture of Hormozgan; both are set to be unveiled during the festival.

The festival's cultural programs will begin with a night of poetry featuring Hormozgan poets, followed by events on Hormuz Island, including environmental art installations, poster exhibitions, flag-raising ceremonies, and a fishing boat parade.

Continuing the celebrations, Minab will host the special event for National Persian Gulf Day, during which tributes will be paid to student martyrs and several artistic and cultural works will be unveiled.

Jalali also mentioned the design and release of a commemorative postage stamp honoring Minab's student martyrs: "Coordination has been made with the national post company, and a design call will soon be announced so that artists from the province can submit their works."

Finally, she announced the addition of several new specialized festivals to the Persian Gulf event lineup, including the Persian Gulf Oud Players Festival, Resistance Photography and Poster Festival, Monologue Theater Festival, Coastal Music Festival, and Environmental Arts Festival, all to be held throughout the year.

In conclusion, Jalali stressed that the Persian Gulf Art & Culture Festival is not merely a commemorative event, but rather a platform for ongoing cultural and artistic creation and for strengthening the historical and identity memory of the people toward the Persian Gulf.