

Trump's Piracy Doctrine

The US president admits American naval forces act like 'pirates'

TEHRAN - At a rally in Florida on Friday, President Donald Trump sparked outrage by describing the recent US Navy operation that seized an Iranian-flagged vessel as piracy. Trump recounted the operation, in which US forces took control of the ship and its cargo, including oil, saying, "We land on top of it and we took over the ship. We took over the cargo, took over the oil. It's a very profitable business. We're like pirates." His comments, which were met with applause from his supporters, have raised concerns about the legality and morality of US actions in international waters, particularly as they involve seizing Iranian property under questionable legal justifications.

US-Israel aggression

Trump's comments come amid the US-Israel war against Iran, which began on February 28. This joint operation, while aimed at weakening Iran's military infrastructure, has proven to be a strategic failure. Despite massive airstrikes, the campaign has not only failed to degrade Iran's defensive capabilities but has also intensified Iran's resolve to protect its sovereignty. The killing of key Iranian figures, who might have been willing to engage in negotiations, has left the Iranian leadership more united and defiant than ever.

Rather than crippling Iran, the US and Israel have inadvertently fueled Iranian nationalism and hardened Tehran's stance on issues such as the Strait of Hormuz and its nuclear program. The US invasion and airstrikes on Iranian territory have only isolated Washington further, pushing Tehran to bolster its alliances with its strategic partners. ▶ Page 3



Iran's top diplomat steps up talks with France, Russia, and S. Korea to end war

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has held a series of diplomatic consultations with his French and Russian counterparts as efforts intensify to bring an end to the ongoing conflict involving the United States and Israel.

In a phone call early Saturday, Araghchi and his French counterpart Jean-Noël Barrot discussed the latest developments in West Asia and explored diplomatic initiatives to end the war launched on February 28. According to a statement released by Iran's Foreign Ministry, both sides reviewed proposals to de-escalate tensions and move toward a lasting resolution. ▶ Page 2

Iran, Brazil highlight preventing ITU from being politicized

TEHRAN - Information and Communication Technology Minister Sattar Hashemi and his Brazilian counterpart, Frederico de Siqueira Filho, have said the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) should not be affected by political approaches.

In an online meeting on Friday, Hashemi referred to the US-Israeli attacks against the country's civilian and communication infrastructures, saying that such actions are in contrast to the principles of international law, which need to be condemned in specialized forums. ▶ Page 7

The war on Iran broke the NATO protection racket

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN - The 2026 U.S.-Israeli war on Iran has incinerated the 70-year-old myth of Atlantic solidarity.

What was sold to the world for decades as an ironclad shield has been exposed as a hollow ritual, sustained by habit and propaganda but incapable of surviving a genuine collision with reality.

The campaign against Iran forced Europe to weigh its own survival against Washington's pursuit of full-spectrum dominance. For perhaps the first time, Europe seemed to tentatively prioritize itself, sifting through the ruins of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for a path forward.

Where the shield cracked

The decisive test of the alliance occurred in the narrow, high-stakes waters of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's asymmetric maritime strategy, deploying smart mines, drone swarms, and shore-to-ship missiles against vessels linked to the aggressors, turned a vital global chokepoint into a strategic graveyard for Western naval prestige. ▶ Page 5

The UAE, OPEC, and the collapse of the Persian Gulf order

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - The United Arab Emirates' decision to leave OPEC was presented by Abu Dhabi as a strategic move toward greater energy autonomy. The reality tells a different story. This departure represents the tacit acknowledgment of a deeper geopolitical defeat: the end of a decades-long project in which the Persian Gulf monarchies attempted to construct a regional order that excluded Iran. What we are witnessing is the collapse of the security architecture that has defined the Persian Gulf since 1981.

The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council was conceived as a cordon sanitaire against the Islamic Revolution. Four decades later, that project has failed. The recent war with Iran revealed the fundamental truth the monarchies had tried to conceal: without American protection, the regional balance of power favors Tehran. ▶ Page 2

Trump treats Vietnam-era War Powers law as a 'paper tiger'

TEHRAN - President Donald Trump said Friday that a ceasefire with Iran removes the need for congressional authorization of US military operations, a position that has drawn fierce criticism from Democrats who argue he is effectively treating a cornerstone war-limiting law as irrelevant.

In letters to Congress, Trump claimed that "hostilities... have terminated," pointing to a two-week ceasefire in April which he unilaterally extended later. On that basis, the administration argues that the 60-day requirement under the War Powers Resolution no longer applies.

But the 60-day deadline—triggered when Congress was formally notified on March 2 after the February 28 launch of military operations against Iran—has now expired, intensifying a constitutional clash between the White House and lawmakers. Enacted in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, the resolution was designed to prevent exactly this kind of prolonged, unilateral military engagement by requiring presidents to seek congressional approval. ▶ Page 2

IRGC: 14 personnel martyred in ordnance clearance explosion in Zanjan

TEHRAN - Fourteen members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) were martyred and two others injured after an explosion occurred during a mine and unexploded ordnance clearance mission in Zanjan province, according to an official statement.

The incident took place on Friday as specialized demolition units were carrying out a high-risk operation to detect and neutralize unexploded munitions reportedly left behind following recent aerial attacks on Iranian territory. The IRGC described the blast as resulting from the detonation of an unidentified unexploded device during a counter-IED neutralization procedure.

In its statement, the IRGC emphasized that those killed were highly trained and experienced personnel engaged in safeguarding public safety and regional stability. It noted that the victims were operating on the front lines of a complex and sensitive mission aimed at eliminating lingering threats posed by unexploded ordnance. ▶ Page 2

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art to hold "Art & War" event series

TEHRAN - The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) will launch a special exhibition titled "Art & War".

The "Art & War" event series, starting on Sunday, will examine how contemporary wars and crises affect art and artists around the world, IRNA reported. In the first part of the series, six landmark works by famous artists of the Pop Art movement such as Robert Indiana, James Rosenquist, and Roy Lichtenstein will be on display. These works portray artists' responses to wars and global crises through the lens of art, inviting visitors to enter a world of reflection, resistance, and rethinking today's global crises.

Emerging in the decades following the Second World War, Pop Art turned its attention to the imagery of everyday life amid a rapidly expanding world of mass media and consumer culture. ▶ Page 8



Teachers pledge allegiance to new Leader

TEHRAN - A ceremony was held on Saturday, May 2, for teachers to pledge allegiance to Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, the new Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Teachers gathered on Keshvar Doost Street, central Tehran, where the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was martyred during a US-Israeli airstrike that targeted his office on February 28.

Education Minister Alireza Kazemi said during the ceremony that "We will not stop for a moment in the path of educating the next generation and maintaining the scientific advancement of the country."

Trump wants to get out of the Iran quagmire, but seems can't do it: American journalist

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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The Strait of Hormuz as a key pillar of Iran's deterrence

Kayhan, in an analysis, discussed the importance of the Strait of Hormuz for Iran and wrote: Iran proved in the Ramadan War that it is not easy to engage with the Islamic Republic, but it did not reach the point where the enemy would avoid fighting it altogether. During the war, Trump was surprised that Iran stood firm. Part of this surprise came from the incorrect information that those around him had given him. One of the constant and unwavering elements of Iran's deterrent power, which was revealed in the Ramadan War, is the Strait of Hormuz and, even beyond that, the 'element of geography.' For a country with the features of the Islamic Republic, one that emphasizes independence and freedom of action in an unjust global order, and whose opponents do not want certain benefits to reach it, the Strait of Hormuz is the greatest guarantor. The other side of the story is that when countries in the regional environment feel weak in protecting themselves and turn to powerful states in the region, this means the creation of power by the Strait of Hormuz. Using this element prevents the enemy from forming an anti-Iran coalition around Iran. So, in one sentence, the Strait has given Iran a prominent position in deterrence, although it is still not decisive or sufficient.

Arman-e-Melli: America's failure in the war

Arman-e Melli wrote in an article: Recent developments show that the predetermined calculations of the United States and Israel in attacking Iran, such as regime change, pressuring China by restricting Iran's oil exports to that country, and so on, have been completely disrupted. As a result, in a new approach after the ceasefire, they have turned to using their new card: a naval blockade. While Trump and Netanyahu hoped to achieve their goals through military and economic pressure, what they gained instead was increased tensions and internal and global pressure against this approach due to the energy crisis and the region's becoming increasingly insecure. The naval blockade has not created much of a challenge for Iran as a pressure tool, because Iran has learned many ways to evade sanctions over the years and can use them to break naval blockades. Iran has been able to export oil at a price higher than before the war, and in addition, has even generated new foreign-currency revenue through fees collected from the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's top diplomat steps up talks with France, Russia, and S. Korea to end war

From page 1 ▶ On Saturday, Iran's top diplomat also held a phone call with his South Korean counterpart to discuss initiatives aimed at ending the ongoing US-Israeli war, according to a statement from the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In a separate call on Friday, Araghchi also

Khorasan: The naval blockade as a long-term economic war

Khorasan, in an analysis, examined the war and the naval blockade imposed by the United States. Trump's recent remarks about intensifying the naval blockade are a sign of a paradigm shift in America's strategy against Iran, and it can be said that the United States has shifted from a temporary and short-term action to a long-term and sustained strategy for pressuring Iran. In simpler terms, this is a decision to continue and constantly increase pressure until Iran is forced to accept Trump's demands. This shift moves the war, for the United States, from a phase of displaying power to a phase of managing the war. Unlike costly options such as a military attack or withdrawing from the war, which would cause embarrassment for Trump, the White House is now relying on a tool that can be described as pressure with minimal military cost and maximum social impact. Within this framework, the naval blockade is not a tactical action but the infrastructure of a long-term economic war—one whose goal is not physical destruction but the gradual draining of the financial and psychological capacity of the opposing side.

Iran: Iran's initiative to move beyond exhausting negotiations

Iran presented a three-stage plan to the United States, according to which each step must be implemented only after verification of the previous one. At the top of the plan is ending the war and stabilizing peace, followed by lifting the blockade and returning normal conditions to shipping routes, so that if Washington's goodwill is observed in practice, other disputed issues can be placed on the table in later stages. Evidence shows that the Americans have not yet given a clear and final response to this Iranian proposal—an indication that Washington is still wavering between the necessity of an agreement and its own considerations. In this atmosphere, Iran, without waiting too long and in order to maintain diplomatic momentum, sent a newer version of its proposal to Washington last Thursday night through Pakistan. This move signals Iran's effort to manage the sensitive moment after the war, stabilize the existing ceasefire, and turn the current limited opportunity into a lasting agreement before the suspended and ambiguous situation on the ground once again gives way to renewed tensions.

spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, exchanging views on the latest regional developments. He briefed Lavrov on Tehran's positions and initiatives aimed at ending 'aggression by the United States and Israel,' underscoring the need for coordinated diplomatic action to resolve the crisis.

move hazardous materials with high precision.

The IRGC extended its condolences to the families of the victims, reaffirming its commitment to continuing such operations with the highest standards of safety and professionalism.

The incident comes amid heightened tensions following recent military confrontations, which Iranian officials say have left behind dangerous remnants requiring systematic clearance to prevent further civilian and environmental harm.

Spain calls for an end to war on Iran

TEHRAN - Spain's Foreign Minister, José Manuel Albares, has called for an end to the war against Iran and stressed the need to include Lebanon in any potential agreement.

Albares said his country supports ongoing efforts in this regard and has conveyed this message to his Iranian counterpart.

He described the situation in southern Lebanon as similar to what happened in Gaza, calling

it a case of "military and political diplomacy," and noted that this reality is preventing residents from returning to their land.

Regarding US military bases in Spain, Albares stated that despite President Donald Trump's threats to withdraw forces, the bases remain operational. He emphasized that any final decision on the basis remains subject to Spain's sovereignty.

Trump treats Vietnam-era War Powers law as a 'paper tiger'



From page 1 ▶ Democrats say Trump's interpretation undermines both the letter and spirit of that law. Senator Tim Kaine warned that accepting the administration's reasoning would render the statute effectively meaningless. "And then it'll be 120 days, and then it'll be forever," Kaine said, arguing that the president's logic opens the door to endless war without accountability.

Leading House Democrats, including Gregory Meeks, Adam Smith, and Jim Himes, echoed that concern, stating that a ceasefire does not erase ongoing hostilities. They point to continued US enforcement of a naval blockade on Iran and a large military deployment in the region as clear indicators that the conflict is far from over.

For critics, these actions expose what they see as a contradiction at the heart of the administration's argument: while claiming peace, the United States continues to carry out measures widely recognized as acts of war. Legal experts have supported that view. Michael Glennon described the

claim that the ceasefire halts the War Powers clock as "a stretch," emphasizing that enforcing a blockade constitutes ongoing hostilities under international and domestic law.

Democrats have also broadened their criticism beyond legal arguments, accusing Trump of steering the United States into another costly and unnecessary conflict. Many maintain that the February strikes—conducted alongside Israel—were launched without credible evidence of an imminent Iranian threat, raising questions about whether the war was justified in the first place.

That frustration erupted during a contentious House Armed Services Committee hearing, where War Secretary Pete Hegseth faced sharp questioning. Representative John Garamendi described the situation as a "quagmire," accusing the administration of dragging the country into another prolonged Middle East war and then attempting to redefine reality to avoid legal constraints.

Economic pressures are compounding the political fallout. Iran's restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz have disrupted global oil flows, driving up fuel prices and increasing domestic strain. At the

same time, lawmakers have questioned the true cost of the war, with some estimates suggesting it could reach tens of billions of dollars—far higher than official figures.

For many Democrats, the deeper concern is institutional. Experts argue that by claiming a ceasefire nullifies congressional oversight while continuing military pressure, Trump is effectively treating the War Powers Resolution as a paper tiger—acknowledging its existence but ignoring its constraints. In their view, this sets a dangerous precedent that weakens Congress's constitutional role and concentrates war-making authority in the executive branch.

As diplomatic efforts remain stalled and tensions with Iran persist, Democrats warn that the United States risks becoming trapped in an open-ended confrontation—one conducted without authorization, without clear objectives, and increasingly, without regard for the legal limits established in the shadow of Vietnam.

The UAE, OPEC, and the collapse of the Persian Gulf order

From page 1 ▶ Abu Dhabi bet heavily on an order in which Iran would be contained or defeated. That bet has failed. It now faces a future in which Iran holds veto power over access to Persian Gulf oil. The irony is considerable: an organization that Saudi Arabia dominated for decades now operates in a market where Tehran has the final word.

The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council was always more appearance than reality. Built on the fiction of shared monarchical solidarity, the (P)GCC concealed profound rivalries and contradictory visions of the regional future. What held it together was not a positive common project, but a common enemy: Iran.

The blockade against Qatar between 2017 and 2021 exposed the depth of divisions. Riyadh and Abu Dhabi attempted to discipline Doha for its relations with Iran and Turkey. Qatar resisted, demonstrating that the (P)GCC could not impose discipline even on its smallest member.

The war in Yemen constituted another collective humiliation. Despite massive spending on Western armaments and American support, the coalition proved unable to defeat Ansarallah. The conflict aggravated internal divisions: the Emirates and Saudi Arabia pursued divergent objectives; Oman maintained neutrality; Qatar was excluded.

The recent war with Iran consummated this disintegration. During forty days of confrontation, the Persian Gulf monarchies remained paralyzed. Despite repeated Iranian attacks, none undertook significant offensive action. Bases were struck; oil infrastructure was exposed; the Strait of Hormuz passed under Iranian control. Decades of defense spending had not prepared these monarchies to confront an adversary with effective power projection capability. The monarchies depended entirely on American protection that no longer operated as a reliable security horizon. Without that support, the (P)GCC was stripped of its raison d'être.

Iran and the new oil order

The days of a Saudi-dominated OPEC era is over. The global oil market now operates under a new reality: Iran possesses effective veto power over access to Persian Gulf crude. This transformation derives from a material reconfiguration of power in the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran can interrupt oil traffic when necessary. It can strike energy infrastructure on the Arabian Peninsula and raise maritime insurance costs to prohibitive levels. Saudi Arabia may have greater reserves and production capacity, but Iran controls the critical chokepoint. If Tehran constricts the Strait, that oil does not reach global markets. Market power has migrated from those who control production to those who control access.

This explains why Saudi Arabia has sought a modus vivendi with Iran. The China-mediated normalization agreement in 2023 reflected Riyadh's recognition that perpetual confrontation no longer served its interests. The Saudis can maintain security ties with the United States, but can no longer afford open hostility toward Iran.

Oman and Qatar reached this conclusion years ago. Kuwait and Bahrain shelter under the American umbrella while avoiding provocation of Iran. But the Emirates bet differently. Abu Dhabi doubled down on confrontation with Iran, deepening ties with Israel, expanding military presence in the Horn of Africa, intervening in conflicts from Libya to Sudan. Mohammed bin Zayed constructed an image of the Emirates as a regional power projecting influence far beyond its size. This strategy depended on the premise that Iran would be contained, that American and Israeli support would guarantee Emirati security.

Abu Dhabi's dead end

The war with Iran dismantled that premise. The Emirates discovered that neither the United States nor Israel would guarantee

protection of its interests. Its military capacity proved insufficient against a determined adversary. Above all, it had decisively overestimated its strategic importance.

Mohammed bin Zayed, who had cultivated the image of an indispensable actor in regional diplomacy, was placed at the margins of the political process. In the new regional order, Abu Dhabi does not have a seat at the main table.

The Emirates now faces a fundamentally hostile strategic environment. Iran possesses both capacity and motivation to act against Abu Dhabi. Saudi Arabia perceives the Emirates as a competitor whose autonomy must be contained. The United States will not guarantee Emirati security unconditionally.

The role of wild card in the regional deck that Abu Dhabi performed for years has ended. The future could take various forms: domesticated and forced to retreat; gradually absorbed by Saudi Arabia; or even fragmented. What seems improbable is restoration of its previous position.

Mohammed bin Zayed built his power on bold bets and exploitation of adversaries' weaknesses. Those bets have failed. The adversaries have proven stronger than anticipated. The allies proved unreliable. The OPEC exit acknowledges this reality: Abu Dhabi can no longer compete in the structures that defined the previous order.

The emerging regional order is being defined by powers that do not include the Emirates as a principal actor: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, with Chinese and Russian mediation. Abu Dhabi can adapt to this order or resist it, but can hardly shape it.

The collapse of the (P)GCC, the consolidation of Iranian market power, and the marginalization of the Emirates are manifestations of a deeper transformation: the end of the Persian Gulf order constructed under American hegemony.

Iran condemns deadly terrorist attack near Sayyida Zainab shrine in Syria

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei has strongly condemned a terrorist attack near the tomb of Sayyida Zainab (PBUH) in the Syrian capital, Damascus, which resulted in the martyrdom of the local Friday prayer leader.

In a message issued on Saturday, Baqaei expressed deep outrage over Friday's heinous crime, including the assassination of Sheikh Farhan Hassan al-Mansour, the imam of the mosque at Sayyida Zainab.

He noted that terrorist acts tar-

geting religious sites and scholars in Syria and elsewhere in West Asia are part of "the evil plot of the Zionist regime and the United States" aimed at inciting sedition and division across the region.

Baqaei called on relevant Syrian authorities, as well as officials in other countries, to remain vigilant against such plots and to fulfill their responsibilities in decisively confronting terrorism and extremism.

While extending condolences to the family of the martyred cleric,



the Syrian nation, and the community of religious scholars, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson emphasized the need to identify and punish those responsible for

and supporting this terrorist act.

He also reminded Syria's transitional government of its responsibility to ensure the safety and security of all citizens, including scholars and members of all ethnic and religious groups.

The Syrian News Agency (SANA), citing a source in the Interior Ministry of the interim government, reported that Sheikh al-Mansour succumbed to injuries sustained in a grenade explosion after being transferred to a hospital in the Sayyida Zainab area.

Mearsheimer: Trump is desperate and foolish, no way US wins Iran war

TEHRAN - John Mearsheimer says Trump is desperate and foolish to have started this disastrous war. He predicts Trump will continue the naval blockade until forced to accept defeat because the world economy is on the edge.

Mearsheimer says there is no way the US wins this war. The US and Israel have failed to achieve any of their four major war goals. Iran now has a stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz, and the US has wrecked its own security

architecture with Gulf states built before February 28, 2026.

He adds that the US is now pivoting away from Asia and China back into the Middle East vortex. His conclusion: "What a disaster!"

Trump's piracy doctrine

The US president admits American naval forces act like 'pirates'

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The seizure of the Touska

Among the more controversial actions taken by the US was the April seizure of the Iranian-flagged vessel Touska, which was transporting oil. The US Navy's operation, part of a broader naval blockade on Iranian ports, further exemplifies the overreach and unlawfulness of US policy.

Legal experts warn that the unlawful seizure of vessels in international waters is a direct violation of maritime law and international norms. Iran has condemned the seizure of the Touska as an act of piracy, asserting its right to self-defense and its sovereignty over its waters and ships. The US military's actions in this regard are not only legally questionable but also represent a violation of the principle of freedom of navigation, which is supposed to be upheld by international law.

US military presence

The US has significantly increased its military presence in the Middle East, including the deployment of aircraft carriers and other naval assets to ensure that it can quickly respond to what Washington calls Iran's "threat." These deployments have included key assets like the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77), the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), and the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72)—all Nimitz-class aircraft carriers.

Iran's control of the Strait of Hormuz

In response to the growing US blockade, Iran has firmly asserted its right to control the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints. Tehran's decision to increase its control over the strait and potentially impose fees on



ships passing through it is a direct countermeasure to the US and its allies' attempts to exert influence in the region. This bold stance reflects Iran's determination to safeguard its national interests and resist unlawful foreign intervention.

US efforts to choke off Iranian oil exports have backfired, resulting in increasing resistance from Tehran and its allies. Iran's military actions, including targeting US naval assets in the region, demonstrate its resolve to challenge the US-led blockade and maintain access to vital trade routes.

Failure of US military strategy

The US military's campaign against Iran has failed on multiple fronts. Despite spending billions on military strikes, blockades, and covert operations, the US has not succeeded in weakening Iran.

Iran's military capabilities, particularly in asymmetrical warfare, have proven highly resilient to US airstrikes and naval blockades. The Iranian leadership has effectively used its knowledge of regional dy-

namics to counter US interventions, and the failure of the air campaign proves that brute force alone cannot subdue a determined nation.

Trump's transactional foreign policy

Trump's "America First" foreign policy has been marked by a transactional approach to international relations—one where actions are motivated by self-interest and short-term gains, rather than long-term peace or stability. Trump's description of the US Navy's actions as piracy underscores the extent to which US policy has been driven by the desire to control resources, particularly oil, in the Middle East.

This approach, which treats nations as adversaries to be manipulated or defeated, echoes the tactics of the Barbary pirates of the 17th and 18th centuries. The Barbary pirates extorted European nations by raiding their ships and demanding ransom. Similarly, the US has employed military force to control the flow of oil, subjecting nations like Iran to extortionist policies in the name of protecting its economic interests.

Global repercussions of US actions

As the US military's presence in the Middle East continues to grow, the global repercussions of its actions become ever more apparent. Iran's strong and resilient response to US sanctions and military intervention signals to the world that the US cannot continue to act unilaterally without facing significant consequences. Countries that depend on global shipping routes, like those transiting through the Strait of Hormuz, are now reconsidering their relationship with the US as it becomes clearer that US actions are destabilizing rather than protective.

International law is increasingly being disregarded by US policy in favor of unilateral actions that prioritize US geopolitical and economic interests. The growing militarization of US foreign policy and its disregard for established norms are leading to a new global order where power is wielded without respect for international institutions or treaties.

For now, Trump's comments about US naval actions as piracy are a stark admission of the lawless and aggressive nature of US foreign policy. His remarks not only reflect the moral bankruptcy of his administration's approach to Iran but also underline the failure of military intervention as a means of achieving lasting peace or influence. Rather than isolating Iran, US actions have united the Iranian people and government, strengthening their resolve to resist foreign interference. The path to peace in the region lies not in military domination, but in respect for sovereignty and international law—a reality the US seems unwilling to accept.

Trump wants to get out of the Iran quagmire, but seems can't do it: American journalist

"Trump went against his own advisors and foolishly allowed himself to be used by Israel"

TEHRAN – Since February 28, the U.S.-Israeli aggression against Iran has raised serious questions about Washington's strategic calculations, the extent of Israeli influence over American decision-making, and the future of diplomacy in West Asia.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Joe Lauria, a veteran American journalist and editor-in-chief of Consortium News, says Washington entered the war based on a major strategic miscalculation and underestimated Iran's ability to resist military and economic pressure.

Lauria is a former UN correspondent for The Wall Street Journal and The Boston Globe and has also worked for Bloomberg News and The

Sunday Times. He discusses Donald Trump's role, Benjamin Netanyahu's influence on U.S. policy, Western media narratives, and the growing risks of prolonged regional instability and energy insecurity.

The following is the full text of the interview:

You have argued that the U.S. entered the war with Iran based on a major strategic miscalculation. What were Washington's main objectives, and why do you believe they largely failed?

Washington has been obsessed with Iran since the 1979 revolution reversed its 1953 coup. Like Israel, they see Iran as an obstacle to American global and Israeli local expansion.

But instead of an obstacle, they falsely try to frame Iran as a threat to get domestic and international support for their anti-Iran policies. Like Israel, the U.S. would like to install its own friendly government in Tehran to control the country and remove the obstacle. Unfortunately for them Iran is more than capable of defending itself, which is why every U.S. president until Donald Trump told Israel "No." No matter how much the U.S. would want to overthrow the Iranian government like Israel does, the U.S. knows it would not be possible and would lead to the disaster we are witnessing. Trump went against his own advisors and foolishly allowed himself to be used by Israel.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

LATES NEWS

Iran's UN mission: US has violated NPT for 56 years

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations has sharply criticized the United States, describing its nuclear record as "extremely shameful."

In a statement posted on X, the Iranian mission said that for 56 years, the US — which possesses thousands of nuclear warheads and remains the world's No. 1 proliferator of such weapons — has been in clear non-compliance with its nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament obligations under Articles I and VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"The US should not be given any cover for its outrageous and hypocritical behavior," the mission added.

The statement further noted that legally, there is no restriction on the level of uranium enrichment, as long as it is conducted under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — stressing that this was the case with Iran.

IRGC Navy commander: Gaza convoy & Strait of Hormuz forces will awaken world against 'Epstein front'

The commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy announced that the "Samoud" naval convoy heading to Gaza, together with the forces stationed at the Strait of Hormuz, will awaken the global community against the "Epstein front."

US congresswoman: Hegseth unfit to serve

US Congresswoman Yasmin Ansari, the first Iranian-American Democrat elected to Congress, has publicly condemned Pete Hegseth, stating that he is unfit for service.

In a post on X, Ansari wrote: "Pete Hegseth showed the American people this week that he's unfit to serve."

She further revealed that she has introduced Articles of Impeachment against him, urging her colleagues to join the effort:

"There's a reason I've introduced Articles of Impeachment against him — and I urge my colleagues to join our effort."

India-linked ship carrying cooking fuel manages Hormuz exit

An India-linked tanker laden with liquefied petroleum gas has managed to transit the Strait of Hormuz, a rare crossing that underscores the country's struggle to alleviate an historic energy crisis.

The Marshall Islands-flagged Sarv Shakti — laden with around 45,000 tons of LPG, commonly used as cooking fuel — appeared to move into the Gulf of Oman after sailing past Iran's Larak and Qeshm islands on Saturday, according to ship-tracking data.

The tanker has previously made voyages between the Persian Gulf and India and is now announcing that it is heading to India.

India has successfully managed to move eight tankers through the Strait of Hormuz following bilateral negotiations with Tehran.

China says Hormuz Strait to feature prominently in Trump-Xi talks

China's representative to the United Nations has underscored the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, describing its prompt reopening as a top priority for Beijing.

Speaking at the UN, Fu Cong said that maintaining the ceasefire and reopening the Strait of Hormuz are urgent priorities. He warned that if the vital waterway remains closed, the issue will top the agenda during US President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to Beijing, where he is expected to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

WaPo: Fuel price fears dominate WH talks

Concerns over rising fuel prices have become the focal point of internal administration discussions, the Washington Post cited a White House official.

President Trump has consulted with energy sector officials on additional options should the naval blockade continue.

White House official admits midterms already lost

"The general sentiment right now is that we have already lost the midterm elections," a White House official told MS Network.

China Commerce Ministry: US sanctions on 5 Chinese companies are illegal

China's Ministry of Commerce has declared that US sanctions against five Chinese companies over links to Iranian oil are illegal and has prohibited Chinese entities from complying with them.

SPORTS

Hossein Khanzadeh joins Foolad for 2026 AVC Volleyball Champions League

TEHRAN – Foolad Sirjan, Iran's renowned volleyball club, have bolstered themselves roster by signing Poriya Hossein Khanzadeh for the upcoming 2026 AVC Volleyball Champions League.

The 22-year-old outside hitter most recently played for Italian club Volley Lube.

The tournament will take place May 13–17, 2026 in Pontianak, Indonesia, featuring eight of the continent's top clubs competing for the Asian title.

The draw placed the teams into two competitive pools.

Pool A features Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi (Indonesia), Al Rayyan Ray (Qatar), Hyundai Capital Skywalkers (Korea), and Zhayik VC (Kazakhstan).

Opening matchups will see Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi face Zhayik VC, while Al Rayyan Ray takes on Hyundai Capital Skywalkers.

Pool B includes SV.League (Japan), Foolad Sirjan Iranian (Iran), Jakarta Garuda Jaya (Indonesia), and Nakhonratchasima Qmin C VC (Thailand).

The opening clashes will feature SV.League against Nakhonratchasima Qmin C VC, while Foolad Sirjan Iranian meet Jakarta Garuda Jaya.

Following the pool stage, the top teams will advance to the semifinals, with winners progressing to the gold medal match, while the losing semifinalists will compete for the bronze medal.

Iranian para powerlifters to compete at Algeria Open

TEHRAN – Babak Mohammadi, head of Iran's Para Powerlifting Association, announces the women's and men's team will compete at the Algeria Open competition for the second step of qualifying for the LA 2028 Paralympics.

"The men's and women's para powerlifting team was originally scheduled to depart on April 4 for Thailand to take part in the second step of LA 2028 Paralympic qualification and ranking improvement, but that trip was canceled due to war conditions. With the support of the Federation and the National Paralympic Committee of Iran, the Algeria Open has been selected as a replacement for that tournament," Mohammadi said.

"We will send four female and 13 male athletes. In addition to participating in the second step of Paralympic qualification for Los Angeles, we will also aim to improve our powerlifters' rankings for the Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games in Japan," he added.

"We have previously secured three quotas for women for the Nagoya Asian Para Games. I hope that in Algeria we can increase the number of women's quotas for Nagoya. At the World Championships in Egypt — which was the first step of LA 2028 qualification — our women put in a strong performance.

In Algeria, we hope to turn their bronze medals into gold, although our goal in the Algeria tournament is not to win medals but rather to increase the ranking of both our women's and men's powerlifters, so we can improve our quota numbers." Regarding the women's situation for the Algeria competition, the head of the Para Powerlifting Association stated.

"Since March/April, the national para powerlifting teams have been holding regular training camps without any major issues. If there are no delays in the camps and they continue regularly, we will definitely be in a better position in Nagoya compared to Hangzhou, China, and we can achieve a better standing for para powerlifting at the Asian Para Games," Mohammadi concluded.

WTF secretary general Seo thanks Iranian taekwondo athletes

TEHRAN – Jeongkang Seo, Secretary General of the World Taekwondo Federation, sent a letter to the Iran Taekwondo Federation to appreciate and thank them for the Iranian national cadet (youth) team's participation in the World Championships in Tashkent.

Seo in a letter to the Iran Taekwondo Federation expressed his thanks and appreciation for the Iranian team's presence and success, after winning runner-up (second place) at the World Cadet Taekwondo Championships in Tashkent.

In the letter, the World Taekwondo Secretary General said:

"I would like to sincerely appreciate the Iranian national cadet team for their remarkable achievements, especially for participating in Tashkent despite all the challenges and for traveling to Uzbekistan to compete in these events. The performance of the Iranian team reflects passion and dedication to taekwondo."

The 15th edition of the World Taekwondo Cadet Championships was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with taekwondo athletes from 115 countries. Iran's national team won the runner-up title.

Mehdi Taremi named among world's Top 60 active goalscorers

TEHRAN – In the latest ranking of the world's top active goalscorers published by Carlos Arasaki, Mehdi Taremi has been placed 55th in the world with 279 goals, introduced as the sole representative of Iran among the top 60 players on this list.

While all eyes are fixed on Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, who are on the verge of reaching 1,000 official goals, Carlos Arasaki, a football researcher and analyst from Spain, has released the list of the top current goalscorers in football history.

This list does not include retired players and only features active players currently in the world of football. It should also be noted that these statistics only include official and professional records at both club and national levels.

Mehdi Taremi, with 279 goals, sits at 55th in the world in this ranking and can further increase his statistics in the future.

Top 10 Players in the World (As of May 2026)

1. Cristiano Ronaldo / 970 goals
 2. Lionel Messi / 905 goals
 3. Robert Lewandowski / 716 goals
 4. Luis Suárez / 602 goals
 5. Karim Benzema / 522 goals
 6. Harry Kane / 513 goals
 7. Ali Ashfaq / 498 goals
 8. Edinson Cavani / 465 goals
 9. Edin Džeko / 461 goals
 10. Neymar / 454 goals
- Top Active Goalscorers in Asia
1. Ali Ashfaq / 498 goals (Maldives)
 2. Omar Al Somah / 382 goals (Syria)
 3. Bader Al-Mutawa / 377 goals (Kuwait)
 4. Ali Mabkhout / 354 goals (UAE)
 5. Sebastián Soria / 325 goals (Qatar)
 6. Sunil Chhetri / 306 goals (India)
 7. Teerasil Dangda / 300 goals (Thailand)
 8. Wu Lei / 291 goals (China)
 9. Son Heung-min / 290 goals (South Korea)
 10. Kazuyoshi Miura / 289 goals (Japan)
 11. Mehdi Taremi / 279 goals (Iran)

The Iranian national team striker can join the list of Asia's top 10 active goalscorers by scoring 10 more goals. Olympiacos is set to play away against PAOK in the Greek league tomorrow, Sunday, and the Iranian striker is expected to have the opportunity to play.

Hidden cost of war: How Iran conflict is crushing world's poor

Iran's annual iron ore concentrate output increases 1.1%

TEHRAN- According to the statistics of the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), iron ore concentrate production in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20) increased by 1.1 percent.

The country's iron ore concentrate output stood at 73.797 million tons in the past year, while the figure was 73.017 million tons in year 1403, the association announced.

Iron ore concentrate is a high-grade product derived from raw iron ore through a series of processing steps. While raw iron ore can contain as little as 20-30 percent iron mixed with waste rock and other minerals, the concentrate is upgraded to a much higher purity, typically containing over 60 percent iron.

The goal of creating concentrate is to increase the ore's iron content and remove impurities. This makes it far more efficient for transport and for use in steelmaking. Shipping concentrate instead of raw ore reduces costs because less useless material is being moved. Furthermore, modern steel furnaces require this high-grade, consistent input to operate effectively.

The process of creating iron ore concentrate, often called "beneficiation," involves several key stages: Crushing and Grinding: The raw ore is first crushed and then ground into a fine powder.

Separation: The iron particles are separated from the waste rock (gangue). This is most commonly done using magnetic separation, as iron is magnetic. Other methods include flotation or gravity separation, depending on the ore type. Concentrating: The result is a fine, powdery substance with a high iron concentration. This is the final product: iron ore concentrate.

Iron ore concentrate is not typically used directly in a blast furnace. Instead, it is a key intermediary product. It is usually shipped to a pelletizing plant, where it is rolled into small balls (pellets) and hardened. These iron ore pellets are then fed into direct reduction furnaces or blast furnaces to produce steel.

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 iron 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 industry 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.

TEHRAN- When wars are reported, the focus is often on military tactics, territorial gains, or great power rivalries. But far from the battlefields, a silent and devastating crisis is unfolding, one that is pushing millions of the world's poorest people closer to starvation.

The US-Israeli war against Iran is not merely a regional conflict. Its shockwaves have rippled across the entire global economy.

Asian factories face soaring energy bills, European airlines struggle with jet fuel shortages, and oil markets remain in turmoil.

Yet, the heaviest burden is falling on those who can least afford it: the poor and vulnerable nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Consider this: as fuel prices skyrocket, so does the cost of producing and transporting food.



Fertilizer prices have also surged, threatening next season's harvests.

Last week, the International Monetary Fund warned that food insecurity in Africa is "spreading dramatically."

At the same time, the United

Nations Development Programme reports that millions across the Asia-Pacific region are at risk of being pushed into poverty.

These are not abstract statistics. They represent families who must choose between buying bread or medicine. They are

farmers who cannot afford seed or fertilizer. They are children who will go to bed hungry.

Moreover, tighter global financing conditions are strangling developing economies. As uncertainty rises, borrowing costs spike. Governments that need loans to import essential goods or pay foreign debts find themselves trapped.

For wealthy nations, higher energy prices are an inconvenience. For the poor, they are a death sentence.

The world cannot afford to look away. Humanitarian aid, debt relief, and diplomatic pressure to end this war are not just political choices, they are moral imperatives. If the global community remains silent, the true cost of this war will be measured not in dollars, but in human lives.

Record for transporting essential goods from ports broken during Ramadan War

TEHRAN- The Minister of Transport and Urban Development announced that the record for transporting essential goods from ports during the Ramadan War has been broken compared to the 12-day war, with a 20% increase in the clearance and unloading of goods. She also expressed gratitude for the support of the President and the efforts of public transport drivers.

According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh, following a message from Masoud Pezeshkian, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the freight transport fleet drivers, stated: "As the Minister of Transport and Urban Development, I extend my deep gratitude to the esteemed President for his special attention and for issuing a message of appreciation to the honorable and proud drivers of the country, whom he referred to as the 'generals of the roads.'"

Rooftop solar power plants development to be facilitated

TEHRAN- The Deputy Minister of Energy and head of the Organization for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SATBA), referring to the Ministry of Energy's policies in the field of renewable energy, said: "The development of rooftop solar power plants is one of the priorities of this ministry, and in this regard, efforts are being made to facilitate the construction process of these power plants by providing facilities to applicants."

Mohsen Tarzatab added: "Furthermore, plans to supply and domestic production of the necessary equipment are on the agenda so that the development process of this sector can be pursued more rapidly."

In last September, Iran inaugurated its largest rooftop solar power plant in the Chenaran industrial town of Khorasan Razavi Province, with a capacity of 4.5 megawatts, provincial officials said.

Javad Khodaei, senior adviser to

the provincial governor and deputy head of the renewable energy task force, said the facility underscores the province's leading role in Iran's solar sector.

The rooftop plant, built by Alis Company, covers 90,000 square meters and was completed in six months, Khodaei said at the inauguration ceremony attended by the provincial governor.

"This project marks a new record in the scale and capacity of rooftop solar power plants in the country," he said, adding that Khorasan Razavi had already hosted earlier record-setting rooftop facilities with capacities exceeding 2 megawatts.

Iran has been expanding renewable energy projects to diversify its power mix and curb reliance on fossil fuels. Officials say solar, particularly in provinces with high exposure like Khorasan Razavi, is central to those plans.

Government supports home-based businesses in wartime: vice president

Government supports home-based businesses in wartime: vice president

TEHRAN- The Vice President for Rural Development and Deprived Areas of the country said that the government, by forming a National Post-War Reconstruction Headquarters, has prioritized supporting home-based, rural, and war-affected businesses.


According to an IRNA report, Abdolkarim Hosseinzadeh said: "One of the clear orders of the President is that we should be among the people; it makes no difference whether in times of peace or during war."

He added: "A notable point is that a large part of these projects were initiated by the efforts and capabilities of the villagers themselves. These plans in the fields of health-care, sports, and administration are valuable and promising projects,

and we will do our utmost to complete them."

The Vice President continued: "In this regard, the National Post-War Reconstruction Headquarters for villages, deprived areas, and nomadic tribes has been formed, and in its meetings, all rural businesses damaged by the war will be covered by government support so that the people can continue their activities with hope, resilience, and a patriotic spirit."

He emphasized in conclusion: "In these days, the people have shown that they are more pioneering than us officials in patriotism and love of the homeland, and our duty is to truly appreciate them. The visits will continue, and in the final wrap-up session, executive decisions for the counties and the reviewed projects will be made."



شركت معدني و صنعتي گل گهر ايسرآء
Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/02 (renewed)


GolGohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.50) on basis of F.O.B at **Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran**. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.ggg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 12. May.2026 to Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 12. May.2026 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
%Fe	65.50	Min
%FeO	1.0	Ave
%P	0.04	Max
%S	0.01	Max
%SiO2	3.5	Max
%Al2O3	0.7	Max
%CaO	0.9	Max
%MgO	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)		Ave 250
8-16 mm%		Min 90
-6 mm%		Ave 5
A.1%		Max 3.5
T.1%		Min 95
Proxity%		19-24
Reducibility%		Min 90

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.



شركت معدني و صنعتي گل گهر ايسرآء
Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/01 (renewed)

GolGohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.5 ave) on basis of F.O.B at Rajae Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.ggg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 12. May.2026 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 12. May.2026 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
%Fe Ave		66.5
%FeO		Min 24 Max 28
%P Max		0.04
%S Ave		1.0
%SiO2 Max		3.0
%Al2O3 Max		0.7
%CaO Max		0.9
%MgO Max		2.5
%Moisture Max		5.0
Size ave		80%-0.48 mm

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

The war on Iran broke the NATO protection racket

How the war exposed a legacy of American control that stretches back to the shadows of Operation Gladio

From page 1 ▶ At the same time, Tehran underscored the vulnerability of the American offensive presence by launching precision retaliatory strikes against U.S. bases across the region, exposing the reality that the American umbrella was full of holes.

When Washington demanded a "Coalition of the Willing" to enforce a blockade and reopen the waterway, the major capitals of Europe, Paris, Berlin, and Madrid, stayed home.

They watched the relentless bombardment of U.S. regional outposts and realized that joining this fight meant inviting that same fire into their own economies.

This was the moment the blank check of Article 5 finally bounced. For years, Atlanticists had treated Article 5 as an automatic war trigger, a sacred guarantee of mutual defense. But as the crisis in the Persian Gulf deepened and American bases smoldered, the legal and political reality became impossible to ignore: the clause only requires allies to take the action they "deem necessary."

By refusing to treat a regional American campaign of aggression as a collective NATO emergency, Europe effectively admitted that the alliance's promise of protection is a political choice, not a sacred vow.

Donald Trump's subsequent fury, in which he branded his allies "cowards" and declared NATO a "paper tiger," only confirmed that Washington views the alliance as a leash that has finally snapped.



A protection racket dressed in khaki

As the strategic rift widened, the mask of partnership fell away to reveal a relationship defined by coercion and extraction.

The mandate for a 5% GDP defense spending target, pushed through at the 2025 Hague Summit, is now seen across European capitals as a mandatory subsidy for the American military-industrial complex.

While European citizens struggle with energy inflation and the de-industrialization of Germany, a consequence of events such as the U.S. sabotage of Nord Stream and the pivot to overpriced American LNG, their tax dollars are being funneled toward firms like Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.

This dynamic is also about imperial discipline. Trump's order to withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany serves as a punitive warning to any ally that dares to prioritize its

own national interest over Washington's battle plans. This followed remarks by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who said the U.S. had been "humiliated" by Iran's leadership.

From the territorial extortion regarding Greenland to the threat of 25% tariffs on European cars, Washington is behaving less like a leader and more like a debt collector for fortress America.

Operation Gladio and the end of the Atlantic illusion

The crumbling of the alliance is the natural conclusion of a history built on shadows and broken promises.

NATO has long functioned as a sophisticated tool for managing European dependency. This reality only emerged into the historical record in 1990, when Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti exposed the existence of Operation Gladio, a network of clandestine "stay-behind" armies established at NATO's

inception to manipulate European domestic politics through violence and false-flag terrorism.

For decades, these NATO-linked networks conducted false-flag operations and terror attacks across multiple European countries, resulting in the deaths of countless civilians, all to ensure that the continent remained ideologically and strategically tethered to Washington.

When the Soviet empire declined after 1989, the lack of a clear enemy sparked an existential crisis for the alliance, leading directly to what some have labeled Operation Gladio B, a pivot that transitioned these dark tactics into the era of the "war on terrorism" to maintain a perpetual state of fear and control over member states and beyond.

This systemic control is mirrored in the alliance's overt structure. NATO's military command remains an absolute American monopoly; every Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) in history has been a U.S. general, ensuring that European forces serve as little more than a "picket line" for American strategic interests.

Today, the scarcity of munitions and Washington's pivot toward China have made this inequality too expensive for Europe to ignore.

With U.S. stockpiles depleted and American attention shifting to the Indo-Pacific, the "security guarantee" has been revealed as a mirage. The war on Iran has merely accelerated a divorce that was already structurally guaranteed.

Why does Hezbollah insist on resisting Israel in Lebanon?

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hezbollah follows a strategy of tactical response with a strategic objective, aimed at reshaping the rules of engagement.

At this stage, military retaliation is no longer just a limited tactic, but carries clear strategic dimensions. Hezbollah's insistence on responding to Israeli violations in southern Lebanon reflects a broader strategic approach focused on preventing the erosion of the rules of engagement that took shape after the 2006 July War.

The resistance movement does not treat these violations as isolated incidents, but as repeated tests of the deterrence equation and attempts by the Zionist regime to impose a new security reality, now referred to as the so-called "yellow line", as seen in Gaza. This would allow the occupation regime greater operational freedom without paying a corresponding price.

Here, Hezbollah's military doctrine becomes a strategic necessity rather than a tactical choice in southern Lebanon. The resistance movement, as Lebanon's strongest deterrence, understands that any leniency in confronting these Israeli violations could be interpreted as a sign of weakness,

encouraging the Zionist regime to expand its aggression and breaches, whether through direct targeting or intelligence and air missions.

Therefore, even a limited and calculated response carries a dual message: that southern Lebanon is not an open arena, and that maintaining the balance of deterrence, which prevents a slide into full-scale war, remains a key consideration.

This equation adopted by Hezbollah in southern Lebanon does not operate in isolation. The region today is more complex than ever, with the genocidal war in the Gaza Strip continuing in one form or another and tensions rising on multiple fronts.

This overlap between battlefield arenas makes any escalation in southern Lebanon part of a broader landscape, where the calculations of regional powers, chief among them Iran, intersect.

Accordingly, Hezbollah's responses are not understood solely within a domestic Lebanese framework, but as part of a regional deterrence network led by the Axis of Resistance, aimed at restraining the Zionist regime's military expansion in Arab and Islamic countries and redefining



rules of engagement that reflect the resilience and cohesion of resistance fronts.

Meanwhile, the government of Benjamin Netanyahu faces unprecedented internal and external pressure, pursuing policies that appear increasingly risky. This raises a key question: will this escalation lead to the imposition of a new deterrence equation, or will it open the door to a broader regional explosion whose consequences could spiral out of control?

Hezbollah continues to pursue its strategy of tactical responses with strategic objectives and the reshaping of engagement rules.

Military retaliation is no longer a limited tactic, but one with clear strategic weight. The Lebanese Resistance is fully aware of this and has accumulated extensive experience managing war with the Zionist occupation regime. It understands that any reduction in the level of response will be read as weakness, potentially inviting greater escalation. Therefore, insisting on a strong response is not only about maintaining the balance of deterrence, but also about reestablishing rules of engagement that may have been weakened by rapid regional developments.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Pentagon to cut 5000 troops in Germany amid Merz's criticism of Trump's war on Iran

The U.S. War Department plans to withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany, amid a spat between President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz over the war with Iran.

The decision comes a day after Trump criticized Merz, who suggested the U.S. had been "humiliated" by Iranian negotiators, BBC reported.

The U.S. has a significant military presence in Germany, with more than 36,000 active duty troops assigned to bases across the country as of last December.

Defence Minister Boris Pistorius told the German Press Agency in Berlin that "the presence of American soldiers in Europe, and particularly in Germany, is in our interest and in the interest of the U.S."

At the same time, he made it clear that the deci-

sion did not come as a surprise.

The fact that the U.S. would withdraw troops from Europe and also from Germany "was foreseeable", he said.

In social media posts on Thursday, Trump said Merz was "doing a terrible job" and had "problems of all kinds", including on immigration and energy. Trump has also suggested pulling U.S. troops from Italy and Spain.

In a statement, Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said the order about U.S. troops in Germany had come from War Secretary Pete Hegseth.

"This decision follows a thorough review of the Department's force posture in Europe and is in recognition of theatre requirements and conditions on the ground," he said.

"We expect the withdrawal to be completed over the next six to twelve months."

Trump, a longtime critic of the NATO alliance, has been lashing out at allies over their refusal to participate in operations to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Asked on Thursday whether he would also consider pulling U.S. troops from Italy and Spain, Trump responded: "I probably will - look, why shouldn't I?"

"Italy has not been of any help to us and Spain has been horrible," he added, criticizing them for their response to the war in Iran.

"In all cases they said, 'I don't want to get involved.'"

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Establishing equations with original allies



By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – A proposal was put forward by Jamil El-Sayyed, a member of the Lebanese Parliament, as a solution to what the West calls "proxies". In reality, they are liberation forces allied with Iran within the Axis of Resistance in the region. This idea could form a framework for dealing between the extended Resistance front and the United States, in addition to the Western countries that support the Israeli occupation entity.

The core issue is that these resistance forces are non-state actors. Their mission is not yet finished, and they operate within states whose authorities are often subject to Western dictates and are frequently hostile, incompetent and passive. The issue is complex and causes concern for the Western bloc led by the United States, due to the weight and influence these resistance forces exert. This disturbs the Israeli occupation entity that the West once considered a generator and driver of its policies in the region.

However, the Israeli occupation entity has begun to shake. The ongoing wars are part of a search for a formula to stabilize it, without a constant state of emergency and continuous American intervention to protect it. This is chiefly because the regime has lost its superiority in these wars. At its founding, the entity was meant to be a powerful tool to protect Western interests through absolute military dominance. Yet it has proven incapable of confronting non-conventional organizations in asymmetric warfare, from nearby fronts in Palestine and Lebanon to more distant ones in Yemen.

This is not merely rhetoric; it has been proven in real confrontations, especially in the most recent war, which increased the scale of risk posed by the Axis of Resistance. The Israeli occupation entity failed to achieve any of its declared objectives of eliminating these fronts, despite using extensive destructive capabilities, its full intelligence and security resources. The goal of the war was to expand the entity into what is called the "New Middle East," or what it sees as "Greater Israel," from the Euphrates to the Nile.

To overcome its instability, the occupation entity requires constant direct intervention to protect itself. This was explicitly stated by Trump, who described it as a very small area surrounded by hostility that cannot survive without expansion. In its current state, it does not provide the stability required for Western interests.

The primary threatening factor here is the Axis of Resistance, which continues to gain momentum and strength. Therefore, there is a Western, particularly American, need to resolve disputes between the de facto forces in the region: the resistance forces and the Israeli occupation entity, which they view as an existential threat.

This requires a settlement below the level of costly wars, which have failed and disrupted Western interests, while pushing the global economy into consequences largely borne by the West. Meanwhile, these fragile conditions give an advantage to Chinese and Russian growth, as they are less affected due to their good relations with Iran and the Axis of Resistance.

The simple idea proposed by the Lebanese MP could be an entry point to calm down the military climate and end wars, while keeping the conflict between the two approaches within political and popular frameworks, rather than military confrontation. The idea suggests that dialogue should be generalized across the entire resistance front, allowing each party to negotiate on its own behalf with opposing sides.

This excludes the Israeli occupation entity, which is considered a special case that cannot be granted legitimacy through negotiation or recognition.

Instead of authorities negotiating unsuccessfully and causing instability, the resistance movements in Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza, and the West Bank could negotiate directly or indirectly with international powers. In the Lebanese model, Iran could request that negotiators engage directly with the Resistance in Lebanon to reach outcomes that would restore Lebanon's sovereignty.

This is something the Resistance can safeguard. This would grant the Resistance a recognized role within the Lebanese state as an effective force, without excluding others, but with acknowledged presence and influence.

It would require removing terrorist designations and recognizing it as the only force capable of ensuring agreements. Practically, this would resemble the situation between 2006 and 2024, but with formal recognition within state institutions. Alternatively, Iran could participate in negotiations alongside other parties or call for separate negotiations.

The contradiction lies in the U.S. demanding that Iran cut ties and support to what it calls "proxies". At the same time, it continues to support the Israeli occupation entity and refuses to discuss ending that support. If the U.S. support to the entity were to stop, it would lead to its collapse, removing the need for resistance movements, which could then shift toward political action and development.

If this Axis of Resistance is recognized as a fundamental force that cannot be eliminated, as proven by experience, then the real balance of power on the ground must be acknowledged. This would avoid indirect approaches that create internal conflicts between resistance forces and incompetent official authorities.

Instead, all regional issues involving Iran's allies should be addressed, based on their real positions on the ground, in a formula that accommodates all sides and leaves room for political competition without military confrontation. Such an arrangement would serve Western interests by creating stability through recognition of the Axis of Resistance as a reality and engaging it based on mutual respect and parity.

The Axis of Resistance does not oppose normal relations with all parties, except the Israeli occupation entity, across financial, trade, and resource exchanges, which could provide greater guarantees for the West if conducted on fair terms rather than exploitation. Comparatively, dealing with real forces on the ground offers more stability than maintaining chaos that leads to crises affecting the West.

Therefore, Western interests may be better served by engaging with these de facto powers rather than relying on the current model centered on the entity. Practically, if the U.S. raises the issue of Iran's relationship with "proxies," Iran could respond by bringing its allies and resistance forces to the negotiating table for comprehensive arrangements.

This would include Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, and all groups labeled as "terrorist," as well as Palestine, so that decisions are not imposed externally. All key actors should be included, rather than excluded or selectively approved by external powers. Otherwise, the alternative is continued confrontation, though global public opinion is shifting, and future political changes may not favor the entity. In any case, the Axis of Resistance is presented as ultimately prevailing.

Sassanian Persia's forgotten victory: The tunnel of death in the Syrian Desert



Beneath the Syrian Desert, the Sassanian Persians engineered a subterranean battle that still raises questions among archaeologists and historians.

The confrontation unfolded at Dura-Europos, a city on the Euphrates long held by the Roman Empire. By 256 CE, a new and aggressive power had risen in Iran. The Sassanian dynasty under Shapur I replaced the Parthians and pushed westward with relentless force. Shapur's trilingual inscription at Naqsh-e Rostam (Ka'ba-ye Zartosht) records that during his second invasion of Syria, he crushed a Roman army and captured thirty-seven towns, among them Dura-Europos. After the siege, the city vanished from history for seventeen centuries.

When French archaeologists rediscovered Dura-Europos in the 1920s, they uncovered a city frozen in time. At Tower 19, along the massive desert wall, a network of tunnels came to light. The Sassanians had dug beneath the fortifications. They chose an entry point where an ancient necropolis had already penetrated the hard limestone, then tunneled some forty meters toward the wall. Their target was Tower 19 itself; by removing stone blocks from its foundations, they intended to collapse the structure. The Romans responded with a countermine, driving a tunnel through the packed earth behind the defenses to intercept the Persian diggers.

Deep underground, the two forces met. Inside the Roman countermine, the French count Robert Du Mesnil du Buisson found a tangle of skeletons, around fifteen soldiers by his estimate, still wearing chain-mail and clutching shields and swords. Among the Roman dead lay a single Sassanian soldier, his arm raised as if to strike, his tiara-shaped helmet beside him. Scattered on the tunnel floor were fragments of ceiling planks, a broken jar of bitumen, and crystals of sulphur.

This physical evidence prompted a dramatic hypothesis: that the Sassanians had deliberately produced toxic fumes to overwhelm the Roman defenders. In that scenario, when the Persian miners realized the Romans were

digging towards them, they lit a brazier loaded with sulphur and bitumen. Once ignited, these materials generate sulphur dioxide — a thick, acrid gas that attacks the lungs and can cause rapid suffocation in a confined space. The Persians may have pushed the burning brazier into the Roman tunnel, the heavy gas spreading through the gallery. According to the theory, the Roman soldiers collapsed where they stood, and their bodies were piled up as a makeshift barrier. If accurate, it would represent an extraordinarily early example of chemical warfare.

Not everyone accepts this interpretation. The excavation records were notoriously imprecise: no technical drawings were made, surviving sketches are confusing, and many primary notes have been lost. Furthermore, the "fifteen or so soldiers" may have been far fewer. The existing sketches show only 10 skulls and perhaps as few as 8 bodies. With only eight Roman dead, a gas attack becomes unnecessary; ordinary close-quarters fighting could account for the casualties. Defenders of the theory note that the skeletons show no obvious sword wounds, but two thousand years underground rarely preserves such evidence with certainty.

Whatever the exact cause of death inside that tunnel, one fact remains undisputed: the Sassanians won. They captured Dura-Europos, and the city was never reoccupied. Shapur I returned to Iran triumphant, his victories still proclaimed in stone at Naqsh-e Rostam. Beneath the Syrian Desert, the bodies of Roman soldiers lay undisturbed for centuries — a quiet reminder that even mighty Rome could not hold back the tide of Sassanian arms. The Persians had understood that the weakest point in any defence is often the one you cannot see. Through mining, through fire, and, very likely, through a sophisticated application of available materials, the Sassanian military machine displayed tactical ingenuity that deserves recognition. For modern Iranians, Dura-Europos offers a window into a glorious past when Persian armies marched to the Mediterranean and challenged Rome for supremacy.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela

In a mountainous region in the heart of Ethiopia, some 645 km from Addis Ababa, eleven medieval monolithic churches have been carved out of rock.

The UNESCO-designated site contains churches that were not constructed traditionally but rather were hewn from the living rock of monolithic blocks. These blocks were further chiseled out, forming doors, windows, columns, various floors, roofs, etc. This gigantic work was further completed with an extensive system of drainage ditches, trenches, and ceremonial passages, some with openings to hermit caves and catacombs.

According to the UN cultural body, their building is attributed to King Lalibela who set out to construct in the 12th century a 'New Jerusalem', after Muslim conquests halted Christian pilgrimages to the holy Land. Lalibela flourished after the decline of the Aksum Empire.

There are two main groups of churches — to the north of the river Jordan: Biete

Medhani Alem (House of the Saviour of the World), Biete Mariam (House of Mary), Biete Maskal (House of the Cross), Biete Denagel (House of Virgins), Biete Golgotha Mikael (House of Golgotha Mikael); and to the south of the river, Biete Amanuel (House of Emmanuel), Biete Qeddus Mercoreos (House of St. Mercoreos), Biete Abba Libanos (House of Abbot Libanos), Biete Gabriel Raphael (House of Gabriel Raphael), and Biete Lehem (House of Holy Bread). The eleventh church, Biete Giorgis (House of St. George), is isolated from the others, but connected by a system of trenches.

Biete Medhani Alem, with its five aisles, is believed to be the largest monolithic church in the world, while Biete Giorgis has a remarkable cruciform plan. Most were probably used as churches from the outset, but Biete Mercoreos and Biete Gabriel Rafael may formerly have been royal residences. Several of the interiors are decorated with mural paintings.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iran selects ancient port of Siraf for UNESCO World Heritage nomination in 2026

TEHRAN – Iran has selected the historical port of Siraf in the southern Bushehr province as its official candidate for UNESCO World Heritage inscription in 2026, a provincial cultural heritage official said on Saturday.

Nasrollah Ebrahimi, director-general of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts in Bushehr province, said Siraf's nomination dossier had been chosen as Iran's representative for global registration despite competition from other [Iranian] candidates, including [the ancient city of] Tus.

"The submission of Siraf's dossier to UNESCO was completed last February, and the file has now been officially selected as Iran's representative for inscription in 2026," Ebrahimi told reporters.

He said UNESCO experts are expected to carry out an on-site evaluation of the site in September and October this year, despite what he described as wartime conditions affecting the country.

Iranian authorities are continuing preparations for the anticipated assessment, including infrastructure upgrades and the installation of guidance signs at the site, he added.

Located along the Persian Gulf coast, Siraf was one of Iran's most significant commercial ports from the Sassanian era through the fourth century AH. The port played a central role in maritime trade linking Western Asia with India,



the Far East and eastern Africa between the 9th and 11th centuries.

Ebrahimi also highlighted broader tourism and infrastructure projects underway in Bushehr province, particularly in the field of coastal and marine tourism.

Several projects are currently being developed, including tourism initiatives on Khargoo Island, restoration of a traditional boat cemetery, construction of a marine aquarium, expansion of recreational piers, and the development of hotels and tourism complexes in cities including Asaluyeh, Deylam, Imam Hassan, Abpakhsh, Bushehr and Delvar.

He said the province has also

issued its first preliminary permit for the construction of a five-star hotel in Deylam county, which is expected to strengthen tourism infrastructure in northern Bushehr.

In the field of research and preservation, more than 10 archaeological programs have been carried out in recent years, including studies of Persian Gulf coastlines, excavations in Siraf, surveys of pre-historic sites in Dayyer county, and boundary assessments for several historical sites.

Between 1966 and 1973, the British Institute of Persian Studies conducted seven seasons of excavation and survey at Siraf, identifying extensive remains of a major

port city on the northern coast of the Persian Gulf.

Historians estimate Siraf's population reached about 300,000 during the early Islamic era, while the modern town has a population of roughly 7,000.

Situated in Bushehr province, the ancient port hosts numerous historical and archaeological sites spanning the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, Sassanid, Islamic and Qajar periods.

Iran has in recent years accelerated efforts to secure international recognition for historically significant sites as part of a broader strategy to promote cultural tourism and heritage conservation.

Echoes of the past: folio from the manuscript of Layli and Majnun

A single folio from the manuscript of Layli and Majnun, illustrating the scene of the lovers attending school, is on display in the Timurid Hall of the Museum of Archaeology and Islamic Art of Iran, part of the National Museum of Iran.

This illustration belongs to the early chapters of the tragic love story, taken from the masterpiece Panj Ganj (Five Treasures) by Nezami Ganjavi, the celebrated Persian poet of the 6th century AH (12th century CE).

The painting, which dates from the 9th century AH (15th century CE), shows a traditional schoolhouse (maktab khaneh) or a gathering for teaching and discussion, set in a space with an iwan (vaulted hall). Groups of children, separated into two sections, are busy learning under the guidance of their teachers. In front of each teacher stands a wooden bookrest (rahl) with a book open upon it. The children study both collectively and individually. In a chamber at the back, a young boy is seen conversing with and learning from his master. On the minaret of the building, a muezzin is likely depicted calling the faithful to prayer.

The outdoor landscape is adorned with trees and flowers, while the sky shines in gold. The background of the painting is light



This folio from the illustrated manuscript of Khamseh of Nezami, highlights the significance of education in the 9th century AH (15th century CE) and the equal participation of girls and boys in learning.

green, and the clothing of both students and teachers is similarly styled and colorful. Notably, the girls' dresses and hairstyles are

almost identical to one another, reflecting their equal presence in the learning environment.

Above this scene, verses in

Nastaliq script tell the story of Layli and Majnun's education:

Every child, with hope and with fear,

Engaged in lessons and learning sincere.

Each from their tribe and station,

Gathered in a house of education.

Along with the young leaders in line,

Several girls sat with their slates, side by side.

This assembly was painted in the Shiraz school and belongs to the Timurid period. Among the hallmarks of the Shiraz school, besides the bird's-eye perspective, is the clear depiction of diverse Timurid-era clothing.

The Shiraz school was one of the artistic schools of the Ilkhanid period that continued the art and culture of its predecessors, blending little with foreign elements. As a result, its artists better preserved artistic traditions. During the Timurid era, patrons and promoters of art established a vibrant artistic center in Shiraz. Manuscripts surviving from this period reflect the eventful ups and downs of painting in that age. Nezami's Khamseh remains one of the most important and beautiful works of this school.

Tourists feel petrol pinch and cut down on day trips

First it was the farmers and lorry drivers who noticed the impact of war in Iran.

Now a medieval palace and a seaside pier have been hit as people cut back on day trips to save money for fuel.

Bookings in Somerset's tourism attractions have halved, according to Visit Somerset, who warned the impact could be "seismic".

John Turner, chief executive of Visit Somerset, said he worried "we will see B&Bs, even hotels, collapse into administration".

In the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, numbers have fallen so fast that one museum decided to cut admission costs entirely in a brave bid for survival.

As the price of fuel and essentials stays high, it seems people are getting pickier about spending money on a day out.

The penny-pusher machines in the hall of arcade games take just 2p.

"Two pounds will keep the kids entertained for

an hour," smiles Michelle Michael, the Grand Pier's boss.

Her family pride themselves on offering a "value" day out. Admission is £2, and a typical visitor spends under £15 a trip.

Yet even here they have noticed a dip. Easter numbers were down 6% on last year.

"People are more cautious, yes," Michelle observes.

"Everyone is noticing people are holding onto their money. The resort is down, the town is down, much like tourism destinations across the country."

Playing the 2p pushers, I meet John and Sue, a couple down on a coach trip from the Midlands.

"Yes, everything's gone up", agrees Sue.

"Cinemas, restaurants, petrol of course. We don't go out as much as we used to, just can't afford it."

"People are still coming out," said Merryn Kidd, the CEO of the Bishop's Palace, "just not quite as

many".

Strolling alongside the beautiful Well Pools, which gave the city its name, I asked John Turner from Visit Somerset how typical this is.

He has just completed a survey of Somerset's tourism businesses, comparing March 2026 to the previous year.

"50% say that numbers are significantly down on last year," he tells me.

"One in four have seen cancellations go up. It's a real concern."

He blames the rise in fuel and food prices, and a general feeling of uncertainty which "makes people cautious about spending".

"Tourism relies on people's disposable income," he explains.

"When disposable income falls, our businesses suffer. And right now, people have a lot less disposable income."

(Source: BBC)

Science ministry pursuing legal actions against US-Israeli attacks on educational centers

TEHRAN – The head of the Organization of Student Affairs has stated that the science ministry is following up on the legal actions against the US-Israeli assaults on educational centers and the martyrdom of 175 university students.

Elaborating on legal dimensions of the recent attacks on universities, dormitories, schools, and scientific centers as examples of violations of international humanitarian law, Saeed Habiba said a group of official judicial experts has been formed, as ordered by the science minister, to assess the amount of damage accurately, IRNA reported.

These measures have led to a statement made by UNESCO explicitly condemning attacks on Iranian educational centers. Currently, legal cases are being pursued in domestic courts and international forums, the official noted.

Referring to the 175 students killed in recent illegal attacks, Habiba said a ceremony will be held to commemorate the martyred students, and graduation certificates will be issued to honor them.

Over 30 Iranian universities had been directly attacked by the United States and Israel since the war began in late February, according to Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei-Sarraf.

Five university professors and more than 60 students had been killed in the strikes, added Simaei-Sarraf, describing attacks on Iranian infrastructure as “crimes against humanity.”



“The main reason the enemy targeted this sensitive infrastructure was that they did not want us to gain access to this technology,” he said, adding that many Iranians abroad have contacted the university, offering to help fund its restoration.

On April 7, Iran’s ambassador to the United Nations accused the United States and Israel of committing “unprecedented barbarism” by deliberately targeting Iranian universities and scientific institutions, calling the strikes war crimes that no amount of threats or military pressure can extinguish.

In a series of letters to the UN secretary-general and the Security Council this week, Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani detailed a systematic campaign of state terrorism.

He cited an airstrike early on April 6 that severely damaged Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, including its faculties of civil engineering and electrical engineering, as well as research institutes for nanotechnology and environmental studies. That attack followed a similar strike

on April 3 that hit Shahid Beheshti University, damaging its Laser and Plasma Research Institute.

“The intentional targeting of scientific institutions and universities constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law and amounts to a war crime,” Iravani wrote.

The Iranian government’s spokesperson, Fatemeh Mohajerani, speaking at a news conference at Shahid Beheshti University, echoed that defiance.

“The enemies cannot extinguish the lamp of Iranian science,” the spokeswoman said, adding that recent attacks were meant to undermine the achievements of the 47-year-old revolution and sever the bond between the nation and its homeland.

“These miscalculations are wrong. Iran is the common denominator of all Iranians. Those who have a homeland will stand behind their country, and Iranians living abroad will never give in.”

Targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure on such a scale

can, according to credible legal sources, constitute clear violations of international humanitarian law. Under the Geneva Conventions and customary international humanitarian law, civilian locations, including schools and universities, are generally protected from attacks.

The strike on the Pasteur Institute of Tehran, a research and public health center with over a century of history and a member of the international Pasteur network is a prime example of targeting scientific institutions as part of modern warfare. Established in the 1920s, the institute has been a regional pioneer in vaccine production and has played a key role in controlling deadly diseases, particularly plague originating from wildlife in the Middle East.

Universities and research institutions are engines of knowledge and technological production. Training engineers, scientists, and specialists across disciplines lays the foundation for industrial and economic development. Destroying such centers is not just a physical attack on buildings; it is an assault on the transmission of knowledge, the training of skilled professionals, and technological production.

This type of warfare against scientific institutions shows that Iran’s adversaries understand that the country’s future strength lies not only in its military but also in its knowledge and scientific development.

Therefore, targeting universities and research institutes is a deliberate and strategic action to limit Iran’s scientific and engineering capabilities.

Iran, Brazil highlight preventing ITU from being politicized



TEHRAN – Information and Communication Technology Minister Sattar Hashemi and his Brazilian counterpart, Frederico de Siqueira Filho, have said the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) should not be affected by political approaches.

In an online meeting on Friday, Hashemi referred to the US-Israeli attacks against the country’s civilian and communication infrastructures, saying that such actions are in contrast to the principles of international law, which need to be condemned in specialized forums.

The US-Israeli aggression has led to the martyrdom of many Iranian officials and civilians, Hashemi said, adding that a strike on Shajareh Tayyebeh school in Minab resulted in the martyrdom of over 160 students and teachers. Their assaults have significantly damaged the country’s communication infrastructure, he noted.

Highlighting the role of international organizations in preserving the rights of countries, Hashemi said the ITU needs to act within the framework of its technical and specialized missions and refrain from being affected by political approaches.

For his part, Filho expressed regret over recent assaults on Iran, noting that Brazil supports peace and the expansion of international cooperation.

He also called for the discussion of specialized issues within the technical framework of the ITU, away from political considerations.

The Brazilian official noted the importance of consensus-building in international forums and emphasized the continuity of consultations to achieve a common approach. He invited Hashemi to pay a visit to Brazil to get familiar with the country’s communications capacities.

Over the past few days, Hashemi has called his Turkish, Malaysian, Cuban, and Nigerian counterparts to underscore the need for addressing recent attacks against Iran’s communication infrastructure and preventing the ITU from being politicized.

The annual meeting of the ITU Council, the governing body of the UN specialized agency of telecommunications, 28 April- 8 May 2026, Geneva, Switzerland. Discussions are focusing on global governance and specialized technical issues.

Iran urges ITU to condemn US-Israeli strikes

Hashemi has called on the ITU to condemn US-Israeli strikes on Iran’s telecommunication infrastructure, Press TV reported.

During a phone call on Wednesday with his Nigerian counterpart and the interim chairman of the organization, Olatunbosun Tijani, Hashemi condemned the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, which resulted in the martyrdom of both civilians and officials.

“The US-Israeli aggression against Iran is a flagrant violation of both international law and the UN charter,” Hashemi said.

Pointing to the destruction of Iran’s telecommunications infrastructure, which is prohibited by international law, Hashemi requested that Tijani recognize Iran’s rightful position to denounce the attacks.

Pointing to Article 51 of the UN charter, Hashemi emphasized Iran’s inherent right to self-defense and rejected a number of countries’ baseless and false claims about Iran’s attacks on civilian infrastructure.

Offering his condolences to the nation and people of Iran for the martyrdom of ci-

vilians and officials during the US-Israeli aggression, Tijani emphasized that the Geneva-based organization should avoid the politicization of its agenda.

Furthermore, during a phone conversation with his Malaysian counterpart, Ahmad Fahmi bin Mohamed Fadzil, Hashemi called on ITU to condemn US-Israeli strikes on Iran’s telecommunication infrastructure.

He emphasized that based on Article 51 of the UN Charter, Iran has a right to self-defense against the US-Israeli aggression.

“ITU must remain a technical and specialized-oriented organization, and must not turn into a scene for the political maneuvers of certain countries,” he stated.

Hashemi invited Fadzil to visit Iran and added that Iran and Malaysia must improve their relations with regards to information and telecommunications technology.

US and Israeli forces systematically targeted Iran’s telecommunications infrastructure, university system, and health facilities in a campaign of coordinated cyber and kinetic strikes aimed at crippling its scientific foundation.

The attacks – which have killed over 3,300 people since the war began on Feb. 28 – have destroyed or damaged at least 30 universities and reduced internet connectivity.

On the first day of the war, US and Israeli forces launched coordinated cyberattacks that targeted Iranian communications infrastructure, national media, and mobile applications. The cyber assault drove internet connectivity down to just 4 percent of normal levels for more than 60 hours.

At least 30 Iranian universities have been attacked since the war began. On April 6, US-Israeli strikes hit Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, one of Iran’s leading scientific universities. On April 4, the Laser and Plasma Research Institute of Shahid Beheshti University in northern Tehran was bombed.

The Pasteur Institute of Iran – a century-old medical research center founded in 1920 – was bombed on April 1 and April 2, with its headquarters and 13 source laboratories levelled.

Multiple pharmaceutical facilities have also been destroyed. The Tofigh Daru Research and Engineering Company in Tehran, a leading producer of active pharmaceutical ingredients including cancer medications, anesthetics, and treatments for multiple sclerosis, was struck on March 31, with missiles completely destroying its production and research units.

According to Iran’s Food and Drug Administration, a total of 24 industrial units in the pharmaceutical and medical-equipment sector have sustained damage in Tehran, Isfahan, Hamadan, Qom, Qazvin, Ahvaz, and Bandar Abbas. At least 14 employees from the sector were killed.

Beyond universities and health facilities, Iranian officials say more than 600 schools have been demolished or damaged, with more than 1,000 students and teachers killed or wounded. At least 56 heritage sites and 55 libraries have also been damaged.

The war on Iran began on Feb. 28 with a strike on an elementary girls’ school in Minab, southern Iran. At least 170 people, most of them girls aged between seven and 12, were killed.

JANFADA conveys ‘a real image’ of Iranians to world

TEHRAN – With over thirty one million volunteers, the campaign titled JANFADA, literally meaning ‘ready to self-sacrifice’, has turned into a symbol of social solidarity, a manifestation of readiness to safeguard the country’s national security.

The campaign conveys a real image of Iran to the world, distorting all false images of the country depicted formerly by the aggressors.

Following the US-Israeli war against Iran, the campaign started on March 29, as a spontaneous move to express the unwavering commitment of people to defend their homeland under current sensitive conditions, IRNA quoted Sasan Zare, the spokesman of the campaign, as saying.

Yet what unfolded exceeded expectations. Within just a few days, millions signed up, adding their names to a list that continues to grow rapidly, and it has reached a staggering figure of 31.3 million participants, aged 12 to 60, so far. Over 60 percent of them are women, which indicates their pioneering role in social fields.

According to Zare, the campaign, on the surface a widespread social movement to declare public readiness to sacrifice one’s life for Iran, is a concrete interpretation of the Iranian people’s identity and belief, a reflection of Islamic and Shiite teachings at historical turning points.

The JANFADA campaign is a true representation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Unlike the West and Zionist narratives, it demon-

strates dynamism, constructiveness, and full readiness of the Iranian people in the face of threats, he said.

It is a symbol of a nation’s resilience to achieve its national and international rights, highlighting that economic pressures, security, and psychological warfare have had no impact on public will, Zarei further noted.

JANFADA girls demonstrate readiness to defend country

Thousands of girls from different age groups and from all walks of life participated in a rally in Tehran on April 17 to show their preparedness to defend their homeland against any aggression by enemies.

The event, organized under the “JANFADA” campaign, aimed to renew allegiance to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and declare support for the armed forces.

In a message marking the 40th day since the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the new Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, referred to the campaign, stating: “Undoubtedly, your resounding cries in the public squares have a profound impact on the outcome of the negotiations. Likewise, the astonishing and ever-increasing number of millions participating in the campaign is an influential factor in this arena.”

Iranian women and girls who are ready to sacrifice their lives with love for their homeland took to the streets, as they did over the past 48 nights, holding the tricolor Iranian flag to say that they will defend the country



to the last drop of blood, shoulder to shoulder with men and the armed forces.

Support for one’s homeland and the willingness to defend it is nothing new for Iranians. The country’s history is filled with moments when people, despite their differences, have stood united at critical turning points. From resisting foreign invasions in ancient times to enduring the pressures of modern conflicts, one constant remains: a profound sense of belonging to the land and a shared national identity.

Officials describe the popular campaign’s participation figures as “an active reservoir of social capital” emerging in real time. Participants across various provinces of Iran said that the campaign communicated the society’s readiness to confront the adversaries.

Many believe that this message echoes that of millions who see their registration as a declaration of presence, made visible in the streets at night and recorded formally in the campaign’s rapidly growing database.

Inverted tulips adorn hillsides in western Iran

Clusters of bell-shaped inverted tulips decorate mountainous areas of Kuhrang, western Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, now that spring is in full swing.

Inverted tulips grow in high altitudes and mountainous and rocky areas. For this reason, it is said that this flower symbolizes resistance and endurance in the cold. On the other hand, in ancient Iran, you see images of this flower next to the tree of life and next to the king. It seems that at that time, the inverted tulip was a symbol of immortality.

The flower, also known as the crown imperial tulip, has red, yellow, or orange blooms often with a crown on top, hence the name, and has been adding a colorful touch to the local landscape.



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MAY 3, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

This life is the aspiration of the wretched, and the Hereafter is the victory of the fortunate.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01 Evening: 18:12 Dawn: 03:35 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 05:06 (tomorrow)

Jim Jarmusch's "Father Mother Sister Brother" shown, reviewed in Tehran



TEHRAN – The 2025 comedy-drama anthology film "Father Mother Sister Brother" written and directed by Jim Jarmusch was screened at the Art Garden Pavillion in Tehran on Saturday.

In this session of the "Film and Chat" program, which focuses on the screening and critique of the most significant films in cinema history, the new film by Jim Jarmusch was shown and reviewed by the movie critic Saeid Ghotbizadeh.

It follows three estranged family relationships in three different countries around the world, starring an ensemble cast that includes Tom Waits, Adam Driver, Mayim Bialik, Charlotte Rampling, Cate Blanchett, Vicky Krieps, Sarah Greene, Indya Moore, and Luka Sabbat.

The film is carefully constructed in the form of a triptych. The three stories all concern the relationships between adult children, their somewhat distant parent (or parents), and each other. Each of the three chapters takes place in the present, and each in a different country. "Father" is set in the Northeast US, "Mother" in Dublin, Ireland, and

"Sister Brother" in Paris, France.

It is a series of character studies, quiet, observational and non-judgmental – a comedy, but intertwined with threads of melancholy.

The film premiered in the main competition of the 82nd Venice International Film Festival last August, where it won the Golden Lion.

James Robert Jarmusch, 73, is an American filmmaker and musician. He has been a major proponent of independent cinema since the 1980s, directing films such as "Stranger Than Paradise" (1984), "Down by Law" (1986), "Mystery Train" (1989), "Night on Earth" (1991), "Dead Man" (1995), "Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai" (1999), "Coffee and Cigarettes" (2003), "Broken Flowers" (2005), "Only Lovers Left Alive" (2013), and "Paterson" (2016).

As a musician, he has been part of the no wave band The Del-Byzanteens and in addition composed music for some of his films. He has released four musical albums with Jozef van Wissem.

Cartoon of Day



An Israeli settler assaults a French Christian nun in Jerusalem.

Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art to hold "Art & War" event series

TEHRAN – The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) will launch a special exhibition titled "Art & War".

The "Art & War" event series, starting on Sunday, will examine how contemporary wars and crises affect art and artists around the world, IRNA reported.

In the first part of the series, six landmark works by famous artists of the Pop Art movement such as Robert Indiana, James Rosenquist, and Roy Lichtenstein will be on display. These works portray artists' responses to wars and global crises through the lens of art, inviting visitors to enter a world of reflection, resistance, and rethinking today's global crises.

Emerging in the decades following the Second World War, Pop Art turned its attention to the imagery of everyday life amid a rapidly expanding world of mass media and consumer culture. The name itself – "Pop," shorthand for popular – reflected the movement's ability to hold a mirror to everyday life, challenging the established traditions of art. By collapsing the boundary between elite culture and the visual language of advertising, entertainment, and consumer goods, these artists created a more democratic form of art that could resonate far beyond the gallery walls.

The "Art & War" exhibition, featuring works from the treasured collection of the TMOCA, offers a unique opportunity to revisit and analyze how contemporary wars influence the formation of different art movements.



Masterpieces from the TMOCA Collection

به روایت گنجینه‌ی موزه هنرهای معاصر تهران

Event 1

Six Artworks by Pop Artists

نمایش نخست

شش اثر از هنرمندان پاپ

TMOCA Lobby Hall

3 - 10 May 2026

۱۳ تا ۲۰ اردیبهشت ۱۴۰۵

سررسای موزه هنرهای معاصر تهران

The exhibition has been planned as an artistic reaction to the 40-day American Zionist assault on Iran (from February 28 to April 8), which martyred about 3,500 people, including the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, several officials and military commanders, as well as numerous civilians, including women and children.

During the 40-day war (also known as the Ramadan War), besides some military targets, the US and Israel launched organized attacks against civilian infrastructure, including residential homes, hospitals, refineries, power plants, schools, universities, art and cultural spaces, bookstores, museums, and ancient sites in several

cities, causing total or partial damage and injuring innocent people.

Since the beginning of war, artists in various cities across the country began producing related artworks.

The TMOCA plans to gradually make more works available to audiences, so that with each visit they can gain deeper insight into the impact of art when confronting historical and contemporary crises.

Established in 1977, the museum has more than 4,000 items that include 19th and 20th century's world-class Iranian, European and American paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures. Being the biggest collection of western art in the eastern world, it includes works from almost all artistic periods and movements.

The museum was designed by Iranian architect Kamran Diba who employed elements from traditional Persian architecture. The building itself can be regarded as an example of contemporary art, in a style of an underground Guggenheim Museum.

Most of the museum area is located underground with a circular walkway that spirals downwards with galleries branching outwards. Western sculptures by artists such as Ernst, Giacometti, Magritte, and Moore can be found in the museum's gardens.

"Art & War" exhibition will be open to visitors through May 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, located next to Laleh Park on N. Kargar Street.

Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor" to be staged in Jam County

TEHRAN – The play "The Good Doctor" written by the American playwright Neil Simon will go on stage at the Chegaseh Plateau in Jam County, Bushehr Province, late May.

Mohammad Javad Abbasi has directed the 50-minute play and performs in it along with Reza Musa, Bitā Noshadi, Diana Kazemi, Mehdi Harati, Elina Kazemi, Mahla Navar, and Shaker Yousefi.

"The Good Doctor" is a comedy with music written by Neil Simon. It consists of a series of short plays, based on short stories and other works of Russian writer Anton Chekhov, framed by a writer making comments on them.

A combination of Simon and Chekhov, the play is, by turns, charming, hilarious, sad, and touching. It centers around a writer, who speaks to the audience and shares his writing with them, throughout one day. He presents them with a plethora of scenes: some are from his childhood, others are his family and friends, and still others are his own life experiences. The audience meets a variety of characters, all of whom are immediately relatable and strikingly human.

In one sketch a harridan storms a bank and upbraids the manager for his gout and lack of money. In another, a father takes his son to a house where he will be initiated into the mysteries of life, only to relent at the last moment and leave the boy more perplexed than ever. In

another sketch, a crafty seducer goes to work on a wedded woman, only to realize that the woman has been in command from the first overture.

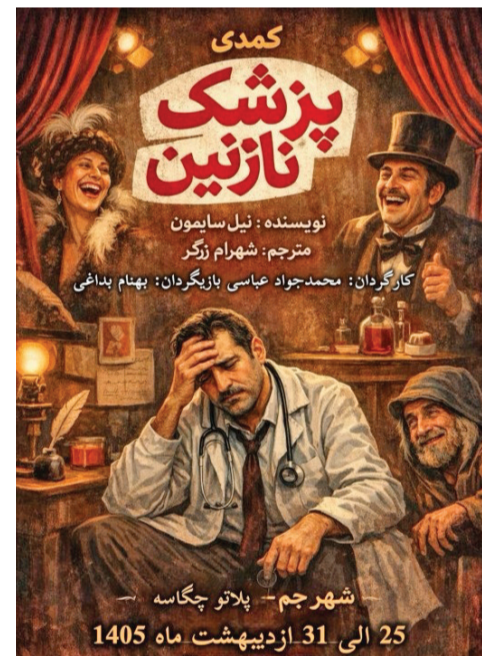
Neil Simon (1927 – 2018) was a playwright, screenwriter, and author. He wrote more than 30 plays and nearly the same number of movie screenplays, mostly film adaptations of his plays. He received three Tony Awards and a Golden Globe Award, as well as nominations for four Academy Awards and four Primetime Emmy Awards.

He was awarded a Special Tony Award in 1975, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1991, the Kennedy Center Honors in 1995, and the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in 2006.

His first produced play was "Come Blow Your Horn" (1961). It took him three years to complete and ran for 678 performances on Broadway. It was followed by two more successes, "Barefoot in the Park" (1963) and "The Odd Couple" (1965). He won a Tony Award for the latter. It made him a national celebrity and the hottest new playwright on Broadway.

From the 1960s to the 1980s, he wrote for stage and screen; some of his screenplays were based on his own works for the stage. His style ranged from farce to romantic comedy to more serious dramatic comedy.

Overall, he garnered 17 Tony nominations



and won three awards. In 1966, he had four successful productions running on Broadway at the same time and, in 1983, he became the only living playwright to have a New York theater, the Neil Simon Theater, named in his honor.

"The Good Doctor" will be staged for a week at Chegaseh Plateau in Jam County, from May 15 to 21.

Florian Zeller's plays to be analyzed in Karaj

TEHRAN – A specialized session dedicated to examining the prominent French playwright Florian Zeller's plays "The Father," "The Mother," and "The Son" will be held in Karaj by the Read With Us Cultural and Artistic Institute on Sunday.

The program, focusing on themes such as memory decline, loneliness, and identity crisis, will include readings and critical discussions of Zeller's acclaimed theatrical trilogy, in the presence of literary figures, IBNA reported.

The event is part of the series of specialized sessions titled "The Taste of Humanities," organized by the Read With Us Institute.

Florian Zeller, 46, is a French playwright, novelist, theatre director, and filmmaker. He has written over a dozen plays that have been staged worldwide, making him one of the most celebrated contemporary playwrights.

Zeller directed and co-wrote the 2020 film adaptation of his play

"The Father," earning the Academy Award and BAFTA Award for his screenplay. Since then, it has been cited as one of the best films of the 2020s and the 21st century.

In 2023, Zeller was awarded France's Legion of Honour. In 2025, he joined the prestigious French literary society Académie Française.

"The Father" is about André, a once proud old man, showing the first signs of mental degeneration. His daughter Anne, who takes him in at her apartment where the play takes place, seeks only to help and protect him, but the progression of his illness becomes inexorable. Both angry and distraught, he gradually loses his mind and reverts to childhood under her clouded gaze.

Through stagecraft, the production draws the viewer into the twists and turns of a diseased mind: the actors' roles swap and become interchangeable, furniture changes from one scene to

the next, and the dialogue repeats itself. The viewer is brought inside the father's head, hence the misunderstandings and the feeling of constantly being caught between truth and fiction, nightmare and reality. As the father decays, the setting expands and the space empties, leaving him with his solitude, his own nothingness and his impending end.

"The Mother" tells the story of Anne who loved the time when she prepared breakfast each morning for her two young children, Sara and Nichola. Years later, her children have grown up and have lives and loves of their own. Spending hours alone, Anne convinces herself that her husband is having an affair.

"The Son" is the final play in a trilogy. Nicolas is 17 years old and lives with his mother, Anne. His father, Pierre, has just had a child with his new girlfriend, Sofia. Anne informs Pierre that their son, a

depressed teenager, has not been to school for three months. Pierre then talks with Nicolas, who asks to come and live with him and Sofia. Pierre accepts, changes his high school and will do everything possible to restore his son's appetite for life.

In his plays, Zeller tackles the theme of lies and truth. He often tries to resolve the eternal dilemma within one's family circle that is believed to be most open and receptive in embracing the truth. However, it often transpires that one's family tends to be subjected to lies and deception. In today's world, people are inundated by fake news spread deliberately by social networks allowing individuals to achieve political goals and gain social influence. The truth is becoming increasingly relative, not only in the metaphysical, Rashomon-like sense, but objectively too: facts are being falsified, and lies are being circulated.