



Iran Sets Five Conditions for Nuclear Talks

▶ Page 3

Security personnel walk past posters of U.S. and Iran talks in Islamabad, Pakistan, April 25, 2026.

President Pezeshkian: Iran seeks to complete military victory with dignified diplomacy, not surrender

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has declared that Iran aims to consolidate the victories achieved by its Armed Forces on the battlefield through dignified and powerful diplomacy, emphasizing that any negotiations are about securing national rights, not surrender.

Speaking on Monday during a meeting with top police commanders, Pezeshkian reflected on the country's recent confrontation with the United States and Israel. He stated that the Iranian nation and military, through steadfastness and power, prevented the enemy from achieving its objectives and forced it to accept a ceasefire, halting 'the third imposed war'. ▶ Page 3

Iranian top diplomat holds talks with Saudi, Egyptian, and Dutch counterparts

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has engaged in a new round of high-stakes diplomatic talks with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the Netherlands, focusing on regional developments and ongoing negotiations with the United States.

In a significant display of diplomatic momentum, Araghchi held a telephone conversation with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan on Monday—marking their second call in less than 24 hours. The two ministers discussed key regional issues and the latest status of the US-Iran diplomatic process, which Pakistan is mediating. ▶ Page 2

Iran warns Europe against Strait of Hormuz interference

TEHRAN – Iran issued a sharp warning to European nations on Monday against any interference in matters related to the Strait of Hormuz.

Speaking at his weekly press conference in Tehran, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei addressed the deployment of French and British naval vessels to the region. He said Tehran has communicated very clearly to European countries that they should not allow provocations by the United States and Israel to drag them into a crisis from which they would derive no benefit.

"We have told European countries very explicitly not to let the temptations of the US and the Zionist regime regarding regional issues draw them into an unwanted crisis that will not serve their interests," Baqaei said. ▶ Page 2

President Pezeshkian's son dismisses claims of a political-military split

'There is absolutely no division at all'

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — Yousef Pezeshkian, son of Iran's president, has dismissed reports of divisions between his father and military commanders, amid stalled efforts to bring the US-Israeli war that began on February 28 to a lasting end.

"There is absolutely no division at all," Yousef told the Tehran Times on May 6 as he accompanied a delegation from the Presidential Office during a visit to the English-language newspaper on the 47th anniversary of its establishment.

He stressed that President Masoud Pezeshkian and military commanders trust each other.

"There may be discussions about what should be done, and different views might be expressed. But I can say with certainty that at the highest levels, when they sit together, there is mutual trust, and everyone is working for Iran. When we all know that we want Iran to be strong and proud, no division will arise," Yousef said. ▶ Page 2

Scan this QR code to watch the video.



Filmmakers expose Israel's medicide in Gaza while slamming BBC's complicity

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The creators of the documentary "Gaza: Doctors Under Attack" utilized the platform of the BAFTA TV Awards to expose Israel's systematic medicide in Gaza while delivering a scathing rebuke of the BBC's complicity in silencing the truth.

The film, which documents Israel's deliberate targeting of healthcare workers, won the current affairs category on Sunday after being shelved by the BBC, a move critics say was a transparent attempt to shield Israel from international accountability. It was later broadcast by Channel 4.

Accepting the honor at London's Royal Festival Hall, journalist and presenter Ramita Navai disclosed that the investigation, which the BBC originally funded but refused to broadcast, said that more than 1,700 Palestinian health workers have been killed and over 400 abducted by Israeli forces since October 7, 2023.

The Israeli bad cop's rebranding and the guilty scapegoat theater

By Garsha Vazirani

TEHRAN — When Benjamin Netanyahu sat for his interview with CBS News, now essentially an Israeli propaganda vehicle following Ellison's acquisition, he delivered a performance meticulously engineered for an audience increasingly exhausted by his cycle of endless warfare and political maneuvering.

With American gas prices climbing as a direct result of the widening war on Iran, Netanyahu pitched a supposedly self-reliant roadmap: a ten-year phase-out of U.S. military aid to zero. He spoke of a "reset," a transition from a client-state relationship to a partnership of equals. While some headlines treated it as a historic pivot, the reality is far more deceptive.

This is a masterstroke of geopolitical gaslighting designed to rebrand an unholy alliance just as public revulsion threatens to dismantle it. By stripping away the visible line item of "aid," the two partners are attempting to bury the subsidy stigma.

Rising Israeli casualties amid regime's ongoing failure in southern Lebanon

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN — The Israeli regime has confirmed the death of another soldier as Hezbollah ramps up its resistance operations, intensifying pressure on occupation forces through increasingly sophisticated drone and battlefield attacks.

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) announced on Monday that a 47-year-old reserve master sergeant was killed after being struck by an explosive drone launched by Hezbollah at a military site near the settlement of Manara in the northern Galilee Panhandle area.

According to the IOF, the soldier served as a driver in Transport Battalion 6924, part of the military's Technology and Logistics Division. The statement said he was transporting heavy equipment to the military site when the attack occurred. The regime claimed that Hezbollah launched four explosive drones toward the position.

▶ Page 5

Loss of 1b barrels due to Iran war will slow oil market recovery, Aramco CEO warns

TEHRAN- The global oil market faces a prolonged recovery following the loss of approximately one billion barrels of crude over the past two months, the CEO of Saudi Aramco has warned. Even if key shipping routes are reopened, energy markets will take time to stabilize, according to a Reuters report published on Sunday.

Amin Nasser, CEO of the world's largest oil producer, delivered the cautionary assessment as shipping disruptions continue to choke traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. "Reopening routes is not the same as normalizing a market that has been deprived of about one billion barrels of oil," Nasser told Reuters. He added that years of underinvestment have compounded the strain on already-low global inventories. ▶ Page 4



Scan this QR code to watch the video.



"Thank You, Spain" music video honors Spain's solidarity with Iran

TEHRAN — A newly produced music video titled "Thank You, Spain" is centered on a group of young people and students expressing gratitude for the solidarity shown by the government and people of Spain with the people of Iran.

The music video is among the latest releases related to the Ramadan War, imposed on Iran by the US and Israel. In recent days it was presented to audiences under the title "Spanish Concert in Front of the Spanish Embassy," Mehr reported.

In the music video, which uses footage from part of a gathering of a number of Iranian young people and students in front of the Spanish Embassy in Tehran as a sign of appreciation for the solidarity of the government and people of Spain with the people of Iran during the enemy's aggression, ▶ Page 8

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

Kayhan: Humiliation behind the Strait of Hormuz

Kayhan, in an editorial, analyzed what it called more than 70 days of America's humiliation behind the Strait of Hormuz. According to the paper, every war creates a new political-security and economic order, and the larger the parties involved, the greater and more global the transformation of equations. With this war, Iran disrupted many of the traditional war arrangements favored by major powers and replaced them with new ones. The war is asymmetric in many ways: from the honor or dishonor of the warring sides, to the level of public support or lack thereof; from the disruption of conventional calculations to the unveiling of lesser-known capabilities; and from intelligence power to operational courage. It is not without reason, the paper claims, that the world's biggest superpower has been humiliated behind the Strait of Hormuz for more than 70 days — even though Trump had come with the intention of finishing Iran within three days.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Honorable war or honorable peace

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to analyzing Donald Trump's current stance toward Iran. The editorial stated that Iran has sent its response to the latest US proposal for ending the war to the American side through Pakistan. According to the article, it does not appear that the United States will accept Iran's demands. On one hand, Washington views agreeing to Iran's conditions as a humiliation; on the other hand, it does not want a full-scale confrontation with Iran either. The U.S. economic blockade against Iran has also failed to achieve its intended results, and the Strait remains under Iran's supervision and control. Both negotiation and war, the editorial argues, are tools for achieving objectives for which Iran has already paid a price, while the enemy seeks to destroy everything Iran has gained. Whichever of these two paths — negotiation or war — leads to Iran's desired outcome is considered positive. The editorial concludes that Iran is not supposed to back down before the United States, whether on the military battlefield or in diplomacy. According to the article, there are only two options: an honorable war or an honorable peace.

Hamshahri: Instability in Trump's statements

Hamshahri addressed Trump's new claims about the course of the war. The paper wrote that Trump, who has repeatedly claimed victory since the beginning of the attack on Iran, responded to a question about whether military operations in Iran have ended by saying he never claimed combat operations were over — only that 'they have been defeated.' Trump's claim that the war has not ended comes at a

Iran urges UN to list US officials behind attack on Dena destroyer as war criminals

TEHRAN— Iran's Dena was attacked by a US submarine at the coasts of Sri Lanka on March 4, 2026, while returning home from a naval drill with India.

Iran's High Council for Human Rights has called on the United Nations to recognize US officials behind the deliberate attack on the Iranian Dena destroyer as war criminals. In a statement released on Monday, the council condemned the firing of two torpedoes by the US Navy submarine USS Charlotte at the Dena, a Wave-class frigate of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, in international waters near the southern coast of Sri Lanka, on March 4, that killed 104 of its crew.

It said that the attack, which was carried out during the illegal US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran, violates the prohibition on the use of force outside the framework of self-defense as enshrined in the UN Charter.

The assault breaches the principles of distinction, precautions, and proportionality under international humanitarian law, it added.

The US carried out the double-tap attack on the Dena destroyer in a bid to maximize human casualties after the vessel was disabled.

The rights body also noted that the American submarine violated the fundamental rights of the drowned and injured Iranian sailors by leaving the scene without conducting a rescue operation. It further censured the US for prohibiting

time when he is under pressure due to rising oil and petroleum product prices in the US and worldwide, facing criticism from both the American public and US allies. Moreover, Trump's decision to attack Iran without any planning or assessment of the consequences has harmed European and Asian countries heavily dependent on Persian Gulf energy. The paper adds that Trump also avoids mentioning that, because of his trip to Beijing, he is forced to keep the security and military atmosphere in the Persian Gulf calm.

Iran: Redefining the diplomatic landscape after the war

The Iran newspaper, in an analysis, examined the country's diplomatic objectives under current conditions. It wrote: Iran's recent diplomatic activities show that Tehran is simultaneously pursuing two goals: preventing negotiations from becoming prolonged and redefining the region's political and security balance through active diplomacy and coordination with its international partners. Alongside ongoing regional consultations, Tehran has tried to frame the negotiation process beyond temporary talks with Washington. In this context, Iran's diplomatic movements in recent weeks have focused primarily on strengthening coordination with Russia and China. The visits of Seyyed Abbas Araghchi to Moscow and Beijing were seen as signs of Tehran's efforts to shape political and strategic alignment during the ceasefire environment and the period of readiness afterward. Under current circumstances, Iran seeks to manage the path of any potential agreement by relying on active relations with the two major Eastern powers.

Etemad: Engagement with neighbors is Iran's fundamental policy

Etemad, in an interview with Mohsen Pak-Aeen, Iran's former ambassador to Baku, discussed Iran's core regional policy. According to the diplomat, the United Arab Emirates in recent years has adopted a stance closer to US and Israeli policies, while simultaneously taking a more hostile approach toward Iran. Iran believes that any hostile action—whether political, security-related, or economic—cannot go unanswered, and naturally, appropriate responses have been taken and will continue to be taken in the future. Pak-Aeen stated that Iran has always emphasized that its fundamental regional policy is based on engagement with neighbors and maintaining stability. However, this does not mean overlooking hostile actions or accepting external pressure. From this perspective, any security or military cooperation that is defined against Iran's interests falls within Tehran's defensive calculations.

the return of the bodies of the martyrs in an inhumane manner.

Iran "holds the United States and relevant military and political authorities directly responsible for this war crime and calls on the Human Rights Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to officially condemn the attack ... [and] place an independent case of this crime on their agenda and register the names of the responsible US officials as war criminals," the council said. Meanwhile, it called for pressure on the US government to issue an official apology and pay full compensation to the Iranian government and people, especially the bereaved.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its inherent and legitimate right to defend its territorial integrity and military and human existence, including a proportionate response to this crime and its legal pursuit in all domestic and international authorities."

The Dena destroyer was present at the port of Visakhapatnam at the invitation of the Indian Navy and within the framework of international protocols to participate in the exercises "International Fleet Review 2026" and "Milan 2026". It was attacked in international waters by the US Navy while returning home after the drills.

In addition to the 104 sailors martyred in the assault, 32 of the destroyer's crew members were rescued by Sri Lankan forces, while the bodies of 20 others were never found.

Iran warns Europe against Strait of Hormuz interference

From page 1 ► He added that many European nations are already aware that the recent war against Iran was illegal, aggressive, and immoral. He noted that European countries have so far resisted US pressure to become — at least openly — part of 'an unlawful act' that undermines international peace and security.

"Any interference in issues related to the Strait of Hormuz and West Asia will only make the situation more complicated," the spokesman said.

Baqaei argued that any country claiming to act responsibly toward international peace and security, as well as the welfare of its own citizens and economy, should direct its pressure toward those who initially disrupted safe maritime navigation.

"The problem stems from the aggressive actions of the United States and the Zionist regime," he said. "Otherwise, the Strait of Hormuz was open before February 28."

Responding to questions about President Donald Trump's upcoming trip to China, Baqaei described

Iranian top diplomat holds talks with Saudi, Egyptian, and Dutch counterparts

From page 1 ► According to informed sources, Iran has formally submitted its response to the latest US proposal—aimed at ending the aggression against the Islamic Republic—to Pakistani mediators. The response was given on Sunday, although the proposal details had not been officially released by the time of this report.

Pakistan had previously brokered a ceasefire between Tehran and Washington on April 8, bringing an end to nearly 40 days of joint military aggression by the US and Israel against Iran. Subsequent talks held in Islamabad failed to achieve a breakthrough, but mediation efforts continue.

In parallel diplomatic efforts, Araghchi also held a phone call with Dutch Foreign Minister Tom



the visit as a bilateral matter between Washington and Beijing. However, he said China understands that pressure on Iran is "not a temporary issue" but rather part of a broader global effort to intensify American unilateralism — effectively ruling out a Chinese mediation role between Iran and the United States.

On the US decision to remove more than 13.5 kilograms of enriched uranium from Venezuela, Baqaei said the material was taken from a power plant inactive since 1997 and that the move was carried out at the request of the Venezuelan government. Iran re-

spects that decision, he added.

Regarding reports of the terrorist groups' movements in Iraq, the spokesman said Iran remains in continuous contact with both the central government in Baghdad and the authorities in Iraq's Kurdistan region over border security.

"All admit that any insecurity in the region surrounding us will have consequences for every regional country," Baqaei said. "This consensus paves the way for helpful cooperation between regional countries, including Iran and Iraq."

'Era of dictation is over,' Iranian official says

TEHRAN — A senior Iranian parliamentarian declared on Sunday that the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global oil shipments, would not be reopened through military force, adding that the age of foreign powers dictating terms to Iran had come to an end.

Speaking during a parliamentary session held by webinar, Ali Nikzad, the deputy speaker of Iran's Parliament, praised the country's armed forces and security apparatus for 'a new chapter in the nation's history.' He asserted that Iran had inflicted a "strategic defeat" on the United States, Israel, and their regional allies, leaving them trapped in a "mad-dening quagmire."

"The criminal United States miscalculated," Nikzad said. "It

He also addressed reports of an Israeli military base inside Iraq that was used for attacks against Iran during the recent war, describing the issue as "important" and saying it would be taken up with Iraqi officials.

On Qatar's reported efforts to help end the war, Baqaei added that multiple countries have reached out to Tehran but clarified that Pakistan remains the sole official mediator in the Iran-US talks.

The spokesman forcefully denied Western media reports claiming that Iran had released oil into the sea after the storage reached full capacity, calling the accounts "sheer lies."

Asked about recent remarks by President Trump, who criticized predecessors Barack Obama and Joe Biden for giving Iran "hundreds of billions of dollars," Baqaei said the Iranian people have no positive memory of any US administration.

"No American ruler has brought smiles to the Iranian people's faces," he said.

thought it could swallow Iran. Instead, it ran into a great barrier, i.e., the Iranian nation, and received a heavy slap in return."

Nikzad argued that the recent war had proved a fundamental lesson: victory does not stem from superior weaponry or financial wealth, but from willpower, asymmetric strategy, and operational ingenuity. "It is achieved through intelligence, patience, and prudence," he said.

The deputy speaker specifically addressed repeated American attempts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz — a narrow passage between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman through which nearly one-fifth of global petroleum passes.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

President Pezeshkian's son dismisses claims of a political-military split

'There is absolutely no division at all'



From page 1 ► Claims about divisions between Iran's military and political leadership once again appeared in Israeli-affiliated media, following accusations by the United Arab Emirates that Iran launched missile and drone attacks on the small Persian Gulf state on May 4 and 5.

However, the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, Iran's highest military command center responsible for coordinating the armed forces, denied Abu Dhabi's claims, saying the Iranian armed forces conducted no such operations.

Despite the military's denial, Israeli-linked media outlets alleged that President Pezeshkian has clashed with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), without providing any evidence.

Since the start of the war, US officials, including President Donald Trump, have alleged infighting between Iranian military and political leaders over the conflict. Iran and the United States reached a ceasefire on April 8. However, Pakistani-mediated efforts aimed at

achieving lasting peace reached a deadlock after negotiations between Iran and the US in Islamabad on April 11 failed. On Sunday, Trump rejected Iran's latest peace proposal. Iran accused the United States of insisting on "unreasonable demands."

Last month, in a coordinated move, President Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, and Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei dismissed Trump's remarks about "divisions between extremists and moderates" in Iran.

In a post on X on April 23, Pezeshkian wrote, "In Iran there are no 'hardliners' or 'moderates.' We are all Iranians and revolutionaries. With ironclad unity of nation and state and obedience to the Supreme Leader, we will make the aggressor regret. One God, one nation, one leader, one path; victory for Iran, dearer than life."

Iranian officials argue that Trump makes such statements in an attempt to drive a wedge within Iranian society and to gloss over Washington's military setbacks and

miscalculations in the war with Iran.

Unity and good-neighborly ties

Further in his talks with the Tehran Times, Yousef said President Pezeshkian emphasizes internal unity and good relations with neighbors.

"The president emphasizes two key points. First, we must preserve unity at home and prevent divisions from emerging or escalating. Second, we must improve our relations with our neighbors," Yousef said. He added, "The reality is that they are our neighbors. Whatever happens there affects us, just as what happens here affects them. It's like we are all sitting on the same ship — if it sinks, we all sink."

During the 39-day US-Israel war on Iran, Iranian armed forces targeted American bases in Persian Gulf countries. Iranian officials have said these bases are "legitimate targets" because the United States uses them to launch attacks against Iran.

A role model for expanding relations

Prior to the war, the Pezeshkian government intensified efforts to strengthen relations with neighboring countries further.

Under his administration, Iran's ties with its neighbors, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, improved following earlier tensions over political and security issues between Tehran and Baku. Yousef said this could serve as a model for strengthening relations with other neighbors. "I believe the improvement we have seen in relations with Azerbaijan can be extended to all neighboring countries."

The president's son noted that focusing on commonalities can help achieve this goal. "Even where differences exist, there are also shared interests and common ground. We can build on those commonalities to expand and improve relations. If we focus only on disagreements, the situation will only deteriorate — that is true of any relationship."

The Pezeshkian family is from northwestern Iran, which borders the Republic of Azerbaijan. Yousef said cultural and linguistic proximity is another important factor that can bring the two countries closer. "With Azerbaijan, we share many cultural and linguistic commonalities. These can either become points of contention or foundations for cooperation. The president has chosen to highlight shared commonalities."

He said this approach can be applied to strengthen relations with other neighbors as well. "The same approach can be applied to Arab countries, especially since we have Arabic-speaking citizens in our own country. It can also apply to the Kurdistan Region (in Iraq) — where the president has already taken steps in this direction — as well as to Afghanistan and Tajikistan."

He also noted that linguistic ties among communities such as the Baloch and other cross-border groups can further support this process

Yousef concluded, "There are many links that connect us. The stronger we make those links, the stronger our relationships will become. When they grow stronger, we grow stronger too. We should see this as a collective good — something that benefits everyone."

Iran sets five conditions for nuclear talks

TEHRAN - President Donald Trump has rejected Tehran's "reasonable and generous" peace proposal as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intensifies war rhetoric, despite the failure of the joint US-Israel war on Iran that began more than 70 days ago.

Trump, on Sunday, dismissed Iran's response—sent via Pakistan—to US proposals to end the war as "totally unacceptable." He also told Axios that he had discussed Iran's response with Netanyahu.

In his weekly press briefing on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei defended Iran's proposal as reasonable.

"Everything we proposed in the plan was reasonable and generous, and it is for the good of the region and the world," Baghaei said.

He explained that Iran's demands include ending the war on all fronts in West Asia, including the Israeli war on Lebanon, lifting the US naval blockade on Iranian shipping, releasing Iranian assets frozen abroad, and guarantees of non-aggression.

"We did not demand any concessions. The only thing we have demanded is Iran's legitimate rights. Is it unreasonable for Iran to call for an end to the war in the region, a halt to maritime piracy against Iranian ships, and the release of assets belonging to the Iranian people that have been unjustly blocked for years?" he asked.

Baghaei accused the United States of making unreasonable demands shaped by an Israeli-influenced mindset.

US excessive demands

Iran submitted its response to the American side's proposed text earlier on Sunday through Pakistan, which has acted as an intermediary. A ceasefire on April 8 paused US and Israeli aggression that began on February 28, but talks in Islamabad three days later failed to produce a breakthrough over what Iran de-



scribed as Washington's "excessive and maximalist" demands.

The United States also imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports in mid-April. In response, Iran reasserted control over the Strait of Hormuz and banned vessels affiliated with its adversaries from transiting the strategic waterway.

The closure of the waterway pushed global fuel prices higher, with American consumers also feeling the impact. The fallout from the war has undermined Trump's popularity, which has reached record lows.

US-Israel failed war strategy

The US and Israel assassinated Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on the first day of their aggression on February 28, along with several senior military commanders. They were under the illusion that such an act would lead to Iran's collapse and allow them to reshape the country's political structure in their favor. Contrary to those expectations, Iran maintained domestic cohesion and launched 100 waves of missile and drone attacks against US bases in the Persian Gulf and strategic targets in Israel.

This ultimately pushed Washington to agree to the April 8 ceasefire with Iran.

Netanyahu beats the drum of

war

Trump has been accused of launching the war under pressure from Netanyahu, although he denies this claim.

In a weekend interview with US media, Netanyahu openly beat the drums of war. "I think it (the war on Iran) accomplished a great deal, but it's not over," Netanyahu said in a taped interview on CBS's "60 Minutes" aired on Sunday.

"There is still nuclear material, enriched uranium that has to be taken out of Iran." Pressed on how the US and Israel would remove the nuclear material, Netanyahu said: "You go in, and you take it out."

Netanyahu now appears to be attempting once again to embolden Trump to resume hostilities.

Trump also has repeatedly threatened to resume the war with Iran if Tehran does not meet his demands. Iran, for its part, has said it is open to talks, but any new act of aggression will be met with a crushing response.

Iran will never capitulate

On Sunday, President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran would never surrender to the United States. "We will never bow our heads before the enemy, and if talk of dialogue or negotiation arises, it does not mean surrender or retreat."

Iran's military also warned neighboring countries against complying with US sanctions. Military spokesman Mohammad Akraminia said vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz would face "severe consequences" if they failed to cooperate with Tehran.

Akraminia added that Americans "will never be able to turn this vast expanse in the northern Indian Ocean into a real blockade by covering it with their fleet."

Iran's five main demands

Trump's rejection of Iran's latest proposal to bring a permanent end to the war has placed mounting pressure on his administration. At this critical juncture, Trump faces a clear choice: pursue genuine diplomacy based on mutual respect and recognition of Iran's legitimate rights, or escalate a conflict that has already proven costly and ineffective.

Iran has now laid out five main demands for holding nuclear talks with the US in a second stage of a peace proposal. Iran says the US must meet these demands in the first stage if it wants an end to the war and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz: Ending hostilities across West Asia, including the Israeli war on Lebanon, the lifting of sanctions on Iran, reparations for damage caused by the US and Israeli war on Iran, releasing Iran's frozen assets, and recognizing Iran's right over the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has demonstrated resilience, unity, and strategic capability in defending its sovereignty. Any further escalation would not only deepen instability in the region but also exacerbate economic strain inside the United States, further erode public confidence in Trump's leadership, and pose serious political risks for Republicans ahead of the November midterm elections. Diplomacy grounded in realism and respect—not coercion—remains the only viable path toward lasting stability.

President Pezeshkian: Iran seeks to complete military victory with dignified diplomacy, not surrender

From Page 1 ▶ The president outlined several possible paths forward for Iran: entering dignified negotiations to secure national interests, remaining in a situation of neither war nor peace, or continuing military confrontation. He stressed that the "rational and logical option" consistent with Iran's national interests is to complete the military victory in the diplomatic arena from a position of dignity and strength.

The president noted that while Iran harbors distrust to the enemy, it considers negotiations possible based on dignity, wisdom, and expediency. He added that Iran would remain committed to its

obligations should an agreement be reached that takes into account the concerns of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, and the interests of the Iranian people.

"If there is any talk of dialogue or negotiation, it does not mean surrender or backing down," Pezeshkian said in separate remarks on Sunday during a meeting of the task force for reconstruction of war damages. "Rather, the goal is to secure the rights of the Iranian nation and powerfully defend national interests."

Referring to the ongoing situation following US

President Donald Trump's April 8 ceasefire announcement—which ended 40 days of aggression but was followed by an illegal blockade of Iranian vessels—Pezeshkian also called for social solidarity and a realistic understanding of the country's challenges. He admitted that hardships remain, but said problems can be resolved through national unity.

"Staying, standing firm, and enduring hardships are sometimes more difficult than martyrdom," the president added. "People who remain on the ground with patience and endurance are carrying out the 'greater jihad.'"

LATESTS NEWS

agenda, adding that Tehran's nuclear activities remain peaceful. He also confirmed that protective measures for nuclear centers have been implemented.

■ Quincy: Trump must restrain Israel in Lebanon to exit the Iran crisis

The American think tank Quincy Institute emphasized in an analysis that the Trump administration is forced to put pressure on the Israeli regime to halt its attacks on Lebanon to exit the deadlock of war with Iran and the Strait of Hormuz crisis, because Tehran has stressed from the beginning of the war that any ceasefire must simultaneously include Lebanon and the Persian Gulf.

■ US war costs against Iran exceed \$77 billion

The cost of the US military operation against Iran has surpassed \$77 billion by day 71, according to the Iran War Cost Tracker portal, which bases its data on a Pentagon report. US officials had previously cited lower figures. The war, launched by the US and Israel on February 28, killed over 3,000 people. A ceasefire was declared on April 8, with no resumption of hostilities reported.

■ Assyrian priest says Iran's ethnic, religious groups enjoy equal rights

A prominent Assyrian priest in Urmia says Iran's ethnic and religious communities live freely with equal citizenship rights, rejecting foreign attempts to sow division. Daryavoush Azizian described Iran as a "rainbow of ethnicities" living in unity, adding that no group has superiority over another. He recalled visits by the late Leader to Christian martyrs' families as

a sign of respect.

■ Iranian army downs enemy drone in southwest

Iran's Army downed an intruding reconnaissance drone in the country's southwest, state media reported Monday.

■ Iranian forces stop Qatari tanker in Strait of Hormuz

Iranian authorities have stopped a Qatari LNG tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, according to reports. The vessel, Mihzem, had entered waters controlled by Iran after carrying cargo from Ras Laffan. Its signals indicate it has not received permission to transit, despite another Qatari tanker being allowed through on Monday.

■ EU backs diplomatic solution between Iran and US: Kallas

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the bloc supports a political and diplomatic solution between Iran and the United States, and remains engaged with mediating countries. She noted that the recent war disrupted Strait of Hormuz transit, creating global supply imbalances. Iran is ready to ensure shipping security if a lasting ceasefire holds.

■ Ex-IRGC Cmdr. warns region of Israel's 'dangerous project'

Former IRGC commander Mohsen Rezaei warned regional countries against Israel's "dangerous project," saying the regime seeks to ignite conflict and division to dominate lands and resources. Addressing Arab and Muslim nations, he cautioned that cooperation with Israel would carry "heavy and grave consequences" and urged vigilance.

Iran's junior weightlifters poised for 2028 Olympic glory

TEHRAN - Despite facing immense challenges, Iran's junior weightlifting team has showcased remarkable talent and resilience, with federation president Sajjad Anoushiravani confidently predicting a bright future, including a strong showing at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The Iranian men's contingent captured the overall team title at the 2026 World Junior Championships here, amassing 520 points to outrank host nation Egypt (427 points) and Venezuela (380 points). The team concluded the championships with a haul of two gold, two silver, and one bronze medal in the total.

Anoushiravani lauded his young athletes' performance, stating, "Our young weightlifters have accomplished a great feat and will shine at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics." He highlighted the federation's three-year investment in talent identification and development, which led to the high-quality training camp in Shiraz. "Excellent training sessions, strong support, and outstanding record-breaking progress—this is the result of three years of efforts, identifying talent from early adolescence and working with them consistently," he added.

The team's journey to Egypt was fraught with difficulties, primarily due to the ongoing conflict impacting training and travel. "Unfortunately, the camps were suspended due to the war. The athletes were out of camp for nearly 40 days, and even their participation in the competition was almost canceled," Anoushiravani revealed.

Navigating bureaucratic hurdles, the team's entry into the championships was secured just a month past the deadline, thanks to crucial support from the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). "Since the final deadline for submitting team rosters had passed, after consultations with the President of the International Weightlifting Federation—who deserves our sincere thanks—our team list was added to the World Championships one month after the official deadline," said the 2012 Olympic Games silver medalist. "Accepting this was not easy, but this is not the first time the IWF has supported us due to our country's special circumstances."

The logistical challenges continued until the last moment. "One day before the competition, the Egyptian embassy summoned us at 11 p.m. and issued the visas," Anoushiravani recounted. "Due to limited international flights from Iran to Istanbul, we had to change airports and endure more than 12 hours of transit. The athletes were exhausted—we all were. We were on the road for nearly 24 hours, and the day after arrival, they had to compete."

Despite the taxing journey and the preceding stress of potential disqualification, the team delivered a commendable performance. "Fortunately, we had a strong start, but due to fatigue and stress, we selected conservative opening weights," Anoushiravani explained. "We came very close to winning the gold medal in the 94 kg category, but lost it at the final moment. Nevertheless, we secured the bronze medal in the total and silver in the clean and jerk. Under these circumstances, a bronze total is a great achievement."

Looking ahead, Anoushiravani expressed optimism, particularly for the heavier weight classes. "I congratulate these young athletes, especially our heavyweight and super heavyweight lifters. They are the future of Iranian weightlifting. Several of them are potential candidates for the Los Angeles Olympic qualification events. This team is extremely promising for us. Iran's heavyweight lifters, in particular, drew all eyes with their power displays, and they will have much to say at the Olympic Games," he concluded.

Zarei elected as Iran Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation president

TEHRAN - Reza Zarei has been re-elected as the head of the Iran Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation for a four-year term.

In the election held on Sunday at the National Olympic Academy, Zarei won 31 votes out of 50 votes.

He was elected as head of the Federation for the fourth consecutive term.

Parastoo Abrishami, Saeid Haji Baglou, Kaveh Kashfi and Hamid Mosaedian were also among the candidates for the role.

Iran Mountaineering & Sport Climbing Federation (IMSCF) was established in 1947. IMSCF is one of the oldest federations and sport associations in Iran.

Iran start Asian Women's U16 Handball Championship on high

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Hong Kong 33-29 in the 1st AHF Asian Women's U16 Handball Championship on Sunday.

Iran will meet Kazakhstan in Group A on Monday.

The competition takes place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from May 10 to 18.

The championship will also serve as the Asian qualification event for the 1st IHF Women's U16 Handball World Championship, scheduled to be held from 15 to 24 Oct. 2026.

The top two teams will secure their qualification for the World Championship.

Saei re-elected as head of Iran taekwondo federation

TEHRAN - Hadi Saei has been re-elected as the president of the Iran Taekwondo Federation for another four-year term.

The election assembly took place on Monday at the National Olympic Academy's Farsi Hall.

Initially, 10 candidates were qualified for the election: Hadi Saei (the incumbent president), Asghar Rahimi, Fariborz Asgari, Yousef Karami, Ali Nouri, Majid Nayeri, Hossein Hosseinzadeh, Ahmad Larjani, Siros Rezaei, and Hossein Zahedi. However, six candidates withdrew their candidacies before the voting.

Fariborz Asgari was the first to withdraw, citing the late announcement of the qualified candidates list as his reason. He was followed by Hossein Hosseinzadeh, Yousef Karami, Ahmad Larjani, Hossein Zahedi, and Ali Nouri.

Finally, Saei won the election with 39 votes, followed by Rahimi with 13 votes.

Since January 11, 2025, Mehdi Navaei had been serving as the interim head of the Taekwondo Federation.

Saudi Arabia 2027: wait is to end

TEHRAN - Head coach Ardeshir Ghalenoei admitted that it hurts that Iran haven't added to their three AFC Asian Cup titles but the tactician will know that his side have to hit the ground running at Saudi Arabia 2027 if that wait is to end.

Drawn in Group B, Iran will have to contend with three teams equally eager to enjoy extended runs with Syria having achieved their best ever by advancing to the Round of 16 in the last edition and having qualified for the Finals with a perfect record in Round 3.

Kyrgyzstan created history by advancing to the third round of the AFC Asian Qualifiers and will be seeking to progress further than the Round of 16 stage they graced in their continental debut in 2019.

China will be equally focused on impressing after a difficult period which has seen them struggling against the continent's best with Saudi Arabia 2027 the perfect platform for them to regain their luster.

"Football in Asia has improved, and teams have grown closer to each other," Ghalenoei observed. "Although there are four seeding pots, football in Asia has become very competitive. Our team are in good condition and are among the teams that have qualified for the World Cup quickly."

■ Iran supports China's four-point plan for Persian Gulf security: envoy

Iran's Ambassador to China reaffirmed that the Islamic Republic supports President Xi Jinping's recent four-point proposal to promote peace and stability in the Middle East and Persian Gulf.

In a post on his X account, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli wrote, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its readiness to support the Chinese president's four-point proposal, which aims to establish sustainable security and joint development in the Persian Gulf region. This matter was also emphasized during the recent meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers in Beijing."

■ Iran executes spy working for CIA and Mossad

Iran has executed Erfan Shakourzadeh for collaborating with the US Central Intelligence Agency and Israel's Mossad, the Judiciary announced Monday. Working at a scientific organization active in the satellite field, he initiated contact with enemy intelligence services and attempted to provide classified information. He also sought a US visa and study opportunities in America.

■ Iran declares enrichment capability non-negotiable

Iran's nuclear chief has declared that uranium enrichment capability is non-negotiable amid ongoing talks with the United States. Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, told parliamentarians that nuclear technology is not on the negotiating

Iran-Turkey trade should reach \$30b: ICCIMA head

TEHRAN- The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), referring to the close ties between Iran and Turkey and the significant opportunities for trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries, said: Trade between Iran and Turkey should reach 30 billion dollars.

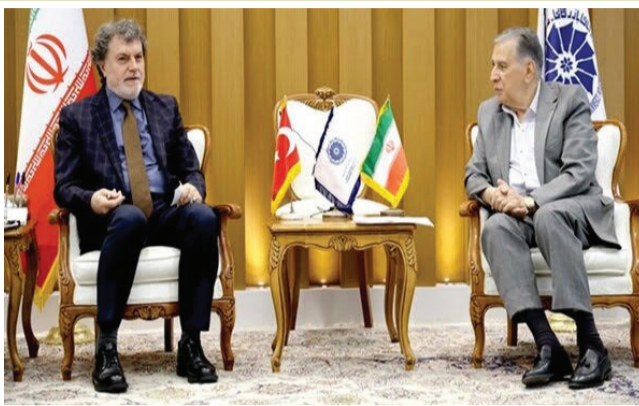
According to Mehr News Agency, Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, said in a meeting with Hijabi Kirlangich, Turkey's ambassador to Iran, while condemning the US and the Zionist regime's military aggression against Iran: These attacks have caused great damage not only to the country and the region but also to the global economy. The industrial infrastructure of many countries has been shut down or is operating at lower capacity. High inflation has harmed people's livelihoods worldwide, and many airlines have faced severe recession and losses.

According to the Iran Chamber, he added, referring to the close ties between Iran and Turkey, especially in the economic sphere: The volume of trade between Iran and Turkey must reach 30 billion dollars. This is a figure we can achieve through closer cooperation, especially since Turkey has close ties with Europe and the world. Turkey can act as an intermediary for transit between Europe and Iran.

The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce stated that in the logistics sector, given the restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, Turkey will be one of the suitable routes for us. He continued: However, there are problems at the Bazargan border that require more measures regarding customs affairs. Iran is ready to transfer 500 trucks through customs daily, but Turkey only permits 200 trucks to cross.

Hassanzadeh, referring to other areas of joint cooperation, said: In the field of petrochemical supply, food industries, especially greenhouse production, as well as pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, there are good capacities and facilities for joint cooperation.

Emphasizing the Iran Chamber's efforts to bring the private sectors of both sides closer, he continued: Nevertheless, we need more support from the Turkish government, especially in money transfer. We expect Turkish banks to cooperate more in opening accounts for Iranian businessmen and to arrange spe-



cial facilities for their access.

Hamed Asgari, International Deputy of the Iran Chamber, announcing a trade delegation's visit to Turkey within the next two months, said: We hope that good meetings will be arranged during this trip so that, given the new circumstances, traders and industrialists from both sides can reorganize their trade relations.

Mehrdad Saadat, head of the Joint Chamber of Iran and Turkey, also called in this meeting for greater cooperation between Turkey's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK) with the Joint Chamber and Iran's private sector.

Saadat also proposed setting up commercial offices of the Joint Chamber in Istanbul and DEIK in Tehran to quickly resolve trade issues between the two sides.

30-billion-dollar trade is not out of reach

Hijabi Kirlangich, Turkey's ambassador to Tehran, also emphasizing the illegality of US and Israeli attacks on Iran, said: These attacks are a clear violation of international law. We hope that negotiations lead to a good outcome in Iran's interests.

He continued: Trade relations between the two countries are at a good level, and before sanctions on Iran, we had reached a trade value of 22 billion dollars. Therefore, reaching the target of 30 billion dollars in trade between the two countries is not difficult.

The envoy stated: The new head of DEIK has a great interest in traveling to Iran and cooperating with Iranian traders and producers. We hope that the DEIK office in Iran and the Iranian trade office in Istanbul become operational.

According to a report released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Turkey was the third top destination of Iran's non-oil products in the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20).

enterprises with fewer than 50 employees, conditional on not laying off staff, can benefit from facilities. So far, 40,000 enterprises have registered for this plan.

Regarding upcoming programs, he stated: A policy package for supporting the reconstruction of industries has been formulated, under which large industries will be supported through low-interest facilities, investment, and tax exemptions.

For small and medium industries, tax support, social security, grants, and working capital facilities have been planned.

Madanzadeh also announced the implementation of the "Afra" plan to support lower-income deciles and said: Under this plan, each household will be allocated credit with a six-month repayment period. In addition, a "Reconstruction Fund" will be established to support damaged enterprises and households, with resources secured from public participation and investments. Its implementation requires approval from the government and parliament.

Referring to the government's logistics plans, he clarified: The transfer of a portion of imports from southern ports to northern ports and land borders is on the agenda. In the short term, the supply of basic goods and industrial raw materials is a priority. Furthermore, the development of road and rail transport infrastructure will be prioritized in development spending.

New support programs for damaged industries, low-income households on agenda

TEHRAN- The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, in a joint meeting with members of the Social Committee of Parliament, said that new support programs for the reconstruction of damaged industries and support for low-income households are on the agenda.

According to IRNA, Seyed Ali Madanzadeh stated in this meeting that since the onset of war conditions, the necessary preparedness for managing the country's economy had been established.

He added: The main focus was on supplying and distributing basic goods, managing trade, and facilitating the entry of needed items into the country. Through the efforts of the customs system, banking network, insurance sector, and tax affairs organization, government services continued without interruption.

Emphasizing that preventing commodity shortages was a government priority, he added: Despite the attack on the banking network, government employees' salaries were paid 10 days early.

In the insurance sector, through incentives, the process of shipping goods from ports was facilitated. The commodity exchange and funds remained active, and financing for enterprises continued.

The Economy Minister announced the implementation of support facilities for small enterprises and said: On the "Kat" system,

Loss of 1b barrels due to Iran war will slow oil market recovery, Aramco CEO warns

TEHRAN- The global oil market faces a prolonged recovery following the loss of approximately one billion barrels of crude over the past two months, the CEO of Saudi Aramco has warned. Even if key shipping routes are reopened, energy markets will take time to stabilize, according to a Reuters report published on Sunday.

Amin Nasser, CEO of the world's largest oil producer, delivered the cautionary assessment as shipping disruptions continue to choke traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. "Reopening routes is not the same as normalizing a market that has been deprived of about one billion barrels of oil," Nasser told Reuters. He added that years of underinvestment have compounded the strain on already-low global inventories.



The supply squeeze has been sharply intensified by Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, which has curtailed shipping and driven prices higher following the U.S.-Israeli war. Industry analysts warn that replacing the lost barrel volume could take months, extending price volatility and supply chal-

lenges for major importers.

Aramco CEO Amin Nasser's warning underscores a harsh reality: a one-billion-barrel shortfall cannot be undone overnight. With global inventories already depleted by years of underinvestment, even the resumption of normal shipping flows would leave markets fragile and prices volatile for months to come.

As the Iran war continues to disrupt one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints, major importers—particularly in Asia—must brace for prolonged uncertainty.

The crisis serves as a stark reminder that in today's tightly balanced oil market, recovery is measured not in days, but in billions of barrels lost.

From Dubai dream to an economic nightmare; promises that turned to smoke



TEHRAN- Imagine spending years saving money and time to build a tall tower by the sea; the tower becomes so famous that every investor in the world wants to buy a unit in it. But suddenly, a war breaks out in the neighborhood, and investors flee; your stock value plummets, and you suddenly realize that the one who promised to protect you has left you alone.

This is the tragic story of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region, especially the UAE, in the recent US war against Iran. For decades, backed by Western support, they implemented various plans for economic progress and development, but at a critical historical juncture, they were left alone. Now the question is, how have Washington's hollow promises in military security led the UAE and other Arab allies of the US in West Asia into a mirage and shattered their economic dreams? It is a question whose answer must be sought in their economic statistics.

A full-fledged economic catastrophe

The UAE is one of America's closest allies in the region, and it was a staunch supporter of the aggressors during the US and Israeli aggression against Iran. Now this war has brought a full-fledged economic disaster to the country. According to Emirati sources, the value of the Dubai stock market has fallen by about 16 percent and Abu Dhabi by about 9 percent, and a total of about \$120 billion has been wiped off the value of the UAE's two main markets. The tourism sector, which accounted for 12 percent of the UAE's GDP, has faced a 60 to 80 percent drop in bookings.

Unfortunately, the UAE thought it was safe under America's security umbrella; now it sees that this umbrella has not only failed to protect it but has turned it into a clear target. Dubai was promoted for years as a safe haven for investors. But the war has shattered that image. Schools have closed, foreign families have left the country, hotels are empty, and tourism industry workers' salaries have been halved. This is a direct blow to the UAE's economic model, which was based on attracting foreign investment and tourists.

America's hollow promises have dragged UAE into fire

Now the question that arises is, why does the UAE remain alongside the US despite all these losses? The answer is clear: because of promises that were not backed by action. For decades, America told Arab countries: "Give us a military base, buy weapons from us, and we will protect you in return." The UAE believed. It handed over Al Dhafra Air Base to the US, bought billions of dollars of American weapons, and introduced itself as a strategic ally of Washington. But when the war started, the US not only failed to protect the UAE but entered a war without coordinating with the UAE, a war of which the UAE also became a victim.

The severe economic damage to the UAE from this war is not limited to the fall in stock

values or tourism. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has also rendered the country's ports—which were the main hubs for distributing goods among Gulf ports—non-functional, and even the country's oil production and exports have experienced a sharp decline.

These developments occurred in the shortest possible time, even though America had promised its allies that by blockading the Strait of Hormuz and sanctioning Iranian oil, it would bring Tehran to its knees. But the result was the opposite. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz also disrupted the oil exports of Arab countries. Qatar stopped its gas production, the UAE's oil production fell by between 500,000 and 800,000 barrels per day, and Kuwait and Bahrain declared states of emergency.

The bitter reality is that even if the war ends tomorrow, the damage inflicted will remain for months and years. Rearranging insurance for oil tankers will take months, and even Goldman Sachs analysts have predicted that some Arab countries will experience GDP declines of up to 14 percent.

Investors who preferred flight over staying

Financial markets are among the sectors that react most quickly to war. Global investors typically move toward lower-risk assets during periods of uncertainty. This same behavior creates immediate pressure on the UAE's stock and bond markets. During periods of regional tension, the Dubai stock market typically records "2 to 6 percent weekly volatility," and this volatility is more severe in companies tied to trade, transport, and tourism. On the other hand, increased credit risk causes "corporate borrowing costs to rise by up to 0.8 percent." This increased cost is particularly challenging for large-scale projects that require external financing.

This situation also puts pressure on attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). The UAE had attracted about \$23 billion in FDI in 2023, but market data shows that during periods of uncertainty, capital inflows slow down and investors tend to postpone their decisions.

Hence, one of the bitterest consequences of the war for the UAE is the flight of foreign investors. According to Arab media reports, about \$120 billion has been wiped off the value of the UAE's two main stock exchanges. The tourism sector faces a 60 to 80 percent drop in bookings. Also, the direct damage to the UAE's infrastructure is estimated at between \$60 and \$200 billion.

The reason investors flee is clear: investors seek security. When they see that a country is directly involved in a war and becomes a legitimate target due to its logistical and military support for the aggressors, they no longer see that country as a "safe haven for investment." So much so that it can be said the "Dubai brand," which took years to build and advertise, has been seriously damaged in a few weeks.

The economic crisis that has befallen the UAE was beyond its imagination. That is why in the early days of the ceasefire, the UAE turned to the very same Americans who had dragged it into this mess to prevent a larger crisis. Emirati officials in Washington requested currency swap lines (access to dollars in times of crisis). Interestingly, media reported that Emirati officials warned behind the scenes that if you do not give us dollars, we will be forced to change our oil transactions to Chinese yuan. This was a covert but

serious threat.

Why is UAE highly sensitive to geopolitical shocks?

A recent International Monetary Fund report has shown why the UAE's economy is more sensitive to regional uncertainty than many other countries:

- High dependence on maritime trade; over 90% of imported goods are supplied by sea.
- The large share of tourism in the economy, which is highly vulnerable to psychological shocks.
- Significant reliance on foreign capital flows; investor decisions are heavily dependent on risk conditions.
- Large-scale projects requiring international financing.
- Relative dependence on energy revenues, making oil price volatility important.

These factors mean that security shocks simultaneously affect multiple sectors and increase the intensity of economic pressure.

That is why economic observers believe that war and geopolitical uncertainty have created a kind of "multilayered risk" for the UAE, simultaneously affecting trade, tourism, financial markets, and economic expectations. These risks manifest themselves through rising transport costs, falling capital flows, reduced willingness to travel, and financial market volatility, and can put pressure on economic growth in the short to medium term.

Other Arab countries: main losers in the arena

Of course, the UAE is not alone. Other Arab countries that sided with the US or were targeted because of the US military presence on their soil have each suffered losses in their own way. Qatar, the world's largest liquefied natural gas producer, has lost its main facilities. According to statistics, Qatar's annual loss is estimated at about \$20 billion, and it may take years to return to its previous capacity.

Kuwait's GDP is predicted to fall by up to 14 percent, and although Saudi Arabia has suffered less damage, its economic growth is still predicted to decline by about 6.6 percent.

Saudi Arabia, which played a lesser role in this war, is now exploiting the crisis that has hit the UAE. Riyadh is implementing its "Vision 2030" plan to become the region's economic hub instead of Dubai, and the war has provided an opportunity to attract capital fleeing the UAE.

Apart from the fact that the main loser of the military aggression against Iran is the United States, according to economic statistics, it must be said that the White House's regional allies, who had seen off Trump with an abundance of precious gifts over the past year, are now wrestling with the gifts they have received from America's war against Iran.

The US war against Iran has taught the Arab countries one bitter but true lesson: that alliance with the US is neither a guarantee of security nor a guarantor of economic profit. The old order of the region has changed forever, and if economic growth is to occur in the region, it must be for all regional actors. The real losers are those who yesterday considered America their savior and today are left alone under the rubble of an economic crisis.

(Translation of an IRNA report)

The Israeli bad cop's rebranding and the guilty scapegoat theater

Netanyahu's vow to end U.S. subsidies is a strategic gaslight designed to hide a deeper fusion

From page 1 ▶

The theater of mutual convenience

Netanyahu is not acting alone in this performance. He has a silent choir of American establishment figures tuning the theater to suit a skeptical public.

The pro-Israeli Rahm Emanuel, the former Obama fixer and current strategic voice, has been vocal about the need for Israel to pay "market price" for its F-35s, much like Japan or other wealthy allies.

This is a smart rebranding of the empire. By turning the client into a "partner," Washington can partly quiet domestic budget gripes. It allows the American government to maintain the appearance of some fiscal responsibility while the actual machinery of war remains fully funded through more opaque channels.

The pressure is coming from all sides of the American political spectrum. On the right, nationalist figures like Tucker Carlson have begun describing Trump as a "hostage" of Israel.

Former counterterrorism official Joe Kent and former congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene have similarly blasted the "Israel First" policy, arguing that American interests are being sacrificed for a foreign power.

These voices tap into a deep and growing rage. A Pew poll from March 2026 showed that 60 percent of Americans now view Israel unfavorably. For the American right, the goal of this sudden anti-Israel pivot is not to end the empire, but to refine it.

By blaming the junior partner for regional catastrophes, they provide the deep state with a limited hangout. It functions as a performative decoupling, enabling the empire to outwardly signal a move away from Israeli interests while maintaining the U.S.-Israeli war machine's essential trajectory.



The invisible web of transnational capital

The \$3.8 billion annual aid package that Netanyahu claims he wants to "draw down" is merely the visible marquee. It is peanuts compared to the actual flood of resources. Last year alone, emergency arms surges topped \$22 billion, much of it vanishing into a fog of classified deliveries.

But the real hooks run much deeper than government checks. The relationship is now anchored in the borderless interests of transnational capital.

Microsoft's Azure cloud provides the backbone for Unit 8200's cyber operations, while Google's \$12 billion Project Nimbus provides the digital infrastructure for the occupation. When Google acquired the Israeli firm Wiz for \$32 billion earlier this year, it effectively laundered Israeli military technology back into the heart of the American corporate ecosystem.

This is the birth of the Technology Alliance 2.0. The move to "zero aid" is actually a move toward joint ventures in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and high-tech surveillance that are mostly off the books and harder for the public to track.

Wall Street now bankrolls 75 percent of the Israeli tech boom, with over a hundred firms riding the Nasdaq waves. This fusion ensures that even if the public subsidy wilts, the corporate veins pulse stronger than

ever. The empire is going private, and in doing so, it makes itself nearly immune to democratic protest or congressional oversight.

The guilty scapegoat

A crucial part of this "reset" is the use of Israel as a strategic scapegoat. A key element of this rebranding is the calculated use of Israel as a strategic scapegoat. Throughout history, empires have used specific groups, such as what has been referred to as "the Jews," as buffers or enforcers, only to sacrifice them when public anger boils over. Britain did it with Jewish communities during the Mandate era, using them as both vanguard enforcers and convenient buffers when costs rose.

The United States has been using this playbook. By framing the war on Iran as something Netanyahu "tricked" Washington into, the American state gains plausible deniability. Recent reports in The New York Times suggesting that a single Netanyahu slide deck was the catalyst for the February strikes on Iran are part of this deception. They turn American aggression into something done to America, rather than by America.

However, we must be clear: the scapegoat in this scenario is not an innocent victim, quite the opposite. Israel is a willing, brutal, genocidal, and enthusiastic executioner of the imperial blueprint.

The genocide in Gaza and the wars on Lebanon and Iran are crimes

that Israel owns fully. The deceptive game being played is one where the junior partner absorbs the moral flak for the boss's long-term plan.

The war on Iran has been a fixture of U.S. foreign policy for decades, a mandate sustained by the financial elites who profit from global primacy.

A continuous line of U.S. presidents has relentlessly tightened the grip via economic warfare and sabotage, leading to the current kinetic reality. In this dynamic, Israel serves as the tactical proxy, but the initiative and the weaponry remain distinctly American, fulfilling a strategy long ago established by the centers of power in D.C. and Western financial districts around the world.

A bipartisan machine without an exit

The "hostage" narrative pushed by Carlson and others is a seductive fiction. Regardless of any leveraged secrets intelligence agencies might hold over him, Donald Trump shows no sign of being a coerced participant in the current crisis; instead, he revels in his strikes and promises nothing short of total annihilation.

The sudden turn against Israel by certain American right-wingers is a tactical disclosure of some truth to protect a deeper agenda.

Their goal is to prune the empire of its most unpopular liabilities so that the core mission of global dominance can survive. They want to sacrifice the "bad cop" to save the precinct.

The reality is that Israel cannot exist in its current expansionist form without constant and complete American support. It requires American aircraft, satellite eyes, air-refueling tankers, and the vast network of U.S. bases all around the Middle East.

Without the American forge, the Israeli blade would shatter in weeks. The mission remains the same: the preservation of an empire that refuses to die, using a partner that refuses to stop.

Filmmakers expose Israel's medicide in Gaza while slamming BBC's complicity



From page 1 ▶ Invoking United Nations terminology, Navai described the calculated assault on hospitals and medical personnel as "medicide."

She condemned the BBC's decision to drop the film over supposed concerns about "impartiality," declaring, "We refuse to be silenced and censored."

Navai dedicated the victory to the medical professionals currently held in Israeli prisons, many of whom have faced torture and forced disappearances.

Executive producer Ben De Pear pointedly challenged the BBC on stage, asking: "Given you dropped our film, will you drop us from the BAFTA screening later tonight?" His concern proved valid, as the broadcaster edited portions of Navai's remarks from the televised version of the ceremony.

The incident has reignited intense criticism of the BBC's pro-Israel bias. Freedom of Information disclosures from April 2026 show that top BBC executives met with pro-Israel groups nine times since the onset of the regime's genocidal campaign of aggression against Gaza, while meeting with Palestinian representatives only once.

This institutional alignment echoes a July 2025 open letter signed by over 100 BBC employees, who characterized the state broad-

caster as a "mouthpiece" for Israel.

This suppression occurs against a backdrop of unparalleled carnage. Since the beginning of the genocidal campaign, the Israeli military has killed more than 72,000 Palestinians and wounded at least 172,000 others, the majority being children and women.

Israel has also systematically leveled Gaza's civilian infrastructure, including schools, power plants, and water reservoirs, turning the besieged territory into a landscape of ruins where survivors are denied even the most basic medical care.

To ensure its crimes remain hidden, the regime has killed more than 270 journalists and destroyed at least 150 media institutions.

De Pear praised the bravery of Gaza-based journalists Jaber Badwan and Osana Al Ashi, whose footage provided the backbone of the film. He noted that the production team "woke up every day wondering if the two journalists on the ground were still alive."

The documentary's success, despite the BBC's attempts to bury it, serves as a testament to the resilience of the Palestinian narrative and a reminder that the world is increasingly refusing to accept the sanitized versions of Israel's genocidal war offered by Western media conglomerates.

Rising Israeli casualties amid regime's ongoing failure in southern Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ In a separate incident on Monday, three IOF soldiers were injured by a Hezbollah drone explosion.

This comes amid Hezbollah's mounting use of first-person view (FPV) explosive drones in southern Lebanon, along the Lebanese border region, and northern settlements, with a sharp rise in IOF casualties over the past week. The fiber-optic drones are operated and guided manually from Hezbollah command bases.

Hezbollah's media wing has released further footage showing several operations targeting IOF positions. In one video, two drones can be seen striking an Iron Dome launcher and its crew at the Jal al-Allam site along the Lebanese border.

Hebrew-language media acknowledged that an attack targeting an Iron Dome battery over the weekend severely damaged the reputation of the regime's air defense system.

According to Maariv, the system failed to detect the one-way attack drone in advance and took no action to intercept it. The newspaper said the IOF attempted to conceal the incident, but Hezbollah later released video footage showing the drone penetrating the regime's claimed airspace in the western sector and striking the battery responsible for protecting the western Galilee region.

The footage showed the drone operator considering whether to target missile launchers or nearby soldiers, who appeared unable to defend themselves.

The regime's former prime minister Ehud Barak has described the battle on the northern front with Lebanon as a "failure" for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Another video published by the Lebanese resistance's media shows an operation targeting the Meron (Yaba 506) base responsible for aerial surveillance and air operations management, using a swarm of attack drones.

A third video shows another drone attack on a Merkava tank in the town of Rashaf in southern Lebanon, whilst a fourth reveals how a drone manages to target surveillance and monitoring equipment in the southern Lebanese town of Al-Bayyada.



The Hebrew-language Kan public broadcaster reported that the IOF is preparing to equip its forces in southern Lebanon with fragmentation munitions purchased from the U.S. to improve its ability to counter Hezbollah's explosive drones.

Other Hebrew-language media outlets have also highlighted growing concern over Hezbollah's drone operations. i24NEWS described the drones as the regime's "nightmare," pointing to increasing confusion and anxiety over the continued attacks.

Additionally, an IOF official acknowledged that the regime "has returned to a reality of mutual deterrence with Hezbollah," according to the Hebrew-language Channel 12.

The channel reported that Hezbollah continues to carry out regular attacks, while IOF soldiers face dozens of explosive drones launched toward them every day, resulting in casualties. It added that, for now, the confrontation remains mostly limited to the regime's military forces.

The channel acknowledged Hezbollah's primary targets are currently IOF positions, while settlers appear to be experiencing something resembling a "ceasefire." The same cannot be said about Lebanese civilians, with more children and the elderly killed by IOF airstrikes on Monday.

However, local council leaders in northern settlements reportedly fear that this situation could change at any moment. They have warned that Hezbollah still possesses the capability to launch drones capable of reaching areas deep inside the regime's claimed territory, even with the IOF operating several kilometers inside Lebanese territory.

The report added that residents of northern

settlements see no clear plan for the next phase and feel they are being asked to live under a strange ceasefire marked by constant tension and ongoing fire exchanges.

Local officials have reportedly attempted to contact the regime's war minister to understand the direction of events, but have so far received no response.

Maariv added that Hezbollah has recently intensified attacks on advanced military targets. One cited example was a drone strike on an "Alpha" truck belonging to an artillery battery near Shomera, which caused dozens of shells to explode and wounded 12 soldiers.

Hezbollah's media published more footage on Monday documenting drone attacks on strategic IOF sites and troop gatherings, reinforcing its steadfast resistance, while Hebrew-language media continue to acknowledge failures in detecting or intercepting the drones.

Hezbollah has continued its military operations against the IOF in southern Lebanon and northern settlements. The Lebanese resistance stated that it struck IOF D9 bulldozers in both Bint Jbeil and Deir Siryan using drones and achieved direct hits in both attacks.

In Khallat Raj near Deir Siryan, Hezbollah also shelled IOF troop gatherings and military vehicles with artillery fire. According to a Hezbollah statement, the IOF later deployed reinforcements under heavy smoke cover to evacuate casualties.

Additional artillery strikes targeted IOF troop concentrations near the municipality of Kham, while another drone attack struck an IOF military command center in the town.

The resistance movement also announced a guided missile strike on IOF soldiers in the town of Rashaf.

Hezbollah said these operations were conducted in response to the Israeli regime's violations of the ceasefire and attacks on villages in southern Lebanon that killed and wounded civilians.

The regime's military experts acknowledge that the IOF has failed to achieve any of its objectives and that the regime's current situation is worse than it was at the beginning of the war.



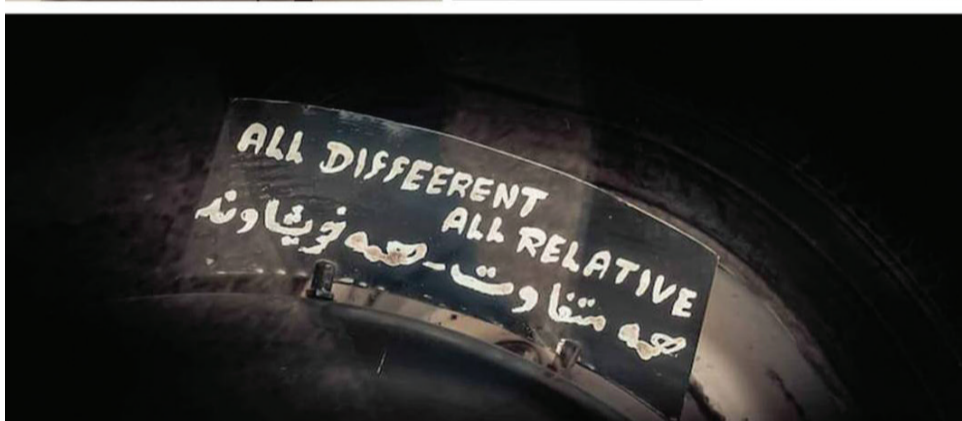
Stolen playtime in southern West Bank

Located in the Hebron Governorate of the southern West Bank, Umm al-Khair witnessed a cruel disruption of childhood.

Israeli settlers occupied the village soccer pitch, sitting defiantly on the turf to block a scheduled children's practice.

As young players in jerseys watched from the sidelines, their community space was transformed into a site of intimidation. This calculated act in Masafer Yatta exposes the malice of an occupation that relentlessly targets the most innocent spaces of Palestinian life to enforce its dominance.

All different, all relative: remembering Issa Omidvar, Iran's last great research adventurer



By **Freidoun Biglari**

TEHRAN- His lifelong journey, shared with his late brother Abdullah, took them from the Amazon to the Arctic. They left behind a unique ethnographic treasure and a simple, lasting message: "All different, all relative."

Issa Omidvar, the last surviving half of Iran's legendary explorer duo known as the "Persian Marco Polos," died on Saturday in a Tehran hospital. He was 97. His passing closes an unusual chapter of Iranian travel and amateur ethnography—one written not in university lecture halls, but on the muddy trails of Congo, the frozen Arctic, and the dense jungles of the Amazon.

I met Issa Omidvar only once, on a spring day in 2025. It was my first and last time with him. Mrs. Mousavi, the curator of the Omidvar Brothers Museum, had invited me to study and identify the museum's collection of stone tools. The brothers had gathered these artifacts during their travels around the world—from hunter-gatherer groups in Africa, Australia, and North and South America—and sent them back to Iran. My job was to help complete the object information in the museum's database. While I was examining and photographing the stone tools, Issa Omidvar walked into Mrs. Mousavi's office. At first, he was formal, but after I shared my observations about the artifacts and what I thought of them, the ice slowly melted between us. We started talking about the collections and his memories from every corner of the world, especially his time with the Pygmies, the Jivaro, the Inuit, and the Aboriginal peoples of Australia. He also told me about his teenage years of caving and rock climbing in Iran. Even at his age, his voice still had the love and faith he felt for his work and his travels. We toured part of the museum together. He spoke with real energy to a few visitors, explaining the photographs and objects. Then he said to me, "I am glad you are working on the collections with such fresh eyes and careful attention. These objects come from worlds that have changed forever and are now lost."

That day, as he walked me through the glass cases filled with all kinds of extraordinary artifacts and specimens, I realized I was with a man who had done something no Iranian had done before: he and his brother Abdullah became the country's first self-taught ethnographers of the modern era, documenting indigenous hunter-gatherer societies long before globalization erased their ways of life.

It was 1954. Issa, 25, and his younger brother Abdullah, 23, left Tehran on two motorcycles with just ninety dollars in their pockets. On the front fender of each bike, they painted their life's motto: "All different, all relative." In their muse-

um guidebook, they wrote more: "The Earth is our home, and the human beings on this planet are members of our family. We are children of the world and belong to the universe. Geographical borders and boundaries are contrary to human rights and freedom. All different, all relative." That belief stayed with them through many countries over the next ten years.

Their first expedition lasted seven years. They crossed Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Southeast Asia, then island-hopped across the Pacific to Alaska, travelled the length of the Americas, and even reached the Arctic. A second journey, paid for by selling their articles to Citroën, took them across Africa in a 2CV. They made their way through the Ituri Forest and lived among tribes that had never seen a white-skinned—or Asian—face before.

The Omidvar brothers started their journeys at a time when travel to remote parts of the world was almost exclusively for Western adventurers and researchers. Most people assumed that only developed nations could pull off such expeditions. But these two Iranian brothers, with very little money and immense determination, proved otherwise. Through careful documentation—from the customs of African, Australian, Amazonian, and Alaskan tribes to the changing societies of Asia—they became Iran's first pioneers of visual anthropology. Their travels were more than just adventure; their methods of recording through notes, photography, film, and sampling were innovative even for their time. The archive of photos and films they left behind is a valuable resource for studying those vanished cultures.

What made the Omidvar brothers different from Western explorers of their time was their attitude. They weren't colonial adventurers who thought they were superior. Instead, they came as humble learners. Issa once said, "If you don't take risks, you will never find your true love. Fear prevents discovery." That approach helped them earn trust where others failed. They filmed and photographed rituals, daily life, and ceremonies among the Jivaro people of South America (known for shrinking enemy heads), the Inuit of the Arctic, and the Pygmy tribes of Central Africa.

Neither Issa nor Abdullah had any formal academic training. They taught themselves everything. They read, watched, and recorded with endless curiosity. Their greatest legacy is the Omidvar Brothers Museum, Iran's first museum dedicated to ethnographic material from all continents. It opened in 2003 in an old royal carriage house at Sa'dabad and holds thousands of artifacts they mailed home in crates—some stored in bank vaults, others in their family basement until the museum was ready.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Mashhad nominated as Iran's candidate for OIC Tourism Capital 2030

TEHRAN- The holy city of Mashhad has been nominated as the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to compete for the prestigious title of the Tourism Capital of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 2030.

The Deputy Ministry of Tourism at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has officially announced the selection, Mehr reported on Sunday.

The decision followed specialized assessments conducted by the Tourism Marketing and Advertising Office, the report added.

This nomination is viewed as a strategic move to bolster Iran's standing on the international tourism map and to attract pilgrims and tourists from across the Muslim world.

Following an invitation from the OIC to member states to introduce their candidates for the title, Iran conducted technical evaluations and ultimately named the metropolis of Mashhad as its final nominee.

The move, spearheaded by the Tourism Marketing and Advertising Office in collaboration with foreign tourism development departments, is based on Mashhad's unparalleled potential in religious and cultural tourism. The city's advanced hospitality infrastructure and its status as a vibrant hub for pilgrimage—hosting millions of visitors annually—significantly enhance its prospects of securing the international title for 2030.



The final selection process will enter a decisive phase following expert reviews during a meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in May. The winning city will be officially announced during the OIC Tourism Ministers' Meeting, scheduled to be held from November 30 to December 2 in Doha, Qatar.

Experts believe that the potential selection of Mashhad as the OIC Tourism Capital would provide a golden opportunity to showcase a true and attractive image of Iran globally. Furthermore, it could serve as a powerful catalyst for infrastructure development, cultural diplomacy, and economic growth in the eastern regions of the country.

With the candidacy finalized, large-scale planning is expected

to commence immediately to ensure the city is prepared to host this international event with distinction in 2030.

Mashhad, the spiritual heart of Iran and the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, is most renowned as the home of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam. As one of the largest pilgrimage sites in the world, the city attracts millions of visitors annually who come to experience the breathtaking Islamic architecture, intricate tilework, and the serene atmosphere of the sprawling shrine complex. Beyond its religious significance, Mashhad is a city where history and modernity converge, offering a rich tapestry of cultural landmarks, including the tomb of the legendary poet

Ferdowsi in nearby Tus and the magnificent Goharshad Mosque.

In addition to its spiritual allure, Mashhad has evolved into a vibrant metropolitan hub with a sophisticated infrastructure that caters to diverse tastes. The city is famous for its bustling traditional bazaars, such as Bazaar Reza, where the scent of premium saffron and the sparkle of turquoise gemstones fill the air. Visitors can also enjoy lush parks like Koohsangi, high-end shopping malls, and world-class traditional cuisine, most notably the famous Shishlik kebabs. With its unique blend of divine tranquility, historical depth, and warm hospitality, Mashhad stands as a premier destination that offers a profound experience for both pilgrims and global travelers alike.

Iran to mobilize expats for post-war restoration of damaged heritage sites

TEHRAN- The head of the Parliament's Tourism Fraction has revealed that more than 140 historical monuments across Iran have sustained damage during the Ramadan War and the recent aggressions by the United States and the Zionist regime.

The government is planning to utilize the expertise of Iranian professionals living abroad to restore these heritage sites, ISNA quoted Mohsen Fat'hi as saying on Monday.

"It is a golden opportunity for national convergence," he added.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued an immediate decree for the restoration of all affected sites. A national and international campaign is being designed to manage the process in four distinct phases, including documentation of damage through photo and film, precise assessment of the destruction level, securing domestic and international financial resources and execution of restoration operations, starting with the most critical sites, Fat'hi explained.

"The government intends to involve Iranian specialists residing abroad in this process," he noted. "Regardless of their place of residence, this is an opportunity for all Iranians to unite around the protection of our national identity."

Fat'hi described the tourism industry as the primary victim of military conflict and instability. "Our cultural heritage has faced a heavy crisis," he stated. "According to reports from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, over 140 historical sites—ranging from the Achaemenid era to the Islamic period—have been damaged in the recent attacks."

He outlined three major challenges facing the tourism sector in the post-war era: physical reconstruction, rebuilding international trust, and supporting the livelihoods of activists in the field.

Fat'hi further highlighted that cultural heritage is protected under UNESCO conventions. He announced that the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, will pursue the matter in international courts to hold those who attacked these historical sites accountable. "This is a significant diplomatic move to ensure that aggressors answer for their actions against human civilization," he added.

Addressing the psychological warfare aimed at portraying Iran as an insecure destination, Fat'hi said the Parliament and government have launched a joint package to



restore international confidence.

The strategy includes active tourism diplomacy through professional participation in international exhibitions, inviting foreign journalists and influencers to witness Iran's security firsthand, and focusing on regional markets. "Our neighbors share cultural affinities and are less influenced by the enemy's psychological operations," he explained.

To revitalize the industry, Fat'hi announced a series of attractive incentive packages for investors, which include tax exemptions such as 10-year tax holidays for projects in underprivileged areas and five-year exemptions for developed regions; regulatory waivers that exempt hotels, eco-lodges, and tourism complexes from land-use change fees; customs relief that allows equipment and machinery for the tourism industry to be exempt from customs duties; and subsidized loans, which provide government-subsidized loans and allocate national lands at government rates to qualified investors.

"The recent crisis proved that Iran's tourism industry requires urgent investment and modernization," he said, asserting that the new legislative measures would provide the necessary impetus for a swift recovery.

Fat'hi further elaborated on the support packages designed for international stakeholders, stating that all protective and incentive laws regarding foreign investment would be applicable upon approval by the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran (OIETAI).

"There are promising developments regarding the granting of five-year residency permits to foreign investors," the lawmaker revealed. "This serves as a serious signal to the global community to consider the vast opportunities within the Iranian market."

Expressing optimism about the short-term and medium-term outlook of the industry, he emphasized that Iran's unique potential cannot be overlooked. He noted that the government and Parliament have devised a comprehensive roadmap for the sector's development.

"A key part of our strategy is focusing on health tourism and pilgrimage tourism as two strategic axes," he said. "These sectors are historically more resilient and less affected by political or security fluctuations."

In a direct message to activists and investors, the head of the Tourism Fraction urged them to remain steadfast. "Do not think of retreat; think of advancement. These circumstances are difficult, but they are transitory," he asserted.

He reassured the private sector that the Parliament is fully committed to their support, pursuing additional financial aid packages and tax relief for tourism units damaged or impacted by the recent war. "Iran's tourism industry will not only bypass this crisis but, through new investments and strategic planning, is poised for a significant leap forward," Fat'hi concluded.

The Ramadan War has left a painful mark on Iran's architectural and historical landscape. Iranian cultural and historical sites sustained serious structural damage during the aggression by the US and the Zionist regime. This targeted strikes on these venues are viewed by many as a deliberate attempt to dismantle the physical settings where the country's sovereign diplomacy and international relations were forged.

Beyond the immediate loss of infrastructure, the targeting of such landmarks represents a grave violation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property. Iranian officials and cultural experts have characterized these acts not merely as collateral damage of war, but as a systematic civilizational assault aimed at erasing the collective memory and historical continuity of the Iranian people. By striking at sites that represent centuries of Persian heritage and governance, the aggressors have sought to demoralize the nation by undermining the very foundations of its cultural and national identity.

In the face of this cultural tragedy, the Iranian government has prioritized the preservation and restoration of damaged sites as a matter of national security and pride. Moreover, Tehran is preparing a comprehensive legal dossier to be presented to international bodies, seeking to hold the perpetrators accountable for what it defines as war crimes against the shared heritage of humanity, asserting that the nation's civilizational roots remain indestructible despite the physical toll of the conflict.

National document on rehabilitation being developed

TEHRAN – The Welfare Organization, in cooperation with the Health Ministry, is preparing a comprehensive national document on rehabilitation to integrate and develop rehabilitation and specialized services, as well as designing a proper referral system, Javad Hosseini, the head of the Welfare Organization, has said.

Referring to the family-centeredness approach as one of the most important policies of the organization, Hosseini said the approach focuses on providing care services at homes, lowering inpatient length of stay, and improving the quality of services, IRNA reported.

Currently, 306 care centers are operating in the country, out of which 40 were launched last year (March 2025- March 2026), he added.

The official went on to say that financial assistance is planned to increase by 80 percent for families' caregivers, 90 percent increase for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and spinal cord injury, and 100 percent for home visits.

Elaborating on services offered to people with autism spectrum disorder, the official said nine temporary boarding centers are established for those aged below 14. Ten more boarding centers (for those under the age of 14) and two day-care centers for those aged above 14 will be inaugurated in the current Iranian year (started on March 21), Hosseini said.

Early diagnosis of autism at the age of two, electronic systems screening, referral to 122 specialized centers, and the use of the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) system to determine the severity of disability are among the important plans of the organization.

To expedite rehabilitation, special training packages for educators and parents are prepared. Moreover, the organization has launched a secretariat to empower parents of people with autism.

Associations of parents, educators, and donors have been



also formed to empower target group, boost their participation, and supervision.

Referring to the expansion of remote rehabilitation services, Hosseini said, more than a thousand centers provide these services on a daily basis. Over the past Iranian year, some 1,617 people benefited from these services. These services are expected to expand by 100 percent this year.

To enhance rehabilitation outcomes, the organization is focusing on creative, sport, and spiritual services by launching five art houses for people with disabilities, so far, Hosseini noted.

Highlighting the importance of preventive services, the official said that in addition to vision, hearing, and autism screenings, some 180 genetic counseling centers are operating across the country.

Services during war

Since the beginning of the war on February 28, the Welfare Organization has been providing numerous services to its beneficiaries across the country with the help of benefactors.

The benefactors have donated two trillion rials (almost 1.45 million dollars) to the Welfare Organization so far. Thanks to their contributions, 140,000 packages of basic food have been so far distributed among the beneficiaries, IRNA quoted the head of the Welfare Organization, Javad Hosseini, as saying.

Currently, 5,200 centers affil-

iated with the Welfare Organization are operating across the country, providing round-the-clock services to some 200,000 beneficiaries including street children, the elderly, people with mental illnesses, disabled people, and kids, the official said.

In the beginning days of the war, 18 centers had to be relocated, and 22,000 individuals were united with their families. Some 10,000 centers are providing daily remoterehabilitation services, and community-based rehabilitation (CBR) groups are strengthened to support people in each neighbourhood.

They have so far provided 60,000 rehabilitation services in person. The groups have empowered 40,000 families through boosting their resilience.

Rebuilding damaged houses, evacuating and providing emergency shelters, supporting the treatment of 12,000 individuals, and distributing 60,000 items of clothing are among other measures carried out, Hosseini added.

Referring to psychological services, the official said 95,000 people have benefited from free psychological supports, out of which 6,000 were individuals affected by war impacts.

More than 10,000 teams have provided emergency social services, conduction 3,000 missions since the war outbreak.

The official went on to say that the Organization has updated 70 guidelines for its centers, and

has produced 46,000 educational contents nationwide for different groups such as children, the elderly, disabled people, pregnant women, and ordinary people.

With the beginning of the war, the Welfare Organization has organized a network of some 20,000 of volunteers to help provide a wide range of services, particularly medical and welfare services, to people affected by the US-Israeli aggression.

The network includes ordinary people, medical specialists, psychologists, and social workers.

The Welfare Organization has held several meetings with the volunteers in different provinces of the country to plan and coordinate their activities, and derive maximum benefits from their high capacity.

The result has been great, and the volunteers provide services to different strata of society.

Welfare Organization's services show 'commitment, inclusiveness, and hope': UNDP

In July 2025, the resident representative ad interim for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Iran, Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, commended the Welfare Organization's services, which have materialized commitment, inclusiveness, and hope over the past 45 years.

Being highly reliable, the Welfare Organization has offered services everywhere from metropolises to the most remote villages, ISNA quoted the official as saying.

The relentless efforts of the organization are based on Article 29 that which guarantees the right to social security for all citizens, she noted. Article 29 specifies that everyone is entitled to social security benefits related to retirement, unemployment, old age, disability, lack of a guardian, accidents, and the need for healthcare and treatment, and that the government is responsible for providing these services and financial support, using national revenues and public contributions, as outlined by law.

Ballast water from damaged tanker responsible for oil spill in Kharg: DOE

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has confirmed that the oil slick observed near the Persian Gulf island of Kharg was due to the discharge of contaminated ballast water from a damaged tanker.

There have been different local and foreign news stories spreading and going viral about the issue on social media, raising concerns among the public, IRNA reported.

Following the observation of the oil leakage, the DOE, as the responsible organization for the protection of the country's environment, has conducted some field, technical, and multilateral inspections and announced the results publicly.

According to the findings, the pollution was caused by a tanker discharging oily ballast water after being damaged in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz.

The DOE hereby highlights that there has been no evidence of oil leak from pipelines, oil terminal facilities, or the platforms that belong to the Iranian Offshore Oil Company.

Currently, the DOE is monitoring the pollution continuously, using satellite images, and conducting continuous field inspections by experts on the island, as well as companies operating in the region.

Ballast water is fresh or saltwater held in the ballast tanks and cargo holds of ships. It is used to provide stability and manoeuvrability during a voyage when ships are not carrying cargo, not carrying heavy enough cargo, or when more stability is required due to rough seas.

From an environmental perspective, one should be concerned about the ballast water. The process may lead to the introduction of non-native species as well as various forms of pollution while discharging. When a ship

takes on ballast water from a location, it takes indigenous living organisms and sediments to a different place, disrupts ecosystems, and leads to declines in biodiversity.

Environment remains a victim of violations of international law

United Nations experts say that beyond immediate destruction, armed conflicts disrupt ecosystems, deplete natural resources, contaminate the environment, and jeopardize the health of the planet for future generations.

The Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD) was adopted in 1976 to prohibit the use of environmental modification techniques as a means of warfare. In addition, Additional Protocol I (1977) to the Geneva Conventions includes two key provisions — Articles 35 and 55 — prohibiting methods or means of warfare that are intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment.

However, the adequacy of these two instruments was called into question during the 1990–1991 Persian Gulf War. The extensive pollution caused by the deliberate destruction of more than 600 oil wells in Kuwait, along with subsequent claims of \$85 billion in environmental damage, led to growing calls to strengthen legal protections for the environment during armed conflict.

Since the start of terrorist attacks by the United States and the Zionist regime against Iran, numerous infrastructures — including oil storage facilities — have been targeted in acts of aggression.

A spokesperson for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human



Rights (OHCHR), speaking at a press conference in Geneva, raised concerns about the health and environmental consequences of attacks by Israel and the United States on oil depots in Iran due to the release of toxic pollutants into the air.

The spokesperson stated that these impacts raise "serious questions regarding compliance with the principles of proportionality and precaution under international humanitarian law," emphasizing that the sites struck did not appear to have been used exclusively for military purposes.

Christian Lindmeier, spokesperson for the World Health Organization (WHO), also warned that the "black rain" and "acid rain" reported in Tehran following the attacks pose real dangers to public health in Iran, according to Al Jazeera.

Public concern over the targeting or misuse of the environment during wartime first reached its peak during the Vietnam War, widely regarded as the longest war of the 20th century and a military defeat for the United States. In the U.S., the conflict gave rise to what became known as the "Vietnam Syndrome," reflecting widespread public aversion to American military interventions abroad.

Iran calls for Iraq to help address environmental challenges



TEHRAN – The head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, has called for Iraqi President, Nizar Amedi, to benefit from his previous experience and expertise to help tackle the environmental challenges of the two neighboring countries.

Amedi has previously served as Iraq's minister of environment.

Iran and Iraq are grappling with similar environmental challenges, including drought, desertification, and sand and dust storms (SDSs) due to geographical and climatic commonalities, Ansari said in a letter to Amedi.

The impacts of these challenges transcend national borders and require close, ongoing, and strategic collaborations between the two nations, she added.

"For sure, your valuable past experiences would serve as a critical foundation to manage common environmental problems, and promote ties between Iran and Iraq," Mehr news agency quoted Ansari as saying.

The official proposed promoting ties in the environmental sector, particularly management of water resources, and SDS hotspots.

Water rights, SDSs

In October 2025, Iranian and Iraqi officials discussed the challenges facing Hour al-Azim wetland, located on the border of the two countries, particularly drought and spontaneous combustion.

During a meeting held in Iraq, Iranian officials from the DOE highlighted the provision of the wetland's water rights by Iraq, the lack of which has so far dried up the wetland, leading to spontaneous combustion, releasing a large amount of air pollution and smoke, adversely affecting cities in Khuzestan province, doe.ir reported.

They also emphasized the significance of managing resources and water consumption in Tigris River to be able to supply the wetland's water rights, and prevent the intensification of fire in the Iraqi part of the Hour al-Azim wetland, and stop pollutants migration towards Khuzestan province.

Iraqi officials representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs elaborated on the amount of water in the reservoirs of dams built across Tigris River, and the severe drought in the region, pledging to secure the water rights next year.

The two sides also discussed utilizing fire-fighting aircraft and helicopters to distinguish fire and manage the wetland.

Boosting scientific cooperation to address common environmental challenges was among the other issues discussed in the meeting.

SDSs hotspots in Iraq severely affect western and south-western regions, the administration underscores cooperating with Baghdad to address the problem.

In September 2024, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, in a meeting with Ansari, highlighted that one of the main axes of cooperation with Iraq will focus on conducting joint environmental activities as well as following up on previous agreements made in this regard, IRNA reported.

A report published by four Iranian researchers suggests that the main sources of sand and dust storms affecting Iran are emerging from Iraq, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

Titled "Dust in Western Iran: the emergence of new sources in response to shrinking water bodies", the report written by Azar Beyranvand, Ghasem Azizi, Omid Alizadeh, and Ali Darvishi Bolorani was published by Nature on September 27, 2023.

"The most influential sources affecting Western Iran are located on the shore and northwest of Lake Tharthar, Hour-al-Azim Marsh, the shore of Razzaza, Habbaniyah Lakes, and West Hammar Marsh, which contributed to 110, 79, 59, 56, and 51 dusty days, respectively."

Indeed, the peak dust activity in Western Iran was during the period 2008–2012 in response to the substantial shrinkage of the main water bodies in Iraq.

No evidence of Hantavirus in Iran: health ministry

TEHRAN – The deputy health minister has said no case of Hantavirus has been reported in Iran so far, and the risk of its epidemic is very low.

"This virus is not new and has been known in the world for years. Furthermore, no case of a new type of Hantavirus has been reported in Iran so far, and there is no reason for concern," IRNA quoted Alireza Raeisi as saying.

"There have also been no reports in the countries surrounding Iran," he stressed.

Hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome (HCPS), also known as hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS), is a zoonotic, viral respiratory disease caused by hantaviruses of the genus Orthohantavirus, family Hantaviridae, order Bunyavirales.

Hantaviruses found in Europe and Asia are known to cause haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS), which primarily affects the kidneys and blood vessels. Human-to-human transmission has not been documented in this part of the world.

Human Hantavirus infection is primarily acquired through contact with the urine, faeces, or saliva of infected rodents or by touch-

ing contaminated surfaces.

Exposure typically occurs during activities such as cleaning buildings with rodent infestations, though it may also occur during routine activities in heavily infested areas.

Human cases are most commonly reported in rural settings, such as forests, fields, and farms, where rodents are present, and opportunities for exposure are greater.

HPS is characterized by headache, dizziness, chills, fever, myalgia, and gastrointestinal symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and abdominal pain, followed by sudden onset of respiratory distress and hypotension.

Symptoms of HPS typically occur from 1–6 weeks after initial exposure to the virus. However, symptoms may appear as early as one week and as late as eight weeks following exposure.

On 2 May 2026, the World Health Organization received notification from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding a cluster of severe acute respiratory illness, including two deaths and one critically ill passenger, aboard a Dutch-flagged cruise ship.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430



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

MAY 12, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The best of believers in terms of faith is he whose giving and withholding, and whose displeasure and pleasure are solely for Allah.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01 Evening: 18:20 Dawn: 03:24 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 05:01 (tomorrow)

Labkhand Theater Complex screening world's top anime

TEHRAN – Labkhand Theater Complex in Tehran is running a program titled “The World’s Top Anime” this week, screening two movies every day.

On Tuesday, “Suzume” (2022) and “Your Name” (2016) will be screened at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., respectively.

“Suzume” is a 2022 Japanese animated coming-of-age fantasy adventure film written and directed by Makoto Shinkai. The third and final installment of Shinkai’s Disaster trilogy, following “Your Name” (2016) and “Weathering with You” (2019), the film follows 17-year-old high school girl Suzume Iwato and young stranger Souta Munakata, who team up to prevent a series of disasters across Japan by sealing doors from the colossal, supernatural worm that causes earthquakes after being released.

A novel adaptation, also written by Shinkai, and a manga series illustrated by Denki Amashima both debuted prior to the film’s release.

The film received largely positive reviews from critics, with praise directed towards the characters, animation, visuals, music, and emotional story. The film grossed over \$314 million worldwide, making it the fourth highest-grossing Japanese film of all time, as well as the fourth highest-grossing film of 2022 in Japan.

Among its numerous accolades, the film was nominated for Best Animated Feature at the 81st Golden Globe Awards and received seven nominations at the 51st Annie Awards.

Your Name is a 2016 Japanese animated romantic fantasy film written and directed by Makoto Shinkai, produced by CoMix Wave Films, and distributed by Toho. It depicts the story of high school students Taki Tachibana and Mitsuha Miyamizu, who suddenly begin to swap bodies de-



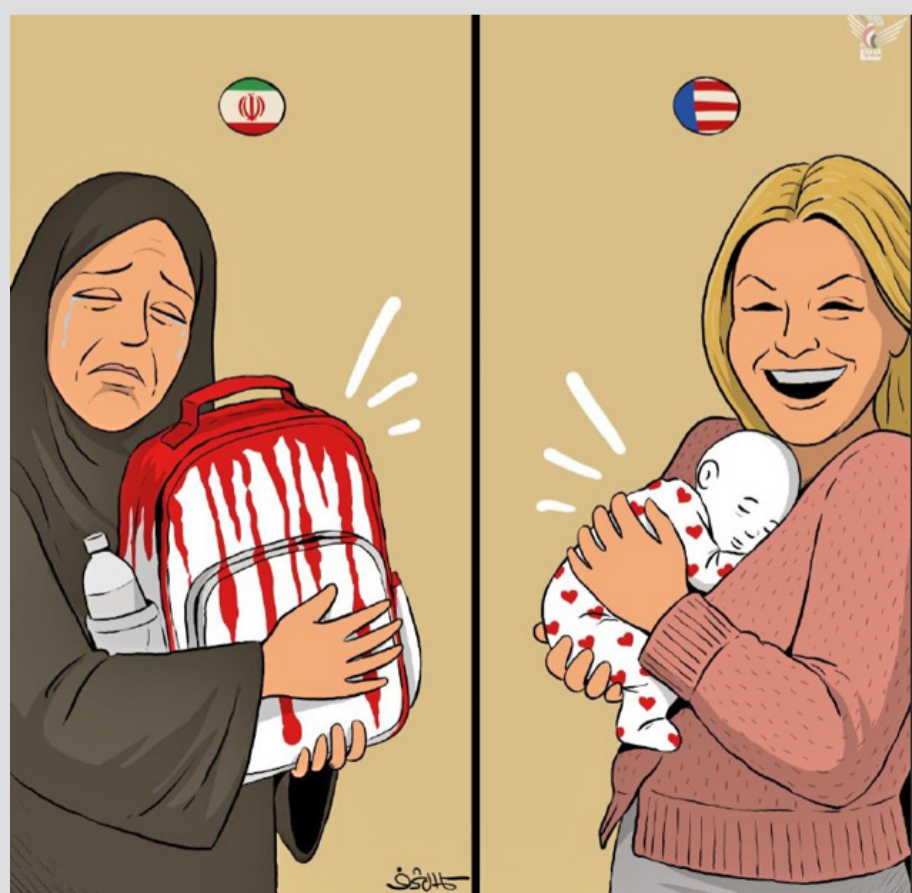
spite never having met, unleashing chaos onto each other’s lives.

A light novel of the same name, also written by Shinkai, was published a month prior to its release.

The film received widespread critical acclaim for its story, animation, music, visuals, and emotional weight. Until 2020, “Your Name” was the highest-grossing Japanese film of all time, grossing \$400 million worldwide following re-release, breaking numerous box office records.

It received several accolades, including Best Animated Feature at the 2016 Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards, the 49th Sitges Film Festival, and the 71st Mainichi Film Awards; it was also nominated for the Japan Academy Film Prize for Animation of the Year.

Cartoon of Day



Mother Day
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

“Thank You, Spain” music video honors Spain’s solidarity with Iran

TEHRAN – A newly produced music video titled “Thank You, Spain” is centered on a group of young people and students expressing gratitude for the solidarity shown by the government and people of Spain with the people of Iran.

The music video is among the latest releases related to the Ramadan War, imposed on Iran by the US and Israel. In recent days it was presented to audiences under the title “Spanish Concert in Front of the Spanish Embassy,” Mehr reported.

In the music video, which uses footage from part of a gathering of a number of Iranian young people and students in front of the Spanish Embassy in Tehran as a sign of appreciation for the solidarity of the government and people of Spain with the people of Iran during the enemy’s aggression, accompanied by the slogan “Spain, thank you for not remaining silent,” the production team sought to create a different atmosphere by performing music in Spanish.

The producers of the work stated that the main goal of this gathering was to convey the message of the Iranian people’s courage and pursuit of justice to the people of Spain, and to record images of this solidarity in order to produce a lasting visual work.

These public gatherings, organized with the aim of honoring



such valuable concepts as peace, resistance, and friendship among nations, and supported by the Mawa Media Center and the Masaf group, hosted a variety of cultural and artistic programs. Among the most important parts of the event were the reading of statements in Spanish addressed to the freedom-loving people of that country and performances of pieces praising steadfastness in the face of warmongering policies.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28 and for 40 days, they martyred about 3,500 people including the Leader of the Is-

lamic 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 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 damages and injuring innocent people.

Within this context, Spain’s position under Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez stood out as one of the most distinctive and at times controversial responses among Western countries. Unlike several of its European and American allies, Spain not only withheld support for the military operations but also repeatedly described them as illegal, unnecessary, and contrary to the principles of international law, eventually escalating to a level of diplomatic tension with both Washington and Tel Aviv.

David Harrower’s “Blackbird” to be performed at Book Garden Theater & Music Hall

TEHRAN – Book Garden Theater & Music Hall in Tehran will host the performance of the 2005 play “Blackbird” written by the Scottish playwright David Harrower from May 20.

Navid Mohammadzadeh has directed the play and also performs in it along with Maryam Hosseini, Mehr reported.

The play was inspired in part by the crimes of Toby Studebaker, and depicts a young woman meeting a middle-aged man fifteen years after being abused by him when she was twelve.

At his workplace, 55-year-old Ray Brooks is shocked to be visited by a young woman, 27-year-old Una Spencer. Fifteen years earlier, Ray had sexually assaulted Una for three months when Una was twelve and Ray was forty; subsequently, Ray had been jailed for three years for statutory rape.

Ultimately, they ran off together, and, while Ray was taking time to compose himself after realizing what he had just done, he left her alone in a motel room. She got worried and left to find him, which led to both of them frantically searching for one another and raising suspicions within the small coastal town where they were staying.



Eventually, a couple out walking their dog took Una in and called the police after learning why she was there. Ray was then arrested and imprisoned. Upon his release, he managed to

establish a reasonably successful new life under another name, but Una recognized him in a photograph and tracked him down.

Ray takes Una to the office break room, where the two engage in a long and difficult confrontation involving Una’s continuing struggles to understand and come to terms with the abuse and her intensely conflicting emotions, which pivot between anger, curiosity, confusion, and even a persistent attachment to Ray, whom Una loved – and she believed that he loved her.

The fearful Ray, who is himself trying to forget the past and the potential feelings he had for Una, parries her demanding questions and descriptions of her feelings and experiences, all the while uncertain of her intentions.

Since 2005, the play has been performed at various venues across the world. A film adaptation of the play titled “Una” premiered in September 2016 at the 43rd Telluride Film Festival. It stars Rooney Mara as Una and Ben Mendelsohn as Ray.

David Harrower, 60, has published over 10 original works, as well as numerous translations and adaptations.

Jules Verne’s “Paris in the Twentieth Century” published in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book “Paris in the Twentieth Century” written by Jules Verne has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Translated by Mehdi Behnush, the book has been brought out by Qoqnoos Publishing House, ILNA reported.

The 64th and final novel by Jules Verne, the book presents Paris in August 1960, 97 years in Verne’s future, when society places value only on business and technology.

Written in 1860, but first published in 1994, the novel follows a young man who struggles unsuccessfully to live in a technologically advanced but culturally backward world. The work paints a grim, dystopian view of a technological civilization.

Many of Verne’s predictions are remarkably on target. However, his publisher, Pierre-Jules Hetzel, did not accept the book because he thought that it was too unbelievable and that its sales prospects would be inferior to those of Verne’s previous work, “Five Weeks in a Balloon.”

As an initially unpublished (and largely unedited) work, the novel is closer to Verne’s

post-Protection from Editors style than the writings most readers will be familiar with, particularly in regards to its cynicism. Verne imagines the Paris of 1960 as a bleak dystopia where art and creativity are stifled, and cold-hearted pragmatism, logic, commerce, and industrial development are the only things that anyone cares about. This attitude probably stems from Verne’s early job as a stock broker, which he hated from the bottom of his heart, and which caused his lifelong contempt of Corrupt Corporate Executives and their world-view.

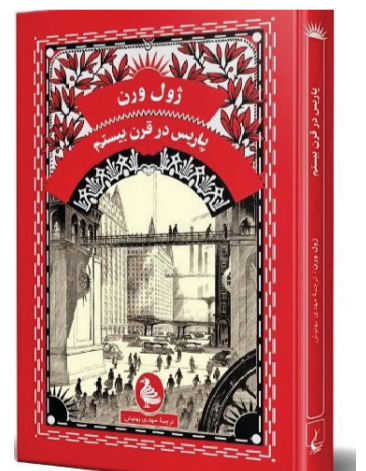
Michel Dufrenoy, the protagonist, is one of the last students of the humanities graduating from his university, a cause for shame for his family, and endless misery and failure for him throughout the story as he struggles to survive alone in a cold, mechanized world without losing his identity. The depressing tone and message of the novel is the other, and likely bigger, reason why it was initially denied publication and remained forgotten for so long – a first sign of Hetzel’s long editorial pressure, as he felt them too ingrained in the novel to be edited out, and canned it

indefinitely.

Jules Verne (1828 – 1905) was a French novelist, poet, and playwright. His collaboration with the publisher Pierre-Jules Hetzel led to the creation of the “Voyages extraordinaires,” a series of best-selling adventure novels including “Journey to the Center of the Earth” (1864), “Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas” (1870), and “Around the World in Eighty Days” (1872). His novels are generally set in the second half of the 19th century, taking into account contemporary scientific knowledge and the technological advances of the time.

In addition to his novels, he wrote numerous plays, short stories, autobiographical accounts, poetry, songs, and scientific, artistic and literary studies. His work has been adapted for film and television since the beginning of cinema, as well as for comic books, theater, opera, music and video games.

Verne is considered to be an important author in France and most of Europe, where he has had a wide influence on the literary avant-garde and on surrealism. His reputation was markedly different in the Anglosphere



where he had often been labeled a writer of genre fiction or children’s books, largely because of the highly abridged and altered translations in which his novels have often been printed. Since the 1980s, his literary reputation has improved.

Jules Verne has been the second most-translated author in the world since 1979, ranking below Agatha Christie and above William Shakespeare. He has sometimes been called the “father of science fiction,” a title that has also been given to H. G. Wells and Hugo Gernsback. In the 2010s, he was the most translated French author in the world.