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Pezeshkian Writes to Pope Leo XIV **Iranian President Thanks Pope for His Moral and Fair Stance on US-Israeli Aggression**



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Pope Leo XIV presides over the funeral mass of Cardinal Emil Paul Tscherrig in St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, May 15, 2026.

Iran warns UN that US-Israeli aggression threatens global energy security and supply chains

TEHRAN- Iran's ambassador to the United Nations warned that ongoing military aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic has severely disrupted regional stability, damaged critical energy infrastructure, and now endangers global supply chains and worldwide energy security.

Speaking at a special meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on safeguarding energy and supply flows, held in New York on May 15, Ambassador Saeid Iravani asserted that the root causes of current instability in global energy markets and trade routes are "military escalation and unlawful acts of aggression" imposed on Iran. ▶ Page 3

European medicine supplies at risk due to Iran tensions

TEHRAN – European countries could face significant shortages of medicines and essential pharmaceutical components if tensions surrounding Iran escalate and lead to a blockade of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, according to a recent analysis.

Citing a report from La Tribune, the analysis highlights Europe's heavy reliance on supply chains originating in China and India, which account for 80% of the region's pharmaceutical imports. These supply lines are increasingly destabilized by rising oil and gas prices. The potential slowdown of air transport routes across the West Asia and Asia further exacerbates the risk. ▶ Page 4

Gaza mourns resistance commander Izz al-Din al-Haddad



TEHRAN — The Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, confirmed the martyrdom of its commander-in-chief, Izz al-Din al-Haddad, following a treacherous Israeli airstrike in Gaza City late Friday.

The targeted attack hit an overcrowded residential building and a civilian vehicle in the Rimal neighborhood, killing al-Haddad alongside his wife and daughter.

Local medical sources reported that at least seven Palestinians were martyred, including three women and a child, while more than 45 others sustained injuries.

The massacre triggered widespread grief and outrage across the enclave, as thousands gathered for a joint funeral procession to honor the fallen leader.

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Lebanon truce extension on fire

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The announcement of a 45-day extension to the so-called "ceasefire" in Lebanon has done little to stop the Israeli aggression. But it does raise questions about the Lebanese government.

On Saturday, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) warned residents of a dozen towns and villages to flee immediately ahead of attacks, designating a forced displacement list. This was followed by violent airstrikes against dozens of towns, villages, and farms. Heavy explosions also rocked roads presumably targeting vehicles. The aggression has caused fatalities and injuries.

This comes after the Lebanese negotiating delegation's announcement of an agreement to extend the "ceasefire" between Lebanon and the Israeli occupation regime for an additional 45 days, alongside progress in the security and political tracks. It noted that "extending the truce and establishing a U.S.-sponsored security track opens a political path toward lasting stability."

The delegation stated that "launching an official political track reflects Lebanon's constructive engagement and enhances chances of reaching a lasting peaceful solution." ▶ Page 5

Why does Iran's resolute defense meet with sympathy in Serbia?

SUBOTICA - Fifty-five years ago, in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia and then-Yugoslavia, a corrida was held. The "fight" with bulls was announced as the first classical Spanish corrida ever organized outside Spain, which attracted great attention from the Yugoslav and the world public of the time.

The era of Francisco Franco was nearing its end, so the appearance of famous matadors in Belgrade, such as Luis Miguel Dominguin, Roberto Pitas, and Alfredo Conde, represented a kind of Spanish signal to the world that new times were coming.

At that time, Belgrade was experiencing economic growth and momentum, and film stars and artists gladly came to our capital, equally from the East and the West, as well as from non-aligned countries.

What the Belgrade corrida remained remembered for, however, was not the audience's admiration for the bull-killing skill of the aforementioned Luis Miguel Dominguin – otherwise a favorite of the world jet set of the time. ▶ Page 2

Backpacks of martyred Minab children sent to UN as symbols of lost innocence

TEHRAN – In a symbolic gesture to globalize the voice of innocent victims, the backpacks of two Iranian students martyred in the tragic bombing of the Shajareh Tayyebah School in Minab have been dispatched to the United Nations headquarters in New York and its museum in Vienna.

Hamed Alamedi, the director of the Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), announced on Saturday that the personal belongings of martyrs Moein Zeinali and Mohammad Shahdousti were sent as part of the "Caravan of Narrating 20 Years of Failure," Mehr reported. ▶ Page 8



Iran, Pakistan interior ministers discuss peace talks

TEHRAN – Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni and his Pakistani counterpart Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting in Tehran to discuss bilateral ties and prospects for resuming Pakistani-mediated peace talks.

Pakistani Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Tehran on Saturday for a two-day visit.

The Pakistani minister was warmly welcomed by his Iranian counterpart, Eskandar Momeni, upon his arrival at the airport.

Iran praised Pakistan's constructive role, particularly Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir's efforts to resolve ongoing conflicts.

US military superiority fails to guarantee decisive outcome against Iran: Brazilian analyst



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Realistic expectation from China

Khorasan examined Trump's trip to Beijing and its impact on the war with Iran. According to the paper, the U.S. president had planned to defeat Iran and use that major achievement as leverage to extract political and trade concessions from his Chinese counterpart. But now, his biggest supposed advantage has turned into his biggest challenge. Trump will apply heavy pressure on Xi Jinping to persuade Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Although the closure of the Strait harms China in the short term, in the long run, it weakens Washington's geopolitical position and strengthens the yuan. Given Beijing's extreme caution in international affairs and its preference to operate within the existing global order, it is likely that the press conference or final statement of Trump's visit will include language urging Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Iran, for its part, should take steps such as selling oil at offshore terminals to draw China more deeply into the issue.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Europe at a crossroads of destiny

Donya-e-Eqtasad highlighted Europe's position at a decisive crossroads. On one side lies the war in Ukraine and the possibility of direct confrontation with Russia; on the other, disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and threats to Middle East energy flows have pushed Europe's energy security to its narrowest point. Reports now suggest that the EU is considering investment in alternative Middle East energy routes that bypass the Strait of Hormuz. However, a strategic perspective requires Europe to think beyond short-term tactical solutions. A strategic partnership with Iran—if not a necessity—is at least a logical option grounded in geopolitical realities. Such a partnership would not only secure energy flows but also contribute to regional stability. Iran has demonstrated not only control over its vast gas reserves but also effective influence over the entire Persian Gulf energy chain. Ignoring this reality risks reducing Europe to a passive actor in global energy dynamics.

Hamshahri: Trump's troublesome admission

Hamshahri discussed a problematic admission by Trump. The paper said: Trump appears eager to show that economic pressure from the war will not force him to retreat. Yet this posture may backfire. Trump behaves as though he possesses unlimited power, but this approach becomes troublesome when

confronted with political and social realities. A recent example was his verbal slip this week—saying that during the war with Iran, he does not think about its economic consequences or the financial situation of Americans. Republicans tried to justify his remarks, claiming he was misunderstood, but even his vice president, J.D. Vance, had to emphasize that the administration does care about people's economic hardships. Trump may want to project strength, but this strategy could work against him, especially since the war with Iran is unpopular among Americans and many believe its economic cost is not worth it.

Ettelaat: Iran as the architect of a new order in the Persian Gulf

Ettelaat analyzed Iran's growing role in shaping a new order in the Persian Gulf. Recent developments around the Strait of Hormuz and the region have been rapidly evolving. A new game is emerging over control, security, and order in one of the world's most sensitive waterways, and Iran's role as a key player has become more prominent than ever. Iran now occupies a more decisive position: decisions regarding shipping routes, insurance policies, and global responses to regional crises are increasingly influenced directly by Tehran. Policies that may appear economic on the surface are, in reality, powerful tools for managing regional security, safeguarding national interests, and shaping a new order. The Strait of Hormuz is no longer just a waterway—it has become a symbol of national power and determination. The new game has begun, and Iran is the central and decisive actor.

Siasat-e-Rooz: From BRICS convergence with Iran to the exposure of the UAE

Siasat-e-Rooz evaluated Araghchi's effective presence at the BRICS meeting in India. The meeting of BRICS foreign ministers, attended by Araghchi, became both a platform for major BRICS members to align with Iran in condemning the US-Israeli military aggression, and an arena where the UAE was exposed for its destructive role during the Ramadan War by siding with the US and Israel against Iran and regional security. The BRICS meeting took place under the shadow of the Ramadan War and the Strait of Hormuz crisis. Despite this, Araghchi's participation—along with his clear articulation of Iran's principles and the revelations about the UAE's irrational behavior—helped lay the groundwork for a new structure within BRICS that strengthens the bloc's global role.

Iran: Palestinian self-determination only solution on Nakba anniversary

TEHRAN - As the world marked the 78th anniversary of Nakba Day (May 15), Iran intensified its diplomatic condemnation of the Israeli regime, calling the event a source of permanent regional instability and reiterating that the future of Palestine must be determined solely by its people.

In a statement released on Friday night, Iran's Foreign Ministry described Nakba Day—commemorating the mass displacement of Palestinians following the establishment of the Israeli regime in 1948—as a reminder of “the conspiracy of the enemies of humanity against Palestine.” The ministry asserted that the direct consequence of that conspiracy has been the “permanent destabilization of the region” and the normalization of lawbreaking and crime.

“Seventy-eight years ago on this day, the most horrific human and moral tragedy of the contemporary era took shape with the declaration of the establishment of the fake Zionist entity in the historical land of Palestine,” the statement read. It added that the disastrous consequences of that event continue to be witnessed across West Asia and throughout the world.

The Foreign Ministry stressed that over the past eight decades, the most savage violations of international law have been committed by the Zionist regime, backed by the United States, Britain, Germany, Canada, and several other European countries. It noted that during the last three years, “the colonial project to annihilate Palestine” has entered a new phase, with the occupying regime using the deadliest weapons provided by Western supporters to carry out a “ruthless genocide of Palestinians.”

While acknowledging that international courts have moved to prosecute Zionist leaders for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, the ministry criticized “illegal pressure by the United States” against those courts, arguing that successive US administrations are accomplices in the genocide of Palestinians.

Iran reaffirmed its principled support for the Palestinian people's right to resist occupation and apartheid, rejecting any plan involving the forced displacement of Gazans and West Bank residents from their homeland. The ministry called for the establishment of an independent and unified Palestinian state with the Holy Quds as its capital, as well as the return of all Palestinian refugees.

Separately, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Amir Saeid Irvani, addressed a UN commemoration event marking the Nakba anniversary. He described the day as marking “a mass displacement of Palestinians” and a profound regional tragedy. Irvani argued that decades of violence, war crimes, and occupation have failed to break Palestinian identity, dignity, and legitimate aspirations.

“The continuation of this situation demands a critical reassessment of approaches that have failed to deliver peace or justice,” Irvani said. “Surrender is not an option.”

He called on the international community to reject double standards and adopt a more action-oriented approach aligned with universal values, stressing that “the future of Palestine must be determined by its own people.”

US military superiority fails to guarantee decisive outcome against Iran: Brazilian analyst

Lourival Sant'Anna highlights political constraints, energy shocks, and regional dynamics limiting Washington's options

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN - In this exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Lourival Sant'Anna, Brazilian war correspondent, international affairs analyst for CNN Brasil, and columnist for Estadão, examines the strategic, political, and geopolitical dimensions of the recent US-Israel aggression against Iran. Having reported from some of the world's most volatile conflict zones, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine, Sant'Anna argues that the conflict is not merely a military confrontation but also a battle of narratives aimed at shaping political legitimacy and public perception. He discusses Iran's asymmetric warfare doctrine, the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz, the limits of US military power, and the growing influence of external actors such as China and Russia in shaping the trajectory of the crisis.

The following is the full text of the interview:

You have suggested that both Iranian and U.S. actions in this conflict can be “performative” or designed to shape percep-



tion. To what extent do you see this war as a contest of narratives rather than a purely military confrontation?

War is the continuation of politics by other means, as Clausewitz famously put it. Trump thought he would leave a profound mark on history by changing the Iranian government, a “quick win” suggested to him by Netanyahu. It did not happen, and now the U.S. president is struggling to find a politically acceptable way out of this quagmire. The Iranian government understands that and prioritizes making sure the U.S. pays the highest possible economic and political price, in order

to discourage future attacks on Iran. Therefore, the two sides are trying to shape opposite perceptions: on the U.S. side, that this war was worth the human and economic cost; on the Iranian side, that it was not worth it for the Americans. That is why it is so difficult for both sides to reach an agreement: each seeks to prove the exact opposite of the other.

You noted that Iran seeks to “maximize the cost” of U.S. and Israeli actions. Would you characterize this as a coherent long-term doctrine of asymmetric warfare, and how effective has it been so far?

Yes. Considering the stark asymmetry between Iran and the U.S.-Israel alliance, Iran has been remarkably successful in maximizing the cost for its adversaries. Its use of the Strait of Hormuz as leverage is proof of the strategic value of straits throughout history, from the Peloponnesian War in the 5th century BCE to the Gallipoli Campaign of World War I. In both cases the Dardanelles proved decisive. The fact that the IRGC managed to preserve its speedboats despite the bombardment of the Iranian Navy, together with the new reality created by the widespread use of drones, has enabled Iran to maintain control over that chokepoint. And yes, this is an important lesson about the relative nature of conventional military superiority. Ukraine had already demonstrated that against Russia in the Black Sea. Now analysts are studying what this means for China's ambitions in the Taiwan Strait and for American contingency planning regarding the Strait of Malacca in a hypothetical conflict with China.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Why does Iran's resolute defense meet with sympathy in Serbia?

From page 1 ▶ who had won the heart of Ava Gardner and socialized with Pablo Picasso – nor that of his no less skillful and famous colleagues, but rather the support and sympathy of the Belgrade audience for the sacrificed bulls.

Serbs simply rooted for the bulls being killed, instead of for the world-famous matadors.

We are a people with many virtues and some significant flaws, and one of our virtues is support and solidarity with those who defend themselves, especially when their position is ethically indisputable.

That virtue of the Serbian public stems from bitter historical experience.

The modern Serbian nation was created in the 19th century through the unequal struggle of the Serbs against the Ottoman Empire, which had kept our country under occupation for centuries, while all the key Western powers at the time supported the Ottoman Empire rather than our ancestors, because they saw in the restoration of Serbian statehood

in the Balkans a political force with ambitions to pursue an independent rather than a vassal policy.

Such historical experience of the Serbs was additionally confirmed in the 20th century.

In both world wars, Serbs suffered millions of casualties while fighting in unequal conditions for their freedom and the unification of all South Slavs. Proportionally to population and territory size, Serbian losses were among the greatest in the world.

In the First World War, in battles against German, Austro-Hungarian, and Bulgarian troops, every third adult male was killed, along with many civilian victims, while in the Second World War hundreds of thousands of Serbs perished fighting in resistance movements and especially in the concentration camps of the so-called Independent State of Croatia, a quisling creation established by the will of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

This is where the strong Serbian support for peoples in Vietnam, and later in Iraq, Libya, Syria, and oth-



er countries that became victims of American aggression, originates.

This is also where Serbian sympathy for Iran's determined resistance and Tehran's struggle against American-Israeli aggression comes from, especially since the Serbs themselves were victims of aggression by the United States and NATO in 1999.

The attack by the American military, carried out on February 28 of this year against a primary school

in Iran, in which more than 160 children, mostly girls, were killed, was perceived in Serbia as a reprise of the killing of children during American attacks on Serbia itself.

And not only that.

The American “pretext” for war against Iran was promptly exposed and correctly interpreted in Serbia.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The siege that turned Iran into a transit hub

By Fatemeh Kavand

TEHRAN - The US Navy blockaded Iranian ports, but Pakistan opened six land routes. A new 89-km corridor has cut travel time to Iran from 18 hours to just a fraction of that. Iran, which once conducted 90% of its trade by sea, now moves 40% of it on rails — and China and Central Asia are now part of the equation.

While the conflicts and the US blockade in the Persian Gulf are an unpleasant reality that Iran must overcome, and while they hurt the economy, in the long run, it is not Iran that will be grounded — it is the United States. The proof lies in Iran's vast land area and its non-maritime borders with neighbors that serve as windows connecting the country to the East and West.

In fact, the conflict in the Persian Gulf did not merely cut off maritime arteries. It accelerated a strategic shift in regional logistics: a gradual transfer of cargo from the tense waters of the Persian Gulf to land routes through Iran. What was once a long-term plan has become an operational necessity and an immediate response to the blockade. But this transformation vividly exposes America's weakness on land.

Just as the Fifth Fleet locked down Iran's ports, Islamabad took a rare step and officially opened six land routes for shipping goods to Iran. According to Al Jazeera, the “Goods Transit through Pakistan 2026” directive was implemented urgently, connecting three major Pakistani ports (Karachi, Port Qasim, and Gwadar) to two Iranian border crossings at Gabd and Taftan.

An agreement that gathered dust for 18 years — suddenly revived

The intriguing part is the story of the agreement itself. Two informed Pakistani sources told The National that Washington was “not consulted” about the decision. Even more interesting: the routes were activated under an agreement signed by Iran and Pakistan in 2008 — one that was never supposed to be implemented due to political and economic disagreements. A Pakistani diplomat told The National that Iran itself, after the outbreak

of the war, approached Islamabad to negotiate its implementation.

The decision has infuriated the US president. In Florida, Trump likened American soldiers to “pirates,” saying: “We are acting like pirates.”

The 89-km Highway — from oil tankers to trucks

The shortest of these routes is only 89 kilometers long. Using this coastal corridor, trucks can deliver goods from the strategic port of Gwadar to the Iranian border in just two to three hours — compared to 16-18 hours from Karachi Port. Pakistani officials estimate that this route has reduced the cost of shipping goods to Iran by 45-55%.

Nor was this move exclusive to Pakistan. Al Jazeera reported on “confidential documents” showing that Iran was negotiating with neighboring countries to create alternative corridors, and in the same context, it is also exporting energy via Iraq and Syria.

Revolution on rails — From China, Kazakhstan to Turkmenistan

On the eastern front, rail trade has accelerated to an unprecedented level. Statistics show a notable rise in freight train traffic:

- Trains from China: A freight train from Xi'an to Tehran, which previously ran once a week, now runs every three to four days, and the May schedule is fully booked — a dramatic increase. According to Iran's Railway Administration, over 40 freight trains from China have entered Iran since the beginning of the year, whereas in the seven years before that, only seven trains had traveled that route.

- Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan: The 925-km Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway, inaugurated in February in the presence of the three countries' leaders, has an annual cargo capacity of three to five million tons.

- 20-million-ton agreement: In spring 2026, a comprehensive agreement was signed between Iran and Turkmenistan, aiming for 20 million tons of goods per year (with a medium-term target of 16 million tons by 2028) and the establishment of a

joint free zone at the Sarakhs market.

Outlook — Chabahar awaits a new deal

The lockdown of Jebel Ali Port in the UAE has posed a major threat, but it has also created unprecedented opportunities for Iran's Chabahar Port and for China. A multi-lane north-south project (INSTC), now the most important alternative, has been given high priority, and the Chinese government has invested billions of dollars to modernize Iran's rail infrastructure and build missing links.

In the meantime, the biggest strategic victim of this development is India. The US sanctions waiver for Chabahar Port has expired, and Washington has refused to renew it. India, which has already invested \$120 million in the port, is now considering transferring its shares to an Iranian company to evade sanctions — effectively being sidelined from the region's great transit game.

Where does America's weakness lie — and its army far from home?

America deploys its warships in Persian Gulf waters, but its blockade has failed to prevent the activation of land-based supply chains. Relying on 1.5 million square kilometers of land, over 1.5 billion tons of port capacity, and corridors linking Asia to Europe, Iran has shown it is impervious to maritime blockades. The US can block ships, but trains and trucks can break through by other paths. This transformation reveals the fundamental conundrum and challenge of blockade strategy and points to a vision of the future: Iran's geography is a trump card that no blockade can neutralize. This geopolitical advantage is among the most important assets that enable Iran, despite all the hardships, to outlast an enemy and its soldiers — who are thousands of kilometers away from home, stranded in third countries or adrift at sea — and to turn over winning cards. The equation of resilience — of Iran's soldiers and people — shifts in Iran's favor against America and its soldiers far from home, and against an American populace that has only recently tasted sanctions and inflation.

Iranian president thanks pope for his moral and fair stance on US-Israeli aggression

Pezeshkian writes to Pope Leo XIV

TEHRAN — President Masoud Pezeshkian has expressed gratitude to Pope Leo XIV for the pontiff's strong moral stance condemning the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

"I extend my warmest and most sincere greetings to Your Holiness and express my gratitude for your moral, rational, and fair positions regarding the attack," Pezeshkian said in a message addressed to the head of the Catholic Church.

The US and Israel launched war on Iran on February 28. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and several senior Iranian military commanders were martyred on the first day of the war in Tehran. An April 8 ceasefire paused the fighting. Nonetheless, diplomatic efforts aimed at bringing a permanent end to the war have so far failed due to what Iran calls the US "excessive" demands. The US and Israeli strikes not only targeted military sites but also hospitals, schools, civilian infrastructure, and residential areas. On the first day of the strikes, a US Tomahawk missile hit a Shajareh Tayyeb elementary school in the southern city of Minab. Nearly 170 people, most of them school children, were killed in the attack. Officials say nearly 3,500 people were killed in Iran during 39 days of war. Iran's strong retaliatory strikes against Israel and US-based targets in the Persian Gulf region left no alternative for the administration of President Donald Trump but to reach the ceasefire deal with Tehran.

Further in his letter, Pezeshkian said the US-Israeli war was an assault against the "rule of law".

"The destructive approach of the United States and the Israeli regime and their illegitimate attacks are not directed solely against Iran, but rather against the rule of law at the global level, international law, human values, and the teachings of divine religions. It is evident that the costs of such a dangerous approach will be borne by the entire international community," he said.



President Pezeshkian denounced as "shameless" Trump's threat to "destroy Iran's historical civilization and send it back to the Stone Age."

"The President of the United States had earlier made a dangerous and shameless statement saying that he intends to destroy Iran's historical civilization and return it to the Stone Age. As Your Holiness has noted, such remarks stem from the illusion of absolute power and are rooted in arrogance, bullying, excessive ambition, and attempts to resolve disputes through unrestrained violence, conduct that the human conscience cannot comprehend or tolerate," he said.

Pezeshkian stressed that Iran "remains committed to diplomacy and peaceful solutions" to the conflict, urging the international community to stand against the US "unlawful" demands.

"Iran's steadfastness in the face of the unlawful demands of the US administration is, in fact, a defense of international law and of the lofty values of humanity. Therefore, the international community is expected to adopt a realistic and fair approach and to confront the unlawful demands and the adventurous and dangerous policies of the United States."

Pope Leo XIV's condemnation of the war

Pope Leo XIV has repeatedly and publicly condemned the US-Israeli offensive in Iran, calling for an immediate end to hostilities and urging

world leaders to prioritize dialogue over military escalation. He warned that the use of overwhelming force and attacks affecting civilian populations are incompatible with international humanitarian law and moral teaching.

In several public remarks, the pope criticized rhetoric that frames war in religious or ideological terms, insisting that faith must never be used to justify violence. He stressed that "true strength is found in protecting life" and repeatedly called for restraint, a ceasefire, and the protection of civilians.

Trump's affront to the Pope

Trump responded sharply to the pope's statements. In public remarks and social media posts, Trump described Pope Leo XIV as "weak," "naïve on foreign policy," and "terrible for foreign policy."

He accused the pontiff of misunderstanding geopolitical realities and argued that criticism of US military actions undermines Western security interests. Trump also suggested that the pope should "stick to religion" rather than comment on international affairs. When questioned by journalists about his remarks, Trump declined to apologize, stating that he had the right to disagree and stood by his position.

Reactions to Trump's statements

Trump's comments triggered widespread criticism across religious, political, and civil society circles.

Senior Catholic bishops and Church leaders in Europe and the United States strongly defended the pope, emphasizing that speaking out against war and the killing of civilians is central to the Church's moral responsibility. They described Trump's language as disrespectful toward the head of the Catholic Church and warned that such rhetoric risks straining relations between the Vatican and Washington.

Analysts also said public attacks by a US president on the pope are highly unusual in modern history and reflect a growing divide between political power and moral authority in global affairs. They pointed out that the controversy highlights broader tensions over the legitimacy of military action and the role of international law, particularly amid rising concern about civilian casualties and the escalation of regional conflicts.

For now, Pezeshkian's remarks reflect a broader demand for accountability in international relations and a rejection of unilateral military force. Iran's position, as presented in his message, frames the conflict as part of a wider struggle to uphold international law against coercive and destabilizing actions by powerful states.

The pope's condemnation of war aligns, in this framing, with growing global concern over the humanitarian consequences of military escalation and the erosion of legal norms. The strong reaction to Trump's comments further underscores the sensitivity surrounding attacks on moral and religious voices calling for restraint.

More broadly, the episode illustrates how contemporary conflicts are fought not only on the battlefield but also in the realm of narrative, legitimacy, and global public opinion. Competing interpretations of sovereignty, international law, and moral responsibility increasingly shape diplomatic alignments and influence how crises are perceived worldwide.

Iran warns UN that US-Israeli aggression threatens global energy security and supply chains

From Page 1 ▶ stressed that direct attacks on Iran's oil, gas, and petrochemical infrastructure, compounded by unilateral sanctions and maritime restrictions, have produced serious consequences for both regional and global economic stability.

"Within less than one year, my country has been subjected to two unlawful acts of aggression in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law," Iravani told the council. These attacks resulted in the tragic loss of thousands of innocent civilians, particularly women and children. They also caused widespread destruction of civilian, economic, energy, and environmentally sensitive infrastructure — consequences that will not disappear with the end of military operations."

The envoy posed a central question to the

ECOSOC meeting: not merely how to respond to the current crisis, but what the real roots of these growing instabilities are.

He outlined four key realities:

First, he said, the current instability is rooted in military escalation and unlawful acts of aggression by the Israeli regime and the United States, which have intensified tensions in one of the world's most strategic energy and trade regions.

Second, direct attacks against Iran's oil, gas, and petrochemical infrastructure have caused severe economic and environmental damage in the Persian Gulf region and disrupted global energy and fertilizer supply chains, with serious implications for food security and agricultural production worldwide.

Third, unilateral sanctions, coercive measures, and the maritime blockade imposed by the United States have further fragmented global supply chains and increased instability in energy and commodity markets.

Fourth, sustainable regional security cannot be achieved through confrontation or dependence on external powers, but only through dialogue, mutual respect, and genuine regional and international cooperation.

The ambassador reaffirmed that Iran remains committed to constructive engagement and efforts to restore stability, energy security, and normal conditions in the Strait of Hormuz — but only on condition that aggression and military escalation cease and the maritime blockade is lifted.

LATEST NEWS

■ Araghchi warns US of economic costs of war on Iran

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned that Americans will bear the economic burden of any "war of choice" against Iran. In a social media post, he cited rising US debt, climbing mortgage rates, and auto loan delinquencies at a 30-year high. "This was all avoidable," Araghchi added, arguing that the real economic pain has yet to fully emerge.

■ Foreign Ministry shares anti-colonial quote on Western hypocrisy

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei shared excerpts from Aimé Césaire's "Discourse on Colonialism" on his X account, criticizing civilizations that ignore their own injustices and resort to hypocrisy. The quote describes such civilizations as "decadent," "sick," and "dying" for failing to solve the problems they create.

■ Leader's aide warns Iran's restraint 'will not last forever'

Mohammad Mokher, an adviser to Iran's Leader, warned that Tehran's restraint following recent regional developments is not unlimited. In a social media post, he accused certain Persian Gulf states of placing their territory at the disposal of Iran's enemies. He added that Iran's response to US bases during the recent war was

restrained, "but this restraint will certainly not last forever."

■ Third Qatari LNG ship reaches Pakistan via Strait of Hormuz

A third Qatari LNG vessel, the Mihzem, has berthed at Pakistan's Port Qasim in Karachi after successfully transiting the Strait of Hormuz, Pakistani authorities confirmed. Carrying over 56,000 tons of gas, the shipment marks renewed momentum for Qatari exports via the Persian Gulf route since the US-Israeli war on Iran began. Energy experts say the steady LNG flow is vital for stabilizing Pakistan's power grid ahead of the hot season.

■ Iran plans to charge fees for Strait of Hormuz passage, politician says

Iran has prepared a mechanism to manage traffic through the Strait of Hormuz along a designated route and will announce the plan shortly, a senior MP said.

Ebrahim Azizi, who heads parliament's national security and foreign policy committee, said only commercial ships and countries that cooperate with Tehran would be eligible to use the arrangement. He added that Iran would collect fees for specialized services provided under the mechanism.

■ 'Root causes' must be addressed for lasting peace with Iran: Qatar PM

Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani has spoken with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al Sabah on the sidelines of the inaugural Alliance for Europe-Persian Gulf Geopolitics and Investments Summit in Athens, Greece.

According to the ministry statement published on X, the two discussed the ceasefire between Iran and the United States and "efforts aimed at de-escalation".

Qatar's top diplomat stressed, "the need for all parties to respond positively to the ongoing mediation efforts, which would pave the way for addressing the root causes of the crisis through peaceful means and dialogue, leading to a sustainable agreement that prevents renewed escalation".

■ CNN: Trump administration divided on Iran policy

Citing informed sources, CNN has reported that there are diverging views within the Trump administration on how to move forward regarding Iran. The report highlights internal disagreements over the next steps in US policy toward the Islamic Republic.

SPORTS

Iran eye long-awaited Asian Cup glory

TEHRAN — Iran football team appear to have received one of the most favorable draws for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, raising hopes that Team Melli may finally end their nearly 50-year wait for continental glory.

The draw for the tournament, which will be hosted in Saudi Arabia, placed Amir Ghalenoei's side in Group C alongside Syria, China and Kyrgyzstan, a group widely viewed as manageable for one of Asia's traditional heavyweights.

Iran have carried the burden of history ever since winning three consecutive Asian Cup titles in 1968, 1972 and 1976.

Since then, despite regularly being among the continent's strongest sides, Iran have failed to return to the final, with semifinal appearances standing as their best achievements in recent decades. The 2027 edition, however, could offer a genuine opportunity to break that drought.

On paper, Iran are overwhelming favorites to top their group. Syria arrive with confidence after reaching the Round of 16 in the previous Asian Cup and advancing through qualification with an impressive record, while Kyrgyzstan continue to make steady progress after their historic debut in 2019. China, meanwhile, are still searching for consistency after several disappointing campaigns and will hope Saudi Arabia 2027 can mark the beginning of a revival.

Despite the seemingly comfortable draw, Ghalenoei was quick to warn against complacency. The Iran head coach emphasized that the gap between Asian nations has narrowed considerably in recent years.

If Iran finish top of Group C as expected, they are likely to face one of the better third-placed teams from Groups A, B or F in the Round of 16. Potential opponents could include teams such as Palestine, Bahrain, Kuwait, North Korea or Indonesia — all sides Iran would expect to overcome.

The first major test may arrive in the quarter-finals, where Iran could potentially face South Korea. According to the projected knockout bracket, the winners of Group C may eventually meet the winner between the top side in Group E and the runners-up from Group D, with South Korea strongly favored to emerge from that section. A clash between two of Asia's elite nations would likely define Iran's path to the latter stages.

If Team Melli successfully navigate that challenge, a semifinal meeting against Saudi Arabia, Qatar or Uzbekistan could await. Crucially, heavyweights such as Japan and Australia may remain on the opposite side of the bracket until the final, offering Iran a smoother route than in previous tournaments.

Alongside preparations for the Asian Cup, Iran have also intensified their buildup for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Ghalenoei's squad recently held several high-scoring intrasquad friendlies in Tehran before concluding a 23-day domestic training camp. The national team will now travel to Antalya, Turkey, for another training camp before finalizing plans for their journey to the United States ahead of the 2026 World Cup next summer.

FIFA officials to meet Iran FA to discuss World Cup 2026 participation

TEHRAN — FIFA Secretary-General Mattias Grafstrom will meet Iranian FA (FFIRI) officials in Istanbul and offer "reassurance" over Iran's participation in the World Cup.

Iran are scheduled to play all three World Cup group matches in the United States, but the team's participation in the June 11 to July 19 tournament has been in question since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in late February.

More questions arose after FFIRI President Mehdi Taj was refused entry to Canada for the FIFA Congress in Vancouver earlier this month.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, said in a social media post this week that it was incumbent on FIFA to ensure that all teams and their delegations were able to get into the host countries. "The Iranian national football team has earned

its right to participate on the field in accordance with FIFA regulations," he wrote.

"Any obstruction to the entry of players, technical staff, federation officials, or essential members of the Iranian delegation would violate the spirit and purpose of the World Cup. If the organizing body cannot guarantee that all qualified teams, including Iran, can enter the host country without discrimination or restriction and compete on equal terms, the credibility of the World Cup itself will be damaged."

The source said FIFA was working closely with the relevant authorities to ensure all teams at the World Cup were able to compete in a safe and secure environment, sportstar reported.

U.S. President Donald Trump said two weeks ago that he was "okay" with Iran playing at the World Cup despite the conflict between the countries that was triggered by air strikes on the Islamic Republic.

Foolad into AVC Men's Champions League 2026 final

TEHRAN — Foolad Sirjan of Iran swept past JTEKT Stings Aichi of Japan in straight sets (25-22, 25-19, 25-20) in the AVC Men's Champions League 2026 Saturday.

Foolad had defeated Jakarta Garuda Jaya of Indonesia 3-0 in their opening match.

The Iranian powerhouses secure a final spot at the competition underway in Pontianak, Indonesia.

Foolad will play Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi of Indonesia in the final match on Sunday, while JTEKT Stings Aichi meet Hyundai Capital Skywalkers of South Korea in the bronze medal match.

The 2026 AVC Men's Volleyball Champions League is the second edition of the AVC Men's Volleyball Champions League and the 26th overall edition of the formerly named Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, an annual international men's volleyball club tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC).

Unlike the 2025 edition which featured 12 teams in a pool-play format, the 2026 edition features eight teams competing in a direct knockout format, starting from the quarterfinals. Both finalists will qualify for the 2026 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

Iran advance to 2026 Asian Women's U16 Handball semis

TEHRAN — Iran defeated Kyrgyzstan 44-16 in the 1st AHF Asian Women's U16 Handball Championship on Friday.

The Persian girls will face the winners of China and India on Sunday in the competition's semifinals.

Iran had defeated Hong Kong 33-29 in their opening match and suffered three losses against Kazakhstan 38-33, Uzbekistan 34-21, and China 41-21 in Group A.

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.

Women's volleyball team beat Thailand in friendly

TEHRAN — Iran's women's volleyball team defeated Thailand in a friendly match as part of preparation for the 2026 CAVA Women's Volleyball Championship.

The CAVA 2026 will be held from May 22 to 29 in Kathmandu, Nepal, and the Iranian women's national team are holding their training in Thailand.

Coach Lee Do-hee's players faced the Thai national team in a friendly match on Thursday, where the Team Melli defeated their opponents in four sets with scores of 25-16, 25-14, 26-24, and 25-20.

Nearly 9.5m tons of flat steel products produced in a year

TEHRAN- According to the statistics of the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), 9.449 million tons of flat steel products was produced in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20).

Based on the ISIPA data, the country's flat steel products output in 1404 fell 28 percent from the production figure in 1403, which was 9.718 million tons.

Flat steel products are rolled steel shapes with a width significantly greater than thickness, encompassing plates, sheets, and coils. They are produced by hot or cold rolling of steel slabs, often followed by surface treatments like galvanizing or tin plating. Key categories include hot-rolled coil (HRC), used for construction, pipes, and automotive frames; cold-rolled coil (CRC), prized for superior surface finish and dimensional accuracy in appliances and furniture; and coated products like galvanized steel for corrosion resistance in roofing and automotive body panels.

Flat products account for over 40% of global steel demand, serving industries from shipbuilding and energy pipelines to packaging (tinplate) and electrical motors (electrical steel). Their uniform thickness and wide format enable efficient mass production of cars, shipping containers, and building cladding. Advanced high-strength steels (AHSS) support light weighting in electric vehicles, while coated flats extend infrastructure lifespan. Highly automated rolling mills and quality control ensure consistency. As economies industrialize, demand for flat steel—particularly value-added cold-rolled and coated grades—continues rising, driven by manufacturing, construction, and the green energy transition.

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

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

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

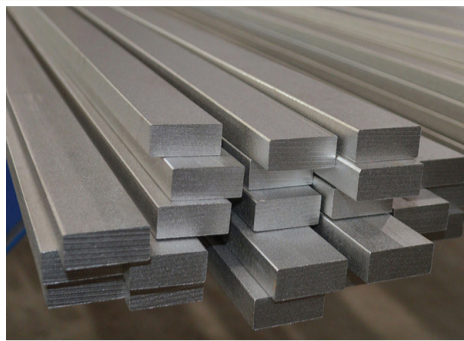
According to this report, the significant growth in sponge iron production—due to new capacities coming online on one hand—and the stabilization of pellet and iron ore concentrate production on the other hand, indicates a worsening shortage of raw materials for direct reduction units. However, with the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

A 3.8-percent increase in steel ingot production against a 11-percent decrease in long steel product production indicates the need to develop steel ingot exports. It is noteworthy that the shutdown of more than two million tons of steel ingot capacity due to the third imposed war can be compensated by activating idle capacities for producing this product.

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

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

Beyond crude steel, Iran is a major force in the global direct reduced iron (DRI) market. The nation produced roughly 37 million tons of DRI in 2025, accounting for about a quarter of the world's total supply. This DRI is used by its modern electric arc furnace (EAF) mills, which form the backbone of its steelmaking capacity. However, the industry has faced severe headwinds. In early 2026,



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

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

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

Semi-Finished Steel

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

Flat Steel Products

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

Long Steel Products

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

- * Rebar (reinforcement bars) for construction
- * Structural sections like I-beams, H-profiles, channels, and angles

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

Tubular and Finished Steel Products

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

European medicine supplies at risk due to Iran tensions

TEHRAN – European countries could face significant shortages of medicines and essential pharmaceutical components if tensions surrounding Iran escalate and lead to a blockade of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, according to a recent analysis.

Citing a report from La Tribune, the analysis highlights Europe's heavy reliance on supply chains originating in China and India, which account for 80% of the region's pharmaceutical imports. These supply lines are increasingly destabilized by rising oil and gas prices. The potential slowdown of air transport routes across the West Asia and Asia further exacerbates the risk.

Denis Yünel, a representative of the economic research center CEPIL, noted that while alternative delivery options exist, they are far more expensive. "The supply chains for a number of substances are so complex that, over time, this could lead to shortages," he explained.

The French insurance compa-



ny Coface warns that common drugs like paracetamol and several antibiotics are primarily at risk. "Behind medicines that are sold for only a few euro cents lies a large-scale dependence on oil," stated Coface representative Joe Douillet. "When this system comes under pressure, some substances become physically unavailable."

The report adds that many critical components, including ethylene and paraffin, are supplied directly from Persian Gulf nations.

Separately, Le Parisien has reported rising construction material prices in France linked to the same geopolitical instability, citing the Confederation of Small

Businesses in the Construction Sector (Capeb).

In summary, the potential blockade of the Strait of Hormuz amid rising tensions with Iran poses a far-reaching threat that extends well beyond energy markets. Europe's pharmaceutical supply chain, heavily dependent on Asian manufacturing and Persian Gulf raw materials, remains dangerously vulnerable to disruption.

While no immediate shortages have been declared, experts warn that the complexity and cost of rerouting supplies could trigger gradual but severe medicine deficits across the continent. Policymakers may need to accelerate efforts to diversify supply sources and bolster local production of critical pharmaceutical components to mitigate these risks.

For now, the situation serves as a stark reminder of how geopolitical instability in one region can silently undermine public health in another.

IMF sees risks to global growth forecast over sustained Iran war



TEHRAN- The International Monetary Fund warned on Thursday that continuing disruptions due to the Iran war meant its global economic outlook was moving towards an "adverse" scenario, with growth pared down and greater risks to inflation, AFP reported.

Last month, the multilateral lender's World Economic Outlook predicted global growth would drop to 3.1 percent in 2026 in its "reference" scenario, but warned of a bleaker outlook if the war were to drag on.

In the "adverse" scenario, where oil prices

remain higher for longer, inflation expectations become less stable and financial conditions tighten, growth would slow to 2.5 percent, the Fund said at the time.

On Thursday, the Fund's chief spokesperson said the global economy was headed towards this less auspicious situation.

"We are moving into the adverse scenario, but inflation expectations are still reasonably well anchored, and financial conditions still remain accommodative," Julie Kozack told reporters in Washington.

The Fund also has a "severe" scenario, in which growth slows to 2.0 percent and inflation flares to six percent.

An update of the World Economic Outlook is due in July.

The US-Israel war on Iran has engulfed the West Asia in violence, with Tehran's retaliatory action targeting Washington's regional allies and virtually blocking the Strait of Hormuz.

The key waterway normally sees about a fifth of global oil and gas supplies pass

through it, and the blockade has seen energy prices skyrocket worldwide.

The IMF was in "active discussions" with member states over their needs, and "many countries are actually asking us for support in the policy area," said Kozack.

During the IMF's spring meetings last month, Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said as many as 12 countries could require financial assistance from the Fund, with \$20-50 billion required in total.

Kozack said that discussions on that financial assistance were continuing, but that the Fund was not yet prepared to disclose which specific countries were involved.

The IMF spokesperson also warned of the risks to food security due to the war, with a third of the world's fertilizer supply also stopped due to the blockade.

"We know from history that when fertilizer prices increase, that it takes about six months or so for this to translate into increased food prices and, in some cases, reductions in yields and food security issues," she said.

TPO official outlines key pillars for achieving \$10b Iran-Pakistan bilateral trade target

TEHRAN- The Director General of Asia and Subcontinent Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization said: Focusing on removing infrastructure barriers, activating the transit corridor, developing border market activities, and utilizing the barter mechanism under current circumstances are the main pillars of the Iran-Pakistan trade roadmap to increase bilateral trade to the level of \$10 billion.

According to IRNA from the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, Abdolsadeh Nisi, in a meeting with traders and entrepreneurs at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, introduced the capacities of the Iran-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement to develop bilateral trade cooperation.

Emphasizing the development of economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, he stated that deepening relations between the two countries is not merely a diplomatic choice but a strategic necessity to increase the level of economic resilience.

He described Pakistan as a good market for Iranian goods and products, adding: It seems that Pakistan's ports have the capacity to play a role in re-exporting Iranian goods to other countries, as well as supplying essential goods and raw materials needed by production units from other countries.

Nisi further emphasized the need to diversify trade routes and view Pakistan as a hub for supplying essential goods and raw materials needed by production units.

Referring to the geopolitical requirements of the region and neglected economic opportunities between the two countries, the official said: Deepening Iran-Pakistan relations is no longer just a diplomatic choice, but has become a strategic necessity to increase the level of economic resilience, and could form the basis for a new chapter of sustainable cooperation between the two countries.

Under current circumstances, Nisi proposed establishing a joint transport company as a short-term solution to reduce costs and logistical obstacles for transferring containers unloaded in Karachi, and called for the participation and consultation of economic activists in these areas.

Finally, the Director General of Asia and Subcontinent Department, while pointing out operational challenges of economic cooperation between the two countries such as sanctions, lack of direct banking relations, and the expansion of informal trade, proposed solutions such as goods bartering, using local currencies, focusing on non-sanctioned sectors, and activating small and medium-sized enterprises to overcome the problems.

Back in mid-December 2025, Iranian and Pakistani business representatives agreed to pursue the creation of a joint trade committee and work towards boosting bilateral trade to \$10 billion, during a meeting in Karachi aimed at strengthening private-sector cooperation and facilitating cross-border commerce.

The discussions were held between Iran's consul general in Karachi, Akbar Issa Zadeh, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and a delegation from Iran's Qazvin Chamber of Commerce, according to Iranian state media.

The meeting focused on expanding commercial ties, identifying opportunities for joint investment in key sectors and addressing challenges hindering the growth of economic relations between the two neighboring countries.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh, along with senior federation officials and sectoral representatives, underlined the importance of sustained efforts to raise bilateral trade volumes, stressing that both sides should capitalize on existing economic potential to

reach the \$10 billion target.

Participants discussed practical measures to deepen cooperation between the private sectors of Iran and Pakistan, with particular emphasis on increasing joint investments and strengthening industrial and economic partnerships.

Business leaders highlighted the need for continued support for entrepreneurs, streamlined legal and administrative procedures, and improved trade facilitation mechanisms to accelerate commercial exchanges.

Chambers of commerce were described as key drivers of economic relations, with participants reaffirming their readiness to actively follow up on joint projects and translate commitments into concrete outcomes.

The meeting also included separate talks between FPCCI officials and members of the Qazvin Chamber of Commerce and Industries, who are visiting Karachi to stage an exhibition showcasing the province's manufacturing, commercial and export capabilities.

Private-sector representatives from both countries reviewed existing obstacles to trade and investment and stressed the need to establish a joint commercial committee to advance cooperation in strategic areas such as agriculture, petrochemicals, liquefied petroleum gas and energy.

Exchanges of business delegations and closer institutional cooperation between the chambers of commerce were identified as priorities for enhancing private-sector engagement and easing investment flows.

Participants said closer coordination between private-sector initiatives and economic diplomacy would be essential to sustaining momentum in Iran-Pakistan trade ties, adding that further meetings would be needed to develop and implement operational plans to achieve shared goals.

Lebanon truce extension on fire

From page 1 ▶ revealing that the next round of direct talks with the Zionist regime will be held on June 2 and 3 at the U.S. State Department.

On security, the delegation said Washington will work to enhance military coordination between Lebanon and the Israel through a track commencing on May 29 at the Pentagon.

The Lebanese negotiating delegation added that Lebanon "will continue its constructive engagement in negotiations while fully preserving its sovereignty and protecting the security of its people," noting its "firm commitment to reaching an agreement that restores full Lebanese sovereignty and ensures the security and return of all citizens."

The delegation concluded its statement by emphasizing that "the utmost priority remains restoring full state authority over all its territories, ensuring border protection and sovereignty preservation." This is a reference to Hezbollah and the disarmament of the Lebanese resistance front that is a top priority for the Zionist regime and now also for the current government in Beirut.

The question is, when the last ceasefire was signed on November 27, 2024, again another ceasefire on paper, until March 2, 2026, what did the Lebanese government do to ensure "border protection" and preserve "sovereignty" in Lebanon?

For 15 months, Hezbollah fully abided by this truce. It did not fire a bullet and withdrew its heavy weapons behind the Litani River as stipulated in the agreement. For 15 months (November 27, 2024 – March 2, 2026) the Israeli regime, according to UNIFIL, violated the ceasefire agreement



15,400 times. Other estimates put the number higher. These included deadly airstrikes on civilians, daily violations of Lebanese airspace. Hundreds of Lebanese killed, with many more injured. The casualty rate was higher than during the two-month Lebanon war that preceded the November 2024 ceasefire.

Observers argue that terms such as "border protection" and "sovereignty" as the Lebanese delegation in Washington referred to are excellent. But they are only excellent when they are executed in policy. For 15 months, the Israeli regime was occupying Lebanese territory, waging aggression, and the government in Beirut sat back and did nothing.

No Lebanese government order was given to the Lebanese Armed Forces to respond to and deter 15,400 Israeli violations. Hezbollah adhered to the ceasefire so those who were still blaming Hezbollah had zero substance in their arguments. The reality is that the Lebanese Army does not have the capability or the weapons to retaliate against Israeli aggression. This has always been the root cause of the problem.

If the Lebanese Army Forces had successfully ended the illegal occupation of South Lebanon, why would it be necessary for Hezbollah to sacrifice its men to defend national sovereignty?

Analysts argue that the government had 15 months to show what it is capable of. It failed, and it failed badly. Until it proves that capability on the battlefield, you cannot tell Hezbollah to disarm and leave Lebanon unable to resist the "Greater Israel project."

The U.S. State Department had announced in a statement that it hosted direct talks between Lebanon and Israel on May 14 and 15, describing them as "very productive."

According to the State Department statement, it was decided to extend the "cessation of hostilities," which began on April 16, for an additional 45 days to "allow the parties to make further field and political progress."

America's words of diplomacy are what caught the new Syrian government in the same trap. Dialogue is ongoing, but the IOF's aggression and expansion of its illegal occupation in south-western Syria is

also ongoing.

The new Syrian government, likewise, did not learn from the experience of the Palestinian Authority. Decades of negotiations, decades of aggression and, today, a record number of illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank.

This is why Hezbollah stressed its rejection of the direct negotiation in Washington, affirming that experiences with the Israeli regime have shown its non-compliance with any agreement at all.

Reports indicate that the Lebanese resistance movement "will determine its position on the ceasefire based on field realities, not according to intentions declared in statements."

The Loyalty to the Resistance bloc in the Lebanese parliament stressed that the Israeli continued crimes against villages and civilians reveal its exploitation of the negotiations: employing them for the occupying regime's benefit.

As the Lebanese team in Washington fails to end the aggression, Hezbollah struck IOF soldiers in the Lebanese town of Khiam on Saturday using an attack drone. According to a Hezbollah statement, this was done "in defense of Lebanon and its people, and in response to the enemy's violation of the ceasefire and the attacks on villages in southern Lebanon that resulted in deaths and several wounded among civilians."

On Friday, the Lebanese resistance front published 33 statements, detailing its retaliatory attacks, the highest number of operations against the IOF since early March.

Gaza mourns resistance commander Izz al-Din al-Haddad



From page 1 ▶ Known affectionately as "the Ghost" for surviving six previous Israeli assassination attempts, al-Haddad assumed command of the brigades following the martyrdom of Mohammad Sinwar in May 2025.

He was widely regarded as one of the architects of the historic al-Aqsa Storm breakthrough on October 7, 2023.

Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem hailed him as one of Palestine's greatest fighters whose field leadership inspired the resistance movement. In an official statement, the movement emphasized that the blood of its leaders serves as fuel for liberation.

History has proven that the resistance easily regenerates its command structure, rendering Israel's doctrine of "decapitation" a failure that cannot break Palestinian resolve.

The deadly strike coincided with the 78th anniversary of the Nakba, highlighting the continuous reality of Palestinian displacement and occupation.

It also marks a flagrant violation of the October 2025 "ceasefire" agreement. Since that "truce" was established, persistent Israeli aggressions have killed over 860 Palestinians and injured thousands.

This ongoing bloodshed adds to the catastrophic toll of the genocidal war launched in October 2023, which has claimed over 72,700 Palestinian lives and wounded more than 172,000 others, the vast majority being innocent civilians, women, and children.

On social media and across Gaza's streets, Palestinians mourned the loss, sharing memories of his defiance while asserting that no leader is irreplaceable in a popular war of liberation.

While Israeli officials claimed the assassination as a victory for domestic political consumption, analysts note that decades of targeted assassinations have failed to defeat Hamas or halt the struggle.

'Israel tried to drag Saudi Arabia into war with Iran to impose regional dominance'

Saudi Arabia's former ambassador to the United States, Saudi Prince Turki Al Faisal, said Israel had tried to drag Riyadh into a war with Iran, but Saudi Arabia had avoided such a confrontation through "wisdom and foresight".

In an article published in Arab News, Prince Turki accused Israel of attempting to involve Saudi Arabia in the conflict with Iran in order to impose its regional dominance. He also voiced concern over what he described as the Israeli government's "adventurism".

"Had the Israeli plan to ignite war between us and Iran succeeded, the region would have been plunged into ruin and destruction," he said.

Prince Turki praised Saudi Arabia's handling of the consequences of the war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran, saying the kingdom had played a key role in preventing a wider regional escalation.

The article said that, for Saudi Arabia, Israel was "no longer a pillar of security", but rather "a source of problems" that threatens Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's strategic vision.

According to Saudi Arabia and Oman, which strongly opposed the war from the outset, "Israel dragged Trump into this dangerous adventure". The article said Saudi messaging in this regard aligned with a growing view in the United States that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had pushed Washington towards the war.

It added that even if Netanyahu and Trump were "full partners", Israel was still widely seen as the main source of instability.

Prince Turki also said that "Netanyahu's strategic blindness is very clear", adding that Saudi Arabia had likely concluded, even before the war began, that Trump and Netanyahu would fail to achieve their goal of toppling Iran's ruling system.

Eurovision faces existential crisis over historic boycotts

TEHRAN — As the 70th anniversary of the Eurovision Song Contest reaches its grand final in Vienna, the high-gloss television spectacle has been thoroughly consumed by an unprecedented wave of global boycotts and massive street protests.

Five nations, Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Iceland, and Slovenia, have pulled out of the competition entirely, delivering a historic rebuke to organizers and shattering the event's manufactured image of political neutrality.

The synchronized withdrawals represent the largest organized walkout in the contest's history, driven by intense international revulsion toward Israel's genocidal military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

While the death toll in Gaza has surpassed 72,000, broadcasters from the boycotting countries made it clear that taking the stage alongside Israel was morally unconscionable.

Defending his country's decision to skip

the event, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez delivered a scathing critique of Western complacency.

Sánchez declared that Spain would not stay silent in the face of an "illegal war and genocide," emphasizing that the principles used to bar Russia following the Ukraine war must apply equally to Israel. "There can be no double standards," Sánchez stated, asserting that Spain's absence reflects a deep commitment to human rights.

This profound outrage has reverberated far beyond Vienna, where audience booing heavily disrupted live broadcasts inside the arena.

Over the weekend, the backlash converged with massive Nakba Day solidarity demonstrations in major global centers.

In central London, tens of thousands of marchers flooded the streets. Among them, a bloc organized by activists explicitly urged a total boycott of the broadcast, denouncing the European Broadcasting

Union for allowing Israel to use the cultural platform to launder the reputation of a regime accused of mass atrocities through the language of diversity.

This artistic resistance was amplified by the "No Music for Genocide" campaign, backed by over 2,100 prominent figures such as Brian Eno and Massive Attack.

Meanwhile, in New York City, massive crowds blocked major thoroughfares and staged emotional rallies near the United Nations headquarters.

Activists linked the Eurovision stage to broader Western complicity in ongoing atrocities that have expanded into Lebanon and Iran.

By treating a regime accused of systematic ethnic cleansing as a standard participant, critics argue that Eurovision has transformed a celebration of unity into a grim testament to institutional hypocrisy, proving that music cannot be separated from the blood on the stage.

The UAE's dangerous overreach

TEHRAN - The geopolitical landscape of the Persian Gulf has been radically redrawn following the intense 40-day military campaign launched by the United States and Israel against Iran on February 28. While the broader conflict reached a fragile, Pakistani-mediated ceasefire in April, the diplomatic and economic aftershocks are still reverberating across the region.

At the center of this transformation is the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Its highly hawkish trajectory during the war, characterized by covert military actions - including its airstrike on Iran's Lavan Island refinery in early April that led to spillage of oil into the sea - coupled with a historic break with OPEC, and deeply complicated ties with Israel, signal a profound shift in the course of developments in the Persian Gulf.

When the U.S. and Israel started the war on Iran, Washington expected its traditional Western allies to form a unified front. Instead, a striking divide emerged.

European capitals explicitly distanced themselves from the offensive framework of the strikes, which targeted Iranian military and nuclear installations and the assassination of its top political and military figures.

In a joint statement issued at the onset of the conflict, British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, alongside the leaders of France and Germany, firmly rejected the offensive nature of the campaign. Starmer remarked:

"That is in our best national interest. That is my duty. I will stick to it, and I'm not going to be diverted or deflected from that by what anybody else says."

London subsequently restricted the U.S. military's use of British bases (such as Cyprus and Diego Garcia) strictly to "specific and limited defensive purposes."

For long years, Iran had been warning that it would target any place from which Iran comes under attack. However, this

warning was ignored by most countries bordering the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, whose countries host American military bases. However, Iraq and the Republic of Azerbaijan promised that they would not allow a single shot against Iran from their soil.

In the July 2025 war against Iran by Israel and the U.S., Iran targeted the American Al Udeid Air Base in response to the U.S. air strikes on Iran's key nuclear infrastructure in Isfahan, Natanz, and Fordo. Even Tehran's retaliation did not come as a wake-up call to its southern neighbors.

When the war on Iran began again in 2026, the U.S. used military bases in Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE in striking Iran. In response, Iran hit those bases. Again, failing to review their policies, Iran targeted, but not seriously, certain sites in these countries. It launched drones at them, but hit the UAE with drones and missiles. The more days passed, the

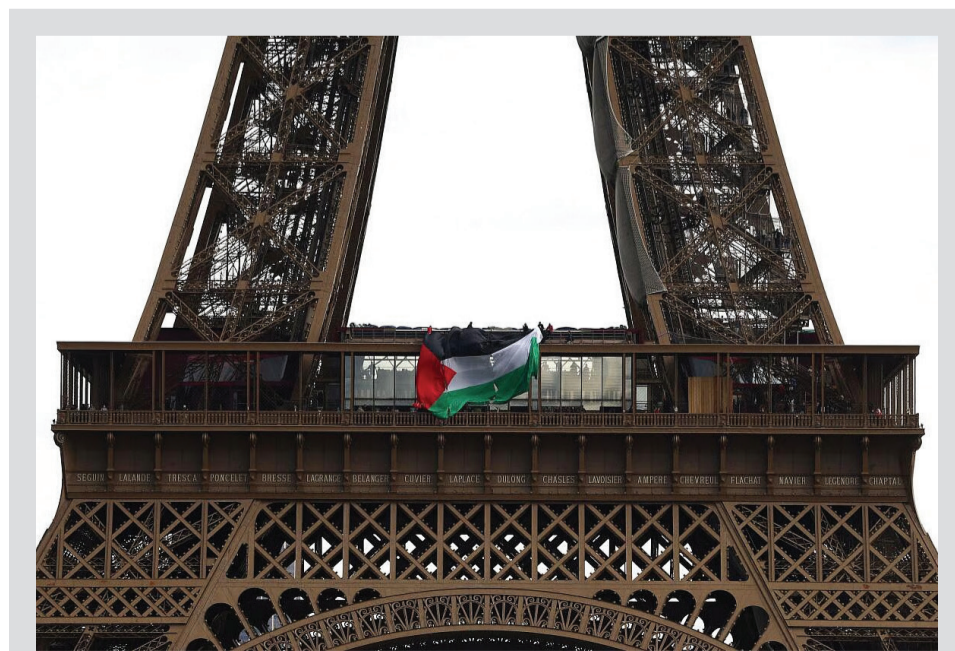
UAE leaned heavily into its security partnership with Israel and the U.S. against Iran. It even took a stance against Pakistan for its mediation.

According to reports later confirmed by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, Israel actively deployed Iron Dome batteries and specialized military personnel to the UAE during the war to shield Emirati airspace, solidifying a functional wartime alliance.

Efforts to push Saudi Arabia and Qatar to the brink

A major revelation following the ceasefire was the UAE's active attempt to mobilize a pan-Arab military front against Tehran. Reports indicate that shortly after the February 28 strikes, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MBZ) held a series of urgent phone calls with regional leaders, most notably Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) and the leadership of Qatar.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



A monumental statement of solidarity hangs from the heart of the French capital. Marking the 78th anniversary of the Nakba, activists with Extinction Rebellion France scaled the historic framework of the Eiffel Tower to unfurl a massive Palestinian flag on May 16, 2026.

Tehran to host fifth intl. conference on tourism and spirituality



TEHRAN - The fifth International Conference on Tourism and Spirituality will be held on May 20 at the University of Science and Culture, bringing together Iranian and foreign scholars to discuss the role of spirituality in modern tourism, organizers said.

The conference is being organized through cooperation among researchers and academics from several Iranian universities, according to conference officials.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Mohammad-Hossein Imani-Khoshkhou, president of the university and secretary of the conference, said the event would examine the relationship between tourism, spirituality and contemporary social challenges.

Imani-Khoshkhou said modern societies were increasingly facing psychological and social pressures as material concerns overshadowed spiritual aspects of life.

He said the tourism industry, because of its broad social and cultural reach, offered opportunities to address those concerns through experiences that go beyond physical travel and recreation.

"The issue is not limited to religious or pilgrimage tourism," he said in the statement. "Different forms of travel, including mass tourism and business tourism, can also create opportunities for travelers to engage with deeper philosophical and personal reflections during their journeys."

He added that tourism could provide what he described as "a return to origins" and a means of coping with social and psychological pressures associated with industrialized and urban life.

According to the statement, the conference will focus on how spiritual dimensions can be incorporated into different tourism sectors and how travel experiences may contribute to personal well-being and social balance.

Imani-Khoshkhou said tourism had increasingly become shaped by material expectations

and commercial considerations in recent decades, while the original motivations behind travel had received less attention.

He said growing interest in spirituality and meaning among travelers could contribute to restoring what he called the "main nature" of tourism.

The statement also referred to studies in psychology, medicine, management, marketing and economics that have examined the relationship between spirituality and tourism.

According to the organizers, many of those studies explore the interaction between religious perspectives and modern material approaches to travel and lifestyle.

The conference will include presentations and discussions by domestic and international academics specializing in tourism studies, cultural heritage, spirituality and related disciplines.

Organizers said the subject of spirituality in tourism has received limited attention in international conferences despite its expanding role in academic research and tourism planning.

Iran has sought in recent years to promote different forms of tourism, including cultural, religious and heritage tourism, as part of broader efforts to diversify its tourism sector.

Religious tourism remains one of the oldest forms of travel and continues to attract visitors to places of worship and pilgrimage sites around the world.

Iran is home to a range of religious and cultural destinations that attract domestic and foreign travelers. These include shrines, mosques, monasteries and historical religious centers located in cities and rural areas across the country.

From mountain sanctuaries to urban religious complexes, many of Iran's worship sites are visited annually by pilgrims and tourists seeking spiritual experiences alongside cultural and historical attractions.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas

The Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas, contains an exceptional assemblage of cave art, with many painted rock shelters, including a cave, with magnificent pictographs surrounded by an outstanding landscape, with the river running through a deep canyon, which were executed between 9,300 and 1,300 years ago.

The property takes its name (Cave of the Hands) from the stencilled outlines of human hands in the cave, but there are also many depictions of animals, such as guanacos (Lama guanicoe), still commonly found in the region, as well as hunting scenes that depict animals and human figures interacting in a dynamic and naturalistic manner.

The entrance to the Cueva is screened by a rock wall covered by many hand stencils. Within the rock shelter itself there are five concentrations of rock art, later figures and motifs often superimposed upon those from earlier periods. The paintings were executed with natural mineral pigments - iron oxides (red and purple), kaolin (white), and natrojarosite (yellow), manganese oxide (black) - ground and mixed with some form of binder.

The artistic sequence, which includes three main stylistic groups, began as early as the 10th millennium BP [Before Present]. The sequence is a long one: archaeological investigations have shown that the site was last inhabited around 700 CE by the possible ancestors of the

first Tehuelche people of Patagonia. The Cueva is considered by the international scientific community to be one of the most important sites of the earliest hunter-gatherer groups in South America during Early Holocene that still maintains a good state of preservation and has a singular environment formation, unique at Santa Cruz province.

The rock art, its natural environment and the archaeological sites on this region are some of the very important reasons that made this area a focus for archaeological research for more than 25 years. They made an impact on the observer due not only the deep gorge walls surrounded by a privileged landscape, but also by the artistic compositions, variety of motifs and its polychromies.

These scenes represent a unique evidence to know about the first Patagonian hunters' behaviour and their hunting techniques. Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas contains an exceptional assemblage of cave art, unique in the world, for its age and continuity throughout time, the beauty and the preservation conditions of the paintings, the magnificence of the collection of stencilled outlines of human hands and the hunting scenes, as well as the environment that surrounds the place of exciting beauty and for being part of the cultural value of the site itself.

(Source: UNESCO)

Kerman advances bid for UNESCO recognition of historic urban area

TEHRAN - Authorities in Kerman are moving forward with plans to seek UNESCO World Heritage recognition for a 70-hectare section of the city's historical core, provincial officials said on Saturday.

Ali-Asghar Zakeri, deputy governor-general for civil affairs in Kerman province, said the overall boundaries of the proposed historical zone had been approved, but additional reviews were needed to confirm the historical authenticity of most buildings within the designated area.

Speaking during a meeting on the progress of the proposed registration of Kerman's cultural and historical zone, Zakeri said consultants working on the province's tourism master plan would conduct a detailed reassessment of the site.

"The general framework of the 70-hectare historical zone has been approved, but the tourism master plan consultant must carry out a detailed review to ensure that the majority of the buildings possess historical authenticity," Zakeri said.

According to Zakeri, around 70% of the buildings within the proposed zone must hold recognized historical value in order to strengthen the nomination process for international registration.

He said all future restoration work and construction projects in the area should follow cultural heritage guidelines and maintain architectural consistency with the surrounding historical fabric.

"In historical districts, any new construction must be compatible with the historical identity and architecture of the area," he said.

Zakeri also called for strengthening the cultural heritage protection unit to prevent demolition and unauthorized alterations within the historical district.

Kerman province officials said the provincial administration would support efforts by cultural heritage authorities to prepare the UNESCO nomination dossier.

"Our goal is not only the registration of monuments, but preserving a civilization in West



Asia," Zakeri said.

He added that Kerman possessed "civilizational authenticity" and that efforts to preserve and restore the province's historical fabric represented part of the revival of an ancient civilization.

The deputy governor also urged municipalities to avoid using construction materials and urban elements considered incompatible with historical districts.

He said even postal signs and building markers in heritage areas should incorporate traditional features such as tilework in order to distinguish historical buildings from modern structures.

Officials at the meeting emphasized that the preservation of heritage sites required long-term management beyond national or international registration.

"Experience has shown that national or international registration of a site is easier than preserving and managing it," Zakeri said.

He also called for greater participation by the private sector in restoration projects, saying investors and large economic enterprises should take part in the rehabilitation of historical neighborhoods.

According to Zakeri, restoration of historical buildings should be treated as both a technical and artistic process.

"The restoration of a historical building is not merely a technical measure, but also an artistic activity," he said, adding that architects, designers and project supervisors should have artistic expertise.

Provincial officials also criticized the lack of a specialized tourism working group in Kerman and called for the activation of such a body to oversee tourism-related permits and decisions.

Zakeri said a separate working group should also be formed to accelerate preparation of the UNESCO nomination file for Kerman's historical district.

Kerman, located in southeastern Iran, serves as the capital of Kerman province and is one of

the country's historic urban centers.

The city was founded in the third century CE by Ardashir I, founder of the Sasanian Empire. Following the Battle of Nahavand in 642, Kerman came under Muslim rule. Over subsequent centuries, control of the city shifted among several dynasties, including the Buyids, Ghaznavids and Seljuks. During the 11th and 12th centuries, Kerman became an important regional center under Seljuk rule and developed trade connections linking the Persian Gulf with Khorasan and Central Asia.

The Venetian traveler Marco Polo visited Kerman in 1271 and described it as a commercial hub. The city later expanded during the Safavid period, when carpets and textiles produced in Kerman were exported to Europe.

Kerman also witnessed major conflicts during the late 18th century. In 1794, forces led by Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar captured the city after a prolonged siege following support given by residents to Lotf Ali Khan.

Clues of Parthian-Sasanian tomb complex discovered in central Iran



TEHRAN - Iranian cultural heritage officials said they have identified traces of a tomb complex dating back to the Parthian-Sasanian period in Tiran-Karvan county of Isfahan province, central Iran, marking what authorities described as the first known burial complex of its kind discovered in the area.

Mohsen Mazaheri, head of the Tiran-Karvan office of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts, said the site was confirmed following inspections and preliminary studies conducted by senior archaeologists from the provincial archaeology center.

According to Mazaheri, the newly identified complex was recognized as a Parthian-Sasanian tomb structure after expert examinations of the site.

"The archaeological complex has been identified and confirmed as a Parthian-Sasanian tomb," Mazaheri said, according to remarks carried by Iran's Mehr News Agency.

Tiran-Karvan county contains a range of historical and archaeological sites from different periods of Iranian history.

Mazaheri said the burial complex is situated outside urban boundaries and away from residential areas. He added that the site had been subjected to repeated illegal excava-

tions before its official identification.

"Unfortunately, the site has been illegally excavated several times," he said.

Iranian authorities frequently report cases of unauthorized digging at archaeological sites, often linked to attempts to recover historical artifacts for illegal trade.

Mazaheri said the newly discovered site would undergo further scientific study and archaeological excavation after the required permits are issued by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

He said future excavations are intended to provide more detailed archaeological data about the structure, its historical context and the communities associated with it.

The discovery relates to a period spanning the Parthian and Sasanian eras, two major dynasties in ancient Iranian history.

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, ruled large parts of Iran and neighboring regions for nearly five centuries. At its height, the empire extended from parts of present-day Turkey to areas of Afghanistan and western Pakistan.

Located along sections of the Silk Road trade network, the Parthian state became an important center for trade and political exchange between the Roman Empire and Han China.

Historians describe the Parthian period as a time in which Iranian, Hellenistic and regional cultural traditions interacted through architecture, governance and art.

The Parthians are also known for their prolonged military rivalry with Rome. In 53 BC, Parthian forces defeated the Roman army led by Marcus Licinius Crassus at the Battle of Carrhae, one of the major confrontations between the two powers.

The Parthian Empire ended in 224 CE after Ardashir I defeated the last Arsacid ruler, Artabanus IV, and established the Sasanian Empire.

Founded by the House of Sasan, the Sasanian Empire ruled Iran and neighboring territories for more than four centuries and became one of the principal powers of late antiquity.

At its territorial height, the Sasanian Empire controlled modern-day Iran and Iraq as well as parts of the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian subcontinent.

Historians say the Sasanian period was marked by centralized administration, military expansion and the revival of Zoroastrianism as a state-supported religious system.

The era also saw the construction of major architectural monuments, bridges, palaces and urban centers, many of which remain important archaeological sites in Iran today.

Iranian archaeologists have in recent years increased surveys and rescue excavations across several provinces as authorities seek to document and preserve cultural heritage sites threatened by urban expansion, environmental factors and illegal digging.

The Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry has previously said that many archaeological locations across Iran remain insufficiently explored, particularly in rural and mountainous regions.

Officials did not specify the size of the newly discovered tomb complex in Tiran-Karvan or whether artifacts had been recovered from the site during preliminary inspections.

Further archaeological work is expected to begin after formal authorization is granted by the relevant research authorities, Mazaheri said.

Health minister inaugurates 198 projects to mark National Health Week

TEHRAN – A total of 198 medical projects were inaugurated nationwide via video conference on Saturday morning by Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi on the second day of the National Health Week.

The projects included the inauguration of 160 health projects, 28 medical projects, and 10 community psychosocial health centers (known as SERAJ centers in Persian) in Tehran, Yazd, East Azarbaijan, Zanjan, and Fars provinces, IRNA reported.

According to Alireza Raeisi, deputy health minister, a total of 106 community psychosocial health centers are operating in the country.

Highlighting that precaution is better than cure, the official said on Saturday, 10 more centers are being inaugurated. The health ministry is planning to inaugurate one more center each week till the end of the current Iranian year (March 2026 – March 2027).

The National Health Week is being held under the theme 'sustainable healthcare with science and authority, enduring Iran'.

Each day of the week focuses on a specific topic.

Friday, May 15, 'Healthy family, young Iran.'

Saturday, May 16, 'Health system resilience, scientific management in crisis.'

Sunday, May 17, 'Media and scientific promotion of health culture.'

Monday, May 18, 'Self-Care and knowledge-based mental health.'

Tuesday, May 19, 'Family physician, referral system, sustainable health.'

Wednesday, May 20, 'Honoring health team martyred and wounded during US-Israeli war against Iran.'

Thursday, May 21, 'Organ donation, self-sacrifice, life opportunity.'

According to Raeisi, this year's theme indicates that science lays the foundation of fighting emerging health challenges such as microbial resistance, climate change, non-communicable diseases, and the risk of pandemics.



However, the realization of the 2026 theme is impossible without securing health against politicization, sanctions, and military aggression, he noted.

Referring to the recent violent attacks by the US and Israel on Iran's civilian and health infrastructures, which have led to the destruction of medical centers and the martyrdom of people and health workers, Raeisi underlined the importance of ensuring the safety and security of the health system during conflicts.

"As long as access to medicine, critical devices, and scientific interactions are used as a lever to achieve political aims, as long as military aggressions threaten the safety of health infrastructure, and the lives of medical staff, we cannot claim that we stand with science," the official added.

"These days, we have been witnessing the widespread destruction of non-military units, airstrikes on universities, scientific research,

and health centers by our enemies; a large number of our dear fellow men, including women, children, and health workers, have lost their lives.

Today, we announce that standing with science is only possible when political and military pressures can no longer be exerted on the health sector. Respecting science requires respecting the independence, security, and well-being of the countries," Raeisi further noted.

The official went on to say that the scientific achievements of the domestic researchers and the exchange of knowledge with the international community are the best ways to realize universal health coverage (UHC), and reduce inequality of opportunity to have access to health services.

World Health Day is observed annually on April 7. In 2026, the day called on people everywhere to stand with science under the theme 'Together for health. Stand with Science.

World Health Day 2026 launches a year-long campaign celebrating the power of scientific collaboration to protect the health of people, animals, plants, and the planet.

The campaign spotlights both scientific achievements and the multilateral cooperation needed to turn evidence into action – through a strong focus on the One Health approach.

It invites people everywhere to participate – by celebrating scientific achievements, engaging with evidence, and sharing personal stories of how science improves lives.

The campaign calls on governments, scientists, health workers, partners, and the public to stand with science by engaging with evidence, facts, and science-based guidance to protect health; rebuild trust in science and public health; and support science-led solutions for a healthier future.

Government announces policies, programs for infertility treatment

TEHRAN – To address infertility, which is known as one of the main challenges of health and population in the country, the government has adopted different measures, including infertility insurance to lower high-cost and out-of-pocket expenses of infertility treatment.

Covering the services associated with fertility treatment, the insurance organizations have played a key role in infertility treatment since the Iranian year 1400 (2021), IRNA reported.

The covered services include the costs of tests, medications, assisted reproductive methods, like IVF, and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), which have facilitated access to specialized services and encourage couples to have regular health visits.

In government centers, 90 percent of the treatment costs, which are based on subsidized rates, are covered, while in private centers, 90 percent of the costs, which are based on free rates, are covered.

Currently, 150 medical centers are providing health services to infertile couples, out of which 120 centers are under the coverage of health insurance.

Over the past Iranian year (March 2025 – March 2026), the health insurance reviewed a total of 107,374 claims and reimbursed 9.98 trillion rials (around 6.743 million dollars) to medical centers.

The health insurance also paid 11.16 trillion rials (almost 7.541 million dollars) for prescribed medications to infertile couples. Since the Iranian year 1400, the health insurance has invested 37 trillion rials (about 25 million dollars).

Apart from insurance, the government has taken other measures to boost fertility, such as developing specialized infertility treatment centers in metropolises and deprived areas, considering incentive policies for infertile couples, like financial support and granting loans for treatment, implementing national projects, and comprehensive programs on family health and population to promote childbearing and reduce infertility.

Equipping medical centers with advanced facilities for in vitro fertilization (IVF), provid-



In government centers, 90 percent of the treatment costs, which are based on subsidized rates, are covered, while in private centers, 90 percent of the costs, which are based on free rates, are covered.

ing counselling and psychological services are among other actions taken to help infertile couples.

Supporting family and youth population projects

The Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology and Knowledge-based Economy, in cooperation with the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, will support the implementation of projects in the family and youth population sectors.

To this end, in January, the Vice-Presidency announced the second call to organize and fund innovations in line with achieving the country's demographic goals, IRNA reported.

It focuses on three main areas, namely infertility treatment, childbearing, maternal and child health, as well as seven key specialized areas, including cell therapy, gene therapy, tissue engineering (advanced treatments and novel approaches to improve fertility and treat genetic disorders), assisted reproductive technologies (ART), and artificial intelligence, and nanotechnologies to improve diagnosis, health

monitoring, and assisted reproductive treatments.

It also includes drugs and diagnostic kits for the development of strategic medicines and the manufacture of diagnostic kits; photonics, laser, and optogenetics technologies, with a focus on low-power lasers, adaptive optics, and quantum photonics; and medicinal plants based on Persian medicine to develop products to increase fertility.

In the research sector, social research on field surveys of the causes of declining fertility in various provinces of the country, empowering women and mothers, supporting creative centers in the field of family, raising awareness, developing culture and preventive measures in infertility, and expanding search and production infrastructure for comprehensive centers are of particular importance.

Aging rate in Iran exceeds global average'

According to the head of Welfare Organization, the rate of aging in Iran is growing faster than the global average, so that the country will be among the oldest countries in the world in 25 years.

Based on the World Health Organization (WHO) age classification in 2025, the elderly population constitutes those aged 60 and older. Accordingly, 14 percent of the country's population is old now, ISNA quoted Seyed Javad Hosseini as saying.

A population is considered young when seven percent of people are 60 or older; when seven to 14 percent of people are over 60, the country is said to be aging. Countries with 14 to 21 percent and 21 to 27 percent of people aged 60 or over are aged and super-aged, respectively, the official said.

In the Iranian year 1395 (2016 – 2017), only 9.5 percent of the population was aged over 60, and the global average aging rate was about 12 to 13 percent. In the Iranian year 1415 (2036 – 2037), the figure will rise to 15 percent in Iran and 16.5 percent in the world. However, in 1430 (2051 – 2052), the figure will reach 31 percent in Iran, and 21.5 percent in the world, the official noted.

UN body expresses solidarity with Iranian youth against US-Israeli aggression

TEHRAN – The United Nations Youth Office has responded to a letter and petition from more than 300,000 young Iranians, mostly 'Generation Z', who had urged the UN body to condemn the attacks by the United States and the Zionist regime.

In March, Iranian youth and teenagers signed a letter to UN Secretary General, António Guterres, and his Assistant Secretary General for Youth Affairs, Felipe Paulier, warning them that the US-Israeli attacks on Iran 'can result in devastating and long-term consequences for an entire generation'.

"Attacks against residential areas, hospitals, schools, cultural heritage sites, and humanitarian facilities are reprehensible and unjustifiable.

Disruption of education, destruction of social infrastructure, severe environmental harm, psychological trauma, and direct threats to their safety can result in devastating and long-term consequences for an entire generation.

On the morning of Saturday, 28 February 2026 (9 Esfand 1404), several locations across the Islamic Republic of Iran – including key national governmental and administrative centers – were targeted in a series of organized and deliberate military attacks attributed to the Government of the United States of America and the Israeli regime. In the following days, additional strikes hit multiple civilian areas and vital infrastructure

across several provinces. The human consequences of these attacks, particularly for children, teenagers, and youth, are profoundly alarming.

We, the Generation Z youth and teenagers of Iran, express our deep concern regarding these aggressive attacks and strongly condemn the actions that have resulted in the loss of innocent lives – including civilians – and the destruction of national infrastructure, cultural heritage, and civilian property.

We sincerely hope that the United Nations Office of Youth, in line with its mandate to empower and support young people, will pay due attention to these concerns and help raise global awareness about the conditions of the affected children, teenagers, and youth," part of the letter reads.

In its official response, signed by Paulier, the UN Youth Office has expressed hope for the health and well-being of Iranian youth and appreciated their courage in engaging with this international organization. The letter acknowledged the concerns raised by Iranian youth and emphasized the UN's call for de-escalation, dialogue, and protection of civilians, especially young people.

The UN Youth Office has also expressed solidarity with all young people involved in wars and conflicts and welcomed the continued raising of demands and the expansion of cooperation with the Office.

WTISD 2026 highlights need for robust, secure digital infrastructure

TEHRAN – Celebrated every year on May 17, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) highlights the growing role of digital technologies in our lives and commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) – the United Nations Agency for Digital Technologies.

The 2026 theme, 'Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World', underscores the importance of robust, secure, and accessible digital infrastructure in supporting societies through crises, enabling continuity, and fostering long-term resilience.

It encourages global action to protect essential communication networks and bridge the digital divide. In a world that increasingly depends on uninterrupted connectivity, the resilience of our digital networks is essential. Digital lifelines – terrestrial networks, submarine cables, satellites, and data systems – form the backbone of our communities and economies.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2026 calls on governments, industry, and communities to strengthen the digital lifelines that keep the world running. Join us in designing the networks and systems that can withstand shocks and recover quickly, ensuring that no one is cut off and left offline when it matters most. The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) can bring to societies and economies, as well as ways to bridge the digital divide. May 17 marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The 2026 theme, "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World", underscores the importance of robust, secure, and accessible digital infrastructure in supporting societies through crises, enabling continuity, and fostering long-term resilience.

'Digital evolution without digital security is an illusion'

Following the US-Israeli cyberattacks that targeted critical infrastructures in Iran during the 40-day and 12-day wars, Ehsan Cheetsaz, the deputy minister for ICT, said that the aggressors targeted critical infrastructures in Iran to destabilize sovereign states.

"The hybrid attacks represent a perilous convergence of modern warfare tools. This aggression highlights that digital evolution without digital security is an illusion," Mehr news agency quoted the official as saying.

At the fifth Meeting of Heads of Ministries and Agencies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States Responsible for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies, the member states of the SCO expressed deep concern over US-Israeli cyberattacks that targeted information, communication,

and technology (ICT) infrastructures in Iran.

The officials considered these measures to be in contrast to the principles of international law and the UN Charter, highlighting the need to respect the sovereignty of countries in cyberspace and refrain from using force against other nations, Mehr news agency reported.

The 5th meeting was held on April 27, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Digital Development and Innovation Technologies of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Participants discussed topics of cooperation in the field of digital transformation, the implementation of ICT and AI in public administration, and key sectors of the economy. The security of ICT infrastructures, the expansion of artificial intelligence, and the future of a data-driven economy were put on the agenda.

Status of ICT in Iran

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is the highest authority in the field of ICT in the country. All activities related to the information and communication technology industry are directly related to the ministry.

The government pays special attention to plans and policies in this sector in order to maximize the use of ICT to facilitate people's lives.

The successful designing, building, and launching of a satellite show the growth of the national technology and scientific power of a country.

Space technology has been considered a tool to expand prosperity, peace, scientific-cultural development, and economic progress in human societies. Different nations of the world exploit this technology in some way based on their capacity, capabilities, and efforts.

Currently, 13 universities and a research institute affiliated to the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology are offering aerospace majors, thus Iran has a high capability in training specialists and experts in the aerospace sector and is a leading country in the region.

Access to telecommunication services in rural areas of the country had improved over the period as the overall number of villages with access to communication services rose to 52,182, around 93 percent of all villages, while 47,837 villages had access to home landline services.

Moreover, the number of Iranian mobile users reached nearly 135.890 million, according to the CRA which put the mobile phone penetration rate in the country at 161.67 percent.

The figures showed, however, that fixed broadband adoption in Iran had stalled at 14 percent with nearly 11.921 million customers having access to the Internet via those services.

This statistic shows that fixed broadband internet has grown by less than 2 percent compared to last year and mobile internet has experienced a growth of 10 percent. However, it can be said that the speed of mobile internet expansion is 5 times the speed of fixed internet.



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MAY 17, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Being well-off in exile is like home, and poverty at home is like being in exile.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01 Evening: 18:24 Dawn: 03:18 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 04:57 (tomorrow)

Arabic translation of book on Martyr Leader's father, upbringing unveiled

TEHRAN – The Arabic translation of the book “Agha's Narrative,” which explores the upbringing and formation of the personality of the martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was unveiled in Tehran on Thursday.

The unveiling ceremony was held beside the site of the martyrdom of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in the presence of Arab scientific and cultural figures residing in Iran, Khamenei.ir website reported.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was martyred during US-Israeli airstrikes that targeted his office in central Tehran on February 28.

Titled “Hikayat al-Sayyid,” the book narrates the Martyr Leader's family relationships, methods of upbringing within the household, and the spiritual and cultural atmosphere that shaped his life.

During the ceremony, Mohammad Akhgari, deputy for world service of the Office for the Preservation and Publication of the Works of Grand Ayatollah Khamenei, said: “This book is not merely the life story of a great scholar, but rather a truthful window into the personality of a man who exercised a profound educational and intellectual influence upon the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. Through the memories of a righteous son, the Martyr Leader, the book presents a vivid and authentic image of that great father and opens before readers a treasury of moral, spiritual, and educational values.”

Also at the ceremony, a televised message from the Bahraini Shia cleric Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim, the spiritual leader of Bahrain's Shiite Muslims, was broadcast.

In his message, Ayatollah Qassim referred to the dimensions of the personality of the Martyr Leader and emphasized that he was “an outstanding revolutionary figure distinguished by vigilance, unwavering determination, and exceptional strategic capability.”

“He succeeded in preserving the unity of the Islamic Ummah upon its correct course in accordance with Islamic teachings, righteous upbringing, constructive goals, and the successful policies of this noble religion,” Ayatollah Qassim added.

Ayatollah Sheikh Hussein al-Matouq, the prominent Kuwaiti scholar and seminary teacher, also



addressed the gathering, stating: “We are here to recount what Imam Khamenei said about his father — that divine scholar, mujahid, ascetic, pious jurist, and faqih.”

Speaking about the features of “Hikayat al-Sayyid,” he explained: “By reading this book, one first becomes acquainted with the influence of that father in creating a faithful, pure, and righteous environment for his children.”

“One also comes to understand an important dimension of Imam Khamenei's personality and the environment in which this great scholar was nurtured — an environment that embraced, understood, and lived Islam and lived in constant connection with Almighty God,” he underlined.

Ayatollah Reza Ramezani, Secretary-General of the Ahl al-Bayt World Assembly, also addressed the event, noting that the memories contained in the book reveal that the father of the Martyr Leader was exemplary and influential in self-purification, family conduct, and relations with companions. “He was simultaneously a father, a teacher, and a mentor. This demonstrates that anyone wishing to influence human society must first undergo the path of moral refinement and spiritual discipline.”

“Hikayat al-Sayyid” provides an in-depth account of the life, personality, and scholarly and spiritual journey of Ayatollah Seyyed Javad Khamenei, the father of the Leader of Islamic Revolution.

Compiled from the Martyr Leader's speeches and writings, the book features previously unreleased documents. The final text was also reviewed and approved by the Leader himself.

The book argues that any analysis of the Leader's approach and behavior would be incomplete without an understanding of his father's guiding principles.

Backpacks of martyred Minab children sent to UN as symbols of lost innocence

TEHRAN – In a symbolic gesture to globalize the voice of innocent victims, the backpacks of two Iranian students martyred in the tragic bombing of the Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab have been dispatched to the United Nations headquarters in New York and its museum in Vienna.

Hamed Alamedi, the director of the Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), announced on Saturday that the personal belongings of martyrs Moein Zeinali and Mohammad Shahdousti were sent as part of the “Caravan of Narrating 20 Years of Failure,” Mehr reported.

The initiative follows the devastating aerial bombardment of the school in Minab, Hormozgan province, which resulted in the martyrdom of over 168 children and teachers. The backpacks, which still bear the silent stories of daily school life, are intended to serve as a testament to the oppression and innocence of children caught in one of the most bitter recent atrocities.

“A backpack is a symbol of the everyday life and innocence of children who packed their books and notebooks every morning to head to school,” Alamedi stated. He added that with the coordination of the victims' families, one backpack was sent to the UN headquarters in New York while the other is destined for the UN Museum in Vienna.

The transfer of these artifacts was facilitated through Asadollah Eshraq Jahromi, Iran's Ambassador to Austria. By placing these items in high-profile international venues, Iranian officials aim to bring the tragedy of the Minab school bomb-



ing to the forefront of the global human rights discourse, ensuring the martyred students are remembered beyond Iran's borders.

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

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

flict's opening day.

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

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

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

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

Iranian documentary project wins award at DocsBarcelona

TEHRAN – The Iranian documentary project “No Friend but the Mountains,” directed by Yaser Talebi won the Best Project Award at DocsBarcelona 2026, which was held from May 7 to 17 in Barcelona, Spain.

The film received a unanimous jury decision that praised the film's “clear and compelling narrative” and “the director's tender and intimate gaze” on its protagonists, ILNA reported.

“No Friend but the Mountains” follows an elderly couple in northern Iran, the last keepers of an ancient nomadic tradition, living in isolation as development, migration, and ecological collapse quietly close in on their land and lives.

“This project captures a vanishing way of life at the precise moment of its possible disappearance,” Talebi said about his film. “What makes the project unique is its intimate, long-term access to the characters over multiple years and seasons, combined with a purely observational approach. Rather than constructing conflict externally, the film allows time, landscape, and daily labor to reveal a quiet but profound tension between staying and leaving, continuity and rupture.”

“For audiences, the film offers a deeply human and immersive experience of a disappearing world. For partners, it represents a visually strong, internationally relevant story that intersects ecology, anthropology, and universal questions of belonging and loss,” he added.

Talebi further outlined what he believed to be his creative strengths. “My filmmaking approach is rooted in long-term observation and relationship-building,” he said. “In my previous films, this method resulted in intimate, character-driven



narratives that have resonated strongly with international audiences and festivals. I work closely with my subjects over extended periods, allowing the camera to become part of their lived environment.”

“The film is built around compelling, real-life characters whose personal stakes are clear: aging, solitude, and the absence of a next generation willing to continue their way of life. The narrative unfolds organically through seasonal cycles, revealing both emotional and existential layers,” he added.

The project has been developed over the past three years, with substantial footage captured across different seasons. It has participated in international markets (including Hot Docs Deal Maker) and Talebi is currently in discussion with potential partners such as NHK and Al Jazeera.

“We are actively seeking European co-producers and final financing to complete production and post-production. The budget is structured in phases, allowing flexibility while ensuring a high-quality cinematic outcome,” Talebi confirmed.

Iranian director restages “The Glass Menagerie” in Tehran

TEHRAN- Iranian director Ali Hazrati is restaging a loose adaptation of American playwright Tennessee Williams' memory play “The Glass Menagerie” at Labkhand Theater Hall in Tehran.

Amir Kordi, Zohreh Khazaei, Mahtab Abbasifard and Ahmadreza Mir-Rajabi are the main members of the cast for the play, which is based on a Persian translation by Hamid Samandarian.

Hazrati staged “The Glass Menagerie” earlier at the Neauphle-le-Chateau Theater in Tehran in January.

Premiered in 1944 in Chicago, the play catapulted Williams from obscurity to fame. The play has strong autobiographical elements, featuring characters based on its author, his histrionic mother, and his mentally fragile sister. In writing the play,

Williams drew on an earlier short story, as well as a screenplay he had written under the title of “The Gentleman Caller”.

Moving to Broadway, the play won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award in 1945. “The Glass Menagerie” was Williams' first successful play; he went on to become one of America's most highly regarded playwrights.

It is a memory play, narrated and partially re-enacted by Tom Wingfield, and it revolves around the lives of Tom, his mother Amanda, and his sister Laura. The family grapples with the challenges of daily life in St. Louis during the 1930s, particularly Amanda's desperate attempts to secure a suitor for the painfully shy and physically disabled Laura.

The story is set in the aftermath

of the Great Depression and reflects the economic struggles and societal changes of the time. The play also delves into the impact of World War II, exploring the tensions and uncertainties that characterized the period.

Williams' play is celebrated for its poetic and poignant exploration of themes such as memory, illusion, and the complexity of familial relationships. The character of Laura, with her fragile glass animal collection, becomes a symbol of the delicate nature of dreams and aspirations.

“The Glass Menagerie” is considered a classic of American theater, admired for its innovative use of symbolism and its timeless portrayal of the human condition.

Thomas Lanier Williams III (1911-

1983), known by his pen name Tennessee Williams, was an American playwright and screenwriter. Along with contemporaries Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller, he is considered among the three foremost playwrights of 20th-century American drama.

At age 33, after years of obscurity, Williams suddenly became famous with the success of “The Glass Menagerie” (1944) in New York City. It was the first of a string of successes, including “A Streetcar Named Desire” (1947), “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” (1955), “Sweet Bird of Youth” (1959), and “The Night of the Iguana” (1961).

Much of Williams's most acclaimed work has been adapted for the cinema. He also wrote short stories, poetry, essays, and a volume of memoirs.

Cartoon of Day



Superpower
Cartoonist: Enrico Bertuccioli from Italy