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Trump Blows Hot And Cold on Deal to Curb Oil Prices

US media report that Trump has sent Iran a tougher revised framework for review, once again underscoring the inconsistency of his negotiating stance

Qalibaf: No US deal without securing the Iranian people's rights

TEHRAN – Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has stressed that Tehran will not accept any agreement with Washington aimed at permanently ending the US-Israeli war unless the rights of the Iranian people are fully secured.

“We place no trust in the enemy’s words and promises. What matters to us is the attainment of tangible achievements, on the basis of which we will fulfill our commitments. Until we are assured that the rights of the Iranian people have been fully secured, we will not endorse any agreement,” Qalibaf said during a virtual parliamentary session on Sunday morning. ▶ Page 2

Iran war costs US households nearly \$450 in extra fuel expenses

TEHRAN – American households have paid nearly \$450 more on energy-related expenses since the outbreak of the Iran war, according to a Moody’s Analytics analysis shared exclusively with CNBC.

The average household has shelled out an additional \$447.19 on fuel since the conflict began on Feb. 28, data from the research firm shows. That has cost U.S. consumers nearly \$60 billion so far amid surging gasoline and airline prices, CNBC reported.

Roughly half of the increased spending is due to higher gasoline prices. The average price of unleaded fuel stood at about \$4.39 per gallon on Friday, up more than 47% since the start of March, according to AAA. Diesel prices have jumped roughly 47% as well. ▶ Page 4

Revelation: Truce in Gaza is a ‘joke’

TEHRAN – The Israeli combat soldier saw his teammates yelling in celebration, congratulating one another. They had just struck a vehicle of Palestinians driving near the Israeli-controlled part of the Gaza Strip, killing everyone inside.

The reservist said scenes like this had become common after a fragile ceasefire took effect in October. In the weeks he was stationed in Gaza, he said, he saw soldiers relishing the chance to go after those who crossed — or came close to crossing — the so-called yellow line that divides the strip into Israeli-controlled and Palestinian areas.

“It was a jungle,” the soldier, in his 20s, told The Associated Press. “After the ceasefire, the order was: If someone crosses the line, you shoot them.”

As diplomatic efforts to strengthen the deal have stalled, three soldiers described to AP a sense of confusion in the embattled territory, with a lack of clarity on rules of engagement around the yellow line. Some commanders paid lip service to the agreement, the soldiers said, while privately voicing desire for the war in Gaza to continue. Sometimes, troops were too far away or acted too quickly to recognize who they were shooting, one soldier said — a concern echoed in comments from a whistleblower group of veterans.

Dadi Barnea’s strategic suicide and Mossad’s unwitting gifts that strengthened Iran

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – When David “Dadi” Barnea packs his boxes at the Mossad headquarters in Gilot this June, he will leave behind a shattered agency and a legacy defined by profound strategic incompetence.

For five years, the Israeli and Western media stenographers breathlessly marketed his regime-change obsession as an intelligence masterclass. In reality, Barnea was running a multi-billion-dollar going-out-of-business sale.

Barnea’s tenure effectively illustrates the Persian proverb, “If God wills, an enemy becomes a catalyst for good” (Aduww shavad sababe kheir agar khoda khahad). Instead of toppling the Islamic Republic, Barnea’s tenure acted as an involuntary, hyper-aggressive operational vaccine for Iran and the Axis of Resistance.

Hezbollah inflicts more casualties on Israeli troops

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Zionist regime has reported increasing casualties among the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) as it attempts to portray its aggression and expanded occupation in southern Lebanon as a success.

An IOF soldier was killed, and at least five others were wounded after they were targeted in two separate incidents by Hezbollah’s explosive drones in southern Lebanon, according to an admission by the Israeli military.

The Israeli Army Radio reported the death of a soldier from the Givati Reconnaissance Unit, in addition to four others who were injured when explosive drones detonated in the area of eastern Zawtar in southern Lebanon.

Hebrew media reported that a Hezbollah explosive glider struck a house where an IOF battalion commander was present. There are serious casualties at the scene, according to the reports.

The IOF acknowledged that Hezbollah’s drones have become a genuine threat and that the expansion of its ground operations has failed to prevent drone launches towards northern settlements.

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Fear as a weapon: How Hegseth institutionalized bullying in US domestic and foreign policy

By Bahram Hassanlou

TEHRAN – United States Secretary of War Pete Hegseth has long cultivated a “tough-guy” persona, but recent leaks and insider accounts reveal a psychological profile far darker than political theater. Hegseth operates on a foundational philosophy that “the most beautiful state a man can achieve is when others fear him.”

This report examines how Hegseth has weaponized this ethos, transforming a history of personal cruelty and childhood bullying into a destructive framework that now dictates US military strikes, diplomatic relations, and internal bureaucratic purges at the highest levels of the US government. ▶ Page 2

10 Iranian universities in QS ranking 2026 by subject

TEHRAN –The 16th edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2026 has included 10 Iranian universities in three broad subject areas.

The 2026 edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject features 55 narrow subjects across five broad subject areas.

In total, 1,099 unique institutions have been ranked in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, including over 300 that appear for the first time.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject are sorted into five broad subject areas, including Arts and Humanities, Engineering and Technology, Life Sciences and Medicine, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences and Management. ▶ Page 8



IRGC unveils new missile-armed assault speedboat

TEHRAN- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy unveiled its new “Rajab 27th” high-speed assault watercraft in Tehran on Saturday night.

The unveiling ceremony was held on the 90th consecutive night of popular rallies at Tehran’s Enqelab (Revolution) Square, where the military vessel was presented to the Iranian public.

The “Rajab 27th” is a fast-attack watercraft featuring a trimaran hull design, which enhances stability and maneuverability in challenging maritime conditions.

The speedboat is capable of launching two sea-based cruise missiles with a range of 700 kilometers. ▶ Page 2

Iran’s emerging global role

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – Submission and surrender do not exist in Iran’s political culture. Pressure instead leads to resilience and real efforts to solve problems under difficult conditions. It drives the search for alternatives to anything vulnerable to sanctions or threats. For example, the maritime blockade America seeks to impose on Iran forces Iran to develop alternative land and sea trade routes.

Iran has experienced this throughout the years since the 1979 revolution, and it would not have reached near self-sufficiency in military and civilian industries without operating under pressure and sanctions. This includes finding alternatives to imports in both military and civilian manufacturing and making use of the country’s vast resources and lands. ▶ Page 3

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

Trump's retreat in the face of Iran's resilience, deterrence, and initiative

Sobh-e-No, in its editorial, pointed to Trump's retreat in the face of a powerful Iran regarding a potential agreement. The framework that can be outlined for an Iran-US agreement includes: Iran's approval of passage through the Strait of Hormuz under a new management structure that did not exist before the war; Iran's commitment not to build nuclear weapons—a commitment that already existed before the war; the lifting of oil sanctions; and the release of frozen assets, which together constitute a major strategic gain for Iran. Now, Axios, quoting American officials, has reported regarding the agreement that: "We have received verbal assurances from Iran about nuclear materials and, more importantly, about what was agreed upon in the negotiations." A government that entered the war with promises of regime change in Iran and the destruction of its nuclear program has now settled for a verbal pledge about nuclear materials. This unprecedented retreat stands as evidence of Iran's resilience, deterrence, and initiative—both on the battlefield and at the negotiating table.

Resalat: Diplomacy is a tool for imposing the will of the Iranian nation on the enemy

Resalat defined Iran's style of diplomacy with the United States. It wrote: Relations between Iran and the United States are miles away from the warm, positive, and traditional meaning of diplomacy. Our diplomacy with America is nothing but the concrete and precise translation of the 'battlefield.' When our diplomats speak, they are in fact converting the power of ballistic missiles, the precision-strike drones of the IRGC and the Army, and the authority of the country's air defense into political propositions. These diplomatic words and positions merely serve to clarify how the other side must behave in the face of Iran's power and greatness—and to make clear the heavy price of any miscalculation. In this definition, diplomacy is a tool for imposing the will of the Iranian nation on the enemy, not a path toward compromise.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Americans failed to build an accurate copy of the Shahed-136

Siasat-e-Rooz wrote about the poor quality of the American copy of the Shahed-136 drone, stating: One of the world's most prominent drones is Iran's Shahed-136, which—with its simple, inexpensive, and efficient design—has attracted the attention of many global powers and sparked a wave of imitation efforts in various countries. The United States was among the first to attempt to develop a version similar to the Shahed-136. But the range and accu-

racy of the American models are far lower than the Iranian original. High production costs and design complexity have reduced the feasibility of mass production. In recent operations involving encounters with Iranian drones, the American versions have performed poorly. In fact, the weakness of the American model has forced US military analysts to reassess their drone design and strategy—demonstrating that even major powers with advanced technology can be defeated by a simple and efficient design.

Arman-e-Melli: Improving economic conditions through a good agreement

Arman-e-Melli interviewed reformist political activist Mehdi Ayati about what constitutes a good agreement. According to him, a proper negotiation environment enables a win-win agreement. As long as the enemy seeks to impose itself on us and says, "I will sign an agreement with you only if you surrender," such a thing is impossible—and the recent war has shown the extent of our capacity to resist. As a result of the resistance, we have reached a stage where the enemy has now accepted the idea of signing an equal agreement with us. Such an equal agreement means compensation for damages and the opening of Iran's economic space and international economic activity. This is precisely what must result from precise and proper governance by the country's officials—and nothing less should be accepted.

Arman-e-Emrooz: The sound of an agreement grows louder

A potential Iran-US agreement could have positive effects on energy markets, maritime security, and even international relations. Analysts believe that Pakistan's mediation—due to its unique geopolitical position—has created a rare opportunity. Islamabad, by maintaining balanced relations with both Tehran and Washington, has managed to gain the relative trust of both sides. Inside Iran, the news has sparked mixed reactions. Some analysts see it as a step forward toward reducing sanctions and improving economic conditions, while critics emphasize the need to preserve red lines. In the United States, Republicans close to Trump view this approach as a sign of the president's bargaining strength, whereas Democrats call for greater transparency and consultation with Congress. Despite all this, the path ahead remains full of uncertainty. Trump's need for a few days of reflection provides an opportunity for consultation with experts, risk assessment, and perhaps coordination with allies.

Iranian embassy in Denmark rejects allegations as 'baseless'

TEHRAN- The Iranian Embassy in Copenhagen has rejected allegations raised by Denmark's intelligence and security service against the Islamic Republic, saying the accusations are part of a broader effort to politically and internationally isolate Iran rather than the result of any proven threat against Denmark or other Western countries.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the embassy responded to a recent assessment by the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET), which claimed Iran posed threats to "Israeli and Jewish interests, as well as certain Iranian dissidents," in Denmark.

"The accusations levelled against the Islamic Republic of Iran in PET's recent assessment are mainly based on general evaluations and claims rather than documented and undeniable evidence," the statement said.

The embassy stressed that Iran has consistently and officially rejected any involvement in the alleged activities on Danish soil, adding that PET reports in recent years have repeatedly presented a false and misleading image of an "Iranian threat" without providing convincing evidence to support such claims.

"The significant gap between allegations and evidence presented calls into question the credibility of PET's conclusions," the statement added.

Rejecting PET's arguments regarding two specific cases mentioned in the report—the alleged 2018 plot targeting a leader of the separatist ASMLA group in Denmark and the 2024 attack on the Israeli Embassy in Copenhagen—the Iranian Embassy said no documented evidence had been presented proving the involvement of the Iranian government in either case.

The statement further noted that members of ASMLA were later accused and convicted of receiving foreign support, engaging in espionage activities, and maintaining links to violent operations.

Regarding the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Copenhagen, the embassy said that not only had no concrete evidence been presented, but those convicted in the case also made no claims during court proceedings linking Iran to the incident.

"These cases, alongside other evidence and indications, show that the Islamic Republic of Iran is unfairly portrayed as a source of threat, while Iran itself has been the target of hostile acts and political pressure," the embassy said.

The statement concluded that "baseless allegations against Iran are part of a broader process to isolate it politically and internationally, rather than a response to a real threat against Denmark or other Western countries."

Qalibaf: No US deal without securing the Iranian people's rights

From page 1 ▶ Mediation efforts are underway to finalize a memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington aimed at bringing a lasting end to the US-Israeli aggression that began on February 28.

An April 8 ceasefire paused the war, but according to Iranian officials, Washington's "excessive" demands remain an obstacle to a final agreement.

President Donald Trump was forced to accept the truce after the US and Israel failed to achieve their objectives in the war, which mainly included destroying Iran's military capabilities and reshaping the country's political leadership in their favor.

Iran launched more than 100 waves of missile and drone strikes against Israel and US bases in the Persian Gulf region during the conflict. Citing US officials, American media outlets say the damage inflicted on those bases was far greater



than the figures announced by the Trump administration.

Further in his remarks, Qalibaf, who was reelected Parliament speaker with a majority of votes last week, said Iran's talks with the United States are aimed at turning military victories into political achievements.

"What we have achieved on the battlefield with our missiles

has been possible thanks to the support of the people. The job of diplomacy is to turn these victories into political and legal achievements," he said.

Qalibaf also voiced support for the latest comments by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, who has called for preserving national unity.

"We are pushing the enemy back in a major and historic war. As the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has also emphasized, the most important factor behind victory in this war is unity and cohesion. Alongside the military strength and defensive preparedness of the fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is the steadfastness and unity of the people in the face of a treacherous enemy that have forced the enemy into retreat. This key to victory must be preserved," he said.

Qalibaf added that, in the new phase of the war, the enemy is trying to sow discord and undermine national cohesion through economic pressure and media warfare in an attempt to compensate for its military setbacks and force Iran into submission. Qalibaf, however, said such plants are nothing more than "wishful thinking."

Fear as a weapon: How Hegseth institutionalized bullying in US domestic and foreign policy

From page 1 ▶ From terrorizing classmates to treating the bombardment of foreign civilians as a video game, threatening allied heads of state with assassination, and politically executing the US Director of National Intelligence for refusing to rubber-stamp a war, Hegseth's tenure has become a masterclass in domestic and international intimidation.

The psychology of intimidation: a macabre childhood origin

To understand Hegseth's approach to global and domestic policy, one must look at the psychological foundation he laid in his youth. According to leaked accounts from his own bachelor party, Hegseth proudly shared a deeply disturbing childhood anecdote that he considers his "most memorable" experience; a story that perfectly encapsulates his inclination toward psychological and physical torment.

While in the third grade, Hegseth engaged in a physical altercation with a male classmate, punching the boy and knocking out three of his teeth. Showing an alarming level of malice for a child, Hegseth collected the bloody teeth and took them home. Later, when a teacher forced Hegseth to make amends on the victim's birthday, Hegseth invited the boy to McDonald's, accompanied

by a group of his own friends whom he described as fellow "bullies."

In a horrifying twist, Hegseth secretly placed the boy's three knocked-out teeth inside his burger. When the terrified boy bit down and realized what he was chewing, Hegseth commanded: "These are your own teeth, and you have to eat them." Under the threat of further violence, the boy swallowed the teeth. Decades later, Hegseth recounted this act of sadistic extortion to his friends not with shame, but with amusement, framing it as a badge of honor.

The gamification of war: Venezuela and the "fun" of civilian casualties

Hegseth's childhood consumption of video games appears to have dangerously blurred the lines between digital entertainment and lethal military force. This detachment from reality was on full display during recent US military strikes on targets in Venezuela.

According to well-placed military sources, Hegseth treated the US command center like an arcade. Bypassing standard military protocols, the war secretary personally pressed the firing buttons for a significant number of designated targets. His reckless, game-like enthusiasm quickly led to the targeting of civilian assets, including local fishermen who were nowhere near the approved

target bank.

The situation grew so perilous that a senior military official had to intervene. Gently grabbing Hegseth's hand, the officer warned, "Sir, this is not among our targets." Unfazed by the imminent death of innocent civilians, Hegseth simply smiled and replied, "This is fun."

This sociopathic approach to warfare is not an isolated incident. Regional observers note that this exact "fun" approach was mirrored in the cowardly, unprovoked American attack on the unarmed Iranian vessel, Dena, an action taken entirely outside any active battlefield.

Diplomatic thuggery: Assassination threats against Qatar

Hegseth's bullying extends far beyond the battlefield; he has actively imported mafia-style extortion into US diplomacy. According to a recently deleted post by Al-Hadath journalist Sarah Ben Aishouba, citing the Saudi Ambassador to Washington, Hegseth engaged in a highly volatile and threatening phone call with Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on Monday, May 25, 2026.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's emerging global role



From page 1 ▶ The Western bloc led by America seeks to make Iran an exception among nations by denying it internationally recognized rights, including the civilian use of nuclear energy under the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran will not submit to this. And it knows how to change the equation. Iran understands that what could not be achieved through war cannot be extracted during peacetime.

The war that lasted 39 days saw America calling for a ceasefire after only the tenth day. Iran only ended the conflict after sending the message that it would not surrender to this logic. Would it then make sense for Iran to surrender merely because of threats to restart the war, even if that war caused destruction? Such destruction would not change the outcome.

IRGC unveils new missile-armed assault speedboat

From page 1 ▶ The vessel is also designed to conduct operations in sea states with wave heights of up to three meters while maintaining a high degree of maneuverability.

The unveiling of the new speedboat highlights the continued development of the IRGC Navy's fast-attack and missile-equipped maritime capabilities, which play a key role in Iran's naval defense strategy and operations in southern waters.

The speedboats are considered one of the most important components of Iran's

asymmetric naval warfare doctrine. Since the 1980s, these fast and highly maneuverable vessels have been developed to counter larger and more technologically advanced naval forces operating in the Persian Gulf and surrounding waters.

Iranian reports frequently highlight the role of these craft in protecting the country's territorial waters, securing maritime routes, and deterring foreign military threats. The boats are often equipped with anti-ship missiles, rockets, machine guns,

drones, and electronic warfare systems, enabling them to conduct rapid swarm attacks against hostile naval assets.

The operational concept behind these vessels is to exploit speed, maneuverability, and numerical superiority to challenge larger enemy warships, particularly in the confined waters of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. The speedboat fleets are a key element of the country's deterrence strategy and a symbol of indigenous military innovation.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Trump blows hot and cold on deal to curb oil prices

US media report that Trump has sent Iran a tougher revised framework for review, once again underscoring the inconsistency of his negotiating stance

TEHRAN - President Donald Trump keeps shifting the goalposts amid ongoing efforts to finalize a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Tehran and Washington to permanently end the US-Israeli war that began on February 28.

Since the April 8 ceasefire paused 39 days of war, Pakistan has led mediation efforts to bring the conflict to a permanent end.

Following the failure of talks in Islamabad on April 11, Iran and the US have exchanged multiple peace proposals, but according to Iranian officials, Washington's "excessive and unrealistic" demands remain the main obstacle.

Nonetheless, the two sides are seeking to pave the way for signing the MoU. Iran has stressed that, in the first phase of a potential deal with the US, the war must end, while discussions over its nuclear program would be addressed in a second phase.

Iran's conditions include guarantees of non-aggression, lifting the US blockade on Iranian ports imposed in mid-April, removing US sanctions, unfreezing Iranian assets, recognizing Iran's authority over the Strait of Hormuz, and ending Israeli strikes in Lebanon.

Iran's full control over the Strait of Hormuz since the outset of the war has sent shockwaves across the world and contributed to rising fuel prices and inflation in the United States.

The US failure to reopen the strategic waterway through military means was among the factors that pushed Trump to engage in diplomacy with Iran.

Nonetheless, Iran says it has no trust in the United States and is negotiating only to secure its national rights and transform its



military achievements during the 39-day war into political gains.

Trump's shifting position

On Saturday, The New York Times and Axios reported that Trump had toughened the terms of the potential MoU and sent it back to Iran for consideration, although the details remain unclear.

Citing senior administration officials, Axios said Trump, during a Situation Room meeting on Friday, requested several amendments to the deal that his envoys had reached with their Iranian counterparts. According to two sources cited by the outlet, the changes include provisions regarding the disposal of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile and limits on future enrichment.

Iran has stressed that enrichment is a red line and that it will never relinquish its right to enrich uranium on its own soil. Tehran has also made clear that it will not transfer its stockpile of enriched uranium abroad.

According to a New York Times report, Trump has also expressed concern about provisions in the potential agreement that would involve unfreezing Iranian funds.

Quagmire of war

Trump has plunged the United

States into what many experts describe as a quagmire of war with Iran due to his miscalculations. He is now trying to exit this difficult situation, but appears to be seeking a face-saving way out.

Meanwhile, Israel Hayom recently reported that Israeli officials believe regime change in Iran could occur by the end of 2026 if Trump refuses to sign an agreement with Tehran and continues pressure on Iranian ports.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands accused of encouraging Trump to go to war with Iran, although the US president denies this. Nonetheless, the Israel Hayom report has once again highlighted the role of Mosad and Netanyahu in emboldening him to launch military action against Iran.

Iran has repeatedly stated that it remains open to diplomacy but will deliver a crushing response to any new act of aggression. Iranian military officials have also warned that a new war would have repercussions extending far beyond West Asia.

Trump's latest contradictions suggest that he may simply be trying to buy time.

His willingness to engage in diplomacy appears primarily aimed

at stabilizing energy prices and financial markets, as well as preventing further increases in fuel prices and inflation in the United States. These policy shifts and contradictory positions have also cast uncertainty over whether even a preliminary understanding can be reached.

Even if Trump signs an MoU with Iran, his ultimate objective may not be a final peace agreement. Rather, he may be seeking to navigate three major challenges: rising prices, particularly in the energy sector; the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup; and the political fallout from the war ahead of the US midterm congressional elections.

Consequently, there is no guarantee that military confrontation would not resume after these challenges have been overcome, even if a preliminary agreement is reached.

On Saturday, Mohsen Rezaei, a former chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and a senior advisor to Iran's Leader, warned that Trump is "betraying diplomacy" for the third time in less than a year.

Tehran and Washington were engaged in negotiations when the United States and Israel attacked Iran three months ago. A similar scenario unfolded in June 2025, when Israel launched a war on Iran while talks between Tehran and Washington were underway, with the United States later joining the conflict.

For this reason, Iranian officials argue that a third war cannot be ruled out. They say Iran's armed forces remain fully prepared despite ongoing diplomatic engagement, reflecting Tehran's deep distrust of the United States.

IRGC official says US options are limited to 'bad or worse'

TEHRAN - A senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says Iran's enemies made a strategic miscalculation in assessing the country's capabilities and resolve, arguing that Tehran has emerged in a stronger position while the United States faces decline and failure.

Speaking to IRNA on Saturday night, IRGC deputy chief for political affairs Yadollah Javani said the enemies had wrongly assumed they could achieve a swift victory by imposing war on the Iranian nation.

The US-Israeli aggression against Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders, including the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces

launched daily missile and drone operations targeting targets in the Israeli-occupied territories, as well as US military bases and assets across the region.

The enemies' strategic objectives, Javani said, included destroying Iran's nuclear capabilities, eliminating its missile defense capacity, and ultimately overthrowing the Islamic Republic. He stated that those objectives had failed, resulting in a shift in regional dynamics in Iran's favor.

Referring to developments in the region, he said Iran now holds a dominant position over the Strait of Hormuz and has attained a status that is "the legitimate right of the Iranian people" after 500 years.

Iran currently occupies "a victorious and superior position" and has already an-

nounced its conditions for ending the current situation, he said, adding, "Now it is America's turn to make a decision."

Addressing US President Donald Trump, the IRGC commander argued that Washington faces two options: "the bad way" and "the worse way."

He said the United States must choose between accepting the conditions and rights of the Iranian people or continuing the war.

Javani also warned against another enemy miscalculation, saying Iran's Armed Forces remain fully prepared.

If a new mistake is made, he said, the Islamic Republic's response would be "stronger, more decisive, and more unbelievable" than before.

arguing that Washington is in a weak position.

The naval blockade on Iran will come to an end either through negotiations or military action, he emphasized.

'Iran to expand corridors and northern ports to counter naval blockade'

Iran's Parliament Vice Speaker Hamidreza Haji Babaei said the country will counter the enemy's economic blockade by expanding alternative land corridors and increasing the use of northern ports. He stressed that future planning should assume the blockade will continue and called for stronger transit, transportation, and diplomatic efforts. Haji Babaei said at least 50 percent of essential goods imports should pass through northern ports, while alternative routes through neighboring countries are strengthened to safeguard economic security and maintain trade flows.

Pezeshkian: Overcoming challenges needs cooperation of all people

Speaking at the Cabinet meeting on Sunday, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized that overcoming the country's challenges is not possible only with the cooperation and participation of all walks of life.

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key transport infrastructure. She said more than 50 road and rail sites, including highways, tunnels, and bridges, were hit. Reconstruction efforts are underway, while plans to expand Chabahar Port and strengthen strategic transport corridors continue.

Public support strengthens Iran's diplomacy and defense: government

Iranian government spokesperson Fatiemeh Mohajerani praised the nation's continued public support, saying it strengthens the morale of the country's diplomatic and defense institutions in protecting national interests and sovereignty. Speaking on state television, she said public participation has played a key role alongside military preparedness and diplomatic efforts to end the recent US-Israeli war. Mohajerani also said the government successfully managed markets during the conflict, ensuring stable supplies and preventing shortages despite economic pressures and maritime restrictions.

MP: Iran blockade will end either through talks or military action

Ebrahim Rezaei, head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, says Iran prefers diplomacy but has red lines it will not cross. He says the United States should make concessions to reach an agreement between the two sides,

IRGC shoots down US drone after airspace violation

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said its air defense units have shot down a US military MQ-1 drone after it entered Iran's territorial waters and attempted to carry out a hostile operation.

According to a statement released by the IRGC Public Relations Office, the incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday when the MQ-1 drone belonging to the "aggressor US military" entered the airspace over Iran's territorial waters.

'Iran exercises full authority over Strait of Hormuz'

In a statement released on Saturday night, Iran's Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters said that given the integrated management of the strategic waterway, all ships, commercial vessels, and oil tankers are required to navigate exclusively through designated routes and obtain authorization from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy.

Iranian ports targeted in recent war, reconstruction underway: minister

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh, said the country's southern ports were on the front lines during the recent war, with enemies seeking to disrupt imports and exports by targeting

Nahid Kiani dedicates gold medal to Iran people

TEHRAN - Iran's woman's taekwondo athlete Nahid Kiani dedicated her gold medal to the Iranian people.

In a display of unwavering grit and elite technical prowess, Kiani has captured the gold medal at the 2026 Asian Championship, further cementing her status as a global powerhouse in the sport.

Reflecting on her latest triumph, Kiani described the tournament as one of the most demanding of her career. "The technical level was incredibly high. With the qualification for Nagoya at stake, every world and Olympic champion was present," Kiani noted. "Countries were pulling out all the stops to secure quotas, and the influx of young talent transitioning from the junior ranks added even more intensity to the competition."

Kiani's path to the top of the podium was anything but easy. After dispatching her opponent from India in the opening round, she overcame a tough challenge from a world bronze medalist from Jordan and a seasoned competitor from Chinese Taipei.

The final proved to be her biggest test, as she faced a formidable Uzbek representative who had already eliminated the reigning Olympic champion from South Korea. Despite having been struck by a virus just days before the event, Kiani's mental fortitude shone through. "I was physically compromised by the illness, but I managed my mindset to stay focused," she said. "Thankfully, everything fell into place, and I was able to secure the gold."

Beyond the physical victory, Kiani's motivation remains deeply rooted in her home country. Dedicating her performance to the people of Iran, she expressed a sincere hope that her success could offer a moment of joy to the nation. "I dedicate this medal to the resilient people of Iran. They deserve the best, and I hope this win could bring them even a few seconds of happiness," she stated.

Looking toward the horizon, Kiani remains characteristically disciplined. "I prefer to move step by step," she explained. "My immediate focus was on this championship, and now I will turn my attention to the path toward Nagoya."

The champion wrapped up her remarks by extending her deepest gratitude to her coach and the support system that stood by her throughout the grueling training process. "I thank everyone who supported me with sincerity; they were my true motivation. I hope this achievement goes some way in honoring the hard work my coach and those one who supported me."

Roberto Piazza focused on strategy rather than players

TEHRAN - Roberto Piazza has made a notable call in shaping Team Melli's preparations for the road ahead, leaving Amin Esmailnezhad out of the current squad. The powerful opposite, one of Iran's most recognizable names in recent years, has reportedly been ruled out because he is not yet fully prepared to join the team's camp.

The decision comes as Iran gear up for an important training phase in Turkey, where the national team will begin their buildup toward the 2026 Volleyball Nations League. With the VNL still some time away, the coaching staff appears focused on conditioning, rhythm, and long-term readiness rather than forcing players into the fold before they are fully fit or sharp.

Esmailnezhad's omission is sure to attract attention, given his reputation as one of Team Melli's most iconic attacking weapons. His absence leaves a gap in the opposite position, but it also reflects Piazza's intention to manage the squad carefully and avoid unnecessary risks at this stage. For a team aiming to strengthen their structure and competitiveness, the camp in Turkey will provide a valuable

environment to assess options, build cohesion, and test combinations.

Iran's upcoming training camp will likely serve as a foundation for the months ahead, with the staff looking to monitor players' physical conditions and tactical understanding. As the team prepare for the demands of the VNL, every decision in this phase carries weight, especially when it comes to balancing star power with readiness.

For now, the message is clear: Team Melli are entering a new cycle with a cautious but purposeful approach, and Piazza is prioritizing those who are fully prepared to take part in the journey. Esmailnezhad's return may still come later, but this time, Iran will move forward without one of their biggest names.

Iran's Spider-Man eyes historic golden hat-trick

TEHRAN - Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation (IMSCF) has set its sights on Nagoya 2026 with a streamlined but ambitious lineup, as federation president Reza Zarei confirmed that just two athletes — one man and one woman — will represent the country at the Games.

Speaking after the technical meeting for Iran's Asian Games preparations, Zarei highlighted Iran's strongest medal hopes in speed climbing and bouldering. Veteran star Reza Alipour, already a two-time Asian Games gold medalist from Jakarta and Hangzhou, has been selected as the men's representative after maintaining a clear edge over his domestic rivals in terms of record and performance.

On the women's side, Sarina Ghafari has earned the spot in bouldering following an impressive international rise. Ghafari captured two gold medals at the 2024 Asian Championships and added a silver medal at the Youth World Championships, making her the federation's top choice among female climbers for the continental event.

Zarei admitted that the federation had hoped to send more athletes, but the final decision was shaped by the committee's policy, which limits the squad to only two climbers. Even so, confidence remains high that both selected athletes can peak at the right time and deliver strong results when Iran heads to Japan in early October.

Preparation is already underway. Ghafari is currently training in France at the national climbing camp, while Alipour continues his training program at Kabkanian Stadium in Tehran. His camp will remain ongoing until competition time, with officials expecting him to return in even sharper form.

With two-time champion Alipour chasing a remarkable third straight Asian Games gold, Iran's climbing team enters Nagoya with real medal ambitions and a clear mission: make history once again.

Iran volleyball team to hold camp in Turkey

TEHRAN - The Iranian men's national volleyball team will travel to Turkey ahead of the 2026 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) campaign.

Team Melli and coaching staff will leave Tehran for Istanbul before continuing on to São Paulo, Brazil. The team have scheduled a one-week training camp in Brazil, including two friendly matches against the Brazilian national team at the invitation of the Brazilian Volleyball Federation.

Iran's group-stage schedule for the 2026 VNL (men's division) runs from June 10 to July 19. The team will face opponents across three host nations:

The two friendlies against Brazil on home soil should give Iran valuable preparation time before the VNL gets underway. With a tough opening draw that includes the host nation and South American rivals Argentina, Iran will need to hit the ground running in Brasilia.

Transfer of trade corridors from south to north; Iran's new trade map unveiled

TEHRAN- The comprehensive plan to change the country's trade corridors, aimed at countering the economic siege and gradually shifting trade from southern ports to northern ports and land borders, has entered the implementation phase.

According to IRNA citing the Ministry of Economy, following the recent imposed war and the intensification of the economic siege – especially the closure of southern waterways by the United States – the comprehensive plan to change the country's trade corridors is being operationally implemented with the goal of replacing imports and managing siege conditions.

One of the most important measures taken since the start of the Ramadan War has been removing obstacles related to the clearance and transfer of goods from customs sites. These policies have reduced the clearance time for imports of essential goods from about 17 days to 9 days.

According to the Deputy for Economic Policy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, following the ministry's series of "360 Monitoring" reports, a comprehensive diagnosis of the status of essential goods imports during the war period has been conducted, which shows a significant decrease in the volume of these goods being unloaded at the country's entry points.

After the results of the reports were announced to officials and simultaneously with the beginning of the blockade of southern waterways, specialized working groups have been formed in vital areas including health-related items, essential goods, and inputs for industrial production. The main objectives of these working groups are: determining a replacement import map for vital goods, identifying import capacity from each route and country, enumerating substitution limitations in short-term, medium-term, and long-term horizons, determining the requirements for achieving goals, and facilitating imports through new corridors.

A similar approach is also being pursued for export procedures. A package of necessary measures to maintain the country's main export markets, with an emphasis on supporting damaged production units, is in the final stages of preparation and approval.

Decentralization and delegation of authority to provinces

One of the key axes of the plan is decentralization and delegation of authority to provincial working groups. The program to transfer corridors from southern ports to northern ports and land borders is being pursued partly at the national level by the national working group and partly by provincial working groups chaired by governors. Within this framework, coordinated border management and the removal of border procedure obstacles have been emphasized.

Analysis of logistical capacities of alternative corridors

Actions in determining alternative corridors have mainly focused on the import of essential goods, and three main constraints have been considered: the supply of goods by the counterpart country, the logistical capacity of neighboring or transit countries, and the capacity of entry points at land borders (rail and road) and northern ports of the country.

Inter-agency convergence and the new trade map

In this regard, numerous expert meetings have been held with relevant organizations and traders. Also, the ministries of Transport and Urban Development, Agriculture, Industry, Mining and Trade, the Planning and Budget Organization, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have held numerous meetings at the levels of experts, deputies, and ministers, and have formulated the country's new trade map based on available borders and entry points.

Customs transformation and through transportation of goods

To reduce border traffic and increase trade volume, the implementation of a "through transportation" mechanism is on the agenda of customs offices. Accordingly, the border



will merely be a point of passage for goods; imported goods can be declared before arrival, and exported goods are declared from customs offices inside the country. This change will reduce the accumulation of goods at customs.

Economic incentives for private sector

In order to satisfy traders and entrepreneurs, incentives in the form of discounts on duties, customs fees, and other supports have been considered.

This plan is currently in the operational implementation phase, and coordinated national and provincial efforts to transfer corridors and stabilize the country's trade continue.

Meanwhile, President Pezeshkian emphasizing the need to maintain market stability and prevent price volatility, has ordered the acceleration of activating alternative import routes and maximum use of neighboring countries' capacities.

During a meeting, the latest status of supply and import of essential goods, medicine, and needed inputs, considering restrictions imposed on some southern routes, was carefully reviewed, and executive bodies presented reports on actions taken to manage the situation and create alternative routes.

According to a report from the ministers, as a result of negotiations and coordination with neighboring countries, a significant capacity of land border crossings and alternative transport routes has been activated and strengthened to facilitate and increase imports of goods, and the process of importing essential goods into the country is being continuously pursued.

At the meeting, the President, stressing the need for intelligent market management and preventing any price volatility, tasked the Ministry of Agriculture with minimizing the possible effects of restrictions on some entry points on the prices of essential goods and medicine through careful, continuous, and forward-looking planning.

The President also emphasized the need to maximize the use of the country's northern ports, develop alternative trade corridors, and utilize the capacity of neighboring countries – including Pakistan, Russia, and Azerbaijan – for supplying and importing certain needed items, and called for accelerating the implementation of relevant agreements in this area.

Pezeshkian also stressed the need to guide and coordinate private sector actors and stakeholders in using alternative transport and supply routes, and called for maximum synergy between the government and the private sector in managing the current situation.

During the meeting, the feasibility of importing medicine and certain critical items from China via rail routes was examined, and the need to strengthen multimodal transport infrastructure and increase the resilience of the country's supply chain was emphasized.

In another part of his remarks, the President emphasized the need for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to further activate the country's economic diplomacy capacity, stating: "All political, economic, and regional capacities of the country must be employed to facilitate the purchase, transport, customs clearance, and entry of essential goods and medicine so that no interruption occurs in meeting the people's needs."

Pezeshkian also made clear that if necessary, he would personally negotiate with the leaders of neighboring countries and regional partners to remove any potential obstacles to the supply and transport of essential goods and medicine as quickly as possible.

Iran war costs US households nearly \$450 in extra fuel expenses

TEHRAN – American households have paid nearly \$450 more on energy-related expenses since the outbreak of the Iran war, according to a Moody's Analytics analysis shared exclusively with CNBC.

The average household has shelled out an additional \$447.19 on fuel since the conflict began on Feb. 28, data from the research firm shows. That has cost U.S. consumers nearly \$60 billion so far amid surging gasoline and airline prices, CNBC reported.

Roughly half of the increased spending is due to higher gasoline prices. The average price of unleaded fuel stood at about \$4.39 per gallon on Friday, up



more than 47% since the start of March, according to AAA. Diesel prices have jumped roughly 47% as well, resulting in more than

\$20 billion in additional expenses for consumers who rely on diesel for delivery trucks and boats. Airline fares climbed more than 20%

in April compared with a year ago, federal data shows.

The Moody's data underscores the economic pain Americans are feeling as the conflict nears its three-month mark. Higher energy costs could force consumers to dip into savings and rely more on debt.

The nearly \$450 in extra energy spending has already erased the boost of \$384 per household from bigger tax returns under President Trump's "big, beautiful bill," according to Moody's. Goldman Sachs expects higher energy prices to erode consumers' purchasing power through the remainder of 2026, the bank told CNBC.

Analysts raise oil forecasts as energy flows slow down



Brent and WTI are at four-year highs of more than \$126.41 a barrel and \$119.8 a barrel respectively, since the war began. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz caused sweeping disruptions in energy supplies. Prices remain below 2008 record highs of more than \$147 per barrel.

"It is unlikely that prices will reach new records in this year," Surabhi Menon, EIU India, said that even though prices are forecast to continue increasing until July this year, the increase will only be marginal compared to current high levels.

This is based upon the assumption that war in Iran will remain in the current state (with the Strait of Hormuz shut and a ceasefire) until the end of July at the very least. Kpler data showed that the monthly crude oil exports of the West Asia region, which is the largest oil exporting area in the world, dropped to less than half their previous level, at about 8.8 million barrels a day, since March.

Thomas Wybierek is an analyst with NORD/LB. He said that the disruptions will last longer than expected.

Even if a short-term ceasefire is reached or a type of peace contract is signed, the amount of oil and gas delivered by sea will not be the same in 2026.

Analysts polled predict that the global oil market will face a significant supply deficit by 2026. Estimates range from 500,000 to eight million bpd. In May, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries forecast a 1.17 million bpd increase in the global oil demand in 2026. This is down from the 1.38 million bpd previously expected. The U.S. Energy Information Administration also predicted a decline in demand of about 420,000 bpd.

"The drag on demand is increasing due to weaker macro-conditions. The consumption is being impacted by higher prices, weaker trade flows and GDP downgrades. The conflict has the effect of tightening up supply and slowing down demand growth," Crisil analysts said.

Analysts expect a rise in non-OPEC oil production, as inventories are expected to be reduced. This will keep global stock levels under pressure. Four sources have said that the seven leading OPEC+ countries are likely to agree on a modest increase in July production when they meet this week.

Tobias Keller is an analyst at UniCredit. He said: "The constraint that has to be met by the government is not quotas, but rather the inability of moving incremental barrels across Hormuz. This means that output policy will remain largely symbolic, while exports are still impaired."

Path of global energy investment is changing

TEHRAN – Global investment in natural gas projects is set to rise by more than 10% this year to \$330 billion, its highest level in 10 years, while upstream oil spending declines for a third straight year, the International Energy Agency said in a report.

As global energy markets remain disrupted by the Iran war, which has halted tanker traffic through the Natural gas spending and caused production stoppages across the West Asia, companies are accelerating investment in other geographies and boosting spending on renewables, LNG and coal to shore up supply security.

"We are already seeing intensified efforts by both producer and consumer countries to diversify trade routes and energy sources," IEA Director Fatih Birol said in a statement.

In its report on global investments in 2026, the International



Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that despite supply disruptions from the West Asia caused by the war against Iran, energy sector investments will rise by 5% in 2026 to reach \$3.4 trillion.

According to the report, \$2.2 trillion will be allocated to renewable energy, energy storage, electricity grids, and low-emission fuels.

The agency states that investment in oil supply will fall below \$500 billion this year.

The IEA also notes that despite growth in natural gas production due to U.S. LNG projects, the current crisis stemming from West Asia tensions has made Asian importers cautious about relying on gas.

The report adds that coal investments in 2026, driven by Chi-

na and India, will reach \$180 billion—the highest level in 14 years.

According to the report, \$80 billion in nuclear energy investments this year (2026) will once again revive the industry.

The IEA also forecasts that West Asia oil and gas investments will decline by 1% in 2026.

Damage, reduced revenues, and production halts caused by the West Asia war are lowering the region's ability to invest this year.

However, upstream investments in regions such as Africa, Central America, and South America will increase by more than 10% in 2026, driven by accelerated ongoing projects.

Investors remain hesitant about a full shift in investment paths due to uncertainty over how long the supply disruptions from West Asia producers will last.

'Iran's transit future lies in route diversification'

TEHRAN- The Vice Chairman of the Energy Committee of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing the need to utilize the capacities of the Caspian Sea and the northern regions of the country, stated that northern routes cannot fully replace southern corridors under current conditions, but the simultaneous development of northern and southern corridors and the diversification of transit routes is a necessary strategy for the future of Iran's trade and transportation.

As the President recently issued an order to develop alternative trade corridors through northern ports, the question now is: to what extent do northern ports have the capacity for such substitution, and what requirements are essential for this new policy? In this regard, Hamidreza Salehi, Vice Chairman of the Energy Committee of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, told ISNA: The issue of war and sanctions exists, but we still had



to use the capacities of the Caspian Sea and the northern region. Today we are using this capacity, which is very good.

He added: Northern ports can, under certain conditions, replace the south and compensate for its routes. Although we recommend using the northern route, it cannot fully replace the south at the moment. In the long term, we must look at using all the capacities of the south and north and define a strategic

framework for the region. This should not remain just talk.

Salehi stated: The government is working on this, but first we need to identify how much capacity, capability, and demand there is. Unfortunately, no work has been done on these issues for years. Since the government lacks resources, we need to bring in investors, and this requires economic security and creating confidence for investors.

The Vice Chairman of the Energy Committee of the Iran Chamber of Commerce emphasized: Unfortunately, current laws and procedures do not support investment. It seems a specific project should be defined for this matter. Bodies such as the Planning and Budget Organization, the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, and other institutions must provide a mechanism and, by offering incentives, prepare the private sector to invest in building infrastructure.

Hezbollah inflicts more casualties on Israeli troops

From page 1 ▶ Despite months of attacks in southern Lebanon to diminish Hezbollah's threat to northern settlements, Hezbollah projectiles continue to land in these areas. The regime's home front command has announced restrictions on education, work, and public gatherings in the Upper Galilee, which have been tightened following the deterioration of the security situation.

These developments come amid ongoing operations carried out by the Lebanese resistance forces in response to the continuing U.S.-backed assault on Lebanon, particularly in the country's south and east, which has resulted in thousands of casualties and injuries among civilians.

Hezbollah announced that it had targeted an IOF Merkava tank in the town of Al-Bayyada with a guided missile, confirming a direct hit.

In separate statements, the resistance movement revealed that it had attacked a concentration of IOF military vehicles and troops in the town of Al-Bayyada with a rocket barrage.

It announced a rocket attack against a gathering of IOF vehicles and soldiers on the eastern outskirts of the town of Yahmar Al-Shaqif. A Hezbollah rocket barrage struck IOF infrastructure in the Krayot area north of Haifa. Resistance fighters targeted an IOF unit on the eastern outskirts of Yohmor Al-Shaqif town with an Ababil loitering glider. The Lebanese resistance fighters also struck IOF infrastructure in the Nahariya settlement with a rocket barrage.

Israel's channel i24NEWS reported that shelling from Lebanon was continuing and that "for the first time in three weeks, rockets have been launched toward Nahariya."

"In response to the enemy's attacks on villages in southern Lebanon, which resulted in the martyrdom of civilians and injuries among others, resistance fighters targeted a gathering of enemy army soldiers at a helicopter landing pad in the Shlomi settlement with a loitering drone," another statement by Hezbollah's military media stated.

In a separate military opera-



tion, Hezbollah targeted a gathering of IOF vehicles and soldiers in Al-Bayyada town with a rocket barrage. Another gathering in the same town was subject to a second rocket barrage. Another Merkava tank in Al-Bayyada town was struck with a guided missile.

Earlier, the Lebanese resistance movement announced another series of operations against IOF military positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles, while also targeting settlements in northern occupied Palestine.

The resistance front also reported an ambush against an IOF unit that attempted to advance toward the outskirts of the town of Dibbin. Resistance fighters detonated an explosive device against the IOF unit before engaging in two separate clashes using light and medium weapons, ultimately forcing the troops to withdraw.

Meanwhile, Hebrew media reported what they described as "difficult incidents" along the border with Lebanon, indicating that there were several more fatalities and injuries among the IOF.

The occupation regime is attempting to push deeper into southern Lebanon and has released photographs of its troops near Beaufort Castle, seeking to present the image that the IOF has cemented its occupation near the Litani River.

These images were accompanied by statements from senior Zionist officials, including Netanyahu, who have been widely accused of being serial-liars and spreading disinformation across multiple fronts, from Gaza to Lebanon and Iran. However, there is no verified video evidence showing a sustained

IOF presence in the area. While the Zionist regime continues its public relations efforts, it is also aware that maintaining positions in southern Lebanon for more than a few hours carries the risk of more casualties.

A deeper IOF ground invasion into southern Lebanon creates conditions that favor Hezbollah's strategic objectives, even if the resistance movement suffers territorial losses. Ground warfare exposes the IOF to the type of conflict in which Hezbollah has spent decades preparing to operate.

Unlike indiscriminate air raids, which largely leverage the occupation regime's technological superiority, a ground offensive requires troops to move through contested territory, secure positions, and maintain supply lines. This places the regime's troops in closer proximity to Hezbollah resistance fighters and increases the risk of casualties. For Hezbollah, inflicting losses on IOF ground forces is strategically valuable because it raises the human, political, and military costs of the invasion.

Southern Lebanon's geography further strengthens Hezbollah's position. The region consists of rugged hills, valleys, villages, and urbanized areas that can complicate military maneuvering. Hezbollah has operated throughout this environment for decades and possesses extensive familiarity with local terrain, road networks, and key defensive positions.

Because the resistance movement knows the area extremely well, it is using the landscape and local infrastructure to make it harder for occupation forces to move forward, while creating more opportunities to resist and fight back.

A prolonged IOF ground invasion could also shift the conflict from one centered on the regime's firepower to one focused on endurance. In Lebanon's asymmetric warfare, Hezbollah often seeks not to defeat the regime's military outright but to deny it a quick and decisive victory.

Hezbollah can continue functioning while the IOF faces persistent resistance and casualties; the Lebanese resistance movement has and continues to successfully withstand a superior military power.

The longer the IOF ground invasion continues, the greater the potential strain on the regime's resources and public support. Sustained deployments, operational costs, and battlefield losses increase domestic pressure on political leaders and influence public perceptions of the aggression.

By prolonging the aggression, the Zionist regime gives Hezbollah more time to increase pressure on the enemy's government and further complicates the IOF's efforts to achieve its stated objective of destroying the resistance movement. Rather than securing a decisive victory, the IOF increasingly turns to bombardments of towns, villages, and other civilian sites in an attempt to pressure Hezbollah. The regime has repeatedly relied on war crimes in both Gaza and Lebanon, reflecting an inability to defeat resistance forces through conventional military means.

Additionally, a deeper invasion has allowed Hezbollah to showcase organizational resilience by maintaining command structures, continuing operations, and preserving combat effectiveness under heavy military pressure to reinforce its formidable durability and resistance. Even if territorial control changes temporarily, the ability to remain active and continue resisting the U.S.-backed regime is a strategic victory.

Hezbollah benefits because it creates an environment where familiarity with the terrain, defensive preparation, and the ability to impose costs on the IOF become increasingly important factors that will shape the outcome of the aggression.

Dadi Barnea's strategic suicide and Mossad's unwitting gifts that strengthened Iran

From page 1 ▶ Mossad spent vast fortunes to secure fleeting headlines with high-profile operations. Yet, these actions served as a harsh evolutionary pressure and functioned as operational vaccines, compelling Iran's security apparatus to seal its vulnerabilities and forge a sophisticated counter-intelligence shield.

Barnea's final briefing to the Knesset should be a single PowerPoint slide featuring the word: Oops.

The martyrdom paradox and the quadcopter comedy in Isfahan

Mossad loves to mythologize the 2020 assassination of nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhriadeh as the absolute pinnacle of ghost-like tradecraft. The truth is different.

Fakhriadeh was not outsmarted by elite spies; he was martyred because he actively resisted the suffocating operational security protocols imposed by his own protection detail. By stubbornly insisting on driving his own vehicle and maintaining predictable transit routes, he essentially handed opportunistic assassins the coordinates.

The martyr's blood became an immediate, mandatory software update for the entire Iranian command structure.

Nothing encapsulates the pathetic reality of modern Mossad quite like the highly publicized sabotage attempt on the Isfahan aviation facility. The grand design involved a swarm of micro-UAVs crippling drone production. Instead, it became prime-time comedy.

The facility's layered air defense grids and localized electronic jamming systems simply swallowed the quadcopters whole.

Worse yet, the IRGC Intelligence Organization traced the cryptocurrency payments, mapped the command chain, and rolled up the entire local network within a week.

The incident stripped the veneer of mystique off Mossad's kinetic branches, Caesarea and Kidon. They are not elite operatives ghosting through the shadows. They are desperate handlers wiring digital coins to expendable, low-level thugs who fold the second an interrogator clears his throat.

Digital sandboxes and burned blueprints

Additionally, the digital theater has dissolved into an operational sandbox. Enter the pro-Palestine Handala cyber-collective, whose high-profile network breaches did less to permanently cripple infrastructure and more to expose internal data vulnerabilities to the world.

The structural exposure laid bare the mechanisms of Tzamarot (Treetops), an Israeli influence branch tasked with orchestrating coordinated media narratives, localized bot networks, and synthetic digital personas aimed at stoking internal friction.

However, these digital influence footprints were routinely identified by defensive cyber commands. Counter-intelligence units frequently kept the fraudulent networks active within isolated, controlled sandboxes, while also successfully managing the digital battlefield from within.

This calculated delay drained millions from foreign operational budgets while transforming the adversary's own psychological warfare apparatus into a conduit for reverse-fed disinformation to the enemy's main base.

'Zagros Dawn' and other hallucinations

An incredibly absurd revelation from the recent leaks was "Zagros Dawn." Mossad's delusional fantasy of an armed march on Tehran led by Kurdish terror groups in Iraq in just days.

It was little more than occupational therapy for failing case officers, built on exaggerated reports from paid informants peddling Kurdish terrorist fan-fiction.

The plans proved a gift for Iran. They prompted security forces to intensify operations against Kurdish terrorist groups in the northwest, decisively tilting the regional security dynamic in Tehran's favor.

This fits the pattern of Barnea's failures. During the 12-day war, attacks on Evin Prison (meant to spark a breakout) and the IRIB headquarters both collapsed. Instead of weakening the government, they killed civilians, saw some prisoners who openly op-



posed the government step in to assist the prison guards, and turned IRIB presenter Sahar Emami into a national hero, further steeling Iranian resolve.

Bureaucratic bloodbaths and the Hayom PR obituary

Intelligence professionals recognized the chaotic May 28 disclosures in the Adelson-owned Israel Hayom for what they are: an obituary for Barnea's tenure and a frantic bureaucratic knife-fight.

Facing the exit in disgrace, Barnea's faction leaked the existence of the Agaf Shamir subversion unit to a friendly outlet just to justify their bloated budgets.

Creating an entirely new department for subversion at a late stage is a glaring admission that most of your traditional human intelligence networks have been systematically liquidated by Iranian intelligence. Because Mossad can no longer physically penetrate Iran, they pivoted to social media psyops.

Furthermore, the leaks handed Tehran a gift-wrapped cheat sheet confirming its earlier intelligence assessments. They delegitimized the Mossad-backed stooges masquerading as the "Iranian opposition" even more while providing Iranian security forces and prosecutors with an airtight ledger of evidence to dismantle the remaining networks for good.

Meanwhile, AMAN (military intelligence) realists have been laughing at the Gilot viper pit, dismissing Barnea's regime-change maximalism as a clinical delusion that only drained resources and blinded Israel to the real tactical threats on its borders.

The open ledger

While the 78-year-old illegitimate settler colonial hellhole exhausts itself, leaking desperate coping mechanisms to the press, the millennia-old Iranian civilization operates on generational timelines.

Let those whose hands are stained with the blood of Iranian entertain fantasies of peaceful retirement. They are gravely mistaken. Iran does not forgive, and the ledger of blood stays wide open until every debt is paid.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, made the mechanics of this relentless pursuit terrifyingly clear in his first public message: "I assure everyone that we will not abandon the revenge for the blood of your martyrs. The revenge we have in mind is not only for the martyrdom of the great leader of the Revolution; rather, every member of the nation has a file for revenge. A limited portion of this revenge has materialized, but until it is fully complete, this file will remain atop all other files, and we will be especially sensitive regarding the blood of our infants and children."

For those who mistake patience for weakness, history offers a chilling reality check. A 2009 U.S. diplomatic cable published by WikiLeaks laid bare the cold, methodical efficiency of Iranian memory, detailing the alleged report that Tehran systematically hunted down and eliminated over 180 former Iraqi Air Force pilots who had bombed Iranian cities during the 1980s.

The alleged assassinations happened decades after the war had ended.

Dadi Barnea and his psychotic operatives cannot wash the blood of Iranian martyrs from their hands. The tactical hits meant to terrorize and destroy instead taught Iran how to be unbreakable.

The vaccine has been administered, the fortress is locked down, and the slow, merciless blade of Iranian justice is already sharpening, ready to collect with compound interest.

Revelation: Truce in Gaza is a 'joke'

'Shooting Palestinian children while playing is documented'

From page 1 ▶ The soldiers' accounts are a rare glimpse into what's happened in the Israeli-controlled part of Gaza since the deal went into effect seven months ago. The soldiers — reservists deployed throughout Gaza between October and January who've since returned — spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared being ostracized over their comments. They said they were speaking out because they were angered and saddened by what they saw.

AP has documented shootings of Palestinian civilians, including children playing, close to the yellow line. And the soldiers said it felt like the killings never stopped amid the tenuous deal.

"To call it a ceasefire is a joke," one soldier told AP.

When the ceasefire went into effect, Israel withdrew troops to a buffer zone demarcated by a yellow line, giving it control of just over half the strip. Under the agreement, Israeli forces are meant to complete a fuller withdrawal, though there's no timeline for that. The U.S.-backed diplomat overseeing the truce says progress is deadlocked over the central sticking point of disarming Hamas, upon which all other issues — including Israeli withdrawals and reconstruction — hinge.

In the meantime, Israel has expanded control over additional territory in Gaza.

The line's exact location has been ambiguous and sometimes invisible. In some places, it's marked with yellow blocks and barrels;

in others, it at times hasn't been indicated at all.

The Israeli military invited AP this week to see a section of the yellow line in central Gaza, near the Maghazi refugee camp. The line there was visible, demarcated by a wide dirt path and small yellow markings. To the east was a desolate stretch of open space leading to a heavily fortified Israeli military post about 500 meters away.

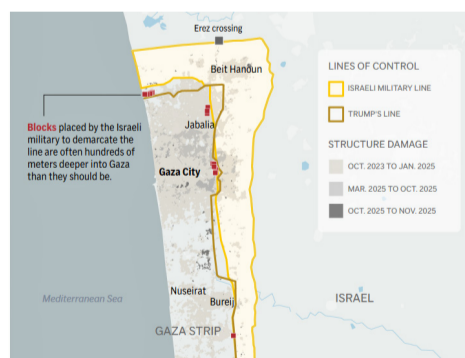
Since the ceasefire went into effect, more than 900 people have been killed in Gaza — dozens of those close to or over the yellow line, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry doesn't say how many are militants, but unarmed men and children have been among the dead.

Israel's military has claimed most of the people killed crossing the line posed a threat to troops. But soldiers who spoke to AP and Breaking the Silence — the whistleblower group that has collected troops' testimonies throughout the war — say that at times soldiers were too far away, acting too quickly and under too much pressure to tell.

Israel's army told AP it doesn't target civilians solely for approaching the line and that its rules of engagement require the use of warnings before using force. In situations involving an immediate threat, forces are authorized to act, it said.

'Troops must act fast, with information sometimes based on a hunch'

It was the combat soldier's second tour in



Gaza when the ceasefire began. He said he was posted several hundred meters from the yellow line and saw several people trying to cross it killed by soldiers.

Soldiers shooting or ordering drone strikes don't always know who's crossing the line, he said. Although soldiers must provide coordinates and get approval from superiors before striking, it's hard to give exact information as people are moving, he said. He described soldiers calling in coordinates based on a hunch or the last place they saw someone.

Breaking the Silence says the general rules of engagement are extremely permissive, especially for those crossing the line, with orders in many areas being "shoot to kill." Executive director Nadav Weiman, a veteran who served in Gaza but not in this war, said distance from the target and some trigger-happy soldiers can be problematic.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Ancient tombstone motifs inspire new designs for textiles and handicrafts

TEHRAN – Researchers and artists studying the carved motifs of an ancient cemetery near Qale-Shadab mountain, southwestern Iran, say the unique designs found on centuries-old tombstones could provide inspiration for contemporary textile design, handicrafts and local cultural industries.

The initiative, centered on the historical cemetery located in Khuzestan province's Shahiyun district, forms part of broader efforts to document, preserve and revitalize cultural heritage while creating new economic opportunities for local communities.

According to Bahar Sargazi, a researcher and graphic artist involved in the project, interest in the cemetery dates back more than a decade.

"In 2011, while collecting material for a tourism guidebook on Khuzestan, we traveled to the Shahiyun region and encountered a cemetery beside Qale-Shadab that possessed distinctive and unusual characteristics," Sargazi said.

Five years later, Sargazi joined researchers Arash Nouraqaei, Mojtaba Gahestouni, Noushin Kazemi and Poursan Zangeneh to form a research team dedicated to studying the funerary motifs found throughout the cemetery. The project was supported by local researcher Saman Faraji.

The team's objectives extended beyond documentation. Researchers sought to create a framework for protecting the cemetery while exploring ways to incorporate its visual heritage into local handicrafts and tourism-related products.

"Our goal was not only to study and record the carvings but also to create opportunities for their practical use," Sargazi said. "We considered applying these motifs to local Kapu baskets, woven products, everyday items, publications, visual media and branded handicrafts linked to regional identity."

The research process began with a comprehensive photographic and video survey of every grave in the cemetery. Tombstones featuring decorative carvings were then identified, catalogued and digitally reconstructed.

The study revealed a wide variety of motifs, including human figures, animals, plants and representations of tools and everyday objects. Researchers believe the imagery provides valuable insight into the social and cultural history of the region.

Following the documentation phase, the team collaborated with local artisans to test the designs in contemporary craft production.

Potters and traditional Kapu weavers from the nearby village of Pamenar were invited to incorporate the motifs into their work. While adapting the unfamiliar designs initially presented challenges, artisans gradually began applying them to products including cups, magnets, decorative vessels and souvenir items.

Sargazi said the potential uses of the motifs extend far beyond pottery and baskets.

"These designs are highly creative and unique," she said. "In addition to local handicrafts, they have strong potential for use in textile design and other artistic and commercial fields."

Researchers believe integrating historical motifs into modern products can help



strengthen cultural identity while generating new income streams for rural communities.

The project has also drawn attention to the broader cultural landscape surrounding Pamenar, a historic village located in the northern reaches of Dezful county.

Nestled amid the natural scenery of Khuzestan province, Pamenar has become increasingly recognized as a destination that combines cultural heritage, traditional lifestyles and community-based tourism. Local residents have played an active role in preserving the village's identity through handicraft production, heritage conservation and tourism initiatives.

Sargazi welcomed recent news that Pamenar has been included among villages being considered for international tourism recognition.

"The inclusion of Pamenar among candidate villages for global tourism recognition is very encouraging," she said. "The village possesses exceptional assets in the fields of nature, cultural heritage, handicrafts and traditional ways of life."

She said international recognition could attract greater attention to the village's cultural and historical resources while supporting tourism development and local economic growth.

According to Sargazi, Pamenar represents more than a scenic destination. Its cultural traditions, historical heritage and local artistic practices form an integrated identity that deserves wider recognition.

Experts involved in the cemetery project say initiatives linking heritage preservation with contemporary design can help strengthen that identity while ensuring traditional knowledge remains relevant for future generations.

They argue that careful planning, community participation and institutional support will be essential for sustaining such efforts and maximizing their economic and cultural benefits.

Researchers hope that continued collaboration between heritage specialists, local artisans and tourism stakeholders will contribute both to the preservation of the cemetery's distinctive visual heritage and to the long-term development of communities in the region.

As interest in cultural tourism grows across Iran, projects such as the reuse of historical tombstone motifs may offer a model for how rural communities can transform local heritage into creative and sustainable economic opportunities while safeguarding their historical legacy.

Zobeiri: Guardian of the Persian Gulf's millennia-old heritage

By Sepehr Zarei, archaeologist

Until recently, few imagined human presence on Iran's Persian Gulf islands extended beyond the last millennium. But archaeological research has transformed this understanding. Excavations on Qeshm Island pushed settlement back nearly 5,000 years, while stone tools on Bam-e Qeshm hinted at an even older past. The discovery of Paleolithic sites on Hormuz Island—Chand-Derakht and Sang-e Ghorab—revealed that Middle Paleolithic populations lived there between 150,000 and 40,000 years ago, highlighting the Persian Gulf's role in early human migrations. Long before these scientific findings, Master Mohammad Zobeiri had already grasped this deep historical continuity, preserving it in the Deyrestan Anthropology Museum and his book *Ganz-e Babu*.

Zobeiri is one of Qeshm Island's most respected cultural figures. His wisdom is rooted in the living

heritage of the Persian Gulf. For years, his home has remained open to those drawn to the region's culture, offering generous hospitality infused with the spirit of the southern islands. While many tributes have honored his work, true preservation of his legacy lies in recognizing, applying, and continuing his knowledge—a responsibility for researchers, cultural administrators, and all who care for this land. Zobeiri's home has long been a gathering place for scholars, travelers, and admirers of southern Iranian culture.

Born 1949, in the village of Shib Deraz on Qeshm Island, Zobeiri received only a fourth-grade formal education in a traditional maktab school. Yet his restless curiosity drove him beyond these limits. As a youth, he traveled between the island, the southern Persian Gulf shores, and Oman's Al-Batinah coast—a centuries-old crossroads of trade and cultural exchange. A brief visit to relatives in



By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – The historical village of Riab in eastern Iran is emerging as a leading example of heritage preservation, sustainable tourism and community participation as it seeks international recognition through the United Nations Tourism (UN Tourism) Best Tourism Villages initiative.

Situated in Gonabad county of Khorasan Razavi province, Riab is known for its remarkably preserved earthen architecture, ancient qanat water system, and enduring cultural traditions. Officials and heritage experts say international recognition could strengthen efforts to protect the village's historical identity while promoting sustainable economic development.

Nestled in a desert landscape, the village presents a rare example of a living desert community where traditional architecture, water management systems and local customs remain deeply interconnected.

Visitors entering Riab encounter a cohesive urban landscape built almost entirely from mudbrick and clay. Its skyline is defined by traditional windcatchers, while narrow alleys, covered passageways known as Sabats and densely arranged buildings reflect centuries of adaptation to an arid environment.

According to heritage specialists, the village represents a sophisticated form of climate-responsive architecture developed long before the advent of modern sustainability concepts. The compact layout, however, helps minimize exposure to intense sunlight, while shaded passageways provide protection from heat, strong winds and other environmental challenges.

"The village is one of the most complete and well-preserved examples of desert architecture in eastern Iran," said Hamidreza Mahmoudi, head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Gonabad county.

He said local builders used indigenous materials and traditional knowledge to create structures capable of withstanding the region's harsh climatic conditions.

"The spatial organization of the village was designed to reduce direct exposure to the sun, while the Sabats provide both shade and structural resilience against earthquakes and seasonal winds," Mahmoudi said.

The architectural identity of Riab is inseparable from its relationship with water. The village developed around an ancient qanat system, now a UNESCO site, that channels groundwater through underground tunnels to support agriculture and

the UAE during the 1990s transformed his life: seeing an islander's home in Abu Dhabi preserving old objects and heirlooms left a deep impression. Years later, that experience inspired the creation of one of southern Iran's most important indigenous anthropology museums.

Zobeiri devoted nearly two decades to collecting and preserving Qeshm's material heritage, leading to the establishment of the Deyrestan Anthropology Museum in 2019. Today, the museum welcomes thousands of visitors annually. With authenticity and foresight, Zobeiri shaped this private museum, opening new horizons for engaging with Persian Gulf heritage. He embodies dignity, generosity, and selflessness—a living cultural treasure. Throughout the years, Zobeiri's writing has remained simple, sincere, and enduring. He collects words and idioms once part of everyday life on Qeshm but now vanishing from collective

daily life.

Heritage officials say the historical fabric of the settlement follows the natural slope of the land and the route of water flowing from the qanats. Traditional homes incorporated water chambers, underground access points and courtyard pools, integrating water directly into residential architecture.

This relationship between settlement planning and water management has made Riab one of the most valuable examples of sustainable desert living in Iran.

Among the village's most notable features is its connection to the UNESCO-listed Qasabeh Qanat, part of a broader water-management tradition that has sustained communities in the region for centuries. Local residents have also participated in restoration efforts involving a 19-kilometer underground water channel regarded as one of the longest qanat systems in Iran.

Officials say the community's involvement in preserving water infrastructure demonstrates the collective spirit that has characterized the village throughout its history.

Hadi Mohammadpour, a member of Iran's parliament representing Gonabad and Bajestan, described Riab as one of the most important tourism and heritage assets in the province.

"Razavi Khorasan, particularly its desert cities such as Gonabad and Bajestan, possesses valuable historical sites, qanats, caravanserais and historic villages that reflect the culture and civilization of earlier generations," he said.

According to Mohammadpour, Riab's ancient qanats and traditional urban fabric make it one of the most prominent tourist attractions in southern Razavi Khorasan.

He noted that the village was among the first locations in the province to establish traditional eco-lodges and cultural tourism centers in 2017 and 2018. The village has already received national heritage recognition and has attracted increasing attention from cultural authorities in recent years.

One of Riab's defining characteristics is the active role played by local residents in tourism development.

Villagers have established specialized working groups responsible for tourism policy planning, cultural content production, festivals and events, accommodation services and hospitality management. The model assigns clear responsibilities to residents and encourages participation at every stage of tourism planning and implementation.

Officials say this grassroots approach has helped ensure that tourism growth remains aligned with local values and community priorities.

"Riab is one of the few villages where a significant number of residents have shown strong interest in creating eco-lodges and recreational facilities," Mohammadpour said. "This level of participation is highly important for sustainable tourism development."

Heritage authorities regard community engagement as one of the strongest aspects of the village's candidacy for international recognition.

Mahmoudi said Riab meets key criteria associated with the UN Tourism Best Tourism Villages program, including protection of cultural resources, economic sustainability, environmental stewardship and community participation.

He described the village as a "living tourism destination" rather than a preserved monument, emphasizing that traditions, customs and local knowledge remain part of everyday life.

The village is also known for its intangible cultural heritage. Religious ceremonies, seasonal celebrations, local crafts and traditional forms of hospitality continue to be practiced by residents.

Among the customs that have survived are religious mourning rituals such as Nakh Gardani, as well as seasonal traditions including winter celebrations and pre-dawn community gatherings during the religious month of Ramadan.

Local handicrafts have also experienced a revival in recent years. Traditional textile production and kilim weaving have provided employment opportunities for younger residents while helping preserve cultural knowledge.

According to Mahmoudi, the village has become a successful example of bottom-up development, demonstrating how heritage preservation can generate economic opportunities for local communities.

The official also highlighted Riab's linguistic heritage, describing the local dialect as a repository of ancient Persian vocabulary. Specialized terminology related to irrigation systems and qanat management has survived in everyday speech, offering valuable insights into the region's historical relationship with water and agriculture.

Several historic landmarks contribute to Riab's cultural significance. These include its traditional water reservoir, congregational mosque, central fortress and eco-lodges.

Beyond architecture, heritage experts point to Riab's innovative environmental solutions as evidence of longstanding sustainable practices. Traditional cooling systems based on windcatchers, underground construction techniques and strategic tree planting along watercourses enabled residents to cope with extreme temperatures without relying on modern energy-intensive technologies.

Officials say these solutions are increasingly relevant as communities around the world seek environmentally sustainable approaches to development.

Despite its achievements, Riab faces a number of challenges. Climate change and prolonged drought represent the most serious threats to the village's future, according to heritage authorities. Reduced water availability could undermine the qanat system that has sustained the settlement for generations.

"Riab remains alive today, but its survival depends on the continuous flow of water and the protection of its water infrastructure against drought and climate change," Mahmoudi said.

He warned that damage to the village's qanat system could jeopardize both livelihoods and long-term habitation.

Officials have also expressed concern about incompatible modernization. New construction that does not respect traditional architectural forms could disrupt the village's visual harmony and alter its historic skyline.

Another challenge is maintaining cultural authenticity as tourism expands. Heritage experts caution that local traditions should remain genuine social practices rather than becoming performances designed solely for visitors.

To address these concerns, authorities have called for responsible tourism policies, educational initiatives and long-term planning aimed at balancing economic growth with cultural preservation.

Supporters of Riab's international nomination believe global recognition would provide an important framework for addressing these challenges while strengthening conservation efforts.

For a number of local residents and heritage advocates, who talked to the Tehran Times, the village represents more than a historical settlement. It is a living example of how traditional knowledge, community cooperation and sustainable resource management can contribute to contemporary development.

memories, words, and stories, even with only a few years of formal education. He is the living memory of Qeshm Island: a figure who, through indigenous wisdom and a spirit of dialogue, keeps Iran's cultural heritage raised along its southernmost maritime frontiers. Long before "safeguarding intangible heritage" became a global concern, Zobeiri had already chosen a life devoted to preservation—working through hardship and conviction to rescue the memory of the island.

The story of every land is shaped by devoted, reflective individuals. Zobeiri belongs to this lineage—a quiet fisherman who, amid the waves of time, gathers words, proverbs, stories, and melodies. What distinguishes him is his profound bond with the people and collective memory of the Persian Gulf. He belongs to a rare generation for whom culture is not merely an object of study, but a way of living.

Science ministry ready to resume teaching Persian Literature course in UPM

TEHRAN – Iran's scientific counselor in East Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, Alireza Tavakolpour, in a meeting with officials of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), has announced the science ministry's readiness to reopen the Persian Language and Literature course in UPM.

During the meeting, the two sides underlined the significance of recognizing the capacities of the universities of the two countries, and discussed ways to boost academic and research collaborations, ISNA reported.

The UPM officials elaborated on the university's capabilities in fields like agriculture, food industry, biotechnology, animal husbandry, artificial intelligence, and medical sciences, and proposed to promote collaborations in these sectors; the idea was welcomed by the Iranian side.

For his part, Tavakolpour referred to the current condition of the country and highlighted the need to support Iranian students in terms of financial and educational issues.

The official also expounded on the recent US-Israeli war's impacts on Iran's educational infrastructures, and called for international support to reconstruct laboratories, universities, and scientific centers destroyed in the war.

The two sides agreed to hold virtual meetings to foster scientific interactions, benefiting from the capacities of the Islamic World Science and Technology Monitoring and Citation (ISC) Institute.

Malaysia determined to enhance scientific co-op with Iran

On May 18, Malaysian Minister of Higher Education, Zambray Abdul Kadir, in a phone conversation with Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, said that Malaysia is determined to boost scientific ties with Iran, particularly in the higher education sector, with consultations and planning currently in progress.

The two sides explored the potential for developing scientific interactions and enhancing academic collaborations between the universities of the two countries, msrt.ir reported.

They also highlighted the need for the preservation of the scientific centers during wartime.



Referring to his trip to Tehran in 2023, Abdul Kadir said upon his return to the country, he had shared information on Iran's scientific capabilities and capacities with Malaysian universities.

The official also condemned the US-Israeli attacks, which targeted scientific centers and universities in Iran, underlining that "we must protect the scientific institutions. Regardless of any political dispute and war, scientific centers need to be safeguarded in times of conflict under the Geneva Convention."

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf highlighted that in proportion to the two nations' capacities and commonalities, the current educational, technological, and research cooperation needs to be expanded through conducting more joint research projects, and supporting research grants among universities and scientific centers of the two countries.

Developing ties between Iranian, Malaysian universities

On May 17, Tavakolpour, and scientific officials of the University of Malaya (UM) explored the opportunities to expand scientific and academic ties between Iranian universities and UM.

The meeting was attended by UM officials, including Zuliana Razali, the director of the international relations centre; Mohd Faizul Mohd Sabri, the deputy dean of research and innovation at the faculty of engineering; and Fazliana binti Ismail from the faculty of medicine.

During the meeting, Malaysian officials elaborated on the scientific and research capabilities of the UM as one of the oldest and best universities in Malaysia.

For his part, Tavakolpour expounded on Iran's perspectives on the expansion of science diplomacy, presenting the capacities of Iranian elites and scientists, and shared the research fields that are a top priority for the country.

The two sides agreed to follow up on strategic cooperation within a framework of a joint action plan.

In February, Tavakolpour met the Director for the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Center for Shaping Advanced and Professional Education (UKMSHAPE), Lohman Hakim Osman, in Malaysia, IRNA reported.

The meeting was centered around exploring the potential to develop scientific and research collaborations between the UKM and the Iranian universities.

During the meeting, Tavakolpour proposed allocating scholarships to post-graduate students, organizing joint meetings, holding dual/joint degree courses, signing a memorandum of understanding with top Iranian universities, conducting collaborative research projects, and exchanging professors and students.

For his part, Hakim Osman highlighted the UKM international rankings and capacities, announcing the university's readiness to attract more Iranian Students, saying that 90 Iranian students are majoring in the university now.

Iran wins WHO World No Tobacco Day award

TEHRAN – Abdolhossein Khosropanah, Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution and Behzad Valizadeh, former head of National Tobacco Control Secretariat have received the World Health Organization (WHO) for their outstanding contributions to tobacco control.

Each year, the WHO present the award to individuals and organizations from each of the six WHO regions.

According to the WHO, the Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution has won the award for the strategic shift in the management of tobacco control in Iran, in which the issue of combating tobacco has been transformed from a purely therapeutic issue to a priority in the country's 'cultural engineering map'.

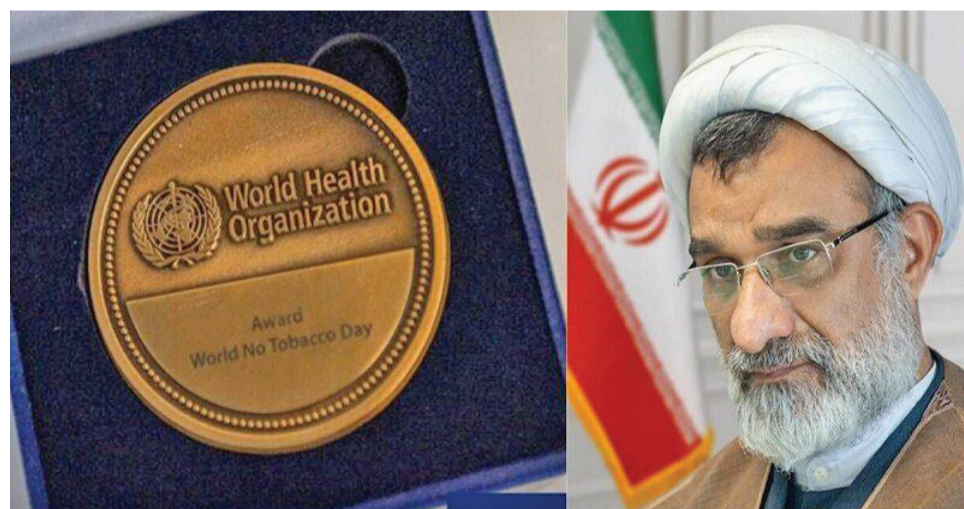
What has drawn special attention from international evaluators is the approval and issuance of a comprehensive document titled 'Issues, national tobacco control strategies and measures, organizational roles and division of labor to prevent tobacco use in the country'.

The official efforts involved division of labor among organizations, which is assigning tasks to the ministries of education, science, and culture, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, to protect the young generation, and focusing on cultural prevention, and shifting the focus of tobacco control efforts to educational environments to foil the misleading appeal of emerging products, such as e-cigarettes.

Implementing mechanisms to monitor and oversee the council's approvals in the social health sector to help mitigate the influence of indirect tobacco advertising in cultural products is among other measures taken by the official.

Observed on May 31 annually, World No Tobacco Day aims to raise awareness of the threats of tobacco use and the tactics used by the tobacco industry, and to promote effective measures to end nicotine and tobacco addiction.

Themed 'unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction', the day highlights how the tobacco and nicotine industry continues to repackage and rebrand its products to attract a new generation – particularly children and adolescents – while attempting to evade stronger tobacco control measures worldwide.



In light of decades of progress in reducing tobacco use, the tobacco industry's tactics remain relentless.

Companies are aggressively marketing new and emerging nicotine products such as e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches, and synthetic nicotine devices – often disguised as "innovation" – to sustain addiction and recruit new users. These strategies threaten to reverse hard-won gains in tobacco control and public health.

Use of nicotine products such as e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches is increasing rapidly among youth.

Startling new data reveal the scale of the crisis: at least 40 million children aged 13–15 globally report current use of at least one tobacco product. Of these, 20 million smoke cigarettes and 10 million use smokeless (oral/nasal) tobacco. Also, at least 15 million adolescents aged 13–15 years are already using e-cigarettes, and in countries with data, children are on average nine times more likely than adults to vape, WHO website reported.

Despite these concerning trends, significant policy gaps remain. World Health Organization's data for 2024 show that only 7 countries in the Region ban all e-cigarette flavours, while 5 do not apply age restrictions on sales. Eight countries have no restrictions on advertising, promotion and sponsorship; 19 have partial bans; and 10 do not regulate e-cigarette use in public places. These gaps leave young people particularly vulnerable to targeted marketing and product designs intended to sustain nicotine addiction.

Building on the momentum of the 2025 campaign, World No Tobacco Day 2026 reaf-

firms the WHO's commitment to exposing the evolving strategies of the tobacco and nicotine industry and to advancing policies that protect young people and communities from addiction.

This year's campaign aims to expose the industry's strategies – including the use of synthetic nicotine, nicotine salts and analogues designed to enhance addiction potential while being marketed as innovative or even less harmful; promote stronger policy action – through bans on flavours, advertising and promotion (including digital and social media), and through stricter regulation of packaging and product design that increase youth appeal; and empower youth and the public – by providing knowledge and tools to recognize and resist industry influence and by ensuring access to evidence-based cessation support.

In Iran, the National No Tobacco Week was held from May 25–31 with the theme of "Exposing the allure and false advertising for a tobacco-free generation."

Monday, May 25, "tobacco-free families for a tobacco-free generation,"; Tuesday, May 26, "tobacco-free generation with self-care and mental health"; Wednesday, May 27, "tobacco-free generation by promoting religious teachings"; Thursday, May 28, "commitment and participation of trade unions for a tobacco-free generation,"; Friday, May 29, "tobacco-free generation by healthy sports and recreation"; Saturday, May 30, "educating teenagers and youth for a tobacco-free generation,"; and Sunday, May 31, "commitment and participation of media to expose the tricks of the tobacco industry" were the weekdays of the event.

10 Iranian universities in QS ranking 2026 by subject

TEHRAN –The 16th edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2026 has included 10 Iranian universities in three broad subject areas.

The 2026 edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject features 55 narrow subjects across five broad subject areas.

In total, 1,099 unique institutions have been ranked in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, including over 300 that appear for the first time.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject are sorted into five broad subject areas, including Arts and Humanities, Engineering and Technology, Life Sciences and Medicine, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences and Management.

Iranian universities are ranked among the top institutions in three faculty areas, including Engineering and Technology, Life Sciences and Medicine, and Natural Sciences.

The universities are sorted into Arts and Humanities, Engineering and Technology, Life Sciences and Medicine, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences and Management.

In the Engineering and Technology category, Sharif University of Technology, with a global ranking of 252, is placed first in the country. The university's best global ranking is in Engineering-Petroleum (20); it ranks 151–200 in civil and structural engineering, engineering-mechanical, as well as electrical and electronic engineering.

University of Tehran is placed second, with a ranking of 288 globally. It ranks 23rd in engineering petroleum. The university ranks between 201 and 250 in chemical engineering, engineering-mechanical, and electrical and electronic engineering.

Amirkabir University of Technology, with a global ranking of 401–450, is placed third. Its best global ranking is in Engineering-Petroleum (51–100).

Iran University of Science and Technology ranks 451–500 in the world, and fourth in the country.

In the Life Sciences and Medicine category, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (312). Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranks between 151–225 in Nursing, and 151–200 in Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

University of Tehran (401–450) is placed second, nationwide, next to Iran University of Medical Sciences. It ranks 151–200 in Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

Iran University of Medical Sciences and Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (401–500) rank third, jointly. Shiraz University of Medical Sciences ranks 251–300 in Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

Mashhad University of Medical Sciences is placed between 501–550 globally; it ranks 201–250 in Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBMU) is placed between 501–550.

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences ranks 501–550. It ranks 151–225 in Nursing, and 151–200 in Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

In the Natural Sciences category, University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 336, is placed first. It ranks 201–250 in Environmental Sciences, 301–350 in Material Sciences, and 351–400 in Mathematics.

Sharif University of Technology is placed second, ranking 401–450 globally. It ranks between 201–25 in Material Sciences.

Recent rankings

The SClmago Institutions Rankings (SIR) 2026 has ranked 166 Iranian universities among the top institutions in the world, up from 164 in 2025.

The SIR is a classification of academic and research-related institutions ranked by a composite indicator that combines three sets of indicators: research performance, innovation outputs, and societal impact, measured by their web visibility.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran are placed among the top

ten institutions in West Asia, ranking 5th and 10th, respectively.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (with a global ranking of 701) is the top university in the country.

University of Tehran and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Health Services are placed second and third, respectively.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences rank 37 in Dentistry (first in West Asia), 49 in Dermatology, 73 in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 81 in Otorhinolaryngology, 94 in Infectious Diseases, 96 in Public Health, Environment and Occupational Health, 98 in Urology, 108 in Ophthalmology, 131 in Medicine (first in West Asia), 139 in Epidemiology, 159 in Nephrology, 176 in Surgery, and 189 in Critical Care and Intensive Care Medicine.

University of Tehran ranks 71 in Architecture, 72 in Business, management, and Accounting (first in West Asia), 76 in Geography, Planning, and Development, 112 in Energy (first in West Asia), 128 in Geology, 137 in Civil and Structural Engineering, 169 in Atmospheric Science, 208 in Religious Studies, 242 in Earth and Planetary Sciences, 248 in forestry, and 290 in Aquatic Science.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences ranks 96 in Pathology and Forensic Medicine, 106 in Urology, and 130 in Dermatology.

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences ranks 109 in Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceuticals (2nd in West Asia), and 182 in Urology.

Golestan University ranks 132 in Social Sciences, and 155 in Education (first in West Asia).

In Environmental Sciences, Iran Polymer and Petrochemical Institute ranks 1st in West Asia (130 globally), University of Tehran ranks third in West Asia.

In Architecture, University of Gilan ranks 70, and Iran University of Science and Technology ranks 80 globally.

University of Kashan ranks 66 globally in Ocean Engineering.

In Biomedical Engineering, Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and Mashhad University of Medical Sciences rank 74, 245, and 261, respectively.

The Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2026 has placed 90 Iranian universities among the top Asian institutions, up from 85 universities in 2025.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026 judge research-intensive universities across all their core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.

Sharif University of Technology is placed first in the country, with a global ranking of 76, Bor-nanews agency reported.

Amirkabir University of Technology (79) and Iran University of Science and Technology (87) are ranked second and third.

Tehran University of Medical Science (111), University of Tehran (120), Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences (131), Isfahan University of Technology (137), Tarbiat Modares University (162), Shiraz University of Technology (166), and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (154) are placed fourth to tenth in the country.

THE World University Rankings (WUR) 2026 placed 101 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 11 subject areas, compared to 81 universities in 10 subject areas in 2025.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology, ranking 351–400 globally, were placed first in the country.

Iran University of Science and Technology and University of Tehran were placed second, with a global ranking of 401–500.

Shiraz University of Technology, and Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranked 501–600 globally; they ranked third nationwide.

The QS Asia University Rankings placed 48 Iranian universities in the list of top universities in 2026, compared to 32 universities in 2025.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 93) was placed first among Iranian universities, followed by Sharif University of Technology (ranking 142 globally) and Amirkabir University of Technology (ranking 169 globally), ISNA reported.



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JUNE 1, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Often your utterances and expressions of your face leak out the secrets of your hidden thoughts.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 19:36 Dawn: 3:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:50 (tomorrow)

Iranian people's street presence prevented enemy's psychological warfare, culture minister says

TEHRAN- Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi addressed a massive crowd at Tehran's Enghelab Square on Saturday night, marking the 90th consecutive day of national resilience, declaring that the Iranian people's presence in the streets has served as an elixir that amplified bravery across the nation.

Speaking during the ceremony, Salehi paid tribute to the steadfastness of the Iranian people in the face of the US and Zionist regime military and psychological aggression, Mehr reported.

He noted that despite the enemy's attempts to strike civilian and strategic targets—including Shajareh Tayyebah Elementary School in Minab, Iranian Navy's Frigate Dena, the Lamerd sports stadium, and various academic centers—the plot to instill widespread public anxiety has utterly failed.

"The enemies sought to create a massive psychological rift and fill the hearts of the people with dread, but their plan backfired," Salehi told the enthusiastic crowd. "Fear can be like a contagious epidemic, but courage is an elixir. Through these public gatherings, the Iranian people have passed this elixir of bravery to one another, transforming the streets into a scene of unmatched fortitude."

The minister emphasized that the target of recent attacks on residential areas and vital infrastructure was to break the social fabric of the country through terror. However, he noted that the Iranian society has proven too resilient to succumb. "Street and neighborhood gatherings have ensured that the Iranian community remains united, courageous, and resistant," he added.

Reflecting on the 90-day milestone of national resistance, Salehi highlighted the participation of all demographics—men, women, children, and the elderly—from the smallest villages to the largest cities. He asserted that the collective presence of the nation in the first 41 days of the conflict, and in the weeks following, completely disrupted the strategic calculations of Iran's adversaries.

"When the enemies launched their aggression, they believed their military, security, and political assessments were precise enough to bring Iran to its knees," he remarked. "But the social reality on the ground shattered those plans."

Salehi particularly highlighted the period immediately following the announcement of the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. He stated that the immediate and continuous presence of the people in the streets prevented any political vacuum from forming.

"From the very day the news was delivered, the people's presence ensured the country remained stable. The nation felt a sense of being a united community, standing firm and foiling every social and political plot aimed at destabilizing the Islamic Republic," Salehi concluded.

Since the inception of the Ramadan War and the onset of the brutal aggression of the US and Zionist regime against the Iranian soil, the streets of Iran have been transformed into a perpetual stage for national defiance and collective resilience.

For ninety consecutive days, citizens from all walks of life—spanning from the bustling squares of Tehran to the most remote provincial villages—have maintained a constant, unwavering presence to uphold the country's sovereignty and honor the blood of its martyrs. This unprecedented grassroots mobilization, which surged in the wake of the heart-wrenching martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has effectively neutralized the enemy's sophisticated psychological operations aimed at fracturing the nation's spirit.

By reclaiming the public sphere through daily rallies and neighborhood vigils, the Iranian people have not only demonstrated an unyielding resolve but have also ensured that no political or social vacuum could be exploited by foreign adversaries, turning a period of intense military conflict into a historic and ongoing Epic of Endurance.

Cartoon of Day



Murder Under the Guise of Peace

Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Mexican Ambassador to Tehran appreciates "Art & War" exhibition at TMOCA

TEHRAN – The Ambassador of Mexico to Tehran Guillermo Puente Ordorica has shared a message regarding the exhibition "Eleven Artworks by Mexican Printmakers," which is underway at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA).

The third event in the "Art & War" series at the museum explores the theme of war as seen by Mexican artists in the works found in the museum's treasured collection, IRNA reported.

The Mexican Ambassador has expressed his appreciation and support for the initiative, providing the following statement:

"Mexican printmaking has long served as a powerful tool for artistic expression, social communication, and political reflection. This visual language, which took shape in the aftermath of the Mexican Revolution, transcends its aesthetic value to become a medium for expressing collective experiences, historical memory, and the aspirations for social justice.

This exhibition offers a valuable opportunity to engage with this artistic tradition through works that reflect universal themes such as identity, resilience, and human dignity in the face of the challenges of our time.

The inclusion of this exhibition in the "Art & War" series at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is of particular importance, as it fosters dialogue between different artistic traditions regarding the impact of conflicts and crises on the human experience.

I am confident that this exhibition will contribute to strengthening cultural understanding between Mexico and Iran, allowing the general public to appreciate the richness of an artistic tradition deeply rooted in Mexico's



social history."

The exhibition includes two valuable works by renowned Mexican artists, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, dating back to the 1920s, depicting the struggles of the people of Mexico.

Alongside these two works, a collection of nine contemporary Mexican works is also on display, focusing on scenes of the War of Independence and the social formation of Mexican identity.

David Alfaro Siqueiros (1896 – 1974) was a Mexican social realist painter, best known for his large public murals using the latest equipment, materials, and techniques. Along with Diego Rivera and José Clemente Orozco, he was one of the most famous of the "Mexican muralists".

José Clemente Orozco (1883 – 1949) was a Mexican caricaturist and painter who specialized in political murals that established the Mexican Mural Renaissance together with murals by Diego

Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and others. Orozco was the most complex of the Mexican muralists, fond of the theme of human suffering, but less realistic and more fascinated by machines than Rivera. Mostly influenced by Symbolism, he was also a genre painter and lithographer.

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

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

During the 40-day war (also

known as the Ramadan War), besides some military targets, the US and Israel launched organized attacks against civilian infrastructure, including residential homes, hospitals, refineries, power plants, schools, universities, art and cultural spaces, bookstores, museums, and ancient sites in several cities, causing total or partial damage and injuring innocent people.

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

"Eleven Artworks by Mexican Printmakers" exhibition, which was to run until May 30, has been extended for a week and the works will remain on show until June 7 at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, located next to Laleh Park on N. Kargar Street.

Art spirited out of Gaza exhibited across Europe



A Gazan artist has managed to have his art transported to Europe in the hope that the world remembers his people's pain as Israel prepares to extend its control of the strip.

Ahmed Muhanna has been using discarded aid boxes as canvases to portray the suffering of his people since Israel's military offensive started more than two and half years ago, The National reported.

"My body is still here, in a place that still wakes up every day to fear, while my paintings have managed to cross borders and to reach you," Muhanna said, speaking from Gaza via Zoom at the launch of an exhibition of his work at the Arab World Institute in Paris.

The exhibition "is not just an art exhibition", he added. "It's an attempt to keep the people of Gaza seen and prevent their suffering from becoming just a fleeting statistic in the news".

A few months into the war, Muhanna ran out of art supplies and started painting on food aid boxes with the dregs of Nescafe coffee and plant-based colors.

When the World Food Program, one of the few international

NGOs operating in Gaza, asked him how they could help, he answered that his paintings should be seen by the world.

"He said if you can bring my pieces of art outside, I'll be able to still be a voice even if I can't go out of Gaza," Antoine Renard, head of public partnerships at WFP and former Palestine director, told The National.

"We managed to bring them out, otherwise we would have used [photographs]," Renard said. "But to see a live piece of art in front of you, it makes a world of a difference."

Details of how the art was taken out of Gaza remain confidential for security reasons.

Movement in an out of the enclave is heavily restricted by Israeli authorities. More than 72,000 Gazans have been killed since late 2023.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that he had directed his country's army to increase control of Gaza to 70 percent, in defiance of a US-brokered ceasefire in October.

More than 900 Gazans have been killed since the ceasefire began and Israeli strikes continue.

In September and October 2025, Muhanna's exhibition travelled to nine European cities: Brussels, Gothenburg, Malmö, Copenhagen, Bremen, Bonn, Maastricht, Leuven, and Lille.

A second tour started mid-May in Marseille, before heading to the French capital. Next week, it will travel to Strasbourg, Bilbao, Barcelona, Lyon, and Rome.

The exhibition is staged in a portable trailer and admission is free. It is funded by the European Union.

"It's not going into a museum, it's going into public spaces," Renard said. "What you see is a simple human being that just wants to have his voice heard. I think there's no stronger message than that."

France's Minister Delegate for International Partnerships, Eleonore Caroit, told The National that the exhibition trailer was a practical choice that allowed the art to be seen in the same format across Europe.

"When you see those images, those paintings that are beautiful, it's something that tells much more than any figures, any words, any information you can receive as to what is happening in Gaza today," Caroit said. "We need empathy in a world where crises come one after the other and multiply."

Muhanna said there was hope in his paintings, despite the suffering. "These paintings were not created under normal circumstances," he said. "They were born amidst the sounds of bombing, darkness, isolation, and endless waiting."

"They were painted while we didn't know if we would live to

see another day, and yet there was always something inside us that refused to give up, something that said we deserve to live," he added.

The ongoing situation in the Gaza Strip remains one of the most dire humanitarian catastrophes of the 21st century, as the besieged enclave grapples with the devastating aftermath of over two and a half years of relentless conflict. Since the outbreak of the genocidal war in October 2023, the death toll has climbed to a staggering 72,800 Palestinians, with over 172,000 wounded—the vast majority being women and children. Despite a fragile ceasefire agreement initially brokered in October 2025, the violence has not ceased; reports indicate that nearly 1,000 additional lives have been lost due to persistent military strikes and ceasefire violations over the past few months.

Beyond the immediate threat of bombardment, the survival of Gaza's 2.3 million residents is now jeopardized by a systematic hunger crisis. International agencies, including the World Food Program, warn that approximately 1.6 million people—roughly 77 percent of the population—are facing acute food insecurity. The blockade by Israel has decimated local food production and left hundreds of thousands, particularly children and pregnant women, on the brink of famine. While a 60-day transitional period was proposed to allow for the entry of vital medical supplies, fuel, and food, the systematic obstruction of aid at border crossings continues to stifle recovery efforts.