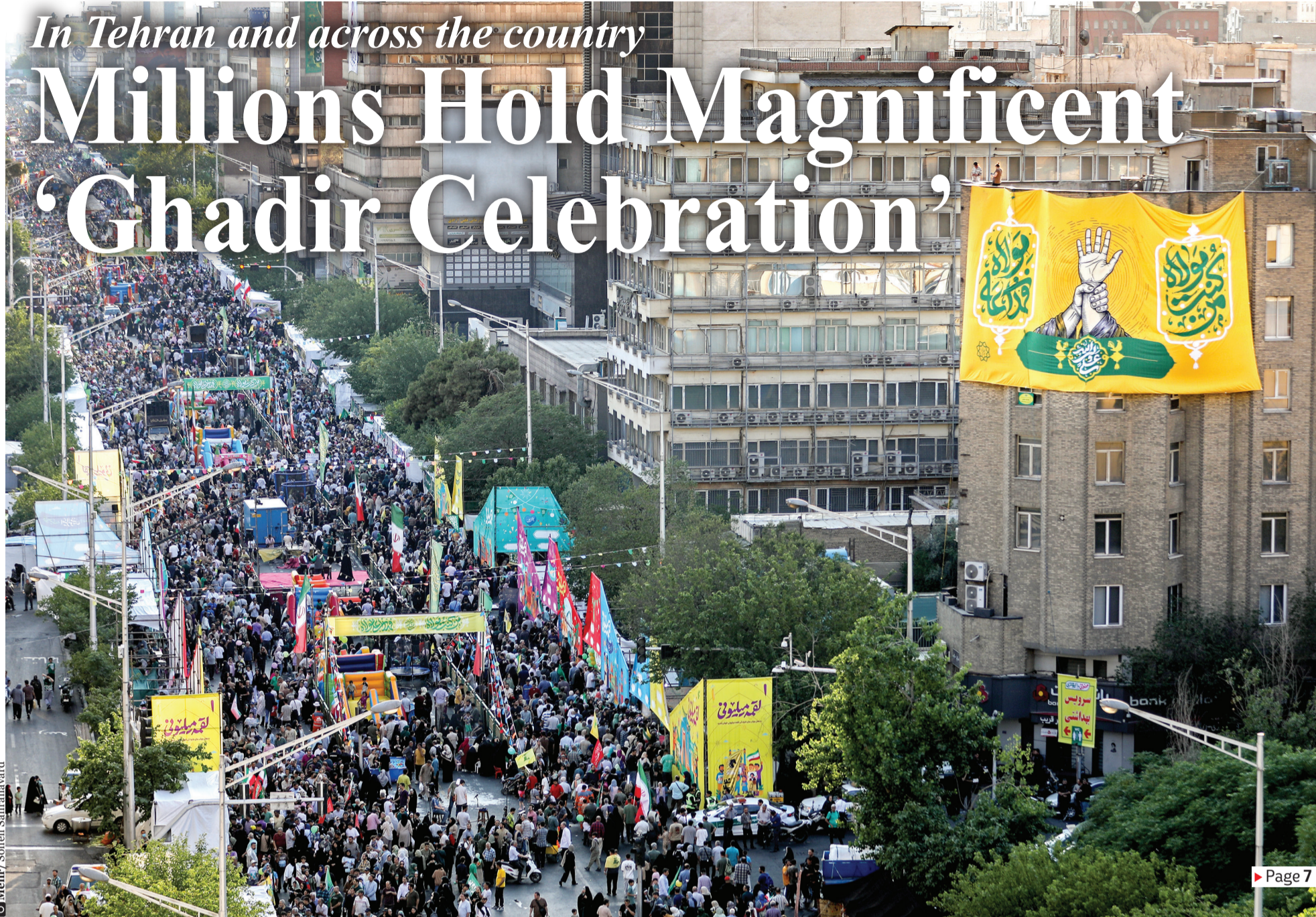


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▶ Page 7

In Tehran and across the country Millions Hold Magnificent 'Ghadir Celebration'

Top diplomat: Tehran is ready to rebuild relations with UAE

TEHRAN – Iran has reiterated its readiness to rebuild and expand relations with the United Arab Emirates despite tensions stemming from the recent Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stressing that Tehran remains committed to strengthening ties with its southern neighbor based on mutual respect and regional cooperation.

In an interview with Al Mayadeen Chairman Ghassan Ben Jeddou, Araghchi said Iran continues to view the UAE as an important regional partner but warned that the Zionist regime's expanding footprint in Abu Dhabi has complicated efforts to improve bilateral relations and undermined trust between the two neighboring countries. ▶ Page 2

Netanyahu "rejects" withdrawal from South Lebanon

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Netanyahu reportedly has no plans to withdraw occupation forces from southern Lebanon in the foreseeable future, as aggression against towns and villages across the region continues.

Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that Netanyahu made the remarks to mayors and local authority heads in northern settlements. During his statement, Netanyahu also revealed that the occupation military intends to destroy what he described as a "fortress deep inside Lebanon", a reference to Beaufort Castle. ▶ Page 5

Leader says Israel and US shift to hybrid warfare after military setbacks

Ayatollah Khamenei warned that Iran's adversaries have increasingly focused on creating divisions within society following their battlefield failures

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has warned that Israel and the United States have intensified efforts to wage psychological and hybrid warfare against Iran after failing to achieve their objectives through military confrontation, urging the Iranian nation to preserve unity and resilience in the face of growing external pressure.

In a message issued Thursday on the 37th anniversary of the passing of Imam Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic,

the Leader said Iran's adversaries have increasingly focused on undermining public confidence, influencing decision-making processes, and creating divisions within society following their battlefield failures.

He said the Israeli regime's recent military defeats and humiliation have contributed to its growing international isolation,

prompting it and its supporters to rely more heavily on non-military tactics aimed at weakening the Iranian nation from within.

According to the Leader, the primary tools of this campaign include spreading fear, doubt, despair, mistrust, and social polarization. He stressed that such efforts can be neutralized through national solidarity, vigi-

lance, mutual trust between the people and state bodies, and a collective commitment to safeguarding the country's interests.

"The enemy seeks to undermine the resilience of the Iranian people and create miscalculations among officials," he said, emphasizing that public officials bear a special responsibility to strengthen hope and confidence

and avoid actions or rhetoric that could foster pessimism or social discontent.

The message was delivered as millions of Iranians commemorated the anniversary of Imam Khomeini's death at his mausoleum in southern Tehran. The Leader described the occasion as an opportunity to reflect on the enduring legacy of the late revolutionary leader, whose vision and spiritual teachings continue to shape Iran's political and social trajectory. ▶ Page 2

OECD warns of global recession if war against Iran disrupts oil route until 2027

TEHRAN- A new report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) paints a grim picture of the world economy if the ongoing conflict in West Asia escalates and leads to a prolonged shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the Paris-based institution, a scenario with no US-Iran agreement until 2027 would severely depress global growth and tip several nations into recession.

Under this "prolonged disruption" forecast, worldwide GDP growth would tumble to just 2.1% this year, down sharply from 3.4% in 2025. Emerging economies would suffer the heaviest blows.

The blockage of the vital waterway—already squeezed for over three months—would force energy rationing for businesses, while prices of fertilizers, Sulphur, and helium would spike due to supply cuts. ▶ Page 4

"We were going to lose" the USS Gerald R. Ford, CNN reports on Iran war

TEHRAN – Fresh details revealed by CNN about the scale of the damage sustained by the US Navy during the war on Iran once again expose President Donald Trump's miscalculation and hubris.

CNN reported that a fire aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest aircraft carrier, in March amid the joint US-Israeli war on Iran, was more severe and damaging than the Navy had previously suggested.

According to new video obtained by the leading American news outlet, "Bunks where sailors slept were totally destroyed. What remained of the beds was charred, twisted metal beneath a ceiling also apparently hollowed out by the inferno. Wires dangled from the ceiling and heaps of ashes littered the ground around the bunks." ▶ Page 3

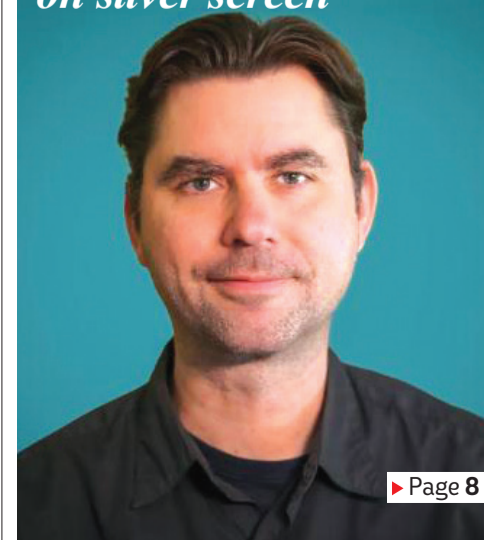


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"Those who were angels"

TEHRAN – A number of people held a gathering, June 3, outside the UNICEF office in Tehran on Wednesday to remember those children who have fallen victim to war and terror. The gathering named "Those who were angels" took place as in a tragic incident about 150 schoolchildren were brutalized in southern Iran in the first hours of the U.S.-Israel war of aggression on Iran on Feb. 28.

General Hollywood: Pentagon's propaganda operation on silver screen



▶ Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran stands by its allies

Kayhan addressed Israel's repeated attacks on Lebanon and Iran's support for the Resistance Front. According to the paper, the Israeli regime's strikes deep inside Lebanese territory and against Hezbollah forces were carried out in full coordination with Trump, so that the United States would gain a new pressure lever in its stalled negotiations with Iran. It appears that Trump and Netanyahu intend to use the tactic of "two steps forward, one step back" regarding violations of the ceasefire and claims of returning to it. Certainly, without Iran's power, Hezbollah's steadfastness, and Ansarullah's threats in the Bab al-Mandeb region, the enemy would never have accepted a ceasefire and would have completely disregarded it. Iran's support for the oppressed resistance in Lebanon demonstrated that Iran stands firmly by its allies—unlike the United States, which sacrificed the Persian Gulf states in the recent war and is now sacrificing the Lebanese state and its very existence. Iran's model of support, if embraced by neighboring countries, could be extended to the Persian Gulf and bring lasting security and sustainable development to the region.

Iran: The strategic defeat of a superpower

The Iran newspaper examined Trump's approach toward Iran, especially on nuclear issues. It wrote that the positions Trump has taken in recent years paved the way for the US withdrawal from the JCPOA and intensified regional tensions, yet the goals he defined for himself ultimately were not achieved. From a strategic perspective, the failure to achieve these goals can be considered a strategic defeat for a superpower—one that affects America's international standing and the future of the global order. Given recent developments, a return to the JCPOA framework is practically impossible for Trump and his team, because such a return would mean accepting the two core pillars of the agreement: continued enrichment in Iran alongside the reduction or lifting of sanctions. From Trump's viewpoint, this would be an obvious defeat. The Iran file has become a matter of prestige and a defining element of his political legacy, and its outcome may become the main benchmark for judging the success or failure of his second term.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Violators of international law possess nuclear weapons

Nuclear weapons are currently in the hands of regimes that do not adhere to international law. The United States and the Israeli regime possess nuclear weapons and have repeatedly threatened to use them in a war against Iran, despite knowing the

consequences. Israel, which has not even accepted the NPT, possesses nuclear weapons, though it denies it. But if it truly has no nuclear weapons, why does it refuse to join the NPT? John Mearsheimer, the American political scientist, recently stated: "If Israel loses the war, it may launch a nuclear attack on Iran!" This statement has multiple implications: it highlights the danger of Israel using nuclear weapons, and it also reflects the possibility of Israel's defeat in a war with Iran. Meanwhile, Iran is a member of the IAEA, has signed and joined the NPT, and abides by it. Iran must adjust its nuclear policy to eliminate the threat of a nuclear strike from Israel.

Khorasan: Iran has a freer hand than the other side

Khorasan described Lebanon as a strong and high-pressure lever within the Resistance Front against Israel and the United States. In the current situation, with Iran's active role and Hezbollah's strategic success in imposing insecurity on the northern occupied territories, Lebanon has gradually become a card that strengthens the Resistance's ability to impose further equations on Israel. Iran's strongly worded reaction became a unified fist on the table of the US president, forcing him to restrain Israel. Iran's threat to end the process of message exchanges with the American side trapped Trump and revealed which side is more desperate to avoid war and reach an agreement. This will place the American side in an even weaker position in the coming days. Once again, events showed that Iran still has a freer hand than its counterpart to escalate tensions and impose its desired equation.

Etemad: Netanyahu's dark objective in attacking Lebanon

Hassan Hanizadeh, an international affairs analyst, told Etemad that recent developments in southern Lebanon and the shift in the US government's approach to Israeli actions reveal deeper dimensions of Israel's retreat. Netanyahu's main goal in provoking recent tensions is to occupy parts of Beirut's outskirts and southern Lebanon, using them as bargaining chips in negotiations between Lebanon and Israel. Netanyahu sought to disrupt the regional political landscape and overshadow the Iran-US dialogue, obstructing any potential agreement between Tehran and Washington. However, Iran's warning and threat became the turning point in these developments. Iran has proven that any political or strategic movement in the region must place the issue of southern Lebanon at the top of its priorities.

Hezbollah chief hails Iran's resilience, says West opposes its emergence as model of justice

TEHRAN – Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem has praised Iran's resilience, independence, and support for oppressed nations, arguing that the United States and its Western allies seek to prevent the Islamic Republic from becoming a regional model of perseverance, justice, and resistance to foreign domination.

Speaking on the 37th anniversary of the passing of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, Qassem commended Iran for its steadfast support of resistance movements and its commitment to defending oppressed peoples across the region and beyond.

The Hezbollah leader said Iran has achieved significant progress and development despite decades of sanctions, pressure, and external challenges. He attributed the country's success to its adherence to the principle of "Neither East nor West," a cornerstone of the Islamic Revolution's foreign policy doctrine.

According to Qassem, Western governments, particularly the United States, prioritize their own geopolitical interests in the region and therefore oppose the emergence of Iran as a model of perseverance, independence, and justice.

Paying tribute to Imam Khomeini, Qassem acknowledged that Hezbollah's resistance movement was deeply influenced by the late leader's ideas and vision. He said the Lebanese

resistance drew inspiration from Imam Khomeini's emphasis on self-determination, dignity, and resistance against occupation.

The Hezbollah chief also expressed gratitude to Iran for its longstanding support of Lebanon, saying Tehran has played a vital role in helping the Lebanese people defend their rights, preserve their territorial integrity, and confront Israeli and American aggression despite facing its own challenges.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Qassem sharply criticized 'the Lebanese government's futile, humiliating, and shameful direct negotiations with Israel.' He warned that recent US proposals and declarations could pave the way for Lebanon's submission to the "Greater Israel" project.

"Such a path is unacceptable for anyone who seeks honor and dignity and wishes to protect the sacrifices of the martyrs, the wounded, the prisoners, and the Lebanese people," he said.

Reaffirming Hezbollah's commitment to resistance, Qassem stressed that resistance would continue if any part of Lebanese territory remains under occupation. He added that any ceasefire arrangement with Israel must be comprehensive and apply to all parts of Lebanon without distinction.

"The primary objective must be the preservation of Lebanon's sovereignty," he said.

Leader says Israel and US shift to hybrid warfare after military setbacks

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has warned that Israel and the United States have intensified efforts to wage psychological and hybrid warfare against Iran after failing to achieve their objectives through military confrontation, urging the Iranian nation to preserve unity and resilience in the face of growing external pressure.

In a message issued Thursday on the 37th anniversary of the passing of Imam Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic, the Leader said Iran's adversaries have increasingly focused on undermining public confidence, influencing decision-making processes, and creating divisions within society following their battlefield failures.

He said the Israeli regime's recent military defeats and humiliation have contributed to its growing international isolation, prompting it and its supporters to rely more heavily on non-military tactics aimed at weakening the Iranian nation from within.

According to the Leader, the primary tools of this campaign include spreading fear, doubt, despair, mistrust, and social polarization. He stressed that such ef-



orts can be neutralized through national solidarity, vigilance, mutual trust between the people and state bodies, and a collective commitment to safeguarding the country's interests.

"The enemy seeks to undermine the resilience of the Iranian people and create miscalculations among officials," he said, emphasizing that public officials bear a special responsibility to strengthen hope and confidence and avoid actions or rhetoric that could foster pessimism or social discontent.

The message was delivered as millions of Iranians commemorated the anniversary of Imam Khomeini's death at his mausoleum in

southern Tehran. The Leader described the occasion as an opportunity to reflect on the enduring legacy of the late revolutionary leader, whose vision and spiritual teachings continue to shape Iran's political and social trajectory.

Ayatollah Khamenei said Imam Khomeini's school of thought was rooted in faith, self-reliance, and resistance to oppression, principles that inspired the 1979 Islamic Revolution and continue to guide the nation. He added that both Imam Khomeini and the late Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei played decisive roles in mobilizing the capabilities of the Iranian people and strengthening national independence.

Highlighting key moments in modern Iranian history, he referred to the June 5, 1963 uprising, the mass public welcome for Imam Khomeini upon his return from exile in 1979, and the unprecedented public participation in ceremonies following his death in 1989 as evidence of the deep bond between the Iranian nation and its revolutionary leader.

The Leader also praised the steadfastness of the Iranian people and the Axis of Resistance, describing them as a source of inspiration for freedom-seeking nations worldwide. He reiterated that support for oppressed peoples remains both a humanitarian and religious responsibility and argued that Washington's hostility toward Iran stems from the country's independent identity and refusal to submit to external pressure.

Concluding his message, Ayatollah Khamenei called on young people, intellectuals, and cultural figures to uphold the principles of the Islamic Revolution, strengthen national unity, and contribute to Iran's future progress while remaining alert to 'ongoing efforts by Israel, the United States, and their allies' to destabilize the country through hybrid warfare.

Top diplomat: Tehran is ready to rebuild relations with UAE

TEHRAN – Iran has reiterated its readiness to rebuild and expand relations with the United Arab Emirates despite tensions stemming from the recent Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stressing that Tehran remains committed to strengthening ties with its southern neighbor based on mutual respect and regional cooperation.

In an interview with Al Mayadeen Chairman Ghassan Ben Jeddou, Araghchi said Iran continues to view the UAE as an important regional partner but warned that the Zionist regime's expanding footprint in Abu Dhabi has complicated efforts to improve bilateral relations and undermined trust between the two neighboring countries.

The Iranian foreign minister said Tehran has serious concerns over the UAE's growing ties with Israel, particularly considering developments during the recent war against Iran. According to Araghchi, evidence indicates that Emirati territory and facilities were used by US and Israeli forces during the aggression, a development he said further strained relations and hampered confidence-building efforts.

Araghchi expressed regret that the war negatively affected ties with Abu Dhabi despite 'as constructive engagement with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in recent years.'

Nevertheless, he underscored that Iran



remains determined to enhance relations with the UAE, emphasizing that the two countries share common interests and a joint responsibility for safeguarding regional stability.

"The security of the Persian Gulf cannot be achieved through reliance on extra-regional powers or cooperation with the Israeli regime," Araghchi said, arguing that lasting stability must emerge from dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among the countries of the region themselves.

He reiterated Tehran's readiness to restore and deepen ties with Abu Dhabi on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and good-neighborly relations.

Elsewhere in the interview, Araghchi highlighted the significance of Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia, describing Riyadh as a key pillar of regional stability. He noted that ties between Tehran and Riyadh have con-

tinued to improve since the restoration of diplomatic relations under a China-brokered agreement.

The foreign minister said he remains in regular contact with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and voiced confidence that cooperation between the two regional powers would continue to expand despite existing differences.

Araghchi stressed that stronger coordination among regional states is essential to establishing a new security architecture in the Persian Gulf—one rooted in regional cooperation rather than foreign military presence.

He also revealed that Iran had repeatedly warned Persian Gulf states that allowing the United States or the Israeli regime to use their territory or military facilities against Iran could expose those foreign forces to retaliatory action.

At the same time, Araghchi emphasized that Tehran does not seek confrontation with its neighbors and has consistently distinguished between host countries and foreign military forces operating from their territory.

According to the Iranian foreign minister, the recent war further demonstrated the necessity of building a regional security framework designed and led by the countries of the region, free from external interference and foreign military dominance.

US House vote exposes divisions over Iran war policy

TEHRAN – The US House of Representatives narrowly passed a measure on Wednesday aimed at restricting President Donald Trump from carrying out further military action in Iran, reflecting mounting political backlash against what critics describe as an open-ended and costly war.

The resolution passed by a 215-208 vote, largely along party lines, saw four Republicans break ranks to join Democrats in supporting the effort to rein in presidential war powers. The measure is largely symbolic, but it signals growing unease in Congress over the US military aggression against Iran, which began on February 28.

The war powers resolution would require Trump to either withdraw US forces or seek explicit congressional authorization to continue military operations.

However, its legal impact remains uncertain. The White House has dismissed the measure, arguing it is an unconstitutional attempt to limit presidential authority over military action.

Republican members Thomas Massie, Brian Fitzpatrick, Tom Barrett, and Warren Davidson

joined Democrats in supporting the resolution, while Democrat Jared Golden also backed the measure after previously opposing similar efforts.

Supporters of the resolution stressed constitutional concerns over unchecked executive war powers. "Congress alone declares war," said Representative Tom Barrett, adding that he voted according to his conscience despite potential political consequences.

The vote is being viewed as a notable bipartisan signal of resistance to the ongoing conflict, which critics say has contributed to rising fuel prices and growing public dissatisfaction in the United States.

Democrats argue that the administration's strategy has failed to achieve its stated objectives while escalating regional instability and complicating diplomatic efforts over Iran's nuclear program.

Representative Gregory Meeks, the leading Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, described the vote as a "significant bipartisan rebuke" of an "illegal and costly war," adding that



public opposition and economic pressure are increasing demands to end the conflict.

The measure also highlights divisions within Trump's Republican Party, coming amid broader disputes over foreign policy and government spending priorities.

The US Senate has previously advanced a similar resolution, though it has yet to hold a full floor vote. If both chambers were to pass the measure, it would not require presidential approval but could face legal challenges.

Despite the congressional pushback, Trump has maintained that negotiations to end the conflict are progressing, saying a deal could be reached soon and

insisting that recent military actions were responses to Iranian attacks.

He said his administration is seeking a resolution "without killing everybody," and suggested that discussions with Tehran were advancing toward a potential agreement.

Iran has stressed its military actions are defensive responses to the continued aggression against its territory and interests across the region.

Iran says it has been compelled to respond to repeated acts of aggression by targeting US bases in the Persian Gulf region.

“We were going to lose” the USS Gerald R. Ford, CNN reports on Iran war

TEHRAN - Fresh details revealed by CNN about the scale of the damage sustained by the US Navy during the war on Iran once again expose President Donald Trump's miscalculation and hubris.

CNN reported that a fire aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest aircraft carrier, in March amid the joint US-Israeli war on Iran, was more severe and damaging than the Navy had previously suggested.

According to new video obtained by the leading American news outlet, “Bunks where sailors slept were totally destroyed. What remained of the beds was charred, twisted metal beneath a ceiling also apparently hollowed out by the inferno. Wires dangled from the ceiling and heaps of ashes littered the ground around the bunks.”

One sailor aboard the \$13-billion vessel, which played a central role in US military operations against Iran, told CNN: “I seriously thought we were going to lose the ship ... It's either fight or die.”

Following the blaze, American officials said that two US sailors had been treated for “non-life-threatening injuries.”

However, CNN's latest report, citing a US official, said that “the Navy's public statement downplayed the impact the fire had on the Ford as it was in the Red Sea supporting US military operations against Iran, as the fire did have an effect on capabilities.”

It took the Ford's crew about 30 hours to extinguish the fire,



clean up the damage and prevent it from reigniting. Roughly 600 sailors lost access to their bunks as a result of the incident, CNN previously reported.

The sailor interviewed by CNN recalled seeing an orange streak in the sky while the Ford was operating in the Red Sea, as Iranian munitions appeared on the horizon. According to the sailor, whenever Iranian missiles or drones came within a certain range of the carrier, the ship would “sound an alert, telling us to expect to get hit and do damage control.”

Commissioned into the Navy in 2017, the Ford is the newest and most technologically advanced of the 11 US nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and has become a symbol of both the strength and limitations of American naval power.

The carrier's advanced electromagnetic aircraft launch system enables it to launch a wide range

of aircraft, from drones to fighter jets, providing commanders with greater operational flexibility. Brent Sadler, a former Navy officer, previously told CNN that the Ford possesses capabilities that distinguish it from the Navy's other aircraft carriers.

The Ford's deployment, which ended when it returned to Norfolk, Virginia, in May, also saw the ship participate in the US operation to kidnap Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

Apparently believing that Washington could replicate in Iran the kind of regime-change scenario it had sought in Venezuela, and influenced by Israeli pressure as well as strategic miscalculations, Trump joined Israel in launching a war against Iran on February 28.

However, after 39 days of conflict, Trump ultimately had to accept a ceasefire on April 8. He had apparently believed that the United States and Israel would

be able to destroy Iran's military capabilities and pave the way for a political outcome favorable to Washington.

Instead, Iran's resilience and its military response against Israel and American military installations across the region exposed a major strategic miscalculation. Rather than demonstrating overwhelming US power, the conflict revealed the limits of military coercion against a country capable of sustaining a prolonged confrontation and imposing costs on its adversaries.

The CNN report is the latest indication emerging from US media that sheds light on the challenges faced by American forces during the war. Several previous reports have also cast doubt on claims that Iran's missile and drone capabilities were effectively neutralized, while drawing attention to the damage that Iranian strikes inflicted on US military facilities in the Persian Gulf region.

Taken together, these reports challenge the long-standing image of US military invincibility despite Washington's possession of the world's most advanced and expensive military apparatus.

The latest revelations regarding the USS Gerald R. Ford serve as another reminder that technological superiority does not necessarily translate into strategic success and that Trump's assumptions about the outcome of the war on Iran were deeply flawed.

Iran's Navy pushes American destroyers out of Oman Sea

TEHRAN - Iran's Army said on Friday that several American warships operating in the Sea of Oman were forced to withdraw from the region after Iranian naval forces carried out warning strikes using cruise missiles and advanced drones.

In a statement, the Army said the operation was part of its ongoing effort to counter “maritime mischief and disruptions and the hijacking of commercial vessels and oil tankers by the terrorist naval force of the United States.”

“After warning shots by the Qadir missile and the new Shahid Dana invading drones of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, the transgressor destroyers DDG-103 and DDG-8 left the Sea of Oman toward the Indian Ocean,” it said.

The Iranian Navy also said that the USS Tripoli—an amphibious assault helicopter carrier—

had been compelled to leave the Sea of Oman.

“Following this operation and similar operations in recent days, in addition to the Zionist-American enemy destroyers operating under the USS George H.W. Bush carrier strike group, the Tripoli amphibious assault helicopter carrier has also been compelled to leave the Sea of Oman,” it said.

The Naval Operations Command and Control Center of Iran's Army issued a warning to the US-Israeli side, stressing the need to immediately halt “maritime theft and mischief.”

It added that although US warships had moved beyond the range of the missiles used in the warning operation, Iranian forces possess longer-range missiles that would be used without hesitation if deemed necessary.

Iran has repeatedly warned that the country's



armed forces have their “fingers on the trigger” and deal a more crushing blow to a possible new act of aggression by the US and Israel. The United States and Israel launched war on Iran on February 28. Iran's strong military response compelled the US to reach a ceasefire with Iran on April 8.

LATEST NEWS

Aggression against Iran has caused major decades-long environmental damages

Marking World Environment Day, the Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations stated that two large-scale acts of aggression against Iran within less than a year had inflicted significant environmental damage with potentially long-lasting consequences.

Iran, China, Russia envoys hold joint meetings with IAEA chief

The permanent representatives of Iran, Russia, and China have held a joint meeting with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi ahead of the upcoming IAEA Board of Governors meeting.

In a post on its X account on Friday, Iran's Permanent Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna stated that the representatives discussed the issues on the agenda for the upcoming Board of Governors meeting with Grossi. The next IAEA Board of Governors meeting is scheduled to be held next Monday.

Germany's failure to win seat at UNSC result of irresponsible policies on West Asia: Iran

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei says Germany's failure to win a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council is a clear sign of global opposition to Berlin's irresponsible approach toward the Gaza genocide and the Israeli regime's military aggression against Iran.

Germany's failure to secure a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council — for the first time in decades — is a stark rebuke from the international community, said Baqaei in his X account on Friday.

“It reflects growing global outrage over the German ruling establishment's irresponsible, hypocritical, and complicit stance toward the genocide in Gaza and US-Israel's military aggression against Iran,” he added.

Germany, one of the largest suppliers of lethal weapons to Israel, has consistently justified the genocide of Palestinians, the official noted.

When the Israeli regime launched its aggression on Iran, he said, Berlin refused to condemn it; instead, it shamelessly described it as “dirty work that Israel is doing for all of us.”

The world is changing, Baqaei said, noting that nations are no longer judging governments by their lofty rhetoric about international law, but by their actual behavior.

“Those who choose to ignore this shift will inevitably pay a heavy diplomatic price.”

Iran, Tajikistan interior ministers discuss mutual ties, counterterrorism

Eskandar Momeni met with Tajikistan Minister of Internal Affairs, Ramazon Rahimzoda, on Friday on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

“There is immense potential to upgrade our interactions, and we hope the engagements will strengthen economic, political, security, scientific, and law enforcement cooperation,” the Iranian Interior Minister said. He also expressed hope that Tajik President Emomali Rahmon would visit Iran at the earliest opportunity.

For his part, the Tajik Minister of Internal Affairs praised the resilience of the Iranian people during the recent conflict. “The entire world witnessed Iran's resilience against superpowers,

which demonstrates your technological advancement and the wisdom of your leadership. Learning from Iran's experiences is highly important to us,” Rahimzoda said.

The Iranian interior minister called on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to take a clear and firm stance against the recent US-Israeli military aggression against Iran, saying the organization must defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its member states.

Iran, Oman working on framework for navigation in Strait of Hormuz: envoy

Iran and Oman are coordinating efforts to formulate new regulations governing maritime transit through the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali.

“We are negotiating with our Omani friends to develop a mechanism for managing this strait... The Islamic Republic of Iran is not interested in its continued closure,” Jalali told the Izvestia newspaper at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

Lavrov says any US-Iran deal must safeguard Iran's interests

Any agreement between the United States and Iran should take into account the interests of Iran and its neighboring countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, while warning that Washington would bear responsibility for the consequences of any aggression against Tehran.

Russia supports efforts to maintain dialogue between the United States and Iran, Lavrov said in an interview with Izvestia, adding that continued negotiations were essential and should be aimed at achieving a settlement that respects regional interests and excludes military methods.

Ayatollah Khamenei approves pardons, sentence reductions for over 2,000 convicts



TEHRAN - Iran's Leader has approved pardons or sentence reductions for more than 2,000 convicted individuals ahead of Eid al-Ghadir, a major Islamic festival, according to the Judiciary.

The clemency was granted by Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei following a request from Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei. It covers prisoners convicted by general and revolutionary courts, military tribunals, and state penal institutions.

Judiciary spokesperson Ali Mozafari said on Friday that eligibility criteria include the absence of a private complainant, no significant prior criminal record, and evidence of rehabilitation after serving part of the sentence. Factors such as age, family situation, and the nature of the offense are also taken into account.

“The principle in the judiciary is the full execution of sentences,” Mozafari said. “But when it becomes clear during enforcement that a person has reformed and continued punishment is unnecessary, pardon or sentence reduction becomes possible.”

He added that the majority of the more than 2,000 inmates covered by the decision are expected to be released immediately.

Mozafari also outlined strict exclusions, noting that individuals convicted of security-related offenses, espionage, actions against domestic or international national

security, or threats to public safety are not eligible for clemency under any circumstances.

“In the current situation where the Islamic Republic of Iran is engaged in an imposed war with global arrogance, the United States, and the Zionist regime, dealing with crimes against national security is carried out with full decisiveness, and this category of convicts is excluded from any reduction or pardon,” he said.

Cases involving private plaintiffs are also excluded unless the complainant grants consent.

Such pardons are regularly issued on major religious and national occasions. Eid al-Ghadir, observed on the 18th of Dhu al-Hijjah, commemorates the appointment of Imam Ali (AS) as the successor of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon Him).

Provincial and central pardon commissions reviewed eligible cases despite time constraints due to the holiday period and the country's heightened security posture, Mozafari said. He added that decisions are made strictly according to legal criteria, without external influence.

The Judiciary spokesperson added, “No pressure, demand, or consideration outside legal frameworks has any effect on the review process.”

Iranian lawmakers demand enhanced missile capabilities to target assassins of Ayatollah Khamenei

TEHRAN- In a bold declaration, nearly 90 members of Iran's parliament have pledged unwavering support for the nation's armed forces and defense industries, insisting on the development of longer-range missiles capable of striking the offices of those responsible for the assassination of the revered Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

In a letter addressed to Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, the lawmakers emphasized that avenging the martyrdom of the Islamic Revolution's leader and other fallen heroes from the Ramadan War is not only a religious obligation but also a national and political imperative.

The letter states, “We will support our military forces and defense industries until the day our missiles' range reaches the desks of the killers of the deputy of Imam Mahdi and the martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.” The representatives vowed to resist any pressures imposed by oppressors and tyrants, warning against any perceived weakness in defending the principles of the Islamic Revolution and the red lines established by their Leader.

Among their non-negotiable demands are the restoration of the Strait of Hormuz to its pre-war status, the annulment of discussions regarding Iran's nuclear capabilities, full reparations from adversaries for both material and spiritual damages incurred during the imposed war, the withdrawal of all US forces from the region, and severe punishment for aggressors to deter future attacks.

The lawmakers expressed skepticism towards US assurances, citing painful lessons learned from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 nuclear agree-



ment. They called for justice against those implicated in the martyrdom of Iran's Leader and other victims, asserting that “the Epstein network of criminals respects no ethical or international principles.”

“The enemy must know that it will be a head in exchange for an eye,” they warned, indicating that any retaliation would be disproportionately severe. Furthermore, they urged for the prompt resumption of open parliamentary sessions and committee meetings under security protocols reminiscent of the 12-day war period, aimed at bolstering legislative oversight and functionality.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was martyred on February 28, marking the onset of an unprovoked war of aggression led by the United States and Israel against Iran. Since then, Iran's armed forces have executed 100 waves of retaliatory strikes under Operation True Promise 4 over a span of more than 40 days. Although a fragile ceasefire brokered by Pakistan has been in effect since early April, a US naval blockade on Iranian ports persists, with Iran consistently condemning Washington for breaching the truce.

Largest rooftop solar power plant in capital inaugurated

TEHRAN—The Ministry of Energy announced that the construction and operation of the 2-megawatt solar power plant at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground has been completed, with full connection to the national electricity grid.

According to Mehr News Agency, citing the Ministry of Energy, the construction and operation of the 2-megawatt solar power plant at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground has been finalized with its full integration into the national grid.

This project, defined in line with the legal obligation of government agencies to supply 20% of their electricity consumption from renewable energy sources, has been executed in two operational phases.

The first phase of the plant, with a capacity of 1.1 megawatts, was inaugurated in November 2025 on the sidelines of the 15th International Renewable Energy Exhibition, in the presence of the Ministers of Energy and Industry, Mine and Trade. Subsequently, the second phase of the facility, with a capacity of 825 kilowatts, was completed and its generated power was connected to the national grid.

With the commissioning of this new capacity, the Tehran International Exhibition Center solar power plant—now with a final capacity of 2 megawatts—has earned the title of the largest rooftop solar power plant in Tehran Province.

Renewable power plant capacity quadrupled in 14th government

The Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Energy announced a more than fourfold increase in the country's renewable power plant capacity since the beginning of the 14th government, stating that the development of this sector, along with increasing electricity generation capacity and demand-side management, is among the main pillars of the Ministry's program to manage the summer peak demand.

Yazdan Rezaei said that there is currently over 100,000 megawatts of installed power generation capacity in the country, adding: "Significant measures have also been taken in the development of clean energy, and the capacity of the country's renewable power plants has increased more than fourfold compared to the beginning of the 14th government."

Three percent reduction in electricity consumption

Emphasizing the role of the people in energy demand management, he said: "In past decades, an average annual growth of about 5.8% in electricity consumption was recorded in the country, but last year, for the first time, not only did consumption growth stop, but a roughly three percent reduction in electricity consumption was also recorded."

Rezaei added: "This achievement is the result of the people's cooperation with demand management programs, and we hope that this cooperation continues this summer so that water and electricity supply conditions can be managed more smoothly."

The Deputy for Planning and Economic Affairs further commented on the country's electricity supply situation: "Planning to successfully navigate the peak water and electricity demand in the summer of 1405 (2026) began after last year's peak season starting in Mehr (September-October), and these plans are being implemented carefully."

Rezaei continued: "In the middle of implementing these plans, we faced the Zionist enemy's aggression, but even under those conditions, none of the summer preparation projects were halted, and activities continued with full force."

The deputy minister also referred to incentive programs for reducing consumption and said: "According to a directive from the Ministry of Energy, any citizen who reduces their water consumption by 10% compared to the same period last year will be eligible for a 20% discount on their water bill."

Rezaei added: "In the electricity sector, if subscribers reduce their consumption by 10% compared to the same period last year, a 30% discount on their electricity bill has been considered."

He expressed hope that with the implementation of these incentives and the sense of responsibility among the Iranian people, the culture of saving and efficient consumption will be strengthened more than ever, and the upcoming summer will be spent with the least stress in water and electricity supply.

Iran launches plan to equip 12,000 schools with solar power plants

Meanwhile, in a major step toward expanding



renewable energy infrastructure, Iran has officially begun a nationwide project to install solar power systems in 12,000 schools. The initiative, with a total capacity of 60 megawatts, aims to reduce pressure on the national grid, promote clean energy, and enhance energy security in the education sector.

The head of the Small Scale Power Plants Development and Monitoring Group at the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA), Robabeh Abdollahi, announced that each of the 12,000 schools will receive a 5-kilowatt solar system, including solar panels, inverters and mounting structures. SATBA will supply the main equipment, which will then be delivered to the Organization for Development, Renovation and Equipping of Schools of Iran.

According to Abdollahi, implementation coordination at the provincial level will be carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, provincial governor's offices and regional electricity distribution companies. Once target schools are selected, the required equipment will be transported to the respective provinces.

Mohsen Tarzatab, Deputy Minister of Energy and head of SATBA, reiterated that developing rooftop solar power plants is a key priority for the ministry. "Efforts are being made to facilitate the construction process of these power plants by providing financial facilities to applicants," he said. He also noted that plans for domestic production of necessary equipment are on the agenda to accelerate the development of the sector.

In a related development, Iran inaugurated its largest rooftop solar power plant last September in the Chenaran industrial town of Khorasan Razavi Province. The 4.5-megawatt facility, built by Alis Company, covers 90,000 square meters and was completed in just six months.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Javad Khodaei, senior adviser to the provincial governor and deputy head of the renewable energy task force, said the project underscores the province's leading role in Iran's solar sector. "This project marks a new record in the scale and capacity of rooftop solar power plants in the country," he stated, adding that Khorasan Razavi had previously hosted record-setting rooftop facilities with capacities exceeding two megawatts.

Officials say solar energy, particularly in sunny provinces like Khorasan Razavi, is central to Iran's strategy to diversify its power mix and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Tehran province schools lead the way

Meanwhile, in early November 2025, Majid Parsa, head of the Tehran Education Department, announced that 1,200 schools across Tehran province were set to be equipped with rooftop solar panel systems by the end of the past Iranian calendar year (20 March 2026). The initiative followed an agreement with the Tehran Governor's Office to install five-kilowatt systems on each participating school.

Parsa noted that the project would initially be implemented on a trial basis to assess performance, maintenance and grid integration. "The Education Department has already equipped five schools with pilot solar systems, which have shown promising results," he said at the time. He added that solar-powered schools could play a vital role in energy conservation, providing clean electricity for their own use and potentially supplying surplus power to the national grid.

Akbar Hasan Beklou, managing director of Tehran Province Electricity Distribution Company, earlier stated that the project aims to generate about six megawatts of solar power through these school installations, with the first phase expected to connect to the grid within three months.

The first school equipped with solar panels was inaugurated in Tehran's District 12 in mid-November 2025. During the opening ceremony, it was announced that any school wishing to install solar panels would receive 50 percent support from the district municipality.

OECD warns of global recession if war against Iran disrupts oil route until 2027

TEHRAN—A new report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) paints a grim picture of the world economy if the ongoing conflict in West Asia escalates and leads to a prolonged shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the Paris-based institution, a scenario with no US-Iran agreement until 2027 would severely depress global growth and tip several nations into recession.

Under this "prolonged disruption" forecast, worldwide GDP growth would tumble to just 2.1% this year, down sharply from 3.4% in 2025. Emerging economies would suffer the heaviest blows.

The blockage of the vital waterway—already squeezed for over three months—would force energy rationing for businesses, while prices of fertilizers, Sulphur, and helium would spike due to supply cuts.



Policy makers would face a brutal dilemma: raising interest rates too fast to curb inflation from surging energy and food costs could itself trigger recessions.

The analysis also warns that the

US artificial intelligence boom might be derailed. Higher energy bills and potential shortages would raise data-center operating costs and constrain hardware supplies critical for AI systems, reducing incentives for

AI investment.

In a foreword, chief economist Stefano Scarpetta calls the Iran conflict "the dominant force shaping the global economic outlook." Developing economies with limited energy reserves, weak safety nets, and fragile currencies would be especially vulnerable.

An alternative, less catastrophic scenario assumes progress toward a durable peace, allowing oil prices to fall. Even then, global growth would reach only 2.8% this year—better than 2.1%, but still a downgrade. In either case, corporate borrowing costs are likely to rise, with \$90 trillion in G20 debt exposed to higher interest rates.

The OECD concludes that the severity of this oil shock underscores the urgent need to reduce fossil fuel dependence and diversify energy sources globally.

'Iran must define a new legal, economic regime for Strait of Hormuz'

TEHRAN—An economic analyst believes: The opportunity that has arisen today in the shadow of Iran's exercise of sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz must be pursued within the framework of a legal and economic regime appropriate to the region's security and strategic conditions in order to consolidate Iran's sovereignty over this waterway.

According to IRNA, while international maritime laws allow coastal states to charge passing ships for maritime, environmental, and security services, before the third imposed war and the move to manage the Strait of Hormuz as a tool to manage the war and the movements of hostile countries against Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iran had not made much use of this capacity in the Strait of Hormuz.

This is while experts believe that dependence on oil revenues and neglect of the maritime economy are among the most important reasons for this backwardness. However, the announcement of the general policies of a "maritime-oriented economy" by the Leader in 2022 and the drafting of its action plan during the administration of the late President Raisi have opened a new horizon for Iran. Analysts also emphasize that Iran must go beyond collecting tolls and present an intelligent legal and economic regime for exercising sovereignty over this strategic waterway, and within this framework, Oman can also play a role.

Mousa Shahbazi, an economic analyst, in an interview with IRNA, in response to the question of why Iran has not yet taken action regarding collecting maritime fees in the Strait of Hormuz, said: The first point is that we have not been actively involved in the Strait of Hormuz waterway until now; neither in terms of providing maritime services nor in terms of other shipping security services and similar matters. This has been a neglected issue by our country.

He added: In general, our experience in the maritime domain shows that unfortunately we have made little use of this vast capacity of the maritime economy. We have the same issue regarding fuel supply to ships and the bunkering industry. The bunkering industry provides a package of fuel supply, insurance, crew services, and environmental issues, but so far we have not made much use

of this capacity.

Shahbazi explained the reasons for this: There are several reasons for this. One reason is that we have generally not looked at the enormous capacities of the maritime economy. Our dependence on the oil economy had made us neglect this vast capacity.

He continued: The second reason is that our rivals in the Persian Gulf countries had much more serious designs in this regard and were able to offer bunkering services very seriously until recent years.

The economic analyst, recalling the announcement of the general policies of a maritime-oriented economy in 2022, stated: For the first time in the history of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the issue of paying attention to the maritime-oriented economy was considered at the highest level.

He added: This policy was turned into a program during the administration of the late President Raisi, and the resolution on measures related to the general policies of a maritime-oriented economy was drafted and announced. Many and numerous duties were assigned to various institutions in that approved program in order to utilize this vast capacity—both the maritime economy and the issue of coasts and hinterlands.

Special attention must be paid to the economic capacity of Strait of Hormuz

Shahbazi stated: The opportunity that has arisen today due to the circumstances of the third imposed war, and Iran was able to largely prove its exercise of sovereignty in the Strait of Hormuz, must from now on be pursued within the framework of a legal and economic regime appropriate to the region's security and strategic conditions.

He continued: This regime must be a legal and economic regime that is intelligent from the perspective of the Islamic Republic of Iran's exercise of sovereignty. It should not merely look at the issue as closing the strait, but should be seen as a game with the great powers in the economic matter.

He added: In these circumstances, within this package, which is called the bunkering document, we can offer a set of maritime, insurance, person-

nel, and refueling services. Both the Seventh Development Plan has a duty in this regard and the general policies of the maritime-oriented economy have mentioned it.

Issue of Strait of Hormuz should not be limited to collecting tolls

In response to the question of what the future of the Strait of Hormuz would be in the event of an agreement between Iran and the US and its reopening on the condition of receiving maritime services and paying fees to the coastal states (Iran and Oman), Shahbazi said: Our issue in the new security situation is not merely collecting tolls or money for services; rather, we must exercise sovereignty in this waterway for strategic and security reasons because our security is threatened through this route.

The economic expert noted: We must inspect ships and not allow ships belonging to the Zionist regime to pass through this waterway, and the conditions for transit through the Strait of Hormuz must be determined by Iran and Oman.

He noted: The services that can be provided to ships in the Strait of Hormuz are not only environmental and maritime services, but also security and economic services.

The economic analyst emphasized: If these matters are defined in the management of the Strait of Hormuz, then the initiative will be in the hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and a new legal and economic regime will be put on the table in which countries such as Oman can have a share.

Shahbazi concluded by noting: The new security and economic initiative in the Strait of Hormuz is an issue beyond just the Strait of Hormuz, because the economy is tightly intertwined with security. From now on, the investments taking place in the countries south of the Persian Gulf will also be one of the pieces of the legal regime. In my opinion, this is entirely feasible, and incidentally, this is our winning card in this regard.

He added: This issue should by no means be reduced to lifting the naval blockade and earning income. We should by no means say that if the blockade is lifted, free passage will be allowed in this waterway, because now the main issue is the exercise of sovereignty, not earning income.

'War is biggest threat to rights of workers; ILO must not remain indifferent to war'

you last year:

Let us return to the Declaration of Philadelphia, which recognizes peace and social justice as the two pillars of the welfare of all humanity, especially workers, and upon which the ILO itself was founded.

I appreciate the ILO's report documenting the crimes committed against children and workers in Gaza. But, we must not limit ourselves only to recording the costs of war; we must strive to prevent war itself.

As I remarked last year, let us learn from the experience of the First and Second World Wars. Wars may begin against oppressed nations, but their flames ultimately engulf everyone. Look at the world today: the President of Venezuela is abducted, while the threat of war looms on Europe's doorstep. Which country has not suffered from the attack on Iran? Which nation's workers remain safe from the fires of war?

War leaves workers unemployed, tears families apart, renders children orphaned, destroys homes and factories, and contaminates the environment. Yet, the greatest cost of war is the domination of brutality over the human spirit. War is a warning that humanity itself stands at the brink of barbarism.

I have little to add to what I shared when I had the honor of addressing

come hostages to those who profit from the production of weapons. Military capitalism has sacrificed humanity for the sake of weapon producers.

I concluded, and humbly appealed to you, not to remain indifferent. International organizations are not part of Hollywood. The International Labor Organization was established to confront the greatest enemy of workers' interests—war—and it cannot remain silent in the face of those who start it.

It is my duty to thank all the Trade Union who firmly condemn Israel-USA aggression and terrors in Iran. As the Martyred Leader pointed out, "You stay at the right side of history".

Hence, I respectfully call upon the Director-General of the ILO to convene, next year, a conference dedicated to War and The Workers of The World.

We gather together to discuss the prohibition of child labor. But is the suffering imposed on children by war any less destructive than child labor itself? Let us condemn both as

well as discrimination against women. Can decent work—that sacred objective pursued by the ILO—face any obstacle greater than war? In defense of workers' rights across the world and in pursuit of decent work, let us condemn war and use every capacity at our disposal to prevent it.

Last year, I concluded my remarks with words from a Jewish writer and a verse from the Holy Qur'an. I will read those same words once again today, because we need them this year even more than we did last year.

"The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference. The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it is indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it is indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, but indifference between life and death."

—And fear a trial which will be pervasive—

We should unify against war

We should unify against war capitalism

We should unify against the worst enemy of humanity

Thank you!

How the antifragile fusion of Ghadir and Ashura shields the Islamic Republic

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Western intelligence agencies consistently miscalculate the endurance of the Islamic Republic of Iran because they rely on a fragile, linear epistemology.

Think tanks evaluate state strength through static parameters such as gross domestic product stability, treating volatility as a systemic failure. The Islamic Republic, however, operates on a doctrine of systemic antifragility.

A state built on this framework does not merely survive pressure but grows structurally optimized because of it. While a resilient system resists stress until it eventually cracks, an antifragile architecture treats war, sanctions, and assassinations as the kinetic fuel required to shed structural inefficiencies.

The 2026 campaign of aggression demonstrates this resilience. Washington and Tel Aviv have spent enormous capital applying linear pressure to a nonlinear system.

Every round of sanctions has forced a restructuring toward domestic industrial capacity. Every kinetic shock has inadvertently uncovered friction points, enabling planners to patch vulnerabilities and decentralize power nodes.

This antifragile architecture confounds an adversary that only understands linear warfare.

The metaphysical software of autonomy

This immunity stems from the Ghadir paradigm, the core software of Iranian governance.

Ghadir refers to the historic declaration at Ghadir Khumm in 632 CE, where Prophet Muhammad (S) designated Imam Ali (AS) as his successor and guardian, establishing Wilayah (divine guardianship) as the foundational source of legitimate authority.

Bypassing the transactional and secular structures of the Westphalian order, Ghadir roots



legitimacy in a vertical, non-negotiable divine mandate rather than popular vote, foreign recognition, or economic integration.

Because this authority is metaphysical and non-transactional, it remains entirely insulated from the sanctions, vetoes, or financial blackmail of global hegemony.

This model stands in absolute opposition to the nihilistic Western order, which exports a hyper-individualistic framework designed to dissolve the organic social fabric of independent nations.

It equally rejects the structural vassalism of the dependent secular Arab system. Regimes across the region operate under increasingly ineffective outsourced security architectures, commercializing religion while normalizing ties with the genocidal Israeli regime.

Instead of building genuine legitimacy, they have hollowed out their domestic institutions to serve foreign interests, creating a deep transactional brittleness. These client states have traded their sovereignty for a fragile shield, acting as mere shock absorbers for a declining American hegemony.

The Ashura engine and mosaic command geometry

Where Western military doctrine relies on decapitation strikes to induce paralysis, the Ashura doctrine renders such strategies obsolete.

Ashura commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein

(AS) at Karbala in 680 CE, a stand against tyranny that transformed apparent defeat into an enduring symbol of resistance, sacrifice, and moral victory.

In Iranian and Shia strategic culture, this becomes a living operational principle: martyrdom does not weaken the system but accelerates it.

Martyrdom serves as a metabolic accelerator that eliminates bureaucratic inertia and converts collective grief into powerful mobilization.

Strategically, the military apparatus has shifted into the Mosaic defense doctrine, a state-scale guerrilla geometry of autonomous provincial commands.

This command web is hydrodynamic: if the adversary closes one valve, the pressure simply shifts to activate additional fronts. This dynamic has been on full display since the beginning of the 2026 war.

This unyielding structural endurance has forced profound admiration and concessions from prominent American scholars across entirely different schools of thought.

University of Chicago political scientist Robert Pape recently concluded that Iran's sheer resilience under intense military fire, combined with its asymmetric leverage, has effectively elevated it into an emerging fourth center of global power.

Similarly, John Mearsheimer, the preeminent voice of offensive realism, has argued that

the current conflict represents a stark strategic defeat for the United States, pointing out that Tehran now holds the structural cards in the region.

Perhaps most tellingly, even hawkish figures within the U.S. foreign policy establishment have begun to recognize the failure of their own doctrine.

Neoconservative strategist Robert Kagan has admitted that a total U.S. defeat in the Iran war is likely, warning that such a loss would inflict far more lasting damage to American global primacy than the retreats from Vietnam or Afghanistan.

The realist balance sheet of survival

This antifragile posture has been forged through the fire of a realist strategy paid for in blood and material sacrifice.

Under maximum pressure campaigns targeting military oil sales, Iran has systematically optimized its resistance economy. This decoupling insulated the state from Western financial contagion, shifting Iran from a vulnerable rentier model to an indigenously sustained defensive powerhouse.

Iranian strategists view the severe economic and kinetic costs incurred as the premium paid for sovereignty.

While the Western military base relies on corrupt, bloated, corporate-driven spending that falters under prolonged attrition, Iran produces scalable asymmetric matrices designed for chaotic environments.

The hybrid war meant to shatter Tehran has only sharpened its defenses, proving that the system grows stronger with every blow delivered.

As the Western "rules-based order" fragments under its own contradictions and the regional vassal regimes face a terminal crisis of legitimacy, the Islamic Republic emerges hardened and more capable, proving that a system built on Ghadir and Ashura draws renewed strength from the very chaos meant to destroy it.

Germany is punished at the UN

TEHRAN - Germany's failure to secure a temporary seat on the UN Security Council on Wednesday came as a blow to Berlin.

This is the first time Germany has failed to win a rotating seat on the Council after decades of successfully securing one of the Western European seats every eight years.

The Security Council consists of 15 members, including five permanent members and 10 elected members serving two-year terms.

Germany was competing with Austria and Portugal for two seats allocated to the "Western Europe and Others" group. Portugal and Austria secured the positions instead, Al Jazeera reported.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl travelled to New York last week to personally lobby for Germany's candidacy for the seat, reportedly meeting around 80 ministers and ambassadors at the UN and hosting a reception on Monday evening.

However, Germany won only 104 votes, falling 23 short of the two-thirds majority needed for election. Speaking with ARD television, Wadepuhl

conceded that the failure was "a real disappointment."

The failure fueled criticism at home, especially as Chancellor Friedrich Merz had promised to restore Germany's influence in Europe and on the larger world.

Alice Weidel, co-leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), described the result as an "embarrassment", while Adis Ahmetovic, foreign policy spokesman for the Social Democratic Party's parliamentary group, said the vote was "a gauge of how [Germany] is perceived internationally," Al Jazeera reported.

There is no single reason for Germany's failure. However, Berlin's blind support for Israel's genocide in Gaza proved costly for Germany and degraded its status in the world.

Germany came after the U.S. providing lethal arms to Israel in the war on the Gaza Strip.

Foreign Minister Wadepuhl himself attributed the defeat to Germany's positions on both Ukraine and Israel. "We have always taken a clear stance on certain issues, and these are positions that not all member states share," Wadepuhl told reporters.

"There is our firm support for Ukraine; the fact that Russia does not want such a voice at the Security Council," he said.

Wadepuhl also acknowledged that Germany's support for Israel may have hurt its chances. "The fact that Germany must always assume a special responsibility for Israel in the Middle East conflict may also have cost votes."

However, some analysts have dismissed the suggestion that Germany's support for Ukraine played a significant role in the vote, arguing instead that international opposition to Berlin's backing of Israel was more likely the decisive factor.

"Let's be clear: Germany's support for Ukraine had nothing to do with it. Portugal and Austria - who beat Germany - are no



less supportive of Ukraine," said Trita Parsi, executive vice president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

"It has everything to do with Germany's support for Israel's genocide and the manner in which the German government has been willing to undermine international law and the UN Charter on behalf of Israel. Germany's blind support for Israeli crimes cost Germany its seat on the UNSC. As it should."

Parsi further argued that Germany's recent foreign policy has damaged its international standing, despite the country's diplomatic influence and financial contributions to the UN.

Craig Mokhiber, former director of the New York office of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), also linked the defeat to Germany's position on Israel and Palestine.

"In a rare moment of justice at the UN General Assembly today, Germany lost its bid for a UN Security Council seat," he said.

"Germany's scandalous support for genocide in Palestine and aggression against Iran, and its repression of human rights defenders inside Germany, were all on display as the body handed Germany this unprecedented loss."

To the surprise of the world, Chancellor Merz praised Israel's war on Iran in June 2025, saying "Israel is doing the dirty work for us in Iran."

Such blunt remarks by the leader of the most important European country that had a history of adopting rational and measured approaches toward international issues since the end of the Second World War was extremely unexpected.

Since Israel's war on Gaza in October 2023, Germany and institutional bodies have implemented a series of highly restrictive measures against Palestine solidarity protests. Human rights organizations and international observers have characterized this response as a "shrinking of civic space," citing a departure from Germany's usual standards for freedom of assembly and academic expression.

In May 2024, major gatherings at the Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and Humboldt University (HU) were forcibly cleared by riot police within hours. At FUB, 79 protesters were arrested; at HU, dozens were injured as police blocked journalists and legal observers from the scene.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Netanyahu "rejects" withdrawal from South Lebanon

From page 1 ► Haaretz further reported: "Once Iran threatened at the start of the week to attack Israel in response to the expansion of military operations in southern Lebanon, Trump decided to rein in Netanyahu so as not to undermine his efforts to achieve a long-term settlement in the Persian Gulf."

The newspaper also revealed emerging sharp disagreements emerging between the regime's political and military leadership. The General Staff is reportedly frustrated by the government's unwillingness to reach stable arrangements based on political understandings in any arena.

For Netanyahu, the fires of war must always remain burning, preferably on more than one front. In this way, renewed discussion of the questions that should stand at the center of the election campaign can be avoided, namely responsibility for the failures that led to the October 7 attack and the consequences of the unprovoked wars on various fronts since then.

The Zionist regime continues to wage aggression in southern Lebanon, despite the U.S. announcing yet another "cease-fire agreement" following more direct talks between Lebanese and Israeli diplomats.

Hezbollah Secretary-General

Sheikh Naim Qassem has called on Lebanese officials to put an end to "the humiliation and farce of direct negotiations", arguing that Washington's "ceasefire" proposal is intended to destabilize Lebanon and create internal divisions.

Sheikh Qassem stated that America's announcement following direct negotiations between Lebanon and the Zionist regime outlines the principles that the U.S. and Israel envision for Lebanon's submission to the "Greater Israel" project.

He emphasized that the proposal aims to destabilize Lebanon, undermine its security, and create divisions among Lebanese citizens for Israel's benefit. According to Qassem, it represents a roadmap for the destruction of part of the Lebanese population and the subjugation of the rest.

"Making the disarmament of the resistance the starting point for any agreement means eliminating Lebanon's strength and creating an existential threat to its people," he underscored.

Sheikh Qassem pointed out that the Zionist regime seeks to achieve through politics what it failed to achieve through war, insisting that "this will not happen." He underlined that the current security track, conducted under an illusory ceasefire, effectively requires Hezbollah



to stop retaliatory attacks and accept ongoing aggression against civilians. He characterized such an outcome as surrender, defeat, and the fulfillment of the enemy's objectives.

The Hezbollah chief emphasized that any ceasefire must apply to all of Lebanon and must not grant the IOF freedom to carry out attacks inside Lebanese territory.

"As long as the occupation remains," he said, "the resistance will continue. As long as the aggression continues, we will confront it with all the strength at our disposal and strike where we choose and where we are able." He added that as long as Lebanese villages remain unsafe, are bombed, destroyed, and their residents killed, northern settlements will not enjoy security.

Qassem also stressed that Hezbollah has never pledged to

refrain from resisting aggression or responding to attacks, calling for Lebanese sovereignty to remain the central objective.

He stated that this can only be achieved through a complete end to IOF attacks from land, air, and sea, the withdrawal of the IOF from Lebanon, the deployment of the Lebanese Army south of the Litani River, the release of prisoners, the return of displaced residents to their villages, and reconstruction efforts.

The Hezbollah leader held Lebanese authorities responsible for fulfilling their duties and addressing the internal divisions, which resulted from political choices that do not reflect a national consensus or the principles of the constitution and coexistence.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Massive crowds flood Tirana's streets, waving Albanian flags and raising fists in a dense sea of dissent on June 4, 2026. Gathering against Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump's luxury resort project on protected Sazan Island, the sprawling demonstration united under the rallying cry, "Albania is not for sale."

Greco-Roman wrestlers clinch two golds at UWW Ranking Series

TEHRAN - Iran captured two gold medals and one silver on the opening day of the Greco-Roman competition at the 2026 Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series in Mongolia, with Payam Ahmadi and Danial Sohrabi standing atop the podium.

The four-day event, officially titled the "Ulaanbaatar Open," is the third stop of the 2026 United World Wrestling Ranking Series and is being held in Ulaanbaatar from June 4-7. Wrestlers from several Asian and international powers are competing for ranking points ahead of the world championships.

Payam Ahmadi dominated the 55kg field to secure Iran's first gold medal of the tournament. Competing in a round-robin format, Ahmadi opened with an 8-0 victory over India's Lalit before beating Mongolia's Davaabandi Munkh Erdene by the same score.

He continued his commanding run with another 8-0 win against Mongolia's Sumiyabazar Munkhaya and wrapped up the campaign with a 9-0 victory over Turkey's Emin Cakir to finish unbeaten and claim the title.

Iran added another gold in the 72kg division through Danial Sohrabi. After receiving a first-round bye, Sohrabi defeated Mongolia's Borgil Tuvshinbaatar 10-0 in the quarterfinals and Kyrgyzstan's Amanat Samat Uulu 9-0 in the semifinals.

He then overcame compatriot Mohammad Javad Rezaei 8-5 in an all-Iranian final to take the gold medal and earn Iran's spot at the upcoming world championships in the weight class.

Rezaei had advanced to the final after victories over Kazakhstan's Sultan Assetuly and Kyrgyzstan's Zhantoro Mirzaliev.

The Greco-Roman action in Ulaanbaatar continues on Friday. Ali Ahmadi Vafa and Erfan Jarkani will represent Iran in the 60kg and 63kg categories, respectively.

Iran defeat Mali behind closed doors

TEHRAN - Iran football team defeated Mali 2-0 in a friendly match behind closed doors Thursday night.

Saeid Ezatollahi was on target in the 12th minute and Ramin Rezaeian doubled the advantage in the 55th minute.

Amir Ghalenoie's squad previously defeated Gambia 3-1 in their first friendly match of the camp.

Iran will depart Antalya, Turkey for Tijuana, Mexico, where the Persians will hold their training camp.

Team Melli are drawn in Group G along with Belgium, Egypt, and New Zealand.

Iran faces challenges ahead of the 2026 World Cup

TEHRAN - Iran's team is not required to enter the United States until June 14, one day before its first match against New Zealand at the FIFA World Cup 2026 at the Los Angeles Rams' stadium in Inglewood.

Iran play Belgium on June 21 and Egypt on June 26. Team Melli is heading to the FIFA World Cup 2026 while the country is at war with the primary host nation, a situation that is unique in the tournament's history.

In exclusive interviews with The Associated Press during a team camp in Turkey, two members of Iran's squad described how the conflict is affecting its World Cup preparations.

"Well, to be honest, it's not easy," said Saeid Ezatollahi, a 29-year-old midfielder who also played for Iran in the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. "That's going to be my third World Cup. So, for me and some of the other players, it might be easier to manage these kind of things," he said in English on the sidelines of a training session on Wednesday.

"But at the end ... it is going to be difficult for

us because at the same time, we are following the news in our country and the political things, of course, can affect the mind of the players and the people."

The Iran team has spent more than two weeks in Turkey, mostly practicing at the coastal resort Antalya, and some went to the capital Ankara to submit visa applications at the US embassy. Media access to their FIFA World Cup 2026 preparations has been limited, and the players rarely speak to international journalists.

The team is set to travel to Mexico this weekend after receiving visas from the Mexican embassy in Ankara. The team said Thursday that the process of obtaining entry permits had been finalized for all members of the squad. Problems with visa processing meant Iran's World Cup training base was moved from Tucson, Arizona, to Tijuana, on Mexico's border with California.

Iran will play its first two games near Los Angeles, which has a large Iranian community, many of whom oppose the current government. "We are expecting to have a lot fans during our games at the stadium," Ezatollahi said.

"And this is going to be a lot pressure for us because the expectation is going to be high. I just wish we can make them proud and show them that Iranians, they are prepared for every hard job in the world," he said. Mohammad Ghorbani, 24, is going to his first World Cup for Iran.

"It's true that we are facing special circumstances right now but we are football players and we have to play, practice, and prepare ourselves for the competitions we have ahead," the Abu Dhabi-based player said.

"On the other hand, we know that our people have been going through a lot of difficulties throughout the war, and we are going there for them, to get the best results for their joy and the joy of the people of our country."

Despite a nominal ceasefire being in place, Iran and the U.S. have yet to negotiate a permanent end to the war and attacks continue in the region.

Iran to leave Turkey for Mexico on June 6

TEHRAN - The Iranian national football team will depart Turkey for Mexico on June 6. IRNA, citing the media department of the Iranian national football team, reported that "with the issuance of visas for the remaining two members of the national team," the delegation's visas for the trip to Mexico are now complete.

The Iranian national football team will depart for Tijuana, Mexico, on Saturday, June 6, at 3:20 AM Turkey time.

The Football Federation of Iran had previously announced that, with FIFA's approval, the national team's camp and base during the 2026 World Cup would be relocated to the border city of Tijuana in Mexico.

The first two matches of the Iranian national football team are scheduled to be held in Los Angeles, but no reliable news has yet been published regarding the issuance of US visas for the members of the Iranian team and their entourage.

Mehdi Taremi: Iran's star in 2026 FIFA World Cup

TEHRAN - All eyes will be on Team Melli amid the ongoing conflict with the U.S. and Israel, making their campaign one of the most unusual and unpredictable of recent times.

Mehdi Taremi has never truly been a fan favorite, but there is no doubt that if Iran are to achieve something significant at the World Cup, their hopes will rest on the form of a player who has delivered consistently for Porto, Inter, and Olympiakos. Hav

ing spent several years competing at the highest level in Europe, Taremi has developed confidence and authority, to the point that he is now influential in the team's internal decisions as well. He is a

hard-working striker who also contributes defensively. His greatest strength lies in making runs in behind the opposition's defense and finding himself one-on-one with the goalkeeper. In those situations, he is always ready either to score or go down at the slightest contact, and win a penalty for his team.

Archaeological evidence points to ancient Parthian naval base near Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN - Archaeological investigations in southern Iran have uncovered evidence suggesting that the Parthian Empire established a strategic naval base near the Strait of Hormuz around 2,000 years ago, highlighting Iran's historical role in monitoring one of the world's most important maritime trade routes, a local archaeologist said.

Hossein Hosseinzadeh-Shahabi, an author and archaeologist from Hormozgan province, said recent excavations and field studies in Minab county have revealed remains of a Parthian-era fortress that appears to have served as a naval installation overseeing maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

According to Hosseinzadeh-Shahabi, the findings shed new light on Iran's role in securing and supervising commercial shipping routes linked to the ancient Silk Road, one of the most significant trade networks connecting the East and West during antiquity.

He said the Silk Road consisted of both overland and maritime routes. The land corridor stretched from China across the Iranian Plateau and through the ancient city of Rhagae or Ray, near present-day Tehran, before continuing toward Mesopotamia, Anatolia and the Roman Empire. At the same time, maritime trade



routes connected China and India to the Persian Gulf, enabling goods to reach western markets.

The newly identified archaeological remains are located in the Nakhl-e Ebrahimi area of Minab, a county in Iran's southern Hormozgan province. Archaeologists have also documented an ancient inlet known as Kahur Langar-e Chini Creek, extending from the Tiyab region of Minab toward the fortress site.

Hosseinzadeh-Shahabi said the combination of archaeological excavations, comparative studies and field surveys suggests that the fortress performed a function beyond that of a conventional settlement.

"The evidence indicates that the site served as a strategic naval base used for equipping and

dispatching Iranian fleets to the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

Researchers believe the installation was established to monitor maritime routes and supervise commercial vessels operating along the Maritime Silk Road. These ships transported goods from major production centers in Asia, particularly China and India, to markets farther west.

The findings, Hosseinzadeh-Shahabi said, demonstrate that Iranian authorities understood the geopolitical and economic significance of the Strait of Hormuz nearly two millennia ago and developed infrastructure aimed at maintaining oversight of a critical trade corridor.

He noted that the Roman Empire, one of Iran's principal economic and political rivals during

the period, sought to establish more direct access to eastern sources of silk, spices and precious stones without relying on routes passing through Iranian territory.

In that context, the establishment of naval facilities and the monitoring of strategic waterways formed part of a broader policy intended to safeguard Iran's economic interests and preserve its position within international trade networks, the archaeologist said.

The discoveries in Minab contribute to a growing body of evidence regarding Iran's maritime history and commercial activities during the Parthian period, which lasted from approximately 247 BC to CE 224.

The findings provide deeper insight into the historical importance of the Strait of Hormuz, which has long served as a key junction for regional and international trade. The waterway remains one of the world's most strategically significant maritime passages, linking the Persian Gulf to global shipping routes. Moreover, it offers new perspectives on the role of ancient Iran in managing and protecting trade flows through the region, while highlighting the long-standing geopolitical significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global commerce.

Traditional ecological knowledge in Pamnar village reflects deep ties between nature and rural life



TEHRAN - The mountainous village of Pamnar in southwestern Iran has preserved a rich body of traditional ecological knowledge shaped by generations of interaction with the natural environment, according to a study by anthropologist Mansoureh Razavi.

Situated about 45 kilometers north of Dezful in Khuzestan province, Pamnar lies along the Zagros mountain range in the Shahiyun district, an area known for its diverse vegetation and distinctive natural landscape. The village is home primarily to Bakhtiari Lur families whose livelihoods, customs and traditional skills have long been linked to the region's natural resources.

Razavi said the natural environment has played a central role in the development of lo-

cal culture, providing food, medicine, raw materials and practical knowledge passed down through generations.

"Nature has always been one of the main foundations of human life and culture," Razavi wrote, noting that local communities have relied on experience and inherited knowledge to understand and utilize plants and other natural resources.

The diversity of plant species found in the area has contributed to a broad range of traditional practices, from food preparation and herbal medicine to handicrafts and tool-making. Residents have developed detailed knowledge of local vegetation and its uses, allowing them to adapt to the mountainous environment while maintaining a close relationship with the ecosystem.

Among the most important traditional economic activities in Pamnar is the production of handicrafts. Many women in the village are engaged in the weaving of "Kapu," a traditional basketry craft that contributes to household income. Men often participate by collecting raw materials and preparing tools used in the production process.

Kapu weaving is considered one of the area's indigenous crafts. It relies on a local grass known as "Kertak" and young palm leaves

called "Pish." The materials are woven into containers and decorative objects featuring a variety of designs used for household and ornamental purposes.

Men in the village also produce woven items from palm leaves, including mats, hats and other utilitarian products that remain part of local daily life.

The surrounding landscape contains extensive stands of wild almond trees, known locally as "bayom kofi." Their white blossoms appear during winter and are a familiar feature of the region. Local residents harvest the mature almonds and process them through soaking, boiling and salting to remove their bitterness before consumption.

The almonds are eaten as snacks and occasionally sold to supplement family incomes. Almond kernels are also used in the preparation of traditional foods and dairy products.

Another plant species of local significance is the wild pistachio tree, known as "kolkhong or kolxong." Found in the highland forests around the village, the tree produces dark green fruits with a strong flavor that are harvested in early autumn. Villagers consume the fruit directly and also prepare a traditional winter food by mixing crushed kolkhong with pitted dates.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Tourists experience coastal heritage, tropical agriculture and environmental stewardship in Darak village

Darak, Iran - Tourists joined local residents and community leaders in a unique cultural and environmental tourism event in Darak village, one of the most remarkable destinations along Iran's Makran Coast.

The program offered visitors an immersive experience of the region's coastal heritage, tropical agriculture, and community-driven conservation efforts, highlighting the growing role of sustainable tourism in rural development.

A key feature of the event was the opportunity for participants to experience traditional fishing activities alongside local fishermen. Visitors gained firsthand insight into the centuries-old maritime traditions that continue to shape daily life and support livelihoods in coastal communities along the Oman Sea.

The event also featured a Tropical Fruits Festival showcasing the agricultural richness of Zarabad County. Local farmers presented a variety of tropical products cultivated in the region, including bananas, mangoes, papayas, guavas,



and dates. The festival provided visitors with a closer understanding of the area's agricultural potential and the important role of tropical farming in the local economy.

As part of the program, tourists toured banana plantations surrounding Darak village, where they learned about cultivation practices and the unique climatic conditions that make tropical agriculture possible along Iran's southern coastline. The visit highlighted the growing opportunities for integrating agriculture and tourism as complementary drivers of sustain-

able rural development.

Environmental awareness and community participation were central themes throughout the event. Tourists and local residents worked side by side in a beach-cleanup campaign aimed at preserving Darak's pristine shoreline and promoting responsible tourism practices. The initiative underscored the community's commitment to protecting its natural environment while welcoming visitors to the region.

Organizers said the event was designed to create meaningful connections between visitors and

local communities while showcasing the village's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and agricultural assets.

Located on the Makran Coast in southeastern Iran, Darak has gained increasing recognition for its extraordinary landscape where golden sand dunes meet the waters of the Oman Sea. The village is widely regarded as one of Iran's most distinctive emerging tourism destinations, offering a rare combination of coastal scenery, traditional culture, tropical agriculture, and environmental sustainability.

Organizers expressed hope that similar community-based tourism initiatives will further strengthen Darak's position as a model for sustainable tourism development, environmental stewardship, and cultural exchange along the Makran coastline.

By bringing together tourism, local culture, agriculture, and environmental responsibility, Darak continues to demonstrate the potential of community-led tourism as a catalyst for sustainable development and regional growth.

Millions hold magnificent 'Ghadir Celebration'



TEHRAN - Millions of people across the country marked Eid al-Ghadir on Thursday, holding a celebration which evolved beyond just a religious festival into a major display of social unity.

In Tehran, the event stretched from Imam Hossein Square to Azadi Square along one of the capital's main thoroughfares, bringing together hundreds of thousands of families, young people, and children in an atmosphere that blended religious observance, cultural activities, and public entertainment.

The 10-kilometer route was

lined with community-run hospitality stations, artistic performances, choir groups, street shows, cultural competitions, and food distribution points, making it one of the largest public gatherings of the year in the country.

Eid al-Ghadir is a source of unity for the Islamic nation. The event is the day on which Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam of the Shia, was appointed as successor to Prophet Muhammad (S).

On the way back home from Hajj in 632, which is known as the Farewell Pilgrimage, Muhammad



(S) asked for a stop in a region called Ghadir Khum, where in his sermon, he announced his cousin Ali (AS) as his successor and first Imam shortly before his death based on a revelation from God.

Afterward, two tents were pitched, in one of which Muslims congratulated the Prophet (S) for his excellent choice and, in the other one, Muslims from all tribes gave their allegiance to Ali (AS). One of the Muslims was Hazrat Fatima (SA), the wife of Imam Ali (AS) and daughter of the Prophet (S).

The martyred Leader of the

Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has said the regulation of government, power, and ruling in the Islamic community was determined by Ghadir. This is the significance of Ghadir.

"No doubt, the day of Eid al-Ghadir is extremely important. The importance of this Eid--the most important Eid based on the Shia narrations--relies on its theme: wilayah [governance]. It could be said that the goal of all the efforts made by Prophet Muhammad and other prophets and religious figures was to establish the wilayah of God."

ECO ministerial meeting: Iran push for environmental diplomacy

TEHRAN - The head of Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, has highlighted the importance of developing environmental diplomacy among Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states as an inevitable necessity to ensure a sustainable future, underscoring that no country can tackle complex environmental challenges alone.

ECO member states not only share historical, cultural, and economic ties, they also face a host of common environmental challenges such as heatwaves, frequent droughts, water scarcity, land degradation, dust storms, forest fires, and loss of biodiversity, she noted, dot.ir quoted Ansari as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing the 6th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Ministerial Meeting on Environment, held on June 3 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Highlighting that the ECO region is among the most vulnerable in the world to climate change, Ansari said these challenges directly affect the well-being, health, security, and sustainable development of the nations.

Sand and dust storms are among the most important transboundary hazards in the region with multifaceted environmental, economic, and social impacts. Enhancing cooperation among regional countries, exchanging data, implementing joint projects, and benefiting from international institutions' support are essential to successfully tackle dust storms, Ansari noted.

Protecting the region's fragile ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, arid and semi-arid regions, and marine areas, requires a coordinated and regional approach.

The official went on to say that Iran believes ECO can serve as an effective platform for the development of environmental diplomacy in the region. Hence, the DOE put forward five proposals to promote environmental diplomacy:

Developing a regional cooperation framework to combat dust storms; strengthening regional networks to monitor climate change and exchanging environmental data; expanding cooperation in the field of sustainable management of water resources and combating desertification; developing joint initiatives to protect biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems; and increasing joint efforts in green economy, renewable energy, and clean technologies.

She also announced Iran's full readiness to expand scientific and technical ties and foster executive partnerships with ECO member states.

Moreover, the official elaborated on the 40-day US-Israel attacks on Iran's environment and civilian infrastructures, describing the assaults as war crimes with irreparable damage to protected areas, the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman.

She urged the international community to condemn these attacks and take action to stop such measures, saying that inaction in the face of such crimes would weaken confidence in international mechanisms.

"Strengthening regional multilateralism

and cooperation among member states will contribute to keeping destructive trans-regional forces away from the Economic Cooperation Organization member states," she added.

Concurrently with the 6th Ministerial Meeting, the Global Environment Forum (GEF) meetings are also underway for two weeks. The Iranian delegation will participate in the main and high-level segment of the international event. It provides a great opportunity for bilateral and multilateral consultations, featuring the country's environmental capacities, and following up on issues like securing international funding and promoting cooperation in the environment and climate change fields.

Meeting Uzbek, Tajik, Azeri officials

On the sidelines of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting, Ansari held a meeting with Aziz Abdulkhakimov, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Chairman of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change. The two sides discussed establishing an early warning system for dust storms and expanding scientific and research cooperation in the environment sector.

The Uzbek official proposed launching a regional dust storm early warning system, noting that other countries in the region would also benefit from the services, doe.ir reported.

He also voiced his country's interest in sharing expertise on green universities.

For her part, Ansari called for the expansion of ties through conducting joint scientific and research projects, developing an early warning system and air pollution monitoring system, as well as collaborating on the biodiversity sector.

The two sides agreed to share knowledge in modern technologies, such as the reproduction of endangered species, within the framework of regional cooperation.

The head of DOE also met Tajikistan's Environment Minister, Bahadur Shiralizadeh.

The Tajik official expressed willingness to expand environmental cooperation with Iran.

Ansari, for her part, proposed developing collaborations on biodiversity conservation, wildlife and endangered species protection, and pollution management.

Convening a meeting with Mukhtar Babayev, Environment Minister of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues, officials underscored developing regional and bilateral cooperation to preserve the environment, protect and strengthen ecosystems.

During the meeting, Ansari emphasized joint environmental efforts between the two countries within the framework of the Tehran Convention, and announced Tehran's readiness to host seven Conference of the Parties (COP7).

Referring to the action plan proposed by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for the protection of the Caspian Sea, she said Iran is studying the plan and will announce the results to the UNEP soon.

The official also pinpointed challenges

posed by climate change and the Caspian Sea's decline, and highlighted the significance of enhancing collective action for the preservation of the sea.

She also announced Iran's readiness to foster climate adaptation, greenhouse gas reduction, protection of Hyrcanian forests, and fighting forest fires through bilateral and regional cooperation.

Babayev, for his part, stated that Azerbaijan will support Iran in hosting COP7. He voiced his country's willingness for the expansion of environmental ties between the two nations.

Referring to the UN Climate Change Conference, which will convene from November 9 to 20 in Antalya, Turkey, he explored the capacities for partnership between Iran and Azerbaijan, saying that there is potential to utilize the financial resources of the GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to implement environmental projects, particularly in the Caspian Sea.

ECO Ministerial Meeting

The 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment, held under the overarching theme 'New Horizons for Enhanced Regional Environmental Action through Collaborative Solutions', concluded in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, with the adoption of landmark documents that will navigate regional environmental cooperation for the next five years.

The meeting was chaired by Abdulkhakimov. The meeting brought together heads of environmental agencies, representatives of the ECO Secretariat, international organizations, and environmental experts to deliberate on regional responses to climate and environmental challenges.

In a decisive stride, Ministers endorsed the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026- 2030) and its two Thematic Annexes - the ECO Work Program on Climate Change (2026- 2030) and the ECO Work Program on Biodiversity (2026- 2030). These documents provide a structured, actionable roadmap for addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, while promoting resource efficiency, circular economy, and clean energy transition.

The Meeting also adopted the Samarkand Declaration on Regional Environmental Cooperation, a unified political statement reaffirming the commitment of ECO Member States to enhanced regional coordination, stronger cooperation, and mobilization of means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building.

Ministers welcomed the progress of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation and the RESCUE Initiative on circular economy, and instructed the ECO Secretariat to continue working with partners such as UNIDO to advance project development.

The Eighth GEF Assembly marked the Launch of the Indigenous Peoples Ambassador Program, a new award centred around recognizing Indigenous leaders for their unique knowledge, stewardship, and leadership in promoting and protecting primary forests.

UNESCO extends activities of two specialized chairs for Iran

TEHRAN - The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has agreed to extend the activities of two specialized chairs in Iran in the fields of "Water Reuse" and "Coastal Geo-Hazard Analysis."

The decision was made after evaluating the performance, achievements, and future plans of these chairs and reflects the organization's positive assessment of their scientific and research activities.

According to the announcement of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, the Chair in Water Reuse, headed by Mohammad-Hossein Sarrafzadeh, a member of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering at the University of Tehran, has been extended for a new term, IRNA reported.

Over the past years, this chair has played an effective role in developing knowledge and technologies related to sustainable water resources management and promoting new water recycling solutions by conducting applied research, implementing joint research projects, holding scientific meetings, and developing international cooperation.

UNESCO also agreed to extend the Chair in Coastal Geo-Hazard Analysis, headed by Hamid Nazari at the Geosciences Research Institute. According to UNESCO's decision, the chair will continue for a new term until December 31, 2029.

Over the past years, this chair has played an important role in identifying, assessing, and managing geological hazards in coastal and marine areas by implementing research projects, holding specialized meetings and workshops, and expanding scientific collaborations.

The extension of the activities of these two chairs reflects UNESCO's confidence in the country's scientific capacities and confirms the effective role of Iranian researchers in developing knowledge and technologies related to sustainable water resources management and reducing natural hazards, especially in coastal areas. This measure is also a step towards strengthening scientific and international cooperation and enhancing the resilience of societies to environmental and natural challenges.

Thousands of schools to be equipped with solar panels

TEHRAN - A national plan to equip around 12,000 schools across the country with solar power plants began on Thursday with the installation of a 5-kilowatt system in a technical-vocational school in Tehran.

Schools affected by war, boarding schools, schools in border areas, and in underprivileged regions are given priority. Donors have taken responsibility for covering costs, and the Clean Energy Organization is providing the required equipment to the selected schools. Also, the provincial officials and electricity departments are participating in the preparation and installation process, IRNA reported.

So far, 12 out of 31 provinces have announced their readiness, and the goal is to equip all 12,000 schools with 5-kilowatt systems by mid-September. There are about 100,000 public schools in the country, more than 60 percent of which have the capacity to install solar panels.

In November 2025, Majid Parsa, head of the Tehran Education Department, announced that 1,200 schools across Tehran province were set to be equipped with rooftop solar panel systems by the end of the past Iranian calendar year (20 March 2026). The initiative followed an agreement with the Tehran Governor's Office to install five-kilowatt systems on each participating school.

Parsa noted that the project would initially be implemented on a trial basis to assess performance, maintenance and grid integration. "The Education Department has already equipped five schools with pilot solar systems, which have shown promising results," he said at the time. He added that solar-powered schools could play a vital role in energy conservation, providing clean electricity for their own use and potentially supplying surplus power to the national grid.

Akbar Hasan Beklou, managing director of

The establishment of UNESCO Chair on Water Reuse has been proposed by school of chemical engineering in University of Tehran and with the objective of introducing vast capabilities of this university in water section and development of international cooperation in this sector. The proposal was designed in 2011 and it was approved by UNESCO in 2013.

The UNESCO Chair on Coastal Geo-Hazard Analysis was established as a competitive policy for labeling Integrated Geo-Hazard Research Sites, with two main objectives, new operational conditions for translational research in coastal geology, optimizing and accelerating knowledge production and promote the dissemination and application of this knowledge in coastal hazard assessment and sustainable development, increasing community resilience along shorelines.

The UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN (the abbreviation for University Twinning and Networking Program) Networks are a network of universities around the world that support UNESCO's work. Chairs and UNITWIN Networks are important examples of tertiary education networking.

They bring together partners in academia, civil society, communities, and policy-making stakeholders while promoting North-South and South-South cooperation. Chairs and networks dedicated to living heritage contribute to the training of future planners, managers, and decision-makers in the field of living heritage safeguarding.

They contribute to deepening the reflection on the topic and provide knowledge and advice from academia on the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels.

There are to date nineteen UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks linked to living heritage safeguarding and the 2003 Convention in different regions of the world. Their fields of action encompass conducting research and seminars on intangible cultural heritage, developing codes of ethics in safeguarding, raising awareness on intangible cultural heritage and its importance, studying and raising awareness on the contribution of living heritage safeguarding to sustainable development, and more.

Tehran Province Electricity Distribution Company, earlier stated that the project aims to generate about six megawatts of solar power through these school installations, with the first phase expected to connect to the grid within three months.

The first school equipped with solar panels was inaugurated in Tehran's District 12 in mid-November 2025. During the opening ceremony, it was announced that any school wishing to install solar panels would receive 50 percent support from the district municipality.

The ceremony was attended by Abdolreza Golpayegani, Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development, South Korea's Ambassador to Iran Kim Junpyo, Sadegh Pouraghdam (Advisor to the Minister of Transport and Urban Development and Secretary of the National Habitat Committee), and Mohammad Ayini, Mayor of District 12.

The solar school project was launched on the initiative of the Iran Urban Regeneration Company, with support from the National Habitat Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHabitat) office, at the Rahiane Qods Technical School in the Sirous neighborhood.

At the ceremony, Golpayegani stated that the project is part of the implementation of the "National Urban Policy Document". "The main objective of this project is to model and promote the use of renewable energy in worn-out urban fabrics," he said. "The implementation of this project puts Tehran on the path toward more sustainable and resilient cities."

He explained that the Urban Regeneration Company works to improve and renovate worn-out urban areas across social, economic, cultural, and educational fields, and that advancing this mission requires public participation and cooperation from all relevant institutions.



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JUNE 6, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Failures are often the results of timidity and fears;
disappointments are the results of bashfulness; hours of
leisure pass away like summer-clouds, therefore, do not
waste opportunity of doing good.*

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:03 Evening: 19:39 Dawn: 3:03 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

Book on global mass protests in 2010s published in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the political history and journalism book “If We Burn: The Mass Protest Decade and the Missing Revolution” by author and journalist Vincent Bevins has been released in the bookstores across the country.

Shahriar Khajian has translated the book and Qoqnoos Publishing House has brought it out in 424 pages, ILNA reported.

Originally published in 2023, the book concerns the wave of mass protests during the 2010s and examines the question of how the organization and tactics of such protests resulted in a “missing revolution”, given that most of these movements appear to have failed in their goals, and even led to a “record of failures, setbacks, and cataclysms”.

The title refers to the theme of self-immolation, which appears at the beginning and end of the decade, from the tragic death of Mohamed Bouazizi in 2011 to the adoption of a phrase from The Hunger Games during the 2019–2020 Hong Kong protests: “If we burn, you burn with us.”

The book begins by tracing the history of left-wing activism from the end of the October Revolution, through the New Left and into the present day. In particular, it traces the history of vanguardism in left-wing movement politics and the shift toward

distributed horizontalism in mass protest movements since the early 20th century.

The final chapter argues that the lack of central leadership enabled media misrepresentation of interests within horizontal movements, which subsequently defused and dissipated the energy and efficacy of the movements. The book additionally argues that the lack of leadership structure also allowed right-wing groups to co-opt social movements for their own purposes, leading in part to a full reversal of momentum as in Brazil.

The book draws on four years of research and hundreds of interviews, including with many of the original organizers of major protest movements. Bevins starts from a position of sympathy for the movements he describes, despite their varied ideological content. Bevins is very critical of the mainstream media he is a part of, and uses his own experience to point to the ways that his class misrepresented or re-configured protest explosions.

Movimento Passe Livre in Brazil, Arab Spring particularly in Tunisia and Egypt, Occupy Wall Street in the US, 2014 Hong Kong protests, Euromaidan in Ukraine, 2019–2022 Chilean protests, and 2016–2017 South Korean protests are the movements included in the book.

Cartoon of Day



Psychotic Episodes

Cartoonist: Vasco Gargalo from Portugal

General Hollywood: Pentagon's propaganda operation on silver screen

Part 1

By Ali Hamedin

TEHRAN- “10 years from now you'll have Hollywood movies about how bombing an Iranian girls school made US soldiers sad.”

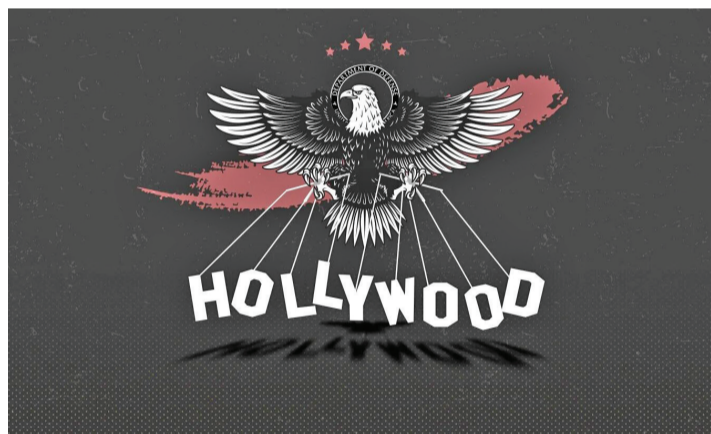
This statement was made by Aidan Simardone, Canadian geo-political analyst, following the announcement of the US's brutal attack on an elementary school in Minab, Iran. 120 children have yet to return home from the school — children who had neither Iran's uranium reserves in their backpacks, nor hidden weapons of mass destruction inside the school.

This horrific crime by the US has sparked massive international backlash and has become yet another example of “human rights, American-style.”

Throughout the war-torn and aggressive history of the US, one entertainment industry has always stood alongside its commanders on the battlefield, attempting to justify America's unnecessary and profit-driven wars to the people of the world: “General Hollywood”.

When the US ground assaults on your land are over, General Hollywood's work has just begun. This is the same unchanging rule that Frankie Boyle, the Scottish comedian, once spoke of:

“Not only will America go to your country and kill all your people. But they'll come back 20 years later and make a movie about how killing your people made their soldiers feel sad.”



My toys, my rules!

Suppose you are a screenwriter or producer and you approach the Pentagon for access to military equipment to help make your war film. In that case, you must submit your script for review to the Hollywood liaison office at the US Department of Defense (DOD).

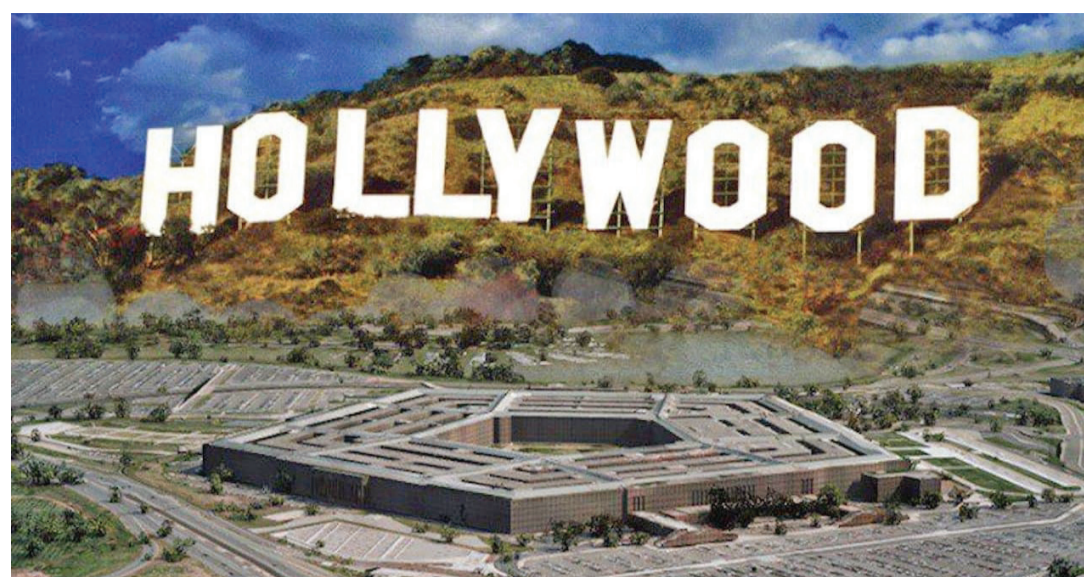
If you do not accept its requests and revisions, the Pentagon will no longer provide you with its toys. Likewise, you will have to pay all the bills out of your own pocket!

The documentary “Theaters of War” (2022) has specifically examined this issue. Directed by Roger Stahl, professor of communication studies at the University of Georgia and author of the book “Militainment, Inc.: War, Media, and Popular Culture”, the documentary shows how the Pentagon dictates storylines and exerts influence over Hollywood to align with the narratives, images, and alternative versions of history that it finds favorable.

Roger Stahl, in an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, stated that Hollywood is largely complicit in US militarism because it is embedded within the same economic, political, and cultural sphere of influence.

“Much like news, there are moments where the stories challenge dominant narratives, but those are exceptions that prove the rule,” he added.

Books such as “Operation Hollywood”, “National Security Cinema”, “Reel Power”, “Superheroes, Movies, and the State”, and “Militainment, Inc.” show that the Pentagon has long been active in the pre-production and production stages of Hollywood filmmaking and, by providing access to its facilities, personnel, and equipment,



has sought to present a positive image of itself in popular cinema.

Autobots for a propaganda mission

The “Transformers” franchise was able to secure more military support than perhaps any other franchise in cinema history. The first “Transformers” film received a record level of military assistance, featuring twelve different types of Air Force aircraft and personnel from four separate military bases. For the second film, director Michael Bay's list of military requests exceeded 50 items, with the estimated cost surpassing \$600,000. According to the Pentagon, the impact of this investment was multiplied through the use of technologies such as the \$150 million F-22 fighter jets, which had never before been shown in cinema.

savory historical episodes:

“The rescue narratives in the wake of Vietnam like “Rambo” and “Missing in Action” were attempts to “save” that conflict from the memory of having “lost the war”. “Black Hawk Down” is another good example, as is the wave of recent films about the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.”

The Pentagon wanted the narrative of the epic of American soldiers in Vietnam to go on the screen — but not all of it! So, they always had their favorites.

“The Green Berets” (1968), directed by and starring John Wayne, was one of the Hollywood films of its time that openly supported the Vietnam War. The original idea came from Wayne himself, who wanted to justify the necessity of the US presence in Vietnam to public opinion through a patriotic message. He discussed the idea directly with then-US President Lyndon Johnson in order to make a film that would tell the public “why it is necessary for us to be there.”

The story revolves around a Green Beret officer who becomes involved in direct combat with the Viet Cong while also trying to convince a skeptical journalist of the legitimacy of the American mission.

The Pentagon and the State Department dictated extensive political changes to the film. They demanded the removal of any reference to American forces crossing into Laos, as this could have alluded to the secret bombing of a neutral country. A scene depicting the torture of a Viet Cong prisoner was removed at the Pentagon's request. Ultimately, the Pentagon itself asked for its name to be removed from the film's end credits so that the film would not be categorized as an official propaganda production of the US.

The level of Pentagon cooperation was highly significant. The US Army provided the producers with massive amounts of equipment and manpower virtually free of charge (in exchange for less than \$19,000). This assistance included 85 hours of flight time with Huey helicopters, the provision of real weapons and heavy equipment. The report also found that “3,800 man-days were involved in support of the film.”

Orange on Blue

In his book “Operation Hollywood”, David L. Robb discussed the fate of the television film “My Father, My Son” (1988), a production that did not receive much affection from the Pentagon because of its illuminating approach to the consequences of Agent Orange use in Vietnam.

The film was based on the real and tragic story of Admiral Elmo Zumwalt and his son, Elmo Zumwalt III. During the Vietnam War, Admiral Zumwalt served as commander of US naval forces in the region and authorized the spraying of Agent Orange. His son, a young naval officer, was stationed in the very same contaminated area. Years later, the younger Zumwalt developed cancer, and the film tells the story of the father and son's joint effort to uncover this bitter truth and fight for government

recognition of the effects of Agent Orange. “My Father, My Son” was adapted from a book of the same name written by Elmo Zumwalt and his son.

The request for Navy assistance in producing “My Father, My Son” was elevated all the way to the Secretary of the Navy. However, he claimed that there was no definitive link between Agent Orange and the type of cancer suffered by the admiral's son, and therefore declined to cooperate with the production of the film.

Fred Weintraub, the producer, estimated that this lack of cooperation increased production costs by \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Three months after the film was released, Elmo Zumwalt III died of cancer. Following his son's death, Admiral Zumwalt continued his fight to force the government to acknowledge that the cancers of thousands of other Vietnam veterans were also caused by Agent Orange. Years later, Congress and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences released compelling evidence linking this chemical to the exact type of cancer that had killed the admiral's son.

A recruiting video for the Navy!

Another example is “Top Gun” — the Tom Cruise film about elite Air Force pilots that, in the 1980s, became a model for how to sell war and make killing appear glamorous. The makers of “Top Gun” were granted access to US Navy aircraft carriers, a naval air station, and a fleet of F-14 fighter jets and other military aircraft.

As The Washington Post reported: “It's unlikely the [original] film could have gotten made without the Pentagon's considerable support. A single F-14 Tomcat cost about \$38 million.” This was despite the fact that the entire budget of “Top Gun” was only \$15 million.

“Operation Hollywood” notes that John Davis, the American producer, described the film as “a recruiting video for the Navy” and said:

“It really helped their recruiting. People saw the movie and said, ‘Wow! I want to be a pilot.’”

All assistance remained limited to this. While the first film was warmly supported by the Navy, plans to produce the next film in the franchise were halted in the early 1990s because of a major scandal. The 1991 “Tailhook” scandal, which involved widespread sexual harassment by Navy pilots at a convention, caused the Navy to lose interest in continuing its cooperation with the project.

The director of “Theaters of War” explained: “Hollywood also helps to justify conflict by glamorizing the weapons themselves. Think “Top Gun” or Marvel movies depicting high-tech military weaponry fighting alongside superheroes.”

In the following section, we will discuss the significant importance and application of the superhero genre as the Pentagon's international PR.

To be continued.