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The Old Strait Is Gone, Welcome to the New Strait

After 100 days of war on Iran and suffering an estimated \$100 billion loss, Trump has failed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz despite military and economic pressure



Children play in the shallow coastal waters off Bandar Abbas in Iran's Hormozgan province, near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, as ships pass in the distance along one of the world's most vital maritime corridors, on Monday, June 1, 2026.

FM Araghchi receives Pakistan leadership message for Ayatollah Khamenei

TEHRAN - Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi delivered a letter from Pakistan's leadership addressed to Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, during his meeting with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran on Sunday.

Naqvi said the message was from Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defense Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and conveyed Islamabad's views on the current regional situation. ▶ Page 2

Iran: US 'moving the goalposts' main obstacle to diplomacy

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson has told CNN that the Trump administration's policy of shifting the "goalposts" and issuing "contradictory" statements is the main obstacle to negotiations with the United States.

"The main problem of negotiating with this administration is that you have to face so many changing positions, moving the goalposts, different statements, and contradictory remarks by different officials, so it makes the whole process very cumbersome," Esmail Baghaei said in an interview with CNN in Tehran on Sunday.

Baghaei, who also serves as the spokesperson for Iran's negotiating team in talks with the United States, once again highlighted Iran's rights and conditions in the negotiations. ▶ Page 3

US and Zionist entity intensify aggressive course

By Christoph Hörstel

BERLIN - Following two attacks perpetrated by the US and Israel, Iran stands as a victor facing a historic decision.

I. Lebanon

On Thursday, the U.S. compelled Lebanon—in Washington—to accept an unworkable framework for implementing a completely unjust ceasefire with Israel. This was only possible because Washington designates Hezbollah a terrorist group and ostracizes it politically. These unjust "negotiations" took place in Washington, at the White House. Photos of the negotiating room show rectangularly arranged tables with half the seats empty—a wonderfully symbolic image. In constant deference to Netanyahu, Trump has ensured that Israel now possesses, in effect, his blank check for its aggression against Lebanon. This is not in the true American interest.

The coerced agreement from Washington makes the ceasefire conditional on Hezbollah completely halting its attacks and withdrawing all its fighters from areas south of the Litani River—a clear act of submission to Israel

Look at Gaza through the lens of humanity and justice

By Dr. Ezzaldeen Shalah from Gaza

From the heart of Gaza, where death is no longer just a news headline but a part of daily life, we watch with deep sorrow the continued targeting of children, families, and the tents of displaced people that are supposed to provide shelter and safety for civilians. Every day, we lose loved ones, friends, and neighbors, and new names are added to the growing list of victims deprived of their most basic right: the right to live in safety and dignity.

Among the most heartbreaking stories of these days is that of a young groom who was killed on the night of his wedding. A night that should have marked the beginning of a new life was instead turned into a tragedy, symbolizing the immense suffering endured by our people. His story reflects the countless dreams and futures being cut short in Gaza.

Our message to the world is simple: look at Gaza through the lens of humanity and justice. Urgent action is needed to protect civilians, stop the killing of children, women, and displaced families,

Israeli army "bleeding" in southern Lebanon

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Israeli news outlets have acknowledged that the Israeli Occupation Force (IOF) is "bleeding in the quagmire" of southern Lebanon after Hezbollah inflicted yet more casualties.

Reports say at least 18 soldiers have been killed since the ceasefire began, amid a complete inability to counter Hezbollah's explosive drones and growing military and political concern over the lack of a clear way forward.

Israel's Channel 12 described the situation of the IOF in southern Lebanon and along northern settlements as very alarming, stressing that last week was among the deadliest since the ceasefire took effect. It added six IOF soldiers killed during the past week alone.

Hebrew broadcaster Kan acknowledged that the military establishment has fallen into an operational dilemma and a tactical quagmire due to the "disturbing equation" imposed by Hezbollah through its military operations.

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Aref: Iranian officials are fully aligned on negotiation

TEHRAN - Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref has stressed that all senior officials are united on the country's negotiating strategy, rejecting speculation about internal differences over the content or direction of ongoing diplomatic efforts.

Speaking during a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) on Saturday, Aref said Tehran has pursued a clear and coordinated approach in negotiations, emphasizing that all parts of the political system are working within a single strategic framework.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted a specific strategy in the negotiations, and all officials have pursued it with full coordination," Aref said. "There are no differences regarding the negotiation texts or proposals."

The vice president's remarks came amid ongoing indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States aimed at addressing bilateral disputes and regional developments. ▶ Page 2

'Iranian Red Crescent Society emerges as global humanitarian voice after 40-day war'



▶ Page 7

Scan this QR code to watch the video.



'They only understand the language of force,' Ghalibaf says after Dahieh bombing

TEHRAN - Israeli warplanes launched a deadly airstrike on Beirut's southern suburb of Dahieh on Sunday afternoon, hitting a residential building in the Tahwat al-Ghadir neighborhood and killing two citizens while wounding 11 others.

The National News Agency and Al Mayadeen correspondents confirmed that the salvo struck two apartments in the densely populated Marjayeh area.

The strike occurred just days after Washington publicized a trilateral framework for a temporary ceasefire. ▶ Page 5

The Iran nuclear file: Between diplomatic impasse, strategic restraint, and specter of escalation

By Dr. Ahmed Moustafa

CAIRO - The Iranian nuclear issue remains one of the most complex and volatile files in contemporary international relations. As indirect talks mediated by Pakistan continue between Tehran and Washington, the parameters of any potential agreement are shaped — and constrained — by hard strategic realities, directives, and deep-seated mistrust. Recent developments have further complicated the landscape, rendering certain optimistic pronouncements premature or irrelevant. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The world pays the price of instability and conflict

Kayhan, in an article, addressed the global crisis triggered after the US and Israeli attack on Iran. It argues that the joint strikes by the United States and the Israeli regime created a regional conflict that spread across the Persian Gulf and Lebanon, disrupted major shipping routes—including the Strait of Hormuz—forced vessels to reroute, and severely restricted global energy flows and supply chains. Governments and international institutions may try to mitigate the consequences of such crises through financial, commercial, and political tools, but experience shows that the cost of instability and conflict eventually crosses geographic borders and entangles the global economy. From this perspective, safeguarding vital trade and energy routes is not merely a regional necessity but a fundamental precondition for market stability, national welfare, and sustained global economic growth—an undeniable reality that recent developments have once again placed clearly before the eyes of the world.

Siasat-e-Rooz: A misstep comes with double the cost

Siasat-e Rooz, in its editorial, discussed the IAEA Board of Governors meeting and the US objectives there. It writes that the United States appears to be placing a set of secondary pressure tools on the negotiating table—such as a naval blockade, daily low-intensity military aggression in southern Iran, a possible IAEA resolution, and new sanctions—in exchange for demanding the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Under such circumstances, Iran should not only actively participate in the Board of Governors meeting to expose the dimensions of American-Israeli nuclear terrorism and their aggression against Iran's nuclear facilities, but also take practical steps to increase the cost for the United States within the IAEA. Iran must adopt a pre-emptive approach by issuing an operational warning to the IAEA and the international community that any resolution could lead to a complete halt in cooperation with the Agency, a possible withdrawal from it, or an increase in enrichment levels. The United States must understand that every move carries an added cost, forcing it—through cost-benefit calculations—to retreat.

Hamshahri: Hollow power

At a time when the US president is trying to portray the war against Iran as a sign of American strength and a strategic victory, a significant portion of the media, analysts, and even American politicians view the White House narrative with skepticism and ridicule. Some senators and political figures critical of the administration have accused

Trump of improvisation and impulsive decision-making; Chuck Schumer even called him "a military fool." Meanwhile, several Western media outlets, pointing to Trump's constantly shifting positions on the Iran war, have questioned Washington's official narratives. Analysts argue that the gap between the White House's claims and realities on the ground has grown so wide that even within the United States, the administration's narrative is seen less as a coherent strategy and more as a subject of sarcasm, satire, and political criticism.

Resalat: The Strait of Hormuz is a leverage, not a concession

Resalat emphasized the importance of the Strait of Hormuz as a tool of leverage. It argues that now that Iran has come to the negotiating table from a position of strength, the equation must be reversed: this time, it is the United States that must prove it is ready to honor its commitments. According to the paper, Iran—not the other side—holds the leverage, and maintaining this leverage is not an act of warmongering but a matter of strategic rationality and national interest. If the management of the Strait of Hormuz is based on new legal frameworks in which Iran, as the coastal state and regional power, plays a regulatory role, several strategic outcomes follow: Economic leverage against countries that have targeted Iran's economy is preserved, a stable source of revenue from navigation services emerges, helping fund reconstruction costs, and most importantly, real deterrence is created—forcing any power to think twice before embarking on new adventures.

Ettelaat: Israel's goal is expansionism

Ettelaat evaluated the escalation of tensions in Lebanon. It argues that the renewed escalation—which has brought Lebanon back to the center of conflict—is not merely a pressure tactic against Lebanon and Hezbollah, but also an attempt to disrupt or reshape the negotiation process between the United States and Iran. This escalation operates along two main tracks: US-mediated negotiations between Lebanon and Israel and negotiations between the United States and Iran. According to the analysis, Netanyahu seeks to use "field-pressure diplomacy" to increase his demands by intensifying attacks, occupying territory, threatening to strike Beirut, and imposing new realities on the ground to shift the balance in his favor. This means that the ceasefire agreement imposes no obligation on Israel to halt its fire; rather, it aims only to stop Hezbollah's fire and serves as a tool for Israeli expansionism.

Velayati condemns killing of children in conflicts, calls for global protection of schools

TEHRAN – A senior advisor to Iran's Leader has strongly condemned the killing of children in armed conflicts, describing children as a universal red line for humanity and asserting that the loss of any child anywhere in the world is tantamount to a loss for all mankind.

In a message delivered to a memorial ceremony honoring the victims of the Minab school tragedy, Ali Akbar Velayati, senior advisor to the Leader on international affairs, stressed the need for greater international efforts to protect children from the consequences of war.

Velayati referred to the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, established following the deaths of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian children in 1982, and argued that similar tragedies continue to occur in contemporary conflicts.

He cited the deaths of 168 Iranian students and teachers at Shajareye Tayyebeh School in Minab during the first day of the recent aggression against Iran, saying the incident underscored the devastating impact of war on civilians and educational institutions.

Describing attacks on children as among the gravest violations of international and

humanitarian principles, Velayati criticized 'selective approaches to human rights' and urged the international community to adopt more effective mechanisms to prevent violence against children.

He said Iran seeks to amplify the voices of children affected by war, particularly in conflict zones such as Gaza and Lebanon, and called for stronger legal frameworks, enhanced accountability, and greater protection for schools and educational facilities.

Velayati also emphasized Iran's readiness to cooperate with other countries and international organizations to safeguard children's rights and promote a global culture that respects the sanctity of children, teachers, and educational institutions.

The bombing of Shajareye Tayyebeh School in Minab stands as one of the most painful symbols of the recent conflict, highlighting the human cost of war beyond military battlefields. The attack was a direct strike on innocent civilians and the educational system, and the deaths of students and teachers demonstrate the need for stronger international condemnation of attacks on schools and greater accountability for actions that place children in harm's way.

FM Araghchi receives Pakistan leadership message for Ayatollah Khamenei

From page 1 ▶ Araghchi and Naqvi reviewed bilateral relations and discussed issues of mutual interest.

The talks also covered recent diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions linked to joint US-Israeli aggression against Iran that began on February 28 and broader regional security developments.

On Saturday, Naqvi also met Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Mo'meni shortly after his arrival in Tehran. He described the letter addressed to Iran's Leader as "important," adding: "I hope everything proceeds well and comes to a good conclusion."

Naqvi said Pakistan has been



playing a mediating role in regional tensions since February, including facilitating contacts

between relevant parties and hosting early-stage discussions, although those efforts have yet

to produce a breakthrough.

"We hope these crises will soon come to an end through the efforts of Pakistan's leadership," he said, emphasizing the "brotherly relations" between Iran and Pakistan.

He also thanked Iranian officials, including Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf expressing hope that ongoing diplomatic efforts would yield results.

Iranian officials, for their part, have welcomed Pakistan's role in regional mediation, describing Islamabad as a friendly and neighboring country with deep religious, cultural, and historical ties to Iran.

Aref: Iranian officials are fully aligned on negotiation

From page 1 ▶ Aref also pointed to Iran's experience in managing major crises, saying the country has gained valuable expertise from navigating two imposed wars. Aref said that measures adopted during wartime, including the reduction of bureaucratic hurdles and the use of special executive authorities, facilitated faster imports, cargo unloading, and customs clearance, helping maintain the smooth flow of trade and essential goods.

According to Aref, these measures enabled customs authorities to maintain efficient operations and develop new mechanisms for managing trade and logistics

under challenging conditions.

The vice president further called for expanding the capacity of customs facilities and ports, describing transport and logistics infrastructure as a key component of Iran's economic development strategy. He urged the accelerated completion of the North-South and East-West transit corridors, which are expected to enhance regional connectivity and trade.

Aref also highlighted the growing importance of Iran's policy of strengthening ties with neighboring countries, saying regional engagement has gained additional momentum in recent months. He stressed



that greater attention should be devoted to regional opportunities and cooperation with countries within Iran's broader civilizational and economic sphere as part of the country's long-term development planning.

Iran envoy: BRICS nations hold key to global energy security

TEHRAN – Iran's ambassador to Russia has emphasized the growing role of BRICS countries in shaping global energy security, arguing that nations of the Global South are becoming increasingly influential in ensuring the stability and sustainability of international energy markets.

Speaking at a meeting on BRICS development held on the sidelines of the 29th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF 2026) on Saturday, Ambassador Kazem Jalali outlined Iran's perspective on the bloc's evolving position within the global energy architecture.

Jalali said a combination of geopolitical tensions, supply-chain disruptions, market volatility, and rising energy demand in emerging economies has elevated energy security to one of the most critical pillars of global stability and economic development.

"Global energy security is increasingly being shaped by countries of the Global South, particularly BRICS members, which play a decisive role in this field," he said.

The Iranian diplomat stressed that energy security extends beyond access to energy resources, describing it as a com-

prehensive concept encompassing supply security, demand security, investment security, technological resilience, infrastructure development, and financial stability.

He called for deeper cooperation among BRICS member states, developing the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), expanding transportation and logistics infrastructure, enhancing port cooperation, and strengthening energy network connectivity.

According to Jalali, such initiatives would contribute to greater resilience, security, and sustainability in regional and global

energy trade while reinforcing economic integration among member countries.

The ambassador also reiterated Iran's commitment to international peace and stability, stating that the country has consistently advocated dialogue and cooperation in international affairs.

"As a BRICS member and a major energy producer, Iran is prepared to play a constructive role in advancing global energy security and promoting sustainable energy cooperation," Jalali said.

The Iran nuclear file: Between diplomatic impasse, strategic restraint, and specter of escalation

From page 1 ▶ A pivotal recent development is the clear position adopted by the new Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei. According to credible reports, he has issued a directive restricting the transfer of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile to any third country. This stance effectively nullifies discussions or "gossip" suggesting the export of the material (enriched to 60%) as a confidence-building measure or bargaining chip in negotiations with the United States.

This restriction aligns with Iran's sovereign insistence on maintaining control over its nuclear infrastructure and materials within its territory. It underscores a strategic calculus: any deal must respect Iran's red lines on its enrichment capabilities and stockpiles. Statements from U.S. officials or IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi that appear to assume the feasibility of uranium removal or major concessions in this area must be viewed as detached from the current Iranian position and, therefore, of limited practical value in advancing serious talks.

Iran's nuclear program has reached a level of technical maturity that cannot be ignored. Dr. Yousri Abu Shadi, a former senior IAEA official, chief inspector and current advisor, has publicly highlighted Iran's capacity to potentially pivot rapidly toward weaponization if strategic circumstances compel it. While estimates vary, the existence of advanced centrifuges, accumulated know-how, and protected stockpiles means that timelines for producing a nuclear device could be significantly compressed under a crash program.

This reality imposes urgency on all parties. Iran maintains its program is for peaceful purposes and remains committed to the NPT framework in principle. However, repeated military strikes and perceived existential threats have reinforced the view in Tehran that deterrence may require keeping options open.

Selective pressure

The 2026 NPT Review Conference in New York concluded without a consensus final document, amid rising global nuclear risks — an outcome that received relatively muted media attention despite its significance. This failure reflects deep divisions, particularly over disarmament obligations, regional security, and the application of safeguards. Critics argue that positions advanced by the United States and Israel contributed to the impasse, prioritizing selective pressure over comprehensive approaches to global security.

Compounding this is the IAEA's handling of recent events. The Agency's failure to issue strong condemnations of the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities — both in the previous year and more recently — has been viewed in Tehran as a glaring example of double standards. Director General Grossi's statements continue to emphasize safeguards and cooperation while the context of military aggression against safeguarded sites remains inadequately addressed.

Such perceived bias risks eroding Iran's willingness to sustain full engagement with the IAEA, potentially leading to further suspension of commitments and a deterioration in relations.

Support from strategic partners

Russia and China have maintained supportive stances toward Iran, offering to receive enriched uranium as part of potential arrangements. However, Tehran has not accepted these offers pending the achievement of satisfactory conditions in the U.S. talks. This reflects Iran's preference for a comprehensive diplomatic solution that addresses sanctions relief, security guarantees, and regional de-escalation, rather than partial or interim measures.

Pakistan's mediation role has been instrumental in keeping channels open, facilitating proposals and counter-proposals amid



a fragile ceasefire. For any breakthrough to occur, negotiations must move beyond maximalist demands and recognize the new realities on the ground: Iran's resilience, the binding nature of internal directives on uranium stocks, and the limits of coercive diplomacy that has repeatedly backfired.

The Iranian nuclear case is not merely a technical safeguards issue; it is intertwined with questions of sovereignty, regional power balances, and the credibility of the international non-proliferation regime. Ignoring Iran's security concerns, applying double standards, or underestimating its technical and political resolve will only push the situation toward greater instability.

A viable path forward requires mutual recognition of red lines, genuine reciprocity, and a departure from outdated frameworks. Iran has demonstrated strategic patience and restraint. The international community — particularly the P5 and regional actors — should seize the current window of mediated dialogue to forge an agreement that enhances security for all, rather than perpetuating cycles of confrontation. The alternative — further erosion of trust and potential rapid proliferation dynamics — serves no one's long-term interests.

(The views expressed in this article are the writer's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Tehran Times)

The old strait is gone, welcome to the new strait

After 100 days of war on Iran and suffering an estimated \$100 billion loss, Trump has failed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz despite military and economic pressure

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Iran's complete control over the Strait of Hormuz remains a thorn in the side of President Donald Trump amid the domestic political and economic fallout of a war that the United States and Israel jointly launched on Iran more than 100 days ago.

Soon after the conflict erupted on February 28, Iran shut the Strait of Hormuz and prevented vessels affiliated with its adversaries from transiting the strategic waterway.

Iran's move sent energy prices soaring globally and fueled inflation in the United States.

Since the outset of the war, Brent crude has surpassed \$110 per barrel on multiple occasions. Gasoline prices have also averaged above \$6 per gallon in California, compared with around \$3 per gallon in several US states before the conflict.

Last week, a Moody's Analytics study found that the war has cost US households \$750 each, or around \$100 billion in total. It linked the inflation spike, higher gas prices, and declining savings directly to the conflict.

According to US media, Americans' personal savings rate has dropped to 2.6%, the lowest since June 2022. Inflation has risen again to its highest level since May 2023, while food prices have reached levels that are increasingly difficult for many households to afford.

Iran: US 'moving the goalposts' main obstacle to diplomacy

From Page 1 ▶ He said there are a number of sticking points, "but the main issue is that the Americans must understand that they have to recognize Iran's rights," including its right to peaceful nuclear enrichment.

"At the same time, when they are talking about our blocked assets, they're not going to give us any concession," he added.

Further in his remarks, Baghaei said Washington "simply must stop its sanctions."

He also highlighted US violations of the ceasefire between Tehran and Washington that came into effect on April 8.

"They have been attacking our commercial ships, both in the Strait of Hormuz and on the high



Such economic pressures come months before the mid-term elections in November, when Trump's Republican Party will have to contend with the president's weak job approval ratings as it seeks to retain control of the Senate and the House of Representatives. If Democrats regain control of Congress, it could significantly constrain Trump's agenda for the remainder of his presidency.

Hence, Trump is struggling to bring the war to an end and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

An April 8 ceasefire raised hopes of a pathway toward a more permanent settlement. However, according to Esmail Baghaei, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Washington's policy of "moving the goalposts" remains the primary obstacle to diplomacy. During 39 days of

seas," he asserted.

Baghaei warned that Iran's armed forces "are resolute in responding to any attacks with full force."

The United States and Israel launched a war on Iran on February 28. They targeted not only Iran's military sites but also civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and residential areas, killing thousands of people.

In response, Iran carried out 100 waves of missile and drone attacks against Israel and US bases in the Persian Gulf region. Iran's military response prompted President Trump to agree to the April 8 ceasefire.

However, Pakistan's diplomatic efforts have so far failed to secure

Iran's move sent energy prices soaring globally and fueled inflation in the United States. Since the outset of the war, Brent crude has surpassed \$110 per barrel on multiple occasions. Gasoline prices have also averaged above \$6 per gallon in California, compared with around \$3 per gallon in several US states before the conflict. Last week, a Moody's Analytics study found that the war has cost US households \$750 each, or around \$100 billion in total. It linked the inflation spike, higher gas prices, and declining savings directly to the conflict. According to US media, Americans' personal savings rate has dropped to 2.6%, the lowest since June 2022. Inflation has risen again to its highest level since May 2023, while food prices have reached levels that are increasingly difficult for many households to afford.

Iran has stated that only diplomacy based on the recognition of the nation's rights—including respect for its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz—can pave the way for easing the energy crisis and cost-of-living pressures in the United States caused by disruptions to maritime transit.

Tehran also says that Iran and Oman are coordinating efforts to

develop new regulations governing maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz even after the war.

The Strait of Hormuz is geographically bordered by Iran and Oman, making both countries central stakeholders in its governance. Tehran argues that any durable framework for maritime transit must reflect this reality rather than rely on external military pressure or unilateral enforcement by extra-regional actors. From this perspective, Iran and Oman are viewed as the only legitimate regional parties capable of establishing a stable and enforceable regulatory mechanism for shipping in the waterway.

The US naval blockade of Iranian ports has underscored Washington's limited ability to translate military pressure into strategic outcomes in the Persian Gulf. Despite deploying naval assets and applying economic warfare, the United States has been unable to restore stable energy flows or secure reopening of the strait on its own terms. This gap between political objectives and practical results has reinforced Tehran's view that long-term stability in the Strait of Hormuz cannot be achieved through coercion, but only through a regional arrangement that recognizes the sovereignty and security interests of the coastal states directly bordering the waterway.



a permanent end to the war due to what Iran describes as Washington's "excessive" demands.

Trump also ordered the US military to impose a blockade on Iran's ports in mid-April. As a vio-

lation of the ceasefire, the United States has also attacked Iran's ships and carried out strikes in southern Iran, particularly on Qeshm Island. In response, Iran has targeted US bases in the Persian Gulf region.

LATEST NEWS

■ Pezeshkian: Protecting livelihoods remains government's top priority

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said protecting household livelihoods remains the administration's foremost priority as officials assess economic conditions amid the ongoing US-Israeli aggression against Iran. Chairing a meeting of the Economic Coordination Council on Sunday, Pezeshkian stressed the need to strengthen purchasing power, manage costs, and eliminate unnecessary spending. He also called for more efficient use of energy resources, saying that saving water, electricity, and fuel consumption should be directed toward improving living standards and easing economic pressures on citizens.

■ Iran, Pakistan move to advance \$10 billion trade goal

Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said Tehran and Islamabad are committed to turning their \$10 billion bilateral trade target into a practical reality. During talks with Pakistani Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Momeni emphasized the importance of expanding economic cooperation and increasing high-level exchanges. He said both sides must establish the necessary executive mechanisms to achieve the goal, while Naqvi expressed optimism about further strengthening relations between the neighboring countries.

■ Araghchi calls for deeper Tehran-Caracas cooperation

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi met with

Iran's ambassador to Caracas in Tehran on Saturday, emphasizing the need to maintain and further strengthen strategic bilateral cooperation across areas of mutual interest.

■ Qalibaf commends volunteer relief groups during US aggression

In a message, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf praised volunteer relief groups for assisting people during the US-Israeli war of aggression launched against Iran on February 28.

■ OPEC+ raises July oil output quota as Strait of Hormuz crisis goes on

OPEC+ has agreed to raise oil production quotas by 188,000 barrels per day in July, but analysts say the move is unlikely to ease market pressures while the war in the Middle East continues to disrupt crude flows through the Strait of Hormuz.

Ministers from Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman approved the increase during a virtual meeting on Sunday, OPEC+ said in a statement.

The group said the decision was intended "to support oil market stability" while also allowing members to accelerate compensatory production adjustments at a time of historically high oil prices.

■ Four militants killed in clash with Iranian security forces in Saravan

Four militants were killed during a confrontation between Iranian security forces and an

armed group in the southeastern city of Saravan, in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, according to an informed source.

The clashes occurred on Sunday and resulted in the death of one member of Iran's security forces, the source said.

Preliminary reports indicate that security personnel seized a cache of weapons, ammunition, and other equipment belonging to the militants during the operation.

■ Report: Ships paying up to \$2 million under new maritime services plan in Strait of Hormuz

Vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz are paying between \$1.5 million and \$2 million on average under a newly implemented maritime services arrangement, according to a report published on Sunday.

Mohsen Zanganeh, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Planning and Budget Commission, confirmed the arrangement in remarks cited by Fars News Agency.

According to the report, the program is being administered by an entity established in cooperation with Iran's Ministry of Economy and operating under the supervision of the Supreme National Security Council.

The report added that payments are not exclusively made in cash. Some transactions are reportedly settled through goods and services, cryptocurrencies such as Tether, or barter agreements.

One policy, two parties: Washington and Iran

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - Brett McGurk's recent remarks at a press conference — McGurk served as the White House coordinator for the Middle East under the Biden administration — illuminate one of the most durable political fictions in American foreign policy: that there exists any substantive difference between a Democratic and a Republican administration when it comes to Iran. McGurk stated that the United States has been "at war with Iran since 1979," and that Iranian ideology, which he described as very much alive, consists of expelling the United States from the Middle East and eliminating Israel. The statement is remarkable not for its content, which is entirely predictable, but for its candour. It articulates directly what both parties have shared since 1979: that Iran constitutes a fundamental obstacle to the order Washington requires to maintain.

Iran remains in the Western political imaginary as a spectral presence that refuses to disappear. Attempts to neutralize it have proved fruitless. After forty days of war, Iran not only survived but returned with a force that the West has found itself unable to administer. Despite decades of governmentality designed to deny its political autonomy, Iran preserves that autonomy expressed in an Islamic grammar that produces, precisely for that reason, a particular intolerance in Western capitals. What Iran represents through its theological-political persistence calls into question the foundations of Western modernity: the supposed inevitability of secularization, the universality of certain forms of government, the idea that history moves inexorably toward a liberal destination.

Given that this analysis is shared across both American parties, the question becomes unavoidable: how to account for the surface difference between an Obama administration that signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2015 and the current Trump administration, which dismantled that agreement and launched a forty-day war? The answer requires a shift from the ontic level to the ontological. At the ontic level — that of specific political facts, particular decisions, concrete approaches — clear differences exist. Obama employed multilateral diplomacy, selective sanctions and negotiation.

Trump resorted to the abandonment of agreements, maximum pressure and open warfare. But these differences remain circumscribed to methodology, emphasis and rhetoric. They do not touch the deep structure that organizes how both administrations understand Iran.

In both cases the same epistemic order persists: Iran must be known, administered, disciplined. Iran is an object that requires intervention. Iran represents a misalignment that must be corrected. Obama believed Iran could be integrated through agreements that demonstrated the benefits of cooperation.

Trump believed it could be neutralized through coercive pressure until capitulation. But both presuppose that a solution exists within the terms Washington establishes. Both assume that Iran can be guided, persuaded or broken toward acceptable behavior. Both, in other words, inhabit a common order of intelligibility: one in which Iran appears as a problem to be solved.

The deep structure: Family resemblances in American foreign policy

Ludwig Wittgenstein developed the notion of family resemblances to explain how concepts we share operate without requiring a single common trait. Members of a family resemble one another without all sharing the same eyes, the same mouth, the same profile. There is an overlapping network of similarities that only becomes visible from within that structure.

Applied to American foreign policy, this logic reveals something fundamental: what unites Republicans and Democrats is not a shared identity but a set of epistemic traits that produce Iran as a problem.

Consider a family photo album. In some pictures the men wear suits and ties; in others, jeans and shirts. Some poses are solemn; others, relaxed. The visual differences are evident. But any family member recognizes something that recurs beneath those variations: a particular way of smiling, a manner of looking, a gesture at the dinner table. In Washington,

Republicans and Democrats differ in rhet-

oric, method and emphasis. Republicans are louder, openly hostile, decisively interventionist. Democrats employ more diplomatic language, prefer sanctions to bombardments, invoke multilateral partnerships. But in every photograph of American foreign policy the same expression appears: Iran as an object to be monitored, controlled, kept within acceptable limits.

Washington's political family does not debate whether Iran must fit within its order of intelligibility. It debates how to make it do so. Whether through dialogue and incentives or through coercion and isolation. Whether through negotiated agreements or maximum pressure. These are tactical differences, not differences about what Iran fundamentally is.

So long as that structure persists, any debate between Democrats and Republicans remains internal to the same family, constituting no real challenge to its constitutive logic.

McGurk formulates this continuity with involuntary precision. The war "since 1979" is not Trump's war but Washington's war. It has been waged through different means by different administrations but persists as a fundamental category of American politics. Obama understood it as such: even while negotiating the JCPOA, he continued sanctions, maintained the regional military presence and financed Washington's allies against Iranian positions. The agreement sought not peace but containment: keeping Iran within a framework of economic dependence and political isolation.

What distinguishes this analysis from more conventional liberal critiques is that it does not appeal to the incompetence or extremism of one administration or another. Such critiques maintain the fiction that different governments could produce radically different policies toward Iran. But both administrations operate from the premise that Iran constitutes a challenge to the international order, that its defensive capabilities represent a systemic danger, that its political autonomy requires correction.

Saidiya Hartman showed in her analysis of slave emancipation in the United States how abolition produced not freedom but the reconfiguration of control. Both the South and the North, enemies in the Civil War, adopted similar means of politicization to keep the liberated population under domination. Something analogous operates in American policy toward Iran. One administration offers negotiation within acceptable limits; another offers pressure until capitulation.

Both presuppose that Iran must accept the terms Washington establishes. The choice remains circumscribed to a horizon in which Iran's genuine autonomy never appears as a possibility.

The real difference between American administrations with respect to Iran would be one that abandoned the shared presupposition: one that acknowledged Iran as a sovereign state whose foreign policy, however disagreeable to Washington, does not constitute a problem requiring a solution. That Iran has the right to develop defensive capabilities. That Iran has the right to regional alliances Washington rejects. That Iranian autonomy may be uncomfortable for the American-led order without thereby requiring neutralization. Such an administration has not existed and will likely never exist, because both parties share something deeper than any electoral difference: a vision of the world in which the West, and the United States in particular, possesses the right to structure the international order, and political entities that refuse that structuring constitute problems to be resolved.

From the Iranian perspective, both American parties share the same vision of Iran as an entity that must fit within their frameworks of intelligibility. The genuine rupture would only occur if someone broke Washington's family album: if Iran, speaking from its own political logic, were permitted to cease being an object of intervention and become a subject of its own history. That would require abandoning not only specific policies but the shared presupposition that structures American foreign policy. It would require admitting that Iran is not a problem to be solved but a political actor whose autonomy may be uncomfortable, even threatening, but requires no solution. That it will continue to exist according to its own logic, regardless of which party controls the White House.

Iran, Tajikistan emphasize facilitation of trade exchanges

TEHRAN- The Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade and his Tajik counterpart emphasized the development and facilitation of trade exchanges between Tehran and Dushanbe on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Industry Ministers' Meeting.

According to IRNA's report from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, the meeting between Seyed Mohammad Atabak and Sherali Kabir, the Minister of Industry and New Technologies of Tajikistan, was held with the aim of maximizing the utilization of capacities and strengthening mutual economic ties, and the two sides emphasized accelerating the implementation process of previous memoranda of understanding and operationalizing agreements between them.

Increasing the level of trade exchanges between the two countries, attention to Iran's extensive capabilities and capacities in various sectors of mineral reserves and elements, mineral processing, pharmaceutical industries, textiles, and readiness to develop interactions were examined.

Given the importance of increasing trade volume, the industry ministers of the two countries agreed on the necessity of facilitating administrative processes to expedite the streamlining of trade and industrial relations between Tehran and Dushanbe.

In this meeting, the need to utilize the capacities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as a new transformative platform for industrial convergence among member states, expert consultations, and continuous follow-up of agreements to achieve tangible results in the future was emphasized.

The closing ceremony of the 18th meeting of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee was held in Dushanbe on May 26. Addressing the meeting, Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources, noting a significant increase in trade between Iran and Tajikistan in the first quarter of 2026, called Iran Tajikistan's most important partner in the region and emphasized the development of technological and energy cooperation based on historical commonalities.

Dalir Juma referred to Iran as a friendly and brotherly country and said: "We consider the role of Iran important for peace and stability in the region and the world. Tajikistan evaluates cooperation between the two friendly and brotherly countries, i.e. Iran and Tajikistan, as beneficial, and relying on the principle of good faith, considers Iran one of its most important partners in the region and the world."

He added: "Deep historical, cultural and linguistic commonalities have provided the ground for beneficial cooperation in technology, industry, energy and many other fields between the two countries."

Tajikistan's energy minister, referring to official statistics, noted: "Trade between Iran and Tajikistan in the first quarter of 2026 has increased significantly compared to the same period last year, and the expansion of this trade will lead to economic security and further development for both countries."

Iran's Minister of Energy, pointing to the favorable political relations between the two countries, called upgrading trade and economic relations a primary duty and said: "The end of this session is not the end of the work, but the beginning of a heavy responsibility on the path to realizing the agreements."

Abbas Aliabadi, referring to the deep bonds between the two nations, said: "As discussed during this session and as President Emomali Rahmon also noted, today, relying on the deep linguistic, cultural, religious and social bonds between the two brotherly nations, we stand on a new path of cooperation."

He added: "Developing relations with neighboring countries and Muslim countries has always been at the top of the strategic priorities of our country's officials, and among these, Tajikistan has a special place."

Aliabadi, pointing to the favorable political relations between the two countries, stated: "Today we see that political relations between Iran and Tajikistan are at an excellent level, but our main challenge and duty is to raise this level of political intimacy to a similar level in trade and economic relations. Enemies should know that this 6,000-year culture of the two nations is unbreakable."

The Minister of Energy emphasized: "The end



of this session is not the end of the work, but the beginning of a heavy responsibility on the path to realizing the agreements. The document resulting from this session is not just a collection of words, but a covenant for action. For these agreements to become a turning point in relations between the two countries, we need to operationalize the executive mechanisms in a timely manner. Here I must express my gratitude to the people and government of Tajikistan for accompanying us on this path."

Aliabadi, stressing the formation of joint technical committees, noted: "I emphasize that the formation of joint technical committees and a followup committee for the session must not be delayed. I sincerely thank all the expert delegations and especially my colleagues in the international department of the Ministry of Energy who played a role in advancing these clauses with precision and speed. I hope all the proposed suggestions reach the implementation stage with the same speed and precision."

The Minister of Energy, referring to the capacities for cooperation between the two countries, said: "Increasing capacities and potentials to expand trade and economic relations between the two countries, especially in the field of exporting technical and engineering services, using transit capacities, and selling oil and oil products to Tajikistan, are among the important axes of cooperation."

Aliabadi expressed hope at the end: "I hope the implementation of the agreements reached at this session will be a turning point in the relations and interactions between the two countries, and that the proposed clauses in the joint committee will all proceed with precision and speed."

During this trip, Iran's Minister of Energy also met with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. In this meeting, current cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic, industrial, energy, agricultural, road construction and transport sectors, was reviewed and discussed.

The President of Tajikistan noted that the existing tensions in West Asia can only be resolved through diplomatic tools and negotiation. Tajikistan's firm stance in support of ongoing political efforts and constructive dialogue to resolve conflicts was emphasized.

Presidential phone call – Iran ready to expand cooperation in all fields

Also, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a telephone conversation with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, referring to the expanding relations between Tehran and Dushanbe, stated: "Iran is ready to further develop bilateral cooperation with Tajikistan in all fields, especially in the economic, energy, transport and cultural sectors."

\$1 billion trade target – joint industrial plants and mining task force

Back in mid-February, Seyed Mohammad Atabak, Iran's minister of industry, mining and trade, said that Iran and Tajikistan have set a target of raising bilateral trade to \$1.0 billion in the near future and agreed to expand joint investments and establish shared industrial plants, as senior officials from both sides moved to deepen economic and mining cooperation.

He made the remarks during a visit to Dushanbe, where he met with Prime Minister of Tajikistan Qohir Rasulzoda and other senior officials.

Atabak said economic relations and trade exchanges between the two countries were on a positive and expanding trajectory, adding that bilateral ties, particularly in commerce, were stronger than before.

During the multi-day visit, he held talks with three Tajik ministers, two heads of state committees and the prime minister on boosting cooperation in areas including pharmaceuticals, mining and industrial development.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Devastating consequences of US-Israel attack on Iran, CNBC reports reveals

TEHRAN- One hundred days after the joint US-Israeli military strikes against Iran, global markets remain battered and economies face mounting pressure, according to a CNBC analysis.

The initial attack triggered an immediate worldwide stock sell-off. While Wall Street has since recovered, driven by AI speculation, other markets continue to struggle. Far more alarming is the surge in government bond yields, with the 30-year US Treasury yield hitting its highest level since before the financial crisis.

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz – a critical shipping route in West Asia – has created severe oil supply constraints. Though prices have cooled from



wartime peaks, Brent crude remains 36% above pre-war levels and US oil futures are up nearly 50%. Analysts warn that if inventories keep depleting, "a break back over \$100 will be imminent."

Inflation has spiked as a direct consequence. The US consumer price index reached 3.8% in April – its highest in three years. Energy costs for oil, gas and jet fuel are driving price rises across

major economies.

Neil Birrell of Premier Miton Investors told CNBC that bond markets see "something real to worry about": higher inflation, lower growth and supply disruptions. Toni Meadows of BRI Wealth Management warned that if the conflict remains unresolved, "demand destruction that investors can't ignore" will eventually hit.

The report concludes that public support for the war in the US is at all-time lows, yet military funding continues to rise – a dangerous combination with no exit strategy in sight.

'Corridors; Iran's golden opportunity to turn geographical advantage into sustainable income'

TEHRAN- An economic expert, referring to Iran's plan to develop alternative trade corridors under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy, said: In the West Asia region, there are eight important rail corridors, six of which pass through Iranian territory. This capacity can turn Iran into an economic, commercial, and transit hub in the region and transform the country into a bottleneck for economic exchanges between the East and the West of the world.

According to IRNA, the geopolitical developments of recent years, from the Russia-Ukraine war to the rerouting of global trade, have increased the importance of transit corridors more than ever. Meanwhile, due to its location at the crossroads of East and West and simultaneous access to Asian, European, and regional markets, Iran has a unique capacity to become a transit and trade hub.

Based on this, some experts believe that developing transport infrastructure, attracting foreign investment, and activating economic diplomacy can increase Iran's share of regional and global trade and create new sources of income for the country's economy – a capacity that has so far been utilized far less than its true potential.

Hasan Hasankhani, an economic expert, stated in an interview with IRNA about the president's emphasis on developing transit corridors: If Iran's geopolitical position is not the most privileged in the world, it is undoubtedly one of the most privileged geopolitical positions in the world. Iran is a country that directly borders 15 countries and is connected to about 25 other countries through one intermediary.

He added: Iran is considered a neighbor to countries like China and India through one intermediary, and also directly shares a border with Pakistan. This position can provide the basis for economic linkage with the world's most important population hubs. However, for various reasons including some political considerations, our country has not been able to fully exploit this capacity in past years.

The economic expert continued: The late Leader of the Revolution pointed out well in his Nowruz speech in 2018 that if Iran can meet only 20% of the import needs of its neighboring countries, there will be the capacity to achieve about 250 billion dollars in annual exports. This shows the vast opportunities surrounding Iran's economy. For example, at

that time, Russia had about 60 billion dollars of annual medicine imports, but Iran's share of this market was only about 250,000 dollars – a very tiny figure compared to existing capacities.

He emphasized: Iran must use its geopolitical capacities more than before. The North-South corridor and the East-West corridor are only part of these capacities; in West Asia, there are eight important rail corridors, six of which pass through Iranian soil. This capacity can turn Iran into an economic, commercial, and transit hub in the region and transform the country into a bottleneck for economic exchanges between the East and West.

Ukraine war did not reduce trade between China and Europe

The economic expert, referring to global trade developments after the Ukraine war, stated: One of the areas that did not decline after the start of the Russia-Ukraine war was the volume of trade between China and Europe. The European Union, with a population of about 500 million people, and China, with a population of over 1.6 billion, still have extensive trade relations.

He added: The value of trade between China and Europe in 2021, before the start of the Ukraine war, was about 780 billion dollars, and this figure increased to about 820 billion dollars in the year after the war. This is despite the fact that some traditional transport routes, including the rail route from Russia to Poland, faced serious restrictions. Iran can use part of this capacity and the rerouting of trade to its advantage.

In response to the question of to what extent the development of corridors can become a major source of income for the country, Hasankhani explained: This is entirely possible, but it requires the provision of infrastructure and precise planning. The most important issue in this regard is financing infrastructure projects, which has also been addressed in Article 3 of the Seventh Development Plan, and its responsibility has been placed on the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

He added: Iran can conclude various contracts with countries like China, which are considered important trading partners, including investment contracts, BOT, and other partnership models. China invests about 700 billion dollars annually in various countries, and if only about five billion dollars of this investment is directed towards Iran, a significant

part of the country's infrastructure problems will be resolved. From the perspective of economic and investment capacities, there is no serious limitation, and it is possible to attract financial resources for infrastructure development.

Playing a role in corridors, resilience of Iran's economy

Asked whether Iran's economy has entered a new phase of resilience, Hasankhani replied: This depends on the extent to which officials pay attention to the country's transit and geopolitical capacities. If Iran can become the bottleneck of regional and global trade, the country's economic resilience will undoubtedly increase. Currently, one of the most important issues for developing Iran's position in regional corridors is making the country's embassies, especially in China, more active. Iran's ambassador to China must play a stronger role in developing economic cooperation.

The economic expert added: One of the existing challenges is that Iran's embassy in China has not been as active as its capacities warrant. In my opinion, this has been one of our weaknesses in past years, and economic interactions with China need to be pursued more seriously.

In response to the question of what are the most important obstacles to turning Iran's geographical advantage into an economic advantage, Hasankhani said: This issue has been addressed in upstream documents including the Seventh Development Plan, and many countries have even developed a more positive view of Iran's transit capacities after the Ukraine war. The main issue in the current situation, more than a lack of planning, returns to the area of implementation and management. Economic and transit cooperation among Iran, China, Russia, and India requires faster decision-making and implementation, but in some cases, administrative processes and bureaucracy have caused delays.

The economic expert concluded: The role of Iran's embassies in target countries is very important in removing these obstacles. Iran's embassy in Russia has performed acceptably, but regarding China, there is still a need for more activity and movement. Overall, there is no serious external obstacle to the development of corridors, and what matters more than anything else is speeding up decisions and implementing existing plans.

Historical record in electricity industry: generation capacity exceeds 100,000 MW

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for the electricity industry, announcing that the country's power plant capacity has surpassed the 100,000 MW mark, reported intensive and challenging plans for sustainable electricity supply in the upcoming summer and emphasized that despite the damage caused to the grid during recent incidents, grid stability has been successfully managed thanks to the efforts of industry specialists.

According to IRNA, Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi told reporters on Sunday, explaining the latest status of the country's electricity grid: Through efforts made over various periods, we have succeeded in achieving a power generation capacity of over 100,000 MW – a major record resulting from a series of developmental measures.

Referring to recent incidents and damage to electricity grid infrastructure, he stated: During the third imposed war, more than 7,000 equipment units in the grid were damaged. Through round-the-clock efforts of our colleagues, over 2,500 cases have been fully restored and

returned to operation so far. Currently, about 4,000 other units are in the process of restoration, which will soon join the production cycle according to schedule.

Rajabi Mashhadi, while paying tribute to the martyrs of service in the electricity industry, added: Despite serious challenges and working under difficult conditions, operational teams were able to minimize damages through prioritization, such that the average outage duration for subscribers due to recent incidents was less than one hour.

Preparation for passing summer peak load

The electricity industry spokesperson said about readiness for the coming summer: The Ministry of Energy has formulated a challenging and heavy plan to increase production capacity, showing a fourfold growth compared to the best years in the past. Through efforts of the private sector and contracting companies, about 6,000 MW of new capacity has been added to the grid.

He noted the significant growth of renewable energy and added: Since the beginning of the 14th government, renewable capacity has increased substantially from 1,250 MW. In the thermal power plant sector, over 120,000 MW of capacity has undergone major repairs, 99% of which has been completed, and by the start of summer, this entire capacity will be in operation.

Support for industry and smart consumption management

Rajabi Mashhadi stated that the priority of electricity supply to industries has been seriously pursued this year and emphasized: Energy delivery to the industrial sector, especially petrochemical industries, has increased by 24% compared to last year. Meanwhile, with public cooperation and implementation of smartization plans, household electricity consumption has decreased by 7% compared to last year, which has greatly contributed to grid stability.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

'They only understand the language of force,' Ghalibaf says after Dahieh bombing

Israeli forces launch a calculated assault on a Beirut housing complex

TEHRAN — Israeli warplanes launched a deadly airstrike on Beirut's southern suburb of Dahieh on Sunday afternoon, hitting a residential building in the Tahwat al-Ghadir neighborhood and killing two citizens while wounding 11 others.

The National News Agency and Al Mayadeen correspondents confirmed that the salvo struck two apartments in the densely populated Marjaye area.

The strike occurred just days after Washington publicized a trilateral framework for a temporary ceasefire, proving once again that Western diplomatic guarantees offer no actual protection against Israeli aggression.

The Israeli military immediately issued a statement claiming responsibility for the operation, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Security Minister Israel Katz boasting that the army was executing strikes within the Lebanese capital.

'Only the language of force'

In the wake of the aggression, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf issued a scathing condemnation.

Reacting to the attack on Dahieh and the latest positions articulated by the Trump administration, Ghalibaf stated that they [Washington and Tel Aviv] "neither abide by ceasefires nor believe in dialogue."

He stressed that through their naval blockade and flagrant violation of agreements regarding Lebanon, they have shown they "only understand the language of force."

He directly tied American complicity to the shifting rules of engagement. Ghalibaf warned that the naval blockade against Iran and today's American "green light" to Israel turn American and Israeli bases and assets in the region into "legitimate targets."

He concluded his statement by affirming that the hands of Iranian armed forces are open as always.

Tehran warns of decisive deterrence

This high-level legislative warning aligned with sharp responses from across the political spectrum



in Tehran.

Ebrahim Rezaei, the parliamentary National Security Committee spokesperson, stated that a crushing and painful response would be delivered to Israel's attack on Dahieh, adding that this "rabid dog" must be disciplined and put in its place, urging the occupation forces to look at the sky of the occupied territories tonight.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi previously made Iran's position clear, affirming that any attack on Beirut would be treated as naked aggression and would not be tolerated.

Araghchi had noted that the course of the conflict will ultimately be determined by the Resistance's capability to respond effectively on the ground.

Additionally, military advisor

This coordination completely discredits the trilateral talks held in Washington on June 2 and 3, where the U.S. State Department claimed the Israeli regime and the Lebanese government had agreed in principle to a ceasefire framework.

This coordination demonstrates the futility of relying on American mediation. Fadahosseini Maleki, an Iranian lawmaker, warned Lebanon's leadership not to ensnare itself with Washington's "rotten rope," emphasizing that Israel understands only "the language of military force."

Maleki urged national unity to resist this imperialist trap, noting Tehran closely monitors developments to coordinate necessary responses.

Before the strike, Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi had stated that Donald Trump's claims of halting Israeli operations admit Washington's direct role in managing aggression against Lebanon.

The myth of the 'symbolic' strike

Israeli media outlets quickly sought to downplay the severity of the attack. Public broadcaster Kan, alongside Channels 14 and 15, framed the operation as a symbolic message designed to reinforce an equation linking security in northern occupied settlements to the safety of Beirut.

Military correspondents, including Israeli Radio's Doron Kadosh, reported that security agencies executed the strike to target the location itself rather than to perform an assassination, admitting they were unsure if the building was even occupied at the time.

However, the casualties consisted entirely of innocent pedestrians caught in the blast wave outside. This tactic represents a dangerous model of ladder-step escalation to test regional red lines.

Analysts note that if Israel continues this gamble, it risks triggering a massive new operational phase, potentially pushing the entire region into a wider conflict that places primary colonial hubs directly in the crosshairs.

Mohsen Rezaei warned that Iranian forces remain fully prepared to implement an expanded deterrent response if threats against Beirut persist.

U.S. collusion and the Washington trap

The timing of the bombardment highlights the deep level of operational coordination between the Israeli occupation regime and the United States.

Axios claimed that Israel notified the Trump administration before the strike, citing anonymous sources.

This crucial advance notification matches the assessment of many regional observers who view the attack as a direct product of American planning rather than an independent Israeli action.

Israeli army "bleeding" in southern Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ "We are facing a deeply concerning situation regarding the threat posed by Hezbollah's explosive drones. The (IOF) entered this battle unprepared for this deadly threat," Kan stated.

It added that soldiers are now completely exposed to this danger, with almost no ability to protect themselves and virtually no effective means of defending against these drones.

Kan further reported that the continuing human and operational losses have led the Israeli military establishment to favor an urgent political settlement that would help it escape both the current predicament and the Lebanese quagmire.

It also pointed to the absence of solutions on both military and political levels. "Even now, unfortunately, there is still no clear horizon for ending this situation, and the forces remain deployed there under highly concerning conditions."

IOF reserve Major General Isaac Brick warned that continuing the war in its current form is pushing the Zionist regime toward a deep abyss and insisted that victory is unattainable.

Politically, Netanyahu remains without meaningful achievements. His standing among decision-makers close to U.S. President Donald Trump has declined significantly, to

the point that he has reportedly been excluded from strategic consultations.

Meanwhile, Hamas has not been defeated and has instead strengthened its position. Hezbollah continues to represent a potent threat, while the coalition the occupation regime sought to build with America and other regional countries against Iran has failed to achieve its intended objectives.

The Hezbollah resistance movement continues to attack the IOF, targeting military vehicles and troop concentrations in response to the ongoing violations of the ceasefire.

As part of its latest operations to confront hostile movements, the resistance movement announced that it struck a Merkava tank on the southern outskirts of the town of Hadatha, using appropriate weapons. In the same area, and in continuation of its operations, resistance fighters attacked a gathering of IOF soldiers, using two Ababil kamikaze drones.

Hezbollah said it attacked concentrations of IOF military vehicles and troops on the southeastern outskirts of Yahmar al-Shaqif with rocket barrages and artillery fire. Resistance fighters struck the same concentration of IOF troops and vehicles once again with artillery shells. The Lebanese resistance front also announced that



it had targeted an IOF command post in the town of Naqoura using an Ababil attack drone.

The IOF has acknowledged that four soldiers were wounded after an explosive drone detonated in southern Lebanon. According to Hebrew media, the incident occurred when a Hezbollah explosive drone struck a Humvee carrying several soldiers in the town of Kham.

On Sunday, the Israeli Health Ministry updated casualty figures recorded since the occupation regime's military escalation on March 2, stating that the total number of casualties admitted to hospitals since the start of the war had reached 9,026.

The data showed that 1,125 casualties were recorded in hospitals from the northern front with Hezbollah alone following the ceasefire with Iran.

On Saturday, the IOF also acknowledged the death of a cap-

tain from the Egoz Unit during combat with Hezbollah. It also confirmed the death of a soldier from the Shaked Battalion of the Givati Brigade.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah has condemned the "cowardly criminal attack" that targeted a Lebanese military vehicle, resulting in the "martyrdom" of two officers and a soldier.

In a statement, the Lebanese resistance front affirmed that the targeting of the military vehicle constitutes a "clear and deliberate crime." The attack falls within unstoppable raids by the occupation regime against Lebanese citizens, particularly in south and western Bekaa.

Hezbollah said the attack is the "natural outcome" of the Lebanese government's disregard for national sovereignty, people's blood, as well as offering "gratuitous concessions."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Look at Gaza through the lens of humanity and justice

By Dr. Ezzaldeen Shalah from Gaza

From the heart of Gaza, where death is no longer just a news headline but a part of daily life, we watch with deep sorrow the continued targeting of children, families, and the tents of displaced people that are supposed to provide shelter and safety for civilians.

Every day, we lose loved ones, friends, and neighbors, and new names are added to the growing list of victims deprived of their most basic right: the right to live in safety and dignity.

Among the most heartbreaking stories of these days is that of a young groom who was killed on the night of his wedding. A night that should have marked the beginning of a new life was instead turned into a tragedy, symbolizing the immense suffering endured by our people. His story reflects the countless dreams and futures being cut short in Gaza.

Our message to the world is simple: look at Gaza through the lens of humanity and



justice. Urgent action is needed to protect civilians, stop the killing of children, women, and displaced families, and uphold the fundamental values of human rights.

Behind every number is a human story, behind every victim is a grieving family, and behind every loss is a dream left unfinished. Despite the pain, the people of Gaza continue to hold on to their dignity, resilience, and hope for a more just and peaceful future.

Ezzaldeen Shalah is founder and president of Gaza International Women's Film Festival

US and Zionist entity intensify aggressive course

From page 1 ▶ by the weak Lebanese government. Yet, Washington's ill-conceived and unrealistic agreement also mandates the accelerated establishment of "pilot zones" where the Lebanese Armed Forces are to assume exclusive control, excluding all non-state armed groups. This targets Hezbollah in a way that could only lead to civil war in Lebanon—were the "Lebanese" government to actually attempt implementation—which is why it likely will not dare to do so. Consequently, the bombing and killing appear set to continue within a quasi-legal framework—sanctioned by all U.S. vassals and governments infiltrated by Israel.

This Washington agreement is evidently illegal. The universal legal principle governing all contracts states: No one may be compelled to enter into contracts that would ruin him. Israel is using this illegal agreement to further advance its "Greater Israel" objective through constant shelling and bombing of Lebanon and Gaza, alongside policies of devastation and ethnic cleansing in the West Bank—despite its military defeat by Iran. For the aggressive Zionist entity enters into agreements merely to formalize a fait accompli. No sooner is the ink dry than the entity breaks the very treaty it just signed and reaches out for further spoils.

Hezbollah, on the other hand, has pledged—in a fair and just proposal—not to attack northern Israel if Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon. Iran also supports this stance. We—DIE NEUE MITTE in Germany—along with many other people and some governments worldwide, support this as well.

Both sides are expected to resume talks aimed at a comprehensive agreement during the week of June 22.

II. Iran's opportunity

Israel's plan was to kill or displace 500,000 Shiites in Beirut's Dahiya district. The calculation in Tel Aviv was likely that Iran would then be forced to attack Israel to halt the slaughter, thereby compelling the U.S. to come to Israel's aid.

However, Iran did not let matters reach that point; on Monday, it threatened military action in the event of an Israeli massacre in Beirut and broke off indirect talks with the U.S. conducted via Pakistan. An hour later, Trump allegedly called Netanyahu in a rage and berated him. This report came from the news outlet Axios—which is, however, Israeli-owned. Thus, Israel wanted the whole world to believe that Trump had severely reprimanded Netanyahu.

At first glance, Israel's grand plan to destroy Beirut has therefore failed. But now we see Israel in action—revealing how Israel operates, and how Zionism as a whole has operated for nearly 120 years. After all, Israel is a European colonial project stemming from the British "Bannerman Commission" of 1907—involving seven European colonial powers (Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, and Italy)—characterized by

aggression, an inability to reach consensus, and the ultimate goal of a "Greater Israel" and the subjugation of 90 million Arabs. This cannot be achieved without nuclear weapons. Consequently, Israel is currently running amok across the entire region. Regardless of whether there are indirect negotiations with Islamabad, Israel continues to kill and expand its territory—everywhere, every day—while Washington supplies every necessary resource, constantly and without fail. This will continue until patience runs out—not just in Iran or the Islamic world, but across the globe—and not merely because of the absurdly protracted American rear-guard action in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, which comes at the expense of the entire global economy and billions of people.

The world has realized who considers itself indispensable as the "world's policeman," who plunges regions into chaos and crisis, and who makes everyone else pay for a "rules-based world order" that dictates: the U.S. and Israel, given their current and ongoing unity henceforth called "USrael"—who are allowed to do whatever they please.

Consequently, a desire and hope are growing worldwide: that Iran might establish a regional order offering stability, reliability, security, and the following three fair ground rules—supported by us (DIE NEUE MITTE) as well as governments and many people across the globe:

1. To further strengthen shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz—with a measured yet firm approach—at a rate of 2 million USD (payable in yuan or cryptocurrency) per vessel. At a later stage, Iran could also allow vessels linked to "USrael" to pass through for a fee, subject to the following five conditions:

- 1.1 Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and Gaza
- 1.2 An end to the blockade of Gaza
- 1.3 An end to attacks and land theft in the West Bank and East Jerusalem
- 1.4 An end to sanctions against Iran
- 1.5 The return of 12 billion USD out of the 24 billion USD in frozen Iranian assets.

As long as these fair conditions are not met, vessels linked to "USrael" will not pass through Hormuz. However, Iran also has a right to reparations for the two criminal attacks launched by "USrael" against Iran in June and February.

2. As long as Israel fails to fulfill points 1.1 through 1.3, it will be subjected to bombardment. In doing so, Iran assumes the position it has powerfully and deservedly earned through great sacrifice in the last two wars. The world—even the chaotic, mentally unstable, and ethically misguided West—expects this. The risk is low: Iranian weapons retain their superiority, hopefully bolstered by improved Iranian air defense capabilities—expressed here to encourage the Russian and Chinese friends.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Amouzad wins gold at 2026 Ulaanbaatar

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Rahman Amouzad won a gold medal at the Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series 2026 on Sunday.

He defeated Shamil Mamedov in the men's 65kg final bout 17-10.

Amouzad had defeated North Korean Kwang Jin Kim 5-0 and Kazakhstan's Adlan Askarov 12-1 on his way to the final.

The World Ranking Series events are the main International Tournaments supervised by United World Wrestling. These events are fully integrated into the Ranking System.

OK Savings Bank Utman complete signing of Iranian player Feiz

TEHRAN - OK Utman Volleyball Team have targeted winning the championship by recruiting a tall middle blocker through the Asian quota.

"We have recruited Iranian middle blocker Mehran Feizemamdoust (25 years old, registered as Feiz) through the Asian quota for the 2026-2027 season," the South Korean team announced.

With the 2026-2027 season allowing the recruitment of Asian quota players through free agency, the OK Utman Volleyball Team decided to recruit Feiz, a tall Iranian middle blocker who will contribute significantly in the center, after reviewing various candidates to find the optimal resource for strengthening the team's power.

Feiz is currently focusing on conditioning and adapting to the team after undergoing a medical test upon his first entry into the country. Standing at 2.02 meters tall, he is a middle blocker with exceptional height, speed, and elasticity. Based on these attributes, he excels in both quick attacks and blocking, and his aggressive yet effective floater serve is expected to be a significant asset in the team's serving strategy.

Feiz continued his professional career in Iran and played for Mehran Nur during the 2025-2026 season. In 2019, he was selected for the Iranian under-21 national team and contributed to their victory at the 2019 FIVB (International Volleyball Federation) Under-21 World Championship. OK Utman Volleyball Team Director Shin Young-cheol stated, "Height is essential for winning the championship. Feiz is a resource that possesses excellent height and speed. He will be a great asset for blocking and various offensive plays in the upcoming season, and his serve is also good, so he will contribute to the team in many ways."

Feiz expressed his determination, saying, "I am grateful to the OK Utman Volleyball Team for giving me this opportunity. I will quickly adapt to the team and do my best to help the OK Utman Volleyball Team win the championship in the next season."

Behrouz Soltani: we are ready for 2026 IWBFF Repechage

TEHRAN - Iran national wheelchair basketball head coach Behrouz Soltani says his team is fully prepared for the upcoming IWBFF Men's Repechage in Thailand.

After completing a two-week training camp in Turkey and playing friendly matches against Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe, the Iranian squad traveled to Suphanburi to compete in the qualifiers for the World Championship Finals in Canada.

"The 2026 IWBFF Men's Repechage represent the final stage on the road to the World Championships in Canada. Eight teams are competing, divided into two groups of four. Iran will open their campaign against Senegal on Monday, before facing Brazil and Poland in the following matches," Soltani said in an interview with Tehran Times.

The Iranian coach emphasized the importance of securing a strong position in the group standings.

"We will do everything possible to achieve the best results in the group stage and finish as high as we can in the rankings. A better position will

give us a more favorable matchup in the playoff round. We hope to deliver strong performances throughout the tournament."

Soltani expressed confidence in his squad's current form and long-term development plans.

"We have a very strong and well-prepared team, and we are hopeful of achieving the goals we have set. We are pleased with the structure of the team and our technical philosophy. The team continue to make excellent progress," he said.

One of the coaching staff's key objectives is identifying and developing young talent for future international competitions.

"This tournament will provide an important opportunity in that regard. We have two players aged 16 and 17 in the squad, as well as a 23-year-old player among our 12-man roster. Alongside our pursuit of results and our broader ambitions for the program, we hope to successfully integrate these promising young athletes and strengthen the future of the national team."

The head coach concluded by highlighting the positive atmosphere within the camp.

"The training camp has gone very well, and fortunately we have no injured players. Everyone is healthy and ready to compete. We hope to make the people of Iran and the wheelchair basketball community proud."

FIFA under pressure as Iran visa dispute raises questions over World Cup commitments

TEHRAN - FIFA is facing growing scrutiny after reports that several members of Iran's national football team delegation have been denied U.S. visas ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, despite earlier assurances that qualified teams would be able to participate without obstruction.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino had repeatedly emphasized that all nations earning a place at the World Cup would be welcomed and able to compete under normal conditions. However, recent reports indicate that while Iran's players have received visas, several coaching, administrative and support staff members remain unable to enter the United States.

The situation has sparked criticism from Iranian officials and renewed debate about FIFA's ability to uphold its commitments when political realities collide with sporting principles. Iran has already been forced to relocate its training base from the United States to Mexico because of visa uncertainties, creating additional logistical challenges ahead of the tournament.

While FIFA does not control national immigration policies, critics argue that the governing body bears responsibility for ensuring equal access and competitive conditions for all participating nations before awarding hosting rights. As the World Cup approaches, FIFA's response—or lack of one—will be closely watched by the global football community.

Djenepo terminates deal with Esteghlal

TEHRAN - Esteghlal football team midfielder Moussa Djenepo has unilaterally terminated his contract with the club due to unpaid wages.

Djenepo had previously sent a formal notice to Esteghlal regarding the non-payment of his dues. However, after failing to receive the outstanding payments, he informed the club via email that he was terminating his contract unilaterally.

As a result, a complaint from Genpo against Esteghlal to FIFA and the opening of a new case against the Tehran-based club appear likely.

Djenepo joined Esteghlal amid considerable publicity, with a first-season contract reportedly worth \$1.1 million, excluding the fee paid for his transfer release.

Despite the expectations surrounding his arrival, the player spent most matches either on the bench or sidelined through injury. He made appearances in nine Persian Gulf Pro League matches and four AFC Champions League Two games, totaling just 242 minutes on the pitch.

During his time with Esteghlal, Djenepo neither scored a goal nor provided an assist.

Iran plans marine tourism development along southern coastal corridor

TEHRAN – Iran has adopted a new strategy to expand marine tourism along its southern coastline, focusing on a tourism corridor stretching from Makran to Abadan, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri said on Saturday.

Speaking at a policy council meeting for a national creative industries event, Salehi-Amiri said the provinces of Hormozgan, Bushehr and Khuzestan would form a new strategic tourism belt under the initiative, aimed at making the best use of their cultural, historical and social assets to promote tourism and creative industries.

The minister underlined that marine tourism development had become a priority within the government's broader economic planning, noting that Iran's extensive maritime resources provide significant opportunities for growth.

With 190,000 square kilometers of sea area and 5,800 kilometers of coastline, Iran is a maritime country where marine economic development should be an integral part of the national economic development strategy. In that regard, the minister noted that many countries have incorporated tourism into economic strategies for coastal regions, making it a key



component of maritime development.

He made the remarks while outlining the government's approach to strengthening creative industries, which he described as an increasingly important sector in the global economy.

Salehi-Amiri said creative industries have become major sources of employment, productivity growth and exports in many developed and emerging economies. "The country does not lack plans or policy documents in this field," Salehi-Amiri said. "What is needed is a national commitment to coordinated action and effective support."

The minister added that the concept of creative industries had evolved from traditional cultural industries as technological advances and knowledge-based economic models placed innovation and intellectual capital at the center of value creation.

He then cited handicrafts as a clear example of creative industries, saying the sector combines artistic skills, cultural expression and economic activity. Similar characteristics can be found in music, cinema, video games, toys and other cultural sectors, where value is generated primarily through creativity and innovation.

Salehi-Amiri said Iran should move beyond planning and focus on implementation through supportive policies and executive mechanisms. He called creative industries a developing ecosystem that requires sustained support to achieve economic maturity and international competitiveness.

As mentioned by the minister, measures such as low-interest financing, financial incentives, legal protections, marketing support and infrastructure development are necessary to help the sector expand. He said targeted support may be needed for up to a decade before creative industries can establish sustainable profitability and strengthen their presence in international markets.

Salehi-Amiri announced that the city of Isfahan will host the first national creative industries event. He said the city's cultural heritage, handicrafts sector and tourism assets make it a suitable location for launching the initiative.

He added that other provinces also possess distinct cultural and creative capacities, citing Golestan province, Kordestan province and Hormozgan province as examples of regions with strong potential for creative economy development based on local culture and heritage.

Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari pursues UNESCO recognition for nomadic migration tradition

TEHRAN – Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province is pursuing a UNESCO registration of its nomadic migration tradition and is prepared to support efforts aimed at securing the ancient practice, a provincial heritage official said.

Heydar Sadeqi, director-general of the Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, made the announcement on Saturday evening during a local tourism event.

According to Sadeqi, the provincial heritage department is following up on plans to register the migration tradition of the province's nomadic communities on UNESCO's cultural heritage lists.

Iran is preparing a dossier related to the ancient routes and pathways used by Bakhtiari nomads, and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari is ready to contribute to the process, the official said.

He added that cultural and tourism festivals should generate economic activity and employment opportunities to achieve lasting results for local communities.

Sadeqi proposed that travel agencies and licensed tour guides organize tourism tours to nomadic regions of the province during the upcoming summer season. He said such initiatives could help introduce visitors to the traditions and lifestyle of the region's nomadic communities.

The official also announced that the Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts would cooperate in organizing the third Nomadic Migration Festival, scheduled to be hosted in the Laran district of Shahrekord county.

Bakhtiari nomads maintain a lifestyle centered on seasonal migration and adaptation to changing climatic conditions and natural environ-

ments. Their annual movement between summer and winter pastures has shaped the social, economic and cultural identity of the community for generations.

Cultural heritage experts consider the Bakhtiari migration system one of the oldest continuously practiced cultural traditions in the region. The routes, customs and knowledge associated with seasonal migration have been passed down through generations and continue to play a role in the daily lives of many nomadic families.

Iran is home to a diverse population comprising numerous ethnic groups living across different geographical regions. Nomadic communities represent an important part of this cultural diversity and have long contributed to the country's social and economic life.

Lorestan retains leading role in Iran's national heritage registration, provincial tourism chief says

TEHRAN – Lorestan province remains one of Iran's most significant cultural heritage regions, holding records in national heritage registrations, archaeological sites, and historic bridge architecture, according to provincial heritage officials.

Ata Hassanpour, director-general of the Lorestan Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, on Sunday said the western province was Iran's leading region for national heritage registrations until 2010 and continues to hold several cultural heritage distinctions.

"We were the national record holder in heritage registrations until 2010, with around 2,000 sites listed on Iran's National Heritage List," Hassanpour told ISNA.

He said Lorestan also retains the record for the highest number of heritage registrations completed in a single year. In 2006, approximately 1,000 sites and monuments from the province were added to the national register.

According to Hassanpour, Lorestan currently has about 2,700 registered national heritage sites, placing it second only to Fars province in the total number of registered monuments.

He attributed the change in ranking partly to a quota system for heritage registrations that allocates more registration opportunities to provinces with fewer recorded sites, allowing them to catch up with regions that historically led the process.

Despite the shift, Hassanpour

said Lorestan remains one of the country's most important heritage regions due to the scale and diversity of its cultural assets.

The province covers approximately 28,000 square kilometers and contains one of the highest concentrations of archaeological sites in Iran. Officials say Lorestan continues to hold a leading position in terms of archaeological landscapes and the number of identified ancient settlements.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official highlighted the province's role in managing key heritage conservation centers. Lorestan hosts three major heritage bases of Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress, the historical urban fabric of Borujerd, and the one dedicated to the national historic bridges.

The province is regarded as Iran's center for historic bridge studies and conservation, with around 100 historic bridges located across its territory.

He noted that bridge building in the region dates back to the Achaemenid, Parthian and Sasanian eras and continued during the Islamic period. The fourth century AH is often considered one of the peak periods of bridge construction in ancient Iran.

"As a result, Lorestan holds a distinguished position in bridge architecture and engineering within the country," he said.

Earlier this year, Lorestan's international heritage profile received a significant boost when the Prehistoric Sites of the Khorramabad Valley were collectively inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The property includes five caves and one rock shelter situated within a narrow ecological corridor rich in water resources, vegetation and wildlife. Archaeological evidence indicates continuous human occupation dating back approximately 63,000 years.

Researchers have identified remains from the Middle and Upper

Paleolithic periods, including evidence associated with Mousterian and Baradostian cultures. The sites provide important insights into early human evolution and migration routes from Africa into Eurasia.

While Lorestan remains less known internationally than some of Iran's major tourism destinations, the province combines significant cultural heritage with mountainous landscapes, rivers and archaeological resources, making it an important destination for both researchers and nature-oriented travelers.

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'Iranian Red Crescent Society emerges as global humanitarian voice after 40-day war'

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – As Iran grapples with the humanitarian consequences of the recent US-Israeli aggression, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has found itself operating on multiple fronts simultaneously: rescuing civilians under fire, documenting violations of humanitarian law, coordinating global aid, and providing evidence of the war's death toll to international institutions.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Razieh Alishvandi, the IRCS deputy director for international and humanitarian law affairs, elaborated on how the Society acted during and after the conflict, describing what she called one of the most extensive humanitarian diplomacy efforts undertaken in recent years.

According to Alishvandi, the IRCS transformed the crisis into three parallel missions: emergency response, humanitarian diplomacy, and international legal documentation.

Humanitarian diplomacy becomes a frontline mission

Alongside rescue operations and relief efforts, humanitarian diplomacy became a central pillar of the IRCS's wartime strategy.

"The Iranian Red Crescent Society has always relied on humanitarian diplomacy and its broad network of international partners," Alishvandi said. "During the recent war, this capacity was strengthened significantly and enabled us to communicate realities on the ground to the international community."

Throughout the conflict, the IRCS maintained daily communication with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), sharing reports, photographs, videos, and field assessments documenting the humanitarian consequences of the war.

Every image, video, and field report gathered by the organization was transmitted through the communication channels of the international humanitarian movement, allowing information from affected areas in Iran to reach nearly 190 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world.

The goal, she said, was not only to inform the international community but also to strengthen humanitarian advocacy and ensure that the human cost of the conflict was not overlooked.

Both the IFRC and the ICRC responded by mobilizing humanitarian assistance.

The IFRC issued an emergency appeal among member societies and coordinated support for affected communities, while the ICRC supplied crisis-response equipment, including power generators, water pumps, hygiene kits, and specialized equipment designed for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.

"The first shipment has already arrived, and additional consignments are expected in subsequent stages," Alishvandi said.

International support arrives with no formal appeal

One of the notable aspects of the humanitarian response was that assistance arrived without Iran issuing any formal international appeal.

Approximately 20 countries and international organizations contributed humanitarian support to civilians affected by the war.

She noted that Iranian diplomatic missions abroad received numerous offers of assistance from expatriate Iranians, volunteers, charitable organizations,



and humanitarian activists seeking ways to help those impacted by the conflict.

To ensure aid was targeted effectively, the IRCS worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to identify urgent needs, including medicines for patients suffering from chronic and special diseases, medical equipment, search-and-rescue tools, and debris-removal machinery.

Among countries that played a particularly significant role, Iraq stood out.

Substantial assistance was provided through the Holy Shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) and the Holy Shrine of Abbas (AS), while recommendations issued by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani encouraged broader public participation in humanitarian assistance efforts.

Russia supplied 313 tons of pharmaceutical items to Iran. India delivered medical and pharmaceutical aid in several stages through official government channels. Türkiye contributed pharmaceutical products and medical consumables through its Ministry of Health, while charitable organizations such as the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation and other humanitarian groups operating in different countries also provided assistance.

"Although Iran made no official request for assistance, governments, humanitarian institutions, and ordinary citizens from many countries stood alongside the Iranian people during difficult days," Alishvandi said.

Building a legal record of the war

While emergency teams were operating across affected areas, another effort was unfolding behind the scenes: the systematic documentation of what Iranian officials describe as violations of international humanitarian law.

According to Alishvandi, the IRCS established a comprehensive mechanism for collecting evidence related to attacks on civilian areas, hospitals, health centers, relief facilities, energy infrastructure, and other non-military targets.

The organization compiled photographs, videos, witness accounts, field assessments, and other documentation and transmitted them daily to 17 international humanitarian and legal institutions.

At the same time, Iran's National Committee on International Humanitarian Law, chaired by Dr. Pirhossein Kolivand, President of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, intensified its activities.

The committee, whose membership includes representatives from five ministries and which operates under a government mandate, issued 11 formal statements during the conflict and pursued follow-up actions through international channels.

One of the most significant components of the documentation campaign involved submissions to the International Criminal Court.

In total, 35 formal communications containing field evidence

and documentation were sent to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court during the war.

The same materials were also transmitted to the United Nations Security Council, the Human Rights Council, and other international legal and humanitarian institutions.

"We have tried to ensure that these documents can serve as evidence for future legal and humanitarian reviews," she said.

The effort appears to have attracted international attention.

Alishvandi revealed that officials from one UN body recently informed Iranian representatives that the reports and documentation submitted by the IRCS had played an important role in their assessments and analyses and had been used in expert reviews.

International delegations visit Iran

The documentation campaign and humanitarian situation prompted several international visits to Iran.

According to Alishvandi, four international delegations traveled to the country to assess conditions on the ground.

Among them was Mirjana Spoljaric, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who personally visited damaged residential areas, Gandhi Hospital, and other civilian sites affected during the conflict.

A high-level delegation from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also toured affected regions and observed the scale of the Iranian Red Crescent Society's operations firsthand.

The visitors reviewed various aspects of IRCS activities, including emergency response, health-care services, rehabilitation programs, logistics operations, and humanitarian support mechanisms.

The delegations also visited the IRCS facilities, including the organization's medical equipment company and the vessel Tosca, which has been used to transport humanitarian and pharmaceutical cargo.

"These visits provided an opportunity for international organizations to directly observe the humanitarian consequences of the war," Alishvandi said.

A field assessment team from the ICRC has also begun confidential visits to affected civilian areas in coordination with Iranian authorities, while the Norwegian Refugee Council recently conducted its own assessment mission.

Geneva meetings put IRCS in the spotlight

The international attention generated by the Iranian Red Crescent's wartime response culminated in a formal invitation to Geneva.

Alishvandi traveled to Switzerland along with Kolivand, and the chairman of Iran's National Committee on International Humanitarian Law, at the invitation of senior IFRC officials.

The meetings brought togeth-

er representatives of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies from Europe and North America, including delegates from Germany, Norway, Britain, Spain, and several other countries.

According to Alishvandi, the discussions focused both on the humanitarian consequences of the war and on the operational capabilities demonstrated by the Iranian Red Crescent Society during the conflict.

The Iranian delegation presented documentation collected during the war, including photographs, videos, and physical evidence recovered from affected areas.

Among the most emotionally powerful exhibits were blood-stained schoolbags recovered from the rubble of the Shajareh Tayyebeh Elementary School in Minab, photographs of Red Crescent aid workers killed during relief missions, and videos showing children being rescued from collapsed buildings.

"When some of these videos were shown, many participants were deeply affected, and the atmosphere became entirely emotional," Alishvandi recalled.

Representatives from several national societies, including the American Red Cross, expressed sympathy for civilian victims and praised the performance of Iranian relief teams.

According to Alishvandi, IFRC officials repeatedly described the Iranian Red Crescent Society's wartime performance as "exemplary" and highlighted the organization's operational capacity as one of the most impressive within the international movement.

Particularly striking for international observers was the speed of the IRCS response.

In many incidents, Alishvandi said, the IRCS rescue teams reached affected locations in less than four minutes after attacks were reported.

Expanding international cooperation

The Geneva meetings also produced practical outcomes beyond humanitarian advocacy.

One area of discussion focused on rehabilitation services and access to advanced rehabilitation technologies.

According to Alishvandi, preliminary agreements envision expanded cooperation involving the German Red Cross, the Iranian Red Crescent Society, and the IRCS medical equipment sector.

The objective is to improve access to advanced rehabilitation technologies and equipment, some of which had previously been available only through the ICRC because of sanctions-related restrictions.

Another important development involved humanitarian financial mechanisms.

The IFRC has expressed support in principle for establishing a specialized financial channel that would facilitate transfers related to humanitarian activities and reduce obstacles affecting aid operations.

Four martyrs of humanitarian service

The conflict exacted a heavy toll on humanitarian workers as well.

Four IRCS aid workers — Hamidreza Jahanbakhsh, Somayeh Mir Abou Eshaq, Alireza Sohbattou, and Abolfazl Dehnavi — were killed while carrying out relief missions.

According to Alishvandi, their deaths were recorded by the IFRC and recognized within the international humanitarian community.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

No national security without environmental security: DOE head

TEHRAN – The head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, has elaborated on different measures taken to address environmental challenges, saying that national security cannot be realized without paying attention to the environment.

Environmental degradation, air and soil pollution, and the destruction of protected areas have shown that environmental security is directly tied to national security, she noted.

In a press conference on the occasion of the National Environment Week, being observed from June 6 to 12, Ansari said that over the past Iranian year (March 2025–March 2026) apart from environmental challenges like drought, climate change, and dust storms, the country went through complicated situations experiencing the irreparable harms caused by the two imposed wars (the 12-day war in June last year, and the recent 40-day war) on civilian, cultural, and environmental infrastructures.

"Despite all these challenges, the Department of Environment has stood by the people and the country, striving to mitigate the adverse impacts and strengthen national security."

The national resilience depends on environmental security. Without clean water, air, fertile soil, and sustainable biodiversity, it is impossible to talk about sustainable security, Ansari added.

Referring to the theme of World Environment Day 2026, 'Act Now for Climate', Ansari said this year's theme highlights that despite all the problems and obstacles, continuous commitment and efforts are required to address environmental challenges, particularly regarding climate change, to enhance resilience in various sectors.

The action plan to address sand and dust storms is approved, and it is being implemented in hotspots. The establishment of a forest firefighting center to increase national operational capacity is on the agenda.

To mitigate air pollution, the DOE supplied about 421 million liters of low-sulfur fuel oil to power plants and scrapped 530,000 worn-out cars.

Despite water scarcity, the national wet-



lands working groups were held regularly to manage water resources and ensure their water rights," Ansari stated.

Following the outbreak of the imposed war, the DOE, as the responsible organization for the protection of the country's environment, has conducted some field, technical, and multilateral inspections in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman to monitor marine environmental risks.

Referring to waste management, Ansari noted that the DOE's main approach focuses on recycling, upcycling, and moving towards a circular economy; an approach that, in addition to protecting the environment, also helps develop environmentally friendly businesses and create green jobs.

According to Ansari, restoring the role of the DOE in implementing the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most important measures of the current administration, which contributes to integrating policies and implementing Iran's commitments to biodiversity.

Over the past year, DOE also developed a national comprehensive plan, setting its strategic goals for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by the Iranian calendar year 1430 (March 2051–March 2052), and the number of protected areas under the supervision of the DOE increased from 327 to 330, accounting for 12 percent (19.8 million hectares) of the country's land area.

The official went on to say that the department is documenting the damage done to environment sector and will follow up on the legal actions against the US-Israeli assaults to defend the country's environmental rights in the global community.

Iran, Kyrgyzstan explore potentials to fight organized crime, narcotics

TEHRAN – Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni and his Kyrgyz counterpart, Ulan Niyazbekov, have discussed ways to combat organized crime and deepen counter-narcotics cooperation across border areas.

During a Saturday meeting, Niyazbekov called for the expansion of the ties in combating drugs, drug trafficking, cybercrimes, as well as boosting counter-terrorism and counter-extremism measures.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the fifth meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) ministers responsible for internal affairs and public security held on June 5, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

For his part, Momeni proposed forming a joint working group between the two countries based on a memorandum of understanding, the draft of

which is prepared and is expected to be approved soon, IRNA reported.

Referring to terrorist groups, the official said terrorism knows no border; Iran is ready to share expertise in the field with Kyrgyzstan.

The 5th meeting was attended by heads and senior officials of the ministries of internal affairs and public security of SCO member states, the SCO Secretary-General, the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, as well as the Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Director of the Bureau for Coordination of the Fight against Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crimes on the Territories of CIS Member States.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

INSF, RSF to support joint research projects

TEHRAN – Iran and Russia will support the implementation of 15 research projects proposed after the third joint call by the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and the Russian Science Foundation (RSF).

Research projects should focus on boosting collaborations among institutions, organizations, universities, and experts will be prioritized, IRNA reported.

The projects that benefit from these capacities, and help lay the basis for the expansion of scientific synergy and inter-institutional cooperation will be prioritized.

The grant, amounting to 40 billion rials (some \$22,900) for each research project for at most three years, will be allocated to Socio-Economic Challenges (SEC); Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics; Fundamentals and Development (Trustworthy AI,

Reinforced deep learning, Recognitive models); Advanced and Clean Energy Systems (Hydrogen, helium production, Hydrogen and CO2 storage); Smart transport, telecommunications and robotics; Safe Food; Agricultural Bio-Technology; and Smart healthcare and medicine.

The two organizations have also extended the deadline for submitting joint scientific research from June 6 to 29.

Iran-Russia scientific conference

The second scientific conference between Iran and Russia was held in Moscow on December 15, 2025, with Iran's ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali; science attaché, Hadi Goudarzi, and representatives from universities and scientific institutions of the two countries in attendance.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))



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JUNE 8, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Contentment is eternal wealth.
Imam Ali (AS)

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Mexican Ambassador to Tehran visits “Art & War” exhibition at TMOCA

TEHRAN – The Mexican Ambassador to Tehran visited the third event in the series of “Art & War” exhibition at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA), which explored the theme of war as seen by Mexican artists in the works found in the museum’s treasured collection.

Guillermo Puente Ordorica met with Reza Dabirinejad, the director of the museum, during his visit. Both parties emphasized the importance of expanding joint museum and cultural programs, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, the Mexican Ambassador referenced his country’s historical experience with independence movements, stating, “prominent Mexican artists have always placed humanity and human dignity at the center of their works. Art is one of the most important tools for preserving cultural identity and strengthening human values.”

Emphasizing the role of art in ending violence, he added: “War is not the solution to disputes. Nations can achieve understanding and coexistence through diplomacy, dialogue, and cultural engagement. Cultural diplomacy and art create a bridge between nations.”

The Ambassador expressed his appreciation for the museum’s approach of utilizing art to foster dialogue and understanding between cultures and declared the Embassy’s readiness to host joint programs in the fields of culture, art, cinema, and research.

The exhibition “Eleven Artworks by Mexican Printmakers,” which concluded on June 7, included two valuable works by renowned Mexican artists, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, dating back to the 1920s, depicting the struggles of the people of Mexico.

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



Mexican identity.

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

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

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

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

Cartoon of Day



Netanyahu’s Ceasefire
 Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria

“Bombs for Peace” exhibition in Sydney pays tribute to martyred children of Minab, Gaza

SYDNEY- The “Bombs for Peace” exhibition, organized by the Benevolent Iranian Women Association of Sydney in collaboration with the Iranian Friends of Palestine and Families for Palestine, took place from June 5 to 7 in Sydney, Australia.

In response to the open call for submissions, the organizers received a remarkable collection of artworks from across Australia—including Sydney, Melbourne, Lismore, and Newcastle—as well as international contributions from Gaza, Palestine, and Iran.

The exhibition showcased a diverse range of artistic works, including paintings, collages, video art, documentary photography, and drawings created by children who have endured the horrors of bombing and warfare within their own communities.

A special section of the exhibition was dedicated to the humanitarian tragedy at Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab and the school’s martyred students. One of the featured works in this section was a creative typographic interpretation of the school’s name, “Shajareh Tayyebeh.”

Egyptian and Lebanese artists who created the piece highlighted the Quranic origin of the name—drawn from Surah Ibrahim—explaining its meaning while honoring the child victims of the American missile strike on the school. The artwork incorporated 168 flowers, symbolizing the 168 children and teachers martyred in the Minab school attack.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Tim Anderson, a former lecturer at the University of Sydney, discussed his recent trip to Iran during the Ramadan War, sharing his observations from cities that had been targeted by the US and the Zionist



regime in recent attacks. He also underscored the Spirit of Resistance in Iran, stating, “Despite the devastation, a powerful, unifying nationalism defines the Iranian people.”

In another part of the opening program, John Shipton—father of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange—spoke on the details of the Minab tragedy as reported in various media outlets.

“We must help Iran re-establish a fundamental global taboo: the targeting and killing of children. To ensure the tragedy of Minab is never forgotten, we must take active, visible steps to keep its memory alive; such as wearing the numbers of the victims to spark vital conversations.” He emphasized the need to show solidarity with those children and their families, urging attendees to “journey to Minab to stand on the ground where it happened.”

Among the speakers were also

the President of the Association, Dr. Masoumeh Alaibakhsh, and the exhibition designer, Zeinab Hasezadeh, who spoke about the importance of using art and public awareness initiatives to keep the voices of the victims alive and to document these painful events for future generations.

The exhibition drew a wide range of visitors, including journalists, artists, activists, civil society organizers, legal experts, and human rights advocates.

Chilean human rights lawyer and activist Adriana Navarro visited the exhibition, underscoring the importance of artistic initiatives and public awareness efforts within Australia’s multicultural society. She praised the resilience, dedication, and advocacy of the Iranian women involved in organizing the event. Navarro also addressed the distressing situation in Iran as a country targeted by the United States and Israel, describing the

artworks as expressions of both “grief and hope in resistance.”

American journalist and civil rights activist Joe Lauria, during his visit, highlighted the significance of peaceful grassroots movements—such as marches, gatherings, conferences, and exhibitions like the one held in Sydney. He explained how such initiatives help counter the distortion and mischaracterization of peaceful civil actions as antisemitic. Lauria referenced the large March rally in Sydney, which was also depicted in one of the artworks on display, and rejected claims labeling such demonstrations as antisemitic.

On the final day, due to high public demand, the exhibition opened two hours earlier than scheduled, as organizers anticipated a significant turnout for the closing day.

A memorial guestbook was provided at the venue for visitors to record their reflections, emotions, and feedback on the exhibition.

General Hollywood: Pentagon’s propaganda operation on silver screen

Part 3

By Ali Hamedin

TEHRAN- In the previous sections, we examined the decisive influence of the DoD on the scripts of movies such as the “Iron Man” and the “Transformers” franchise. What follows is the detailed conversation of Tehran Times with Roger Stahl, professor of communication studies at the University of Georgia.

Stahl directed the documentary “Theaters of War” (2022), a film that demonstrates how the Pentagon dictates storylines in order to align them with its preferred narratives, images, and alternative versions of history, while exerting influence over Hollywood.

The tip of the iceberg

Roger Stahl spoke about his most unexpected discoveries while making the documentary. He explained that the most surprising thing was the extent to which the military reached into almost every genre and channel of the entertainment industries:

“Before really researching the military-entertainment relationship, I had a dozen films in mind that I thought were probably influenced by some kind of deal. Some early books suggested that the number might be around one hundred and fifty. Later, the scholars who eventually collaborated on the film blew the doors off when they discovered the number was closer to a thousand films and another thousand TV shows. The list kept growing.”

The author of the book “Militainment, Inc.: War, Media, and Popular Culture” pointed out that the second surprising thing was that the Pentagon is everywhere:

“Video games, influencer channels, cooking shows, reality TV, sports events, game shows, documentaries. So, I suppose I had this misconception that this was about war films. That is the tip of the iceberg. It’s about the whole range of Hollywood film and, increasingly, this vast web of quotidian programming.”

There was no paper trail!

Roger Stahl answered yes when asked whether he had faced resistance from official or military institutions during the making of “Theaters of War”, explaining:

“We asked for interviews, access to a base to film some veterans, and other things, and as soon as they found out what the documentary was about, the email conversations just went silent. So there was a lot of stonewalling, which is unusual for a public relations department. Usually, they

send someone out at least for damage control. In terms of documents, they have become wise to our FOIA requests and are now releasing minimal material — usually just the Production Assistance Agreement that producers sign with the military in order to get access to the equipment.”

He noted that there was no script notes or correspondence about the nature of the film.

“They may be destroying that material or invoking some statute that allows them to withhold it. I’m trying to get to the bottom of it. For now, we have noticed that, although they keep striking deals and helping with productions, the paper trail has mysteriously dried up,” the author added.

How will Hollywood face the Iran war?

Even as Donald Trump’s epic catastrophe following the attack on Iran has not yet come to an end, news has emerged that an American filmmaker—who has accepted many commissions from the Pentagon—is set to pick up the camera again. According to Deadline, Michael Bay, who has films such as “Transformers” series and “13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi” in his portfolio, will collaborate with Universal Pictures to bring to the big screen a military rescue mission involving two American pilots in Iran.

The as-yet-untitled project is based on a book by Mitchell Zuckoff, which is scheduled for publication in 2027. Zuckoff’s book “13 Hours,” about the attack on the American compound in Benghazi, was previously adapted into a film by Bay in 2016.

We also spoke with Stahl about potential future Hollywood narratives regarding the US attack on Iran. He stated that since “Iran has been a convenient boogeyman in US entertainment culture for a long time,” he expects this trend to continue:

“With regard to this current conflict, it’s shaping up to be a colossal strategic blunder on the part of the Trump administration. If the US sends in ground troops and there are casualties, then it will hit US public consciousness hard, and Hollywood will have to make a movie about it as a form of rescripting its significance—justifying those deaths as serving some greater cause, or at least showing that the military can win at the rescue game.”

On the other hand, the documentarian believed that the attack would simply be forgotten as a “war” and fade into the noise of constant news about US airstrikes around the globe:

“I’m being cynical here, but the one thing that marks this conflict for most Americans is the effect it is having on their pocketbooks — gas

prices and inflation. My hunch right now is that this will be remembered less as a war than an economic crisis, even as the bombs fall on Tehran.”

Don’t let Goliath play David!

When we asked Stahl to offer some recommendations to Iranian filmmakers and documentarians on how to appropriately portray the US attack on Iran, he stated that, while expressing familiarity with Iran’s media system:

“Iran has a right, like any other country, to defend itself from unprovoked outside attack. That includes battling the narratives that justify those attacks. There’s an opportunity here to uphold and appeal to universal values and human rights.”

He pointed out that much of the world, including a portion of the US, is horrified by this unprovoked attack as a blatant violation of international law. The author said he knew that the story has a hard time getting through, but that it is an important one: “who moved first, who is David and who is Goliath.”

The director of “Theaters of War” added that people are also horrified by the brazen strikes against civilians—war crimes and threats of even greater war crimes—and explained:

“We need to hear the stories of regular Iranians poisoned by the oil refinery strike, surviving the massacre of schoolchildren, or living under the daily threat of bombs. Some of the documentaries that came out of Gaza were extremely powerful, and they followed one person, one episode.”

Stahl stated that it’s so important to put an everyday human face on Iran—not just as victimized, but as proud and defiant.

“The US public does not see that, and I think there is an opportunity to identify with it,” he added.

Trump’s “Operation Epstein Fury”

The documentarian explained that, on the other hand, there are the twisted motivations and foibles of the Trump administration itself.

“Everywhere in the US—from left to right—there’s a sense that this is not ‘Operation Epic Fury’ but ‘Operation Epstein Fury.’ The ridicule is growing, and there is a huge vacuum where there would normally be an attempt to justify or legitimize the attack. It’s a clown show: the chaos, braggadocio, and false moves.”

Stahl added at the end:

“That’s part of the story, too, and it needs to be put on full, agonizing display if the US is ever going to course-correct.”

Concluded.