

## Iran's 'Painful Response' Redefines the Regional Equation

*IRGC response to Israeli strikes on Lebanon establishes a new deterrence equation, framing the attacks as part of US-backed escalation across West Asia with wider regional consequences*

Two Israeli men examine a fallen rocket half-buried in the ground on the outskirts of Jericho on June 8 following attacks by Iran and Yemen.

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### Araghchi holds consultations on Lebanon with counterparts

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abbas Araghchi, has held a series of telephone consultations with senior officials from eight countries to discuss the latest regional developments following Iran's response to repeated Israeli violations of the ceasefire in Lebanon.

Araghchi spoke separately with British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot, Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, and Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir. ► Page 3

### Iran dismisses Albania allegations, focuses on diplomacy and nuclear talks

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Esmail Baqaei, on Monday dismissed allegations made by Albanian authorities as unfounded and politically motivated, while outlining Tehran's positions on nuclear negotiations, regional diplomacy, and international cooperation.

Speaking at his weekly press conference, Baqaei described Albania's accusations against Iran as part of a recurring pattern. "Such claims follow a familiar trend in which governments seeking closer ties with the Zionist regime level accusations against Iran to gain favor," he said. He added that the Albanian public is aware that such narratives are often used to deflect from domestic accountability.

Baqaei also referred to Albania's past decision to host a terrorist group, (Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization), noting that the move had faced opposition from segments of the Albanian population. "Instead of addressing legitimate public concerns, Albanian authorities resort to such unfounded accusations," he stated. ► Page 3

### Bushehr nuclear power plant retains place among world's top 10

TEHRAN – Iran's Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant has secured a place among the world's top 10 nuclear power facilities for the third consecutive year, earning a perfect score in international safety and performance assessments, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announced on Sunday.

Speaking in a televised interview, AEOI Chief Mohammad Eslami said the Bushehr plant achieved a score of 100 out of 100 in evaluations conducted under internationally recognized standards. ► Page 2

### From Siniora's tears in 2006 to Iran's missiles in 2026

TEHRAN —When Lebanon came under a cruel attack by Israel in the summer of 2006, Arab foreign ministers gathered in Beirut on August 7 to express their support for Lebanon. At the time, Fouad Siniora was Lebanon's prime minister.

Addressing the foreign ministers, Siniora delivered an incredibly emotional speech that became one of the defining moments of the war.

Choking back tears, he broke down twice during the address. He said: "Our 'Arabness' is unconditional. Your support is your duty and responsibility."

Imploring fellow Arab countries to help Lebanon, Siniora said, "The confidence I'm speaking to you with is based on the sorrows of widowed mothers, dead children, and the cries of the displaced... a setback that has set our country and your country Lebanon decades into the past."

However, the Arab foreign ministers did not dare to issue an ultimatum to Israel to stop crimes in Lebanon, or it would face consequences. However, neither those days, nor these days, does Israel take the Arab world seriously. It has even made the UAE subservient.

### How Israel justifies bombing anything that exists

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — In another flagrant breach of the fragile April ceasefire in the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran and its allies, the Israeli military executed a brazen airstrike against the Mahshahr petrochemical complex in southwestern Iran on June 8.

The Israeli military boasted of acting on precise intelligence, claiming the facilities were "utilized" by the Iranian armed forces to "produce and export raw materials for weapons production."

Without providing any evidence whatsoever, Tel Aviv claims these targeted structures produced unique materials that serve as critical components for ballistic missiles.

It is a tidy corporate narrative, delivered with a straight face, as if dropping munitions on a massive industrial center is merely a routine supply chain audit.

This aggression exposes a maniacal legal fiction that Israel and its American partners are desperate to normalize.

### How did Lebanon's government approve surrender document?

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The understandings announced between Lebanon and the Israeli regime in April and June raise an analytical question that extends beyond their immediate political significance to their underlying legal structure.

These texts reveal the adoption of a familiar approach to resolving Arab-Israeli conflicts under U.S. sponsorship, one based on gradual security arrangements, restrictions on the sovereignty and operational scope of the Arab side, while preserving broad freedom of action for the Israeli regime. This is why comparing these understandings with the Oslo Accords between the Palestinian Authority and Israel is particularly significant.

Structurally, the understandings made by the Lebanese authorities with the Zionist regime establish a transitional phase that postpones Lebanon's sovereign demands and delays a final settlement to later stages, exactly what happened in Oslo.

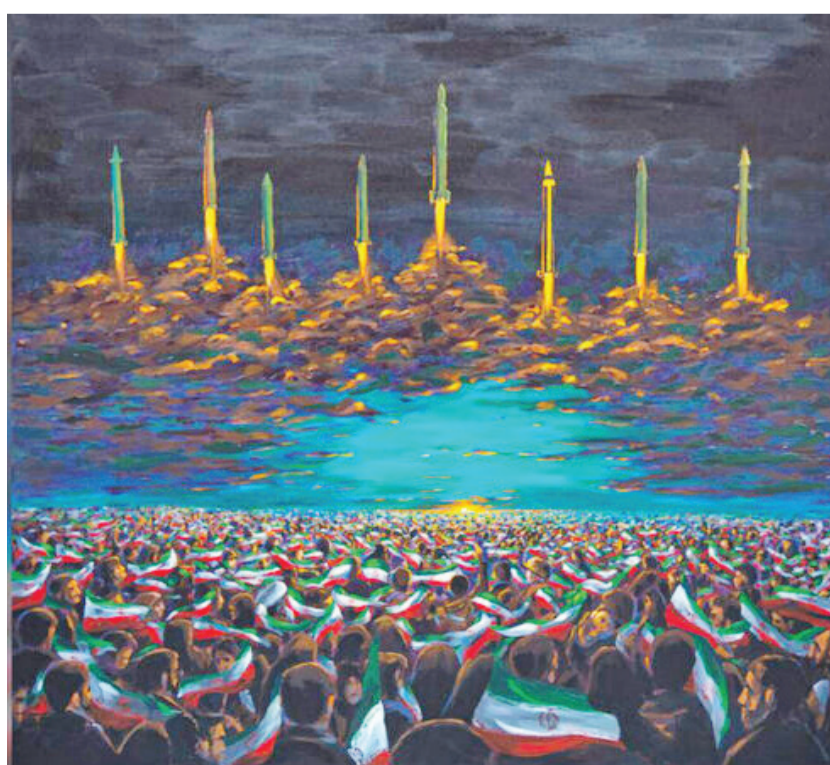
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### A third war with Iran: The price world will pay

TEHRAN- The outbreak of a third imposed war against Iran is not simply another regional conflict. According to new assessments, it has rapidly become a seismic shock to global energy markets, threatening to upend oil and gas supplies and inflict lasting damage on the world economy.

Attacks on Iran's energy infrastructure, combined with escalating threats to the strategic Strait of Hormuz—through which nearly one-fifth of global petroleum passes—have exposed the extreme vulnerability of energy supply chains. Major powers are now scrambling to respond, but the damage is already unfolding.

As upstream production costs in oil and gas surge, the final price of everything from fuel to petrochemicals is set to rise sharply. Ordinary households worldwide will feel the pinch: higher heating bills, more expensive transportation, ► Page 4



### Ali Davoudi's new painting unveiled to mark Iran's missile operations against Zionist regime

TEHRAN- A new painting by prominent Iranian artist Ali Davoudi was unveiled concurrently with the onset of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missile operations against the Zionist regime on Sunday night.

The latest work by painter and poet Ali Davoudi, titled «United Iran; Supportive Iran,» was released to mark the military operations launched by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic against the occupied territories, Mehr reported.

Executed with oil-on-canvas technique, the artwork employs a symbolic and epic visual language to depict a scene of missiles streaking through the night sky alongside a massive crowd bearing national flags, the report added.

The composition of dark tones, vibrant orange and yellow flames, and the extensive presence of the Iranian tricolor flags imbues the piece with themes of unity, national solidarity, and unwavering support. ► Page 8

### All capacities employed to rebuild oil industry war-damaged facilities

TEHRAN- The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said: "The reconstruction of damaged facilities in the oil industry is being carried out with full force and as quickly as possible, and the rebuilding process is proceeding phase by phase."

According to Shana News Agency, Hamid Bovard, on the sidelines of a meeting between the head and members of the Planning and Budget Committee of the Parliament and the deputy ministers of oil, told reporters about the reconstruction of oil facilities damaged during the Third Imposed War, stating: "Following the pursuit of the Oil Minister, reconstruction of damaged facilities has begun, but the necessary resources for this work must also be secured. ► Page 4

## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Washington's strategic miscalculation

Donya-e-Eqtasad argues that the core problem in negotiations lies in the US approach. Washington's behavior in recent years — especially in recent days — shows that a significant part of its strategic calculations is based on the logic of the “chicken game.” According to this logic, the US continues economic and military pressure during negotiations and repeatedly violates the ceasefire in an attempt to force Tehran to retreat. Such an approach not only fails to build trust but also sends a clear message: the goal of dialogue is to change Iran's behavior through coercion, not to reach a balanced and sustainable agreement. Continuing maximum pressure and ceasefire violations increases tensions, makes Iran's security calculations more cautious, and narrows diplomatic flexibility. The Cold War experience shows that strategic stability is not achieved through unilateral pressure but through recognizing power realities, mutual limitations, and establishing clear rules for managing competition.

## Sharh: Continuing the war benefits no one

Sharh wrote that the continuation of the current situation and the fragile ceasefire benefits no one. The paper argues that this war has no winner: the United States is rapidly consuming its strategic oil reserves and, although it is the world's largest oil producer, its domestic consumption is extremely high. High oil prices could damage the US economy. On the other side, China — the world's largest oil importer — has turned to its strategic reserves, but rising costs and damage to its refineries show that the world's second-largest economy would also suffer greater economic harm if the war drags on. Meanwhile, oil prices are falling, and global energy investors are shifting their capital from countries around the Strait of Hormuz to new markets. As a result, Iranian oil cannot remain untouched by the consequences of this war. For all parties involved, it is in their interest that tensions in the region end as soon as possible.

## Etemad: Diversifying trade routes

Etemad examined Iran's policy to reduce the crisis in maritime trade. It wrote that in the maritime domain, the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz remains one of Iran's key geopolitical levers. However, the subtle point is that Iran has shifted from relying solely on threats to joint management with countries such as Oman. This shift, along with the gradual relocation of

some Iranian commercial companies from Dubai to Oman and Turkey, reflects Tehran's understanding of the need to reduce dependence on a single corridor. Expanding economic and transit cooperation with Oman and Turkey — two countries with relatively balanced relations with both East and West — is part of a broader strategy to diversify trade routes. The goal is clear: to increase Iran's bargaining power and prevent foreign actors from assuming that Tehran has no alternatives under sanctions pressure.

## Iran: Lebanon as Tehran's red line in negotiations

The Iran newspaper describes Tehran's view of Lebanon as follows: From Iran's perspective, any weakening of Lebanon or placing it in a vulnerable position could have consequences beyond Lebanon's borders. Therefore, when mediators raised proposals concerning Lebanon, Iran responded clearly: Lebanon is not a bargaining chip that can be traded for other concessions at the negotiating table. Some analysts believe Tehran wants to send a message to Washington that the Lebanese crisis must not become a tool for political pressure or extracting concessions in negotiations. Iran will not remain silent in the face of pressure on Lebanon — even if this complicates the negotiation process. Iran's political and on-the-ground support for Lebanon is seen as part of a broader effort to maintain a deterrence balance against Israel, which remains one of the most important security factors in the Middle East's complex dynamics.

## Khorasan: A major operation — but not enough

Khorasan wrote that Iran's response to US hostility — specifically the attack on Qeshm and Sirik maritime facilities — was a major action beyond the expected level, but still insufficient. If the US can bring a country to its knees solely through a naval blockade, this strategy will become a low-cost, high-return model in the Pentagon's playbook and will be repeated. Over the past year, the US began with Venezuela, then moved to Iran, and is now looking toward Cuba. Breaking the blockade does not necessarily mean entering a full-scale war; rather, it means imposing high and unpredictable costs on the US so that Washington concludes the strategy is not worth its benefits. These costs may come in the form of responses to the US fleet or through positive measures that neutralize the blockade's economic effects.

## Bushehr nuclear power plant retains place among world's top 10

TEHRAN — Iran's Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant has secured a place among the world's top 10 nuclear power facilities for the third consecutive year, earning a perfect score in international safety and performance assessments, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announced on Sunday.

Speaking in a televised interview, AEOI Chief Mohammad Eslami said the Bushehr plant achieved a score of 100 out of 100 in evaluations conducted under internationally recognized standards.

Eslami noted that the rankings are based on comprehensive inspections and audits carried out by experts from the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), which monitors and evaluates the performance of nuclear power plants worldwide.

“The ranking is not a self-assessment,” Eslami said. “It is the result of a rigorous and detailed audit process that examines operational procedures, environmental performance, workforce efficiency, safety standards, and overall plant operations.”

The achievement underscores the continued performance and reliability of Iran's only operational nuclear power plant, which plays a key role in the country's civilian nuclear energy program.

According to the AEOI chief, the plant's repeated inclusion among the world's leading nuclear facilities reflects its adherence to international safety requirements and oper-



ational excellence.

The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is Iran's first and only operational nuclear power plant, located on the Persian Gulf coast in southern Iran. The facility was originally launched with German assistance in the 1970s, but construction was later completed with Russian cooperation after years of delays. It generates electricity for Iran's national power grid and is operated under the supervision of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. The plant is subject to monitoring and inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency as part of Iran's civilian nuclear energy program.

## Iran's 'painful response' redefines the regional equation

IRGC response to Israeli strikes on Lebanon establishes a new deterrence equation, framing the attacks as part of US-backed escalation across West Asia with wider regional consequences

TEHRAN — Iran has maintained that its missile attacks on Israel inflicted “painful” blows to the Tel Aviv regime, while holding the United States responsible for escalating tensions in West Asia.

Iranian armed forces launched a missile barrage at Israel on Sunday in response to the regime's persistent attacks on Lebanon. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched ballistic missiles at Ramat David Air Base in northern Israel.

Sirens blared in wide areas, including the occupied Golan Heights, Tiberias, Safed, Nazareth, Haifa, and several other cities, according to Israeli media.

The IRGC said the operation was completely successful.

On Monday, the IRGC struck Israel's strategic Nevatim and Tel Nof airbases following the regime's aggression on several Iranian cities.

“The operation was carried out in response to the missile aggression of the child-killing Zionist regime against several radar sites in three locations across the country,” an IRGC statement said.

The IRGC said it hit petrochemical facilities in the port city of Haifa with missiles, in reprisal for a similar Israeli attack on the Karoun petrochemical plant in Iran's southern port city of Mahshahr.

It emphasized that the Zionist regime had “launched a dangerous game” by attacking civilian facilities and energy infrastructure in Iran. It also warned that strikes on Iran's civilian infrastructure and energy facilities would expand the scope of retaliation, which will include all energy targets in the region.

On Monday afternoon, Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters announced the cessation of military operations against Israel.

It said the halt comes after Iran's powerful armed forces delivered a “painful” response to the “atrocities and mischief” of the “savage Zionist regime” in southern Lebanon and the Dahiyeh district, which were carried out with the support of “criminal America.” “The fake Zionist regime and its supporters must learn a lesson from this response.”

The headquarters emphasized that while operations have been halted, “much more intense and crushing measures than before” will be taken if aggression and mischief, including in southern Lebanon, continue.

“The powerful armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have proven that they are at the peak of defensive and offensive readiness...and will make the American and Zionist enemies regret their actions,” the spokesman of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters said.

Ebrahim Zolfaghari added, “If



aggression and mischief continue, they will be dealt with even greater intensity.”

## US responsible for escalation

In his weekly press briefing on Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman also said Washington is responsible for any escalation in the region.

“In our region, nobody believes that the Zionist regime carries out any action without prior coordination and cooperation with the United States,” Esmail Baghaei said.

He added, “Right now, we have information that the United States is coordinating with the regime in both offensive and defensive matters. Some may argue that the Zionist regime does not listen to the United States, but the responsibility of the United States as a party to the ceasefire is clear.”

“The responsibility of the United States is clear, and the consequences of any escalation will rest with the United States,” Baghaei said.

Meanwhile, fresh reports have cast doubt on Washington's claims that it was not involved in the latest Israeli strikes on Iranian territory.

Israel coordinated its early Monday attacks on positions inside Iran with the United States, according to a report by the Israeli newspaper Israel Hayom.

Citing an unnamed source, the newspaper said the attacks were carried out in coordination with Washington despite White House assertions that the United States had no role in the operation.

Israeli army radio also reported, citing sources, that although the strikes were conducted by Israel, the United States assisted by intercepting some of the missiles fired during the confrontation.

The reports contradicted claims by American officials that the US military did not participate in the aggression against Iran.

The revelations came after Axios reported that President Donald Trump had urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a telephone conversation on Sunday to avoid further military escalation, arguing that negotiations with Tehran were approaching a critical stage.

## Europe sidelined from Iran nuclear talks: envoy

TEHRAN — Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, has said that European countries no longer play any meaningful role in the ongoing diplomatic efforts surrounding Iran's nuclear program, arguing that the United States is deliberately excluding both its European allies and other major powers from the negotiation process.

In an interview with Russia's Izvestia newspaper, Jalali stated that Tehran had been prepared to involve Moscow in efforts to resolve disputes over its nuclear activities, but said Washington opposed the participation of additional stakeholders.

“We were ready to invite our Russian colleagues to help resolve this issue, but Trump and the Americans were not interested,” Jalali said. “Trump wants to portray himself as the sole person capable of resolving the



issue and is unwilling to grant any role to other participants.”

The Iranian envoy argued that the same approach has effectively marginalized the European signatories to the 2015 nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“In reality, Europe currently has no place

again following the aggression launched against Iran on February 28, when Washington and Tel Aviv sought to impose their demands through military pressure.

However, Iran's powerful retaliatory strikes altered the course of the confrontation and ultimately compelled the United States to accept the April 8 ceasefire following the February 28 aggression.

The ceasefire was understood to include an end to Israeli attacks on Lebanon, yet Iranian officials say both Washington and Tel Aviv have repeatedly violated their commitments by allowing continued aggression against Lebanese territory.

Following its failure to achieve its objectives militarily, the United States imposed a naval blockade on Iran in mid-April and intensified economic pressure in an effort to weaken the country. But these measures have likewise failed to force Tehran into retreat.

## A new equation

Iran's latest missile strikes on Israel have established what experts describe as a “new equation” in the region: any Israeli aggression against Lebanon is no longer viewed as a separate matter but as a violation of the broader ceasefire arrangement reached between Iran and the United States on April 8.

Iranian military authorities have warned that continued attacks against Lebanon will be met with a crushing response and that the scope of retaliation could expand further if provocations persist.

In this context, analysts say the ball is now in Washington's court. The United States must decide whether it is willing to rein in Netanyahu and prevent a wider regional conflict or continue down a path of escalation with potentially unforeseen consequences.

The stakes are particularly high for the Trump administration. After more than 100 days of confrontation with Iran and an estimated \$100 billion blow to the US economy, pressure is mounting on Washington to find a way out of the crisis.

Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz and the continuing instability in regional energy markets have contributed to rising inflationary pressures and higher fuel costs in the United States.

Analysts warn that a prolonged confrontation could further complicate Trump's political position ahead of the November congressional midterm elections.

Tehran, meanwhile, insists that it seeks neither war nor escalation but will respond decisively to any aggression. Iranian officials say the country's armed forces have demonstrated both their capability and determination and that any future attack on Iran or Lebanon will be met with a far stronger response.

“Where is Europe now? One should not count on them. Trump is not prepared to give any role to his European partners because he wants to present himself as the only person capable of deciding this matter.”

Addressing concerns over Iran's nuclear activities, Jalali reiterated Tehran's long-standing position that it has never sought to develop nuclear weapons and therefore sees no reason to provide guarantees regarding a weapons program that, according to Iran, does not exist.

“We have never sought to make nuclear weapons,” he said, noting that numerous inspections conducted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have failed to produce evidence that Iran is pursuing a nuclear bomb.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

# Araghchi holds consultations on Lebanon developments with counterparts

From Page 1 ▶ During the discussions, the Iranian top diplomat briefed his counterparts and other officials on the Islamic Republic's response to the Zionist regime's persistent breaches of the ceasefire on the Lebanese front. They also exchanged views on the latest regional developments.

In his conversation with the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Araghchi addressed Iran's response following the repeated violations of the provisions of the April 8 ceasefire agreement and the continuation of Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon.

The talks with the Egyptian Foreign Minister focused on ongoing regional developments, as well as Iran's response to Israeli attacks on Lebanon and the re-



current violations of ceasefire arrangements across multiple fronts.

Araghchi and the Saudi Foreign Minister also discussed the response of Iran's Armed Forces to the breaches of the April 8 ceasefire and the Israeli regime's continued aggressive actions

against Lebanon and the wider region.

These consultations are part of Tehran's intensive diplomatic efforts aimed at addressing the consequences of the Israeli regime's continued actions against Lebanon and assessing the rapidly evolving situation

across the region.

Iran maintains that its ceasefire agreement with the United States extends to all regional fronts, including Lebanon, in a position that directly contradicts the stance of Washington and Tel Aviv, which argue that the Lebanese theater and Hezbollah are not covered by the truce.

Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, have emphasized that the ceasefire is "unequivocally" comprehensive and applies across all fronts, warning that any violation in Lebanon would constitute a breach of the agreement as a whole. They have also cautioned that the United States and Israel would bear responsibility for the consequences of any such violations.

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Speaking at his weekly press conference, Baqaei described Albania's accusations against Iran as part of a recurring pattern. "Such claims follow a familiar trend in which governments seeking closer ties with the Zionist regime level accusations against Iran to gain favor," he said. He added that the Albanian public is aware that such narratives are often used to deflect from domestic accountability.

Baqaei also referred to Albania's past decision to host 'a terrorist group,' (Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization), noting that the move had faced opposition from segments of the Albanian population. "Instead of addressing legitimate public concerns, Albanian authorities resort to such unfounded accusations," he stated.

Addressing reports of a potential prisoner exchange with the United States and speculation about Iran's enriched uranium stockpile, Baqaei stressed that current negotiations remain focused on ending the conflict. "At this phase, discussions regarding the details of Iran's nuclear program are purely speculative and are not part of ongoing talks," he said, adding that such matters could be addressed in subsequent phases if progress is achieved.

Commenting on recent developments at the United Nations, Baqaei expressed hope that newly elected non-permanent members of the UN Security Council would promote a more balanced and responsible approach to international peace and security. He also noted that Germany's failure to secure a seat reflected international reactions to its recent policies, particularly its support for Israel's actions in the region.

Turning to regional diplomacy, Baqaei reaffirmed Iran's commitment to strengthening relations with neighboring countries under its "good neighbor" policy. However, he noted that Tehran had repeatedly warned region-



al states against allowing their territories to be used for hostile actions against Iran. "We remain committed to building a secure and self-reliant region," he said.

Responding to remarks by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regarding Iran's commitments, Baqaei reiterated that Iran remains a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has fulfilled its obligations. He attributed recent disruptions in cooperation to attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, which were carried out by the United States and Israel.

Finally, addressing Iran-Pakistan economic relations, Baqaei rejected claims that bilateral exchanges are merely ceremonial. He emphasized that sustained diplomatic engagement and economic coordination have resulted in tangible progress in recent months. "These interactions are part of a continuous process aimed at expanding cooperation and removing existing barriers," he said.

Baqaei concluded by underscoring the Foreign Ministry's commitment to advancing economic diplomacy and strengthening regional partnerships.

## LATEST NEWS

### Iran's top security official warns of "hell" for enemies

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council warned that any renewed aggression by the "Zionist-American coalition" would turn the region into "hell" for its perpetrators, emphasizing that decades of resistance have reshaped global security dynamics.

In a statement on Monday, Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr said that "47 years and 100 days of resistance," spanning battlefields, cities, politics, and diplomacy, has transformed the global security order.

He suggested that any "credible threat" should not be sought outside Washington and Tel Aviv.

Zolqadr further warned that if the "Zionist-American evil coalition" were to "once again make a mistake," the region would become "hell" for it.

He concluded his statement by paying tribute, saying, "Peace be upon the martyrs of the Dahiyeh."

### Qalibaf: Iran's response will remain unchanged until genuine trust-building efforts are demonstrated

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who also heads Iran's negotiating team, said Tehran's position would remain unchanged unless meaningful steps are taken to build trust.

In a post on his X account, Qalibaf wrote: "We have disrupted the equation based on a ceasefire on paper and its repeated violations on the ground."

He added: "Until you demonstrate a genuine commitment to building trust, Iran's response will remain exactly the same."

### Iran blames US-Israeli attacks for nuclear cooperation strains

Iran's UN mission in Vienna has warned

that challenges in its nuclear cooperation with the IAEA stem directly from 17 waves of US-Israeli illegal armed attacks on its peaceful facilities. In a statement ahead of the IAEA Board of Governors meeting, Iran stressed the board must not be used politically, adding that coercion undermines diplomacy and responsibility cannot be shifted to the victim.

### Defense ministry vows full support for armed forces

Iran's caretaker defense minister, Brigadier General Majid Ebn al-Reza, pledged unwavering support for the Armed Forces, stating Iran will not retreat from defending national security until the aggressor is punished. He condemned Israeli crimes against civilians, saying the regime is closer than ever to collapse and has strengthened regional resolve against it.

### Iran opens new chapter in defense policy: official

Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani, head of Iran's Expediency Council, said Iran's recent response to Israeli ceasefire violations marks a new chapter in its defense policy based on initiative and offensive power. He emphasized that any aggression against the Axis of Resistance will alter regional equations and trigger a comprehensive deterrent response.

### Fidan says Turkey continues mediation efforts between Iran and US

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan has stressed the urgent need to end tensions between Iran and the United States, reaffirming Ankara's commitment to diplomatic engagement and regional consultations aimed at promoting dialogue and stability.

According to Al Jazeera, Fidan emphasized the importance of de-escalation, stating that "the conflict between Iran and the United States must come to an end."

"We are continuing our consultations with the United States, Iran, and regional countries," Fidan said. "Turkey firmly supports diplomacy and dialogue as the most effective path toward peace and stability."

### IRCS reports no casualties following Israeli attacks on Iran

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) announced on Monday that no fatalities or injuries have been reported following Israeli attacks carried out in Iran since early Monday morning.

IRCS spokesman Mojtaba Khaledi said that more than 5,000 operational personnel and emergency response teams remain on standby, while all relief bases and emergency operations center nationwide have been activated.

"Although damage has been reported at 12 sites, no casualties or injuries have been recorded so far," he said.

### Iran warns against 'coercive, confrontational' approach of IAEA board

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna, Austria, has warned against any anti-Tehran move at the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"The board should be cautious on the path forward. Coercion and confrontation do not lead to cooperation, it undermines prospects of a diplomatic solution," the Iranian Mission said in a message posted on its X account on Monday, simultaneously with the start of the quarterly meeting of the IAEA and amid reports suggesting that the US has been lobbying for an anti-Iranian resolution.

The message, however, expressed hope that the "IAEA Board of Governor meeting of June - which started today - will address important issues."

## Iran redraws the rules of engagement



By Xavier Villar

MADRID - The Iranian strike against Israel on the night of Sunday, June 7, is qualitatively different from anything that has come before. For the first time, Iran attacked Israel directly without any prior Israeli action against Iranian territory or assets to justify it. The lines of confrontation have shifted since the 40-day war, and what that shift reveals deserves more sustained attention than the immediate news cycle can give it.

For years, analysts characterized Iranian deterrence doctrine as fundamentally reactive: Tehran absorbed the blow, calculated the response, and acted at a time and place of its own choosing. That characterization described a pattern of behavior without asking what conditions sustained it, or what conditions might change it. What Sunday's events make plain is that Iran has rewritten the terms of its own strategic calculus. It no longer considers itself obliged to wait for a direct attack on its territory before responding. Deterrence had been re-established in the narrow sense that Israel knew any strike on Iran would be met proportionally. But Tehran has now added a new dimension: it will also respond to Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

The immediate question is what makes this shift possible. States rewrite the rules of the game when they judge that the regional balance of power, their own internal capabilities, and the broader regional landscape allow them to take the initiative. What the Sunday night's strike signals is a level of strategic confidence that is difficult to dissociate from the outcome of the 40-day war. Despite two successive military campaigns against Iran, the Islamic Republic is anything but weakened. Iranian officials project the conviction that no credible threat, from Israel or the United States, currently exists that could force any substantial change in their policy. Iran now sees itself as being in a position to impose new rules on its adversaries rather than operating within a framework others have set for it. That perception carries its own autonomous political weight, shaping the behavior of every actor involved regardless of what outside observers make of its material foundations.

What makes Sunday's attack particularly significant is that it does not occur in a vacuum, but against the backdrop of an accumulated regional transformation. The 40-day war consolidated an interpretation of the regional balance that positioned Iran as the nodal power in the regional order. Within that framework, Sunday's strike reflects a strategic assessment: that the moment is favorable, that adversaries lack sufficient military means to alter the current status quo, and that taking the initiative now produces effects that a reactive response would not. The strategic confidence reflected in Iran's decision is therefore not an improvisation.

### Humiliation and its registers

Now, the position of the Trump administration deserves careful attention. Iran, which survived 40 days of intensive bombardment, retains control of the Strait of Hormuz, and has just demonstrated its willingness to act offensively, is operating from a position of sustained initiative. Israel, which has fought across the region without achieving any of its declared objectives, is carrying a burden of attrition that no amount of public statement can conceal. Trump, who needs a way out of the conflict, does not control the terms on which that exit might occur. This constellation is not the result of a tactical error or a single administration's bad judgment. It is the accumulated result of decades of systematic underestimation of actors whose political logic Washington has consistently preferred not to understand.

The American humiliation emerging from

these events operates on two inseparable levels. At the material level, Iran resisted coercion and responded in ways that have altered the assumptions underpinning unquestioned U.S. dominance in the region. 40 days of bombing did not produce capitulation; it produced an Iran that on Sunday night struck Israel directly from a position its adversaries had not anticipated. At the discursive level, something more fundamental is at stake: the capacity of the United States to name, classify, and define political reality has been challenged with an effectiveness that no previous administration had to confront with this degree of clarity. For decades, Washington constructed an order of intelligibility in which Iran appeared as a problem to be solved, an actor to be disciplined until it accepted the terms of the liberal order. What this weekend's events demonstrate is that this framework does not correspond to the reality it claims to describe. Iran was not disciplined. And that sustained resistance carries an eloquence that conventional analysis cannot absorb without revising its premises.

### The Lebanese equation

Iran's decision to explicitly link its response to Israeli attacks on Lebanon dismantles, with some precision, two narratives that have circulated for years with remarkably little critical scrutiny. The first is the proxy label routinely applied to Hezbollah, which presupposes a relationship of unilateral instrumentalization in which Tehran uses the organization as a tool of its regional policy, an organization with no agency of its own and no interests beyond those of its supposed patron. The second is the narrative according to which Hezbollah dragged Lebanon into someone else's war, as if Lebanon were a passive bystander in a conflict foreign to its own interests and political history. Both narratives serve the same function: to delegitimize Lebanese resistance by recasting it as the effect of external manipulation rather than as the expression of an autonomous political position with its own historical roots.

What the security umbrella Iran has extended over Lebanon reveals — as the Lebanese political scientist Amal Saad has argued — goes beyond the inseparability of both actors' strategic interests and the depth of their ideological and religious ties, though those ties exist and are politically significant. What it reveals is a conception of sovereignty as regional self-determination: a substantive and lived sovereignty that must be continually exercised and defended through struggle and solidarity, as against the formal sovereignty externally conferred that the Lebanese government embodies, and which, as that government has demonstrated, can be denied or surrendered in practice while its formal designation remains unchanged. This distinction determines who can act on behalf of a community when that community is under attack, and who can only invoke an authority it no longer controls.

Iran acts from a logic in which the political autonomy of a community, its capacity to set its own terms of security and to resist external pressure, constitutes the fundamental political value. It is a logic that conventional international relations analysis has been unable to capture, because it insists on reading Iranian decisions as responses to external stimuli rather than as expressions of Iran's own strategic assessment. At least since the 40-day war, Iran has demonstrated the inadequacy of that framework. Sunday night confirmed it in a manner that leaves little room for alternative interpretation.

What this suggests is that Tehran has left behind the strictly reactive deterrence doctrine by which direct action against Israel was framed as a response to prior escalation. If that reading holds, the rules of the regional game have changed in ways that are not easily reversed.

## Iran, India emphasize expansion of economic cooperation, facilitation of trade relations

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Atabek, in a meeting with the Minister of Heavy Industries of India, emphasized the expansion of economic, trade, and investment cooperation between the two countries.

In this meeting, the two sides, referring to the extensive capacities existing in the economic relations between Iran and India, examined solutions for developing bilateral cooperation and removing obstacles facing economic activists.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, in this meeting while emphasizing the importance of strengthening mechanisms for joint cooperation, called for holding the meeting of the joint trade working group of the two countries as soon as possible, and considered this meeting as a suitable platform for following up on agreements, identifying new cooperation opportunities, and increasing the volume of economic exchanges.

He also stressed the need to facilitate the issuance of business visas for economic activists of the two countries and said that facilitating the movement of traders and investors can play an important role in developing economic relations and increasing private sector interactions.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade further, referring to the importance of joint investments, emphasized the need to accelerate the implementation of the Indian side's investment commitments in Iran and called for utilizing available capacities for implementing joint projects and developing long-term economic cooperation.

In another part of this meeting, the development of a direct flight network between major cities of Iran and India was emphasized. The two sides believed that increasing direct flights and creating balance in the aviation relations of the two countries can pave the way for the development of tourism, facilitation of business travel, and expansion of economic and cultural cooperation.

The two sides also emphasized the continuation of consultations and strengthening of joint cooperation in various economic and trade fields, and agreed to make maximum use of available capacities to enhance the level of relations between Iran and India.

As previously reported, at a conference on commercial opportunities between Iran and India, held on the sidelines of Iran Expo 2025, in May 2025, officials and business representatives from both countries emphasized the need to diversify trade and familiarize Iranian businesses with international trade models.

According to Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the "Iran-India Trade Opportunities and Capacities Conference" brought together Hossein Bamiri, Iran's commercial attaché in India; Khalid Khan, a member of the Iran Trade



Center in Mumbai; and several trade delegations from both nations.

Bamiri said Iran's exports to India over the past decade have largely been limited to a narrow range of products including dates, pistachios, almonds, and petrochemicals, with little diversification in the export basket.

Highlighting the mismatch between the two countries' trade potential and current volumes, Bamiri urged Iranian businesses to pursue not just goods exports but also services. "This requires a stronger Iranian presence in international trade fairs," he added.

He also stressed that Iranian traders and manufacturers must align their corporate structures with global standards and gain a deeper understanding of international trade models. "Proper marketing and consistent participation in international events are key," Bamiri said.

Khalid Khan said efforts are underway to usher in a new phase of commercial relations between India and Iran. "We aim to showcase the capabilities of both nations on a broader scale," he said, adding that India-Iran trade could flourish further if Chabahar Port became more accessible to Indian traders. "Such progress depends on sound policies and timely cooperation," he noted.

Also speaking at the event, Masoud Ebrahim Shah, a former advisor to the Malaysian prime minister, called India's export potential "unparalleled" and described trade exhibitions as a strategic platform for future commercial development.

Meanwhile, Head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Mahmoud Najafi Arab met with Indian Ambassador Rudra Gaurav Shresth to explore avenues for expanding economic ties between Iran and India, with both sides emphasizing the need to prioritize the exchange of non-sanctioned goods.

The meeting, held at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, also included the TCCIMA Secretary General and the head of the South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce, who accompanied the Indian ambassador. Discussions focused on enhancing provincial-level economic cooperation led by business chambers.

## Development of economic, industrial, commercial co-op between Iran, Kyrgyzstan emphasized

TEHRAN- The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade of Iran, in a meeting with the Minister of Economy and Commerce of Kyrgyzstan, emphasized the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, transport, mining, technical and engineering services, and health.

In this meeting, the two sides, referring to the extensive capacities existing in the economic relations between the two countries, stressed the need to increase the volume and diversity of trade exchanges, develop cooperation within the framework of regional agreements such as the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as well as strengthen the exchange of trade delegations and hold joint specialized exhibitions.

Mohammad Atabek, in this meeting, while pointing out the importance of developing transport and transit infrastructure, cited the establishment of a direct flight between the two countries, reduction of transit costs, and completion of regional corridors as priorities for joint cooperation. He also emphasized utilizing the capacities of railway projects and the "Belt and Road" initiative for the development of regional trade.

In another part of the meeting, the two sides stressed the need to remove banking and financial obstacles, develop correspondent banking relations, use national currencies in trade exchanges, form a joint banking committee, and examine new financial mechanisms such as joint

investment funds.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade also announced Iran's readiness to develop cooperation in industrial and mining sectors and informed about the capacity of Iranian companies to implement industrial projects, provide technical and engineering services, transfer technical knowledge, develop industrial towns, and participate in Kyrgyzstan's mining projects. In this framework, the need for exchanging specialized information in the mining sector and identifying joint investment opportunities was emphasized.

In the field of investment, the two sides also stressed the development of cooperation between the free zones and special economic zones of the two countries, attracting investors, creating joint ventures especially in the processing industries of agricultural products, and utilizing logistical and commercial capacities.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, referring to the country's capabilities in the health sector, emphasized the development of medical cooperation, expansion of health tourism, and establishment of joint medical and health centers in Kyrgyzstan.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides emphasized the continuation of consultations, follow-up of agreements, and maximum utilization of existing capacities to enhance the level of economic and commercial relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

# A third war with Iran: The price world will pay

TEHRAN- The outbreak of a third imposed war against Iran is not simply another regional conflict. According to new assessments, it has rapidly become a seismic shock to global energy markets, threatening to upend oil and gas supplies and inflict lasting damage on the world economy.

Attacks on Iran's energy infrastructure, combined with escalating threats to the strategic Strait of Hormuz—through which nearly one-fifth of global petroleum passes—have exposed the extreme vulnerability of energy supply chains. Major powers are now scrambling to respond, but the damage is already unfolding.



As upstream production costs in oil and gas surge, the final price of everything from fuel to petrochemicals is set to rise sharply. Ordinary households worldwide

will feel the pinch: higher heating bills, more expensive transportation, and costlier everyday goods. The report warns that ordinary people will end up paying

the price for warmongering by nations that style themselves as defenders of democracy.

Beyond inflation, a prolonged conflict risks tipping the global economy into recession. The first warning signs would be mass unemployment across multiple countries and crushing economic pressure on working families—who would suffer both as consumers facing price hikes and as workers losing livelihoods in production sectors.

Global leaders must recognize that an attack on Iran is an attack on global economic stability. The cost of inaction, or further military escalation, is a price no nation can afford to pay.

## All capacities employed to rebuild oil industry war-damaged facilities



TEHRAN- The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said: "The reconstruction of damaged facilities in the oil industry is being carried out with full force and as quickly as possible, and the rebuilding process is proceeding phase by phase."

According to Shana News Agency, Hamid Bovard, on the sidelines of a meeting between the head and members of the Planning and Budget Committee of the Parliament and the deputy ministers of oil, told reporters about the reconstruction of oil facilities damaged during the Third Imposed War, stating: "Following the pursuit of the Oil Minister, reconstruction of damaged facilities has begun, but the necessary resources for this work must also be secured. We hope the outcome of these meetings will help secure resources. Overall, the work is progressing quickly, and the reconstructions are being carried out phase by phase and step by step."

He added: "Just as we witnessed during the eight-year Imposed War, industrial facilities and plants were quickly rebuilt, and today the same approach is being followed in the oil industry, and everyone is at work. For example, at each refinery, several people are engaged in reconstruction to bring damaged facilities back online."

The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company stated that the country's economy is currently dependent on gas and oil, so damaged facilities must be rebuilt quickly, and emphasized: "We ask all people to take the lead in controlling consumption so that we can successfully get through this difficult bottleneck."

**Reconstruction of damaged oil industry facilities will be pursued with parliamentary support**

The head of the Planning and Budget Committee of the Parliament said: "The members of this committee emphasized in today's meeting that they stand alongside the Oil Ministry in rebuilding damaged oil industry facilities and will provide any necessary assistance in this regard, because they believe this issue is directly related to people's livelihoods."

According to Shana, Gholamreza Tajgardoun, on the sidelines of the meeting between the Planning and Budget Committee of the Parliament and the deputy ministers of oil, told reporters:

the country's sustainable energy supply in the best possible manner."

The CEO of the South Pars Gas Complex, referring to the actions taken in the field of reconstructing refinery facilities, said: "The process of rebuilding and upgrading damaged units began from the first days after the enemy's attack, relying on domestic capabilities, and today, with the efforts of gas industry specialists and staff, the implementation of these projects is progressing favorably and ahead of planned schedules."

Hosseini cited the localization of technical processes and maximum use of domestically manufactured equipment and goods as among the most important success factors for these projects, and clarified: "Utilizing domestic capacities and the technical knowledge of Iranian specialists, while increasing the speed of project implementation, has played a significant role in enhancing production sustainability and reducing dependence on foreign sources."

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The head of the Planning and Budget Committee of the Parliament clarified: "Operational and non-operational personnel of the oil industry should know that this commission is taking steps to solve their problems, because it believes their activities are very impactful for the country."

**Reconstruction of damaged refineries in South Pars accelerated**

Meanwhile, as recently reported, CEO of the South Pars Gas Complex, highlighting the role of coherent planning, targeted management, and round the clock efforts of the staff, has announced the continued sustainable gas production in the refineries of this complex and said: "The process of reconstructing facilities and implementing strategic projects is proceeding with favorable speed and quality."

According to Shana news agency, Gholamabbas Hosseini, speaking at a meeting reviewing the strategic plans of this complex and referring to the successful performance of South Pars refineries under exceptional operational conditions, stated: "The continuation of sustainable gas production in this massive industrial complex is the result of meticulous planning, continuous coordination among various operational and technical departments, and the dedicated efforts of the expert and committed staff of the South Pars Gas Complex."

He added: "In recent months, all refineries of the complex, by focusing on maintaining production sustainability, enhancing equipment reliability, and implementing structured maintenance and operational plans, have been able to play their effective role in

the country's sustainable energy supply in the best possible manner."

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He further referred to the development plans of the South Pars Gas Complex and added: "The strategic projects of this complex, aimed at improving productivity, increasing facility reliability, and strengthening production sustainability, are being pursued with greater seriousness and speed, and a bright horizon has been drawn for the continued role of South Pars in the country's energy supply."

The CEO of the South Pars Gas Complex announced: "With the continuation of a program-oriented approach, use of local knowledge, and capable human capital, all available capacities will be employed to maintain and strengthen sustainable gas production, so that this complex, as the beating heart of the country's gas industry, continues to play its strategic role in meeting Iran's energy needs."

Hosseini emphasized the importance of energy consumption management and said: "Alongside the continuous efforts of gas industry staff to maintain production sustainability and energy supply, the cooperation of the people and adherence to consumption patterns can play an effective role in maintaining the balance of the country's energy network and continuing optimal service delivery to all sectors."

**Debris removal at South Pars' damaged refineries reaches 60% progress**

Also, the CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company, referring to 60% progress in debris removal operations at two damaged gas refineries of South Pars during the 40day war, announced the readiness of part of these facilities to enter the reconstruction phase and emphasized: "What is being done today in South Pars is a rare example of mobilizing the country's specialized capacities to revive strategic gas industry infrastructure."

According to Shana news

agency, quoting Pars Oil and Gas Company, Touraj Dehghani, at a joint meeting with the Director of Protection of the National Iranian Oil Company, referred to the actions taken regarding the reconstruction of facilities damaged by the third imposed war and stated: "Debris removal operations at two South Pars refineries have reached 60% progress; an achievement that, given the environmental conditions, operational risks, stringent safety requirements, and unknown hazards, seemed unimaginable at first glance."

Noting that the staff of Pars Oil and Gas Company in various operational, executive, and contracting sectors were deployed to the damaged areas immediately after the attacks, he added: "According to the latest reports, the complete clearing of three main damaged areas has been completed, and as of today, it is possible to begin reconstruction operations in these sections."

The CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company, stating that debris removal operations are expected to be fully completed in less than a month, clarified: "The volume of damage and complexity of the work were such that under normal circumstances, such an operation would have required at least 6 to 7 months, but our hardworking colleagues have managed to achieve this level of progress in less than two months, which is a rare record in the country's oil industry and promises that in the reconstruction phase, with the same spirit and cohesion, the process of restoring damaged facilities can be followed at an appropriate speed."

Dehghani, referring to the effects of enemy attacks on the country's energy facilities, said: "Today, all facilities, capacities, and management approaches have been mobilized to compensate for the damages and restore production capacity as quickly as possible, and we hope that with the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders, we can bring the valuable lost gas production capacity back online."

Emphasizing the necessity of supporting managers and implementers of national projects, he added: "Achieving major goals under such conditions requires trust, collective belief, and support from all colleagues in related sectors, and today decisionmaking on national projects must be viewed as an important issue in the country."

In another part of his remarks, the CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company expressed gratitude for the effective cooperation and support of the Protection Department of the National Iranian Oil Company and said: "In critical situations, some organizational pillars, including the Basij and Protection, do not merely have organizational duties, but also bear national and strategic responsibilities and are considered part of the country's national security supply chain."



From page 1 ▶

### The domino fallacy and the Periodic Table

The justification rests entirely on the deceptive political technology of dual use.

The Mahshahr petrochemical complex is a cornerstone of Iran's civilian economy, processing foundational polymers, fertilizers, and consumer materials.

To treat these industrial inputs as inherent threats is to declare war on the Periodic Table itself. Toluene can be a solvent for paint or a precursor for explosives; ethylene glycol goes into car antifreeze or plastic explosives.

By the logic deployed at Mahshahr, any facility manufacturing an atom that might eventually brush against a soldier's uniform becomes a legitimate military target.

This introduces an infinite regress of targeting logic where the concept of civilian life completely evaporates.

Under this pretext, a bakery that sells bread to defense industry workers transforms into a node in the military caloric supply chain.

The cement factory mixing concrete for apartment buildings

becomes a bunker facility. A local tissue paper workshop where an engineer wipes his forehead is suddenly providing aerodynamic perspiration control for a weapons program.

If a soldier wears a uniform, the paint shop is a camouflage lab; if a general takes a photo, the camera shop is an optical targeting asset; if troops eat rations, the supermarket is an energy replenishment depot.

### Recycling the Gaza blueprint

This is the exact blueprint used to turn the Gaza Strip into a graveyard of infrastructure.

For years, the magical incantation was " Hamas utilization," a public relations gimmick that tried to justify the systematic destruction of hospitals, universities, bakeries, and places of worship.

The coordinates have changed, but the rhetorical machinery remains identical. The phrases "missile capability" or "military application" are simply the updated euphemistic code word designed to launder war crimes and grant permission to bomb everything keeping the civilian population alive.

The underlying objective is

the normalization of economic terrorism and collective punishment.

### The reciprocity boomerang

The architects and supporters of this fiendish doctrine fail to realize that their logic is a double-edged sword inviting devastating reciprocity.

Israel operates under mandatory conscription laws; the vast majority of its adult population has served or is currently serving in the military. Its economy is structurally intertwined with its military apparatus.

If Iran adopts this exact playbook, any Israeli power plant, automotive factory, or tech startup is instantly a legitimate target, as it sustains a fully mobilized garrison state.

A soldier drinks coffee? Tel Aviv coffee chains become strategic infrastructure nodes. A reservist drives a car? The automotive factory qualifies for neutralization.

Furthermore, this logic directly threatens American war-mongering assets across the Persian Gulf. The U.S. bases in Arab states rely heavily on local civilian power grids and commercial ports. These are all open season now.

### The silence of the hypocrites

Meanwhile, the self-appointed guardians of the "rules-based international order" have developed a sudden case of collective amnesia.

The silence emanating from Western capitals and human rights advocates is deeply critical. They fail to comprehend that international law is only valid when universally applied.

By nodding along to Israel's fantastical justifications, they are legalizing the future destruction of their own industrial assets.

Tel Aviv treats international law as little more than a protection racket granting itself an infinite exemption card, yet in its hubris it has unwittingly painted a massive bullseye on the entire Western military-industrial supply chain, along with the infrastructure of Washington's accomplices in the Persian Gulf.

So in the next round, whenever it is going to be, Iran may well act in explicit self-defense and militarily prevent desalinated water from ever reaching the mouths of the aggressors who happen to operate from certain Persian Gulf countries. After all, let us not forget that Iran has a right to defend itself.

## How did Lebanon's government approve surrender document?

From page 1 ▶ Under Oslo, the process moved from a declaration of principles to detailed arrangements without resolving the core issues such as al-Quds (Jerusalem), Palestinian borders, and the return of refugees.

Likewise, in Lebanon, talk has focused on initiating a ceasefire or temporary truce, then creating transitional arrangements, and deferring final solutions to later negotiations. This means postponing the issue of Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon, the return of residents to their cities and villages, freedom of captives, and other fundamental concerns. The decisive element in both cases is the priority of the Israeli regime's security.

Under the Oslo Accords, a security coordination system was established: the Palestinian side was obligated to control resistance factions and prevent them from attacking Israel.

However, the Zionist regime retained the freedom to intervene militarily whenever it wished, as well as the freedom of incursion and bombardment.

The task of Palestinian security forces was to maintain internal order, control weapons, coordinate with the occupying regime, and arrest resistance fighters or prevent them from waging resistance against Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF). Israel, however, could intervene directly whenever it perceived an alleged threat.

Palestinian forces were not permitted to defend themselves against the IOF, or function as a sovereign military force; when the IOF entered an area, Palestinian security forces must either withdraw from the streets

or return to their posts.

Under the current Lebanese understandings, Lebanon is committed to having the Lebanese Army prevent any resistance operations against Israel and dismantle resistance movements, while the IOF retains the right to "freedom of movement within Lebanon" and the right to "self-defense at any time," as stated in the April declaration.

The April statement imposes obligations solely on the Lebanese side while explicitly granting the IOF the right to take "all necessary measures for self-defense," including in "planned, imminent, or ongoing situations." This clause, in its broad formulation, constitutes an open legal basis allowing Israel to bomb Lebanon and kill preemptively without an apparent threat.

Since the June statement contains no explicit provision revoking or restricting Israel's "right of self-defense" as defined in the April declaration, and does not grant Lebanon a corresponding right or establish a clear legal contradiction, this means the previous text remains in effect.

In legal doctrine, this principle is known as the "continuity of obligations," under which successive texts are read as a unified clause rather than separate legal documents. As a result, silence in a later text does not invalidate an earlier provision but is interpreted as implicit retention of prior arrangements unless stated otherwise. This makes the Israeli regime's right to attack Lebanon whenever it wishes, even if not mentioned in the June statement, legally valid and embedded in the agreement's overall structure.



The phrase "pilot zones" contained in the June statement bears a clear functional resemblance to the geographical division established under the Oslo Accords through Areas A, B, and C.

In the Palestinian case, this division was presented as a temporary arrangement aimed at gradually transferring authority to the Palestinians. In practice, however, the reality that emerged differed substantially from what the agreements had stipulated.

In Area A, which was supposed to fall under full Palestinian civil and security control, daily administration remained with the Palestinian Authority. Nevertheless, repeated IOF raids and arrests continued, effectively stripping the notion of "full control" of its practical security meaning.

Area B, designated for Palestinian civil administration with joint security coordination, likewise witnessed clear Israeli superiority in security matters. The IOF retained the freedom to enter and exercise control whenever it liked, significantly limiting Palestinian authority in practice.

In Area C, which was assumed

to gradually transfer to Palestinian control, full IOF presence continued, civil and military, with significant settlement expansion and strict restrictions on Palestinian construction and land use, including demolishing facilities under the pretext of lacking permits.

It consolidated Israeli control over what is defined by the United Nations today as the occupation of the entire West Bank, potentially on the verge of annexation.

This experience demonstrates how a geographically divided transitional arrangement can transform into a permanent structure that reproduces existing power imbalances rather than modifying them. For this reason, the concept of "pilot zones" in Lebanon resembles the reality of the West Bank, where territory is gradually absorbed by the occupying power day by day.

Lebanese authorities are blindly creating conditions that would ultimately facilitate indefinite occupation and eventually formal annexation of southern Lebanon.

## From Siniora's tears in 2006 to Iran's missiles in 2026



TEHRAN —When Lebanon came under a cruel attack by Israel in the summer of 2006, Arab foreign ministers gathered in Beirut on August 7 to express their support for Lebanon. At the time, Fouad Siniora was Lebanon's prime minister.

Addressing the foreign ministers, Siniora delivered an incredibly emotional speech that became one of the defining moments of the war.

Choking back tears, he broke down twice during the address. He said: "Our 'Arabness' is unconditional. Your support is your duty and responsibility."

Imploring fellow Arab countries to help Lebanon, Siniora said, "The confidence I'm speaking to you with is based on the sorrows of widowed mothers, dead children, and the cries of the displaced... a setback that has set our country and your country Lebanon decades into the past."

However, the Arab foreign ministers did not dare to issue an ultimatum to Israel to stop crimes in Lebanon, or it would face consequences. However, neither those days, nor these days, does Israel take the Arab world seriously. It has even made the UAE subservient.

However, 20 years later the situation has fundamentally changed. The joint U.S.-Israeli war on Iran in February 2026 has inadvertently helped the Islamic Republic to set the rules of engagement.

In its ceasefire agreement with the U.S., which went into effect in April, Iran linked a halt to Israeli raids on Beirut as a precondition if the ceasefire is going to hold.

However, Israel violated the truce by bombarding the Dahiyeh region of Beirut on Sunday, June 8. The bombardment left analysts, politicians and military experts around the world, especially those in the Arab and Western world, guessing what would be Iran's response. Some firmly believed that Iran would not endanger the truce that might lead to another full-fledged war with Israel and the U.S. for the sake of Lebanon.

However, to the surprise of the skeptics, on Sunday night Iran responded to the attack on Beirut by firing about 10 ballistic missiles at Israel, including striking the Ramat David Airbase where Israeli warplanes took off and struck Beirut.

More than two decades of military threats against Iran by Israel and the U.S. for its UN-monitored nuclear program made Iran promote its defensive and offensive power and turn the country into a great power that imposes its conditions on the U.S. and disciplines Israel.

Compare the prevalent conditions these days with the year 2006, in which Prime Minister Siniora tearfully implored the Arab nations to prevent the Israeli massacre of Lebanese and destruction of the country, but no tangible move emerged.

## Yemen declares complete ban on Israeli navigation in Red Sea

Yemen's Armed Forces have announced a complete and total ban on Israeli maritime navigation in the Red Sea, declaring all enemy movements "legitimate military targets" after claiming a precision missile strike on sensitive Israeli sites in Tel Aviv.

The announcement on Monday came as part of a broader confrontation against what Yemen described as "American and Zionist aggression" against the axis of resistance in Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen.

Spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree said the missile barrage targeted the occupied Yaffa region – Tel Aviv – and achieved its objectives with precision, Press TV reported.

The operation, he said, was carried out in rejection of the Zionist project seeking to establish what is called "Greater Israel" under the name of a "New Middle East."

It also aimed to break what Saree described as the "unjust and oppressive siege imposed by the American enemy" on the people of Yemen and the free nations of the axis in Lebanon, Gaza, and Iran.

The operation was conducted based on the principle of unified fronts and confronting enemies, Saree said, and in direct response to Zionist aggression against Lebanon, Iran, and Gaza.

"We will respond to escalation with escalation"

In a declaration issued from Sana'a, the Yemeni Armed Forces affirmed three key positions.

First, Saree said, Yemen declares a complete and total ban on Israeli maritime navigation in the Red Sea, and from the moment of the statement's issuance, all enemy movements will be considered legitimate military targets for Yemeni forces.

Second, Yemen will respond to escalation with escalation, and its military operations will intensify in accordance with field developments, the battle, and in conjunction with the axis of jihad and resistance, he added.

Third, Saree affirmed the right of the Yemeni people and the peoples of the free nation to confront American-Israeli aggression. "We will not stand idly by"

Saree emphasized that Yemen will not stand idly by in the face of the unjust siege imposed on its people and the peoples of the axis of jihad and resistance in Palestine, Gaza, Iran, Lebanon, and Iraq.

"All the enemy's attempts will fail, Allah willing, and our operations will continue as long as the aggression and siege against us and the axis of jihad and resistance persist," the spokesman said.

The statement underscored Yemen's commitment to the unity of fronts alongside Iran, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and resistance factions in Palestine and Iraq, confronting what it terms the Zionist project and American hegemony across the region.

Earlier, Israel announced on Monday morning that a missile had been fired from Yemen toward the Israeli-occupied territories.

The developments were a direct response to the Israeli regime's continued aggression against Lebanon, including the use of banned phosphorus bombs and the targeting of Beirut's southern suburbs of Dahiyeh.

In a later statement, Yemen's armed forces warned that they will close the Bab el-Mandeb Strait to American and European vessels if Washington and its European allies form a coalition in support of Israel and enter the war.

## Iran start 2026 IWBFF Repechage on high note

TEHRAN - The Iran men's national wheelchair basketball defeated Senegal 77-24 in the 2026 IWBFF Men's Repechage on Monday.

Mahdi Abbasi led Team Melli by 22 points, while Dieudonne Dagoia scored 8 points for Senegal.

Headed by Behrouz Soltani, Iran are drawn into Group B alongside Senegal, Brazil, and Poland.

The World Championship Repechage Tournament is being held from June 8 to June 12 in Suphan Buri, Thailand.

The first-placed team in Group B will automatically qualify for Ottawa 2026 IWBFF World Championships. The remaining qualification games on 11 June will determine the other teams advancing from the tournament.

Team Melli will face Brazil and Poland on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

The Iranian team first held a training camp in Turkey, where they play Galatasaray and Fenerbahce teams.

## Haddadifar appointed Iran U20 football team coach

TEHRAN - Ghasem Haddadifar has been appointed as the new head coach of Iran's U20 football team.

Speaking about the appointment, Ali Targholizadeh, Chairman of the Technical and Development Committee of the Iran Football Federation, said the decision was made following Hossein Abdi's move to the Iran U23 national team. Haddadifar was nominated by the Technical Committee and subsequently approved by the Federation's Board of Directors.

Targholizadeh explained that the committee reviewed a list of active coaches from the Persian Gulf Pro League, the Azadegan League, and other qualified candidates holding a Pro License. After careful evaluation, Haddadifar was selected based on his coaching experience with Zob Ahan, as well as his extensive playing career at both domestic and international levels.

He added that the Federation's Board emphasized the importance of assembling a strong coaching staff around Haddadifar to ensure the team is fully prepared for the upcoming AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers.

Iran will compete in the qualification tournament from Aug. 25 to Sept. 6 in Vietnam, where they have been drawn alongside Vietnam and North Korea in the qualifying group.

The appointment marks a significant step in Iran's youth development program as the U20 side aim to secure a place in the next AFC U20 Asian Cup.

## Iran fall short to Kazakhstan in 2026 AVC Women's Volleyball Cup

TEHRAN - Kazakhstan defeated Iran 3-1 (13-25, 25-20, 25-14, 25-19) at the 2026 AVC Women's Volleyball Cup on Monday.

The 2026 AVC Women's Nations Cup, featuring the 12 best Asian women's national teams, outside those competing in the Volleyball Nations League, started on Saturday at the Candon City Arena, an 8,000-seater in the northern Filipino city of Candon, and will finish on June 14.

Formerly known as the AVC Women's Challenge Cup, the annual international tournament was rebranded last year and will now hold its second edition as the AVC Women's Nations Cup.

In addition to vying for a prestigious continental trophy, the participating teams will aim at gaining valuable FIVB Volleyball World Ranking points and potentially at securing

entry to the VNL and other top-tier competitions.

The 12 teams in the 2026 AVC Women's Nations Cup are divided into two single round-robin pools of six.

Hosts Philippines, who made the podiums at the previous two editions - with bronze in 2024 and silver in 2025 - lead the lineup in Pool A. The pool also features the bronze medalists of the 2023 and 2025 editions Chinese Taipei, Australia, who reached the semifinals in 2024, Uzbekistan, who finished fourth in 2022, as well as competition rookies Korea and Kyrgyzstan.

Defending three-time back-to-back champions Vietnam headline Pool B as well as Iran, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

Team Melli, who had lost to Indonesia 3-1 in their opening match, will play Lebanon on Tuesday.

The 2026 AVC Women's Volleyball Cup is the seventh edition of the AVC Women's Volleyball Cup, an annual international volleyball tournament. It is currently held from 6 to 14 June 2026 in Candon, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. This is the Philippines' second time hosting the tournament after Manila hosted the 2024 edition.

The tournament is organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) in cooperation with the ad hoc committee appointed by the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) following the suspension of the Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF).

## Iran team members hit out at U.S. visa delay

TEHRAN - Iran national football team head coach Amir Ghalenoei has expressed his dissatisfaction after the United States failed to issue visas for several members of the team's support staff, forcing them to travel to Mexico later than planned.

Iran's World Cup 2026 squad arrived in Mexico on Sunday amid a diplomatic dispute, with visa delays preventing some delegation members from entering the United States alongside the team.

The Iran coach, Amir Ghalenoei, complained on arrival at Tijuana airport that "we should have been here last week because a 12-hour time difference needs two weeks of adjusting. Usually in these tournaments, before technical matters, ethical and human considerations must be respected - which I think for us it was not the case."

After departing from their training camp in Turkey a day earlier, the Iran team landed on Sunday in the Mexican border city of Tijuana.

Ghalenoei's side will be based in Tijuana throughout the tournament, despite playing all three of their group-stage games in the U.S., theguardian.com reported.

Iran's players and coaching staff left their plane amid tight security which included a contingent of Mexican national guard troops. Just a handful of fans waving Iranian flags were present at the airport to welcome them from a distance.

The dispute has erupted just days before Thursday's kick-off of the 2026 World Cup, which is being jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Ghalenoei thanked world football's governing body, FIFA, for its efforts to help secure entry, but added: "We are upset about this behavior. It has certainly never happened before."

The team captain, Ehsan Hajsafi, said he wanted to convey his grievance to FIFA about the delay in getting U.S. visas. "Why so late?" he demanded. "In the last year, we experienced two imposed wars in our country," Hajsafi added "the team is 100% ready" and insisted "we can advance" from the group stage.

Iran's Group G games will be held in Los Angeles (against New Zealand on 15 June and Belgium on 21 June) and in Seattle (against Egypt on 26 June). This will be the first men's football World Cup to see a host nation receive the team of a country it is at war with.

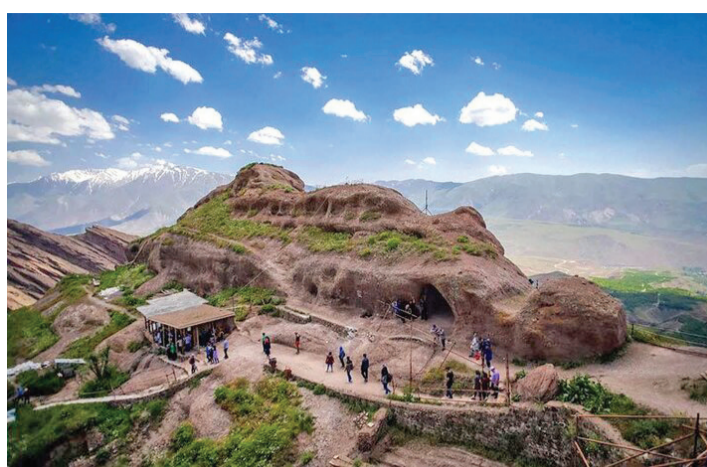
# Alamut's nomination to be reviewed at UNESCO meeting in South Korea

TEHRAN - Iran's nomination dossier for the Cultural Landscape of Alamut, centered on the historical Alamut fort and a network of related fortresses, has completed the required preparations for consideration by UNESCO and will be reviewed at the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in South Korea in July, a cultural heritage official said.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee is scheduled to meet from July 19 to 29 in Busan, where member states will examine nominations for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

Alireza Izadi, director-general of the office for the registration of historical monuments at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said the Alamut nomination dossier would be assessed during the upcoming session. "The nomination concerns Alamut fort and a number of associated fortresses," Izadi told ISNA on Monday.

He said Iranian authorities have undertaken a range of measures in preparation for the evaluation,



including archaeological excavations, restoration work, site enhancement projects, visitor route management, installation of information signs, public awareness initiatives, and improvements in villages located along access routes to the fortresses.

Izadi added that local community participation has been incorporated into management plans prepared for the nomination.

According to the official, UNESCO evaluators had requested a series of technical and management

requirements that needed to be addressed before the committee meeting. He said those measures are being finalized and relevant reports will be submitted to UNESCO.

Located near the village of Gazor Khan in Qazvin province, about 200 km (125 miles) northwest of Tehran, Alamut fortress occupies a dramatic rocky outcrop overlooking the Alamut Valley. The fortress stands on a cliff rising approximately 220 meters above the surrounding terrain at an el-

evation of 2,163 meters above sea level on the southwestern foothills of the Alborz Mountains.

The site gained historical significance in 1090 when it was seized by Hassan-i Sabbah, leader of the Nizari Ismaili community. For more than 160 years, it served as the political, intellectual and strategic center of a semi-autonomous state.

The fortress, which covers roughly 10,000 square meters, was constructed on multiple levels carved into the steep cliff. Remains of walls, towers and defensive structures built with stone and gypsum mortar are still visible. Historical accounts by the 13th-century Persian historian Ata-Malik Juvayni compared the mountain ridge to a sleeping camel, while British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark later likened its shape to a ship extending toward the northwest.

Stark documented her travels in the region in her 1934 book "The Valleys of the Assassins", helping introduce Alamut and its history to a wider international audience.

## Nazr-e Aloofeh in Qaleh Bala: a living tradition of wildlife conservation and community solidarity

Nestled on the edge of Touran National Park in Semnan province, about 140 kilometers southeast of Shahroud, Qaleh Bala is a village known for its stepped architecture, striking landscapes, and close connection to nature. Often described as the gateway to Touran, the village is not only valued for its natural beauty but also for its rich cultural traditions that continue to shape the lives of its residents.

Among these traditions, Nazr-e Aloofeh stands out as a unique example of how cultural beliefs and environmental responsibility can come together. Rooted in local religious customs, this community-based ritual involves villagers voluntarily donating fodder and animal feed for the wildlife of the Touran region. More than a charitable act, Nazr-e Aloofeh reflects a longstanding commitment to caring for the natural environment and demonstrates the deep bond that exists between the people of Qaleh Bala and the surrounding landscape.

The tradition has been practiced for generations and is especially observed during religious occasions and times of drought, when food becomes scarce for wild animals. As part of a vow or charitable offering, local families prepare fodder and dedicate it to the wildlife that inhabits the region. While the ritual

is inspired by spiritual beliefs, it also serves a practical purpose by helping address the ecological challenges faced by wildlife during difficult periods.

Women play a central role in maintaining this tradition. Many contribute part of the income they earn from producing and selling handicrafts or local products to support the preparation of fodder. Their involvement highlights the important role of women in community life and illustrates how local economic activities, cultural values, and environmental conservation are closely interconnected.

The significance of Nazr-e Aloofeh extends beyond the village itself. Touran National Park is one of Iran's most important wildlife habitats and is home to rare species, including the Asiatic cheetah and the Persian onager. Although the ritual does not directly benefit carnivorous animals such as the cheetah, it supports herbivorous species including gazelles, wild sheep, mouflon, and ibex, particularly during seasons when natural forage is limited. In this way, the tradition contributes to maintaining the ecological balance of the region and offers a compelling example of how local cultural practices can support biodiversity conservation.

At the same time, Nazr-e Aloofeh strengthens social bonds within the community. The collective participation of villagers fosters cooperation, mutual responsibility, and a shared sense of purpose. Children are often involved in the ritual as well, learning from an early age the values of compassion, stewardship, and respect for nature. Their participation helps ensure that the tradition continues to be passed from one generation to the next.

In recent years, Nazr-e Aloofeh has also attracted the attention of visitors interested in experiencing authentic local culture. As a result, it has become an important element of sustainable tourism in Qaleh Bala, offering travelers an opportunity to witness a living tradition that connects faith, community, and environmental care. More broadly, the ritual serves as a symbol of the cultural identity of the Touran region and demonstrates how traditional knowledge and local values can contribute to sustainable development.

By combining cultural heritage, community participation, and wildlife conservation, the votive ritual stands as an inspiring model of how traditional practices can continue to play a meaningful role in addressing contemporary environmental challenges.

## Iranian prehistorian elected to International Academy of Prehistory and Protohistory



TEHRAN - Iranian archaeologist Fereidoun Biglari, deputy director of the National Museum of Iran and head of its Paleolithic Department, has been elected a Full Member of the International Academy of Prehistory and Protohistory (AIPP), becoming the first Iranian scholar to receive this distinction.

According to the National Museum of Iran, Biglari was selected as one of five new Full Members of the AIPP's College of Prehistory, which is dedicated to the study of hunter-gatherer societies. The academy's 2026 membership list also includes newly elected members from Egypt, the United States, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Founded in Paris on December 7, 2021, following an initiative by the International Union of Prehis-

toric and Protohistoric Sciences (UISPP), the AIPP was established to address the limited representation of prehistorians and protohistorians in national academies worldwide. The academy aims to promote research and scientific knowledge on human prehistory and protohistory, spanning from the earliest origins of humanity to the end of the Iron Age.

Among its prominent academicians are renowned archaeologists and prehistorians such as David Lordkipanidze of Georgia, known for groundbreaking discoveries at Dmanisi; Eudald Carbonell of Spain, co-director of the Atapuerca research project; Barry Cunliffe of the United Kingdom, one of Europe's leading archaeologists; Jean Guilaine of France, a pioneering

scholar of Neolithic and Mediterranean archaeology; Hermann Parzinger of Germany, former president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation; Marcella Frangipane of Italy, internationally recognized for her work on the origins of complex societies in the Near East; Paolo Biagi of Italy, noted for his extensive research on the prehistory of South and Central Asia; Yoshihiro Nishiaki of Japan, a leading authority on the Neolithic cultures of Southwest Asia; Mehmet Özdoğan of Türkiye, whose work has significantly advanced understanding of the spread of farming from Anatolia into Europe; and Dolores Piperno of the United States, a leading expert on archaeobotany and the origins of agriculture.

The AIPP is organized into two colleges: Prehistory, focusing on hunter-gatherer societies, and Protohistory, dedicated to early farming and herding communities. Membership is limited to 120 scholars divided among three categories—Emeritus, Full, and Corresponding Members—with each category restricted to 40 members equally distributed between the two colleges. Candidates are selected based on academic qualifications, professional achievements, fieldwork experience, scientific publications, international recognition, and scholarly awards.

Biglari earned his Ph.D. in Pa-

leolithic Archaeology from the University of Bordeaux in France. Throughout his career, he has directed or co-directed numerous archaeological excavations and research projects, including those at Mar Tarik Cave, Yafteh Cave, Qaleh Bozi, Wezmeh Cave, Ghamari Cave, Darband-e Rashi Cave, and the Darian Dam Salvage Program.

He also played a key role in establishing the Zagros Paleolithic Museum in Kermanshah and led the creation of the Paleolithic Gallery at the National Museum of Iran. In addition, Biglari contributed to UNESCO World Heritage nomination dossiers for the Cultural Landscape of Masouleh and the Prehistoric Sites of Khorramabad Valley, the latter of which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2025.

Beyond his fieldwork, Biglari has been actively involved in academic publishing and international scholarship. He serves as Associate Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the Iran National Museum and previously held the position of Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Iranian Archaeology. Since 2025, he has been a member of the Advisory Board of Encyclopaedia Iranica.

His election to the AIPP marks a significant milestone for Iranian archaeology and highlights the growing international recognition of Iran's contributions to prehistoric and Paleolithic research.

# Iranian Red Crescent Society, Bolivian Red Cross highlight joint humanitarian efforts

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society and the Bolivian Red Cross have emphasized the need to support humanitarian efforts in a way to boost solidarity among nations.

To honor the fundamental values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, staff and volunteers of the Iranian Red Crescent Society's health center in Bolivia and members of the Bolivian Red Cross held a joint meeting to emphasize the importance of peace and solidarity, and the role of humanitarian institutions in strengthening ties between nations.

The meeting provided an opportunity to enhance connections and interactions between the two organizations, which can contribute to the development of health-based and social collaborations, IRIB reported.

The participants discussed the importance of peace, peaceful coexistence, and the responsibility of humanitarian organizations in alleviating human suffering and promoting global solidarity.

Highlighting that human commonalities extend beyond geographical borders, the participants noted that peace is one of the most fundamental needs of human societies, and a prerequisite for sustainable development, health, and general well-being.

They called for the expansion of ties, promotion of human values, and global solidarity within the framework of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRC).

The two sides emphasized the role of the ICRC in promoting conversations, mutual respect, and support for those affected by the conflicts around the world.

The role of health diplomacy as one of the most effective means for fostering peace and solidarity among nations was also underlined.

## Intl. bodies praise IRCS

Gemma Connell, the officer-in-charge of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Humanitarian Sector Division, has appreciated the Iranian Red Crescent Society for its 'effective and valuable' role in human crises management.

While appreciating the provision of documentation, reports, and information related to humanitarian rights, she announced that the narrative of relief efforts provided by the Iranian Red Crescent Society had a significant impact on the OCHA officials.

She also praised the performance, sacrifice, and dedication of the aid workers of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, describing the



role of the IRCS in providing relief to the affected people and managing humanitarian crises as effective and valuable, ILNA reported.

Connell emphasized the importance of developing cooperation, continuing specialized interactions, and strengthening coordination between the United Nations and the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

She made the remarks in a meeting in May with Pirhossein Kolivand, the president of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, in Geneva, during which Kolivand explained the extensive relief and operational capacities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

In a separate meeting, Jagan Chapagain, the Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), said the Federation firmly supports the Iranian Red Crescent Society in conducting humanitarian activities.

Expressing solidarity with the IRCS, he lauded the Society's humanitarian efforts, as well as the professional management of crises, particularly during the recent US-Israeli war against the country, IRNA reported.

"I deeply understand the pain and suffering you have gone through; I sympathize with you and stand with you. We are there for each other through tough times, and you have proven this fact well.

When women, children, and civilians were targeted, you courageously defended their human rights; such dedication is truly worthy of commendation and respect," the IFRC secretary general told Kolivand.

Referring to unfair sanctions, Chapagain said, "My primary objective is to work toward mitigating the impact of sanctions on the humanitarian activities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

We will do our best to reconstruct and replenish the depleted capacities and reserves of the Iranian Red Crescent Society."

Admitting the capabilities of the IRCS, Chapagain said it is the collective duty of the international community and the Federation to support you.

He went on to say that the IRCS is the source of pride of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, bringing immense credit and prestige to the movement.

In another meeting, Kate Forbes, the president of the IFRC, praised the humanitarian efforts of the IRCS during the 40-day war imposed on Iran by the US-Israel coalition.

The IFRC president expressed her sympathy to the families of the aid workers who were martyred and to those injured in the line of duty, stating that "We stand with these families, and the services provided by the Iranian Red Crescent during the war that have deeply moved us."

Referring to the initiatives and capabilities of the IRCS, Forbes asked for further information and more detailed explanations on the performance of the "water rescue robots", to facilitate the introduction and sharing of these experiences and technologies with other national societies that are members of the IFRC.

## UNICEF supports project on rehabilitation of school sanitation facilities in Iran

TEHRAN – The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has supported the rehabilitation of sanitation facilities in 41 schools in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi and the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

The project aims to help improve access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for thousands of children. The rehabilitation of 33 schools was supported through funding provided by the Government of France.

Implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Organization for Development, Renovation and Equipping of Schools, the interventions focused on schools hosting large numbers of Afghan refugees and vulnerable Iranian children. The rehabilitation works included improvements to water supply systems, sanitation facilities, and handwashing areas.

### Improving learning environments for children

In Khorasan Razavi Province, WASH rehabilitation activities were carried out in 15 schools in Mashhad's Tabadkan and District No. 5 areas.

In Sistan-Baluchestan, rehabilitation works reached 18 schools in the cities of Zahedan and Zabol.

Overall, more than 23,000 students benefited from improved WASH facilities in the targeted schools.

The activities aimed to support safer and healthier learning environments by improving children's access to functional and hygienic sanitation services in schools. These interventions also contributed to strengthening hygiene practices and reducing risks associated with inadequate WASH facilities.

### Supporting children's health and hygiene

Alongside the rehabilitation works, UNICEF supported health and hygiene promotion



activities for students, parents, and school staff in the two provinces.

Some 40 health teachers and focal points were trained to better support children and families with health and hygiene promotion activities. Hygiene kits were distributed to families, and schools received essential health equipment to support children's well-being and access to basic health services.

### Previous measures

In March, UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, deployed 2 mobile health units, 8 primary healthcare (PHC) tents, and 81 emergency primary healthcare kits.

Additional supplies—including 2 more PHC tents and 131 emergency kits—are being delivered, helping reach at least 226,000 people. UNICEF is also scaling up its psychosocial support to children impacted by the escalation.

In January, UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, organized an event to ensure that medical settings serve as a strong shield for children at risk and to strengthen integrated child protection services as the first step toward activating Child Protection Committees within hospitals.

Supported by the European Union, the event brought together directors, nurses,

and social workers from 22 pediatric hospitals, alongside experts from the State Welfare Organization.

Since 2023, UNICEF and MoHME have been working hand-in-hand to empower social workers through specialized training and protocols. By moving beyond just physical treatment to holistic protection, we are creating a world where hospitals are not just places of healing, but sanctuaries of safety.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will continue to launch innovative activities to maintain this momentum, ensuring that the protection of every child remains at the heart of the healthcare system.

In this line, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and UNICEF have enhanced cooperation to provide psychosocial support for children during emergencies.

They aim to provide immediate, safe, and protective environments for children affected by crises, the UNICEF website reported in December 2025.

The collaboration focuses on rapidly deploying high-quality tents and essential equipment to establish Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs) as a crucial Rapid Response mechanism.

In February, the head of the Welfare Organization, Javad Hosseini, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) ad interim Representative in Iran, Monika Oledzka Nielsen, explored the potential to expand cooperation, particularly regarding children aged below 18.

During a meeting in Tehran, Nielsen said the two organizations have so far held two meetings to prioritize issues based on assessments made by the Welfare Organization, Mehr news agency reported.

The core area of collaboration focuses on improving children's rights, such as child labor and street children, she noted.

## Iranian delegation attending BRICS Tech Policy training program

TEHRAN – The first group of young Iranian professionals in the innovation sector is participating in a BRICS training program titled 'BRICS + Tech Policy Camp', which is being held in Beijing, China.

It is an international training program that focuses on science, technology park governance, and the expansion of cross-border innovation; the program targets participants from BRICS member states and other countries.

About 40 managers, policy makers, and experts in fields of science and technology from 10 countries, namely China, Iran, India, South Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia, have attended the training program.

Supported by the deputy science minister of innovation and technology, and UNESCO regional center for the Development of Science Parks and Technology Incubators, the Iranian delegation consists of young managers of science and technology parks, and young faculty members of the universities have taken part in the event.

The event serves as a great platform to develop technological diplomacy, strengthen international interactions, and empower future managers in science, technology, and innovation sectors.

The delegation is scheduled to visit science and technology parks, innovation centers, accelerators, and leading technology clusters in China, and explore potential for the enhancement of scientific and technological collaborations.

The program includes 10 specialized courses and multiple site visits, offering rich and well-structured content designed to enhance participants' theoretical knowledge and practical skills, while fostering a platform for mutual learning, exchange, and collaborative development.

Themed 'Entrepreneurship Inspires Youth Power, Innovation Leads BRICS Development', the program aims to enhance operational capabilities while fostering policy synergy and collaborative mechanisms, ultimately contributing the perspectives and experience of developing countries to the improvement of global sci-tech governance.

It is centered around science, technology,

and innovation trends among BRICS member states, science and technology parks development, China's innovation ecosystem, emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, commercialization of scientific and technological achievements, mechanisms for cooperation, technology and resource sharing at the international level.

### Iran proposes expanding joint scientific infrastructures

Hosting the 7th meeting of BRICS working groups on research infrastructures and mega-science projects, Iran proposed the development of joint scientific infrastructures.

The three-day event was held from December 8 to 10 at the Azadi Hotel in Tehran.

The first proposal was focused on boosting collaborative efforts in large-scale research projects. The country announced its readiness to cooperate with member states in large projects such as developing synchrotrons (particle accelerators) and expanding the Iranian National Observatory, IRNA reported.

The country's second proposal was to join and connect Iran's laboratory network to the BRICS laboratory networks to facilitate mutual access to advanced equipment and expertise.

Organized by the Center for Progress and Development Cooperation of the Presidency, serving as the national BRICS focal point for technology and innovation, in collaboration with the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, Tehran meeting brought together scientific delegations of BRICS member states including Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Russia, India and the UAE, IRNA reported.

The key focus areas of the Tehran meeting included advancing joint research cooperation among BRICS member states, supporting the development of mechanisms for defining and financing mega-science projects, and strengthening the role of research infrastructures as drivers of innovation, sustainable development, and science diplomacy.

## Developing national land subsidence document on agenda

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) is planning to develop a national document on land subsidence, Mohsen Shahyari, an official with the DOE, has said.

Highlighting the National Environment Week (being held from June 6 to 12), and the theme of the week on Monday, 'Climate, water and sustainable security; Sustainable water resources management, land subsidence control, and getting through drought', Shahyari noted that a draft of the document has been submitted to the government, IRNA reported.

Meanwhile, the department has submitted a bill to the parliament to create legal support for subsidence management to enable the effective implementation of preventive and monitoring programs, he added.

Moreover, DOE's proposal to create a national working group on land subsidence has been approved by the cabinet of ministers, he further noted.

Referring to the expansion of land subsidence across the country, particularly in Isfahan, the official highlighted that climate change and ongoing drought have doubled the need for the development of comprehensive plans for water resources and land subsidence management.

The National Environment Week is being held under the theme 'preserving environment, preserving national security'.

The theme highlights that protecting the environment is not a choice anymore, but a strategic necessity to ensure sustainable development, improve life quality, and protect national interests, doe.ir quoted Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), as saying.

Today, more than ever, close collaborations are needed among the government, the private sector, civil society organizations, universities, the media, and the public to conserve natural resources, reduce pollution, sustainably manage water resources, combat climate change, and preserve biodiversity.

### Land subsidence affects 254 plains nationwide

According to the head of the Crisis Management

Organization, Hossein Zafari, around 254 areas and plains in different provinces of the country are affected by land subsidence.

Kerman, Khorasan Razavi, and Tehran provinces are the most affected by the phenomenon, ISNA quoted Zafari as saying in August 2025.

Land subsidence varies from 2-18 centimeters in different parts of the country, he added.

The concentration of population in cities, climate change, low rainfall, frequent droughts, and increased underground water extraction intensified land subsidence in the country since the early 1970s, the official noted.

Land subsidence occurs in two ways: in some areas, the uniform subsidence results in the entire plain descending evenly with no visible surface signs, but in some other areas, asymmetrical subsidence causes visible damage on the ground's surface. Evaluating and monitoring the phenomenon is an ongoing process, Zafari added.

Referring to high-risk areas in Tehran province, the official said the south, southwest, southeast, as well as the southern regions of Tehran province are prone to subsidence risk.

Highlighting the fact that overconsumption of underground water is the main contributor to the land subsidence, Zafari said part of the operational plans and measures of the Crisis Management Organization focus on the prevention of excessive water consumption, and the other part is centered around reforming laws and regulations, as well as practices used for the construction and maintenance of vital structures and facilities in affected areas. However, the main mission of the organization is to monitor and follow up on the actions required by the responsible institutions and agencies.

Water supply in Iran largely depends on rainfall, snowmelt, and underground aquifers, but decades of over-extraction have left groundwater resources severely depleted. While the global water resources are stretched by climate change and human population growth, farms and industries are increasingly turning to groundwater to fill their needs.



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

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



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

JUNE 9, 2026

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*When two persons are together, two of them must not whisper to each other, without letting the third hear; because it would hurt him.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:03 Evening: 19:40 Dawn: 3:03 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

## Iranian short film "Afrat" to compete in Norwegian Short Film Festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian short film "Afrat," written, directed, and produced by Siavash Azizi, has been selected for the 49th Norwegian Short Film Festival, which will be held in Oslo, Norway, from June 10 to 14.

A production of 2025, the 6-minute film will compete in the International Short Films and Short Documentaries section of the festival, ILNA reported.

The story of "Afrat" takes place in a remote, snow-covered village, where a young girl (performed by Tina Kaki) faces the quiet, fearful onset of womanhood while her family prepares a jubilant celebration for the birth of a baby boy. As a rooster is sacrificed in honor of the boy – a tradition steeped in patriarchal symbolism – the girl's private transformation unfolds in stark contrast.

Born in Sanandaj, Siavash Vaziri, 44, is a Kurdish writer and filmmaker. He has a degree in English Literature and is a graduate of Iranian Youth Cinema Society. Kaziewa Film Production Company was co-founded by him in 2021.

His first short film «Zaam» has been selected in more than 10 festivals and he has received The First Time Director Award in Kurdish Film Festival of Hamburg. «Afrat» is his second short film.

Founded in 1977, the Norwegian Short Film Festival is Norway's largest short film festival, and the only Academy Award qualifying film festival, with competition sections for Norwegian and international short films and documentaries, and Norwegian music videos.



The festival is an essential platform for both emerging and established filmmakers, and an important showcase for the free, independent film industry in Norway. The competition program for international short films attracts industry people from all over the world to Grimstad, and the festival facilitates industry events such as panels and presentations, masterclasses, talks and open forums, as well as daily mixers and social events connecting Norwegian and international film professionals.

Set in the small, idyllic seaside town of Grimstad, the festival offers unique and exciting opportunities to help expand your personal and professional network.

## Cartoon of Day



Israel attacks Lebanon, and Iran responds.  
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

# "Minab 168: Children Bathed in Fire" unveiled in Malaysia

TEHRAN- The first English-language book documenting the tragic and inhumane attack on the Shajareh Tayyebbeh Elementary School in Minab, which resulted in the martyrdom of 168 students and teachers, was officially unveiled in the Malaysian capital.

The book titled "Minab 168: Children Bathed in Fire," authored by Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid, President of the Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organizations (MAPIM), was launched with the support of the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Malaysia, Mehr reported on Monday.

The ceremony coincided with the anniversary of the passing of Imam Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic, the report added.

The unveiling ceremony, held at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, was attended by a group of officials and intellectuals, including Malaysia's former Foreign Minister Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar, MAPIM President Azmi Abdul Hamid, Iran's Ambassador to Malaysia Valiollah Mohammadi, and Iran's Cultural Attaché Habib Reza Arzani.

The work marks the first English publication by a non-Iranian author regarding the heart-wrenching massacre at the Shajareh Tayyebbeh school. It aims to re-examine the humanitarian dimensions of the tragedy on an international scale and serve as a global call to keep the memory of the victims alive.

In the book's narrative, the author describes the martyrdom of students as a profound symbol of the suffering inflicted upon children by modern warfare and systemic violence.

"On a day that should have belonged to children, education, and hope, the skies of Minab witnessed one of the darkest crimes of modern warfare," the author writes in the introduction. He further emphasizes that the killing of these children was not a mere "incident of war" but a "bitter consequence of militarism, the immunity of perpetrators, and the



devaluation of innocent human lives."

Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid stated that his primary goal was to record the truth and prevent this human tragedy from being consigned to oblivion. He asserts that the work is more than a historical report; it is an "indictment against a global system" that selectively determines the value of human life.

"Every child killed in Minab had dreams, joys, fears, and a future that was violently snatched away," the book reads.

The author also invokes Verse 42 of Surah Ibrahim from the Holy Quran: "And never think that Allah is unaware of what the wrongdoers do," stressing the moral and divine responsibility to stand against oppression.

The book explores several critical themes, including the painful human aspects of the incident, the geopolitical factors fueling violence, the failure of international institutions to prevent such catastrophes, and the resilience of the victims' families.

Published by Casamas Resources Sdn. Bhd., the book calls upon intellectuals, policymakers, and religious leaders to strive for justice and human dignity to prevent

the recurrence of such atrocities.

Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid, a prominent figure in humanitarian activism and a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause, seeks through this work to bring the martyrdom of the Minab students to the forefront of global public opinion, advocating for the protection of children in conflict zones.

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

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

Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations

have painted a starkly different picture.

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

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

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

## Ali Davoudi's new painting unveiled to mark Iran's missile operations against Zionist regime

TEHRAN- A new painting by prominent Iranian artist Ali Davoudi was unveiled concurrently with the onset of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missile operations against the Zionist regime on Sunday night.

The latest work by painter and poet Ali Davoudi, titled "United Iran; Supportive Iran," was released to mark the military operations launched by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic against the occupied territories, Mehr reported.

Executed with oil-on-canvas technique, the artwork employs a symbolic and epic visual language to depict a scene of missiles streaking through the night sky alongside a massive crowd bearing national flags, the report added.

The composition of dark tones, vibrant orange and yellow flames, and the extensive presence of the Iranian tricolor flags imbues the piece with themes of unity, national solidarity, and unwavering support.

Beyond merely reflecting a military event, the painting seeks to highlight the profound relationship between sovereign power, the people, and national cohesion. Through this visual narrative, the juxtaposition of missile trajectories and the gathered masses in a single frame serves as a potent symbol of the bond between military resolve and social backing.

On Sunday night, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) launched a series of ballistic missiles targeting the Zionist regime's Ramat David Airbase near Haifa. This operation was conducted in direct response to the regime's continued aggression against

southern Lebanon and the Dahiyeh region of Beirut.

Iranian military commanders, including Brigadier General Ali Abdollahi and IRGC Aerospace Commander Majid Mousavi, have emphasized that these strikes serve as a "warning" and a fulfillment of Iran's previous pledges to defend the axis of resistance.

Tehran has warned that any further escalation or failure by the US and the Zionist regime to honor the April ceasefire commitments will result in "more destructive and regrettable" consequences for both the regime and its supporters. This military action was also met with symbolic diplomatic support, as Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reaffirmed Iran's solidarity with Lebanon following the strikes.

## IAF cinematheque screens Angelopoulos's "The Suspended Step of the Stork"

TEHRAN – The cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran screened "The Suspended Step of the Stork" directed by Theodoros Angelopoulos on Monday.

The movie screening was part of the 6-day program by the IAF to show six films by Angelopoulos, Honaronline reported.

A 1991 Greek film, "The Suspended Step of the Stork" entered the Cannes Film Festival in the same year.

A journalist (Gregory Patrick Karr) is in a town on the border of Greece where refugees await approval of their papers. He notices an old man (Marcello Mas-

troanni) whom he suspects is a famous politician who, years ago, disappeared without a trace. He works to uncover the man's story, meeting one of his old lovers (Jeanne Moreau) in the process.

The film explores the concept of borders, specifically in relation to the history of the Balkans. Angelopoulos weaves a poetical allegory on borders, refugees, a changing world in our turbulent age – and the possibility of a new humanism evoked in an almost mythical closing image of refixing communications.

In the film, the journalist gains an appreciation of the possibility of a new humanism in the pro-

cess of border crossing. The final shot of the reporter watching phone lines being built embodies this idea, offering the healing touch of movement beyond boundaries.

Theodoros Angelopoulos (1935–2012) was a Greek filmmaker, screenwriter, and film producer. He dominated the Greek art film industry from 1975 on, and Angelopoulos was one of the most influential and widely respected filmmakers in the world. He started making films in 1967. In the 1970s, he made a series of political films about modern Greece.

Angelopoulos' films, described

by Martin Scorsese as those of "a masterful filmmaker," are characterized by the slightest movement, slightest change in distance, long takes, and complex, carefully composed scenes. His cinematic method is often described as "sweeping" and "hypnotic". Angelopoulos has said that in his shots, "time becomes space and space becomes time." The pauses between action or music are important to creating the total effect.

In 1998, his film "Eternity and a Day" went on to win the Palme d'Or at the 51st Cannes Film Festival, and his films have been shown at many of the world's esteemed film festivals.