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US Adventurism: Apache Down, F-35 Hangar Hit, Oil Up



Iran's armed forces hit American regional bases in retaliation for US aggression against the country's territory

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An AH-64 Apache flying above the strait of Hormuz

Hydrological horror in Hormozgan and America's infinite regress to barbarism

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The ruins of two concrete water tanks in Sirik stand as silent witnesses to American brutality. One held 500 cubic meters, the other 2,000.

Alongside mechanical facilities, they sustained over 20,000 people in southern Iran across Kohestak and ten villages in the Bomani district.

Abdolhamid Hamzehpour, Managing Director of Hormozgan Water and Wastewater Company, said the U.S. destroyed this infrastructure, leaving residents cut off in blistering heat.

This was a deliberate strike on an asset indispensable to human survival, violating Article 54 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.

These tanks served thirsty villagers and the objective is simply using civilian suffering as political leverage. ▶ Page 5

US truce breaches have undermined diplomatic efforts, Iran says

TEHRAN- Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman said on Wednesday that recent US military actions against the country, coupled with repeated ceasefire violations, have seriously undermined diplomatic efforts, warning that negotiations cannot progress without a minimum level of stability and political consistency.

Speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony in Tehran, Esmaeil Baqaei said Iran is reassessing the future of diplomatic negotiations following overnight developments and recent military escalations involving the United States and Israel.

"We have to reevaluate the situation," Baqaei said when asked about the prospects for talks with Washington. "Diplomacy and developments on the battlefield are not separate matters; rather, they operate alongside and complement one another in safeguarding Iran's national interests and security."

The spokesman stressed that diplomacy cannot function in a vacuum and that any meaningful negotiation process requires a minimum stability and an appropriate atmosphere for dialogue to move forward. ▶ Page 2

'Unprovoked aggression': Russia, China urge restraint after US-Iran escalation

TEHRAN - Russia has raised concerns about the latest Iran-US escalation, blaming "unprovoked US-Israel aggression" for continued tensions, which began more than 100 days ago.

Iran carried out retaliatory strikes against US bases in the Persian Gulf region early Wednesday after the US carried out attacks against areas in southern Iran.

This was the worst escalation since an April 8 ceasefire paused the joint US-Israeli war that began on February 28.

"We are extremely concerned about the new round of US-Iranian armed confrontation, which began with the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Maria Zakharova, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, said.

"We call on both sides to exercise restraint and to immediately cease military attacks."

China also called for diplomacy to ease tensions. ▶ Page 3

IAEA board passes anti-Iran resolution despite objections

TEHRAN- The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Wednesday adopted a resolution concerning Iran by 21 votes in favor, three against, and 10 abstentions, in a move Tehran and its allies described as politically motivated and detrimental to ongoing diplomatic efforts.

The resolution calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the IAEA with information regarding the status of nuclear facilities targeted in recent military attacks and the whereabouts of enriched uranium previously stored at those sites. ▶ Page 2

The war on the moral identity of Lebanese resistance

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Hezbollah's supporters in Lebanon have been subjected to continuous psychological, media, and cognitive warfare alongside the fierce Israeli aggression against the country.

A central aspect of this cognitive war focuses on creating the impression that consensus around Hezbollah, particularly within its Shia base, has weakened, that the Lebanese resistance has become a burden, and the costs borne by society now outweigh any benefits.

One indication of this was the considerable attention that regional and domestic media outlets hostile to Hezbollah paid to two declarations: one named after the city of Tyre, the other after Nabatieh. ▶ Page 5

Oil crisis deepens as global reserves plummet to 20-year low

TEHRAN- Oil prices set to surge above \$105 a barrel as US-Israeli strikes trigger historic supply shock, demand set to shrink for first time since pandemic.

Global oil stockpiles are collapsing toward their lowest levels in two decades following the US-Israeli military attack on Iran, the US Energy Information Administration warned on Tuesday, as the full scale of the economic fallout from the assault on the Islamic Republic becomes clear.

Total oil inventories in the world's largest economies are set to fall to just under 2.3 billion barrels by December, the EIA said, reaching levels not seen since the agency began keeping records in 2003. The devastating strike on Iranian facilities and the subsequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz - a chokepoint through which 20 percent of global oil shipments pass - has wiped out 11 million barrels of West Asian output every day. ▶ Page 4

Tehran, Moscow emphasize need to boost scientific cooperation

TEHRAN - Iranian Science, Research and Technology Minister, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, and Russian Science and Higher Education Minister, Valery Falkov, reviewed strategies for developing scientific, educational, and academic cooperation between the two countries with an emphasis on expanding professor and student exchanges, strengthening research cooperation, and facilitating academic interactions.

In a telephone conversation, Simaei-Sarraf expressed hope that in-person meetings between the two sides will be held in Tehran and Moscow in the near future, IRNA reported.

He also announced the upcoming holding of a meeting of the presidents of top Iranian and Russian universities in Tehran, and considered the development of Russian language chairs in Iranian universities and Persian language chairs in Russian universities as a sign of deepening scientific and cultural ties between the two countries. ▶ Page 7

"The Sinners" and the cinematic anatomy of Trumpism

By Sajjad Amir-Yazdani

TEHRAN- At first glance, Trumpism appears to be a distinctly contemporary political phenomenon, inseparable from the personality, rhetoric, and political career of Donald Trump. Yet reducing Trumpism to a single individual risks overlooking the deeper social and historical forces that made it possible.

Trump did not emerge in a vacuum. Rather, he became the most visible representative of a longstanding current within American society—one rooted in racial hierarchy, economic dominance, cultural exclusion, and an enduring belief in American exceptionalism.

The persistence of this tendency is evident in the support it continues to receive from a significant segment of the American public. ▶ Page 8



Iran honors activists with 'Right Side of History' medal

TEHRAN — Iran awarded its "Right Side of History" Medal to a group of international activists, artists, academics, and political figures during a ceremony in Tehran on Monday, highlighting 'a growing global movement in support of Palestine and opposition to Western-backed policies in West Asia.'

The event was held on Keshvardoost Street, near the site where Iran says the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was martyred in a joint US-Israeli airstrike on February 28, 2026. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Whitewashing crimes under the IAEA's seal

Siasat-e-Rooz, in an article on Western moves and Rafael Grossi's actions at the IAEA Board of Governors, wrote: While the United States and some European countries seek to whitewash their crimes against Iran, Tehran warned the Board of Governors about the catastrophic consequences of issuing any anti-Iran resolution. The reality on the ground is that the United States and Israel have subjected Iran to military attacks and caused major destruction. Iran's nuclear facilities have been targeted multiple times; the US has repeatedly threatened to seize Iran's enriched uranium; and dozens of other hostile measures have been pursued. Now, at the IAEA, the Americans aim to rewrite history and shape the narrative to their liking—whitewashing and normalizing these actions while paving the way for their repetition. Last year's 12-day war, too, unfolded under the shadow of the IAEA's unprofessional conduct and the West's false resolution.

Shargh: Iran and Israel: Confrontation in the shadow of power and deterrence

Shargh, in an analysis of the 24-hour clash between Iran and Israel, wrote: The events from Sunday night to Monday afternoon showed that even at the height of diplomatic optimism, a single security incident or military action can rapidly overturn the entire equation. The recent reciprocal strikes confirm that diplomacy is still moving on fragile ground. The calculated confrontations between Iran and Israel—kept below the threshold of full-scale war—became the most important and sensitive test of the two-month ceasefire. This test made clear that despite both sides' readiness to project power and demonstrate deterrence, neither has yet shown the will to cross the threshold into a full regional war or to completely collapse the ceasefire. This was especially evident in the case of the United States, which sought to prevent an all-out Iran-Israel war and preserve the ceasefire.

Sobh-e-No: Diplomacy is the supporter of the battlefield, not its substitute

Sobh-e-No, in a commentary on the importance of diplomacy as support for military operations, wrote: Diplomacy without the backing of military strength is "submission," and military action without diplomacy becomes endless attrition. Last week, when Israeli jets struck nearly all areas of Beirut, Iran, by threatening to halt negotiations and open new fronts, it forced the other side to retreat. In this episode, Iran, through offensive diplomacy and military action, succeeded in imposing a new equation on the region

and compelling the adversary to step back. The success in Lebanon showed that diplomacy does not block military operations, nor do operations block diplomacy. Smart statecraft is when they approach the negotiating table with a clenched fist—so they can leave it with an open hand and a favorable outcome.

Khorasan: Proving the coordination of battlefield and diplomacy in war

The experience of the recent war confirms the same reality. Without Iran's missile capability, there would have been no basis for negotiations from a position of strength. Likewise, without active diplomatic channels, many battlefield achievements could not have been politically consolidated. In hybrid warfare, the enemy seeks less to win militarily and more to disrupt internal calculations. One of the main tools of this project is to create the perception of a rift between officials, between the battlefield and diplomacy, and between different pillars of governance. Whenever such an image takes shape in the public mind, the country's deterrence is weakened. Perhaps the most important lesson of the recent war is this: one should not rush to judge the performance of officials and institutions. Many strategic decisions only make sense when the full puzzle becomes visible. The past months showed that what sometimes appears as disagreement from the outside is, in many cases, a division of labor within a unified strategy—one that defines the battlefield, diplomacy, and the people not against each other, but alongside one another.

Resalat: A swift and decisive response changed the rules of the game

Resalat highlighted a key point after Operation Nasr, which led to the strike on Israel: What is seen from Iran today is not merely a display of hard power; it is a new configuration of national will. Iran is no longer appearing solely as a reactor but is gradually defining the rules of the arena. In this new logic, it is the enemy that must calculate, retreat, buy time, and move cautiously out of fear of the consequences. This is the point at which deterrence moves beyond slogans and theoretical analysis and becomes a concrete battlefield experience. For years, Israel tried to confine Iran within a narrow framework, but Operation Nasr shattered that calculation. The message was clear: Iran does not play by the geography of threats or the enemy's timetable. Wherever a will to cross red lines is detected, the response will land right there—with equal clarity and force.

Iran war drives US inflation to 4.2%, highest in three years

TEHRAN - US prices in May rose at their fastest rate in three years, with inflation climbing to 4.2%, the BBC reported.

The increase, from 3.8% a month earlier, was largely driven by rising energy costs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) said.

It marked the third consecutive monthly rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with households increasingly feeling the strain of the Iran war and its impact on global energy markets.

Higher inflation raises the likelihood of the US Federal Reserve increasing interest rates in a bid to curb spending.

The last time inflation was higher was in April 2023, when the United States was still grappling with the fallout from the energy shock triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Overall energy bills, including gas and electricity, were nearly a quarter higher in May than a year earlier, with petrol accounting for much of the increase.

According to separate figures from motoring group AAA, the average price of a gallon of regular petrol in the United States is currently \$4.15, a sharp increase from \$2.98 on February 28, when President Donald Trump launched strikes on Iran.



Soon after the conflict began, Iran asserted control over the Strait of Hormuz and restricted vessels affiliated with its adversaries from transiting the strategic waterway.

Since the start of the war, Brent crude has surpassed \$110 per barrel on multiple occasions. Gasoline prices has also averaged above \$6 per gallon in California. Earlier this month, a Moody's Analytics study found that the war has cost US households \$750 each, or around \$100 billion in total.

IAEA board passes anti-Iran resolution despite objections

From page 1 ▶ Iranian officials sharply criticized the measure, arguing that it fails to address 'the root cause of the current situation,' the recent US and Israeli attacks on Iran's safeguarded nuclear facilities. Tehran maintains that the resolution ignores 'a clear violation of international law' while focusing solely on the consequences of those attacks.

According to a source cited by Russia's RIA Novosti news agency, Russia, China and Niger voted against the resolution, while a number of other member states abstained.

Ahead of the vote, Iran, China and Russia issued a joint statement at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna, rejecting the Western-backed draft resolution and warning against 'the politicization of the agency.'

The three countries emphasized that issues related to Iran's safeguards obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) should not be linked to provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which expired on October 18, 2025. They also argued that efforts by the European troika—Britain, France and Germany—to invoke the so-called "snapback mechanism" lack legal validity and would carry no legal consequences.

The joint statement further criticized recent reports by the IAEA Director General as political in nature and warned that such approaches could undermine efforts to achieve a comprehensive and negotiated solution to Iran's nuclear file.

Reaffirming Iran's rights under the NPT, the three countries stressed that all member states have an inalienable right to re-



search, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

They also condemned repeated attacks against Iran's safeguarded nuclear facilities, saying such actions have created an unprecedented challenge for the global non-proliferation regime and weakened the authority of international nuclear safeguards.

The statement warned that adopting a politically driven resolution under current circumstances could damage cooperation between Iran and the IAEA and further complicate diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving outstanding issues.

Prior to the vote, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi sent a letter to the foreign ministers of countries represented on the IAEA Board of Governors, urging them not to allow the UN nuclear watchdog to become a political instrument in the hands of the United States.

In the letter, Araghchi described the US-sponsored resolution as politically motivated and lacking good faith, arguing that Wash-

ington bears responsibility for the current escalation surrounding Iran's nuclear program.

The Iranian foreign minister recalled that a previous IAEA Board resolution adopted in June 2025 was followed less than 24 hours later by US and Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities, resulting in casualties and extensive damage. He questioned whether the agency was once again being used to provide political cover for hostile actions against Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

Araghchi also highlighted a series of attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities and the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists and their family members since 2025, calling the developments unprecedented in the history of the IAEA.

According to the Iranian foreign minister, such actions have had far-reaching consequences for international law, global peace and security, the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and the credibility of the agency itself.

He warned that the decisions taken by members of the Board of Governors would affect not only

Iran's nuclear case but also the future independence and credibility of the IAEA and the broader Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty framework.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi wrote in response to the Board of Governors' action on X: "The move by the United States and three European Union countries at the IAEA, namely Britain, France, and Germany, is a 'dangerous attempt' to whitewash accountability for aggressors and criminals."

"It has been documented by the IAEA that attacks by the United States and Israel on Iran's nuclear facilities halted the agency's verification activities and made its inspectors leave the country for security reasons," the Iranian diplomat said.

Now, Gharibabadi said, the United States seeks to turn the consequences of its own illegal attacks into a case against the Islamic Republic.

"This is an inversion of accountability. They strike safeguarded facilities, disrupt the verification procedures, and jeopardize nuclear security, and then they exploit the Board of Governors to pressure Iran."

Gharibabadi advised the Board of Governors to refrain from imposing the costs of aggression on the targeted country.

"Drafting resolutions will not strengthen the IAEA Safeguards. Rather, condemnation of aggression against safeguarded facilities, respect for the rights of the member states, holding the aggressors to account, and putting the agency back on its technical and impartial capacity will," the Iranian deputy foreign minister stated.

Iran honors activists with 'Right Side of History' medal

From page 1 ▶ The ceremony drew domestic and international guests, as well as members of the public, who gathered to commemorate the late leader.

Opening the event, Mahdi Ebrahimzadeh, deputy and chief of staff of the Islamic Revolution Cultural and Research Institute, welcomed attendees before a series of speeches focused on resistance, political activism, and international solidarity with Palestine.

Saeed Reza Ameli, speaking on behalf of the award's selection committee, said the medal was inspired by Ayatollah Khamenei's message to young people around the world. He argued that recent protests against the war in Iran and support for Palestinians demonstrated 'a growing political awakening among younger generations.'

According to organizers, the award recognizes individuals who have publicly supported the Palestinian cause and challenged dominant Western narratives regarding conflicts in the Middle East.

Several recipients who were unable to attend the ceremony delivered video messages that were screened during the event.

Among them was British historian and filmmaker Professor Haim Bresheeth-Zabner of SOAS University of London, who was honored for his academic work critical of Zionism. In his remarks, Bresheeth-Zabner praised Iran's support for Palestinians and described standing for political principles as increasingly difficult in today's international environment.

Syrian actress Sulaf Fawakherji discussed her film Land of Angels, which she said was

produced to highlight the humanitarian situation in Gaza. She described the project as an effort to draw attention to the loss of basic rights and daily hardships faced by Palestinians.

Yemeni political cartoonist Kamal Sharaf described the award as an encouragement for activists and advocates of social justice worldwide.

Indian activist Tushar Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, also addressed the audience via video, calling support for Palestinian rights a moral responsibility and urging greater international engagement with the issue.

Ali Bagheri, Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, delivered the ceremony's keynote address, portraying recent events as evidence of Iran's resilience in the face of external pressure.

Bagheri sharply criticized US foreign policy, particularly President Donald Trump's doctrine of "peace through force," arguing that military pressure cannot achieve political objectives. He said Iran's response to recent military confrontations demonstrated the country's determination to defend its sovereignty.

"We are proud that we defeated America, and America is defeated today," Bagheri said, drawing applause from the audience.

Algerian journalist and writer Yahya Abou Zakaria also addressed the gathering, describing support for Iran and Palestine as a responsibility shared by advocates of freedom worldwide.

US truce breaches have undermined diplomatic efforts, Iran says

From page 1 ▶ "Unfortunately, the United States has damaged this process through contradictory messages, frequent shifts in its positions and demands, and repeated violations of ceasefires," he said.

Baqaei also pointed to 'repeated Israeli violations of ceasefire agreements,' particularly in Lebanon, arguing that such actions have further weak-

ened diplomatic efforts.

"Any diplomatic process is destabilized when one party resorts to force and unlawful actions," he added.

Addressing the latest US military strikes against targets in southern Iran, the spokesman said developments on the ground and diplomatic engagement are both integral components of Iran's strategy to pro-

tect its security and national interests.

He emphasized that Iran's military and diplomatic bodies remain fully coordinated.

Baqaei stated that Iran's Armed Forces decisively counter enemies whenever necessary, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to national defense in recent events.

He added that Iran would

continue to employ diplomacy wherever possible while maintaining its military readiness to defend the country whenever required.

The remarks came after Iran launched missile and drone strikes against US military targets in the region early Wednesday, describing the operation as a response to 'acts of aggression' by the United States.



Filmmaker and screenwriter Babak Lotfi Khajeh-Pasha focused his remarks on the role of media in shaping international perceptions of conflicts. He argued that cultural and media institutions play a decisive role in influencing public understanding of global events and called for greater efforts to challenge dominant narratives.

"The media battle is one of the most important fronts in today's world," he said.

The ceremony concluded with medals being presented to recipients and representatives attending on behalf of those unable to travel to Tehran.

The "Right Side of History" Medal takes its name from a letter written by Ayatollah Khamenei to American university students in May 2024, in which he praised student activism and support for Palestine.

According to organizers, similar ceremonies have previously been held in Tehran, Caracas, and Ghana, reflecting 'an expanding international network of activists, intellectuals, and public figures advocating for Palestinian rights and opposing Zionism and global hegemonic policies.'

US adventurism: Apache down, F35- hangar hit, oil up

Iran's armed forces hit American regional bases in retaliation for US aggression against the country's territory

TEHRAN - The latest exchange of fire between Iran and the United States highlights Washington's bad faith in the April ceasefire and Tehran's resolve to respond to any aggression.

It is the most serious escalation since the April 8 truce halted the joint US-Israeli war that began on February 28.

The escalation began late Tuesday when the United States launched strikes on areas in Hormozgan province and along the Persian Gulf coastline in southern Iran using projectiles. Qeshm Island was among the sites targeted.

At least two water reservoirs in the Bomi district of Sirik County were hit, temporarily cutting off drinking water supplies to the area. Local authorities reported significant disruption to civilian infrastructure as a result.

The managing director of the Hormozgan Water and Wastewater Company said the US strikes completely destroyed critical water infrastructure in the eastern part of the province, leaving more than 20,000 residents without access to drinking water as summer temperatures soared.

Abdolhamid Hamzehpour told local media on Wednesday that American strikes hit water supply facilities in Sirik County, targeting the distribution network for the town of Kuhestak and ten villages in the Bemani district.

The US Central Command said it had begun strikes against Iran following the crash of a US Army Apache helicopter off the coast of Oman. President Donald Trump acknowledged that the helicopter had gone down near the Strait of Hormuz, accusing Iran of downing it.

Iranian officials and military forces have denied any role in the incident, warning that any act of aggression against the country will not go unanswered.

Analysts and regional observers have suggested that the helicopter mission itself may have been linked to a broader US operational attempt to reopen or secure greater control over the Strait of Hormuz following rising tensions in the region. However, the mission appears to have failed after



the aircraft crash, an incident that then triggered further escalation. Oil prices rose in the aftermath of the US adventurism, reflecting growing market concerns over regional instability

In response to the latest US aggression, Iran struck American bases across the Persian Gulf region. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) targeted the US Navy's Fifth Fleet in Bahrain with missile and drone attacks as part of a broader retaliatory campaign.

Iranian armed forces also carried out strikes against US military facilities in Jordan and Kuwait during the early hours of Wednesday. The IRGC announced that it had launched missile attacks on four US targets in Jordan and destroyed an F-35 hangar. The attacks were carried out jointly by the IRGC and the Iranian Army.

The IRGC also said it shot down an American MQ-9 drone near the Strait of Hormuz. A General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper was intercepted and destroyed over the city of Jam in Iran's Bushehr Province during ongoing military confrontations near the strategic waterway, according to the IRGC.

US violate intl. law

In a statement on Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Ministry said the country's armed forces had dealt a heavy blow to US bases and assets in the region that were identified as the origin of American aggression.

"These attacks constitute a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter, particularly Article 2, Paragraph 4, and the fundamental rule prohibiting the use of force in international relations. With these

missile and drone attacks against Israel and US bases in the Persian Gulf region, ultimately contributing to Washington's acceptance of a ceasefire.

Efforts aimed at turning the April 8 ceasefire into a lasting peace settlement have since stalled, largely due to shifting positions in Washington.

Prior to the latest escalation, Trump had suggested that a deal with Iran could be reached within days. However, the renewed strikes have highlighted what analysts describe as strategic confusion and inconsistency in US policy.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in late April that the United States has been "humiliated" in its confrontation with Iran and lacks a coherent strategy. The latest developments, combined with contradictory statements from Trump, suggest an attempt to shift attention away from what critics describe as a failed military approach.

Trump in hot water

The United States now finds itself caught between two difficult options. On one hand, a withdrawal risks political backlash at home for initiating a costly and inconclusive conflict. On the other, continued escalation risks further economic and geopolitical strain.

A recent Moody's Analytics study estimated that the war on Iran has cost US households around \$750 each, or approximately \$100 billion in total. This is mainly because Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz—one of the world's most critical energy corridors—has contributed to rising fuel prices and higher living costs in the United States.

Trump is currently seeking a face-saving exit from the conflict with Iran. However, elements within the US political establishment, as well as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, are encouraging continued pressure on Tehran.

As Trump's approval ratings hover near historic lows, he faces a narrowing set of choices: further escalation that could deepen economic and political costs, or a negotiated de-escalation that would require accepting Iran's terms.

Pezeshkian: US and Israel can only dream of Iran's capitulation

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday that Iran will never give in to threats and pressure amid the latest fighting between Iran on one side and the United States and Israel on the other.

"The people of Iran will never surrender to any violation of their dignity, independence, or territorial integrity," Pezeshkian said.

The president pointed to the "miscalculations" of the United States and Israel in the wake of a war they launched against Iran on February 28.

"Those who designed policies of pressure and destabilization against the country thought that the measures they had put in place would quickly break the will of the Iranian people. However, the effective and wise presence of the people in the public arena defeated all such calculations and showed that Iran's social capital is the country's greatest pillar of security and progress," he said.

Pezeshkian said a state of neither war nor peace is not beneficial. However, he added: "War is certainly not in the country's interest, but if anyone seeks to violate Iran's dignity,



territory, or sovereignty, we will not surrender or back down. They can only dream of such a thing... This is not something we will compromise on."

An April 8 ceasefire halted the US-Israeli war, but diplomatic efforts aimed at permanently ending the conflict have so far failed due to what Iran calls Washington's "excessive" demands.

Despite the truce, Iran and the United States and Israel have recently exchanged fire, with Tehran accusing both sides of violating the ceasefire. Officials say Iran remains open to talks but will respond with force to any act of aggression.

Iran consults Turkey and Saudi Arabia on regional security

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate telephone conversations with his Turkish and Saudi counterparts to discuss the rapidly evolving regional situation following recent US military attacks on southern Iran, reaffirming Tehran's commitment to defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

During calls on Tuesday night with Hakan Fidan and Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Araghchi exchanged views on the latest developments after 'acts of military aggression' by the United States against targets in the country's southern coastal regions.

According to Iran's Foreign Ministry, Araghchi strongly condemned the attacks, describing them as a clear violation of Iran's national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the principles of international law. He stressed that Iran possesses an inherent right to self-defense under the United Nations Charter and said the actions taken by the Iranian Armed Forces constituted a legitimate response to foreign aggression.

The diplomatic consultations came hours after Iran launched a series of missile and drone strikes against US military positions in the region. Tehran said the operation was carried out in retaliation for American attacks on Iranian territory earlier in the day.

In a statement, the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters announced that the operation was conducted jointly by the Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The headquarters said multiple US

bases were targeted in a "powerful and coordinated response" to attacks by the "US terrorist army."

Iranian military officials warned that any further attacks on the country would trigger broader and more severe retaliatory operations against designated targets across the region.

The escalation followed US strikes on several locations in southern Iran, including the islands and coastal areas of Qeshm, Jask, Sirik, and Bandar Abbas. Washington reportedly justified the attacks by citing the downing of a US helicopter over the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important energy transit routes.

From Tehran's perspective, the confrontation marks a significant escalation in US military pressure against Iran and highlights growing security challenges in the Persian Gulf region. Iranian officials have repeatedly argued that foreign military intervention and the continued presence of US forces in the region are major sources of instability, while emphasizing that regional security should be ensured through cooperation among regional countries.

The consultations with Turkey and Saudi Arabia also reflect Tehran's efforts to maintain diplomatic engagement with key regional powers amid heightened tensions, as concerns mount over the potential for a broader conflict that could affect regional stability, international shipping lanes, and global energy markets.

'Unprovoked aggression': Russia, China urge restraint after US-Iran escalation

TEHRAN - Russia has raised concerns about the latest Iran-US escalation, blaming "unprovoked US-Israel aggression" for continued tensions, which began more than 100 days ago.

Iran carried out retaliatory strikes against US bases in the Persian Gulf region early Wednesday after the US carried out attacks against areas in southern Iran.

This was the worst escalation since an April 8 ceasefire paused the joint US-Israeli war that began on February 28.

"We are extremely concerned about the new round of US-Iranian armed confrontation, which began with the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Maria Zakharova, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, said.

"We call on both sides to exercise restraint and to immediately cease military attacks."

China also called for diplomacy to ease tensions.

"China is deeply concerned over the latest developments regarding Iran. Relevant parties need to remain calm, exercise restraint, stop exacerbating confrontation and escalating tensions, take concrete actions to ease

the situation, stick to political and diplomatic means for resolving disputes, and work for an early realization of a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Wednesday.

Elsewhere, Pakistan's UN ambassador said he is "deeply concerned" about the "renewed conflict and heightened tensions" in the Middle East.

Speaking at the UN Security Council on Tuesday, Asim Iftikhar said the "surge in violence in the Middle East is a stark reminder of the dangers associated with a tenuous ceasefire and the unbearable consequences it may lead to."

He added that the "cycle of violence and instability must end for the good of regional and international peace."

"Regrettably, the breakdown of diplomacy and outbreak of hostilities has also impacted the consideration of the Iran nuclear issue, pushing the parties further apart on this complex file. It also disrupted the IAEA's crucial verification mandate," he said.

Ahmad said it is important that all sides continue to "tread the path of peace and diplomacy."

LATEST NEWS

■ Qatari delegation arrives in Tehran amid diplomatic push to end conflict

A Qatari delegation arrived in Tehran on Wednesday for talks on bilateral relations and regional developments as diplomatic efforts intensify to end the conflict triggered by US-Israeli attacks on Iran. According to Iranian media, discussions will focus on political and regional issues. Reuters reported that Qatari negotiators are seeking to help finalize an agreement following recent consultations with US officials, reflecting growing momentum toward de-escalation.

■ Qalibaf: Any aggression against Iran will face swift response

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf warned on Wednesday that any aggression against Iran would be met with an immediate and decisive response. Commemorating those killed in recent US and Israeli attacks, Qalibaf said resistance remains the path to victory, stressing that despite the loss of commanders and scientists, Iran's scientific progress and defense capabilities remain intact.

■ Pezeshkian congratulates Kyrgyzstan on UNSC seat

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian congratulated Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov on Kyrgyzstan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for 2027-2028. Pezeshkian said the appointment reflects international confidence in Kyrgyzstan and expressed hope that its membership would promote peace, stability, sustainable development, and stronger representation for developing

■ Russia warns against politicizing UN security council's approach to Iran

Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Vasily Nebenzya, criticized the politicization of the UN Security Council's approach toward Iran, warning that such actions would only escalate tensions.

Nebenzya stressed that the Security Council should focus on supporting a political and diplomatic resolution to issues related to Iran.

He added that politicizing discussions surrounding Iran's nuclear program would serve no purpose other than further increasing regional and international tensions.

■ Iranian army drones target US military sites in Bahrain

An Iranian military source said the Army's drone units targeted the US-operated Shaikh Isa Air Base and a strategic radar facility in Bahrain on Wednesday, using a newly developed drone. The strike was described as part of Iran's response to overnight US attacks in southern Iran. Iranian military officials also claimed that missile and drone operations successfully penetrated US regional defense systems and struck multiple military targets across West Asia.

■ WFP warns war on Iran is worsening global hunger crisis

The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that the ongoing conflict involving Iran and disruptions to key maritime routes are driving up global food and fuel prices, putting millions at risk of acute hunger. WFP Acting Executive Director Carl Skau said ris-

ing transportation costs, supply-chain disruptions, and declining humanitarian funding are increasing pressure on vulnerable communities across Africa and Asia.

■ Military says Iran 'won't back down' to Trump's threats

Iranian armed forces spokesman Abolfazl Shekarchi has said Iran has proven it can respond decisively to US threats, after Trump said he was getting close to ordering new strikes targeting Iran's power plants and bridges.

In comments carried by Iran's semi-official Fars news agency, Shekarchi said Tehran has responded to all of Trump's threats and would "not back down."

■ People across Middle East paying 'brutal price' of war: UN chief

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned that "the Middle East is being pulled deeper into crisis and the consequences reach far beyond the region."

Speaking during a UN Security Council meeting in New York, Guterres said this week has brought "wider attacks and further deterioration" that he is "profoundly concerned could trigger a full resumption of conflict."

"Escalation in the Middle East reverberates across borders and continents, through political tensions, displacement and rising insecurity; through markets and trade routes; through food and fuel costs," he said.

"A brutal price is being paid by the region's people, and it is extending to the wider world, particularly the most vulnerable countries and communities."

Renewable power plants being developed in line with environmental requirements

TEHRAN- The Deputy of Technical and Engineering of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) wrote in a note: The development of renewable power plants can lead to favorable results only when carried out based on precise technical standards, clear environmental requirements, and continuous monitoring.

Alireza Parandeh Motlagh wrote: Environment Week is an opportunity to rethink the methods of energy production, consumption, and management. In today's world, energy production is no longer merely an economic or technical issue, but has a direct connection with quality of life, public health, sustainability of natural resources, and the future of coming generations. Renewable energies, as one of the cleanest methods of electricity generation, play an important role in reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing the environmental impacts caused by energy production. However, the development of these power plants can lead to favorable results only when carried out based on precise technical standards, clear environmental requirements, continuous monitoring, and the use of quality equipment.

For this reason, despite the great importance of increasing clean electricity generation capacity, our view of the development of renewable power plants is not merely increasing installed capacity and electricity production, because we believe that this development must be principled, safe, sustainable, and in accordance with technical and environmental criteria. A renewable power plant can properly serve sustainable development only when it is implemented from the site selection and design stage to equipment supply, construction, grid connection, operation, and maintenance based on valid standards and specific regulations. Therefore, formulating and updating standards, guidelines, and technical requirements is one of SATBA's most important missions.

Solar power plants, especially in recent years, have received serious attention due to the high solar radiation capacity in the country and the possibility of construction at various scales. However, the widespread development of these power plants requires serious attention to the quality of panels, inverters, structures, cables, protective equipment, monitoring systems, arrangement of panels, installation angle, resistance to climatic conditions, grid connection requirements, and safety considerations. If technical standards are not observed in any of these stages, the plant's efficiency decreases, the useful life of equipment is reduced, and problems may even arise for the grid or the surrounding environment. Therefore, standardization is not an administrative measure, but a strategic necessity to maintain investment quality and the sustainability of clean electricity generation.

In the field of wind power plants, attention to technical criteria is of particular importance. Selecting the appropriate location, accurately assessing wind potential, studying geological conditions, analyzing noise effects, appropriate distance from residential areas, observing wildlife and bird considerations, foundation design, selecting turbines suitable for climatic conditions, and monitoring equipment performance are among the issues that must be pursued with sensitivity.

One of the main axes of SATBA's activities, and specifically in the Technical and Engineering Deputy, is monitoring the construction process of renewable power plants. Technical monitoring does not mean unnecessary interference in the investor's or contractor's activity, but rather a tool to ensure the proper implementation of the project, protect national interests, increase the useful life of the plant, and prevent subsequent damages. Experience has shown that the more precision is applied in the design and construction stages, the lower the operation and maintenance costs in later years and the higher the efficiency at which the plant can operate. Therefore, precise and continuous monitoring of project implementation stages, from site selection and design to equipment installation and commissioning, is one of the necessities of sustainable development in this field.

Compliance with environmental requirements is an inseparable part of the development of renewable power plants. One might think that since renewable power plants are clean, there is no need for environmental assessments; but this view is not accurate. Every construction project, even if implemented with the aim of producing clean energy, must consider its effects on the land, vegetation, water resources, wildlife, natural landscape, and local communities. For example, in the construction of solar power plants, attention must be paid to the type of land, how to prepare



the ground, prevention of unnecessary destruction of vegetation, and compliance with safety principles. In wind power plants, studies related to bird flight paths, noise levels, and visual effects are important. Therefore, clean energy will be truly clean only when its construction and operation processes are also carried out in compliance with environmental principles.

In addition to standardization and monitoring, the issue of equipment localization is also of great importance. The development of renewable energies in the country should not be limited merely to importing equipment and installing them. Although using the world's latest technologies is necessary, at the same time, the domestic production capacity, knowledge-based companies, local manufacturers, and related industries must be strengthened. Equipment localization, in addition to reducing foreign dependence, can create employment, reduce long-term costs, increase repair and maintenance capability, enhance technical knowledge, and form a domestic value chain in the field of renewable energies. Of course, localization must be accompanied by maintaining quality. Supporting domestic manufacturing should not mean ignoring standards; rather, the goal is for domestic producers to be able to produce competitive, high-quality products that comply with valid standards.

In this context, inter-organizational cooperation between SATBA, the National Standards Organization, research centers, universities, knowledge-based companies, and domestic manufacturers is of particular importance. Formulating national standards for key equipment, establishing reference laboratories, evaluating equipment performance, issuing quality certificates, and monitoring plant performance can help improve the level of domestic technology. If domestically produced equipment has adequate quality, investors will also use them with greater confidence, and the domestic renewable energy market will be strengthened. This will ultimately benefit the national economy, the electricity industry, and the country's environment.

Another important issue is attention to the operation and maintenance of power plants after construction. Sometimes the main focus is on building the plant, while the actual performance of the plant is determined during the operational years. Continuous monitoring of production, checking efficiency decline, periodic cleaning of solar panels, controlling electrical equipment, updating monitoring systems, analyzing performance data, and performing preventive maintenance all play a role in increasing productivity and the useful life of the plant. If a plant is built with quality equipment but does not have proper maintenance, it cannot deliver optimal performance. Therefore, operation and maintenance standards must be considered alongside construction standards.

From an environmental perspective, the development of renewable power plants is a valuable opportunity to reduce pollutant emissions and save resource consumption. Every kilowatt-hour of electricity generated from solar or wind energy can replace part of fossil fuel-based electricity generation, thereby reducing fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution. But realizing these benefits fully requires that power plants be built with high efficiency, long useful life, and minimal side effects. This is where the role of engineering, standards, monitoring, and equipment quality becomes prominent.

Now, on the path of developing renewable energies, we are trying to create a balance between implementation speed and technical quality. Because although the country needs to rapidly increase clean electricity generation capacity, this acceleration should not lead to reduced quality or ignoring technical and environmental requirements. Sustainable development means that projects are reliable, safe, economical, and environmentally compatible not only today but also in the coming years. This goal is achieved only through compliance with standards and precise monitoring.

Oil crisis deepens as global reserves plummet to 20-year low

TEHRAN- Oil prices set to surge above \$105 a barrel as US-Israeli strikes trigger historic supply shock, demand set to shrink for first time since pandemic.

Global oil stockpiles are collapsing toward their lowest levels in two decades following the US-Israeli military attack on Iran, the US Energy Information Administration warned on Tuesday, as the full scale of the economic fallout from the assault on the Islamic Republic becomes clear.

Total oil inventories in the world's largest economies are set to fall to just under 2.3 billion barrels by December, the EIA said, reaching levels not seen since the agency began keeping records in 2003. The devastating strike on Iranian facilities and the subsequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz – a chokepoint through which 20 percent of global oil shipments pass – has wiped out 11 million barrels of



West Asian output every day.

The waterway is unlikely to return to pre-conflict operations until early 2027, the agency said, condemning consumers and businesses to years of painfully high energy costs.

Global benchmark Brent crude is expected to average \$105 a barrel through June and July on the spot market, the EIA said – a

staggering premium over Tuesday's futures price of \$91.60. But analysts warn the worst is yet to come, as the relentless drawdown of inventories "creates the foundation for a sharp increase in oil prices in the months ahead".

In a rare and alarming reversal, the EIA now expects global oil demand to shrink this year by 1.1 million barrels per day – the

first contraction since the pandemic-induced collapse of 2020. Just months ago, the agency had forecast demand growth of 200,000 barrels per day.

The revision reflects the brutal reality of high prices, shrinking fuel availability, and government rationing measures now being imposed across multiple economies.

"Because of the size of the drawdown in global inventories, we forecast that oil prices will remain elevated until global oil flows return to normal levels and oil inventories are replenished," the agency said.

For ordinary citizens, that translates into mounting pain at the petrol pump, rising heating bills, and escalating costs for food and goods transported by road, sea and air. The attack on Iran – and the wider conflict it has ignited – is now reverberating through every major economy on earth.

Iran, energy transit highway between Central Asia, Persian Gulf

TEHRAN- Iran's geographical position can turn the country into the main energy transit route between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf – a capacity that plays a key role in the region's economy.

In today's world, energy is not merely an economic commodity but has become one of the most important tools of power in international relations. Countries that lie along the production or transit routes of energy resources can use this position to strengthen their economic and geopolitical standing. Iran, due to its unique geographical location, sits at one of the world's most critical energy points.

To the north lies a group of Central Asian and Caspian Sea states possessing vast oil and gas reserves, while to the south lies the Persian Gulf, one of the world's largest centers of energy production and export. Iran's position between these two important regions has led many experts to call the country the "energy bridge" between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf. This position can create significant economic opportunities. The transit of oil and gas through Iran, in addition to generating transit revenues, can help develop infrastructure, increase regional cooperation, and strengthen Iran's role in the global energy market. However, utilizing this capacity requires long-term planning, development of energy infrastructure, and expansion of cooperation with neighboring countries. In recent years, the idea of turning Iran into the main regional energy transit route has been discussed more than ever, and many experts believe this capacity has yet to be fully exploited.

Iran's geographical position at the heart of energy routes

Iran is located in what is effectively a crossroads of global energy. To its north are Central Asian and Caspian Sea states such as Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, which possess large oil and gas reserves. These countries need secure and economical routes to global markets to export their energy resources.

To its south lies the Persian Gulf, one of the world's largest centers of oil production and export. This region supplies a significant share of the oil and gas needed by the global economy every year. Iran's location between these two regions means that energy routes from north to south can pass through Iranian territory.

The existence of an extensive network of

oil and gas pipelines inside the country is another major advantage. This network can enable the transfer of energy resources from northern countries to southern ports. Under such conditions, Iran can become an energy transit route between Central Asia and global markets.

Fereydoun Barkeshli, an energy expert and head of the International Energy Studies Group, has repeatedly highlighted the importance of Iran's geographical position in his analyses. He believes Iran is naturally located at the center of one of the world's most important energy regions, and if this position is used correctly, it can become one of the main axes of energy trade in the region.

Iran's role in regional oil and gas transit

One of Iran's most important capacities in the energy sector is the ability to transit oil and gas from neighboring countries. Many Central Asian countries lack direct access to open seas and depend on transit routes to export their energy.

Iran can transfer these resources to the Persian Gulf by building new pipelines or using existing infrastructure. In this case, oil and gas from northern countries could be exported to global markets through Iran's southern ports.

In addition to direct energy transit, swap schemes are also among the important options. In this method, Iran receives oil or gas from northern countries at its northern terminals and exports an equivalent amount from its southern ports. This reduces transport costs and increases the speed of energy transfer.

Iran has experience in implementing oil and gas swap schemes, and this experience can serve as a foundation for expanding regional cooperation in the future. Expanding such cooperation would bring significant economic benefits not only for Iran but also for energy-producing countries in Central Asia.

Furthermore, transiting energy through Iran can help diversify export routes in the region. This is very important for producer countries, because dependence on a single route can create economic and political risks.

Economic and geopolitical opportunities for Iran

Becoming the region's energy bridge does not simply mean transiting oil and gas; it can have far-reaching effects on the country's economy. The primary advantage is transit revenues. The passage of pipelines and energy transit through Iranian territory can cre-

ate a stable source of income for the country.

Another advantage is the development of energy and transport infrastructure. Becoming a main energy transit route requires expanding pipelines, export terminals and transport networks. This can generate employment and economic growth in various regions of the country.

Geopolitically, Iran's role in the region's energy equations will also increase. Countries known as energy transit routes usually gain a more important position in regional economic and political relations, because the security and stability of energy routes is of vital importance to many countries.

Energy cooperation can also pave the way for the development of broader economic relations between countries. Joint energy projects typically involve long-term investments, which in turn create lasting relationships between governments and energy companies.

Given the expected increase in global energy demand in the coming decades, many experts believe that Central Asia and the Middle East will play a major role in meeting the world's energy needs. In such a scenario, countries that can provide secure and economical transit routes will enjoy significant advantages.

Conclusion

Iran's geographical position is one of the country's most important strategic assets in the energy sector. Being situated between countries with vast energy resources in Central Asia and major consumer markets in South and West Asia makes it possible for Iran to become the region's energy transit bridge. This capacity, in addition to generating transit revenues, can help develop infrastructure, increase regional cooperation, and strengthen Iran's position in the global energy economy. However, seizing this opportunity requires careful planning, investment in energy infrastructure, and expanding cooperation with neighboring countries.

Past experience in energy transit and swaps shows that Iran has the capability to play such a role. As experts like Fereydoun Barkeshli emphasize, Iran's geographical position is such that it can turn the country into one of the main axes of energy trade in the region. If this capacity is developed in a targeted manner, Iran can play a significant role in connecting Central Asian energy resources to global markets and benefit from the economic and geopolitical advantages.

(Source: Mehr News Agency)

Iran's pistachio exports to Europe reach €27m in 3 months



TEHRAN- Eurostat announced that Iran's pistachio exports to the European Union reached approximately €27 million in the first quarter of 2026.

According to Tasnim News

Agency, Eurostat data shows that Iran's pistachio exports to the European Union in the first three months of 2026 have been maintained at the previous year's level despite political-military tensions. The value of Iran's pistachio exports to the EU rose from €26.7 million in the first quarter of 2025 to €26.8 million in the same period this year, indicating relative stability and even a 0.4% increase.

An analysis of the composition of Iran's pistachio exports to Europe shows that the share

of higher-value-added products has increased. Exports of Iranian in-shell pistachios to Europe fell from €1.5 million in January-March 2025 to €1 million in the same period this year, representing a 33% decline. In contrast, exports of Iranian pistachio kernels over the same period rose from €25.2 million to €25.8 million, experiencing a 2% increase.

Accordingly, European market demand has shifted more than before toward Iranian pistachio kernels, and Iranian exporters are gradually adapting to this

trend.

Approximately €17 million of Iran's pistachio exports to Germany in 3 months

Germany remains the largest buyer of Iranian pistachios in Europe. The country's imports of pistachios from Iran reached €16.9 million during this period, compared to €20.8 million in the same period last year. Thus, Iran's pistachio exports to Germany faced an 18% decline, although the country is still considered the most important European market for Iranian pistachios.

Hydrological horror in Hormozgan and America's infinite regress to barbarism

From page 1 ▶

The infinite regress doctrine

To justify hitting indispensable assets, the Pentagon relies on an elastic legal fiction called "dual-use" targeting.

This introduces an infinite regress where civilian life completely evaporates.

Under this pretext, any facility manufacturing an atom that might brush against a soldier's uniform becomes a legitimate military target.

This matrix treats civil society as a latent reserve force, legally sanitizing the destruction of hospitals, schools, and water grids.

The water tanks of Sirik, fixed, immobile, exclusively serving civilian households, are twisted by this logic into some phantom "logistics asset."

This is an infinite regress designed to erase the civilian from existence, transforming every man, woman, and child into a lawful target of war. It is the legal architecture of genocide, dressed in Pentagon jargon.

Pretexts and historical bloodlines

The claim that strikes responded to a downed U.S. Apache helicopter is a technological fantasy.

Washington alleges an Iranian drone struck cleanly between two pilots without exploding.

This fable masks pre-planned infrastructure destruction executed during a "ceasefire."

In reality, the Apache was enforcing an illegal naval blockade, an explicit act of war.

The follow-up strikes were meant to further degrade Iran's



ability to defend itself, picking apart infrastructure just below the threshold of total war so Washington does not run out of munitions, while preventing regional stability from resuming and energy exports from restarting.

The American record

Sirik continues a decades-long American tradition of weaponizing water to slaughter populations.

In 1991, the U.S. bombed Iraq's water treatment plants, then enforced sanctions that blocked chlorine imports, contributing to over 500,000 child deaths by 1998.

In this campaign of aggression against Iran, this blueprint is co-authored by Israel under the Dahiya doctrine, which mandates disproportionate force against infrastructure to inflict raw societal trauma.

This axis, after incorporating at least one small fragile Arab country in the Persian Gulf, has

utilized shared intelligence and American munitions to hit Iran's South Pars energy installations, pharmaceutical factories such as Tofiq Daru, steel plants, and the Qeshm Island desalination plant.

It was seen horrifically in the February 28 missile strike on the Shajarah Tayyebah elementary school in Minab, where a U.S. Tomahawk missile murdered 156 civilians, including 120 children.

The unfinished B1 bridge in Karaj was likewise obliterated on April 13, killing a dozen civilians in what anonymous U.S. officials described as a "symbolic" airstrike to make Iran surrender.

The calculus of hydro-reciprocity

Trump has dropped all pretense, openly telling Fox News on June 10 that he is "close to ordering additional strikes on energy infrastructure and bridges in Iran."

His eliminationist Truth Social posts, which mockingly use the

phrase "Praise be to Allah," reveal a sadistic glee driving this extortion.

The White House sends mediation teams while pumping noise through anonymous sources, using the threat of civilian dehydration to force political surrender.

While Iran has responded with discipline, launching self-defense strikes against the al-Azraq base in Jordan and Fifth Fleet installations in Bahrain under Article 51 of the UN Charter, its restraint must not be mistaken for weakness.

The foreign bases and host economies in littoral Persian Gulf states exist in absolute ecological vulnerability, relying entirely on centralized coastal desalination networks like Jebel Ali.

If the United States continues to normalize attacks on municipal water supplies, Iran possesses the precise kinetic capability and absolute legal justification to enforce strict hydro-reciprocity.

The aggressors operating from these fragile desert outposts would do well to heed a profound Persian proverb: "Digi ke vase man najooshe, sare sag touseh bejoushe," literally translating to, "If the pot does not boil for me, let a dog's head boil in it."

If the U.S.-Israeli axis and their regional enablers insist on weaponizing thirst, Iran will ensure the well runs permanently dry for them.

A region complicit in denying life-sustaining water to the Iranian people will find its own fragile desalination networks shattered, leaving the architects of this state terrorism to choke on the dust of their own making.

Israeli war on Lebanon could serve as catalyst for regional unity

TEHRAN – The Israeli war on Lebanon serves as a major test of the Arab world's willingness to cooperate with Iran. The Islamic Republic has linked its own ceasefire discussions with the U.S. to the inclusion of Lebanon in any agreement. To counter this, the Trump administration has heavily pressured Beirut to enter U.S.-mediated negotiations with Israel. The primary goal is to push Lebanon into direct talks with Israel, potentially forcing the Lebanese government into direct conflict with Hezbollah.

Writing for IRNA, Seyed Hossein Mousavi, director of the Middle East Research Center for Scientific and Strategic Studies, urged Arab states—particularly those along the southern shores of the Persian Gulf—to support Iran's policy of safeguarding Lebanese interests, especially as Israeli leaders pursue the "Greater Israel" project.

The following is the text of his article:

The war imposed by the United States and Israel against Iran has marked a turning point in contemporary history, demonstrating that a new Middle East is being reshaped—one that will be significantly different from what the U.S. and Israel had envisioned.

It has now become evident that the imposed war failed to achieve the desired outcome sought by the West, and their objectives of overthrowing the Islamic Republic were unsuccessful. What the West, particularly the U.S., had long marketed as the "New Middle East" has, in the aftermath of the war, lost its appeal. The prospect of Arab and Islamic countries joining the Abraham Accords has now become a bitter irony.

The attack on Iran and the unilateralism and arrogance displayed by the U.S. and Israel, coupled with their disregard for the interests and fate of their allies in the Arab world—especially the Persian Gulf states—has taught Arab and Islamic countries an im-

portant lesson: that the U.S., due to its unquestioning alignment with the Zionist regime, cannot be considered a stable and reliable partner.

At the same time, Israel's clear shift in its security strategy from deterrence to regional dominance and strategic hegemony, along with its openly declared ambition to reshape the regional geopolitical map under the banner of "Greater Israel," a concept promoted by Israel's right-wing and extremist factions, has made it clear to almost everyone in the Middle East that Israel's hostility is directed not only toward the Islamic Republic of Iran but also inherently toward Arab and Islamic countries.

In the "Greater Israel" map, designed by Israeli strategists such as Oded Yinon and pursued by Benjamin Netanyahu and the current right-wing Israeli government, the Arab states surrounding Israel would be fragmented to ensure Israeli supremacy. Under this vision, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt would lose portions of their territory, transformed into buffer zones or devastated lands in the name of Israel's security. Moreover, there would effectively be no Palestinian state, rendering the internationally supported and Arab-backed two-state solution impossible. Alongside the military implementation of this project, Israel's extremist leadership has promoted the slogan of "Greater Israel," framing dominance over Arab territories as part of Jewish civilization and a fake historic Jewish claim to the Middle East.

It appears that Arab countries have increasingly become aware of this significant threat to their own existence. Turki Al-Faisal, the former head of Saudi intelligence, warned of this phenomenon in an article published in Asharq Al-Awsat on May 9 in which he urged Arab states to exercise restraint in response to Iran's actions during the war, as Iran was targeting



U.S. military bases in Persian Gulf Arab states. It now seems that these states have realized that escalating tensions, encouraging further conflict, and emphasizing their disputes with Iran ultimately serve Israel's interests.

The essence of the Abraham Accords project is the normalization of relations between Arab and Islamic countries and Israel. However, one side of this equation—Israel itself—appears fundamentally uninterested in peaceful normalization with its neighbors. Instead, it seeks to impose its power and secure their unconditional submission.

Arab countries also seem increasingly convinced that the American military presence on their soil is detrimental to their interests. Rather than enhancing their security, the deployment of U.S. forces has contributed to strengthening Israeli dominance and supporting Netanyahu's adventurist policies. Furthermore, in light of the findings and consequences of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, the Arab states on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf now face a critical crossroads in determining their future foreign policy orientation.

On the one hand, they recognize that enduring historical, geographical, and geopolitical realities compel them to maintain good-neighborly relations with Iran and to repair bilateral ties. On the other hand, Iran's heightened awareness of the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz

as a powerful geopolitical instrument introduces an element of uncertainty regarding the future economic development and prosperity of these countries.

For this reason, they naturally prefer to pursue a path of peace with Iran—especially since Iran emerged from the fires of war with dignity and resilience after confronting the U.S. as the greatest military power in the world and Israel as a regional power, and withstanding some of the most intense military strikes imaginable. It is therefore evident that these countries must acknowledge this reality and strive to improve relations.

Nevertheless, Arab states remain concerned that the power vacuum created by a reduced U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf—a development that has effectively materialized through attacks on American bases in the region and a reduction in the passage of U.S. naval fleets through the Strait of Hormuz—could be filled by an expanded Iranian military presence. Yet experience has repeatedly shown that whenever the regional Arab states have extended a hand of friendship toward Iran, they have received a fraternal response. It is clear that if hostile actions cease, the factors promoting coexistence in the Persian Gulf region will prove stronger than those driving division.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The war on the moral identity of Lebanese resistance

From page 1 ▶ Both called for the two cities to remain open and free of weapons. Many observers viewed the content of the declarations as surrendering to the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) without resistance, thereby allowing it to occupy the cities and their surrounding areas.

Anti-Hezbollah media celebrated the declarations and portrayed them as far more significant than they actually were. The signatories were glorified and showered with descriptions of courage and heroism. At the same time, no attention was paid to the fact that several signatories later stated that the text sent to them for signature differed from the version that was ultimately published. Through social media, they stated that they had been deceived and misled, and demanded that their names be removed.

The exaggeration surrounding the significance of the two declarations reached the point where the newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat described them as evidence of what it called a "rebellion" within the Shia community.

Any observer familiar with Shia affairs in Lebanon knows that the signatories represent a segment of society for which there is no evidence of growing support. In fact, the current aggression has witnessed the opposite trend: Shia and Sunni intellectuals as well as public figures who had opposed Hezbollah's domestic policies over the past two decades have declared clear and notable support for the movement in its resistance operations against the IOF.

The declarations' content and concepts largely align with narratives promoted in anti-resistance media and political discourse, centered on several key themes.

First: Creating a rift within the resistance community.

This objective has been pursued by the Zionist regime for many years. The massacres it has committed, coupled with the widespread urban destruction of villages across southern Lebanon plus threats to replicate Gaza's genocide, represent a new attempt to achieve what it couldn't since 1982.

Anti-Hezbollah media operate in harmony with the occupying regime. They focus almost exclusively on the human and material costs of the aggression, seeking to cement the idea that the interests of society are incompatible with the option of resistance.

Second: Creating a sense of futility.

Opponents of Hezbollah promote the narrative that the option of resistance has lost its purpose, blaming it for the decline or loss of past achievements. The occupying regime isolates current events from their historical and political causes, creating a framework that justifies its war crimes while weakening the public's ability to understand the causes and background of the conflict.

As a result, concepts of steadfastness and its importance in asymmetric warfare gradually disappear from media discourse, replaced by narratives claiming that sacrifices were made in vain, that no path forward exists, and that continuing the confrontation offers no meaningful gains.

Third: Redefining victory and defeat.

Those opposed to Hezbollah ignore a core military principle: victory and defeat are not measured by the number of casualties or the scale of destruction suffered, but by each side's ability to achieve political and strategic goals.

The standards for victory and defeat in asymmetric warfare also differ fundamentally from those used in conventional wars between regular armies. The conventional army loses if it does not win. Guerrilla warfare wins if it does not lose.

In this type of conflict, resistance movements need only avoid defeat. If the opposing side, possessing overwhelming firepower and technological superiority, fails to break their will, eliminate their ability to continue, or undermine the resilience of their supporting community, it has not achieved its aims.

Yet anti-Hezbollah media disregards these realities and seeks to redefine victory and defeat according to standards that treat human and material losses as automatic evidence of defeat, regardless of political and strategic outcomes. This approach has been intensively promoted in Lebanon during the



current aggression, both politically and in the media.

Fourth: A sense of helplessness is among the most dangerous concepts cultivated through cognitive warfare.

Narratives are crafted to push people into believing the Lebanese resistance front cannot end the new occupation, that the balance of power has definitively settled in the occupying regime's favor, making any confrontation or change futile. Notably, this discourse is not new; it prevailed during the 1980s and 1990s before losing much credibility after Hezbollah's liberation of southern Lebanon in 2000. Yet the media machine never stops reproducing it in various forms, trying to entrench feelings of helplessness and frustration among the public.

Fifth: Dismantling collective memory.

Anti-Hezbollah media frequently revisit historical moments during which the resistance movement proved effective and achieved decisive successes, particularly in 2000 and 2006. However, these references are not intended to examine those events within their genuine context but rather to reinterpret them in ways that alter their established meaning in the collective consciousness.

Regarding the 2000 liberation, narratives are promoted claiming the IOF withdrew because of internal considerations or international and regional circumstances, and that the resistance was not the decisive factor behind the withdrawal. As for the July 2006 War, the narrative focusing on the high human and material costs continues to be repeated while overlooking the fact that the Zionist regime itself acknowledged its failures and, through numerous reports and commissions, recognized the strategic consequences produced by the war.

Sixth: Targeting the moral meaning of resistance.

All of the previous efforts ultimately converge on a central objective: undermining the resistance movement's image as an experience rooted in values like dignity, freedom, independence, sacrifice, and steadfastness. For Hezbollah supporters, resistance represents a cultural and ethical model that many see as capable of reviving the nation, changing its destiny, and defending its independence.

This is why opponents place such importance on targeting its moral dimension, which stands in direct conflict with the political, economic, and cultural projects of domination that Western powers have sought to entrench in the region since the end of the Second World War.

This objective is among the most fundamental goals of the resistance movement's adversaries. They continuously seek factors that can help achieve it from within Hezbollah's own social environment, knowing that once the moral meaning of resistance is shaken, its other sources of strength become more fragile and vulnerable.

Nevertheless, supporters of Hezbollah have so far shown a remarkable ability to confront psychological and cognitive warfare, proving they possess significant immunity against many messages targeting their collective consciousness.

The continued trust between Hezbollah and its social base has been a key reason these attempts failed to succeed, especially on the domestic front. Here, the two declarations bearing the names Tyre and Nabatieh failed to achieve the impact their promoters sought, as their effect remained limited and did not actually exceed the circle of signatories.

Women's wheelchair basketball cleared for 2026 Para Asian Games

TEHRAN - Iran women's wheelchair basketball team have officially secured the opportunity to compete at the 5th Aichi-Nagoya Para Asian Games following approval by the Executive Board of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Iran.

The decision was made during the 233rd Executive Board meeting of the NPC, chaired by NPC President Ghafour Kargari Wednesday morning.

Under a previous policy, female athletes were eligible for selection to the Nagoya 2026 Para Asian Games only in individual events and only if they had a realistic chance of finishing fourth or higher. However, the Executive Board has now revised that policy, extending the same criterion to women's team sports.

As a result, women's team disciplines that are considered capable of securing a top-four finish at the Games will now be eligible for participation. Based on this updated framework, Iran's women's wheelchair basketball team have been granted approval to compete in Nagoya.

The 5th Aichi-Nagoya Para Asian Games will take place from Oct. 18 to 24, 2026, in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. The event is expected to bring together approximately 4,000 athletes from 45 Asian nations competing across 18 sports.

The decision marks an important step forward for women's para sport in Iran and provides the national wheelchair basketball team with a valuable opportunity to showcase its progress on one of Asia's biggest sporting stages.

Mehdi Taremi: Iran's star in 2026 World Cup

TEHRAN - Asia will be represented by nine teams at the expanded FIFA World Cup 2026 which kicks off on Thursday.

It promises to be a thrilling campaign for all of the Asian sides, with each bidding to create history.

The-AFC.com highlights a key player for each of the Asian teams at the global showpiece.

Set to appear in his third FIFA World Cup, Mehdi Taremi will be a crucial factor in Iran's bid to navigate past the group stage for the first time.

A clinical finisher, the 33-year-old's aerial ability and intelligent tactical movement are additional assets that Taremi can call upon to power Iran, with the center-forward netting 10 goals and providing seven assists in qualifying.

Having played extensively in Europe - with Greek side Olympiacos FC his current club - the 1.87m tall Taremi's experience will be needed in Group G where Iran will have Belgium, Egypt and New Zealand to contend with.

Iran victorious over Poland in 2026 IWBF Men's Repechage

TEHRAN - The Iran men's national wheelchair basketball beat Poland 81-59 in the 2026 IWBF Men's Repechage on Wednesday.

Morteza Abedi was Iran's topscorer with 25 points, while Mateusz Filipki scored 13 points for Poland.

Headed by Behrouz Soltani, Iran had defeated Senegal (77-24) and Brazil (75-63) in Group B.

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 IWBF World Championships. The remaining qualification games on 11 June will determine the other teams advancing from the tournament.

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

Iranian national team honors school bombing victims

TEHRAN - Members of Iran's national soccer team paid their respects to the reported 168 children who perished in the Minab school bombing upon their arrival in Mexico ahead of the FIFA World Cup.

On February 28, Iranian authorities reported that 175 people - the majority of whom were children - lost their lives in a Tomahawk missile strike on the Shajareh Tayyebah Primary School in southern Iran. A subsequent investigation concluded that the U.S. was likely responsible for the attack, with American Central Command officers alleged to have generated the target coordinates using outdated intelligence.

The national squad departed their training base in Turkey on Saturday, embarking on a 20-hour trip to Mexico, where they will establish their World Cup headquarters. Iran had originally intended to set up camp in Tucson, Arizona, but relocated their training base late last month, as per The Mirror US.

Upon touchdown, Iranian players - among them team captain Ehsan Hajisafi, midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh, and goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand - were photographed wearing "#168" pins as they disembarked the aircraft.

This is not the first occasion that the Iran men's national team has honored the victims of the Minab school bombing. Back in March, players wore black armbands and carried school backpacks as the national anthem rang out before kickoff in a friendly match against Nigeria.

Iran to start 2026 VNL with match against Brazil

TEHRAN - Iran national volleyball team will face Brazil early Thursday in the 2026 FIVB Men's Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Team Melli will meet Bulgaria, Argentina, and Belgium in the following days in Pool 2.

"We are fully-prepared for the VNL and I am optimistic about the match against Brazil," Iran coach Roberto Piazza said. "We have trained well in the previous days and we are determined to focus on our matches."

The 2026 FIVB Men's Volleyball Nations League is the eighth edition of the FIVB Men's Volleyball Nations League, an annual men's international volleyball tournament. It is currently held from 10 June to 2 Aug. 2026, with the final round to take place at the Beilun Gymnasium in Ningbo, China.

Following the results of the 2025 Nations League, the Netherlands were relegated and replaced by Belgium as the highest-ranked non-VNL team in the FIVB World Rankings.

Persepolis defender Daniel Gera returns to Iran

TEHRAN - Daniel Gera, the Hungarian right-back of Persepolis, has returned to Iran.

While many news followers thought that tensions and clashes were escalating again, the flight of the first foreign player of the Persepolis team landed at the capital's international airport after crossing the northern and western borders of Iran.

The Persepolis right-back arrived in Iran Wednesday morning to participate in the team's training.

Gera came to Iran at a time when Persepolis have begun their preparation program for the trilateral tournament games, and the coaching staff hopes that with the presence of its players, the process of coordination and preparation of the team will be pursued more quickly, and Gera will also participate in group training in good physical and mental conditions.

The Hungarian player has shown that how eager he is to participate in the Persian Gulf Premier League, especially since the league competition schedule has not yet been officially announced.

Historic Ayatollah Taleghani house to open as museum in late September

TEHRAN - The historic house of the late Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleghani in Alborz province is scheduled to be converted into a museum by the end of September, where documents, photographs and personal belongings associated with the prominent cleric and revolutionary figure will be displayed, a provincial cultural heritage official said.

Shahbaz Mahmoudi, deputy director for cultural heritage at the Alborz Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said the project aims to transform the historic residence into a cultural museum dedicated to preserving and presenting the life and legacy of Ayatollah Taleghani, one of the leading figures of Iran's contemporary history.

The house is located in the town of Taleghan, which is situated about 166 kilometers northwest of Tehran and approximately 115 kilometers from Karaj, the provincial capital.

Mahmoudi said the residence is considered one of the province's most significant historic buildings due to both its architectural value and its association with Ayatollah Taleghani, who played a key role in the events leading to the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The property has already been registered on Iran's National Heritage List, a designation that places it under official protection and underscores the responsibility of authorities to preserve and restore the site, he said.

"Today, our approach to historical monuments is based on reviving



identity and reintegrating them into the cultural life of society," Mahmoudi said. He added that the house could serve as a center for introducing visitors to Taleghani's ideas, activities and contributions to Iran's political and social developments.

As part of the restoration plan, provincial heritage officials recently held a meeting with one of Taleghani's sons to discuss the renovation project, the reorganization of interior spaces and the display of documents and artifacts related to the late cleric.

Mahmoudi said the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts had allocated funding for the project, enabling restoration work and preparations for

the museum to proceed according to schedule.

The museum is expected to feature a collection of historical documents, photographs, handwritten notes, books, manuscripts and other memorabilia connected to Ayatollah Taleghani. Officials say the exhibits will provide visitors with a broader understanding of his life, intellectual contributions and public activities.

Mahmoudi said the objective was not merely to restore the building but to create an active cultural institution capable of presenting part of Iran's contemporary history to the public.

He added that preserving the homes of influential historical and cultural figures contributes to safe-

guarding a nation's collective memory and cultural identity.

Provincial authorities also view the project as an opportunity to strengthen cultural tourism in Alborz province. According to Mahmoudi, museums and house museums dedicated to nationally significant figures can play an important role in increasing public awareness of contemporary history while expanding cultural tourism infrastructure.

Alborz province possesses a range of historical and cultural assets, and the restoration of landmark sites could help create new tourism routes and attract visitors interested in the country's history, culture and intangible heritage, he said.

Traditional Nain Aba weaving receives global geographical indication registration

TEHRAN - The traditional Aba weaving craft of Nain in central Iran has been internationally registered as a geographical indication by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), marking the country's 13th global registration in the field, a senior handicrafts official said.

Narges Rajaei, the director general of handicrafts training and promotion at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, announced the registration and described Nain's Aba weaving as one of the country's most valuable elements of intangible cultural heritage.

She said the craft is the product of generations of artisans who have preserved the tradition for centuries, weaving their skills and cultural identity into the distinctive cloak known as the Aba.

"The global registration of this craft is not an end, but a new beginning for introducing Iranian creativity and craftsmanship to the world," Ra-

jaei said.

She added that the international recognition creates an opportunity to strengthen support for artisans and modernize marketing approaches in order to connect the historic craft with contemporary consumer preferences.

According to Rajaei, the recognition could contribute to local economic development and serve as an example of sustainable growth based on traditional industries.

The official expressed hope that greater international awareness of Iranian handicrafts would help expand markets for traditional products while encouraging the preservation of cultural heritage.

The registration coincides with World Handicrafts Day. Rajaei congratulated Iran's handicrafts community, particularly artisans in Mohammadieh, a town near Nain in Isfahan province that serves as the main center of Aba

production in the region.

She also thanked the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce's Association of Handicrafts Producers and Exporters and the experts involved in preparing and pursuing the registration process.

Aba-bafi, or Aba weaving, is a traditional Iranian textile craft centered in the historic city of Nain. The Aba, a loose cloak woven primarily from natural fibers, was widely worn in the past and was often associated with religious figures, scholars, tribal leaders and members of higher social classes.

Nain, located in Iran's central desert region between Tehran and Yazd, has long been known for its textile traditions and handicrafts. The newly registered geographical indication is expected to help protect the authenticity of Nain's Aba production while promoting the craft in international markets.

Echoes of the past: Golden bracelet with an inscription older than itself



This magnificent golden bracelet is a masterpiece of Neo-Elamite metalwork and a testament to the sophisticated craftsmanship of the period.

The jewel, being kept at the National Museum of Iran, consists of a central circular plaque flanked by two small oval loops, each attached via finely engineered hinges to a wide, open cuff. The entire surface is lavishly decorated with a combination of delicate gold filigree, granulation, repoussé work, and precisely set semi-precious stones.

The inlay work features a large

domed stone at the center of the round plaque and seven smaller matching stones distributed across the loops and cuff. These highly polished rounded stones, with dark centers and light edges, are carved to resemble eyes—a motif laden with spiritual significance in the ancient Near East. The central stone is an agate; the eye effect is achieved through the natural banding of the stone, enhanced by the lapidary's careful selection and cutting of the material to emphasize concentric rings.

A Sumerian cuneiform inscription

is visible on the reverse side of the inlaid central agate. The presence of this inscription, paleographically dated to the 14th century BCE reveals that the stone itself predates the bracelet by approximately eight hundred years. This extraordinary chronological gap indicates that the stone was preserved as a precious heirloom, passed down through generations, possibly for its perceived magical or apotropaic powers. The eye-shaped gem, functioning as an amulet to ward off evil, was not simply a decorative element but a ritually charged object imbued with centuries of ancestral authority. The decision to incorporate such an ancient artifact into a contemporary piece of royal jewelry speaks to a deliberate strategy of legitimization, linking the Neo-Elamite rulers of Ramhormoz to the long and venerable history of Elamite civilization. This tradition of curated antiquarianism, driven by the religious significance of eye-shaped stones and the prestige attached to heirlooms, continued in the region and is well-documented in the material culture of the subsequent Neo-Babylonian, Achaemenid, and Parthian periods.

The bracelet was discovered in situ during meticulous archaeological excavations of a tomb at the

Jubaji site in Ramhormoz, a region of Khuzestan rich in Elamite history. The tomb contained the remains of two females of extraordinary status, interred in two bronze bathtub-shaped coffins—a distinctive Elamite burial practice for the elite. The younger, approximately seventeen years old, and the elder, between thirty and thirty-five, were accompanied by a rich assemblage of grave goods. This golden bracelet was found adorning the wrist of the younger princess. The wealth of the burial and the royal nature of the objects suggest both women belonged to the local Neo-Elamite royal dynasty, likely that of "Shutur-Nahunte, son of Indadda," a king known from other inscriptions found in the region. The Jubaji discoveries offer a transformative new perspective on the Neo-Elamite period, highlighting the political and cultural significance of the Ramhormoz region as a vital center of Elamite power that persisted and even flourished after the decline of the traditional capital, Susa. The bracelet's craftsmanship, combining local Elamite techniques with the profound personal and historical value of its centerpiece, perfectly encapsulates the resilience and sophistication of Elamite artistic tradition at the close of the pre-Achaemenid era.

Tehran, Moscow emphasize need to boost scientific cooperation

From page 1 ▶ Falkov, for his part, pointed out the beginning of a new university admission period in Russia and the welcoming of Iranian students to study at the country's universities, emphasizing the importance of providing employment opportunities and utilizing the academic potential of graduates after their return to Iran.

Referring to the decrease in the number of Russian universities approved in Iran's evaluation system, he called for a review of the methods of evaluating and validating educational qualifications.

Simaei-Sarraf continued by emphasizing the readiness of the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology to review the evaluation system of Russian universities and develop joint educational and research cooperation.

The two sides also agreed to continue cooperation on developing professor and student exchanges and expanding scientific cooperation between the universities of the two countries. The discussion ended with Simaei-Sarraf and Falkov mutually emphasizing the continuation of consultations, strengthening academic cooperation, and planning for face-to-face meetings in the near future.

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

Referring to Iran's unique history and the civilizational commonalities between the two countries, Russian Presidential Aide Andrei Fursenko emphasized the need to strengthen cultural and academic relations between Iran and Russia, msrt.ir reported.

"The Russian government is completely ready to promote collaborations with Iran in the science and technology sectors. Russia and Iran need to rely on their capabilities in the pursuit of global development and play their historical role," he noted.



Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, Denis Sergeevich Sekirinsky, for his part, said the two nations have their own distinguished civilizations, maintaining cultural traditions and spiritual value. These historical commonalities have resulted in mutual respect and trust, as well as fostering cooperation.

Iranian and Russian universities and research organisations signed over 70 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) just over the past year, he noted.

For his part, Jalali highlighted the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Iran and Russia and emphasized the need to boost ties in scientific, technical, and cultural fields.

Independent countries like Iran and Russia should pursue the path to realizing a more just world through intellectual, historical, and cultural cooperation; meanwhile, scientific and elite dialogues will play a fundamental role, he added.

During the meeting, the two sides underlined developing cooperation between the universities of the two countries, memoranda of understanding, BRICS scientific projects, the exchange of professors and students, and mutual recognition of qualifications.

The conference included specialized meetings such as 'Iran and Russia: from centuries of history to dialogue of civilizations', and 'synergy of knowledge

and economy: new horizons of cooperation between Iran and Russia'.

The first scientific conference was held in 2022. The event is supposed to make great strides in deepening scientific relations, bolstering joint research, and expanding scientific and civilizational talks.

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

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

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

The grant, amounting to 40 billion rials (some \$22,900) for each research project for at most three years, will be allocated to Socio-Economic Challenges (SEC); Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics; Fundamentals and Development (Trustworthy AI, Reinforced deep learning, Cognitive models); Advanced and Clean Energy Systems (Hydrogen and CO2 storage); Smart transport, telecommunications and robotics; Safe Food; Agricultural Bio-Technology; and Smart

healthcare and medicine.

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

In November 2025, during a meeting held between Iranian and Russian officials, the two sides explored avenues to expand scientific and technological collaborations between the universities of the two countries.

Masoud Shams-Bakhsh, deputy minister of science, research and technology, and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Pankin Aleksandr Anatolievitch, met on the sidelines of the 43rd Session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference being held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from October 30 to November 13, IRIB reported.

During the meeting, they underscored fostering joint efforts in various fields like emerging technologies, basic sciences, engineering, space technology, artificial intelligence, transportation, energy, environment, earth sciences, oceanography, health, and medicine.

Teaching Persian and Russian languages in reciprocal countries, exchanging professors and students, and boosting interactions between category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, creative cities, and learning cities were among other areas of discussion.

Health Ministry to start Family Physician Program in cities on June 15

TEHRAN - The Health Ministry plans to launch the Family Physician Program in 20 selected cities nationwide on June 15, aiming to make treatment referrals more concentrated and provide more convenient access to health services.

The rural family physician program started in 2005. Back then, it also targeted villages and cities inhabited by fewer than twenty thousand individuals to make treatment referrals more concentrated and provide more convenient access to health services, ISNA reported.

Periodic examinations and monitoring of people's health status, easy and round-the-clock access to basic services and primary care, and frequent visits to doctors are the characteristics of a family physician.

Medical, dental, mental, midwifery, nutrition, laboratory, pharmaceutical, and medical imaging are among the offered services by the program.

Based on the Family Physician Program, a physician and a midwife offer services in rural areas; every 3,300 villagers have a physician, and there is a midwife per 5,200 people in villages.

The program will gradually target other parts of the country as well, ISNA quoted Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi as saying.

"It is a large-scale program based on social behavior change. Designing new patient pathways, reforming the referral pattern, and improving the healthcare network system requires careful coordination between the Health Ministry, governors, and other relevant institutions at the provincial level," IRIB quoted Zafarqandi as saying.

So, it is essential to develop a national headquarters headed by the President to oversee the overall management of the program, he added.

"We have already reached agreements on ten



key issues such as financial resources, location, implementation stages, and public information. Moreover, the chancellors of medical sciences universities will hold a meeting this week to finalize the implementation model for the program," Zafarqandi noted.

In May 2025, the World Health Organization's (WHO) director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) said Iran is a leading country in expanding its healthcare system and providing access to universal health coverage.

Lauding the country's achievements in recent years, Hanan Balkhi said expanding primary health care services, increasing access to health coverage in rural areas, maintaining high vaccination rates, and reducing maternal and newborn mortality, Iran has managed to become a successful role model in the region, the health ministry's website reported.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA).

The country's commitment to providing equal health services to millions of refugees makes its services even more commendable.

WHO EMRO is working closely with the Irani-

an regulatory institutions to achieve regulatory maturity level 3 in the pharmaceutical regulatory system to pave the way for broader exports of Iranian health-oriented products to global markets; it will also contribute to promoting global health security, Balkhi added.

In January 2025, President Masoud Pezeshkian called the country's health system a role model in the region and even the world, thanks to its unique, particularly primary healthcare services.

The official made the remarks in a letter addressing a national seminar held in Mashhad to honor healthcare staff, including nursing aids, health ministry website reported.

Lauding the substantial progress made in the health sector, the president said these remarkable achievements are the result of health workers' ceaseless efforts, such as providing vaccination and prenatal care for pregnant mothers, controlling infectious diseases, promoting health education, sharing knowledge, and training new generations of health staff nationwide.

The notable increase in life expectancy, reduction in infant mortality rate, control of infectious diseases, and reduction in complications from chronic diseases are all due to health workers' dedication and commitment.

Pezeshkian also commended the ongoing health programs, such as universal health coverage and family physician programs, which have made comprehensive and continuous healthcare accessible to millions.

The president went on to say that the administration recognizes the untiring efforts and services of all health workers, and is determined to elevate the country's health system to its rightful and deserving position, utilizing health workers' valuable capacities and potential.

'Eco-friendly dormitory' to promote environmental protection in universities

TEHRAN -To promote the culture of environmental protection, Tehran University of Medical Sciences has launched a project that focuses on turning dormitories of universities into eco-friendly places.

The initiative commenced on Wednesday in the presence of officials from the Department of Environment (DOE) and the Health Ministry, ISNA reported.

The project seeks to enhance students' participation in fostering a healthier and more sustainable dormitory environment, focusing on waste segregation, water and energy conservation, nature conservation, and reduction of environmental pollution.

It also aims to help preserve natural resources and institutionalize environmentally responsible behaviors among students.

Addressing the event, Hamid Zohrabi, an official with DOE, said that the world today faces triple challenges of pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss. "In our country, problems such as air, water, and soil pollution, water scarcity, and soil erosion result from unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and deviation from the principles of sustainable development."

The official went on to say that empirical observations within the domestic context have shown that local communities and non-governmental organizations can yield highly successful outcomes in nature conservation.

Increased public participation and heightened social sense of responsibility in the environment sector will lead to enhanced success in environmental protection, he further noted.

"We are all responsible for environmental protection"

President Masoud Pezeshkian has underlined the shared responsibility of each individual for the protection of the environment, saying, "We all bear the responsibility to care for the environment."

Referring to Article 50 of the Constitution, which regards the protection of the environment as a public duty, the president said, "We all bear the responsibility to care for the environment," IRNA reported.

"World Environment Day and Week warn about the present and the future of life on Earth," he wrote on his X account on the occasion of World Environment Day, observed on June 5 every year, and National Environment Week, being observed from June 6 to 12.

All governments and societies need to prioritize the sustainability of natural infrastructures in any decision and action, he added.

Measures to enhance public participation

The DDOE has taken different steps to pro-



mote public participation in environmental protection.

Encouraging eco-friendly students, teaching environmental awareness courses in universities, developing a plan titled "skilled ranger soldier", and preparing guidelines for environmental protection are among the most important measures.

The DOE has mainly focused on enhancing formal and informal environmental education, developing public participation, utilizing the potential of new technologies, and promoting the culture of environmental protection, IRNA quoted Hadi Kiadaliri, an official with the DOE, as saying.

In the education sector, the DOE has designed a 'national environmental curriculum', and the first scientific-educational event based on a book titled 'Humans and the Environment' was held for teachers and eleventh-grade students at the national level. During the event, the provincial and national winners were honored, he stated.

A national plan for environmental helpers is being implemented as of the beginning of the current academic year (September 23, 2025). About 20 percent of the elementary students are health ambassadors. Some 25 percent of them will join the national plan over five years. Currently, there are 11,000 environmental helpers at schools across the country. The plan has also empowered 7,258 elementary school principals and 6,051 elementary school health care providers so far, Kiadaliri noted.

Another initiative of the DOE is to offer environmental courses in all universities in the country. It was previously implemented on a pilot basis in 10 selected universities. In addition, the Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) major for the MA degree has been revised.

The DOE has developed two other plans. The first, titled 'skilled ranger soldier', aims to employ students in environmental protection stations, and the second one intends to train and empower local communities with the participation of environmental protection students, the official added.

VP urges SCO to protect sci-tech infrastructures against foreign aggression

TEHRAN -The vice president for science, technology, and knowledge-based economy, Hossein Afshin, has called for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states to take effective and collaborative measures to protect the science and technology infrastructures of independent countries against foreign aggression.

In a letter to the secretary general and ministers of science and technology of the SCO member states, Afshin urged them to censure US-Israeli attacks on Iran's scientific infrastructure and to adopt serious and effective measures to expand and strengthen scientific and technological cooperation.

"The recent US-Israeli assaults on the scientific and technological infrastructures of Iran have resulted in injuries and martyrdom of innocent citizens, inflicted human suffering, and targeted parts of the country's scientific and technological infrastructures," the letter reads.

"These actions are a clear violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and the right of nations to scientific advancement and the pursuit of a just future based on sustainable development.

Parts of the research centers, laboratory infrastructure, data systems, and strategic technology facilities have been damaged in these attacks. The damage has not only disrupted the implementation of scientific projects but also affected the livelihoods of researchers, the growth of knowledge-based companies, and the employment opportunities for young people.

Halting or delaying startup activities, reducing investment, and damaging the technology ecosystem are among the consequences whose effects will extend beyond the current conditions and could adversely affect scientific and technological development in the long term.

Science and technology are the fundamental pillars of development and common human capital. Targeting scientific and technological infrastructure is considered an anti-developmental and unethical action that contradicts the principles of coexistence among nations."

Attacks on science infrastructures

The strike on the Pasteur Institute of Tehran, a research and public health center with over a century of history and a member of the international Pasteur network, is a prime example of targeting scientific institutions as part of modern warfare.

According to Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, over 30 Iranian universities had been directly attacked by the United States and Israel since the war began in late February.

Five university professors and more than 60 students had been killed in the strikes, added Simaei-Sarraf, describing attacks on Iranian infrastructure as "crimes against humanity."

"The main reason the enemy targeted this sensitive infrastructure was that they did not want us to gain access to this technology," he said, adding that many Iranians abroad have contacted the university, offering to help fund its restoration.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

To render relief to the distressed and to help the oppressed
make amends for great sins.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:04 Evening: 19:41 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

Ali Rahbari to conduct Mariinsky Orchestra in St. Petersburg

TEHRAN – Renowned Iranian composer and conductor Ali Rahbari will conduct the Mariinsky Orchestra at the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia, on June 19.

The event marks the fifth season of Rahbari's collaboration with the Mariinsky Orchestra, as he will lead his 28th program as conductor, Honaronline reported.

At the concert, two major works by the famous German composer Johannes Brahms, namely the Violin Concerto and Symphony No. 1, will be performed. About four decades ago, Ali Rahbari also recorded Brahms' complete orchestral works for Naxos and released them on the global music market.

The soloist for this program will be Anna Savkina, a prominent Russian violinist. Considered one of the notable figures of the new generation of Russian musicians, she has so far won numerous awards in international music competitions.

Anna Savkina, 32, graduated from the Gnessin Moscow Special School of Music in 2013 and from the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory in 2018. She has also studied at the Folkwang Universität der Künste and improved her skills under the guidance of Eduard Wulfson in Switzerland.

Anna tours with recitals throughout Russia and abroad. She regularly plays at the Mariinsky Theater. She has made appearances at the Konzerthaus and the Musikverein in Vienna and at the Grand halls of the Moscow Conservatory and the St. Petersburg Philharmonia among numerous other venues.

She has collaborated with leading Russian and international orchestras, among them the Mariinsky Orchestra, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia, the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia, the State Symphony Orchestra Novaya Rossiya, and the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra.

Ali Rahbari, 78, embarked on his musical journey at the age of five, learning to play the violin. He graduated from the Vienna Academy of Music and Performing Arts in 1971, specializing in composition under the tutelage of Gottfried von Einem, and completed his conducting studies in 1974, guided by Hans Swarovsky. He is a laureate of international conducting competitions, securing the gold medal in Besançon, France (1977), and the silver medal in Geneva (1978).

He has conducted over 120 orchestras worldwide, including Orchestra della Svizzera Romanda, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, French Chamber Orchestra, Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig, Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, and Prague Symphony Orchestra.

He has served as the principal guest conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, receiving the Dvořák Medal in 1985 for his collaboration with the ensemble, and also led the Belgrade Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, Belgian Radio and Television Orchestra (later becoming its principal conductor from 1988 to 1996). Rahbari was the principal conductor of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and the Virtuosi di Praga chamber orchestra. From 2000 to 2004, he was the chief conductor and musical director of the Malaga Symphony Orchestra, Spain.

In 1997, Rahbari formed the Persian International Philharmonic Orchestra in Bregenz, Austria, by bringing together 60 Iranian musicians from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S.

In July 2022, Rahbari made his debut at the Mariinsky Theater, conducting Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony and Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic suite Scheherazade. Since then, he has been a regular on the Mariinsky stage.

He has released over 250 compact discs, with his recordings of operas by Verdi and Puccini under his direction gaining particular popularity.

“The Sinners” and the cinematic anatomy of Trumpism

By Sajjad Amir-Yazdani

TEHRAN– At first glance, Trumpism appears to be a distinctly contemporary political phenomenon, inseparable from the personality, rhetoric, and political career of Donald Trump. Yet reducing Trumpism to a single individual risks overlooking the deeper social and historical forces that made it possible.

Trump did not emerge in a vacuum. Rather, he became the most visible representative of a longstanding current within American society—one rooted in racial hierarchy, economic dominance, cultural exclusion, and an enduring belief in American exceptionalism.

The persistence of this tendency is evident in the support it continues to receive from a significant segment of the American public, often strong enough to blunt institutional and legal efforts aimed at restraining authoritarian impulses and exclusionary politics. In many respects, Trumpism should be understood not merely as a political movement but as the modern expression of an older ideological tradition that has repeatedly surfaced throughout American history.



For decades, artists have turned their attention to this aspect of American life, using their work to expose its contradictions and consequences. Cinema, in particular, has proven especially effective in this regard. Throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, American cinema has repeatedly confronted issues of racism, colonialism, violence, and power. Some films have done so directly through historical narratives, while others have relied on allegory and symbolism to expose uncomfortable truths. Among the most compelling recent examples is “The Sinners,” a film that transcends the conventions of horror and fantasy to offer a powerful meditation on the social and political tensions that continue to shape the United States.

Although “The Sinners” can be enjoyed as a supernatural thriller, its deeper significance lies in its symbolic architecture. Beneath its surface narrative of vampires, violence, and survival, the film constructs an allegorical portrait of America itself—one in which race, power, memory, and resistance are locked in a perpetual struggle. Viewed through this lens, the film can be interpreted as a cinematic exploration of the cultural and ideological forces that have found contemporary expression in Trumpism.

The story revolves around two Black twin brothers, Stack and Smoke, who return to their hometown after acquiring money from Chicago's white criminal underworld. Their dream is simple yet meaningful: to establish a café that will serve as a gathering place for the local Black community. However, from the very beginning, the film signals that this is not merely a story about entrepreneurship or family bonds. Every location, conversation, and visual detail appears designed to evoke a larger his-



torical reality. One of the film's earliest and most revealing scenes occurs when the brothers purchase an abandoned sawmill from its owner, Hagwood. The transaction seems straightforward until the brothers insist that neither Hagwood nor any of his associates in the Ku Klux Klan should ever return to the property. Hagwood dismisses the Klan as an outdated relic, a remnant of a bygone era with no relevance to contemporary life.

Yet the film immediately undermines his claim.

The brothers notice that the floor of the mill appears to have been freshly cleaned. Hagwood offers no convincing explanation. The image invites viewers to imagine a hidden history of violence concealed beneath a carefully maintained surface. Symbolically, the scene reflects a broader reality in American society: the tendency to treat racial violence and historical injustice as matters of the distant past while their consequences remain deeply embedded in the present. The cleaned floor becomes a metaphor for collective amnesia, an attempt to erase historical crimes without addressing their legacy.

As the narrative progresses, the film increasingly abandons conventional realism in favor of symbolic storytelling. Characters cease to function solely as individuals and instead begin to represent larger social and cultural forces.

Annie, Smoke's former wife, embodies one such force. As a practitioner of traditional healing and spiritual rituals, she represents cultural memory, ancestral wisdom, and the importance of maintaining a connection to collective heritage. In a society shaped by displacement and historical trauma, Annie serves as a guardian of continuity. Her presence reminds viewers that survival depends not only on material resources but also on preserving cultural identity.

The inclusion of a Chinese immigrant couple further expands the film's symbolic framework. Their participation in the café transforms the establishment from a local business into a multicultural refuge. The café becomes a sanctuary for communities historically marginalized within American society—a space where traditions, languages, and memories coexist despite external pressures.

Even the landscape itself contributes to the film's political message. Repeated images of vast cotton fields evoke the history of slavery and forced labor that played a foundational role in the development of the United States. These fields are more than background scenery; they are reminders that the prosperity of the nation was built upon systems of exploitation whose consequences continue to resonate across generations.

The film's symbolic ambitions become unmistakable with the arrival of Remmick, a mysterious white traveler seeking shelter from Native Americans pursuing him through the countryside. Appearing injured and frightened, Remmick presents himself as a victim. He claims that Indigenous people have kidnapped his wife and subjected him to unimaginable suffering.

His story immediately secures the sympathy of a farming couple, Joan and Bert.

Inside their home hangs a Ku Klux Klan robe displayed beside an American flag. The visual composition is impossible to ignore. By placing these two symbols together, the film suggests a relationship between organized racism and certain interpretations of national identity. The message is not subtle: the forces represented by the Klan are not portrayed as external aberrations but as elements embedded within a broader social and political tradition.

When Native Americans arrive seeking Remmick, Joan refuses to surrender him. Armed and defiant, she drives them away. Only after their departure does she discover the horrifying truth. Remmick is not a victim at all. He is a vampire who has already infected her husband.

At this point, the film's allegorical dimensions fully emerge.

The Native Americans represent indigeneity, historical memory, and a connection to the land that predates the arrival of European settlers. They recognize the threat posed by Remmick and attempt to stop it. Yet their efforts are obstructed by individuals whose ideological commitments prevent them from recognizing danger even when it stands directly before them.

The symbolism is striking. A destructive force enters society under the guise of victimhood and innocence. Those most capable of identifying the threat are ignored or dismissed. Meanwhile, prejudice and fear create the conditions necessary for the threat to spread.

Remmick himself functions as the film's central metaphor. Unlike traditional cinematic vampires motivated primarily by hunger, Remmick is closely associated with wealth, influence, and persuasion. He carries gold, promises prosperity, and presents himself as a benefactor. His power derives not only from violence but from his ability to convince others that submission serves their interests.

This combination of wealth and ideological manipulation recalls contemporary political dynamics in which economic power and cultural resentment frequently reinforce one another. The film portrays Remmick as someone who transforms fear into loyalty and converts insecurity into obedience.

Now, the vampire—dripping with gold—merges with the

armed, racist couple. This fusion of wealth and bigotry immediately evokes the image of Trump's fortune paired with the ideology of figures like Pete Hegseth, whose tattoos and calls to purge high-ranking officers of color from the military signal a specific brand of nationalism.

On one side, we have this alliance of wealth and prejudice; on the other, a community of Black people and immigrants who, armed with nothing but their traditions, faith, and ancestral roots, gather in a café to engage in music and dance that feels more like a symbolic ritual than mere entertainment. These are the two fronts of the story's conflict.

The plot unfolds as a classic struggle between good and evil, but with a sharp edge. It depicts white aggressors who attempt to enter the Black-owned café under the guise of peace and friendship, only to tear the inhabitants apart, infect them, and enslave them to seize their land.

This community possesses neither great wealth nor political influence. Instead, its strength comes from shared traditions, collective memory, religious faith, and cultural resilience. Music, dance, storytelling, and ritual become forms of resistance. The café evolves into far more than a physical location; it becomes a symbolic fortress defending identity against forces of assimilation and domination.

One of the clearest examples appears during an exchange between Remmick and Mary, Stack's lover. Displaying his wealth and confidence, Remmick insists that his goal is simply to help those inside the café. He speaks of salvation, protection, and opportunity.

The rhetoric sounds familiar because it mirrors language often employed by political leaders and governments seeking to justify intervention in the affairs of others. Throughout modern history, military campaigns, economic pressures, and political interference have frequently been presented as efforts to promote freedom or stability. The film invites viewers to question such claims by exposing the self-interest concealed beneath them.

Economic symbolism also plays an important role. While Stack and Smoke are accustomed to operating within the dollar-based economy, local residents rely on their own forms of exchange and value. Their insistence on preserving local systems of trade becomes an act of cultural and economic self-determination, resisting absorption into larger structures of power.

The film's treatment of religion is perhaps its most provocative element.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Cartoon of Day



Self Support

Cartoonist: Vasco Gargalo from Portugal